

An Approach to Crime Control - A Case of Delhi State

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Abstract

The growth of Delhi after independence has been stupendous. The unprecedented flow of refugees and the consequent tension resulting into communal riots in 1947 posed the first serious threat to the law and order machinery of Delhi. Large migration from Pakistan to India created further problems of housing and employment. During this period crime increased tremendously and numerous problems arose. Subsequently, the steady natural growth of population and fast flow of immigrants from the other states resulted into shortage of housing accommodation, overcrowded localities, slums, jhuggi-jhopri clusters, resettlement colonies, urban villages, traffic congestion and environmental pollution. Under the changed socio-cultural milieu the law and order problems became a matter of great concern as the crime of various nature increased. The strategies refer to the approaches of crime control, coordination among various agencies dealing with the crime and the set up under which police force has to work. The exercise is based on the identification of crime areas and the increasing incidence of crime for five years.

Keywords

Crime: An act committed in violation of law where the consequence of conviction by a court is punishment, especially where the punishment is a serious one such as imprisonment.

Strategy: The science and art of using all the forces of a nation to execute approved plans as effectively as possible during peace or war ;

Growth: the act or process, or a manner of growing; development; gradual increase;

Stupendous: extremely impressive; **Unprecedented:** not done or experienced before;

Refugees: A person who flees for refuge or safety, especially to a foreign country, as in time of political upheaval, war, etc.

Note:-In this paper the police stations name has been given along with brackets (). In brackets the serial number of the police station has been given.

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Introduction

This paper is devoted to an approach to crime control. The exercise is based on the identification of crime areas and the increasing incidence of crime for five years(2004-2008). The exercise is, therefore, spatial as well as temporal in identification. The specific nature of crime has been dealt with separately as the Police force has to act very significantly with situations and places. Thus, there are crimes and different approaches to crime control. The agencies have their own limitations with regard to various policies. However, for peaceful development of the society and the area, it is essential to have better co-ordination among agencies dealing with the crime. The police as well as the public gets frustrated, if the punishment is delayed and the intensity of crime control remain less effective. It is a well established fact that the evils of crime cannot be completely eradicated from the society yet efforts need to be made to reduce the occurrence of crime and to minimize the fear of crime from the mind of the people. There are a total 123+5=128 Police stations including GRP Police stations: Special cell Airport in National Capital Territory. The seven crimes as are Dacoity, Murder, Attempt to Murder, Robbery, Kidnap for Ransom, Rape, & Riot.

Methodology

The primary data collected through field survey, discussion with the decision making authorities in the Police Department. Interviews have also been conducted with the legal authorities, political leaders, civil administrators and the public law enforcing agencies. The exercise is based on two hundred samples. Of these, one hundred samples belonged to the survey of Police Department. This survey is based on a quota sampling of twenty five Senior Police Officers at the level of policy making, twenty five Medium level officers mostly engaged in operational and law enforcing activities and remaining 50 officials belonged to the young loby (who have lots of zeal to deal with the crime).

Based on the above methodology, an approach to crime control has been discussed below in detail :-

The crime control is an extensive exercise, carried out to minimize the crime. The Police Organization has been following various approaches to hit this target right from the early period. The crime and the crime control has been a continuous exercise within the society. However, with the change in the population pressure there has been a sudden increase in the crime. Similarly, with the change in the training and technological back up of police department there has been a decline in the crime rate. Since independence, the population of India has increased significantly. This is more apparent in the case of state of Delhi which is the nearest neighbours of

Haryana and experiences its negative effects resulting in increase in the crime. Delhi has its borders with Haryana in South, West and North and Uttar Pradesh is in the East. The affluence and poverty both are rising in Delhi causing increase in crime. The criminals have easy access to Haryana and U.P. to remain peaceful during Delhi Police Operations. Likewise, when Haryana and U.P. police come to action or operates, the criminals get safe shelter in the mega city of Delhi. An approach to crime control has been analyzed with regard to Plan, Programmes and the Strategies.

1. PLANS

In terms of plans, Delhi Police need to be oriented towards 'Short-Term' as well as 'Long-Term' plans to deal with the crime.

(A) Short-Term Plans

In regards short plans, police authorities should decide to have special derive against the crime. It may mostly be a quarterly affair in a year. Short-term plans may take up the derive against both crime and criminals as crime weeks, months and years, as well as Police Public Relationship etc., to make the society fearless and free from criminals. The special derive should launch for controlling the day to day crime specially Loot, Arson, Road Safety, Chain Snatching, Sexual Abduction, Theft, Robbery, Dacoity, Kidnapping etc. This should be worked out for all the range and the range authorities generally should review the situation and deal with such a derive. The weekly and the monthly meeting, at the level of DCPs should be organised regularly to re-consider the phenomenon of crime and its trends. In case of increasing incidence, more assistance of manpower, Arms and vehicles should be sought to deal with the situation. An another important aspect of Short-term plans is the daily or routine review of crime. Such a review can be carried out at the district level and actions should be taken up spontaneously (on the spot). Thus these short-term plans may be very helpful. Even during the discussion most of the officers in the Police Department feel, that such plan are of great value in crime control.

(B) Long-Term Plans :-

Similarly 'Long-Term Plans' must be oriented towards the question of specific crime such as- Dacoity, Robbery, Murder, Attempt to Murder, Riots, Rape and kidnapping etc. These plans should be developed at the level of Head-Quarter. On the basis of state or control intelligence reports as well as the research and development analyst report. After a thorough analysis of merits and demerits along with the consequences of proposed plans at the level of top brass ranks of police department, then only a plan should be made to control and bring down the crime. The Long-Term Plans should be framed, mostly for a period of two years and

should be referred to priority areas of police organisation. If any type of assistance, at any level is required by the state police for the special derives against the crimes like Terrorism, Robbery, Kidnapping and Dacoity from the central and other agencies which are dealing with inter- state crime control, should be asked without any delay. The Police department of several states like Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir have already succeeded in the field of Terrorism, Kidnapping etc. with the help of these Long-Term Plans. These facts reveal that plans should be there to control the crime. However, it has been reported by all levels of Police officers during the interviews that these plans some times do not succeed without financial and public support, Besides these, undue political pressure is also one of the major reason which has lead these plans towards failure.

2. PROGRAMMES

Various programmes should be implemented by the Delhi Police to deal with the crime. These programmes may be concerned with the modernization of Police organisation, improvement in the areas of communication. Information with the help of most modern means of communication, training system, transport and weapons technology etc.

The areas of communication, transportation and informations have under gone rapid changes all over the world. Due to this, the gang of criminals have become more facilitated with most modern means of transport and weapons along with very modern communication system in our country. While police machinery is in need to get ultra means of transport and communication. The survey conducted at various levels of police functionaries, reveals that the level of modernization has been very limited in terms of training, power and authority, funds allocation. The states of modernization is constrained with the technology, capital and manpower. Most of the respondents in the police department feel that modernization in the field of 'Training, Communication, Weapon Technology must form the essential part of Police organization. The communication gap is one of the major problem, creating mistrust and inefficiency among police personnel.

The Delhi police has adopted the following programmes to prevent the crime:-

(i) Ultra Communication-Information System

India has progressed a lot of in the field of satellite communication. The Police department of almost all metropolitan cities of India is using or going to use satellite channels and computer -technology. But such system of information network is lacking in comparison of other capitals. Delhi police should be modernized taking the service of satellite network and could be connected to all Police Stations within the network of Audio-Visual presentation. This will help to improvise communication

system. Besides telephone and wireless system, Police stations also need to be served with working 'Fax & Internet' services to enable the direct communication in writing from the top officials as well as other civilians and to write them about any particular case or cases keeping their identification.

(ii) Computer

In Delhi computer facilities though are available at the level of Districts Police Headquarter, but are not linked with the different lower units. As a result of it, the Police Station units do not get due co-ordination and co-operation from the higher units at the right time. Such a delay in the information networks helps the criminals to escape and plan for further steps. So, the use of computer-software is essential at all levels of Police organization to keep records of the facts and also to have a list of persons involved in different kinds of crime. The information system can be developed for better understanding and keeping the records of the happening. Even FIR (first information report) and other secret informations can also be stored in the system of computer information forever as a record. The hardware network of super computer can connect all Police stations with its headquarters for ready reference. Such facilities should be provided for all police personnel up to the rank of Inspectors to get better results.

(iii) Transport

The transport network has to be developed specially with regards to automatic vehicles and their availability in adequate numbers at all important locations. Vehicles are needed to be so designed that they can carry all necessary communication system along with protective means. They may be on the lines of the vehicles provided to the Rapid Action Force (RAF) or Defence Forces. Ultra modern facilities as are being provided in advanced countries to combat the criminals in short-span of time, such facilities must be provided to the Delhi Police by Government.

(iv) E-mail, Fax Services etc

E-Mail, Fax Services etc care one of the most advanced technology of information communication. It is capable of communicating written messages (may be related to crime or criminals) over the computer screen within time. Such messages help in establishing contact from higher to lower authorities and vice versa. Due to the lack of above facilities and system, most of the communication is delayed or received by the other authority orally or with others. Sometimes oral orders have caused mistrust and left no proof of material form. Such situations held responsible to those who were at the spot of such an event like opening fire, lathi-charge, teargas etc. In the event of oral order, one was free to say no and easily disown the responsibility. It has created a sense of apathy and deviance from duty among

subordinate staff who were subjected to bad entry in their service records and dismissal from their jobs by the courts. These staff (subordinate) have to carry out orders of seniors and have to face trials in the court in the event of failing in an operation. It helps in accelerating the crime and relaxing the law and order situation. Even sometimes to avoid oneself from such humiliation and mental torture, several honest and competent senior officers have committed suicide. But the government did not learn any lesson from these suicide cases of officers, neither it tried to make provision of such a system by which such humiliations can be minimized or eradicated. Being Capital territory such facilities are important to opt at each level considering the sensitivity. Now, with E-Mail & Fax, messages are available in the form of material proof and no official can disown the responsibility or say no to his orders. It is, therefore, suggested that such a fast system of communication need to be established at the lowest level of crime control i.e. Police Station. This system would help in making the chain of command structure with a sense of responsibility, high morality and honesty. This audio-video technology would also be helpful in activating the police organisation with full zeal to control the crime in the state.

(v) Medical and Legal Service

The medical as well as legal service experts need to be made the integral part of the Police system at all levels of their organization. This will help to provide legal as well as medical aid whenever needed.

(vi) Training

The training aspect of the staff needs to be modernized to improve the image of the Police department. Such is the need of the hour because criminals are equipped with extremely sophisticated and most modern weapons. Criminals also have training and weapons with most modern international standard. They have deep knowledge about the use of 'RDX' and other destructive explosive material. As against this, the Police personnel at large are trained in traditional weapons and do not have any training on the use of bio-chemical and other destructive weapons at mass level. They are mostly ignorant about the technique to defuse the bombs and also to locate the bombs and largely failed to identify various chemical materials which used for making explosives. In this task, army personnel used to call to defuse them due to the lack of knowledge.

Thus, this is a large gap between the modernity and capacity of a criminal to that of a Policeman. As a result crimes are on the increase, and morale of the Police personnel is towards decline, along with the weapon and other technological training. Another part of the training should be based on psychological, humanity aspects. Police personnel should be trained in human management, behavioural science to

develop the scientific relations with people which have been considered more valuable in modern age. Police personal should behave in a well manner. It should be the part of the training. Experts of specific fields should be deployed to train the police personnel so they could meet new challenges in future.

(vii) Education

Media has exposed so many incidents of Police atrocity against human rights of criminal in Police custody such as custodial deaths, permanent blindness, false encounter deaths and rape etc. The result of such crucial happenings cast a message of apathy in public towards police organization which bring down both the image and the trust. Thus, the public becomes quite uncooperative with police due to fear and unfair means of dealing. Then the criminal organizations take advantage of this apathy and start to activate their anti social activities. At this stage, Police organizations found themselves unable to identify the criminals from the society, easily. Sociological aspect and criminology science should be introduced in training period.

So, apart from training, Police personnel must be educated to know about the aspect of human rights and civil liberty. They should also be trained to understand the psychology and behavioural aspect of the society. Such educational training will surely improve the state of affairs in the Police department.

3. Strategy for Area Specific and Crime Specific Issues

This sub-section is devoted to the study of regional strategies. This part of the exercise aims at analyzing the present regional zonal frame of Delhi based on the intensity of crime. The second step deals with the crime situation and its areal coordinates. The third stage of analysis argues for a new regional strategies suggested for better control of crime under the given situation.

Delhi is divided into three police ranges. It is important to note that the police ranges in the state coincides with the police administrative division. They are Northern, Southern and New Delhi. The ranges of the police have their headquarters at P.H.Q. New Delhi. The nine districts of the state are divided into these three ranges, each having three districts. The crime situation and its effective control requires the in depth study of crime across time and area. These facts are based on the data supply by the Delhi Police.. These results have found the base for making an attempt towards formulating regional strategies for crime control in Delhi.

The facts reveal that Delhi has been recording an over all decrease in the crime except one crime. However there has been slight decline in the crime position during 2005-2006. Similarly there has been a significant increase in the crime situation during 2007-2008. A regular positive growth of one crime in Delhi, (2004-2008) i.e. rape.

In terms of crime at the range level, results reveal that Southern Range tops the list of crime by registering 38.91 % of the total crime in Delhi for seven crimes registered in the past five years. It is followed by the Northern range which recorded 35.53% of the total crime. The New Delhi registered third rank and recorded 23.69% of the total crime, special units ranked fourth with 1.87%. As compared to the above ranges. Special units recorded comparatively lower crime situation 1.87% and ranked last (fourth) in the state.

The position at the district level is highly uneven. District North-West tops the list in terms of proportion of crime 24.05% by registering 2578 crimes during 2004-2008. It is followed by district South which registered 1684 number of crimes (15.71 %) during the period under review. District North-East ranked third and recorded 1328 crimes (12.39%). It is closely followed by district West which recorded 1258 crime cases (11.74%). District South- West has recorded (11.46%) and East (8.90%) of the total crimes respectively. District North is the seventh important district in terms of incidence of crime. It recorded (6.27%) of the total crimes. Central, New Delhi and Special unit have recorded 5.21 %, 2.40% and 1.87% respectively. The analysis at the district level reveals that four out of nine districts listed above are located along Haryana border, districts of East and North-East are close to Uttar Pradesh region laying in different crime zones. Thus, the Northern and Southern ranges are more crime infested as compared to New Delhi and Special units. The above analysis explains that the existing regional strategies of crime control suffer from the questions of crime intensity. As a matter of fact the existing policy assume that the crime to be uniformly distributed all over the state. Since crime situation is highly tilted towards Haryana and U.P. It is very much required to have two crime control zones which command all districts having borders with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. It is further required to identify specific locations which are more crime infested. In this reference results at the police station level reveal that Police Station (99) Najaf Garh, (29) Sultan Puri have registered extremely high frequency of crime. These police stations have registered top ranks in six crimes out of total of Seven crimes. Similarly (22) Narela Ind. Area police stations, (24) S.P.Badli, (28) Mangolpuri, (100) Dabri, (107) Uttam Nagar, (112) Nagloi have recorded top position in five out of seven crimes. These factors reveal that North-West, South-West and West have very high sensitive location of police station. There are no specific strategies to control such locations separately. It is suggested that it would be better to have one such common command which is supposed to deal with such high intensity crime {180} locations. These areas and these command must be fully modernized and mechanized so that incidences of crime are controlled immediately.

The specific crime needs to be dealt with separately. However state of Delhi has no provision for crime specific police personnel.

The study reveals that the crime Dacoity has been significantly important in Police Stations (27) Sarsawati Vihar, (54) Anand Vihar, (3) Lahori gate ,(23) Alipur ,(99) NajafGarh, (21) Bawana ,(24) S.P.Badli. This fact shows that ‘Dacoity’ is a common and most frequent crime along North-West, East, North and South-West districts.

Similarly crime Robbery occupies significant place in (29) Sultanpuri, (69) Seemapuri, (25) Ashok Vihar, (99) Najaf Garh, (28) Mangolpuri (68) Bhajanpura, (24) S.P.Badli, (74) Malviya Nagar, (18) Shalimar Bagh and (27) Sarswati vihar. These facts reveal that the zones of Robbery are by in large than to ‘Dacoity’.

In case of Murder, (29) Sultanpuri, (112) Nagloi, (21) Bawana, (24) S.P.Badli, (99) Najaf Garh, (107) Uttam Nagar, (84) Okhla Ind. Area, (66) Gokulpuri, (22) Narela Ind. Area, (25) Ashok Vihar have been reported high zones. These locations reveal that incidence of murder is again a common phenomenon in district North-West, South-West, South and North-East. This needs to be dealt with separately. The zone of murder has high variations compared to Dacoity and moderate to Robbery.

Riots is one of the major crime in Delhi Police Stations (99) Najaf Garh, (75) Mehrauli, (43) Parliament, (42) Prasad Nagar, (95) Basant Kunj, (100) Dabri, and (84) Okhla Ind. Area. The results explain that Riot is also quite common in South-West, New Delhi, West and South districts.

Conclusion

The above brief discussion on major crimes reveals that there is a need to organize police force on the lines of specific crimes and its specific treatment. If such trends move on, the police men equipped with modern means of communications and weapons are deploy on sensitive pockets, there is every possibility of controlling crimes. Similarly the areas where different types of crime are common, deserve special treatment and relatively more deployment of police force.

Another aspect of crime and its strategy could be to have a trained group of officials to manage high ways, because crimes are increasing along major roads, to control activities through these highways.

The foregoing discussion lead such summaries that the police organization and its zonal crime control needs to be reviewed in the light of its modernization and reorganization based on the priority zone and prime crime locations. The specific crime and the overall crimes need to be controlled separately by trained with new technology and well equipped staff. Finally, adequate number of police personnel be employed and trained according to recent requirement to deal with the increasing crime.

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