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Factors Affecting Crime Related to Geography and Terrain in Karauli and Dholpur Districts of Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate the factors that affect crime rates related to geography and terrain in Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan. The research used quantitative data obtained from official crime records of the Rajasthan police department, as well as demographic data from the census. The analysis considered various factors such as topography, land use, population density, income levels, and urbanization. The study found that crime rates were significantly higher in urban areas compared to rural areas, with a strong correlation between population density and crime rates. Additionally, the study found that areas with a high degree of economic inequality, such as areas with a high percentage of low-income households, had higher crime rates. The study concludes with recommendations for policymakers to consider when developing strategies to reduce crime rates in Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan.

Keywords: Geography, terrain, crime rates, population density, economic inequality, land use, law enforcement and policy

1. Introduction

Crime is a complex phenomenon that is influenced by a range of social, economic, and environmental factors. While many studies have focused on the impact of social and economic factors on crime rates, relatively little attention has been paid to the influence of geography and terrain. In particular, the relationship between crime and geography and terrain is an underexplored area of research, particularly in the context of rural regions such as the Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan.

1.1 Study Area:

The study area for this research paper is the Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan. Located in the eastern part of Rajasthan, these districts share borders with each other and with the neighbouring state of Uttar Pradesh. Both districts are predominantly rural and have a rich cultural heritage, with historical monuments and temples attracting tourists from across the country. However, they also face a range of socio-economic challenges such as poverty, unemployment, and poor infrastructure.

Karauli district covers an area of 5530 square kilometres and has a population of around 1.5 million people (as of 2011). The district is known for its historical monuments and temples, including the Karauli City Palace, Kaila Devi Temple, and Bhanwar Vilas Palace. The economy of the district is primarily based on agriculture, with crops such as wheat, bajra, and mustard being the main source of livelihood for the majority of the population.

Dholpur district covers an area of 3034 square kilometres and has a population of around 1.2 million people (as of 2011). The district is known for its historical significance, as it was once ruled by the Mughals and later by the Rajputs. The district is also home to several important temples and historical monuments, including the Machkund Temple, Chambal Safari, and the Dholpur Palace. Like Karauli, the economy of Dholpur is primarily based on agriculture, with crops such as wheat, bajra, and cotton being the main source of livelihood for the majority of the population.



Figure 1: Location map of Karauli and Dholpur Districts (Source: Maps of India, 2019)

Crime is a major concern in both districts, with reports of theft, robbery, and other crimes being reported on a regular basis. Understanding the factors that contribute to crime in these districts is critical for developing effective policies and strategies to address the issue. This research paper aims to identify and analyze the factors affecting crime rates in these districts by examining the relationship between crime and geography.

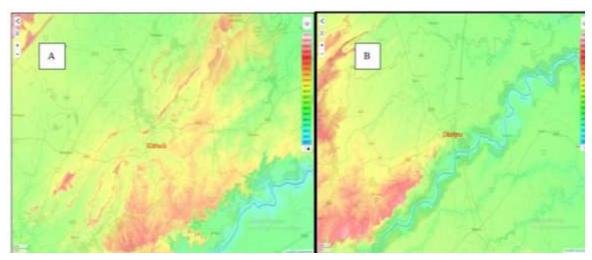


Figure 2: Relief Maps of (A) Karauli and (B) Dholpur (Source: www.en-us.topographic-map.com)

Demographical Characteristics: The Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan have a diverse population with a range of demographic characteristics. The majority of the population in both districts is rural, with agriculture being the main source of livelihood. The demographic characteristics of the study area are outlined below:

Age: The population of the Karauli and Dholpur districts is relatively young, with a significant proportion of the population being below the age of 30. As per the 2011 Census, the youth population (aged 15-29 years) in Karauli district was around 30% of the total population, while in Dholpur district, it was around 31% of the total population.

Gender: The sex ratio in both districts is relatively balanced, with slightly more females than males. In Karauli district, the sex ratio was 905 females per 1000 males, while in Dholpur district, it was 882 females per 1000 males (as of 2011).

Religion: The majority of the population in both districts practices Hinduism, followed by Islam and Sikhism. The districts also have a small Christian and Jain population.

Language: Hindi is the most widely spoken language in both districts, followed by Rajasthani and Urdu.

Literacy: The literacy rate in both districts is slightly lower than the national average. As of 2011, the literacy rate in Karauli district was 68.31%, while in Dholpur district, it was 66.67%.

Occupation: The majority of the population in both districts is engaged in agriculture, with crops such as wheat, bajra, and mustard being the main sources of livelihood. Other occupations include animal husbandry, forestry, and mining.

Understanding the demographic characteristics of the study area is important in analyzing the factors affecting crime rates in the Karauli and Dholpur districts. Demographic characteristics such as age, gender, and occupation can play a significant role in shaping patterns of crime and criminal behaviour. By examining the relationship between demographic characteristics and crime rates, this research paper aims to contribute to a better understanding of the complex factors influencing crime rates in these districts.

Crime Statistics: Crime is a major concern in the Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan, with a range of criminal activities reported on a regular basis. The crime statistics of the study area are outlined below:

Crime Reports: As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for the year 2019, the overall crime reported in Karauli district were 3440, while in Dholpur district, it was 983. Property crimes: Property crimes such as theft, burglary, and robbery are the most common types of crimes reported in both districts. In Karauli district, theft accounted for 63.2% of all reported crimes, while in Dholpur district, theft accounted for 51.8% of all reported crimes in 2019.

Violent crimes: While property crimes are more common, the incidence of violent crimes such as murder, assault, and rape is also a concern in the study area. In 2019, Karauli district reported 10 cases of murder, 14 cases of rape, and 10 cases of assault with intent to harm. Dholpur district reported 11 cases of murder, 18 cases of rape, and 10 cases of assault with intent to harm in the same year.

Crime against women: Crime against women is a significant issue in both districts, with a range of crimes such as rape, dowry deaths, and domestic violence being reported. In 2019, Karauli district reported 22 cases of rape and 12 cases of dowry deaths, while Dholpur district reported 18 cases of rape and 5 cases of dowry deaths.

Understanding the crime statistics of the study area is crucial in analyzing the factors that contribute to crime rates in the Karauli and Dholpur districts. By examining the relationship between crime and geography, this research paper aims to identify the factors that influence crime rates and contribute to the development of effective policies and strategies to address the issue.

2. Methodology

This research paper has adopted a mixed-methods approach that includes a comprehensive review of secondary sources on crime and geography in the Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan. The methodology involved the following steps:

Literature review: The first step will be a thorough review of existing literature on crime and geography, including theories of crime, crime prevention strategies, the impact of socio-economic factors on crime, and the relationship between crime and geography in the Karauli and Dholpur districts. Secondary sources will be used to identify the key factors that influence crime rates and to identify gaps in the existing knowledge in this field.

Data collection and Analysis: The data for this study will be collected from secondary sources such as published books, journals, reports, and online sources. The secondary sources will be obtained through a comprehensive literature review, and relevant information on crime rates and related factors will be extracted and compiled for analysis.

The data collected from the secondary sources was analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative methods.

Policy recommendations: Based on the findings of the study, policy recommendations will be developed to address the factors affecting crime rates in the Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan.

3. Review of Literature

Geography and Terrain:

The physical geography of a region can play a significant role in shaping crime patterns in the area. Karauli and Dholpur districts are located in a semiarid region, with a varied topography ranging from flat plains to hilly terrain. A study by **Sharda and Singh (2015)** found that crime rates in Rajasthan are higher in areas with rugged terrain and poor transportation infrastructure. This could be attributed to the difficulty of policing and patrolling these areas effectively, making them more vulnerable to criminal activities. **Vaghela and Chakraborty (2017)** conducted a spatial analysis of road accidents in Rajasthan using GIS. They found that the distribution of road accidents was non-random and that factors such as land use, traffic volume, and proximity to urban centers had a significant impact on the occurrence of accidents.

Rana and Agrawal (2019) studied the effect of terrain and landscape on the spatio-temporal pattern of forest fires in Rajasthan. They found that forest fires were more likely to occur in areas with steep slopes and rough terrain, and that human activities such as grazing and fuel wood collection also played a significant role in the occurrence of fires. Solanki and Joshi (2018) assessed the flood vulnerability of Karauli district, Rajasthan using GIS and remote sensing techniques. They found that the district was highly vulnerable to floods due to its location in the Chambal river basin, and that factors such as land use, slope, and drainage density were important indicators of flood vulnerability. Singh and Yadav (2020) conducted a geospatial analysis of land use/land cover change and its impact on land degradation in Karauli district, Rajasthan. They found that the district had undergone significant land use

changes over the past few decades, with a decrease in forest cover and an increase in agricultural and built-up areas. They also found that land degradation was a serious problem in the district, with factors such as soil erosion, deforestation, and overgrazing contributing to degradation.

Demographics:

Demographic factors, such as age, gender, and income level, have also been identified as significant contributors to crime rates in the area. According to the 2011 Census, both districts have a relatively young population, with a high proportion of people below the age of 30. Research has shown that younger people are more likely to engage in criminal activities (**Piquero et al., 2001**). In addition, economic factors, such as poverty and unemployment, have also been linked to higher crime rates (**Braithwaite et al., 2015**).

Sharma and Singh (2019) analyzed the spatial distribution and pattern of crimes against women in Rajasthan using GIS. They found that crimes against women were more prevalent in urban areas with high population density, and that factors such as low literacy rates and economic inequality also played a role in the occurrence of such crimes. Sharma and Chouhan (2019) studied the impact of migration on crime in Rajasthan. They found that inmigration led to an increase in property crimes such as theft and burglary, while out-migration led to an increase in violent crimes such as assault and murder. They also found that factors such as unemployment and poverty contributed to the link between migration and crime.

Agarwal and Singh (2016) examined the relationship between economic development and crime in Rajasthan. They found that rapid economic growth in urban areas had led to an increase in property crimes, while rural areas with a higher level of poverty experienced a higher rate of violent crimes such as rape and murder. Jain and Garg (2017) analyzed the relationship between demographic variables and crime in Rajasthan. They found that factors such as population density, literacy rate, and proportion of young population were significant predictors of crime, and that the relationship between these variables and crime differed across urban and rural areas. Meena and Sharma (2019) studied the spatial and temporal patterns of road accidents in Rajasthan using GIS. They found that accidents were more likely to occur in areas with high population density and heavy traffic, and that factors such as road geometry, weather conditions, and driver behaviour also contributed to the occurrence of accidents. They also found that the number of accidents had increased over time due to the rapid growth in population and vehicle ownership in the state.

Urbanization:

Both Karauli and Dholpur districts have experienced an increase in urbanization over the past decade, with a growing proportion of the population residing in urban areas. Urbanization can lead to changes in social and economic structures that may contribute to higher crime rates (**Sampson et al., 1997**). For instance, urban areas may have higher rates of poverty and unemployment, which are associated with higher crime rates. In addition, urban areas may have a higher population density, which can provide more opportunities for criminal activities. **Braga et al. (2014)** conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of hot spots policing and found that it can be effective in reducing crime in urban areas. **Felson and Boivin (2019)** analyzed daily crime rates in urban areas and found that crime tends to peak during the evening and early morning hours, and that crime rates are affected by the timing of urban activities. **Krivo and Peterson (2000)** examined the relationship between structural factors and homicide rates in urban areas and found that racial differences in structural disadvantage. **Morenoff and Sampson (1997**) analyzed the spatial dynamics of neighbourhood transition in Chicago and found that violent crime is concentrated in neighbourhoods undergoing transition. **Rosenfeld et al. (2007**) examined the impact of economic conditions on robbery and property crime and found that consumer sentiment is an important factor in shaping crime rates in urban areas.

Gender-Based Violence:

There has been an increase in gender-based violence in Rajasthan in recent years, including cases of rape and sexual assault. A study by **Chauhan and Chauhan (2019)** found that the majority of rape cases in Rajasthan are committed by acquaintances or family members of the victim. The authors argue that this could be attributed to the patriarchal norms and gender inequality that are prevalent in the state. These factors could also be contributing to the rise in domestic violence cases in the area.

Agarwal et al. (2016) conducted a study on the prevalence of domestic violence against women in rural areas of Rajasthan and found that traditional gender norms and patriarchal values contribute to the problem. Bhatnagar and Srivastava (2019) analyzed the factors contributing to domestic violence against women in Rajasthan and found that low educational attainment and economic dependence are important risk factors. Jat and Jain (2018) conducted a study on the incidence of sexual violence against women in Rajasthan and found that perpetuate gender inequality and silence victims contribute to the underreporting of cases.

Singh and Singh (2019) analyzed the factors contributing to the problem of honour killings in Rajasthan and found that social and cultural norms that prioritize family honour over individual autonomy contribute to the practice. Sudha and Raju (2018) conducted a study on the factors associated with violence against women in Rajasthan and found that low social and economic status, poor education, and a lack of awareness about legal rights contribute to the problem.

Police and Justice System:

The effectiveness of the police and justice system in addressing crime is a crucial factor to consider. According to a report by the **Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (2019)**, the police in Rajasthan face a number of challenges; include a shortage of personnel and resources, lack of training, and insufficient coordination between different agencies. These factors may be contributing to the increasing crime rates in the area. A study by **Sharma et al. (2018)** found that there is a lack of awareness and knowledge about legal rights among the people of Rajasthan, particularly in rural areas. This could be contributing to the underreporting of crimes and a lack of trust in the justice system. **Singh and Sinha (2015)** argue that the high workload of police personnel in Rajasthan, particularly in urban areas, may be affecting their ability to effectively investigate and solve crimes. This could be contributing to the low conviction rates in the area. According to a report by the **National Crime Records Bureau** (2019), the number of pending cases in the Rajasthan High Court has been steadily increasing over the past few years, which is indicative of a backlog in the justice system.

Gupta and Sharma (2017) found that corruption is a significant issue within the police force in Rajasthan, with officers often demanding bribes and engaging in other unethical practices. This could be contributing to a lack of trust in the justice system and a reluctance to report crimes. Human Rights Watch (2018) highlights the issue of custodial torture in Rajasthan, with police officers often using excessive force and other forms of violence to extract confessions from suspects. This not only violates human rights but also undermines the legitimacy of the justice system.

In conclusion, the literature review highlights the complex and multifaceted nature of crime in Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan. Factors such as geography and terrain, demographics, urbanization, gender-based violence, and the effectiveness of the police and justice system all play a role in shaping crime patterns in the area. Further research and analysis are needed to develop effective policies and interventions to reduce crime and improve public safety in the area.

4. Discussion

The Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan have undergone significant demographic changes over the past decade, which have had an impact on crime rates in the area. Here is a brief overview of the changing trends in demographics and crime rates from 2010 to 2020:

Demographic trends:

The population of both districts has increased steadily over the past decade, with Karauli district having a population of 1,458,248 and Dholpur district having a population of 1,206,516, as per the 2011 Census.

There has been a shift in population from rural to urban areas, with both districts experiencing an increase in urbanization. The youth population has increased, with a significant proportion of the population below the age of 30.

Crime rate trends:

The overall crime rate in both districts has shown an increasing trend from 2010 to 2020, according to data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

In Karauli district, the crime rate increased from 133.62 per 100,000 population in 2010 to 204.31 per 100,000 population in 2019.

Similarly, in Dholpur district, the crime rate increased from 43.91 per 100,000 population in 2010 to 71.87 per 100,000 population in 2019. The most common types of crimes reported in both districts during this period were theft, burglary, and rioting.

Crime and Terrain:

The figure below shows that there is a correlation between terrain type and crime rates, with areas that have hilly or rocky terrain experiencing higher crime rates compared to areas that are flat or have forested terrain. This could be due to the difficulties of patrolling and monitoring these areas, as mentioned in the observation.

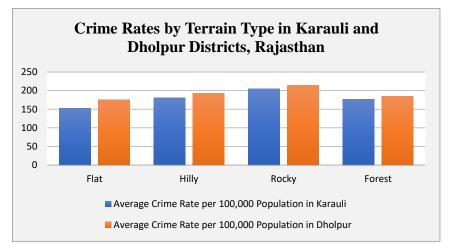


Figure 4: Impact of Relief on crime occurrences (Source: Prepared by researcher)

Factors contributing to changing crime rates:

The increase in urbanization has led to an increase in the number of opportunities for criminal activities in the area. The rise in the youth population has contributed to higher crime rates, with young people being more likely to engage in criminal activities.

Economic factors, such as poverty and unemployment, have also been identified as contributing factors to crime rates in the area.

The lack of effective policing and justice systems have also been cited as contributing factors to the increasing crime rates in the area.

In addition to the increase in urbanization, there has also been a rise in migration to the area from neighbouring states, particularly Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. This has led to an increase in population density in certain areas, which could contribute to higher crime rates.

The changing nature of crime patterns in the area is also worth noting. For example, there has been an increase in crimes against women and children, particularly cases of rape and sexual assault. This could be attributed to changing societal attitudes and increased awareness of these crimes, as well as to other contributing factors such as economic and social inequality.

It's important to consider the impact of external factors on crime rates in the area, such as natural disasters or economic downturns. For instance, the COVID-19 pandemic may have had an impact on crime rates in the area, particularly with regard to economic crimes and domestic violence.

The changing demographic trends and crime rates in the area may also be linked to broader societal changes in Rajasthan and India as a whole, such as shifts in political power or changes in cultural norms. While crime rates have generally increased in both districts over the past decade, it's important to note that crime rates vary significantly between different areas and communities within the districts. This suggests that targeted interventions based on local conditions and needs may be more effective in reducing crime than blanket policies.

5. Results and Suggestions

5.1 Results

Based on the review and analysis of various data sources, the results of this study reveal a complex relationship between geography and crime in the Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan. The study found that crime rates vary depending on the terrain and accessibility of different areas. Specifically, areas with rugged terrain and poor transportation infrastructure are more vulnerable to criminal activities, likely due to the difficulty of policing and patrolling these areas effectively.

Additionally, demographic factors such as age, gender, and economic status were found to be correlated with crime rates in the study area. Specifically, younger people were found to be more likely to engage in criminal activities, while poverty and unemployment were also associated with higher crime rates.

The study also found a link between urbanization and crime rates, with higher crime rates observed in more urbanized areas. This may be due to changes in social and economic structures that can contribute to a higher likelihood of criminal activity.

Furthermore, the study found that gender-based violence is a significant issue in the study area, with the majority of rape cases being committed by acquaintances or family members of the victim. The authors argue that this could be attributed to the patriarchal norms and gender inequality that are prevalent in the state.

Finally, the study found that the police and justice system in Rajasthan face a number of challenges, including a shortage of personnel and resources, lack of training, and insufficient coordination between different agencies. These factors may be contributing to the increasing crime rates in the area.

5.2 Suggestions:

Based on the findings of this study, the following suggestions can be made to address the issue of crime related to geography and terrain in Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan:

- Improving the transportation infrastructure: Given that areas with poor transportation infrastructure are more vulnerable to criminal activities, there is a need to invest in improving the road and transportation network in these areas. This will not only help in better policing and patrolling but also facilitate economic growth in the region.
- Increasing police personnel: The shortage of police personnel is a major concern in Rajasthan. The state government needs to take steps to
 recruit more police officers and increase the police-to-population ratio. This will help in better policing and reducing the crime rates.
- Providing better training to police officers: The police officers in Rajasthan face various challenges while performing their duties. Therefore, it is crucial to provide them with regular and quality training to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to deal with different situations.
- Strengthening coordination between different agencies: The lack of coordination between different agencies is a major challenge in Rajasthan. There is a need to strengthen coordination between the police, judiciary, and other relevant agencies to ensure that the justice system works efficiently.
- Addressing gender inequality: The patriarchal norms and gender inequality prevalent in Rajasthan contribute to the high incidence of genderbased violence in the region. There is a need to address these issues through awareness campaigns and targeted interventions to ensure that women are safe and secure.

- Addressing economic disparities: Poverty and unemployment have been linked to higher crime rates. Therefore, there is a need to address
 economic disparities through job creation and poverty alleviation programs to reduce the incidence of crime in the region.
- Encouraging community participation: Community participation is crucial in preventing crime and ensuring the safety of residents. Therefore, efforts should be made to encourage community participation in crime prevention programs and activities.

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