

COVID-19: EMERGENCE OF NEW CRIMES

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“Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah”

“(One Who Protects Dharma, Is Protected By Dharma)” (Vyasa, 2000)

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the condition of crime in society during COVID-19. The emergence of new crime and the decline in traditional crime gave an immense impact on society. The article discusses the reason behind the increasing rate of new crime. The new crimes like a violation of COVID-19's norms, smugglers exploiting the high demand for sanitizers to transport illegal alcohol, and the emergence of new criminal groups. The pandemic also leads to an increase in domestic violence, cybercrime, and banking fraud. The traditional offenses are declined by 2,00,000 cases due to lockdown in India. In which people are restricted to move freely.

While some corporate, Government scheme, celebrities, and common people try to help each other to overcome the situation, some find a new opportunity to fulfill their greediness and satisfy their pecuniary interest. The article highlights the need to guide creative minds and respect women's emotions to avoid catastrophic consequences for society.

Keywords: COVID-19, The new crimes, Government scheme, Common people.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Coronavirus, this term was not known before December 2019. It emerged from Wuhan, China. The World Health Organization (WHO) recognized it as a pandemic on March 11, 2020. Before this pandemic, society was busy in its daily routine. They did not believe that they were going to witness a horrific situation. They are going to lose their loved ones by this means and face this type of situation.

Even the crime rate increases these days because maybe the meaning of emotions has changed. While some are praying for their life some are planning how to get the advantage of this situation just to satisfy their greediness. The land which is known for the sacrifices now converted into a land where a criminal mindset stayed, we can take an example from Ramayana in which Lord Ram went for canvas for 14 years just to fulfill his father's promise.

COVID-19 affects the crime rate, the education system, the GDP of the nation, the medical sector, and so on. The crime increased to a new pattern.

2. CRIME AND PANDEMIC

The concept of crime is different according to the opinion of the individuals. It has also changed its meaning from one generation to another. In a general sense, crime is an act or omission of any act which is not accepted by society or taken as morally incorrect. In this Era of Kaliyuga, according to Hindu mythology, crime will increase day by day and this type of natural disaster like COVID-19 assists crime to emerge in society not just to fulfill greediness but sometimes

by exigent. The shortage of hospitals, oxygen cylinders, and wood for funerals or cremation, impelled society to sob. Society started exploring new livelihood opportunities some of them are on the tactic path and some are not. When we take fresh air, the idea or positivity automatically comes to our mind but when the circumstances are not in our control, we feel compelled and the situations bound us to do something which is morally incorrect.

Creative minds are the most delicate part of society. Creativity should be used positively otherwise it can erect disaster for everyone there is a say that a sword needs its cover same sharp mind need the right path otherwise. They will engender unhackneyed hurdles instead of forging for society, as in the case of COVID -19 there is the emergence of advanced crime during this period which accelerates Cyber Crime, Banking fraud whereas it also decreases the cases of traditional crime by 200,000 cases. This role is played by a lockdown period in which people are restricted to do some activities, so a criminal mind retrieves new opportunities to commit a crime under those activities like Ravi Kant, President of the voluntary organization Shakti Vahini, reported that traffickers are replacing their regular method and with red light areas occlude during the lockdown, these activities are shifting to residential areas in the acquisition of massage parlors and spas. "We have tracked 200 cases where traffickers were operating in the grab of spas and massage parlors in 2020 and 2021"

Sometimes it is not all about what we know, what we see, or what we hear, but what we feel.

3. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

During the lockdown period due to COVID-19, people stay at home, and the situation outside is untouchable. The impact of that period is hilarious for the people who lost their loved ones and some who have them, have not enough respect and love which cause an increase in the number of cases of domestic violence. It is an easy way to reduce your burden by shouting at others. Cruelty gave an immense impact on the emotion of a person. There is a slogan during lockdown: stay home, stay safe. But are they safe in their home? It is a hard step to take rash actions against their family members. Even society blames women if she files suits against their husband. They try to convince her to adjust to this gloomy situation. She feels mental breakdowns.

Data from National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) collected through 28 State Legal Services (SLAs) have observed an increase in cases of domestic violence during the lockdown. According to this data, the National Capital ranks at number three. In April, 86% of the total number of violence cases registered were of domestic violence against women.

Does a woman need to suffer a lot in society? The percentage of domestic violence cases with men is as less as Japan has natural resources. The woman does not need to suffer a lot if their surroundings corporate with them and respect their emotions.

4. CYBERCRIME

The measures taken by the government restrict people to go outside their houses. They are suggested to stay at home, many of them lost their jobs, and they try to search for a new job through the Internet. The traps were already made for innocent persons. As people started engaging with technology cybercrime took its speed and grew like a bamboo tree.

The technology is updated from time to time and it is not a piece of cake for everyone. The employees would unknowingly or recklessly give access to the wrong people. However, the problem is even greater when the employees execute their work from home. They may be

interrupted by family members or social visitors during their course of work. These distractions can make individuals more negligent.

Before the pandemic, around 20% of cyber-attacks used previously imperceptible malware or methods. During this hideous phase, the proportion has risen to 35%. Some of the new attacks operate in a form of machine learning that adapts to its environment and remains unseen. As an example, phishing attacks are becoming more sophisticated and using different channels such as SMS and voice (vishing). Not only news about vaccine developments is used for phishing campaigns but also ransomware attacks are also becoming more sophisticated. For instance, hackers are combining data leakage attacks with ransomware to persuade victims to pay the ransom.

5. SMUGGLING

In the period of corona virus, it is necessary to wear a mask and maintain social distance. Even the shortage of sanitizer was also faced by the people in the society. The sanitizer should contain at least 60% ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol. Many people make jokes about that by washing their hands with alcohol and circulating it through social media.

During the lockdown period, the trade and business of every person was unstable. It also create hurdles for the smugglers as their traditional doors were sealed by police because of the pandemic. Even some are addicted to drugs and they want them by hook and by crook. They choose another way to smuggle their illegal goods like medicine and drugs, alcohol, masks, etc. The importance of sanitizer is at its peak, the criminal mind knows that the demand for sanitizer is high and without high checking, it can be transported from one place to another. So, they find a new route to smuggle their illegal alcohol through sanitizer. This emerged new criminal groups and partners.

On May 11, 2020, Delhi Customs seized large a large quantity of raw materials for masks, sanitizer, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that were smuggled to China.

6.BANKING FRAUD

During this period the fraud of net banking is high because the people in India do have not much information regarding net banking and this emerges new groups ensnare the people in its trap.

The metropolitan cities contribute to more than 50 percent of banking frauds happening in India which went up by more than 10 times between 2017 and 2020. Hyderabad and Mumbai recorded the highest number of fraudulent activities among metros after the COVID-19 outbreak. The banking fraud number in Hyderabad went from zero to more than 1300 between 2019 and 2020. The number of online banking frauds doubled between 2018 and 2019, when COVID just started in 2019, the number spiked exponentially in 2020.

In the current financial year, the first nine months saw bank frauds of ₹648 crore. The numbers were quite high five years ago, for instance, ₹61,229 crore in FY17. Between FY16 and the ongoing financial year, Maharashtra saw bank frauds of ₹1.25 lakh crore, while in New Delhi, it stood at ₹40,860 crore and ₹13,520 crore in Telangana (Dey, 2021).

7. UNRECORDED CRIME

Crime is what the actions society does not accept and crime is also prohibited by law. They both are correct in their perspective. Law is dynamic in nature; it should be changed according

to the requirements of society. The loss faced by society is uncountable. It leads to recession, poverty, loss of education, inhospitality in hospitals, and the loss of time which cannot be recovered by some measures even if it is difficult to count it in numbers or figures. The future of our society is children and our youth. In 2020, the colleges and schools are closed and after some time the need for online education appears, the government of India is not prepared for this they took lots of time to handle the situation and then provide the needy person tablets and phone but it is difficult for them to access the internet. Indirectly, there is a violation of Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy which is provided in Article 21A and Article 48 of the Indian Constitution.

The layoff of employees is also a kind of indirect crime because one of the main reasons people are laid off is to cut costs. After all, businesses aren't making enough money to cover their expenses or need a lot of extra money to pay off debt. Is this a good solution for employees? A large number of people lost their jobs. Almost 40% of male small business owners are no longer self-employed, and nearly 30% of male salaried workers haven't retained their prior occupations (Roy, 2022). Women salaried workers have disproportionately stopped working and many have had to resort to agriculture and allied activities. Currently their minds are not free, they are trapped in an atmosphere from where they cannot come out till the situation is controlled by the government.

Who is responsible for these indirect crimes or unrecorded crimes? The situation of society was disastrous, these unrecorded crimes are not major, but tiny particles can make an atom.

8. TRADITIONAL OFFENSES

Offenses are generally of two types. One is traditional offenses and another is Socioeconomic offenses (Mishra, 2020). During the COVID-19 period, the ratio of traditional crime decreased by 2,00,000 cases. It includes rape, murder, theft, etc, but socio-economic offenses increased. A new form of criminality spread all over the world to different degrees. The incidence and magnitude of such offenses are much greater in developed countries than in developing countries. In these offenses, the motive is greed for money, and the situation during this period many people lost their jobs and some face huge issues in their businesses and trade. Business and trade are not functioning properly except for basic needs like milk. Society faces poverty and all these factors are responsible for the increase in the greediness of money, which leads to socio-economic crime in society.

In 2020, registered crime was down by 2 percent from the previous year. Certain types of traditional crime in particular, including pick-pocketing decreased by 47%, shoplifting by 13 percent and street robbery fall by 44.37%. Pick-pocketing became harder and the higher prevalence of working from home reduced the likelihood of house burglars.

9. CONCLUSION

During this phase, the people witness a situation that they do not want to experience again. The research and data of the recognized organization clearly state that the situation needs to be controlled soon. The cognizable crimes increase in 2020 by 28% in comparison to 2019. According to NITI AAYOG Multidimensional Poverty Index, the population below the poverty line in Bihar is 51.9%, in Jharkhand 42.16%, and in Uttar Pradesh 37.79%. The standard of living matters for society. Iceland, Norway, and Sweden have a high standard of living with less crime rate. The true meaning of freedom is not what we currently have, but there should be economic justice, a small step can decrease the number of crime rates.

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