



# A Study on Impact of Socio-Economic Features on Committing Crime

**Abhitej Lyall; Dr. Jahanara**

Master in Social Work Student, Department of Anthropology & Social Work, SHUATS, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, India  
Advisor, Prof. & Head, Department of Anthropology & Social Work, SHUATS, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

**ABSTRACT:** *The present investigation “A Study on Impact of Socio-Economic features on committing Crime” was carried out at Naini Central Jail, Prayagraj. A questionnaire consisting of around 40 questions was prepared to examine the Impact of Socio-Economic features (age, caste, type of family, occupational status, monthly income & education) on the prisoners for committing crime. Hence, it has been concluded that Lack of education, wide spread poverty, lack of work opportunities, all provide a lot of unsupervised time and conducive environment to the youth by encouraging them to get involved in easy and illegal ways of earning money or fulfilling their desires. A positive and educative environment, socio-economic support from Government can altogether catalyse a diminished criminal activity.*

**Keywords:** *Crime, Socio-Economic. Education*

## Introduction

Crime, as defined as an act of offence punishable by law, has been prevalent in our society since ages. It is an observable fact that crime is an occurrence that affects economic and social welfare of societies and is affected by social norms and economic conditions. Economic, social and regional conditions of the society have a great impact on the mind of an individual and play a vital role in driving a person to commit illegal and criminal activities.

Indian society is a witness to rapid socio-economic changes. Since independence, the graph of crime has phenomenally increased with rapid urbanisation and development of big cities and towns. The increasing rate of crime is an alarming condition for the society and a matter of great concern as the number of robberies, murders, rapes, drug-abuse, illegal trafficking, smuggling, theft of vehicles etc. are on their rise making people feel insecure and vulnerable in the presence of anti-social and evil elements.

Nowadays the modus-operandi of criminals have become very organised due to political and administrative backup provided to the criminals for the fulfilment of personal motives by



resourceful people. In order to eliminate this trend of augmenting crime, steps should be taken to curb and eliminate factors catalysing crime.

There are several factors in a society which are significant in crime formation. The economic structure of a country, the educational levels, migration and urbanization, unemployment, income and expenditure distribution, poverty, wage level, etc. are certain socio-economic factors that effectively determine the crime rate and type.

Society's reaction to crime has been changing from time to time and thus the system of imprisonment has different objectives of punishment. Incarceration along with the life inside a prison determines the behaviour of the inmates to a great extent. Prison may serve up to help a criminal deter from his path or may make the life of an offender miserable. Irrespective of the objective of punishment, the prison serves to keep the offenders under custody and control. In the present scenario, the prison serves as an institution for the reformation and rehabilitation of offenders.

## **Methodology**

A detailed account of methods and techniques followed to conduct this research investigation, is going to be investigated under the following heads: In Uttar Pradesh there are 5 Central Jails out of these jails Naini Central Jail Allahabad have been selected for the research. The area of research, Allahabad has been selected purposely, because it's geographical layout is big and variable, it has a mixed population with different categories of Communities (SCs, OBCs, Minorities, General etc.) and though the district economy is primarily rural based, it has a big urban population too. The district has adequate literacy levels but cannot boast of richness and a large size of the population is poor and semi poor. Besides, the Naini Central Jail is located in Allahabad where prisoners of other districts are also kept. The respondents were selected in the age group between 18 to 35 years old and also the one who were imprisoned for life time. The appropriate number of respondents were selected in accordance to the availability of respondents, as it was not possible to undertake survey of entire population of Naini Central Jail. 30 youth prisoners were randomly selected among the entire enumeration.

For the collection of data, development of interview schedule, covering various objectives of the present investigations will be made so that the data may be collected from respondents.



Observation method was such a method in which only primary data was collected. Each respondent was observed and the data that the researcher thinks was relevant was collected by him which was benefited for the study. The data collected through interview schedule were transferred on the master sheet. For various parameters frequencies were marked and percentages were calculated to interpret the results.

## Results & Discussion

The present survey was carried out at the Naini Central Jail Allahabad to analyse the impact of Socio-economic factors on committing crime. A questionnaire was made according to which the following facts were observed:

**Table 4.1: Distribution of the respondents according to age**

**N=30**

S.No.	Age Group (In years)	Frequency	Percentage
1.	18 – 22	4	13.33
2.	23 – 26	15	50.00
3.	27 – 30	6	20.00
4.	31 – 35	5	16.67
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

From the above Table 4.1 reveals that majority (50.00%) of the respondents belong to age category of 23-26 years. Around 20.00 % of the respondents belong to 27-30 years, 16.67 % of 31-35 years and 13.33 % of 18-22 years. The findings of the study are in confirmation with **Akhilesh K, et al (2016)**.



**Table 4.2: Distribution of the respondents according to caste**

**N=30**

S.No.	Caste	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Other Backward Caste	8	26.67
2.	General Caste	9	30.00
3.	Minority	4	13.33
4.	Schedule Caste	5	16.67
5.	Schedule Tribe	4	13.33
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

From the above Table 4.2 it is depicted that 30.00 % respondents belong to General Caste, 26.67 % to Other Backward Caste, 16.33 % to Schedule caste and 13.33 % to Minority (Muslims) and Schedule Tribe respectively. The findings of the study are in confirmation with **Dumont. L (1970)**.

**Table 4.3: Distribution of the respondents according to type of family**

**N=30**

S.No.	Type of Family	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Joint	10	33.33
2.	Nuclear	15	50.00
3.	Extended	5	16.67
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

From the above Table 4.3 it is evident that 50.00 % of respondents belong to Nuclear Family, 16.67 % to Extended Family and 13.33 to Joint Family. The findings of the study are in confirmation with **Gupta P. K et al (2015)**.



**Table 4.4: Distribution of the respondents according to their occupational status.**

**N=30**

S.No.	Occupational Status	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Agriculture	10	33.33
2.	Business	3	10.00
3.	Service	5	16.67
4.	Labour	12	40.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table 4.4 shows that 40.00% of the respondents were from the labour class; 33.33% were from agricultural background; 16.67 % were service class people and 10.00 % were from business sector. The findings of the study are in confirmation with **Raghavan V and Nair R. (2011)**

**Table 4.5: Distribution of the respondents according to their monthly income**

**N=30**

Sl.No.	Monthly income	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Below Rs. 5,000	16	53.33
2.	Rs. 5001 – 10000	7	23.33
3.	Rs. 10001 – 15000	4	13.33
4.	Above Rs. 15000	3	10.00

The findings of the above table 4.5 shows that 53.33% of the respondents earned below Rupees 5000 per month; 23.33% were in the income range of Rupees 5001-10,000; 13.33% earned between Rupees 10,001-15,000 and only 10% respondents belonged to the income group of more than Rupees 15,000.



**Table 4.6: Distribution of the respondents according to their Education.**

N=30

S.No.	Level of Education	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	15	50.00
2.	High School	3	10.00
3.	Intermediate	7	23.33
4.	Graduate	5	16.67
5.	Post Graduate	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

From the above table 4.6 it is evident that (50.00%) of the respondents were Illiterate, 23.33 % had gone up to Intermediate level of education, 16.66 % were Graduate while only 10.00 % had gone upto High School level. The findings of the study are in confirmation with **Womboh (1991)**

**Table 4.7: Distribution of the respondents according to Nature of Crime committed by them**

N=30

S.No.	Nature of Crime	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Murder	10	33.33
2.	Rape	15	50.00
3.	Theft	02	6.67
4.	Forgery	3	10.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>



From the above Table 4.9 it is clearly seen that 50.00 % of the respondents were Rapist, 33.33 % were Murderers, 10.00 % committed Forgery and 6.67 % committed Theft. The findings of the study are in confirmation with **Mehrishi R, *et al.* (2015)**

## Conclusion

Crime and society both exist together and are interdependent to a great extent. Lack of education, wide spread poverty, lack of work opportunities, all provide a lot of unsupervised time and conducive environment to the youth by encouraging them to get involved in easy and illegal ways of earning money or fulfilling their desires.

A positive and educative environment, high quality work opportunities, healthy relationships, vocational trainings, adequate counselling, socio-economic support from Government can altogether catalyse a diminished criminal behaviour.

If we look at the history of criminals, we can clearly see that many of them hail from dysfunctional families, where they do not have anyone to show them the right path. It is here that parents and teachers can intervene and play an important role in controlling crime.

Reducing unemployment can be an effective way to curb crime as a majority of people are compelled to commit crime because of financial problems. If the government works in the direction of creating more jobs, it can definitely bring about a drop in the criminal activities

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