

ABSTRACT

This paper aims at empirically examining the effect of different socio-economic variables on the crime scenario of a country and putting forward the probable reasons behind it.

It is of common knowledge that economic welfare of a nation is not the sole determinant of its wellbeing. There are other socio-economic variables on which the overall development of a nation lies. One such factor is the occurrence of crime. There is no doubt that crime inflicts enormous monetary and psychological costs on society. Both economists and criminologists search the answer of this question: “Is crime inevitable? If not, what are some of the desirable policies that society can adopt to alleviate crime?”

The paper first summarises the theoretical and empirical evidence on the relationship between crime and socioeconomic indicators such as unemployment, poverty, education etc in Indian context. The data set consists of 10 different states of India with widespread geographical and demographic variance to carry out the analysis. The time span of the study ranges from 2005 till 2014. Both theoretical and empirical approaches have been taken to analyse the impact of the aforementioned variables on crime rate, more importantly property crime rate, of a region.

It has been observed that the impact of the variables on crime is never unidirectional. Also the impact may change overtime. It is mainly due to fact that the geo-political and socioeconomic scenario of a state keeps on changing and hence changes the crime scenario of that particular region.