

Urban Crimes: A Case Study of Guwahati City in Assam

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ABSTRACT

Assam, the gate way of the north east, melting pot of diverse socio-cultural groups with their unique traditions and practices, a place of religious pilgrimage with famous spot of shakti cult, the vibrant Kamakhya temple, abode of world famous one horn rhinoceros in its' national parks and wild life sanctuary, the main corridor of Look East policy, has got another distinction due to emerging and increasing number of criminal activities over the last decades. The statistical figures of national crime records bureau (NCRB) and Assam Police department have consolidated the facts and its circumstances. The report of cognizable and non-cognizable offences has come from nook and corner of the state. It becomes more concern when there are increasing number of crimes against women and child. Comparing to other north eastern states, incidence of crime or crime rate is high in Assam. Government of Assam, its' other machineries' home department, police department, its' various wings; criminal investigation department, Anti-human trafficking units, Narcotic department, Excise department, Social Welfare department, including non-governmental organizations has provided serious emphasis over the issue by taking effective measures of protection, awareness campaign using print and electronic media, workshops, seminars and conferences. But it is yet to yield satisfactory result. On the other hand, crimes (both civil and criminal) of diverse nature have come to limelight. Apart from crimes associated with human body like assault, murder, attempt to murder, rape, attempt to rape, child abuse, molestation, human trafficking mainly trafficking of child and women, kidnapping and abduction, theft of goods and articles, vehicle theft, dacoit, cheating, forgery and fraud, there are reports of cyber crimes in Assam. Many people of Assam are victim of cyber crimes. It is sure that it needs urgent alternatives to minimize the crime rate in Assam. It gives rise an important question why crime rate is going on increasing in Assam? The place like Assam has never been a place for criminal minded people as history reveals. It is observed that this situation needs sociological interpretations.

Sociologists have undertaken various studies on crimes across the globe. Their findings put emphasis crime in the context of society. The nature of crimes varies from traditional context to modern context. Further, the incidence of crimes is higher and diverse in urban context. They are

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more interested in studying urban crimes. They try to examine various crimes, to find out the answer why, how and explore the factors and forces responsible for urban crimes. In Indian context also, various studies on urban crime on sociological perspectives reveal interesting fact and conclusions. Under such circumstances, this paper is an attempt to examine crimes in an urban context. Since, crime rate in Assam is increasing at an alarming rate, so it is interesting and significant to examine and interpret diverse nature of crimes reported from Guwahati, the premier city, not only of Assam but of the entire north east.

Keywords: *Urban, Crime, Assam, Guwahati, Sociology.*

Introduction:

The study on urban crimes is not new phenomenon. Studies were initiated during the early part of 20th century as a part of sociological research. Though, 'urban crime' is a conjugal term, each terms has own meaning and significance. In the present age, one may not have to access with geographers and jurists for the meaning. Dictionary reveals 'urban' is connected with city and town and associated all the modern ingredients of industrialization, urbanization, modernization, materialistic life, complexity, heterogeneity, population pressure and other related facts and circumstances. On the other hand, 'crime', according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, is 'an act or the commission of an act that is forbidden or the omission of a duty that is commanded by a public law and that makes the offender liable to punishment by that law, especially a gross violation of law'. In legal parlance, crime means 'violation of a law in which there is injury to the public or a member of the public and a term in jail or prison, and or a fine as possible penalties. There is some sentiment for excluding from the 'crime' category crimes without victims, such as consensual acts, or violations in which only the perpetrator is hurt or is involved in something such as the personal use of illegal drugs'. It is argued that the legal definition of crime is a common point of departure for crime classifications. It specifies kinds of behaviour that are illegal and sometime specific under what conditions they are illegal but normally gives rather limited information about the social contexts in which a criminal act takes place. The social circumstances of legally defined categories of crime can be very heterogeneous. Therefore, a study of the social contexts of legally defined categories of crime may in itself contribute to our understanding of the behaviour in question and its causes (Witstrom, 1991).

In the contemporary period, the study of crimes in urban context bears lots of significance. The available literature pointed out that early 20th century criminology focused on criminology of urban places. Sociologists put emphasis on three theories for studying urban crimes: social disorganization, subculture and conflict theories. Social disorganization theory is based upon the way in which characteristics of cities and neighbourhood influence crime rates. On the other hand, subculture theory divides urban crime into two types: subculture of violence and subculture of poverty. The common assumption between both the types is that certain groups used to carry sets of norms, tradition and value which compel them to indulge in crime. The theory further explain that high rate of violence is due to result of culture where criminality and violence are acceptable form of behaviour. This theory has a close nexus with one of the most anthropological study made by Ruth Benedict. Her book *Pattern of Culture* was a well accomplished work on bahavioural patterns of different groups. Conflict theories explain urban crime on the basis of income inequality. Various sociologists opine that frustration is a byproduct of income gaps which are viewed as unjust by those in subordinate positions.

Robert D Crutchfield and Charis E.Kubrin in an article on ‘urban crimes’ published in *Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice* (The Gale Group, 2002) pointed out and cited certain important observations and works. They reveal that during the 1920s’ and 1930s’ much of the attention of criminologists focused on the ‘criminogenic city’. Later on at the end of the century researches had moved away from the notion that the city is itself criminogenic. But the research on urban crime focuses mainly with explaining why urban crime rates vary, why some social, economic and spatial characteristics are correlated with variations in urban crime rates and how certain crime characteristics of urban places affect individual criminality. They mentioned the works of Emile Durkheim (1897), Max Weber (1958), Ferdinand Toennies (1887) and other European sociologists. These scholars pointed out the changes that occurred as a result of the transition of societies from agrarian and village-based forms to industrial urban based ones. They viewed that in a process of rapid social change, growing and expanding cities would be hotbeds of crime. On the other hand 18th and 19th century philosophers and social scientists believed that even without rapid change, city life itself would be criminogenic. So, it is believed that in circumstances of slow change or even social stability that negative influence of cities themselves would lead to higher levels of crime than would occur in nonurban population.** However, new research works pointed out some key reasons for urban crimes: losing controls of one’s emotion, connection with drugs and alcohol, bad influence, wrong moral choices, mental disorder, poverty and homelessness. Vania Ceccato’s edited

volume *The Urban Fabric of Crime and Fear* (2012) is an attempt to answer various questions relating to urban crimes. How does the city's urban fabric relate to crime and fear and how is that fabric affected by crime and fear? Does the urban environment affect one's decision to commit an offence? How do crime and fear interrelate to inequality and segregation in cities of developing countries? In another work, Haiyan Xiong (2016) in the book *Urban Crime and Social Disorganization in China-A Case Study of Three Communities in Guangzhou*, study pattern of crime and social disorganization in Guangzhou, where crime rate is highest in China by using content analysis of 1422 crime cases reported in Southern Metropolis Daily in 2013 and with ethnographic fieldwork. The findings suggest that both spatial and demographic-density distribution of criminal cases show a gradual circle pattern from city to suburb.

Urban crimes in India are normal phenomena. Crimes in the various metros, cities are happening across the country as revealed in the print, electronic and in the statistics of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). In a published report of NCRB, revealing ground realities on urban crime, it observes 'the urban area is generally recognized as breeding ground for the criminals and prone for higher incidence level of crimes compared to rural areas. The unchecked and unplanned growth of cities as well as large floating population is major contribution factor for urban crimes. Migration of poor, illiterate people having roots in a simple environment consequent to migration suffer emotional instability in the urban setting. They are easily lured into theft, robbery, smuggling or even terrorists activities....the prominent urban crimes under the IPC and Local Acts and Special Laws (L & SL) include murder, attempt to commit murder, rape, kidnapping and abduction, dacoit, robbery, burglary, thefts, riot, criminal breach of trust, cheating, counterfeiting, arms act, NDPS act, gambling act, prohibition act, explosive and explosive substances act, immoral traffic (prevention) act, Indian passport act, terrorist and disruptive activities act and the dowry prohibition act'.***

The Assam, the gate way of the north east, melting pot of diverse socio-cultural groups with their unique traditions and practices, a place of religious pilgrimage with famous spot of shakti cult, the vibrant Kamakhya temple, abode of world famous one horn rhinoceros in its' national parks and wild life sanctuary, the main corridor of Look East policy, has got another distinction due to emerging and increasing number of criminal activities over the last decades. The statistical figures of national crime records bureau (NCRB) (table 1) and Assam Police department (table 2) have consolidated the facts and its circumstances. The report of cognizable and non-cognizable offences has come from nook and corner of the state. It becomes more concern when there are increasing number of crimes against women and child. Comparing to other north eastern states, incidence of

crime or crime rate is high in Assam. Under such circumstances, this paper is an attempt to examine crimes in an urban context. Since, crime rate in Assam is increasing at an alarming rate, so it is interesting and significant to examine and interpret diverse nature of crimes reported from Guwahati, the premier city, not only of Assam but of the entire north east.

Table 1: Head-wise crime figures in Assam from 2006 upto February 2017

Crime	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (upto Feb)
Murder	1383	1478	1333	1149	157
Rape	1960	2047	1852	1723	225
Kidnapping	4831	5378	6103	6137	1019
Dacoity	249	267	194	157	24
Robbery	933	996	934	939	149
Extortion	1214	1357	1361	1295	181
Burglary	4305	4823	4739	4798	731
Theft	10692	12198	12024	12846	1974
Rioting	2444	2490	2215	1620	185
Criminal breach of trust	1492	1413	1568	1608	323
Cheating	2607	2916	3781	4195	763
Counterfeit currency	85	56	55	63	9
Other ipc crimes	55717	60560	67919	65877	9747
Total ipc crimes	87912	95979	104078	102407	15487
Arms act	589	580	511	423	59
Explosive substances act	127	102	101	86	11
Ndps act	251	210	217	386	41
Other acts	1410	2156	2918	3720	592
Total local & spl. Laws	2377	3048	3747	4615	703

* Source: www.assampolice.gov.in

Table 2: Incidence of IPC Crimes in Assam, 2014

Sl. No.	Crime	No. of Crimes
1	Murder	1451
2	Attempt To Commit Murder	1142
3	C.H. Not Amounting To Murder	57
4	Attempt to commit Culpable Homicide	14
5	Rape	1980
6	Attempt To Commit Rape	227
7	Kidnapping & Abduction	4823
8	Dacoity	267
9	Making Preparation and Assembly for Committing Dacoity	20
10	Robbery	1038
11	Criminal Trespass/Burglary	4954

12	Theft	12737
13	Unlawful Assembly	834
14	Riots	2640
15	Criminal Breach of Trust	1952
16	Cheating	2956
17	Forgery	99
18	Counterfeiting	62
19	Arson	743
20	Grievous Hurt	7583
21	Dowry Deaths	188
22	Assault on Women with Intent To Outrage Her Modesty	3099
23	Insult to The Modesty of Women	1
24	Cruelty By Husband or His Relatives	9626
25	Importation of Girls From Foreign Country	1
26	Causing Death By Negligence	2079
27	Offences Against State	56
28	Offences Promoting Enmity Between Different Groups	0
29	Extortion	1226
30	Disclosure Of Identity of Victims	0
31	Causing Injuries under Rash Driving/ Road Rage	3202
32	Human Trafficking	68
33	Unnatural Offences	0
34	Other IPC Crimes	29212
	Total:	94337

Source: www.ncrb.nic.in

Objectives and Significance:

Various studies have shown that crime rate in urban area is higher than rural area. Diverse nature of crime is reported from the urban localities. The sociological research has multifaceted dimensions and orientations in the context of rural and urban sociology. The emergence of urban areas is going on rapidly due to situational shift. Various new problems and issues are result of transformation, transition and expansion of urban areas due to population pressure. Guwahati, the commercial hub of NE region is a fast developing city and came to lime light due to various crimes. Various crimes are reported in leading dailies of Assam. Being a transit point for entire country, there are possibilities for escaping after committing crimes. In recent years, various crimes like murder, rape, dacoits, trafficking are committed in Guwahati. Police administration is successful in some case while failed in many. Under such circumstances, this paper is a modest attempt to study the urban crimes in the context of Guwahati from sociological perspectives.

The situational analysis of crimes in its context is a larger sociological issue. Everybody desire to inhabit in a peaceful manner where there is no crime. In the present day scenario, it is difficult to imagine a crime free society. People actually forget to distinguish needs and wants. People after fulfilling desired needs always hanker after 'wants'. The wants transforms into desire and aspiration which cannot be controlled. Easy access to modern technology has also paramount influence in the upbringing of child. The juvenile crimes are its' resultant effect as revealed by psychologists. People have a tendency of rural-urban migration for exploiting various avenues in the changing context. In such an attempt sometimes people become successful or failed. Consumerism has its' own significance. Youth and people are interested in earning easy money. But, it is really difficult to examine the factors and consequences of crime. Every incident has its' own motive. Earlier, sociologists try to explain urban crimes on the basis of theories of social disorganization, subculture and conflict theories. The crime statistics in Assam shows an increasing trend. There are many forces and factors responsible for it. Due to flood, ethnic unrest, socio-political problem, many people are displaced from its roots. Taking advantage of such situation, many women and girls become victim of trafficking rackets. Some of them are rescued from Delhi, Gurgaon, Harayana who are found engaged in sex workers. There are various cases of kidnapping, abduction, fraud, theft in various places of Assam including Guwahati. Under such situation, it is significant to examine various crimes committed in Guwahati, the premier city of Assam.

Methodology:

In social science research, methodology plays an important role. This paper is based upon a study on urban crimes by the Law Research Institute, Gauhati High Court. Data for this paper is used from secondary sources. Most of the crimes are reported in two leading dailies of Assam: *The Assam Tribune* and *Asomiya Pratidin*. They are leading newspaper in terms of number of circulation and their popularity. The present research is still under process, meanwhile, it is found necessary to share some of the findings briefly by overall analyzing various natures of crimes, its facts and circumstances and the role of police administration in some cases. The reported cases are purposely selected for the study. The sources of the cases are cited and arranged at the end notes.

Crimes in Guwahati:

Guwahati is the commercial hub for entire north east as well as capital city of Assam. It is the meeting point of diverse people belonging to various groups, languages, sect, religious practices and culture. Due to its' geostrategic location, suitable set up diverse kind of trade practices, commercial purposes, industrial set up, suitable academic and job possibilities, health care

infrastructure, connectivity within and across the state, people has an inherent preference to reside here in one way or the other. The process of transforming it into a smart city is also going on. The tremendous population pressure at the central periphery has made a remarkable impact in expanding the territorial jurisdiction of Guwahati. The expansion of Guwahati is evinced by the fact of occupying the entire fringe and hilly area of the city. New areas and neighbourhood is coming up housing lots of people within and outside Assam. Further, many people is housed in rental premises within the city. The mixing of different peoples makes it heterogeneous in social structure. The city, in a bird eye view look is a fast developing and growing in a tremendous pace. It is more or less peaceful due to harmonious co-existence of diverse groups having no report of any incidence of breaking communal harmony so far. But the city has witness growing diverse range of criminal activities over the years. It can be observed empirically as well as first information report (FIR) lodged in various police stations over the years. At present upto date data is not available. But in a news item of 2013, it was reported that there are more than 21,000 pending cases are lying in various police stations in Guwahati (table 1). Such pending cases are due to lack of follow up action for shortage of adequate man power. The various cases reported during July 2017 are cited as follows:

* In what may take the lid off a thriving racket, the DTO detected a man who procured a fitness certificate of a vehicle by using a fake registration number. The registration number used by the frauds belongs to a DI vehicle which had met with an accident in February last. The vehicle was badly damaged in the mishap and is still at the workshop. The owner of the vehicle Mr Deka was also injured and is still not fit. DTO said one Mr B Ali brought another DI vehicle with the registration plate of the vehicle which had met with the accident. Motor vehicle inspectors had issued the fitness certificate against the registration number on June 8 last. An internal inquiry conducted by the DTO unearthed the fraud. 'we have lodged an FIR with Garchuk Police Station on the basis of which one person identified as M. Ali of Hajo has been detained', DTO said. Hunt is on to trace B. Ali.¹

* In the evening of 7th July, the railway police seized 2 bags consisting 70 packets of electronic detonator lying at the edge of platform no 1. No traffickers are found so far.²

* One person who is a driver in profession, is arrested by Noonmati Police Station under Section 498 (A) under IPC, on the basis of the complaint lodged by his wife alleging corporal and mental harassment seeking dowry over a long period of time.³

* In a major success, three convicts are arrested by Fatashil Police Station. Reports reveal that they have associated in lifting two wheelers, four wheelers from various localities of Fatashil Ambari as well as other parts of Guwahati. A pulser bike and a suzuki vehicle is captured from their custody.⁴

* The residents of the Kamakhya (Nilachal) hillock have demanded stringent punishment to former OC and his subordinate for their alleged unethical activities which vitiated the holy atmosphere of the Shakti shrine. In all, 326 residents of the hillock have alleged, in a memorandum to the state's special DGP (Law and Order), that two police officials had literally terrorized a number of pilgrims, besides demanding various kinds of favour, including financial gratification, from the complainants. OC often refused to register FIRs and was in the habit of refusing to give the complainants their complaint numbers even when the complaints were registered. Thus, he was emboldening the perpetrators of the crimes to inflict more damage on their victims. This was done to earn financial benefits from both the complainants and the accused. Alleging that OC gave protection to a rapist, the residents urged the police to initiate urgent measures to rehabilitate the rape victim, who has since become pregnant, and hand exemplary punishment to the culprit.⁵

* A boy (14 years) was taken under the custody of Bharalumukh police station was died later. His health was normal. An enquiry was ordered to state government by High Court against inspector U Bora, subinspectors A Rahman and T Ahmed.⁶

* A boy (13), son of a resident of rented premises at Yuba Nagar of Forestgate under Noonmati police station is found missing for last one week since 1st July while he went out for playing nearby. A suspected case of kidnapping is lodged under Section 365, IPC at Noonmati Police Station.⁷

* In a raid, Latashil Police Station has successfully seized large amount of drugs from the locality of Uzanbazar. Further, they arrested two youths, of aged 22 and 21 yrs, who was returning home at 8.30 pm on 7th July after purchasing drugs materials. Some tablets and cough syrup is found at their disposal. After quizzing, they confessed that they have purchased from a resident of Islampatti at Uzanbazar. While police raid the residence of the accused, he is found absconding. Police seized 312 no of Nitrosun capsule, 1820 nos of Spasomproxijon and 69 bottles of Expillon cough syrups from his residence. It is informed that the accused was behind the bar twice due to illegal involvement in transaction of drugs.⁸

* On the night of 7th July, the Noonmati police officials seize large quantity of local beer (350 lt) and evicted the home, the pocket of transaction of illegal beer at Pattharkuwari Tiniali.⁹

* In 9th July, Sunday night, a helpless girl is lifted from Beharbari area and gang raped at Ghoramara of Hatigaon. It was reported that three youths have committed this heinous crime. The girl itself lodged the complaint at Basistha Police Station.¹⁰

* A girl studying at class V, residing at the edge of railway track near L.G tower at Narengi was raped by a perosn (55 yrs) taking privilege of absence of other family members at home. However, the accused is found absconding with family before the incident came to limelight. Meanwhile a case is registered at Noonmati Police Station and investigation is going on.¹¹

* Two boys involved in cheating fund money is felled in the web of BIEO who subsumed collected money of customers during 2012.¹²

* Seventeen habitual pickpocketers are taken into custody by Railway Protection force under suspicious condition from different platforms of the railway station of Guwahati. Out of them nine are sent behind the bar, while eight are set free after imposing fine.¹³

* A person (33), resident of Pragati Nagar, Satgaon was arrested for illegally hacking his own wife's face book account under section 66 and 66 (C) of IT Act. He, however, confessed his crime and did due to internal problems of the couple.¹⁴

* Two youths, one hailing from Pulibar of Jorhat, was arrested for demanding money by showing airgun from a person near Lalmati Durga temple under the jurisdiction of Basistha Police Station. It is informed that one have purchased the air gun from flipcart worth Rs 999/-.¹⁵

* An unruly and intoxicated youth (22), while failing to snatch valuables of another youth of Jyotinagar who was going in the road at around 8.15 pm of 9th July, assaulted through blade. He was caught nearby eyewitness and handed over to police custody. He was prosecuted under sections 341/387/324 and 506 of IPC and sent behind the bar.¹⁶

* A case of theft is reported from the rented house of one Kushal Haloi, at Saukuchi of Lakhara, the victim being Babu Singh. His led TV, home theatre, three cylinders, gold ornaments, and other valuables were taken away by thieve. A case is registered at Garchuk police station but no result.¹⁷

* The incident happen on 16th July at Gurudwara, near Basistha Chariali, where a Sikh person shoot another contemporary Sikh, doing the trade of transport items due to old rivalry and personal reasons. The accused collected the arms illegally.¹⁸

Data Analysis:

For this particular study, eighteen cases are selected through purposive sampling. The most interesting aspects of these cases, is that they are reported during the month of July 2017. During this period, the work has taken the shape of a paper. The diverse nature of crime within a short period is quite surprising. It really, raises the question what is happening in Guwahati? Why is it happening? What are forces and factors responsible for it? Though the number of reported crime is less, yet depicts the entire crime scenario. If we take the cases from bottom to top, we see a business man kill another counterpart due to old rivalry. He procured a gun illegally. It reveals that in Guwahati, one can illegally procure a gun. It reveals that illegal transaction arms and ammunition is going on. It is quite surprising as Assam is hotbed of various extremist organizations fighting secession movement. It is difficult to answer how can a person kill another? Control of emotion is important. Demanding money showing airgun is interesting. Fear motive is always part of crime. Demand of ransom, blackmailing, kidnapping, honey trapping are different nature of crimes where the victim possess enough wealth. In the present days, people are earning money in different ways. Some of them become target of habitual offender. There are over increasing population in Guwahati. There are huge rush during various festive occasions, buses, in railway platforms while boarding. The advantage of such crowded is taken by a section of youth operating as pickpockets. In the urban localities, we have witness development of various slum areas. Reports of various illegal activities are coming from it. Gambling, selling of country liquor, prostitution, scene of inhaling dendrites smeared in hankership by juveniles, is often regarded as place of nurturing criminals due to disorganized ways of life. In report, police apprehended many pickpoketers operating in the railway station in the Guwahati. As, a transit point, there are possibilities of illegal trafficking of various illegal substance like drugs, opium and narcotic substances, arms and ammunition, explosive materials percolate down via Guwahati. There are various such reports of apprehension of such materials in Guwahati. Drug addicted youth is also increasing as revealed in the report. Reports of missing child pointed out the kidnapping and abduction cases in Guwahati. Most of the kidnapping cases revealed that there is a linkage of housemaid with the accused. The respective employer should maintain all the details of people engaged in domestic helper in their households.

Crimes related with women are increasing in Assam. The cases of rapes and dowry from Guwahati reveal the truth. The crime of rape can be explained from sociological perspectives only, it needs psychological interpretations. The concept and interpretation of Freud is helpful in it. What makes a person to commit rape? Is it inherent sexual urge towards opposite fairer sexes or the present technological innovation that influence in the growth of personality? Dowry on the other hand, is not known to the people of north east, rather there are provisions of bride prize. It is introduced from other groups migrating from north India. Cheating and forgery cases are also coming from Guwahati.

In another case, theft is reported in the day light. The various cases of theft are coming from Guwahati city. Perhaps there are habitual thefts operating as a racket. Various people are accepting Guwahati, as a place of income in one way or the other. There are various new settlements in hills and plains, rented houses across the Guwahati. Getting easy access to consumerism led towards habitual offenders of doing theft of important household goods, money, gold ornaments and jewelry. Some are engaged in lifing new vehicle. There is big market for selling such vehicle. It is pertinent to mention here that our family car was also taken away by theft from Guwahati during 2006. However, we manage to recover the same car from Katigorah in Karimganj when police play an important role.

It is observed that selling of country liquor is found in the nook and corner of the city. There is a report of eviction drive at Noomati area. Further no of licensed liquor shop is going on increasing. Existence of such shops is common in every part of the city. It has a serious impact on the youth of the city. Drinking habit is also an important factor of committing various crimes. There is news report of a youth who in a process of snatching valuable items of another youth going passing by road attack by blade. There are various such incidents where blade is utilized as tool for attacking. There are some empirical reports at my immediate neighbourhood where some juvenile boys often used to snatch money from the poor rikshaw pullers, other fellow foot travelers. They invest money for drinking liquor. Street lights are missing in such areas.

The role of police is important in checking crimes. Large number of cases is registered in a day in various police stations of Guwahati. Though, recent figures are not available, however, a figure of such cases is provided from the statistics of 2013 (table 3). It is also stated that the pending cases is increasing due to shortage of adequate man power. The Assam Government has to put emphasis on it. Further there are various complaints against the incharge of police stations. A report on enquiry of custodial death of a juvenile has come to limelight. Besides, there are complaints

against incharge of police station for involving work against law. It is very high time for police officials to maintain the decorum of the service. Various reports reveals that common people is not satisfied at the service rendered by police officials. The relationship between public and police is important for checking crimes in an urban area like Guwahati.

Table 3: Breakup of Pending cases in various police station of Guwahati, 2013

Sl. No.	Police Station	Pending Cases	Sl. No.	Police Station	Pending Cases
1	Dispur	7,746	12	Bhangagarh	364
2	Paltan Bazar	2,612	13	Garchuk	345
3	Jalukbari	1,737	14	Azara	344
4	Panbazar	1,200	15	Fatashil Ambari	339
5	Baisistha	1,190	16	Geetanagar	258
6	Chandmari	1,107	17	Satgaon	219
7	Latashil	836	18	Sonapur	189
8	Noonmati	753	19	Khetri	86
9	Bharalumukh	714	20	Pragjyotishpur	62
10	Hatigaon	481	21	North Guwahati	31
11	Samuh Mohila	441	Total		21,054

Source: NCRB, 2013.

Noted anthropologists, sociologists, clinical psychologists of this region has put forwarded the valuable observation pertaining to increase of various criminal activities in the region. They are at all unhappy looking at the overall violence situation in the society. Examining various facts, circumstances and incidents, A.C Bhagabati observes 'our society has lost its moorings. The increasing number of incidents, like gang rape and the involvement of the teenage boys, the killing of the under aged boys by their friends for ransom indicates the growing instability within our society. The wide range of developments like change in the economic order and more stress on consumerism has triggered all such criminal activities. Punitive measures won't play in eradicating all such activities rather to channelize the energy of the youth in a proper manner to prevent recurrence'. Chandan Sarma maintains that the present situation is due to extreme form of individualism, self-obsession, all other products of consumerism, lack of social consciousness and social control. To cope up such situation, Mytheli Hazarika provides us certain important suggestion from psychological points of view. Observing the overall situation, she put emphasis on 'developing emotional and spiritual intelligence among our young generation during their adolescence. Often very intelligent people also getting themselves into anti-social activities due to their failure to perceive, understand and facilitate emotion in their own thoughts and behaviour. So, they cannot

manage their negative emotions like anger, frustration and use positively the adversities and sufferings in their day-to-day life. Their coping mechanism becomes weak leading to erratic behaviour during their adolescence. While the role of the family is important in shaping the personality of their sons or wards at this stage with positive communication by giving quality time to know the young people and their friends, the society also needs to be sensitive to them. They should treat others' children as their own children by becoming universal parents' (Patowary 2013).

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Assam has witnessed a total demographic change due to increase of population. Limited economic opportunity, easy money, extreme form of individualism, self-obsession, all other products of consumerism, lack of social consciousness and social control, perhaps are responsible for increasing crime rates. Guwahati has transformed into a hotbed of crimes. Various published reports validate such facts. Though, the paper is derived out taking a few published materials, but it definitely gives us negative indication. Crimes of various natures have come to limelight including cyber crime. In case, which is not analysed reveals that a husband harasses its own wife by committing cyber crime. Such instances of cyber crime are due to growing changes of morality due to influence of technological developments. But it is found that the main reason of crimes is as mentioned in various sociological studies. The incidence of crimes is coming from the periphery region of the city. Crimes cannot be eradicated from the society. But it can be controlled by adopting effective policies and mechanisms. Various recommendations can be made for checking crimes in Guwahati. These may be

1. Eradication of poverty by implementing all the schemes of central and state government in its' real spirit,
2. Minimizing the number of licensed wine shop, keeping a strong vigil at the centre of country liquor
3. Strengthening police force by providing adequate man power and building proper infrastructure, increasing number of police station and outposts, provision of streetlights in the nook and corner in the city,
4. Keeping a close eye to the new settlers and migrants in the city,
5. The photos of habitual offender, vehicle lifter is to made public,
6. Socio-economic problems of slum dwellers are to be solved.
7. Doing all sort of possible measure to retain sincerity and honesty of police personal, the gap between police and public should be minimize

End Notes

1. Man held for using fake vehicle fitness certificate, reported in 8th July, 2017, the Assam Tribune.
2. 70 packets detonator seized in Kamakhya station, reported in 8th July 2017, Asomiya Pratidin
3. Harassment for Dowry, one arrested, reported in 8th July, 2017, Asomiya Pratidin
4. Three vehicle lifters arrested in Fatashil, reported in 8th July, 2017, Asomiya Pratidin
5. Complaint against former Kamakhya OC, reported in 12th July 2017, Asomiya Pratidin
6. Death of Juvenile boy under the custody of Bharalumukh police station, reported in 12th July 2017, Asomiya Pratidin
7. School child found missing at Noomati, suspect for Kidnapping, reported in 9th July 2017, Asomiya Pratidin
8. Large amount of Drugs seized at Uzanbazar, two youth arrested, reported in 9th July 2017, Asomiya Pratidin
9. Eviction drive at centre of local beer at Patharkunwari, reported in 9th July, 2017 Asomiya Pratidin
10. Gang rape of girl at Beharbari of Guwahati, case filed, reported in 12th July 2017, Asomiya Pratidin
11. Girl student raped at Narengi, accused absconding, reported in 12th July 2017, Asomiya Pratidin
12. Fraud in cheatfund, two youth arrested at Kumarpara, reported in 12th July 2017, Asomiya Pratidin
13. 17 pickpockets are taken into custody at Guwahati rail station, reported in 12th July 2017, Asomiya Pratidin
14. Wifes' facebook account hacked: Husband arrested, reported in 7th July 2017, Asomiya Pratidin
15. Demand of money by showing airgun: two arrested, reported in 11th July 2017, Asomiya Pratidin
16. Youth injured at Noonmati due to assault of Blademan, reported in 11th July 2017, Asomiya Pratidin
17. Theft at the daylight at Saukuchi, reported in 11th July 2017, Asomiya Pratidin
18. Businessmen killed at the shootout at Gurudwara, reported in 17th July 2017, Assam Tribune.
19. It is reported by Deepsikha Deka and published in Asomiya Pratidin in 26th November 2013. The caption is there are 21,000 unresolved cases in Guwahati due to lack of investigation. The report highlights lack of sufficient police personnel according to increasing population in the city. Further, the increasing number of fir in the police station is quite surprising. The report further emphasis on crimes related to theft, dacoity and disturbances created by youth due to addiction.

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Web Resources:

- ***Ncrb.nic.in / stat publication / cii / cii 1993 / cii-1993 / chapter – 2pdf, visited at 1.30 pm, on 17th July 2017.
- ** Robert D. Crutchfield, Chari E. Kubrin article on 'urban crimes' in [www.encyclopedia.com / law/ legal-and-political-magazine / urban-crime](http://www.encyclopedia.com/law/legal-and-political-magazine/urban-crime), visited on 2 pm, on 17th July 2017.

Law.jrank.org visited on 2.30 pm on 17th July 2017.