

out no less than Rs 1 lakh after hacking into the traders' accounts. They had some conduits, who are yet to be arrested," a senior officer of the Howrah city-police said.

b) Credit Card Fraud

The fraudulent use of a credit card account through the theft of the account holder's card number, card details and personal information, through a wide variety of methods in order to perform unauthorized transactions from the compromised account. Sometimes the bank employees are found involved in such crime.

c) Eve teasing

Priya Shaw and Puja Shaw were injured when they were recently attacked by a gang of eve teasers at night at Salkia area in Howrah. Later two were arrested. Eve teasers are mainly found in the outside of the schools, colleges, market and shopping mall complex of the city.

d) Human Trafficking

In what could be a case of human trafficking, Mohammad Zeman and Mohammad Irfan, both Class VI students of the Anjuman High School in Chowra Basti from the Tilkhana area under Golabari police station in Howrah have gone missing recently. A police officer said, "Both Zeman and Irfan belong to poor families." Considering their background, the police have ruled out that they were kidnapped for ransom. "We are investigating the kidnapping angle. But since they were poor boys, they could have been lured by child traffickers with the promise of comfort and money," sources said.

Police said nearly ten cases of missing children are pending with the Golabari PS. Sources said all cases are considered to be of kidnapping. "Locals have also staged protests over the missing children. But we have not been able to trace them," said a police officer.

smuggling, kidnapping, illegal export of iron scrap, forcefully collection of money from the businessman and threatening them by phone have become notable crime.

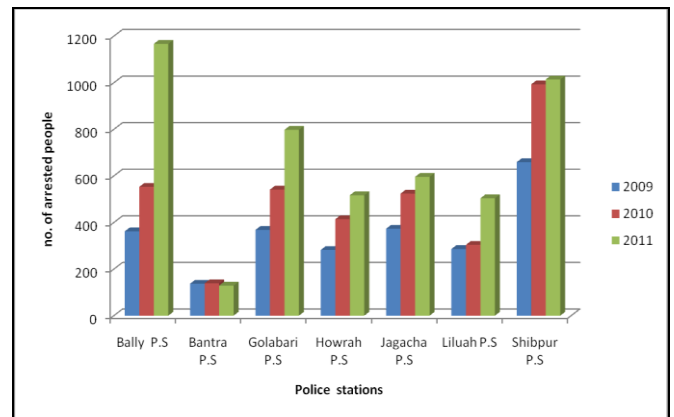


Figure 4: Police station wise crime statistics (source: Howrah City Police)

During last few decades the large factories like Gestkin William, Bern, Remington, many jute mills and cotton mills have been locked out. As a result many people from lower-middle have lost their job. This has incited the jobless people and their next generation to be involved in various illegal activities. Encroachment of the deserted land of the closed factories, brokery and the oppression of the various political labour organisation have stretched out the area of crime.

10. City crime and women:

The study of human relationship in the urban environment vis-à-vis the incidences of crimes against women over geographical space has been dealt with in this study through an understanding of two different world environments, that of the developing and the developed world. Crime against women is not only limited to being a social problem but more and more it is being taken into consideration by departments other than the law enforcement while formulating policies.

In Haora City the rate of crime against women is rapidly increasing. According to the report of Howrah City Police the number of crime against women was 257 in 2007 which is abruptly increased to 614 in 2011. Such crime includes eve teasing, harassment in working place, rape and suicide for dowry etc.



Figure 3: Recent trends of urban crime (source: Howrah City Police)

9. Crime-Prone Areas

The main crime-prone areas of Haora city comprise slum area, dock area and industrial belt. The areas of the first category are mainly under Haora, Shibpur, Bantra and Malipanchghara P.S and here the crimes like theft, robbery and eve teasing are dominant. In the dock and industrial areas (i.e. Shalimar, Golabari, Liluah, Ghusuri, Salkia etc)

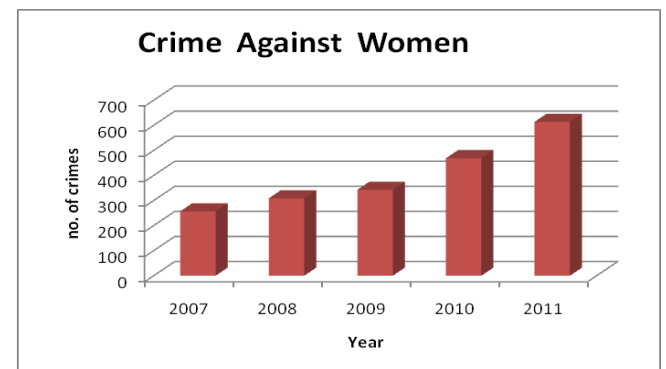


Figure 5: Increasing crime against women (source: Howrah City Police)

11. Some initiatives to Protect Women from Harassment

With the rise in attacks on women, police are planning to give self-defence training to female students in more than 50 schools in Howrah. A senior police officer of the newly formed Howrah Police Commissionerate said police officers who are experts in judo and karate will train the girls in martial arts. Initially, girls studying in Classes VII to XII will be trained in batches. Each batch will undergo training for around 15 days.

Besides organising training programme for girls, officers from the women's police station in Howrah, and local police stations in plain clothes, have been posted outside schools that fall under the jurisdiction of the Howrah Commissionerate. They pick up youths found teasing or making lewd comments at girls.

12. Crime prevention in Urban Society

The idea of preventing crimes is far from new. Historically in Western societies the idea of preventing crime was closely linked to ideas of punishment and protection. Collective rather than individual interests determined what was crime and how violation should be punished. Gradually, the individual responsibility for crimes and the practice of punishing responsible persons replaced those of vengeance and collective responsibility. Personal responsibility, however, was closely linked to the idea that punishment of individuals also protected the collectivity. The belief arose that punishment of those held responsible for a crime deterred not only them from continuing to commit crimes but that their punishment deterred others from ever doing so under the threat of a similar punishment of major objective of punishment. Thus became prevention as well as vengeance or compensation for wrongs.

Those who focus on social, structural and situational determinates of crime by contrast, assumed that one can prevent crimes without any understanding of individual propensities. Underlying these models of invention and crime prevention is a simple model of human behaviour based on cognitive and perception psychology---- the model of relational choices about whether to commit crimes and that they will refrain from doing so whenever one calculates that the losses from behaving in a criminal way exceed the gains. Interventions accordingly must focus on altering opportunities so as to increase the losses from behaving in criminal ways.

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