

## **SPATIAL CONCENTRATION OF VICTIMS OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN IN DARJEELING DISTRICT**

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### **Abstract**

In this research paper an attempt has been made to study the concentration of women victims of Darjeeling district extending across the hill and terai region of northern part of West Bengal. The study is further carried out with the help of crime data collected from Superintendent of Police office, Darjeeling and Commissionerate of Police office, Siliguri. Analysis is done at regional, block, police station and village/town level to identify the concentration of victims of crime. Maximum percentage of victims hailed in terai region than the hills. Further Location quotient method is used to know the villages/towns having high concentration of victims. The number of villages having high concentration of victims is based on the LQ value above 1. The terai belt of district is much developed than the hill in terms of transportation, urbanisation, etc. The other factors like socio-economic condition and demographic characteristics is analysed to see its impact on concentration of victims and for the purpose District Census Handbook of Darjeeling is consulted. Further, the data has been organised and processed in word excel as well as in ARC GIS to prepare several maps to represent them in pictorial form.

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### **Keywords:**

Victims;  
Concentration;  
Regional;  
Crime rate;  
Types of crime;

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## 1. Introduction

Crime in general is an anti-social activity which prevails in the society. It persists out of a continuous reaction of several circumstances (Tahir 1996) arising from number of demographic, social and economic factors (Goyal 1971). Any type of crime characterised towards women are termed as crime against women (Singh 2010), and since past, it is neither culture nor region specific prevailing in different forms like domestic violence, social violence, etc. in every society (Mukhopadhaya 1999). But the crime in perspective of geography shows variation in their concentration and rate due to the location, climate, human development and physical environment, ecology etc. of the places. Variation in crime rate is also the result of interaction of social, cultural, political, economic, gender inequality, demographic characteristics and strength of police. Thus in the study a spatial context is applied to see the variation in concentration of victims of women crime in Darjeeling district during 2004-2014.

### Study area

This paper is written on concentration of women victims of crime in one of the district of West Bengal state named Darjeeling. The district is located extremely in the northern part of the state lying in the Himalayan and Terai region extending between the north latitude of  $26^{\circ}31'$  -  $27^{\circ}13'$  and east longitude of  $87^{\circ}50'$  -  $85^{\circ}53'$ . It covers an area of 3,149 square kilometres and is bounded by Sikkim in north, West Dinajpur and Bangladesh in south, Nepal and Bihar in west and Bhutan and Jalpaiguri in the east. The district is divided into four sub-divisions out of which three (Darjeeling, Kurseong, Kalimpong sub-divisions) lie in the hilly terrains and one (siliguri) in the terai (Gazetters, 2001). Population detail according to census 2011, a total population of the district is 1,842,034 out of which 934,796 are male and 907,238 are female. Density of population is 585 persons per square kilometre. Sex-ratio of is 971 and percentage of literate population is 79.92. The growth rate of population between 2001 and 2011 was 14.47 per cent.

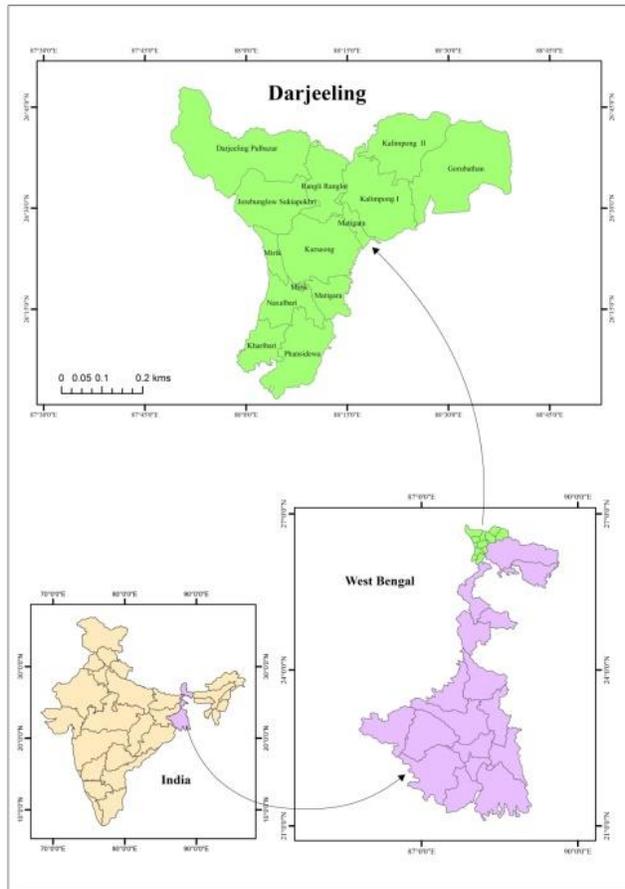


Fig 1.1 Location of study area

## Objectives

- To analyse highly prone areas of victims
- To explain reasons of high concentration of victims in highly prone areas.

## Review literature

Harries (1971); Davidson (1980), in their study found the rates of crime are mostly high in the urbanised regions and low in the hills rural areas of the country. Most of the researchers have also argued the crime rate increases with the size of the city and along with the size of an urbanised area, in other words it indicates that the crime may be consequential incident of urbanisation, which could be due to stress and conflicts in densely populated localities. Harries (1974), observed/noticed that the cities having high crime rate seems to have – large population, lack of jobs in manufacturing, high rate of population change, unemployment, and large black

population. Mulvihill and Tumin (1969), in their research work on relationship between the victims and offenders conducted in 17 cities of U.S., found that 53 per cent of rape cases were committed by strangers. Amir (1971), found that the rape incidences rises more rapidly with size of a city than the robbery and assault. According to the World Bank Report (2018), on Gender-Based Violence (Violence Against Women and Girls), about 35 per cent of women worldwide have experienced physical and sexual violence by the intimate partner or non-partner. Globally, it is known that in 38 per cent murder cases of women an intimate partner is involved. Parihar et.al.(2015), crime against women are high in Haryana due to high sex-ratio, patriarchal mind-set and low status of women.

## **2. Research Method**

This research paper is primarily based on secondary data. The data on crime and demography is collected from different sources. Data on victims of women crime is obtained from Superintendent of Police office, Darjeeling and Commissionerate of Police office, Siliguri for the year 2004-2014 and demography characteristics of study area is collected from District Census Handbook, Darjeeling for the year 2011. Victims' data were analysed to study its concentration over the area administered by eighteen police station falling under four major sub-divisions. Demography data was consulted to identify the reasons assisted for the concentration of women victims. Analysis of data is done at regional, block, police station and village/town level. Location quotient method is applied to find the victims concentration at village/town level and the same is shown through maps. Both the data of crime and demography was organised in MS word excel and further it was processed in ARC GIS to represent the information in the form of maps.

## **3. Results and Analysis**

Maximum crime rate per lakh of female population in Darjeeling was in Matigara block (2880.89) and it was followed by Naxalbari recording 676.04, Kharibari 502.05, Phansidewa 405.74 and remaining blocks were below 300 as is evidenced from table 1.1.

Highest percentages of victims were concentrated in Matigara block (56.77). Naxalbari recorded second highest 11.14 per cent and Phansidewa 8.37 per cent the third. These all blocks lie in the

terai region of the district. Blocks in the hilly part had low concentration of victims as is evident from the table.

While analysing at police station level, it was found that high per cent of crimes against women was reported at Siliguri police station (30.58%) and next was at Matigara (13.69%) and Pradhannagar police station (12.49 per cent). Police stations like Phansidewa, Bagdogra, Kharibari and Naxalbari got reportings from victims between 8 to 4 per cent. All these police stations are located in the terai region of the district. The Police station like Siliguri lie in the heart of Siliguri city, Pradhannagar and Matigara Police station are placed at periphery of the city area.

**Table 1.1: Women victims of crime, Darjeeling (2004-2014)**

Region	CD Blocks	Police Stations	PS wise Victims (%)	Blockwise Victims in (%)	Crime rate/lakh of Female Population.
Hill	Darjeeling Pulbazar	Sadar	2.85	3.66	283.65
		Pulbazar	0.49		
		Lodhama	0.33		
	Rangli Ranglot	Rangli Ranglot	0.74	0.74	102.56
	Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhri	Jorebunglow	2.17	2.66	226.94
	Sukhia Pokhri	Sukhia Pokhri	0.49		
	Kurseong	Kurseong	2.97	2.97	306.44
	Mirik	Mirik	1.72	1.72	365.54
	Kalimpong I & II	Kalimpong I & II	4.42	4.42	311.78
Gorubathan	Gorubathan	1.15	2.05	337.74	
	Jaldhaka	0.90			
Terai	Naxalbari	Naxalbari	4.71	11.14	676.04
		Bagdogra	6.43		
	Kharibari	Kharibari	5.51	5.51	502.05
	Phansidewa	Phansidewa	8.37	8.37	405.74
		Matigara	13.69	56.77	2880.89
	Pradhan Nagar	12.49			
Siliguri	Siliguri	30.58			

The given table 1.1 represents a statistics of women victims expressed in percentage at block and police station level. Naxalbari, Kharibari, Phansidewa and Matigara blocks are the part of Darjeeling terai where large numbers of women victims are concentrated. 56.77 per cent of total women victims are from the villages/urban areas of Matigara followed by Naxalbari having 11.14, Phansidewa 8.37 and Kharibari 5.51 per cent.

Darjeeling Pulbazar, Rangli Ranglot, Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhri, Kurseong, Mirik, Kalimpong and Gorubathan are the blocks lie in the hilly region of the district (table 1.1). Entire region is interspersed with hills, forest cover and rugged terrains. A maximum of 4.42 per cent of total

women victims of crime are from the villages/urban areas of Kalimpong I and II, followed by Darjeeling Pulbazar 3.66, Kurseong 2.97, Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhri 2.66 and remaining below 2 per cent. Though the number of blocks in hill region is more than the terai, highest percentage of women victims are from the terai belt of district and these blocks have high percentage of SC population, population density, low sex-ratio, low literacy and high police strength which are prone to causing of high criminal offences.

The entire district sprawl across the hill and terai and is administered by eighteen Police Stations located within the blocks. Naxalbari, Bagdogra Police stations (in Naxalbari block), Kharibari PS (in Kharibari block), Phansidewa PS (in Phansidewa block), Matigara PS, Pradhannagar PS and Siliguri PS (in Matigara blocks) all lie in terai belt. There are eleven Police Stations within seven blocks in the hilly part of district. PS Sadar, Pulbazar and Lodhoma lie in Darjeeling Pulbazar block, PS Rangli Ranglot in Rangli Ranglot, PS Jorebunglow, Sukhiapokhari in Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhari, PS Kurseong in Kurseong, PS Mirik in Mirik, PS Kalimpong in Kalimpong, and PS Garubathan, Jaldhaka in Garubathan block. It can be observed from the table 1.1, the number of victims reporting crime were more in the police stations of terai region. Large numbers of cases of crime against women were reported in Siliguri PS (30.58 per cent) followed by Matigara PS (13.69) and Pradhannagar PS (12.49 per cent). In the remaining police stations of terai region cases registered was below 8 per cent. Kalimpong police station recorded 4.42 per cent cases of victims which is maximum in the hills and the remaining registered below it.

Though the number of police stations in hilly region is more than the terai, the cases of victims reporting were high in the terai. Reason because the region is well developed or urbanised than the hills. The located police stations are easily communicable by the available transport facilities which in the hilly parts are apathy. The available police strengths in terai Police Stations are high than except Darjeeling Pulbazar of hills.

It is been observed that out of eighteen established Police Stations, a maximum of 30.58 per cent victims of women crime belonged from town administered by the Siliguri police station. Siliguri police station covers the entire ward/urban part of Siliguri.

### **Spatial concentration of victims of crime**

In all, the study area is administered by eighteen police stations and concentration of victims are analysed at village/town level by using location quotient method. The figure 1.2 displays the concentration of victims of torture at village/town level and it is found that the torture victims were highly concentrated in north hilly part of district than in the southern terai region. From the figure it is also evidenced that in some pockets of the district cases of torture were very high. Among the villages of district, twenty one villages had high concentration of victims of torture and they all lie in the respective police stations as follows- six villages from Kurseong police station, five from Kalimpong police station, two each villages from Jorebunglow police station, Sukiapokhari police station and Rangli Rangliot police station, and one each village from Darjeeling Sadar and Jaldhaka police station.

The north western and south eastern part of the district has high concentration of victims of molestation and the north eastern and south western part has very low. Moderately high victims of molestation is scattered over whole district. From the figure 1.3, showing spatial distribution of molested victims in villages/towns of district high concentration of victims were found in the villages/towns lying on the west part stretching from north to south and in north part extending from centre to north eastern side of the district. It is found that in these villages/towns, the victims' concentration is above 10 per cent, which is more than the normal distribution of crime. It is found that the locational factor of village/town seems to be very conducive for offenders in molesting the victims. Among the total villages/towns, sixteen villages/town has high concentration of victims of molestation-four from Kalimpong police station, three each from Kharibari and Phansidewa police station, two each from Mirik and Naxalbari police station and one each from Kurseong and Lodhoma police station.

The north east, west and south part of district has high concentration of rape victims. Very high concentration of victims of rape were found in the villages/towns lying within the boundaries of Kalimpong police station in the north, Pradhannagar, Siliguri, Bagdogra, Phansidewa, Kharibari and Naxalbari in the south, Kurseong and Mirik in central and Jorebunglow, Darjeeling Pulbazar and Rangli Rangliot police stations in the north west part of the district (fig 1.4).

In 63 villages concentration of rape victims are high. These villages lies within the boundaries of respective police station like- 14 in Kalimpong police station, seven in Kharibari, six in Naxalbari, five each in Jorebunglow, Bagdogra and Phansidewa, four each in Kurseong and Mirik, three each in Pradhannagar and Siliguri, two each in Garubathan and Matigara and one each in Darjeeling Sadar and Jaldhaka police station.

The mostly concentrated regions of victims of kidnapping and abduction stretches from north west, west to south part of the district and these part are densely populated (fig 1.5). Scores of victims were from the villages located in Lodhama, Darjeeling Sadar, Mirik, Kurseong and Phansidewa police station. In ten villages concentration of victims were very high and all these lie within the following police stations-three villages each from Kurseong and Phansidewa, two from Lodhoma and one each from Darjeeling Sadar and Mirik police station.

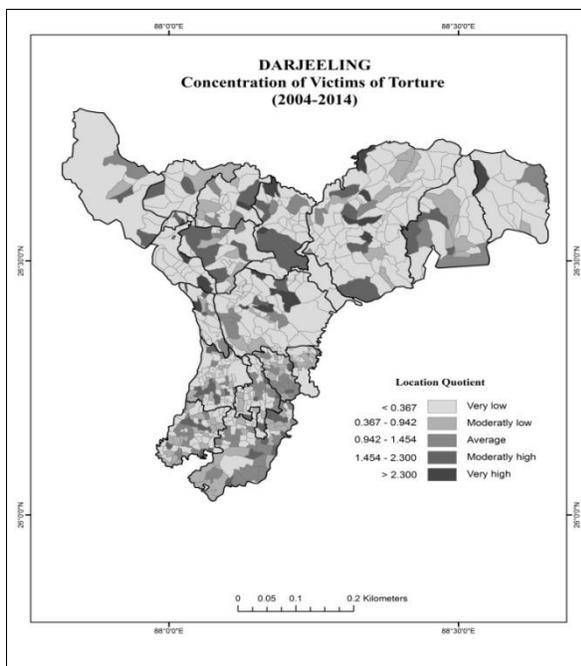


Fig. 1.2

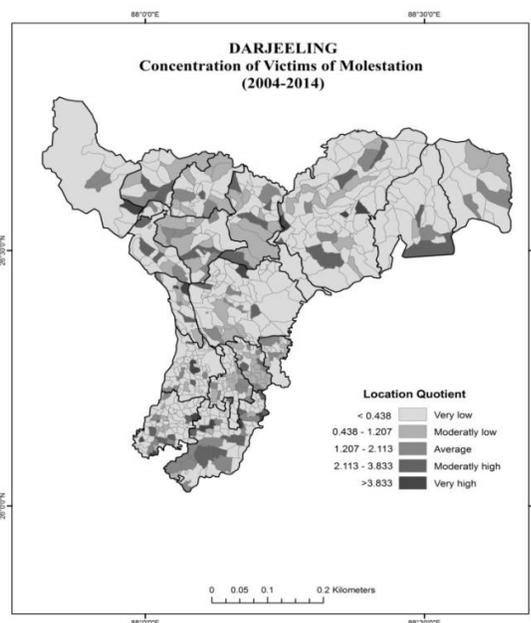


Fig. 1.3

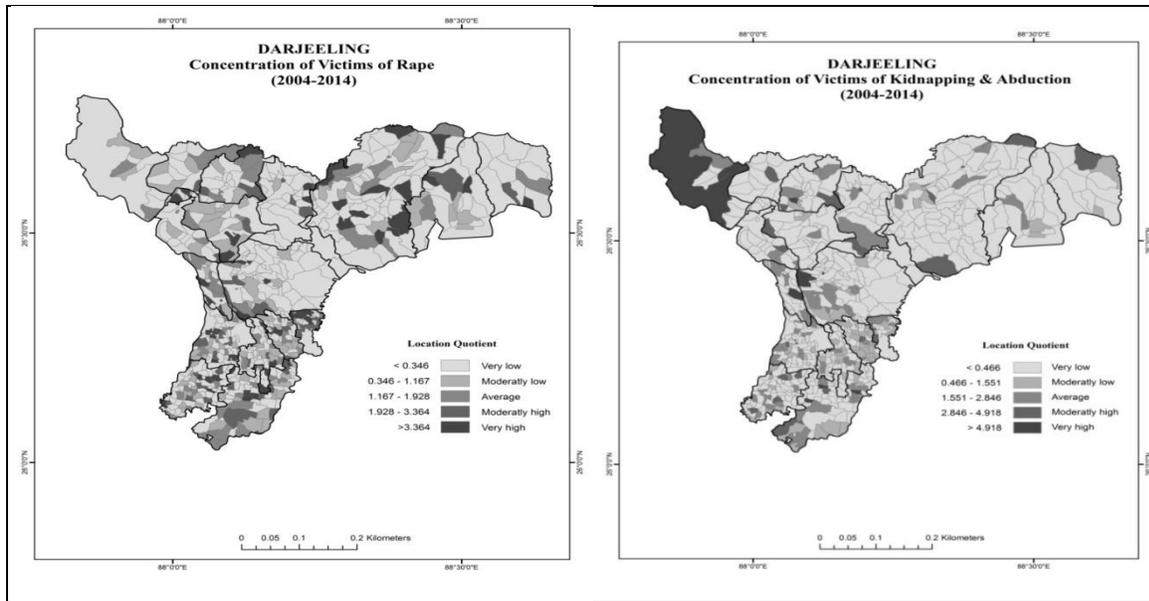


Fig. 1.4

Fig. 1.5

The given figure 1.6 depicts the villages of Darjeeling having high location quotient of victims of crime during 2004-2014. The northern hilly parts of district have high concentration of torture while the victims of rape and molestation are mostly concentrated in the southern part of the district. It is also been found the rape victims are sparsely concentrated in northern part of district and the victims of kidnapping and abduction are widely scattered over the belt extending from north to south. The villages having high location quotient of victims of crime comprises high density of population, high per cent of SC population, non-workers, and illiterate population too.

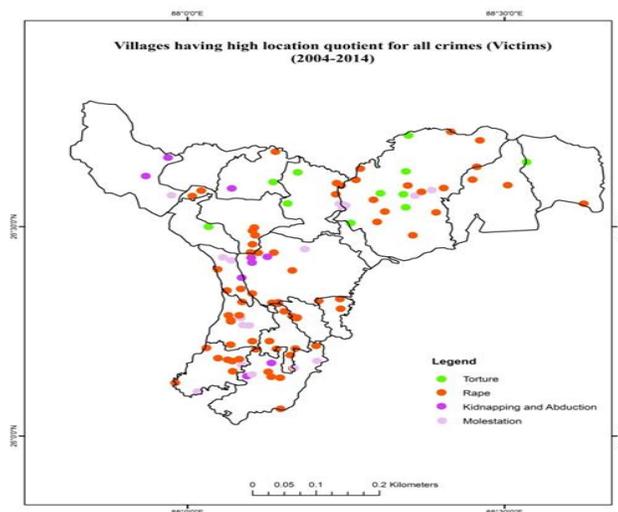


Fig 1.6

#### 4. Conclusion

It is concluded that, in terai number of victims of women crime is more than the hill region. Northern hilly parts of district have high concentration of torture while the victims of rape and molestation are mostly concentrated in the southern part of the district. Kidnapping and abduction of victims are widely scattered over the belt extending from north to south. The high concentration of victims was found in the villages/town having high density of population, high per cent of SC population, non-workers, and illiterate population.

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