A STATISTICAL STUDY OF CRIME AND THE CRIMINAL.

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[The following is the programme of research work communicated to the University by Mr. D. Chandrasekhariah, B.A., who has been awarded a post-graduate studentship to undertake a statistical study of crime and the criminal under my supervision. The purpose of his study is to examine the bearing of the classical, the correctionist and the positivist schools of criminology in relation to crime and the criminal particularly in Mysore.—K. B. M.]

PROGRAMME OF WORK.

Scope of Enquiry.

1. The subject of the present study, crime, may be taken up in two parts; Part 1 dealing with crime in general and Part 2 with the individual criminal. In the first part we lay stress on the social aspect of the question and in the second part we emphasize the individual aspect of it. For example, while dealing with the subject-matter of Part I we confine our attention to the fluctuations in point of time and in the nature of offences. We do not, in this part, seek to know the characteristics of the person who commits an offence. But in the second part of our enquiry we are interested in the criminal as an individual, in relation to his physical and psychical developments. The measures of his height, weight or cephalic index are studied individually or in frequency groups, with a view to discover, if any, the magnitude and nature of the deviation. These again may be studied in relation to the differential nature of crime, such as theft, violence to person or to property, murder and other grades in the heinousness of crime.

Data.

2. The data for the first part will chiefly be taken from various statistical abstracts, administrative reports and supplements relating thereto, of the departments of police and prisons, criminal trial and justice. The chief sources of data are—

(1) Statistical Abstracts for British India.
(2) Reports of the administration in Mysore.

(3) Statistical Abstracts for Mysore.

The data for the second part will chiefly be drawn from the several jail records in Mysore, visiting, as necessary for the purpose, "The District Jail at Mysore" and "The Central Jail at Bangalore".

**Periods 1881—1911, 1911—1924.**

3. The subject-matter of Part I will be dealt with throughout on a comparative basis, the conditions in Mysore being compared with those of India and several other European countries. It is hoped to consider data from 1881, the year of Rendition in Mysore, for quinquennial periods up to 1911. From 1911 the data will be treated continuously up to 1924, thus bringing into relief the conditions a generation ago and in the recent pre-war, war and post-war periods.

In this part of the study our interest centres round two things; first, in the distribution of the statistics and second, in the secular and cyclical changes.

Our work in this field may be divided into four sections:—

Sec. I to deal with crime as reported;

Sec. II to deal with criminal trials and justice;

Sec. III to deal with the prison population;

and Sec. IV to deal with convict settlement.

4. An outline of a few of the problems in this part of the study may now be sketched.

**Section 1. Crime as reported.**

Crime as reported may be studied under the following divisions:—

(i) The number of cognizable offences reported and pending; and the result of arrests made; and the proportion of cases struck off to cases reported;

(ii) Cases in which investigation was refused; and false cases;

(iii) The nature of the crime as distributed under—

(a) serious offences against person,

(b) serious offences against person and property or property alone,

(c) offences against the State,
(d) minor offences against person,
    (e) minor offences against property,
and (f) others;
(iv) Ratio of crime to area and population;
(v) Non-cognizable crime;
(vi) Crime by the special wandering gangs and by those
    under observation; and finally,
(vii) The amount of property stolen and recovered.

Section II. Criminal Trial and Justice.

Likewise criminal trial and justice will be dealt with in
detail as under:—

(i) The number of offences reported; and of those
    returned as true by the police and considered
    worthy of trial; and proceeded therewith;
(ii) Number of offences of each class brought to trial
    and number of persons concerned in them.
(iii) The general results of trials of criminal cases—
    (a) discharged or acquitted;
    (b) convicted on regular, and on summary trial;
    (c) died, escaped;
    (d) pending;
(iv) Convictions for heinous offences.
(v) The distribution of the same in the several districts
    of Mysore;
(vi) Punishments inflicted in the above cases;
(vii) Terms of imprisonment;
(viii) Number of original and appellate cases; and lastly,
(ix) Results of appeals and revisions.

Section III. Prison Population.

The statistics of prisons and prison population therein
will have to be studied after classification under the follow-
ing divisions:—

(i) Total jail population; male; female; classified
    under—
    (a) convicts,
    (b) under-trial prisoners,
    (c) civil prisoners;
(ii) Classification of prisoners according to religion,
(iii) Classification according to age;
(iv) Classification according to occupation previously followed;
(v) Civil condition of female prisoners;
(vi) Nature of offences and terms of imprisonment;
(vii) Number of recommittals—
     (a) convicts,
     (b) juveniles;
(viii) Escapes and recaptures;
(ix) Offences committed in jails;
(x) Punishments for offences committed in jails;
(xi) Education;
(xii) Details of convict labour;
(xiii) Number and disposal of convicts in the jails and subsidiary jails;
(xiv) Working of the Mark system in jails;
(xv) Condition of prisoners discharged from jails;
(xvi) Expenditure incurred in guarding and maintaining prisoners; and lastly,
(xvii) Conditions of morbidity and mortality of the jail population.

Section IV. Convict Settlement of Port Blair.

Finally, in special reference to the convict settlement of Port Blair the following details will be dealt with:—

(i) The flow of convicts into the settlement.
(ii) Convicts released.
(iii) Life convicts.
(iv) Morbidity and mortality.
(v) Classification of the convicts according to
    (a) religion,
    (b) age,
    (c) previous occupation followed,
    (d) offences committed.
(vi) Special offences committed by convicts and punishments inflicted on them.
5. The second part of the enquiry relates to the study of the criminal as an individual. The investigation will be carried, so far as possible, on the classic lines of Charles Goring, M.D. B.Sc., his work "The English Convict" serving as the guide to this part of the study.

Physical Criminal Type.

The subject may be dealt with in the following parts:—

I.—Existence of a "physical type" of criminal to be studied under the following divisions:—

(i) The central tendencies, scattering and indices of variability of the anthropometric measures.
(ii) The frequency-distribution of these characters.
(iii) Their relation to increasing recidivism.
(iv) Comparison of habitual with star criminals.
(v) Comparison of criminals as a class with the law-abiding public.

Physique.

II.—The physique of the criminal will be treated with reference to—

(i) Bodily dimensions and the differences in their measures by age, by social status, and between various convict types.
(ii) General health and constitution similarly treated.
(iii) The physique of criminals as affected by imprisonment.

Etiology of Age.

III.—The age distribution of star and habitual criminals will be similarly treated.

Vital Statistics.

IV.—The condition of mortality and morbidity are usually reported under the following divisions:—

(i) Health and sickness of prisoners.
(ii) The prevailing diseases of prisoners.
(iii) The mortality of prisoners.

We shall consider these in detail.
Mental Differentiation.

V.—The mental differentiation of the criminal by capacity or by intelligence or even by the standard of learning, if any, is supposed to influence criminal proclivity. It is intended to estimate the amount of association by the usual correlational calculus.

Etiology of Force of Circumstances.

VI.—It is estimated that the force of circumstances is of greater significance on the genesis of crime and the proverb has it "that opportunity makes the thief". This will be sought to be verified by—

(i) The graduation of crime as measured by age at first conviction, frequency of conviction per year of freedom, and the fraction of each year of life spent in confinement;

(ii) The influence of environmental conditions of employment, of caste, of alcoholism, and of family life on recidivism;

(iii) the relation of frequent conviction to length of imprisonment.

Influence of Heredity on the Genesis of Crime.

VII.—Of sociological interest, however, are the methods of relief, after release from incarceration, of reformation in prison, and other aids to reclaiming the criminal. In this the influence of heredity, remote and intimate, and of his own fertility are of obvious significance. The study will be made under the following divisions:—

(i) Comparison between the fertility of criminals and non-criminals;

(ii) The fertility of the star-convict.

(iii) Correlation of parental imprisonment;

(iv) The fraternal correlation; and lastly,

(v) the history of noted criminals and of their depredations.