THE IMPACT OF URBANIZATION IN HIGH RATE OF CRIME: BOGRA PERSPECTIVES

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ABSTRACT

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From economic point of view urbanization facilitates the achievement of economic scales that promotes growth and development in the economy. However from social point of view urbanization encourage crimes as the rate of crime is higher in large cities and in urbanized areas. The present study was conducted in two wards of Bogra town and from this two wards, six areas are selected as part of study area, i.e. Nishindara (Upashahr), Thonthonia, Borogola, Matidali, Charmatha and Sathmatha; for a period of three months-commencing from June to August 2013. The objectives of the study were; to explore the nature, causes and consequences of crime in Bogra city, and to identify the interrelationships between crime and urbanization. A well structured questionnaire was employed to capture the findings of the study. A total 40 respondents were interviewed and they were selected by the accidental sampling method. The MS-Excel software was used to analysis the surveyed data. All respondents mentioned their opinion on deferent types of crime. 2.5% mentioned new pattern of crime, 15% gambling, 27.5% bribery, 32.5% threat, 5% theft and streaking, 7.5% house breaking, and 10% of the respondents mentioned other types of crime. According to the respondents 40% crime occur at day, while 60% at night. Respondents mentioned the major causes of high rate of crime as for breaking of laws (35%), for lack of proper rules (32.5%), for power of money (25%), for shelter from godfather (5%) and for breaking of family bondage (2.5%). About 25% respondents motioned increasing of crime is the result of relationship between urbanization and crime. The present study indicate that 15% thrift, 60% robbery, 22.5% little conflict among people and 2.5% of family conflict occurred due to urbanization. Respondent also mentioned about changing patterns of crime in urban area. They said about the crime of mobile phone threat (32.5%), murder (30%), video pornography (20%), and drug (17.5%). Significant number of respondents mentioned causes of changing crime as a result of urbanization and 22.5% are agreed with inactive police activities. There are many problems in urban area and among them crime is the major problem occurred at high rate. Every citizen should be concerned about this problem. Bangladesh is a developing country, and it's an over populated country. Many people involved in different types of crime. For controlling the crime against urbanization, some recommendations can be taken from this present study. These are urban citizen should be concerned about urban crime, preventive steps should be taken by the Government, crime related journals should be broadcasted in all media; pure and truthful news should be published by daily newspapers. Over all, police department should play an important role in controlling crime from urban area and similarly judicial system should run without political interferences.

Key words: socio-economic characters, urbanization, causes of crime, types of crime, human trafficking

INTRODUCTION

Crime is an activity which is against the laws and regulation of a country. The linkage between criminal activities and the socio-economic development of the society is undeniable. Moreover, the relationship between crime and evolution of mankind may also be considered a historical one as Cain (first son of Adam and Eve) committed first crime when he murdered his brother Able because of jealousy. Due to the complex nature of the subject of crime, for example, regarding its causes and consequences, various academic disciplines such as criminology, sociology, geography, psychology and demography study it from their own perspective (Coomer 2003). The economics of crime, a relatively new emerging field tries to identify the socio-economic causes and consequences of criminal activities in a society (Beccaria 1767).

Crime in Bangladesh is occurring in various forms such as drug trafficking, money laundering, extortion, contract killing, fraud, human trafficking, robbery, corruption, black marketeering, political violence, terrorism and abduction among others. Bangladesh is used as a transit for narcotics distribution produced in neighboring the countries. The Annual Report 2007 of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), stated that Bangladesh is now the main transit point for the movement and trafficking of heroin from Southeast Asia into the European market. The report also noted that the porous borders between Bangladesh and India contribute to the cross-border trafficking of narcotics. The known means of trafficking drugs into Bangladesh are couriers from Pakistan (Arif 2003), commercial vehicles and trains from India or Burma in addition to shipments from India via the Bay of Bengal. It is estimated that 100,000 people are involved in narcotics trafficking in Bangladesh. A total of 10,331 homicides were reported to Bangladesh authorities from 2001 to 2003, showing a significant increase in recent years. For the Asia Pacific region, Bangladesh is ranked as one of the main countries for Software Piracy. It is estimated that the Software Industry loses nearly US$ 102 million every year as a result.

Bogra is one of the oldest towns in northern Bangladesh. It is a centre of commerce and trade within the Bogra District and located under the Rajshahi Division. It is sometimes described as the nerve centre of Northern Bangladesh; it is also a bridge between Rajshahi Division and Rangpur Division. The area of the town is approximately 71.56 km^2 (27.63 sq. mile), and after becoming a municipality, it consists of 21 wards. Bogra town also has importance in terms of transport in northern Bangladesh, as it's situated at the centre. Due to rapid urbanization and economic importance of this district several kinds of crime are likely to be occur every day. It is very much essential to find out the growth and subsequent crime status of Bogra to keep the society secure

from various crimes. Therefore, the objectives of the present study were to explore the nature of crime, to focus its major causes, to assess the consequences of crime and also to identify the inter-relationship between crime and urbanization in Bogra city.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in two wards of Bogra town and from this two wards, six areas were selected as part of study area, i.e., Nishindara (Upashahr), Thonthonia, Borogola, Matidali, Charmatha and Sathmatha. The current study was conducted for three months period, commencing from June to August 2013. The method of sampling for the foregoing research was accidental sampling. The respondents for this study was comprised of 40 citizens of urban area especially Bogra town. Moreover, some elites and relevant respondents also chose for collecting information regarding on crime and urbanization. Face to face interview has been conducted in collecting primary data from the respondents. Primary information was provided directly by the selected persons from study area. A well structured questionnaire was employed for collecting the data from the targeted respondents. Secondary data was collected through various sources, such as literatures and publications available in national and international department, publications of NGOs, and also from different type's journals, newspaper, magazine, books, internet, etc. The collected information was compiled for analysis using MS-Excel software. Graphical presentation techniques were the major analytical means for interpreting the sample's information.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Age of the respondents

The respondent of this present study were grouped based on their age (Table 1). It showed that most of the respondent belonged to 20-30 age group (32.5%) followed by 30-40 age group (30%). It also evident that over 80% respondents were under 40 years of age. Therefore, the participations of this study were more exhaustive, responsive and useful for digging the actual information on the subject matter (Allen 1996).

Table 1. Percentage distribution of the respondents by age

Age of the respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
10-20	8	20
20-30	13	32.5
30-40	12	30
40-50	4	10
50-60	1	2.5
60-70	1	2.5
70-80	1	2.5
Total	40	100

Marital status of the respondents:

It was found that 50% of the respondents were married while others were unmarried including 2.5% separated status (Table 2). There were no respondents from divorced, widow or other family status. Therefore, the participation in the present study were more balanced which can lead to a successful investigation for justifying the objective taken.

Table 2. Percentage distributions of the respondents by marital status

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Married	20	50
Unmarried	19	47.5
divorced	0	0
Separated	1	2.5
widow	0	0
Others	0	0
Total	40	100

Religious status of the respondents

The respondents of this study can be categorized on the religions stand (Table 3) and it was found that majority of them were from Islam (82.5%) followed by Hinduism (12.5%). Others were Buddhism and Christianity (2.5% of each). Therefore, the survey consists of respondents from all major religions of Bangladesh.

Table 3. Percentage distributions of the respondents by religion

Religion	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Islam	33	82.5
Hinduism	5	12.5
Buddhism	1	2.5
Christianity	1	2.5
Total	40	100

Educational status of the respondents

The educational levels of the respondents were varied considerably (data not shown). Results indicated that among the participants were 17.5%, 15%, 47.5%, 12.5%, and 7.5% were SSC, HSC, BSS, MSS and other educational positions, respectively. Most of the respondents possess HSC level of education.

Occupation of the respondents

Respondents of this study were from different occupation (Table 4) including Govt. service (10%), business (42.5%), banker (7.5%), and other occupations (40%). There were participants from teaching professionals.

Table 4. Percentage distributions of the respondents by occupation

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Govt. service	4	10
Teacher	0	0
Business	17	42.5
Banker	3	7.5
Service holder	0	0
Others	16	40
Total	40	100

Types of crime according to the respondents

Several types of crime identified by the respondents (Table 5) and according to 2.5% respondents heating happen as a new pattern of crime in the urban area while 15% respondents mention gambling as a common type of crime. In Bogra town, no respondent indicate Perjury as the cause of crime in the urban area while 27.5% of them faced bribery and 32.5% faced threat. It is evident that citizens of every urbanized area are threatened for several reasons. Other types of crime are theft and streaking, house breaking, and other unknown types of crimes faced by 5, 7.5% and 10% of respondents, respectively. It is also found that 40% of the respondents faced crime at day, and 60% of them faced crime at night.

Table 5. Percentage distributions of the respondents by types of crime

Types of crime	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Heating	1	2.5
Gambling	6	15
Perjury	0	0
Bribery	11	27.5
Threat	14	32.5
Theft and Streaking	2	5
House breaking	3	7.5
Others	4	10
Total	40	100

Causes of facing crime

Data showed that 35% of the respondents mentioned that breaking of laws is the most significant cause of urban crime. For breaking of laws criminal get chance to occur crime. About one fourth (25%) of the total respondents argued that power of money is the prime cause of urban crime while only 2.5% of them mentioned that breaking of family bondage is responsible for occurring crime. This results in support the causes of crime by Becker (1968). Lack of proper rules is mainly responsible for occurring crime (32.5% respondents) whilst others argued for shelter from godfather (5% respondents) in the urban area (Table 6). The above discussion reveals that most of the respondents indicate breaking of laws is the main reasons that lead to occurring crime in urban area of Bogra. Participation of illegal activities found to be lead to crimes (Ehrlich 1973).

Table 6. Percentage distributions of the respondents by cause of facing crime

Causes of crime	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breaking of laws	14	35
Power of money	10	25
Breaking of family bondage	1	2.5
Lack of proper rules	13	32.5
Shelter of godfather	2	5
Total	40	100

Consequences of the urban crime

The present study indicated that, the consequences of urban crime were mental restlessness (32.5%), losing money (37.5%), losing prestige (22.5%), and breaking of social interaction (7.5%). It was found that majority of the respondents lost their money due to urban crime (data not shown).

Relationships between crime and urbanization

Results indicate that, 25% of the respondents mentioned that increasing crime is the main reasons of relationship between crime and urbanization (Table 7). According to 22.5% of the respondents, creating new patterns of crime are might be the reason behind the relationship between urbanization and crime. On the other hand, 52.5% of the respondents mentioned that introducing with more crime is the main consequences of the relationship between crime and urbanization. Similar results were given by Galvin (2002).

Table 7. Percentage of the respondent's answering the cause of relationship between urbanization and crime

Causes of crime and urbanization	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Increasing crime	10	25
Creating new patterns of crime	9	22.5
Introducing with more crime	21	52.5
Total	40	100

Types of crime due to urbanization

According to 15% of the respondents, thrift is a new form of crime in urban area, while 60% of the respondents indicated that robbery is the common crime in urban area (Table 8). Many dangerous gangs are created from urbanization and 22.5% of the respondents argued that little conflict among people is the majority crime in urban area. Family become vulnerable for urbanization, another 2.5% of the respondents mentioned few numbers of family conflicts that motivate a person to crime in urban area. Most of the respondents mentioned robbery is the mostly popular crime in urban area.

Table 8. Percentage distributions of the respondents by types of crime occur due to urbanization

Types of crime occurs due to urbanization	Frequencies	Percentage (%)
Theft	6	15
Robbery	24	60
Little conflict among people	9	22.5
Small amount of family conflict	1	2.5
Total	40	100

Results of urbanization in crime

Results indicate that, 17.5% of the respondents mainly acquainted with drug. They suggested that drug is the newly invented crime in urban area. Most of the urban city is affected by drug. Young people are suffering more. On the other hand, 30% of the respondents indicated that murder is the changing patterns of crime in urban area. In the local area murder is not acquainted in general. About 20% of the respondents mentioned that video pornography is the newly invented crime in urban area and a great number of people above all 32.5% of the respondents) mentioned mobile phone threat is the most changing patterns of crime.

Table 9. Percentage distributions of the respondents by the cause of changing crime as a result of urbanization

Causes of changing crime	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Available drug materials	7	17.5
Available modern arms	10	25
Criminal get more information about crime	6	15
Inactive police activities	9	22.5
Corrupted judicial system	6	15
Others	2	5
Total	40	100

Affected community

In Table 10, 10% of the respondents mentioned that educated people become more beneficiary from urban crime, 7.5% of the respondents said that illiterate people suffer more than that of literate people. About 30% of the respondents indicate that rich people become sufferer. On the other hand, 5% of the respondents mentioned that poor people are suffered more from the urban crime, another 45% of the respondents argued that middle class people become more and more sufferer from urban crime. Most of the respondents argued with middle class people.

Table 10. Percentage distributions of the respondents by community who become sufferer

Sufferer of crime	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Educated people	4	10
Illiterate people	3	7.5
Rich people	12	30
Poor people	3	7.5
Middle class people	18	45
Total	40	100

Impact of urbanization and crime

Table 11 indicates that 25% of the respondents mentioned that urban crime destroy education system of Bogra town. Education system can't run properly due to urban crime. According to 52.5% of the respondents, judicial system is damaged for increasing urban crime. 12.5% of the respondents said that urban crime is responsible for damaging production of necessary goods while 5% of the respondents indicated that technologies are destroyed as the criminal activities increased considerably in urban area. Another 5% of the respondents mentioned other causes of breaking the development by urban crime. The impact of these crime high therefore, punishment have been suggested by researchers as measure of controlling (Dostoevsky 1866).

Table 11. Percentage distributions of the respondents by the sector of developments are affected more

Affected sector	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Education system	10	25
Judicial system	21	52.5
Damaging production of necessary need	5	12.5
Technology	2	5
Others	2	5
Total	40	100

Crime in Bogra

Since Bogra is one of the growing towns, number of crimes and its consequences are increasing day by day. As per statistics of Bogra Sadar police station, different crimes occurred, i.e. snatching, theft, murder, women and children violence, rape, kidnap, smuggling, drug addiction and others and drug addiction and others crime is alarmingly increased since last five years due to urbanization (Table 12 and Fig. 1 & 2).
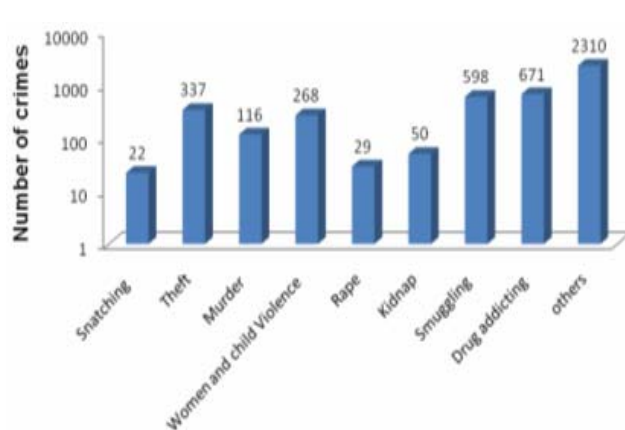

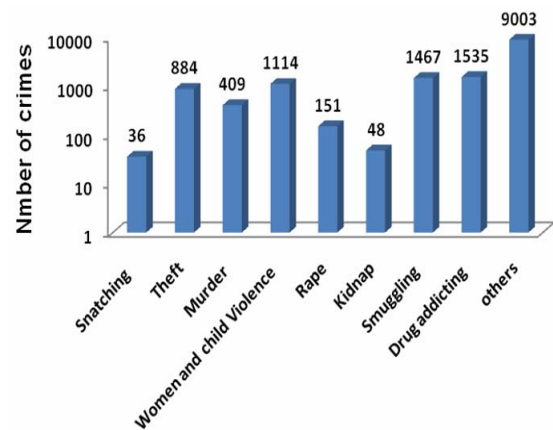Fig-01: Different crimes occured in Bogra town last five years

Fig-02: Different crimes occured last five years in Bogra district

Table12. Crime status in Bogra town since last five years

Year	Crimes occurred in Bogra town								
	Snatching	Theft	Murder	Women and child violence	Rape	Kidnap	Smuggling	Drug addicting	Others
2008	7	97	19	76	10	12	67	125	510
2009	3	98	21	66	7	7	96	148	473
2010	3	49	16	47	2	1	89	136	346
2011	2	42	19	32	5	2	50	39	319
2012	3	30	24	32	2	11	203	137	410
2013	4	21	17	15	3	17	93	86	252

Source: Bogra sadar thana, Bogra

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Crime is an old word in the context of Bangladesh. Rome ancient time to present time it available in Bangladesh. Different types of crime have speeded in all over the country. If we notice in the village of Bangladesh there crime patterns is different from town. Because there urbanization is absent. Urban environment is totally favorable for doing crime but rural environments are not. We know that there are many facility of urbanization. Urbanization gives the opportunity to communicate with other countries very easily. Foreign culture is available. We can enjoy other culture from the help of urbanization.

On the other hand urbanization gives the negative effect to our social life. In the urban society men become criminal because in the urban area police system becomes corrupted. Judicial system also becomes corrupted. Many common people face crime by new process and that crime is created by urbanization. Such as Mobile phone threat, video pornography, murder, and cyber crime. All crime is created by urbanization. In the ancient time there was not availability of mobile phone, there was absent of corrupted judicial system, corrupted police system etc.

In the present era we can identify that school going girl are faced eve- teasing by mobile phone. Some of the corrupted people catch video pornography by illegal way. And the development process of the country is destroyed by these types of crime. If we want to develop our country is following developed countries so we have to recover all types of crime from city area.

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