

2018

Crime against Property in Kamrup

Decoding the Role of Psycho-Social Factors



Executive Summary

A. Introduction

Crime against Property can be defined as any criminal act that destroys another's property, or that deprives an owner of property against the owner's will. This includes theft, burglary, robbery, dacoity, arson, vandalism, land grabbing, etc.

The number of cases of property crime has been increasing in India over the years. Most of crimes against property in India involve theft. In fact, from 2001 to 2015, the number of cases of theft increased by 90 per cent. Next to theft, cases of burglary are mostly reported from across India and such cases have increased by 17 per cent from 2001 to 2015. The number of cases of robbery is less than that of theft and burglary, but such cases have increased by 95 per cent during the same duration. The only property crime whose number of cases has come down is of dacoity. From 5,656 cases in 2001, it has come down to 3,972 in 2015 (a drop of 30 per cent).

The main causes behind crime against property are:

- Lack of education
- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Substance Abuse
- Influence of Friends
- Desire for material gains
- Unhappy family life
- Lack of security

B. Research Methodology

B.1. Objectives of the Study

- To study the magnitude of crime against property in Kamrup District

- To understand socio-economic and community affiliation of the convicted
- To understand the role of psycho-social-cultural factors in crime against property
- To recommend viable alternative mode of intervention, besides policing, to prevent attraction towards crime

B.2. Coverage

The study covered the city of Guwahati and Kamrup district.

B.3. Sampling Procedure

Stratified Random Sampling

B.4. Sample Size

There were two types of respondents in the field survey. The first category was of victims of property crime, while the second category comprised of people who were convicted of property crime.

The sample size for the first category (victims) was 120. These were persons who have personally been victims or their households have been victims of property crime. These persons were selected from a sample base collected from the FIRs filed by the citizens in different police stations in Guwahati. It was ascertained that the selection was made in such a way that people living in various parts of Guwahati were selected for interview.

The sample size for second category (convicts) was 30. All of these respondents were housed in the Guwahati Central Jail. Necessary permission was taken from the Jail authorities before commencing the interview with the respondents. The answers provided by the respondents about their crime were cross-checked with the jail records.

B.5. Data Collection

The study involved data collection from both primary and secondary sources.

Primary Sources of Data

Two structured questionnaire were prepared to collect data from the field. Questionnaire I targeted the victims of crime against property. The questionnaire had a total of 33 questions, with a few more sub-questions. It had both close-ended and open-ended questions. The questionnaire also recorded the socio-economic data of the respondent.

Questionnaire II was targeted at the convicts. It had a total of 31 questions, with a few more sub-questions. It also had both close-ended and open-ended questions and recorded the socio-economic data of the respondent.

Secondary Sources of Data:

Government and NGO reports; Books and Journals; Websites and Web Journals; Media Reports.

B.6. Data Processing

Data entry and processing was done using the software called SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). The information collected from the sample areas chosen were tabulated to provide continuity in data sets. The assumption underlying the approach is that the data collected from the sample areas can be transformed and aggregated to shed light on the general issue under study. The next phase involved processing of the data and its analysis.

B.7. Limitations of the Study

The study faced various limitations during data collection and field survey. The lack of digitization of data related to crime against property was a big hurdle in collecting data of the last ten years in Guwahati city and Kamrup district. Neither the police nor the courts had digitized their data. CDPS researchers had to manually collect data from the police stations as well as courts. However, data could only be collected for the five year period between 2009 and 2013. Here also there was a mismatch between the data collected from police and the data gathered from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports. In the report, data collected from Assam Police and the court has been used

to represent data of Guwahati city and Kamrup district, while NCRB data has been used to represent data of Assam.

Data regarding chargesheets and conviction were not provided by the police and the court because of which analysis of trend of chargesheets and conviction for crime against property in Kamrup and Guwahati could not be carried out. The study, however, was able to analyze conviction rate and chargesheeting rate of Assam and the other states through data collected from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports.

It was also a tough task to find people convicted of property crime and then persuading them to give an interview. CDPS took necessary permission from the jail authorities for interviewing inmates convicted of crime against property, but even then there were not many inmates who were in jail for such crimes. Addresses were collected of former convicts who had served jail term for crime against property but while in some cases the addresses were wrong, in other cases, the persons no longer stayed at that place. In some cases, the people lived in places too far away from Guwahati, and as such it was not feasible to cover them under the survey.

Also, most of the convicts interviewed during the field survey did not provide the address of their families, while in some cases, the family members of the convicts refused to give their views. So, the views of the convict's family members could not be collected.

Also, even though the answers given by the convicts about their crime were cross-checked with the jail records, there was no way to verify all the details provided by them about the crimes they committed or in some cases, as they say, did not commit. Also, many respondents refused to answer certain questions about the crimes they had committed. The responses to these questions had to be recorded as 'no opinion'.

C. Crime against Property in Guwahati City

The highest number of property crime that takes place in Guwahati is of theft, where it has grown from 1728 cases in 2009 to 2295 cases in 2013. A report in *The Assam Tribune*¹, dated 20 August 2017, states that the city had witnessed 3030 cases of theft in the year 2016, which means that there

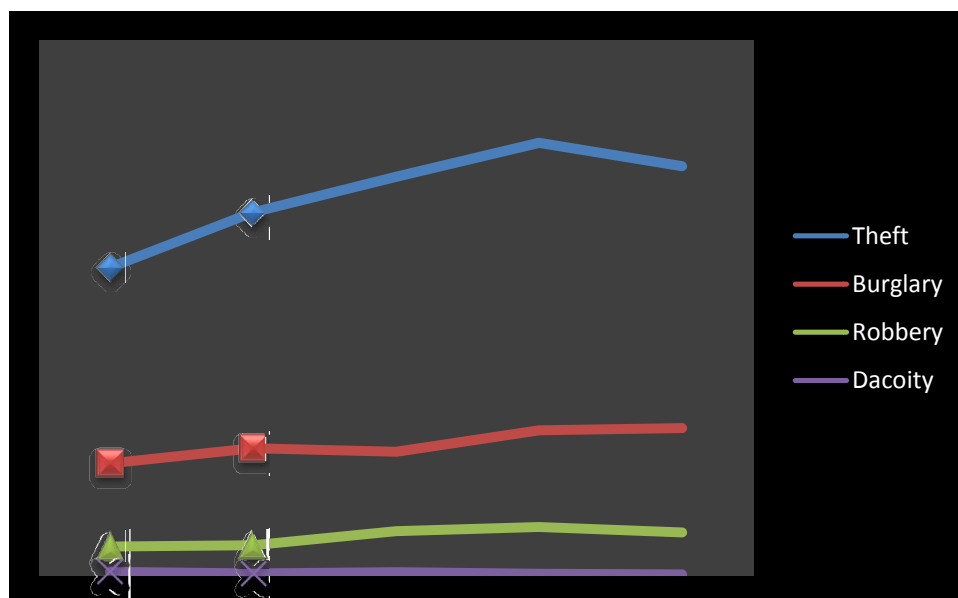
¹ "Police in Slumber as thieves have a field day", *The Assam Tribune*, 20 August 2017, www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug2017/city055

were almost 10 thefts each day in Guwahati in 2016. The same report states that during the first five months of 2017 (January to May), 1050 cases of theft were reported in Guwahati, which means almost 20 thefts per day.

Table: Number of Property Crime Cases in Guwahati City (2009-2013)²

Type of Crime	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Theft	1728	2036	2236	2426	2295
Burglary	631	716	696	816	828
Robbery	165	172	252	275	244
Dacoity	24	15	22	14	10

The next highest number of recorded property crime is of burglary. It too has increased from 631 cases in 2009 to 828 in 2013. The same Assam Tribune report states that in 2016, there were 950 cases of burglary³, which amounts to almost three incidents per day. The first five months of 2017 witnessed 400 burglary cases, which mean 8 cases per day. This shows how property crime cases are increasing in Guwahati. The number of cases of robbery, though less than that of theft and burglary, too is on the rise. The only property crime which has declined over the years is that of dacoity.



Graph: Trend of Property Crimes in Guwahati city (2009-2013)

² Source: Assam Police, Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Guwahati, and National Crime Records Bureau

³ Ibid.

Guwahati has also seen a few high-profile robberies or burglaries in 2017, like the one at the MP Jewellers and the Titan showroom on the busy GS Road (now renamed as Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva Path). All these indicate that Guwahati is becoming a hotbed of property crime.

There are many factors which have led to a spurt in property crime cases in Guwahati. The city has been witnessing a rise in population and rapid urbanization is bringing more and more people here every year. A sizeable chunk of the population here does not have decent jobs nor are they highly educated. Many of them are of poor financial background. Apart from this, there is a cost of living associated with staying in a growing city like Guwahati. These factors combine to make some people turn to crime to fuel their needs.

Substance abuse too is a big motivator for property crime in Guwahati city. A 2014 study titled "*Substance Abuse amongst the Street-children in Guwahati City, Assam*"⁴ has found that around 80 per cent of the street children they had surveyed were found to be substance abusers and majority of them have never gone to school. Many of these street children were involved in cases of theft and burglary. During the field survey for this study too it was found that majority of the convicts were substance abusers (see Chapter 5 for details).

Manpower shortage among Guwahati police is another major factor as to why property crime cases are growing in Guwahati. This shortage of manpower is having a negative impact on police patrolling activities. According to Hiren Chandra Nath, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Guwahati, "We lack one-fourth of the staff. This lack (of manpower) is from inspector level to constables."⁵

Thus, a combination of factors like lack of education, poverty, unemployment, substance abuse and shortage of manpower in police, are fuelling crimes against property in Guwahati city.

⁴ F Islam, S Kar, A Debroy, and R Sarma, "Substance Abuse amongst the Street-children in Guwahati City, Assam", *Annals of Medical and Health Science Research*, 2014 Sep-Oct; 4(Suppl 3): S233–S238, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4212383/>

⁵ "City police battle shortage-Men in khaki combat odds to keep vigil", *The Telegraph*, 26 April 2017, https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170426/jsp/northeast/story_148244.jsp

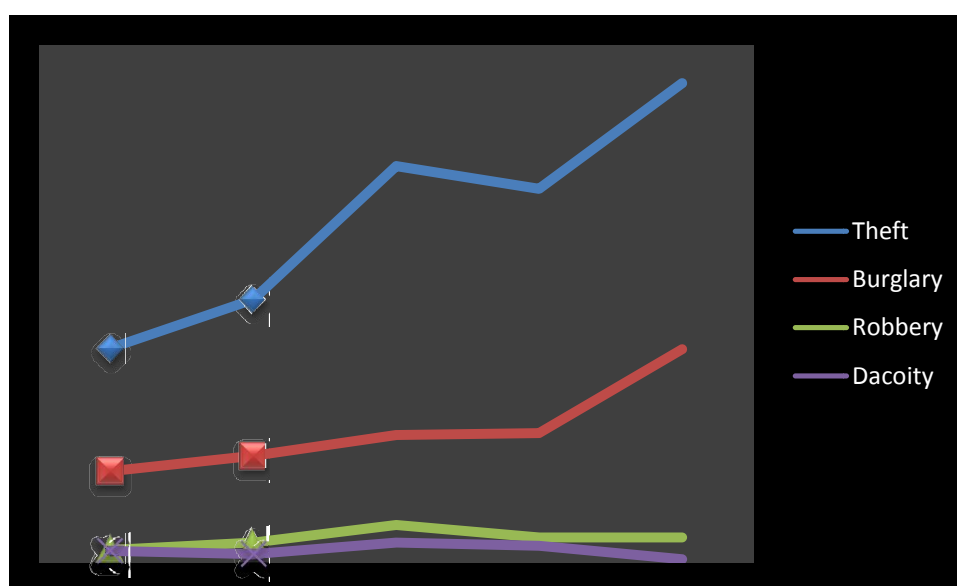
D. Crime against Property in Kamrup District

Kamrup district (also called Kamrup Rural district) too is affected by cases of property crime but not as badly as that of Guwahati city. Here also the highest number of property crime cases involves theft, but the number is almost one-fourth of Guwahati. The number of theft cases have, however, been rising over the years. From 241 theft cases in 2009, it has risen to 463 cases in 2013, a rise of 92 per cent.

Table: Number of Property Crime Cases in Kamrup District (2009-2013)⁶

Type of Crime	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Theft	241	254	375	361	463
Burglary	107	103	122	125	206
Robbery	18	19	36	22	24
Dacoity	11	8	19	14	3

The next highest number of property crime cases involves burglary, followed by robbery and dacoity. Of these, the number of cases of dacoity has been on decline, same as in Guwahati city. The number of cases of burglary and robbery are significantly lower than those reported in Guwahati. The number of dacoity cases is low in both Kamrup district and Guwahati city.



Graph: Trend of Property Crimes in Kamrup district (2009-2013)

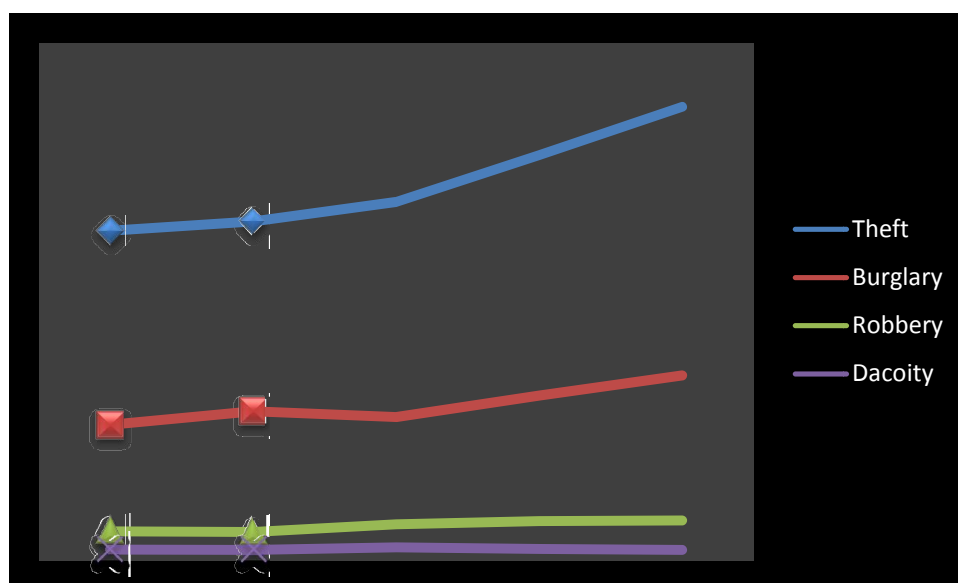
⁶ Source: Assam Police and National Crime Records Bureau

E. Crime against Property in Assam

Crime against property cases in Assam reflects a similar trend as that of Guwahati city and Kamrup district. The highest number of cases is that of theft, followed by burglary, robbery and dacoity. Apart from dacoity, the other property crimes have witnessed a rise in Assam too.

Table: Number of Property Crime Cases in Assam (2009-2013)⁷

Type of Crime	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Theft	7644	7860	8309	9394	10515
Burglary	3149	3458	3327	3825	4291
Robbery	680	662	837	907	923
Dacoity	251	248	305	266	246

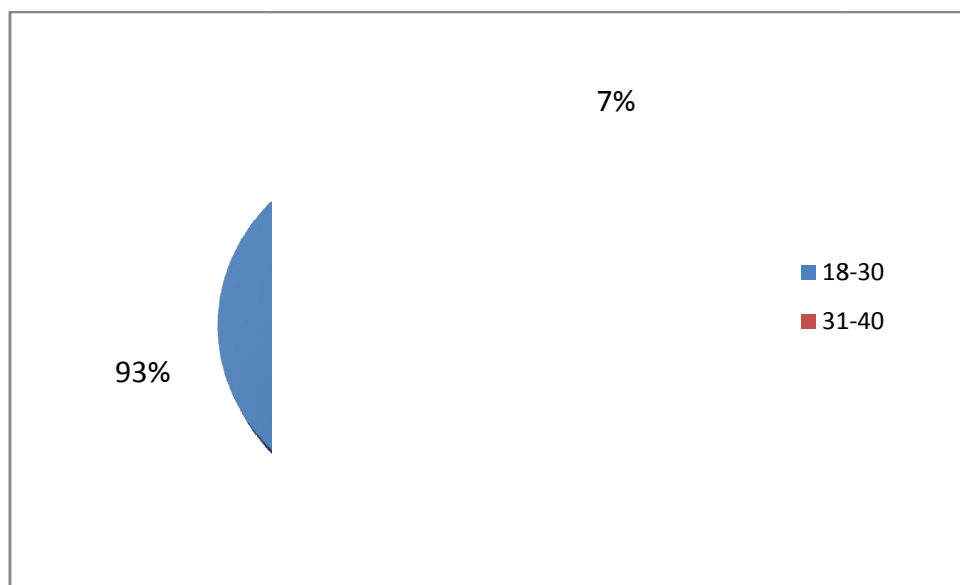


Graph: Trend of Property Crimes in Assam (2009-2013)

⁷ Source: National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, www.ncrb.gov.in

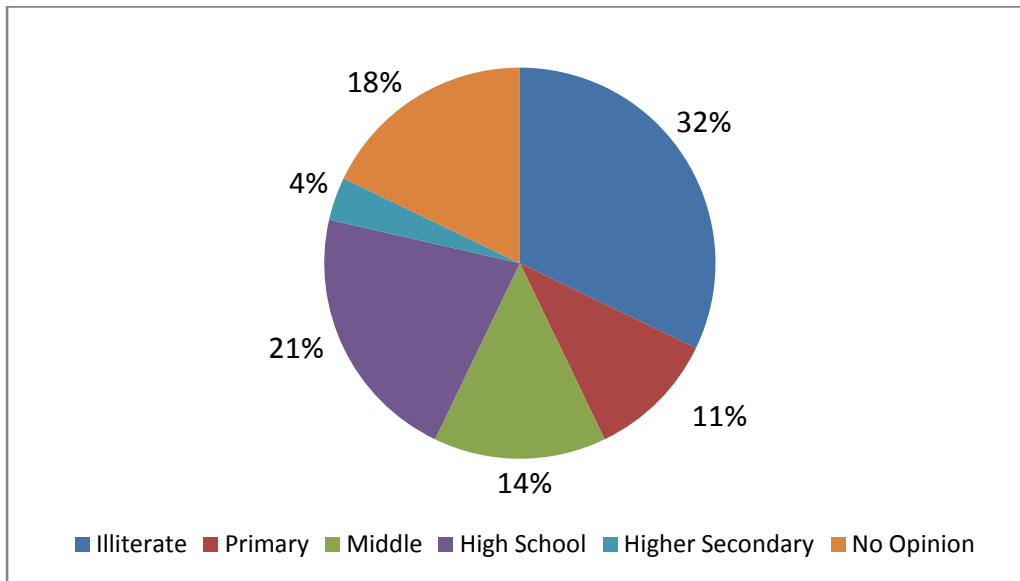
F. Main Findings of the Field Survey: Convicts

- From the religion and caste composition of the convicts interviewed during the field survey, it was observed that criminals can be found in every strata of the society, irrespective of their religion or caste. Among the respondents, 67 per cent were Hindu, the rest 33 per cent were Muslim. Half of the respondents (50 per cent) belonged to the General caste. Among the rest, 20 per cent were OBC/MOBC, 13 per cent were SC, while the rest 17 per cent were ST. All the respondents interviewed during the survey were male.
- Majority of the inmates convicted of crime against property in Guwahati Central Jail fall under the age bracket of 18 years and 30 years (93 per cent). The rest 7 per cent are between 31 and 40 years of age. This shows that these people have taken to crime quite at a young age.



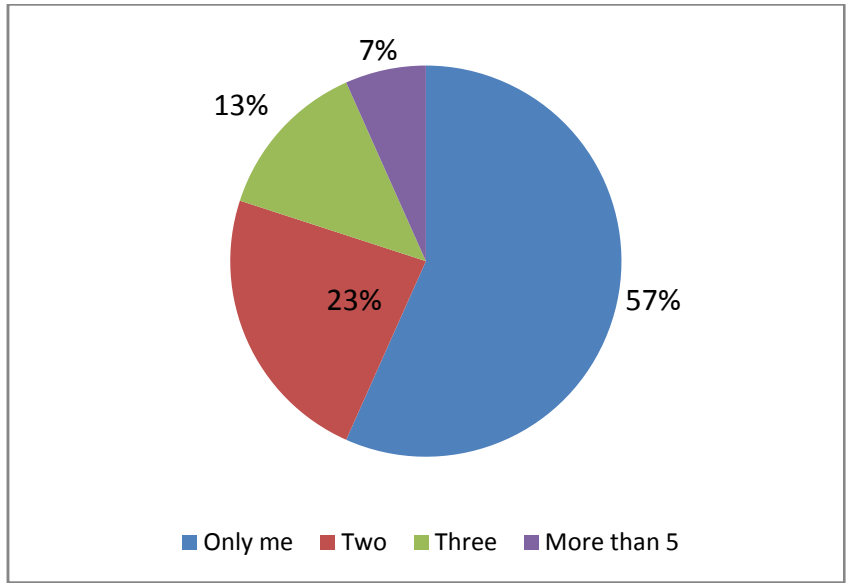
Graph: Age

- Lack of education is one of the main reasons because of which respondents have taken up the path of crime. It was found that 32 per cent of the respondents convicted of crime against property were illiterate, while 11 per cent had studied till primary level and 14 per cent studied till middle school level. Only 21 per cent of the respondents had completed studies till high school level and a meagre 4 per cent had passed higher secondary. The rest 18 per cent of the respondents refused to provide their education details.



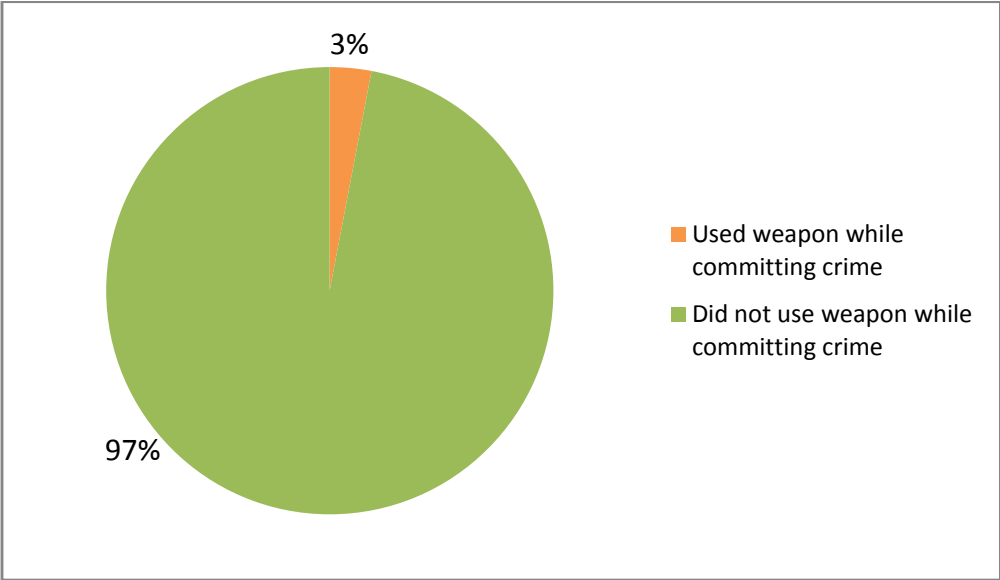
Graph: Education

- Among the respondents interviewed during the survey, 86 per cent were serving time in the jail for committing theft. Among the rest, 3 per cent were convicted for burglary, 7 per cent for robbery and the rest 4 per cent for dacoity.
- Poverty, lack of education, unemployment and substance abuse were found to be the main reasons behind the respondents taking up criminal activities.
- The survey found that majority of the respondents (57 per cent) committed the crime alone. These crimes included pick-pocketing, stealing of cash, mobile and laptop. 23 per cent of the respondents said that two persons were involved in the crimes they committed. This involved two-wheeler theft, chain snatching, and, stealing of jewellery. Three persons were involved in 13 per cent of the crimes, which included car theft, two-wheeler theft and house break-ins. In case of 7 per cent of the respondents, they carried out their crime like house break-ins with help of more than 5 persons, and hence were convicted for dacoity.



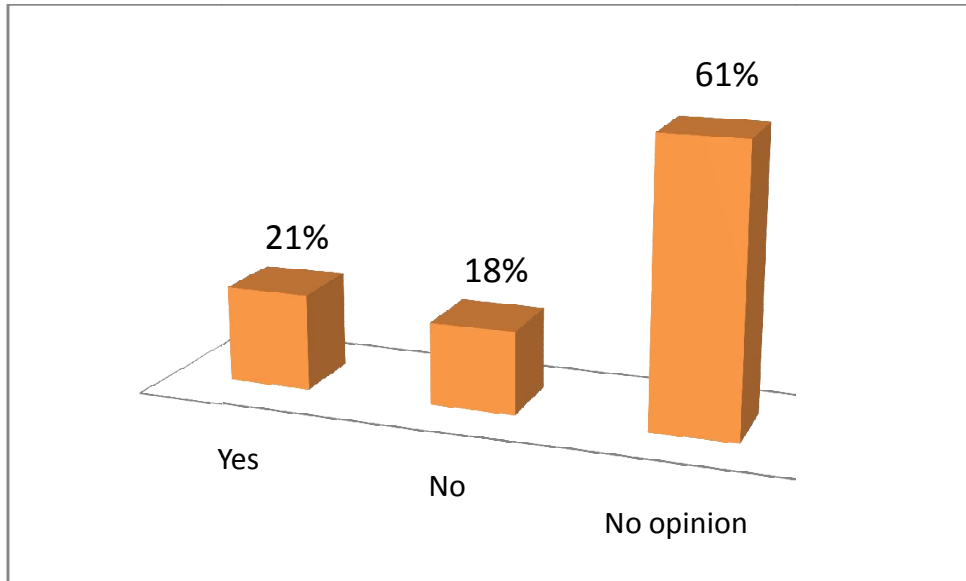
Graph: Number of people involved in the crime

- The survey found that only 3 per cent of the respondents had used weapon while committing crime. The rest of the respondents denied the use of weapons, but there was no way to verify whether they told the truth or not.



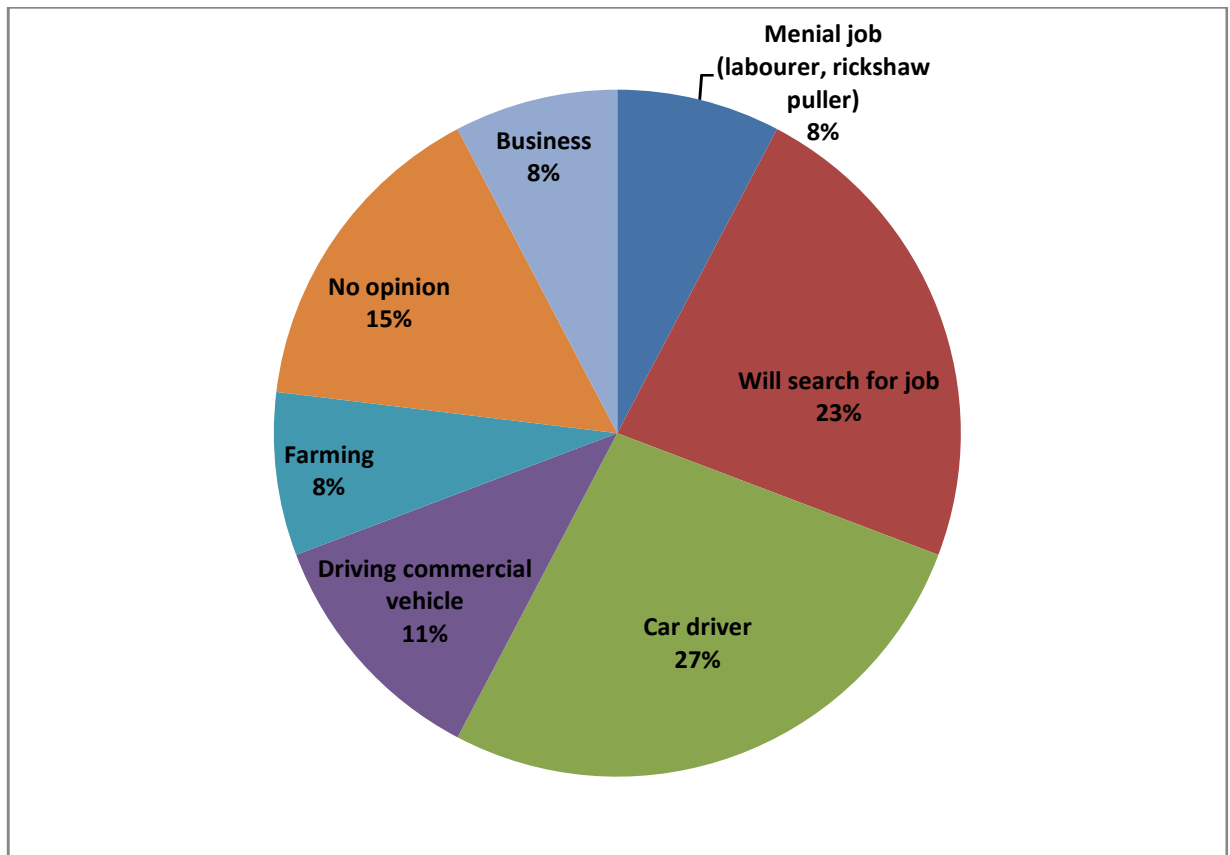
Graph: Use of weapon while committing crime

- Lack of parental care during childhood cannot be said to have influenced the respondents of this field survey to take up criminal activities, as majority of them (89 per cent) had spent their childhood with their parents, while the rest of the respondents (11 per cent) grew up with their relatives after they lost their parents at an early age.
- The survey found that barring a few respondents, all the others were hooked to drugs, alcohol and other such substances. Alcohol was mostly consumed by the respondents (46 per cent), while 32 per cent were into drugs like Heroine, Nitro and SP. Marijuana (Ganja) was used by 33 per cent of the respondents, while 36 per cent of the respondents were hooked to cigarette, bidi and tobacco products. Many respondents were involved in more than one of these vices.
- Majority of the respondents (74 per cent) had never thought about their family while committing crime, while 16 per cent said that they did not care about the feelings of their family members. Only 10 per cent of the respondents said that they thought about their family, but earning money was the sole thing in their mind, so they continued with their crime anyway. Thus, family bonds were unable to prevent the respondents from taking up criminal activities.
- Majority of the respondents (61 per cent) declined to answer whether they had any regrets about the crimes they had committed. The question itself may have induced a feeling of regret among them, but they refused to acknowledge it. While 18 per cent of the respondents said that they do not feel any regrets for what they have done or for serving time in jail, the rest of the respondents (21 per cent) said that they were regretting now for their actions and would like to stay away from such activities in the future.



Graph: Feeling of regret among the respondents

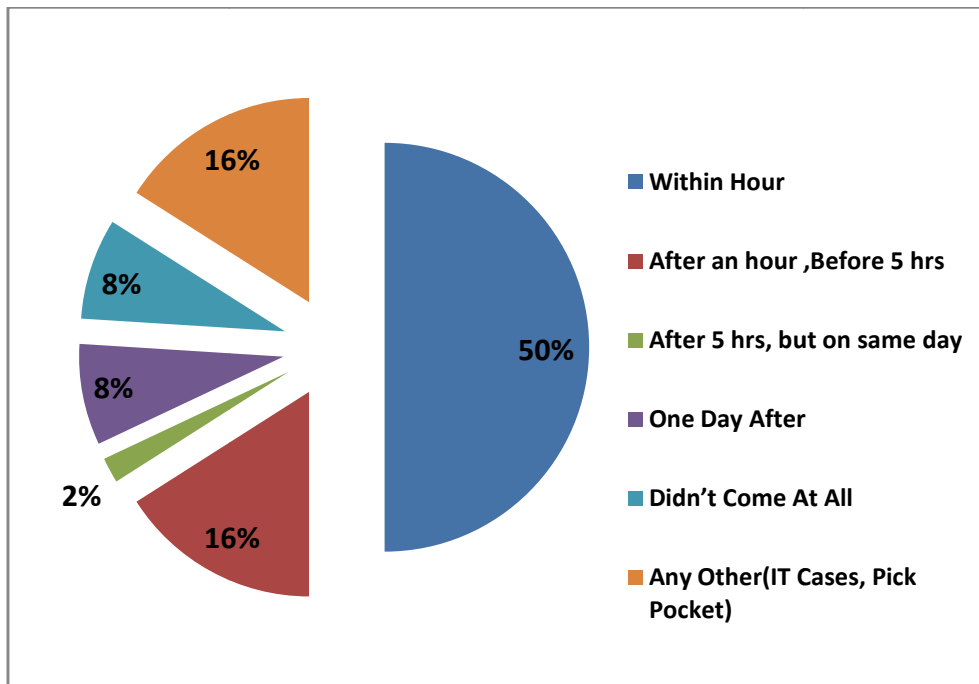
- Majority of the respondents (71 per cent) said that there were no feelings of guilt, shame or frustration on their mind after committing the crimes. This indicates that these people have totally turned into hardened criminals with no guilt or remorse for what they have done. Among the other respondents, 18 per cent said that they felt guilty after committing the crime, 3 per cent felt frustrated, 4 per cent had a mixed feeling of guilt and frustration, while another 4 per cent had feelings of guilt, frustration as well as faced difficulty in sleeping.
- None of the respondents have undertaken any type of skill development training while serving their jail terms, even though there is a Skill Development Centre inside the jail premises. Majority of them are unaware about such initiatives being taken up inside the jail.
- It was observed that none of the respondents talked about getting back to criminal activities after being released from jail. Most of the respondents (27 per cent) said that they would be a car driver, while 11 per cent said that they would drive commercial vehicles. Another 23 per cent said that they would start looking for a job once they are out of jail, while 8 per cent talked about starting a business. Among the other respondents, 8 per cent talked about doing menial jobs like rickshaw puller or a day labourer, while 8 per cent said they would take up farming. The rest of the respondents (15 per cent) did not have any specific ideas as to what they would do after leaving the jail but they said that they would like to stay away from crime.



Graph: Means of living after released from jail

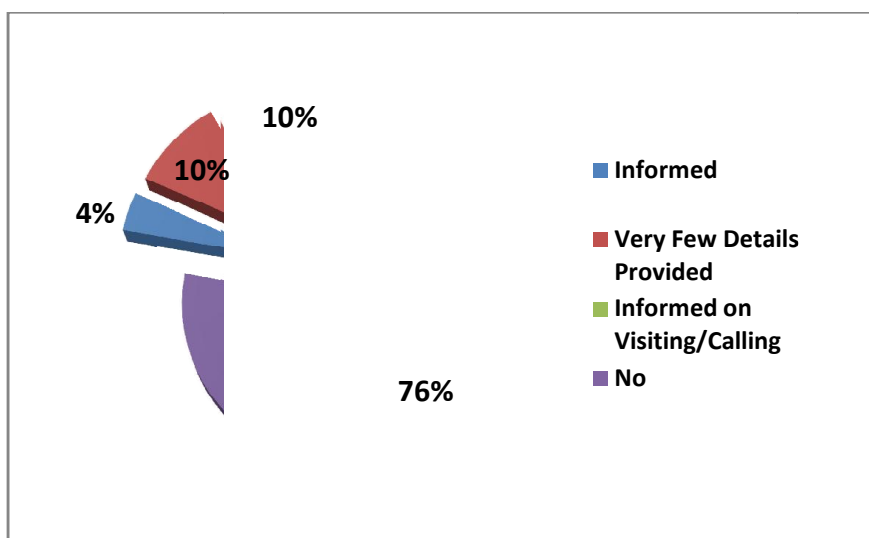
G. Main Findings of the Field Survey: Victims

- Among the interviewed respondents, 47 per cent were victims of burglary, 45 per cent of theft, while 8 per cent were victims of robbery.
- It was found that the response time of the police was very good in majority of the cases. In 50 per cent of the cases, the police had arrived at the crime scene within an hour of intimation of the crime. In 16 per cent of the cases, police came between one and five hours of intimation, while in 2 per cent of the case, police came after 5 hours of intimation but on the same day itself. There were a few cases of negligence on the part of the police in 16 per cent of the cases; in half of these cases, police came the next day, while in case of the other half, police did not come at all. In the rest of the 16 per cent of the cases, which included cyber fraud or pick-pocketing, police was not required to visit the place of occurrence.



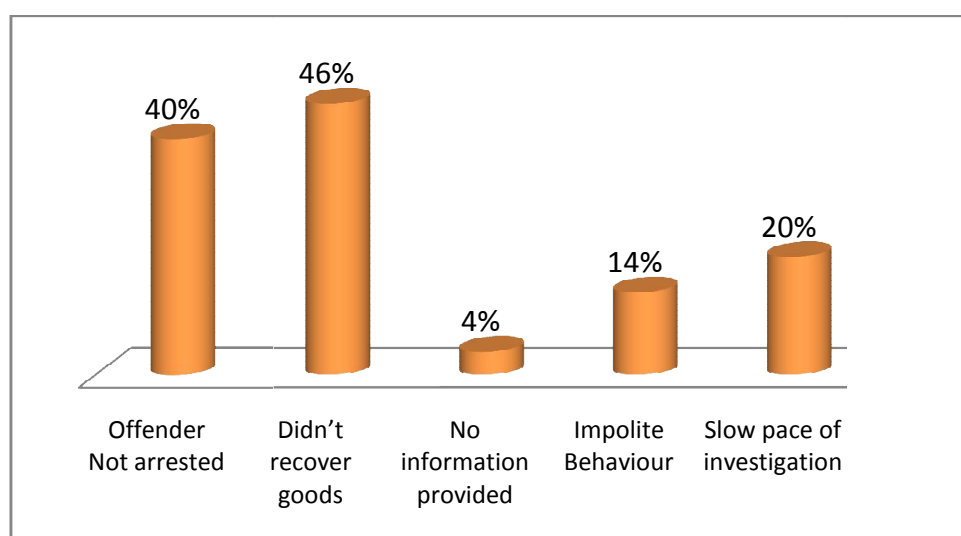
Graph: Police Response Time

- The survey found that in majority of the cases (76 per cent), police did not inform the victims about the status of the investigation of their stolen property. In 10 per cent of the cases, the victims got an update on their case, when they visited the police station or called the Investigating Officer. In another 10 per cent of the cases, the respondents said that police kept them informed but provided very few details. Only 4 per cent of the respondents said that police kept them updated about the investigations of their stolen property.



Graph: Whether Police kept the victims updated about the case

- Majority of the respondents (72 per cent) were not satisfied with the response given by police to their cases. Among these respondents, 46 per cent said that they were not satisfied because police was not able to recover the stolen property, 40 per cent said that they were dissatisfied because police was not able to arrest the offenders. Again, 20 per cent of the respondents said that they were appalled by the slow pace of investigation of the police, while 14 per cent of the respondents complained of impolite behaviour by the police personnel. A section of the respondents (4 per cent) were not happy because police did not keep them informed of the investigation process.

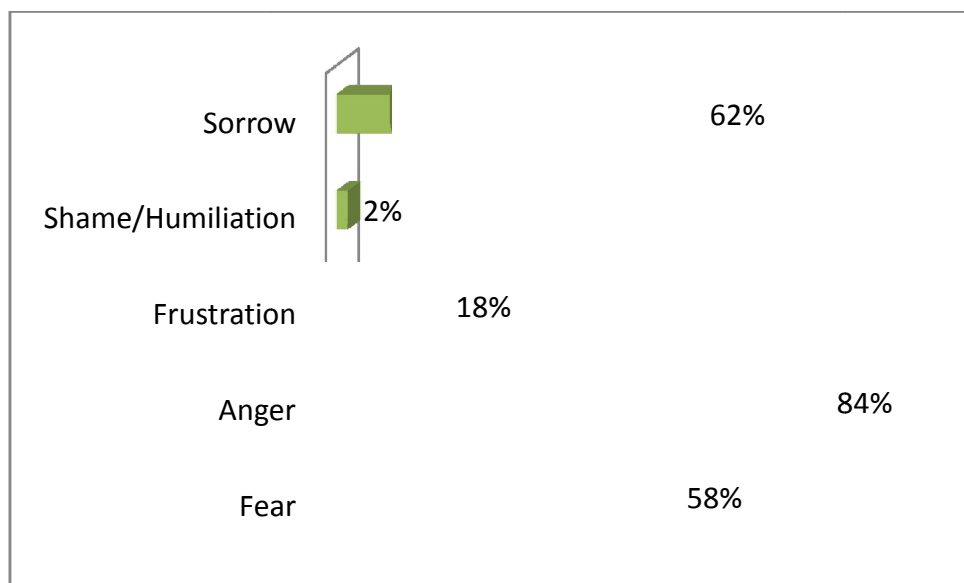


Graph: Reasons for Dissatisfaction with Police

- All the respondents agreed that the crime against property had impacted them and their households. Of these, 38 per cent termed that the impact was very serious. These respondents mostly included those who had income less than Rs. 20,000 and had lost valuables above that amount. Thus, loss of property to crime by people with lower income creates a greater psychological impact than on those with a better level of income.
- Anger was the most displayed short-term psychological impact on the victims of property crime. The anger was mostly on the criminals who had committed the crime as well as anger on oneself for not being able to prevent the crime. Another mostly displayed psychological impact was of fear, which was expressed by 58 per cent of the respondents. The fear was of

being unsafe in the city, the fear of being robbed again, the fear of being not protected against such type of crimes.

Loss of property caused the feel of sorrow among 62 per cent the respondents, as they had to part away with the property they had bought with their hard-earned money. The feeling of frustration was there among 18 per cent of the respondents, as they felt a total helplessness in preventing the crime and could take to action to nab the culprits. A few respondents (2 per cent) felt shame and humiliation on losing their property.

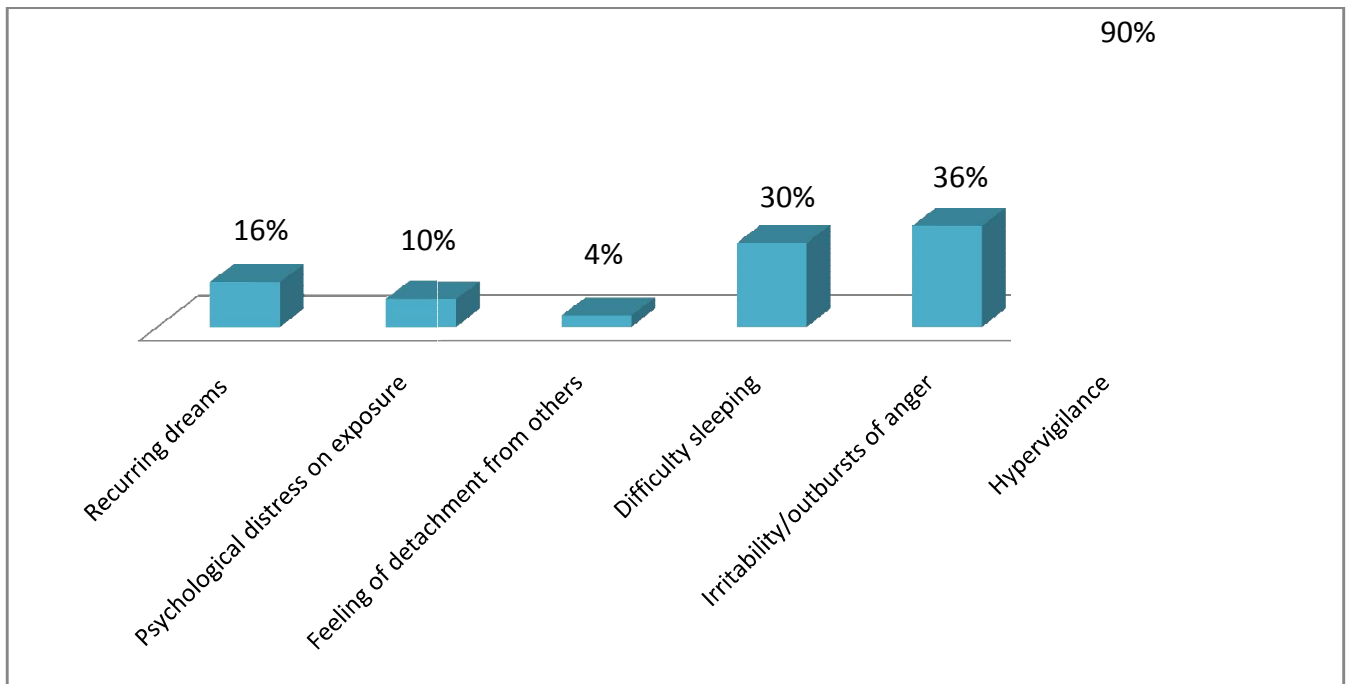


Graph: Type of emotions running through the mind after the crime was committed

- All the respondents displayed signs of long-term psychological impact. Majority of the respondents (90 per cent) had become hypervigilant. Hypervigilance is an increased state of vigilance and awareness that may be caused by fear and anxiety. It is characteristic of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). It may also trigger panic attacks and flashbacks. Among the respondents of this survey, many of the respondents agreed that they had flashbacks about the crime but none had experienced panic attacks.

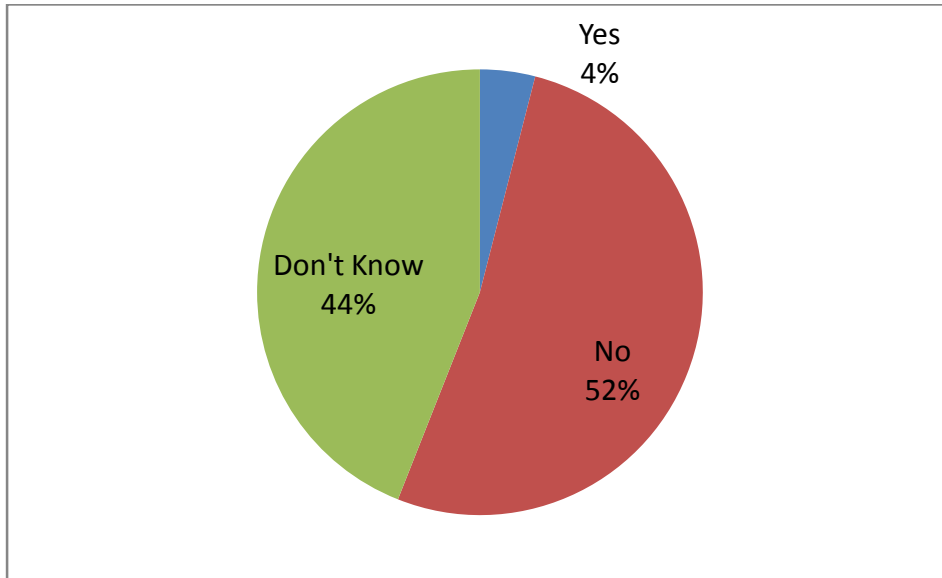
The other types of long-term psychological impact found among the respondents included irritability and outbursts of anger among 36 per cent of the respondents. Difficulty in sleeping was experienced by 30 per cent of the respondents, while 16 per cent agreed that they had

recurring dreams about the crime. Respondents (10 per cent) also said that they faced intense psychological distress when they heard or saw similar type of occurrences, whether in person or on the television. A small percentage of the respondents (4 per cent) said that they sometimes felt like getting complexly detached from others.



Graph: Long-term Psychological Impact

- Crime against property has had both short-term and long-term psychological impact on the victims surveyed during this survey. However, it was found that none of the respondents were provided any kind of counselling nor has anyone gone to a counsellor.
- Citizen Committees are no longer active in Guwahati city. Only 4 per cent of the respondents said that there is a citizen committee in their locality. Majority of the respondents (52 per cent) said that there is no Citizen Committee in their area, while 44 per cent of the respondents said they are not aware whether there is any such committees in their area or not. This shows that the zeal and enthusiasm with which such committees were formed in the 1990s has fizzled away over the years.



Graph: Whether there is a Citizen Committee in respondents' locality

H. Recommendations

The recommendations are divided into three parts. The first part states some measures that can prevent attraction towards crime, the second states some non-policing measures to combat crime against property, while the third part mentions measures that may be taken up by the police to reduce crime against property.

H.1. Reducing Attraction towards Crime

H.1.1. Skill Development

From the earlier researches on the subject as well through the field survey made as part of this study, it is clear that unemployment or lack of avenue to earn money forces many people to get attracted towards crime, especially crime against property. This can be prevented if skill development training is promoted extensively.

Government of India has already formulated a programme to train over 40 crore people in India in different skills by 2022. Training under skill development schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikash Yojana (PMKVY) and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) are already going on around the country, including Assam. The best part of these schemes is that even

school drop-outs and people studying till only middle school level can also apply to train under these. The numerous trades available under these schemes can easily be availed by the citizens. Most of these training are also free of cost.

However, it is seen that there is a lack of awareness about these schemes as well as lack of knowledge on how to apply for these schemes. Also, there is a section of the population who do not usually get information through television, radio or social networks. Therefore, the first job will be to spread awareness about skill training among these type of people through road shows or door-to-door visits. NGOs may play an important role in this. People who are unemployed and financially weak and are not well educated should be the target for such promotional activities.

Skill training will allow these people to take up some decent job or be self-employed and this will surely prevent them from moving towards criminal activities.

H.1.2. Reformation Measures in Jail

Jail is a place which can give a person time to introspect on his life and help him mend his ways. But at the same time, jail can also turn a petty criminal into a hardened one. Therefore, running a few reformation programmes in the jail may help the inmates to refrain from taking up crime once they are released. Skill development training inside jails too may be very beneficial to inmates, as they could use the skills learned inside the jail to find a job or be self-employed. **These training courses have to be run professionally with career counselling and placement cells to connect such programs with actual employment. The convicts, who complete the training, should be given course completion certificates, which will help them apply for jobs once they are out of jail.**

Examples of such programmes have already been mentioned in Chapter 5 of this report. However, it was seen during the survey that inmates are not aware of such programmes going on inside the jail.

Therefore, it is the duty of the organizations providing skill development training or running other reformation measures inside the jail, to talk to the inmates about the benefits of these schemes and how they could use these programmes to lead a better life away from crime.

H.1.3. Bridge Courses for School Dropouts

Various studies have found that a significant chunk of criminals are school dropouts. Even during the field survey this particular fact was observed. Lack of education, coupled with poverty and unemployment, leads a person to commit crime. This can be prevented if such dropouts are identified and are enrolled in bridge courses, which are provided by several institutions and agencies in Assam. NGOs, especially those working among children and those working for rehabilitation of drug victims, can carry out a survey to identify such dropouts and help them get enrolled in bridge courses, so that they can continue with their education.

H.1.4. Preventing Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is one of the major reasons which lead people to commit crimes. In this aspect, a major role has to be played by parents, teachers as well as the civil society. Parents and teachers have to stay vigilant to note signs of substance abuse among their wards and take professional help if they think it is necessary. Civil society can play a role by identifying individuals with proven record of substance abuse involved in property crime for counselling programmes.

H.1.5. Psychological Counselling

Psychological counselling to substance abusers as well as criminals is necessary to further prevent them from committing crimes. Such programmes need to be made a regular part of jail activities, so that people who want to reform do not take up a path of crime just because of the influence of their inmates while in jail, as is seen in many cases. Psychological counselling will help such people to stay focussed to swerve away from the path of crime.

H.1.6. Support from NGOs

NGOs can play an important role in preventing people getting attracted towards crime. They can spread awareness about skill development, they can teach the people how to get enrolled in such programmes, they can also help the trained people to take loans from banks for starting a business. They can play a role in organizing psychological counselling for substance abusers and help them in overcoming the addiction. The role that can be played by NGOs is immense in this issue.

H.2. Non-Policing Measures

H.2.1. Citizen Committee

The Citizen Committees in Guwahati are no longer active in many parts of the city. There is lack of communication and coordination between the committees and the police. As such, a proper institutionalized mechanism for Citizen Committees has to be newly built in Guwahati. Commissioner of Police may direct all the police stations in Guwahati to collect feedback from the citizens in their respective areas in this regard.

H.2.2. Home Security System

Installing tamper-proof/anti-theft security locking systems as well as CCTV may help in preventing crime against property.

H.2.3. Community Watch

People in a particular locality, especially those localities where there are many incidents of property crime, may provide collective employment to night guards. This will be cost-effective and will help in preventing crime against property.

H.2.4. Individual Alertness

Lack of individual alertness is a reason of many property crimes. With increase in the number of property crimes, the level of alertness too has to increase among the citizens. When employing a new domestic help or driver, his/her credentials, address, etc needs to be verified. Home security system, tamper-free safes, etc, may be installed in the houses. Valuables should be kept away from windows.

H.2.5. Emergency Numbers

A list of emergency phone numbers, such as those of the nearest police station, hospital, etc has to be saved in the mobile phones of each member of the household.

H.3. Policing Measures

H.3.1. Police patrol

Police patrolling needs to cover every nook and corner of the city. For this, if required, the police department may ask the government for supply of more vehicles.

H.3.2. Filling up vacancy in police

Manpower shortage in police is preventing the police from effectively providing round-the-clock-patrolling around the city. This problem can only be solved if vacancy in police staff is filled up at the earliest.

H.3.3. Verification of workers at construction site

Police need to keep a tab on the workers working in the various construction sites. Many people have alleged that such workers may be involved in various crimes against property. Police may ask the company undertaking the construction to provide them with a list of people working at their site, along with their identity and address proof.

H.3.4. Coordination between police and judiciary

Analysis of the conviction rate done during this study has found that the conviction rate is quite low in the state. As such, a proper coordination is necessary between the police and the judiciary so that the offenders do not escape punishment. Senior police officers may from time to time scrutinize the chargesheets so that there are no loopholes in the case made by the police.

H.3.5. Keeping the Victims Informed

During the field survey, majority of the respondents had said that police had not kept them informed about the progress of the investigation of their case. A mechanism has to be developed through which the complainants are able to keep track of the investigation of their case. Either an online portal or a helpline number need to be established at the earliest, so that the complainant can check the portal or call that number to get updates about their case.

H.3.6. Use of Social Media

Police can use various social media platforms to keep the citizens informed about the status of their pending cases. Through its official Facebook page or Twitter handle, police can interact with the complainants and satisfy their query. They can also use the social media platforms to seek information from the public on specific crimes against property. They can ask citizens to directly post the information or provide the citizens with a phone number where they can contact the relevant police officials. Social media, as well as traditional mediums like Television and Newspapers, can also be used by the police to spread awareness among the citizens about what kind of steps are needed to safeguard their property.

Chapter 1

Crime Against Property

1.1. Introduction

Crime is considered as a big problem in societies, and this cost heavily on people and communities. Throughout human history, people have tried to explain the causes of abnormal social behaviour, including crime. The earliest effort to control “bad” behaviour goes back to ancient Babylon’s Code of Hammurabi, some 3700 years ago⁸. Twenty first century theorists view crime from wide landscape of factors to explain the anti-social behaviour. These include biological, psychological, social and economic factors. The multitude of such factors drives one to commit crime.

In the late 1950s, India took steps toward participatory democracy even though a lot of unstable political and social conditions continued to exist. Indian society experienced rapid structural changes brought on by industrialization and modernization after Independence.⁹ Major institutions like the family, schools, government, churches, and others were undergoing rapid transformation. An increasing number of Indians moved to urban areas, and the society became increasingly heterogeneous.¹⁰

Social changes always tend to produce social disorganization, one of which is crime.¹¹ In India, the rapid growth in the urban population; the increase in the stress and strains of urban life; the higher standard of living; and, the changes in the existing value systems and political system, were some of the factors which led to the increase in the crime rate.¹² One such type of crime which increased was crime against property.

⁸ Babylonia; <http://www.crystalinks.com/babylonia.html>

⁹ P S A Pillai, Criminal Law, Lexis Nexis Butterworth 11th ed. 2012

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ S N Mishra, Indian Penal Code 233, Central Law Publication 19th ed. 2013

¹² Ibid

Crime against Property can be defined as any criminal act that destroys another's property, or that deprives an owner of property against the owner's will. This includes theft, burglary, robbery, dacoity, arson, vandalism, land grabbing, etc.

The current study focuses on mainly four types of property crime. They are: Theft, Burglary, Robbery and Dacoity. Each of these is defined below:

(a) Theft:

Whenever a person takes out any movable property without consent of the possessor, then it is termed as Theft. It involves taking something from someone else with the intent to permanently deprive him or her of it.

(b) Burglary

Burglary is the intent to break into a building premise without consent, with the intent of committing a crime inside (including theft). Burglary is called as specific intent crime requiring that the burglar knowingly intend to commit a crime while inside a building.

(c) Robbery:

The offense of theft or extortion becomes Robbery if the offender, at the time of committing the theft or extortion, put the other person in fear of instant death or of instant hurt, or of instant wrongful restraint.

(d) Dacoity:

The offense of robbery takes the character of Dacoity when five or more persons commit it conjointly. The words conjointly refer to united or concerted action of the persons participating in the transaction.

1.2. Property Crime and the India Penal Code

The Indian Penal (IPC) has various Sections which deal with different types of property crimes. All total there are 85 sections in the IPC for property crimes. These sections are mentioned in the table below (for details see Annexure):

Section 378:- Theft

Section 379:- Punishment for theft

Section 380:- Theft in dwelling house, etc.

Section 381:- Theft by clerk or servant of property in possession of master

Section 382:- Theft after preparation made for causing death, hurt or restraint in order to the committing of the theft

Section 383:- Extortion

Section 384:- Punishment for extortion

Section 385:- Putting person in fear of injury in order to commit extortion

Section 386:- Extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt

Section 387:- Putting person in fear of death or of grievous hurt, in order to commit extortion

Section 388:- Extortion by threat of accusation of an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life, etc

Section 389:- Putting person in fear or accusation of offence, in order to commit extortion

Section 390:- Robbery

Section 391:- Dacoity

Section 392:- Punishment for robbery

Section 393:- Attempt to commit robbery

Section 394:- Voluntarily causing hurt in committing robbery

Section 395:- Punishment for dacoity

Section 396:- Dacoity with murder

Section 397:- Robbery or dacoity, with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt

Section 398:- Attempt to commit robbery or dacoity when armed with deadly weapon

Section 399:- Making preparation to commit dacoity

Section 400:- Punishment for belonging to gang of dacoits

Section 401:- Punishment for belonging to gang of thieves

Section 402:- Assembling for purpose of committing dacoity

Section 403:- Dishonest misappropriation of property

Section 404:- Dishonest misappropriation of property possessed by deceased person at the time of his death

Section 405:- Criminal breach of trust

Section 406:- Punishment for criminal breach of trust

Section 407:- Criminal breach of trust by carrier, etc.

Section 408:- Criminal breach of trust by clerk or servant

Section 409:- Criminal breach of trust by public servant, or by banker, merchant or agent

Section 410:- Stolen property

Section 411:- Dishonestly receiving stolen property

Section 412:- Dishonestly receiving property stolen in the commission of a dacoity

Section 413:- Habitually dealing in stolen property

Section 414:- Assisting in concealment of stolen property

Section 415:- Cheating

Section 416:- Cheating by personation

Section 417:- Punishment for cheating

Section 418:- Cheating with knowledge that wrongful loss may ensue to person whose interest offender is bound to protect

Section 419:- Punishment for cheating by personation

Section 420:- Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property

Section 421:- Dishonest or fraudulent removal or concealment of property to prevent distribution among creditors

Section 422:- Dishonestly or fraudulently preventing debt being available for creditors

Section 423:- Dishonest or fraudulent execution of deed of transfer containing false statement of consideration

Section 424:- Dishonest or fraudulent removal or concealment of property

Section 425:- Mischief

Section 426:- Punishment for mischief

Section 427:- Mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees

Section 428:- Mischief by killing or maiming animal of the value of ten rupees

Section 429:- Mischief by killing or maiming cattle, etc., of any value or any animal of the

value of fifty rupees

Section 430:- Mischief by injury to works of irrigation or by wrongfully diverting water

Section 431:- Mischief by injury to public road, bridge, river or channel

Section 432:- Mischief by causing inundation or obstruction to public drainage attended with damage

Section 433:- Mischief by destroying, moving or rendering less useful a light-house or sea-mark

Section 434:- Mischief by destroying or moving, etc., a land-mark fixed by public authority

Section 435:- Mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to cause damage to amount of one hundred or (in case of agricultural produce) ten rupees

Section 436:- Mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent destroy house, etc.

Section 437:- Mischief with intent to destroy or make unsafe a decked vessel or one of twenty tons burden

Section 438:- Punishment for the mischief described in section 437 committed by fire or explosive substance

Section 439:- Punishment for intentionally running vessel aground or ashore with intent to commit theft, etc.

Section 440:- Mischief committed after preparation made for causing death or hurt

Section 441:- Criminal trespass

Section 442:- House-trespass

Section 443:- Lurking house-trespass

Section 444:- Lurking house-trespass by night

Section 445:- House-breaking

Section 446:- House-breaking by night

Section 447:- Punishment for criminal trespass

Section 448:- Punishment for house-trespass

Section 449:- House-trespass in order to commit offence punishable with death

Section 450:- House-trespass in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment for life

Section 451:- House-trespass in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment

Section 452:- House-trespass after preparation for hurt, assault or wrongful restraint

Section 453:- Punishment for lurking house-trespass or house-breaking

Section 454:- Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment

Section 455:- Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking after preparation for hurt, assault or wrongful restraint

Section 456:- Punishment for lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night

Section 457:- Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment

Section 458:- Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night after preparation for hurt, assault, or wrongful restraint

Section 459:- Grievous hurt caused whilst committing lurking house-trespass or house-breaking

Section 460:- All persons jointly concerned in lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night punishable where death or grievous hurt caused by one of them

Section 461:- Dishonestly breaking open receptacle containing property

Section 462:- Punishment for same offence when committed by person entrusted with custody

1.3. Crime against Property in India

The number of cases of property crime has been increasing in India over the years. The table below shows the number of cases of crime against property during the period 2001 to 2015.

Table: Number of Cases of Crime against Property in India (2001-2015)¹³

Year	Theft	Burglary	Robbery	Dacoity
2001	2,46,005	97,191	18,605	5,656
2002	2,41,162	92,880	17,914	5,792
2003	2,38,966	89,730	16,722	5,135
2004	2,66,554	89,206	17,513	5,072
2005	2,63,595	87,412	16,950	5,007

¹³ National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, www.ncrb.nic.in

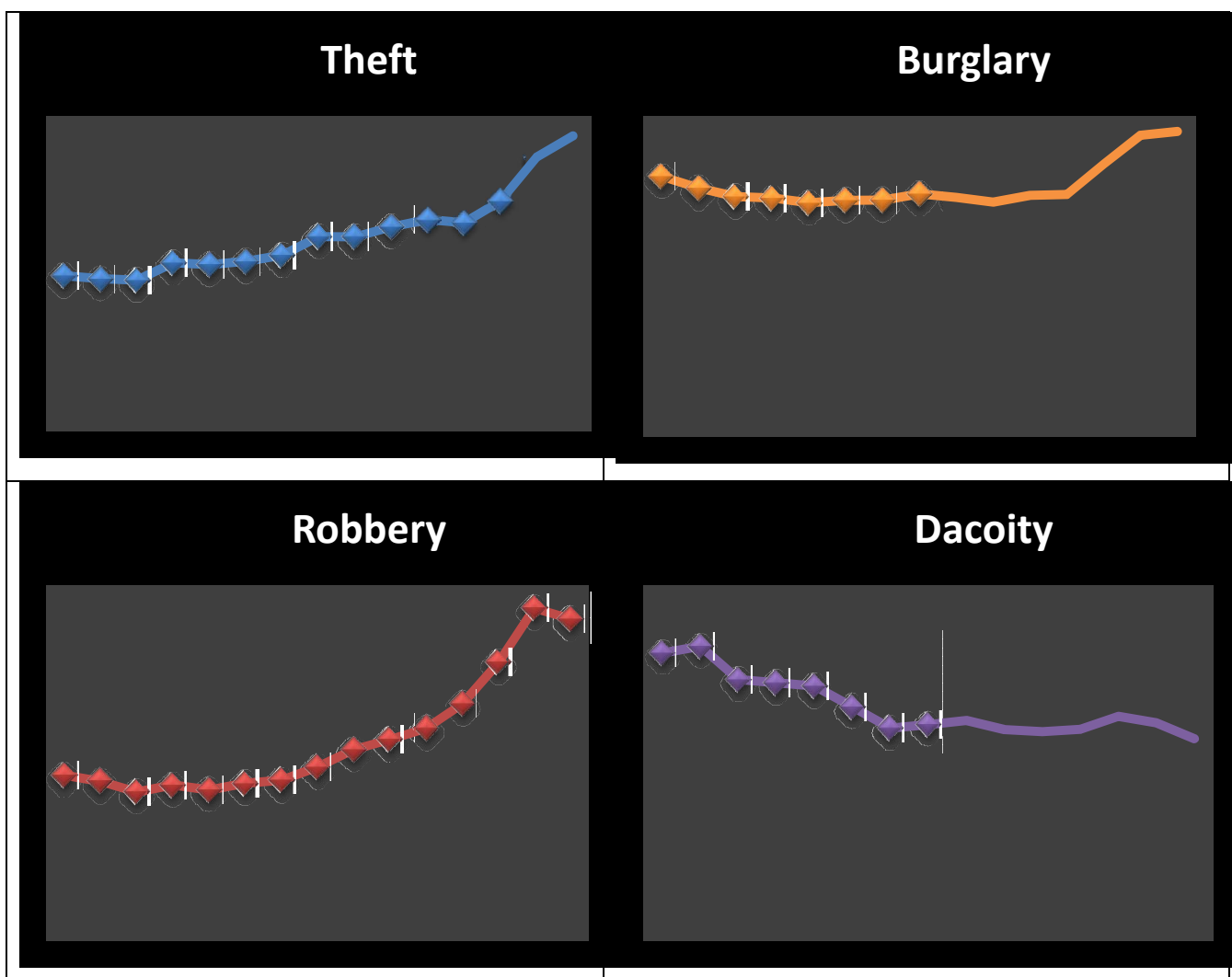
2006	2,68,714	88,317	17,723	4,599
2007	2,78,455	88,366	18,059	4,180
2008	3,08,149	90,707	19,522	4,251
2009	3,07,620	89,368	21,503	4,332
2010	3,23,721	87,595	22,614	4,154
2011	3,35,049	90,122	23,887	4,111
2012	3,29,840	90,532	26,631	4,155
2013	3,64,302	1,01,821	31,251	4,411
2014	4,34,235	1,12,714	37,377	4,287
2015	4,67,833	1,14,123	36,188	3,972

From the Table above, it can be seen that most of crimes against property in India involves theft and the number of such cases are increasing over the years. In fact, from 2001 to 2015, the number of cases of theft increased by 90 per cent (see Table below). Next to theft, cases of burglary are mostly reported from across India and such cases have increased by 17 per cent from 2001 to 2015. The number of cases of robbery is less than that of theft and burglary, but such cases have increased by 95 per cent during the same duration. The only property crime whose number of cases has come down is of dacoity. From 5,656 cases in 2001, it has come down to 3,972 in 2015 (a drop of 30 per cent). Chapter 4 of this report presents a comparative analysis of various types of property crime across various states of India, as well as in Guwahati city and Kamrup district.

Table: Rate of Growth of Property Crimes (2001-2015)

Rate of Growth (2001-2015)	
Theft	90%
Burglary	17%
Robbery	95%
Dacoity	-30%

The graph below shows the trend of growth of cases of different types of property crime between 2001 and 2015. It can be seen from the graphs that number of cases of theft has grown steadily over the years, while the number of cases of burglary has increased during the last three years. The number of cases of robbery too has been increasing steadily, with a slight drop in 2015, whereas there has been a steady decline in the number of dacoity cases.



Graph: Trend of Property Crime Cases in India (2001-2015)

1.4. Factors behind Crime against Property

Crime against property is one of the most common crimes around the world. There are many causes of property crime. Some of them are as follows:

(a) Lack of Education

Lack of education can be termed as one of the major factor leading to crime against property. Low levels of education makes a person ineligible for many a decent jobs, which in turns leads to unemployment and subsequently lower levels of income. These factors together combine to make a person turn to crime to make a living.

(b) Poverty and Unemployment

Various studies have found that property crime is more common in areas where poverty and unemployment is high. This indicates that there is a correlation between crime and poverty. When people with lower incomes see items, such as mobiles, laptops, etc. in a freely accessible area, they are more likely to steal the items. The combination of poverty with opportunity leads to property crime.

(c) Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is another factor. People who are addicted to drugs or alcohol will steal to gain funds to fuel their addiction. In addition, drug and alcohol addiction leads to lowering of inhibitions and isolation from mainstream social standards. The combination of physical need for a drug with low social conformity encourages criminal activity.

(d) Influence of Friends

Most people found guilty of property crime are of young age i.e. less than 30 years of age, a fact which was corroborated during the field survey undertaken during this current research study. Many of the young persons in this age group are drawn to crime due to the influence of their friends. The need to belong to a group or groups in this age is immense. Added to this is the desire to keep up with latest trends in clothing, footwear and gadgets. As society becomes more materialistic, the pressure on young people is more intense. The desperation for acceptance can lead to them stealing items to procure such items. Thus peer group pressure can lead to property crime.

(e) Material Gains

The desire for material gain (money or expensive belongings) also leads to property crimes. Showing off latest gadgets or the desire to buy expensive clothing may lead people to get involved in crime.

(f) Family Life

The circumstances in the family could also act as one of the contributing factors leading to crime against property. The family is looked upon as a powerful cause of forming good or bad personality developments. The task of a family is to socialize an individual and to impart social rules and to develop the individual culturally, so that the individual becomes a responsible citizen. But, under certain circumstance, this family responsibility fails and the members of the family tend to become criminals.

(g) Lack of Security

One of the primary causes of property crime is inadequate security, including lack of alarm systems. In many cases of property crime, police had observed that windows or doors had been unlocked or alarm systems were inactive. Property crime is opportunistic. Burglars will target homes that have little or no security. They also enter homes that appear unoccupied. These places are chosen because there is little chance of apprehension. Effective home security systems can combat property crimes.

The factors mentioned above are mainly responsible for property crime around the world. The current study too made an assessment of various factors responsible for crime against property in Guwahati city as well as Kamrup district. These factors are analyzed in Chapter 4 and 5 of this report.

Chapter 2

Research Methodology

2.1. Objectives of the Study

The study had the following objectives:

- To study the magnitude of crime against property in Kamrup District
- To understand socio-economic and community affiliation of the convicted
- To understand the role of psycho-social-cultural factors in crime against property
- To recommend viable alternative mode of intervention, besides policing, to prevent attraction towards crime

2.2. Coverage

The study covered the city of Guwahati and Kamrup district.

2.3. Sampling Procedure

Stratified Random Sampling

2.4. Sample Size

There were two types of respondents in the field survey. The first category was of victims of property crime, while the second category comprised of people who were convicted of property crime.

The sample size for the first category (victims) was 120. These were persons who have personally been victims or their households have been victims of property crime. These persons were selected from a sample base collected from the FIRs filed by the citizens in different police stations in

Guwahati. It was ascertained that the selection was made in such a way that people living in various parts of Guwahati were selected for interview.

The sample size for second category (convicts) was 30. All of these respondents were housed in the Guwahati Central Jail. Necessary permission was taken from the Jail authorities before commencing the interview with the respondents. The answers provided by the respondents about their crime were cross-checked with the jail records.

2.5. Data Collection

The study involved data collection from both primary and secondary sources.

Primary Sources of Data

Two structured questionnaire were prepared to collect data from the field. Questionnaire I targeted the victims of crime against property. The questionnaire had a total of 33 questions, with a few more sub-questions. It had both close-ended and open-ended questions. The questionnaire also recorded the socio-economic data of the respondent.

Questionnaire II was targeted at the convicts. It had a total of 31 questions, with a few more sub-questions. It also had both close-ended and open-ended questions and recorded the socio-economic data of the respondent.

Secondary Sources of Data:

Government and NGO reports; Books and Journals; Websites and Web Journals; Media Reports.

2.6. Data Processing

Data entry and processing was done using the software called SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). The information collected from the sample areas chosen were tabulated to provide continuity in data sets. The assumption underlying the approach is that the data collected from the sample areas can be transformed and aggregated to shed light on the general issue under study. The next phase involved processing of the data and its analysis.

2.7. Limitations of the Study

The study faced various limitations during data collection and field survey. The lack of digitization of data related to crime against property was a big hurdle in collecting data of the last ten years in Guwahati city and Kamrup district. Neither the police nor the courts had digitized their data. CDPS researchers had to manually collect data from the police stations as well as courts. However, data could only be collected for the five year period between 2009 and 2013. Here also there was a mismatch between the data collected from police and the data gathered from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports. In the report, data collected from Assam Police and the court has been used to represent data of Guwahati city and Kamrup district, while NCRB data has been used to represent data of Assam.

Data regarding chargesheets and conviction were not provided by the police and the court because of which analysis of trend of chargesheets and conviction for crime against property in Kamrup and Guwahati could not be carried out. The study, however, was able to analyze conviction rate and chargesheeting rate of Assam and the other states through data collected from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports.

It was also a tough task to find people convicted of property crime and then persuading them to give an interview. CDPS took necessary permission from the jail authorities for interviewing inmates convicted of crime against property, but even then there were not many inmates who were in jail for such crimes. Addresses were collected of former convicts who had served jail term for crime against property but while in some cases the addresses were wrong, in other cases, the persons no longer stayed at that place. In some cases, the people lived in places too far away from Guwahati, and as such it was not feasible to cover them under the survey.

Also, most of the convicts interviewed during the field survey did not provide the address of their families, while in some cases, the family members of the convicts refused to give their views. So, the views of the convict's family members could not be collected.

Also, even though the answers given by the convicts about their crime were cross-checked with the jail records, there was no way to verify all the details provided by them about the crimes they committed or in some cases, as they say, did not commit. Also, many respondents refused to answer

certain questions about the crimes they had committed. The responses to these questions had to be recorded as 'no opinion'.

Chapter 3

Literature Review

There are very few research studies that have delved into the magnitude of property crime in an area or state. Though statistics for such types of crime are available, there has been no systematic analysis of such data. However, some studies have been undertaken around the world that have analyzed the social and psychological factors behind property crime as well as the methods in which such crime are committed. This chapter presents the findings of some such earlier studies.

In a research study titled “*How unemployment affects serious property crime: A national case-control study*”¹⁴, the researchers Gary Kleck and Dylan Jackson considered four types of joblessness. The first type was individuals not having a full-time job but actively seeking one. The second type was individuals working part-time but wanting to work full-time. The third type of joblessness involved being out of the workforce for reasons that are generally considered socially acceptable, for example, being retired or disabled or working in the home, caring for small children, etc. The fourth category of jobless people were those not looking for work and also do not meet the characteristics of the other three categories.

The study, published in the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*,¹⁵ focused on criminal cases taken from the 2004 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities in the United States, which is an in-prison survey of a national probability sample of prison inmates. The authors specifically analyzed information related to adult inmates at state prisons who had been convicted of robbery or burglary. The researchers compared information collected from inmates to a control group of non-institutionalized U.S. adults. The samples the researchers used included 476 robbers, 325 burglars and 5,582 members of the general U.S. adult population.

14 How unemployment affects serious property crime: A national case-control study

<https://journalistsresource.org/studies/government/criminal-justice/unemployment-property-crime-burglary>

15 Kleck, Gary; Jackson, Dylan. "What Kind of Joblessness Affects Crime? A National Case-Control Study of Serious Property Crime," *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 2016. doi: 10.1007/s10940-016-9282-0.

Their key findings suggested:

- People who are among the fourth category of joblessness – those who are out of the labour force for reasons that generally are not socially acceptable and who also are not looking for work – are most likely to commit burglary. These individuals also are significantly more likely to commit robbery.
- People who are unemployed and seeking work are more likely to commit robbery or burglary than individuals with full-time jobs.
- Individuals who are underemployed are likely to be involved in a burglary than someone who is working full-time.
- Being jobless can influence age groups differently. Someone who is between the ages of 18 and 29 and falls within the fourth category of joblessness is more than four times more likely to commit burglary than someone who is older than 30 and in the same category of joblessness. The odds ratio is more than three times higher in the case of robbery.

Another study titled “*Unemployment and Property Crimes in Pakistan*”¹⁶ examined the relationship between unemployment and property crimes in Pakistan covering the period from 1975 to 2008.

Crime Statistics of Pakistan reports that there is a rapid increase in the number of crimes just like other countries of the world. It may be associated to both economic and non-economic factors but economic factors are considered to be more important than other ones. The rise in crimes is not only concerned with illiterate and poor class of society but a pool of rich, educated and influential people is also involved in crimes.

The study revealed that unemployment has long-run relationship with property crimes. The study states that unemployment in Pakistan has led to increase in dacoity, robbery, theft and cattle theft in

16 Unemployment and Property Crimes in Pakistan
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Rana_Khan6/publication/227368250_Unemployment_and_Property_Crimes_in_Pakistan/links/02e7e52f209e51c013000000/Unemployment-and-Property-Crimes-in-Pakistan.pdf

the country. The finding of the study supports the hypothesis that due to wide spread unemployment in the country there is promotion of property crimes.

The study also suggests that policies aimed at improving the employment prospects of workers can be an effective tool for combating property crime. As the property crimes are assumed to be based on economic reasons, the unemployment allowances and collateral free loaning for employment may contribute to slide down the crimes, the study suggested.

In 2016, KGW News¹⁷, Portland, USA, asked 86 burglars how they broke into homes. The KGW's investigative team sent letters to 86 inmates currently serving time for burglary in the Oregon Department of Corrections in the US. The inmates were asked to respond anonymously to 17 questions detailing how they broke in, when the crime occurred and what they were looking for.

The survey found the following facts:

- Most inmates broke in through an unlocked door or window
- Jewellery, electronics, cash and credit cards are all attractive to burglars. Inmates also added collectibles and guns
- Most burglars started by searching the master bedroom for valuables, then moved through the rest of the house
- Burglars prefer breaking in early morning or afternoon
- Burglars had mixed opinions about home security signs. Some burglars said it didn't faze them. Others said they knew how to disable alarms or avoid setting them off
- If a homeowner had a big, loud dog, most burglars would stay away
- All inmates who responded said they would knock on the front door before breaking in
- Most intruders said they would leave immediately if a security alarm went off
- Generally, burglars agreed security cameras were a deterrent. But some said it also likely signalled there were valuables inside the home
- Responses were mixed regarding lights on in a home. Some said it was a deterrent. But one burglar said the combination of lights on and blinds closed created an attractive location
- Most burglars feared someone might be home if they heard a radio or TV. They wouldn't break-in

¹⁷ We asked 86 burglars how they broke into homes, <http://www.kgw.com/news/investigations/we-asked-86-burglars-how-they-broke-into-homes/344213396>

- Almost all of the burglars said they'd think twice if there was a car in the driveway
- Some burglars did surveillance before a burglary, while others did not
- Of those burglars who did surveillance, most agreed they were looking for the best opportunity to break-in

Many statistical studies support the theory of a link between addiction to illegal drugs and criminal activity. A report published in 1995 by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, Canada, stated that most crimes against property (such as theft, break and enter, and fraud, are committed by drug users in order to feed their habit.¹⁸

A 1999 study by Brochu et al.¹⁹ showed that nearly two-thirds of federal inmates in Canada had used drugs on the day of the crime for which they were incarcerated. All these inmates have said to have committed their crime in order to get money to buy drugs. That was the case for inmates who had committed the following crimes - theft (more than 83 per cent), robbery (78 per cent), fraud (70 per cent), and break and enter (68 per cent). The study also appears to confirm a strong link between the use of expensive drugs and the commission of criminal acts. Approximately 68 per cent of cocaine users who answered the questionnaire reported that they had committed their crimes in order to get the money they needed to buy drugs.

In another study titled "*The impact of crime on property values: Research roundup*"²⁰, researcher Martin Maximino writes that all criminal behaviour imposes direct costs to the victim and indirect costs to society at large. Some secondary impacts are harder than others to verify, however, in particular the wider economic effects that can ripple outward after a crime. Residents can avoid dangerous neighborhoods, go outside less or move elsewhere, but research has shown that criminal activity can shift between neighbourhoods in ways that resemble infectious diseases. Surveillance systems have been shown to reduce crime, but only in certain contexts, and questions of whether they merely displace crime require more study.

¹⁸ Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, Canadian Drug Perspective – 1995

¹⁹ S. Brochu, L.G. Cournoyer, L. Motiuk and K. Pernaen, "Drugs, Alcohol and Crime: Patterns among Canadian Federal Inmates," Bulletin on Narcotics, Vol. LI, No. 1 and 2, 1999, pp. 57-73

²⁰ The impact of crime on property values: Research roundup, <https://journalistsresource.org/studies/economics/real-estate/the-impact-of-crime-on-property-values-research-roundup>

Keith Ihlanfeldt and Tom Mayock of Florida State University note that the connection between crime and property values has a large research literature associated with it, but many studies are hampered by the fact that it is difficult to isolate the precise variables and attribute declines in value directly to crime. Their 2010 study published in *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, “Panel Data Estimates of the Effects of Different Types of Crime on Housing Prices,” finds that, among seven categories of crime studied, “only robbery and aggravated assault crimes (per acre) exert a meaningful influence upon neighbourhood housing values.”

The size of the potential effects of crime on property values is explored in a 2012 report by the Center for American Progress. It looked at the direct and indirect costs of homicide in eight U.S. metropolitan areas: Seattle, Milwaukee, Houston, Dallas, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago and Jacksonville. The direct annual costs of violent crime in the eight cities totalled \$3.7 billion per year, an average of \$320 per person per year. The impact on property values was also substantial, and the study indicates that a 10 per cent reduction in homicides would lead to a 0.83 per cent increase in housing values the following year.

These associations may of course vary in different socio-economic localities, and be region or country-specific. A 2012 report by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, “Crime, House Prices, and Inequality,” looks at how the issue plays out in Latin America. The authors found that a decrease of crime generated by heightened policing in Rio de Janeiro contributed to a fall in crime and a rise in property values: Homicides dropped 10 per cent to 25 per cent and robberies 10 per cent and 20 per cent, while the selling price of the properties increased between 5 per cent and 10 per cent — and was proportionally higher in low-income neighbourhoods. In addition, the study found significant evidence to state that from 2008 to mid-2011, increased policing generated a 15 per cent increase in formal property transactions.

Thus, going through the research studies done earlier, it can be ascertained that poverty and unemployment plays a major role behind property crime. Substance abuse can also be seen as one of the main reasons behind committing of such crimes. The field survey results of this current study too conformed to these findings (see Chapter 5). A few studies have also found that the cost of property too is impacted if a neighbourhood is affected by crime against property.

Chapter 4

Crime against Property in Guwahati, Kamrup, Assam and India: A Comparative Analysis

4.1. Crime against Property in Guwahati City

Guwahati city, spread over an area of 262 sq. km²¹, is the largest city in Northeast India. One of the fastest growing cities in India²², Guwahati has a population of around 2.4 million people and a floating population of about three lakh²³. While the city is growing in terms of development, there has also been rise in the number of incidents of crime. And this includes rise in the number of cases of crime against property.

The table below shows the number of cases of property crime during the period 2009 to 2013. From the table, it can be seen that the highest number of property crime that takes place in Guwahati is of theft, where it has grown from 1728 cases in 2009 to 2295 cases in 2013. A report in *The Assam Tribune*²⁴, dated 20 August 2017, states that the city had witnessed 3030 cases of theft in the year 2016, which means that there were almost 10 thefts each day in Guwahati in 2016. The same report states that during the first five months of 2017 (January to May), 1050 cases of theft were reported in Guwahati, which means almost 20 thefts per day.

Table: Number of Property Crime Cases in Guwahati City (2009-2013)²⁵

Type of Crime	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Theft	1728	2036	2236	2426	2295
Burglary	631	716	696	816	828

²¹ Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA), <http://www.gmda.co.in/glance.php>

²² "Guwahati's landscape to change with satellite towns, BRT systems", *The Assam Tribune*, 17 June 2010, <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun1610/at036>

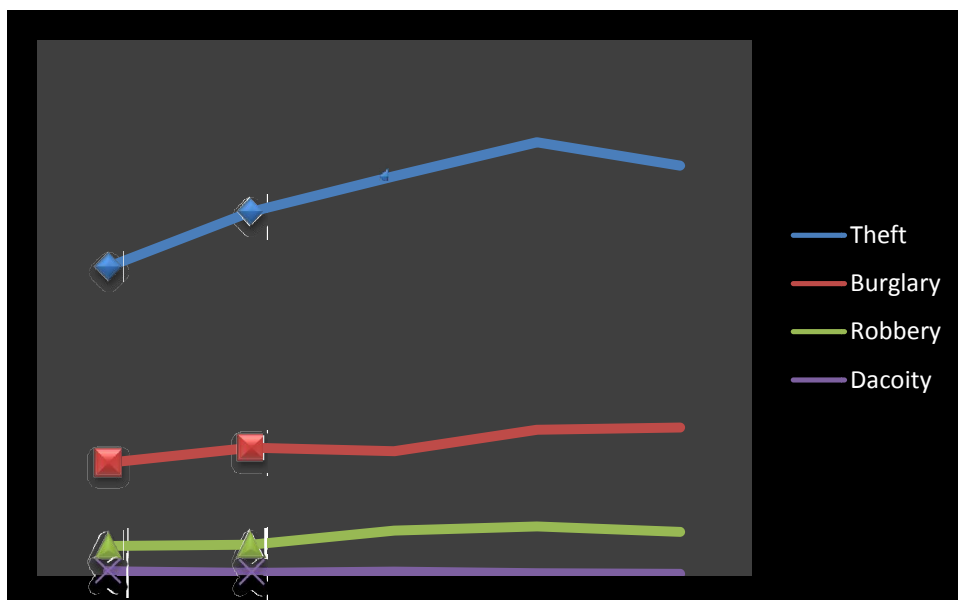
²³ "GMDA awaits govt nod to conduct study for metro rail", *The Times of India*, 25 August 2013, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/GMDA-awaits-govt-nod-to-conduct-study-for-metro-rail/articleshow/22046462.cms>

²⁴ "Police in Slumber as thieves have a field day", *The Assam Tribune*, 20 August 2017, www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug2017/city055

²⁵ Source: Assam Police, Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Guwahati, and National Crime Records Bureau

Robbery	165	172	252	275	244
Dacoity	24	15	22	14	10

The next highest number of recorded property crime is of burglary. It too has increased from 631 cases in 2009 to 828 in 2013. The same Assam Tribune report states that in 2016, there were 950 cases of burglary²⁶, which amounts to almost three incidents per day. The first five months of 2017 witnessed 400 burglary cases, which mean 8 cases per day. This shows how property crime cases are increasing in Guwahati. The number of cases of robbery, though less than that of theft and burglary, too is on the rise. The only property crime which has declined over the years is that of dacoity.



Graph: Trend of Property Crimes in Guwahati city (2009-2013)

Guwahati has also seen a few high-profile robberies or burglaries in 2017, like the one at the MP Jewellers and the Titan showroom on the busy GS Road (now renamed as Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva Path). All these indicate that Guwahati is becoming a hotbed of property crime.

While there is no official estimate as to the total value of property loss in such cases in Guwahati, it has been seen that the rate of recovery of stolen items too is very poor. This fact was corroborated during the field survey undertaken during this survey, where majority of the victims of property crime said that their stolen property was not recovered.

²⁶ Ibid.

There are many factors which have led to a spurt in property crime cases in Guwahati. The city has been witnessing a rise in population and rapid urbanization is bringing more and more people here every year. A sizeable chunk of the population here does not have decent jobs nor are they highly educated. Many of them are of poor financial background. Apart from this, there is a cost of living associated with staying in a growing city like Guwahati. These factors combine to make some people turn to crime to fuel their needs.

Another issue that some respondents mentioned during the field survey is that many crimes against property seem to have been perpetrated by people who may be illegal migrants. These include persons working at construction sites or as rickshaw pullers, etc. These people are from an economically disadvantaged position and lack access to basic health, educational and housing facilities. It is also alleged that many of them do not have proper verifiable proof of address. Thus, presence of possible illegal migrants too has some role in the rise of crimes against property in the city.

Substance abuse too is a big motivator for property crime in Guwahati city. A 2014 study titled "*Substance Abuse amongst the Street-children in Guwahati City, Assam*"²⁷ has found that around 80 per cent of the street children they had surveyed were found to be substance abusers and majority of them have never gone to school. Many of these street children were involved in cases of theft and burglary. During the field survey for this study too it was found that majority of the convicts were substance abusers (see Chapter 5 for details).

Social media too is helping criminals find their target. According to a study done by Pew Research Centre in the Unites States in 2013, 78 per cent of burglars admitted that they used social media to seek out their victims²⁸. Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, all operate with geotags which could reveal the exact whereabouts of their victims, thus informing potential burglars when they are away from home. Though such incidents are still less in Guwahati but use of social media by criminal gangs in the city to scout their targets cannot be totally ruled out.

²⁷ F Islam, S Kar, A Debroy, and R Sarma, "Substance Abuse amongst the Street-children in Guwahati City, Assam", *Annals of Medical and Health Science Research*, 2014 Sep-Oct; 4(Suppl 3): S233–S238, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4212383/>

²⁸ "The Shocking Truth About Social Networking & Crime", <http://socialnomics.net/2014/03/04/the-shocking-truth-about-social-networking-crime/>

Manpower shortage among Guwahati police is another major factor as to why property crime cases are growing in Guwahati. This shortage of manpower is having a negative impact on police patrolling activities. According to Hiren Chandra Nath, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Guwahati, "We lack one-fourth of the staff. This lack (of manpower) is from inspector level to constables."²⁹

Thus, a combination of factors like lack of education, poverty, unemployment, substance abuse and shortage of manpower in police, are fuelling crimes against property in Guwahati city.

4.2. Crime against Property in Kamrup District

Kamrup district (also called Kamrup Rural district) is spread over an area of 2740.74 Sq. Km. and has a population of 15 lakh, as per 2011 census.³⁰ The district too is affected by cases of property crime but not as badly as that of Guwahati city. Here also the highest number of property crime cases involves theft, but the number is almost one-fourth of Guwahati. The number of theft cases have, however, been rising over the years. From 241 theft cases in 2009, it has risen to 463 cases in 2013, a rise of 92 per cent.

Table: Number of Property Crime Cases in Kamrup District (2009-2013)³¹

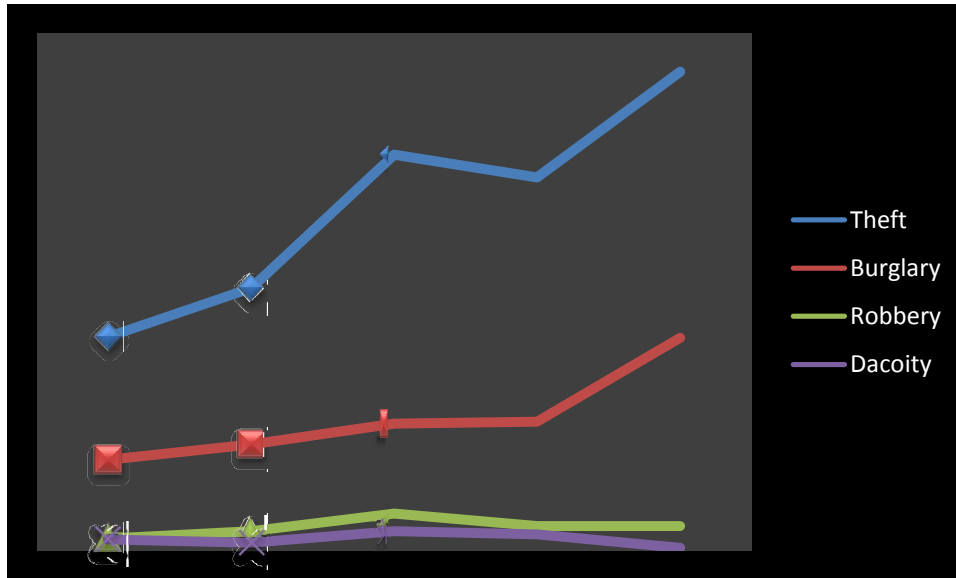
Type of Crime	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Theft	241	254	375	361	463
Burglary	107	103	122	125	206
Robbery	18	19	36	22	24
Dacoity	11	8	19	14	3

The next highest number of property crime cases involves burglary, followed by robbery and dacoity. Of these, the number of cases of dacoity has been on decline, same as in Guwahati city. The number of cases of burglary and robbery are significantly lower than those reported in Guwahati. The number of dacoity cases is low in both Kamrup district and Guwahati city.

²⁹ "City police battle shortage-Men in khaki combat odds to keep vigil", The Telegraph, 26 April 2017, https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170426/jsp/northeast/story_148244.jsp

³⁰ Kamrup district, <http://kamrup.nic.in/>

³¹ Source: Assam Police and National Crime Records Bureau



Graph: Trend of Property Crimes in Kamrup district (2009-2013)

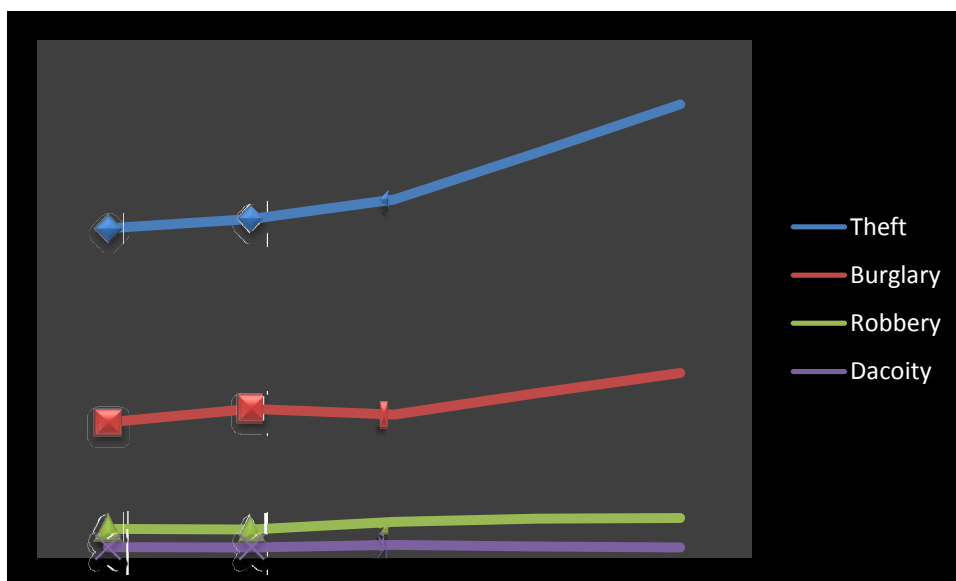
4.3. Crime against Property in Assam

Crime against property cases in Assam reflects a similar trend as that of Guwahati city and Kamrup district. The highest number of cases is that of theft, followed by burglary, robbery and dacoity. Apart from dacoity, the other property crimes have witnessed a rise in Assam too.

Table: Number of Property Crime Cases in Assam (2009-2013)³²

Type of Crime	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Theft	7644	7860	8309	9394	10515
Burglary	3149	3458	3327	3825	4291
Robbery	680	662	837	907	923
Dacoity	251	248	305	266	246

³² Source: National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, www.ncrb.gov.in



Graph: Trend of Property Crimes in Assam (2009-2013)

4.4. Comparative Rate of Growth of Property Crimes in Guwahati, Kamrup and Assam

Now let us have a look at the rate of growth of these four types of property crimes in Guwahati, Kamrup, and Assam as a whole.

From the table below, it can be seen that in all the three heads, there has been an increase in number of theft cases, with the highest increase being recorded in Kamrup district, which displayed a growth of 92.12 per cent. It was followed by Assam as a whole, with a growth rate of 37.56 per cent, while the rate of growth of theft cases in Guwahati was 32.81 per cent.

Table: Rate of Growth of Theft Cases (2009-2013)

Theft	2013	2009	Rate of Growth
Guwahati City	2295	1728	32.81%
Kamrup	463	241	92.12%
Assam	10515	7644	37.56%

Again, in burglary cases, the rate of growth was highest in Kamrup district, where it grew by 92.52 per cent. In Guwahati, burglary cases grew by 31.22 per cent, while in Assam, taking as a whole, it grew by 36.27 per cent.

Table: Rate of Growth of Theft Cases (2009-2013)

Burglary	2013	2009	Rate of Growth
Guwahati City	828	631	31.22%
Kamrup	206	107	92.52%
Assam	4291	3149	36.27%

Guwahati recorded the highest growth in robbery cases between 2009 and 2013, followed by Assam and then Kamrup.

Table: Rate of Growth of Robbery Cases (2009-2013)

Robbery	2013	2009	Rate of Growth
Guwahati City	244	165	47.88%
Kamrup	24	18	33.33%
Assam	923	680	35.74%

The number of dacoity cases decreased in all the three heads. It reduced more than half in Guwahati and Kamrup, while it decreased slightly in Assam overall.

Table: Rate of Growth of Dacoity Cases (2009-2013)

Dacoity	2013	2009	Rate of Growth
Guwahati City	10	24	-58.33%
Kamrup	3	11	-72.73%
Assam	246	251	-1.99%

4.5. Rate of Growth of Property Crimes: Assam and other NE states

Let us now analyze the rate of growth of property crimes in Northeast India. The tables below show the growth rates of theft, burglary, robbery and dacoity between the years 2009 and 2015 in the eight northeastern states as well as in India. Let us analyze these one by one.

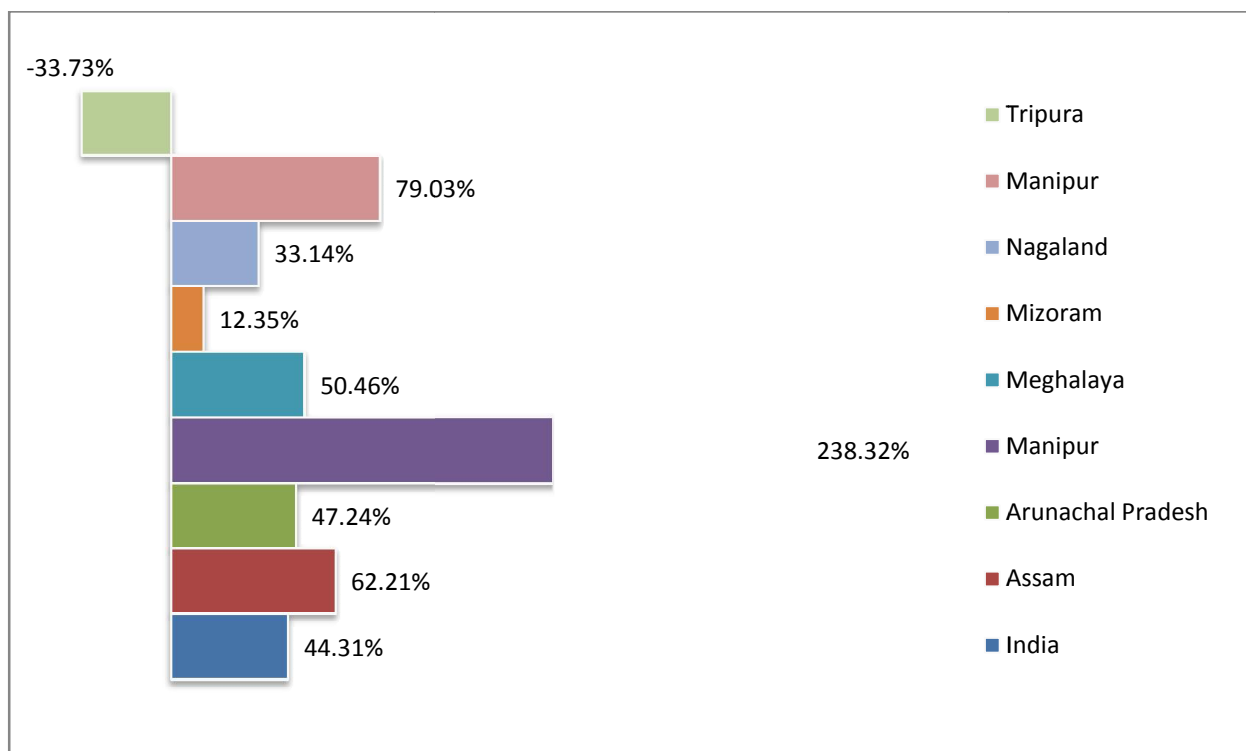
4.5.1. Theft

The highest number of theft cases in Northeast India is reported from Assam, while Sikkim has the lowest number of such cases (see table below). In case of Tripura, the number of cases of theft has come down over the years, the only state in Northeast where this has happened. However, if we consider the rate of growth of theft cases, it can be seen that Manipur has recorded the highest growth of 238.32 per cent, followed by Assam with 62.21 per cent. From the table, it can also be seen that five states of Northeast has higher rate of growth of theft cases, when compared with the growth at the national level.

Table: Rate of Growth of Theft Cases: Assam and NE states (2009-2015)³³

Theft	2015	2009	Rate of Growth
India	467833	324195	44.31%
Assam	12399	7644	62.21%
Arunachal Pradesh	561	381	47.24%
Manipur	1333	394	238.32%
Meghalaya	820	545	50.46%
Mizoram	855	761	12.35%
Nagaland	462	347	33.14%
Sikkim	111	62	79.03%
Tripura	275	415	-33.73%

³³ Ibid.



Graph: Rate of Growth of Theft Cases: Assam and NE states (2009-2015)

4.5.2. Burglary

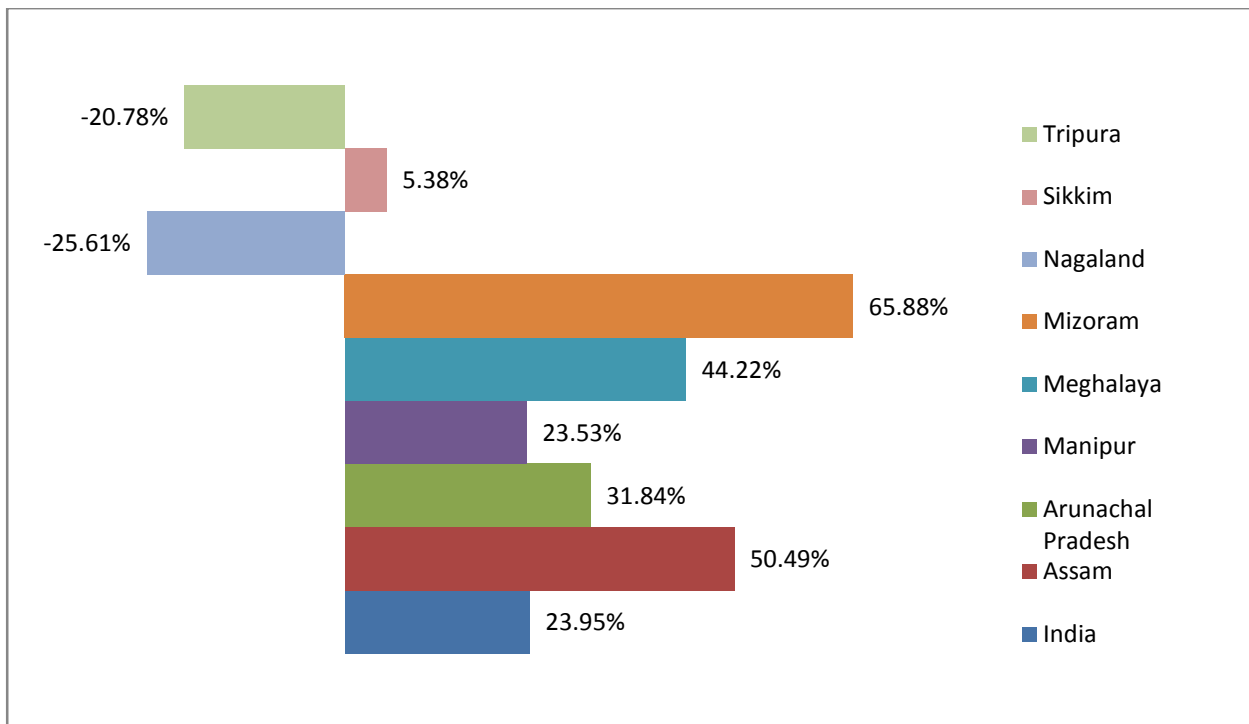
In burglary cases too, Assam has recorded the highest number, followed by Mizoram. The number of burglary cases has gone down in Nagaland and Tripura between 2009 and 2015. With regards to the rate of growth of burglary cases, Mizoram has seen the highest growth, followed by Assam.

Table: Rate of Growth of Burglary Cases: Assam and NE states (2009-2015)³⁴

Burglary	2015	2009	Rate of Growth
India	114123	92070	23.95%
Assam	4739	3149	50.49%
Arunachal Pradesh	265	201	31.84%
Manipur	84	68	23.53%
Meghalaya	212	147	44.22%

³⁴ Ibid.

Mizoram	632	381	65.88%
Nagaland	61	82	-
			25.61%
Sikkim	98	93	5.38%
Tripura	183	231	-
			20.78%



Graph: Rate of Growth of Burglary Cases: Assam and NE states (2009-2015)

4.5.3. Robbery

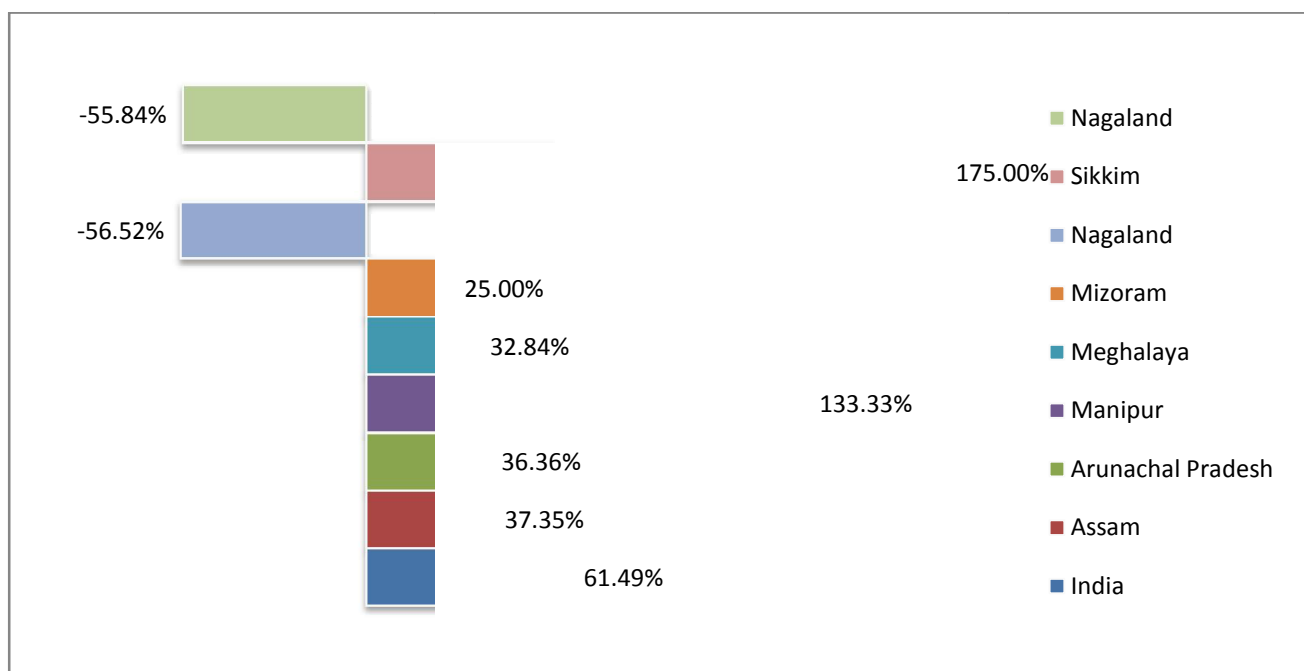
Assam has the highest number of robbery cases, followed by Meghalaya. Similarly like in the case with burglary cases, the number of robbery cases too has gone down in Nagaland and Tripura. Also, if we see the table below, it can be seen that the rate of growth of robbery cases is high in Sikkim and Manipur, but the number of such cases is not high.

Table: Rate of Growth of Robbery Cases: Assam and NE states (2009-2015)³⁵

Robbery	2015	2009	Rate of
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³⁵ Ibid.

	Growth		
India	36188	22409	61.49%
Assam	934	680	37.35%
Arunachal Pradesh	75	55	36.36%
Manipur	7	3	133.33%
Meghalaya	89	67	32.84%
Mizoram	5	4	25.00%
Nagaland	40	92	-56.52%
Sikkim	11	4	175.00%
Tripura	34	77	-55.84%



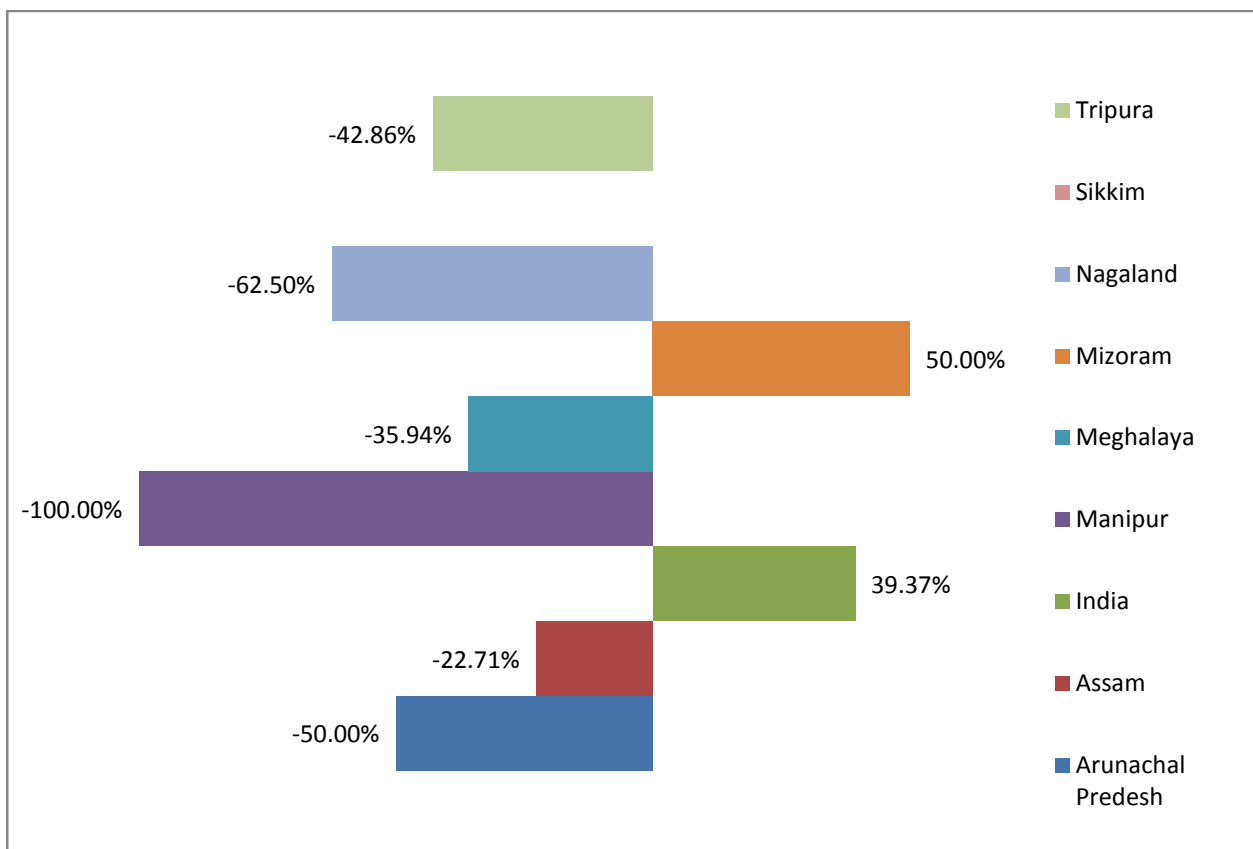
Graph: Rate of Growth of Robbery Cases: Assam and NE states (2009-2015)

4.5.4. Dacoity

The highest number of dacoity has been recorded in Assam between 2009 and 2015. However, the number of such cases has fallen over the years in almost all the northeastern states, with no cases of dacoity reported in Sikkim. This is different from the national scenario, where the number of dacoity cases has increased by almost 40 per cent.

Table: Rate of Growth of Dacoity Cases: Assam and NE states (2009-2015)³⁶

Dacoity	2015	2009	Rate of Growth
India	3972	2850	39.37%
Assam	194	251	-22.71%
Arunachal Pradesh	10	20	-50.00%
Manipur	0	1	-100.00%
Meghalaya	41	64	-35.94%
Mizoram	3	2	50.00%
Nagaland	3	8	-62.50%
Sikkim	0	0	0.00%
Tripura	4	7	-42.86%



Graph: Rate of Growth of Dacoity Cases: Assam and NE states (2009-2015)

³⁶ Ibid.

4.6. Rate of Growth of Property Crimes: Assam and other Indian states

Now let us compare the growth rate of property crime cases in Assam and some other Indian states where the number of property crime cases is higher than Assam. The states in consideration here are Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and National Capital Territory of Delhi.

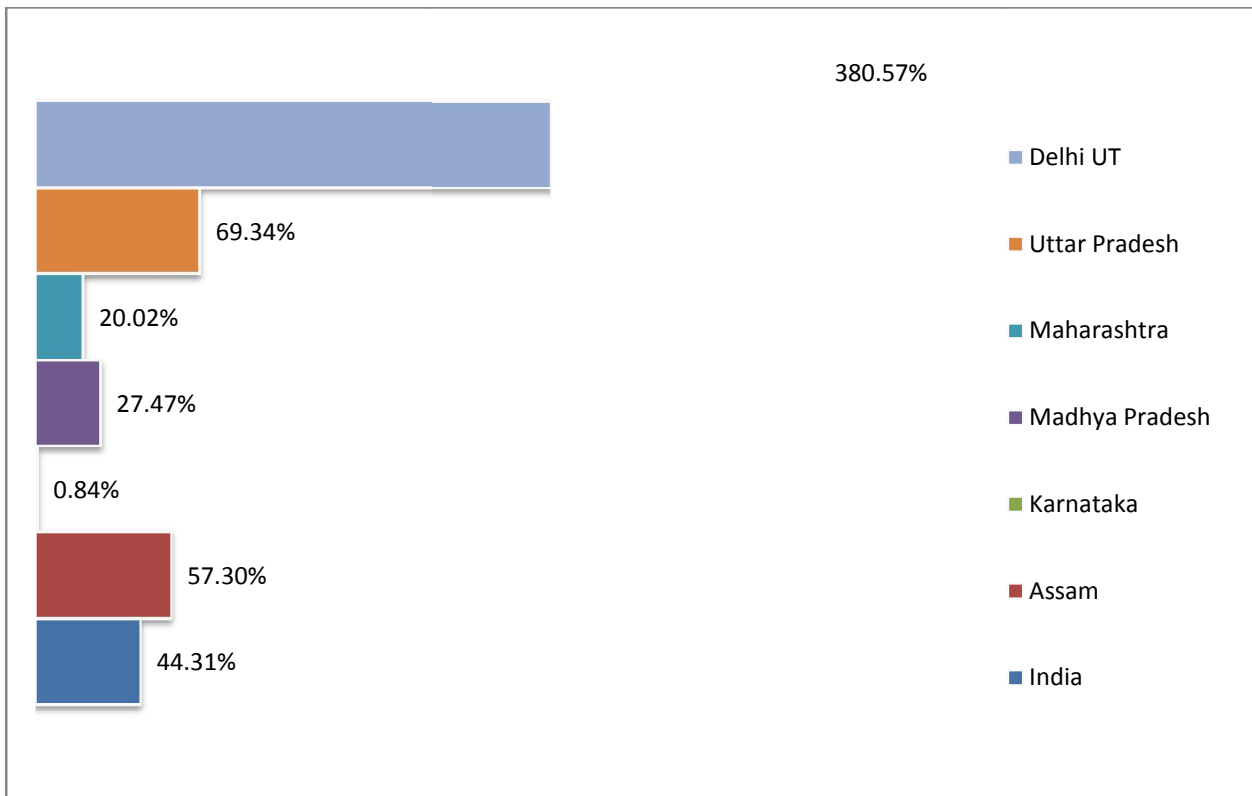
4.6.1. Theft

The rate of growth of theft cases in Assam (57.30 per cent) is higher than the rate of growth witnessed in states like Madhya Pradesh (27.47 per cent), Karnataka (0.84 per cent) and Maharashtra (20.02 per cent). In fact, Assam's growth rate of theft cases is higher than that seen at the national level (44.31 per cent).

Table: Rate of Growth of Theft Cases: Assam and other Indian states (2009-2015)³⁷

	Rate of Growth
India	44.31%
Assam	57.30%
Karnataka	0.84%
Madhya Pradesh	27.47%
Maharashtra	20.02%
Uttar Pradesh	69.34%
Delhi	380.57%

³⁷ Ibid.



Graph: Rate of Growth of Theft Cases: Assam and other Indian states (2009-2015)

4.6.2. Burglary

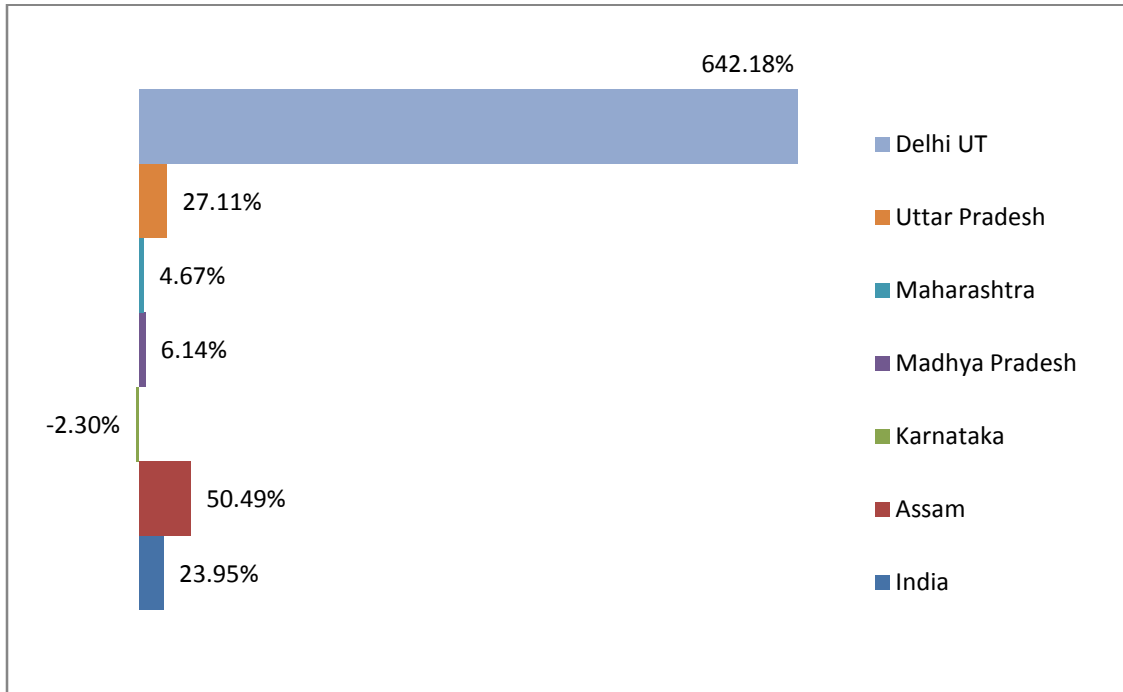
The rate of growth of burglary cases in Assam is also higher than the other states, with only Delhi showing a higher rate of growth. In fact, the growth rate of such cases in Assam is almost double than at the rate in which burglary cases are increasing in India.

Table: Rate of Growth of Burglary Cases: Assam and other Indian states (2009-2015)³⁸

	Rate of Growth
India	23.95%
Assam	50.49%

³⁸ Ibid.

Karnataka	-2.30%
Madhya Pradesh	6.14%
Maharashtra	4.67%
Uttar Pradesh	27.11%
Delhi	642.18%



Graph: Rate of Growth of Burglary Cases: Assam and other Indian states (2009-2015)

4.6.3. Robbery

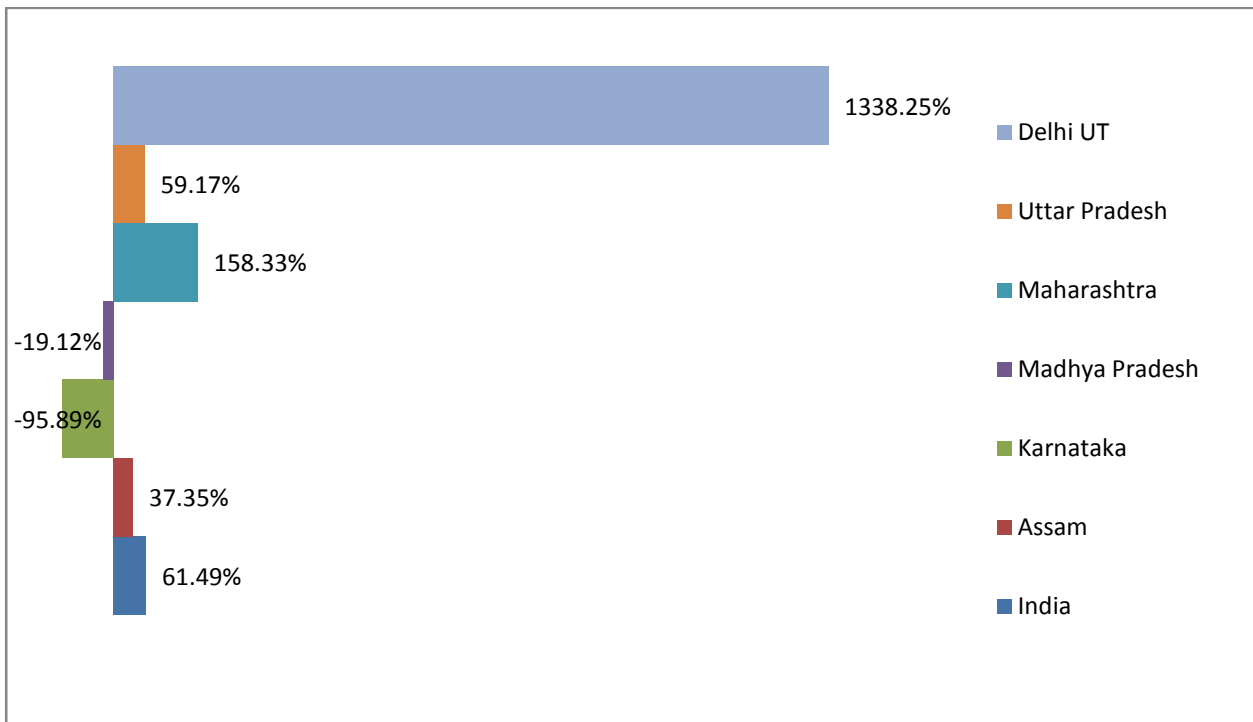
The growth in the number of robbery cases in Assam is less than that of India as a whole. However, while in states like Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, the number of robbery cases are decreasing, in Assam it is increasing over the years.

Table: Rate of Growth of Robbery Cases: Assam and other Indian states (2009-2015)³⁹

	Rate of Growth
India	61.49%

³⁹ Ibid.

Assam	37.35%
Karnataka	-95.89%
Madhya Pradesh	-19.12%
Maharashtra	158.33%
Uttar Pradesh	59.17%
Delhi	1338.25%



Graph: Rate of Growth of Robbery Cases: Assam and other Indian states (2009-2015)

4.6.4. Dacoity

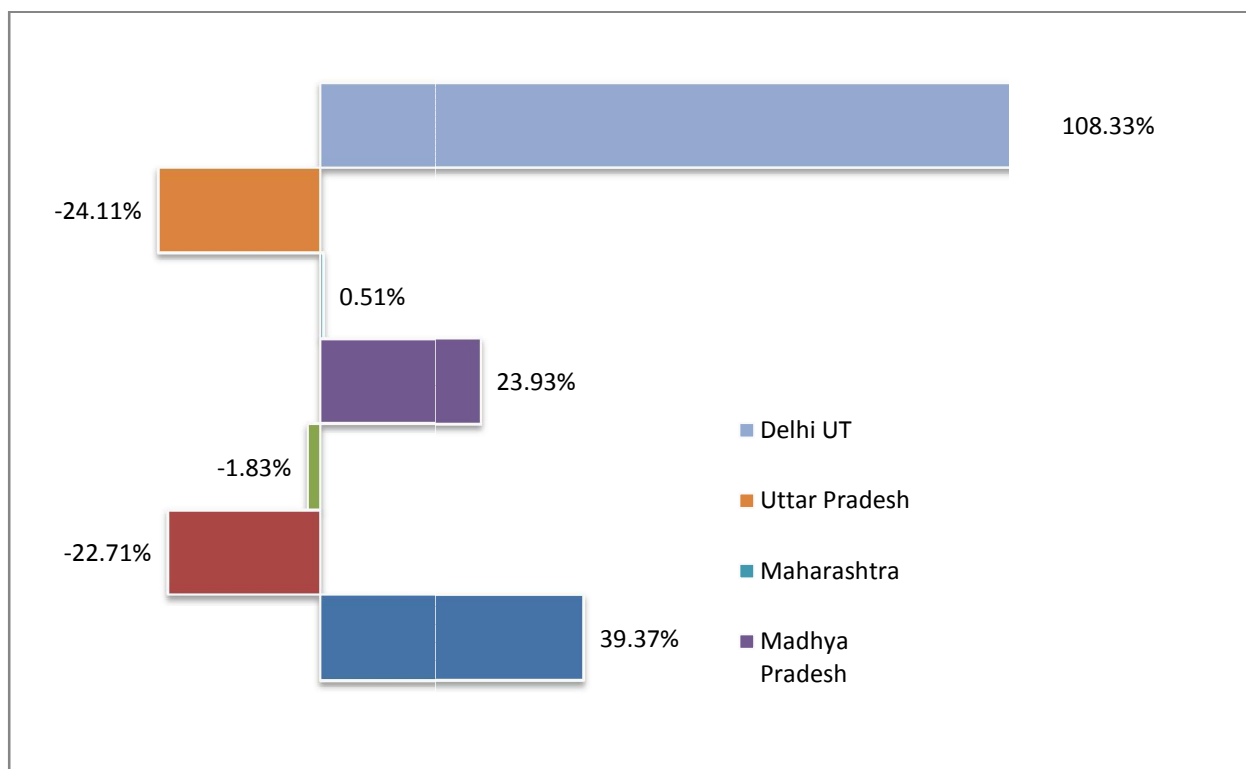
The number of dacoity cases are on a decline in Assam; a trend which is contrary to the national growth.

Table: Rate of Growth of Dacoity Cases: Assam and other Indian states (2009-2015)⁴⁰

	Rate of Growth
India	39.37%
Assam	-22.71%

⁴⁰ Ibid.

Karnataka	-1.83%
Madhya Pradesh	23.93%
Maharashtra	0.51%
Uttar Pradesh	-24.11%
Delhi	108.33%



Graph: Rate of Growth of Dacoity Cases: Assam and other Indian states (2009-2015)

4.7. Rate of Chargesheeting in Property Crime Cases: Assam and India

Let us now analyze the rate of chargesheeting in property crime cases in India and Assam. Chargesheeting Rate means the percentage of cases chargesheeted out of total true cases (cases in which final report submitted).

4.7.1. Theft

The chargesheeting rate in theft cases in Assam is lower than the national average. The rate in both Assam and India has also shown a slight dip over the period from 2009 to 2013. The rates, however, cannot be said to be satisfactory.

Table: Chargesheeting Rate in Theft Cases (2009-2013)

Theft	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
India	38.3	37.7	36.6	34.0	36.2
Assam	35.9	34.8	32.6	32.7	31.8

4.7.2. Burglary

The rate of chargesheeting in burglary cases has seen an increase over the years. The rate in Assam is lower than that of India as a whole.

Table: Chargesheeting Rate in Burglary Cases (2009-2013)

Burglary	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
India	41.8	43.4	43.1	42.1	42.6
Assam	27.9	27.7	30.1	25.2	35.5

4.7.3. Robbery

The chargesheeting rate in robbery cases is better than that of theft or burglary cases. The rate has been almost steady in case of India as a whole, but it has increased manifold in case of Assam.

Table: Chargesheeting Rate in Robbery Cases (2009-2013)

Robbery	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
India	67.7	70.6	69.2	70.7	67.5
Assam	39.6	46.9	53.7	49.5	60.2

4.7.4. Dacoity

The chargesheeting rate in dacoity cases is quite impressive at the national level. However, Assam is yet to catch up with that rate. However, the rate has shown an increasing trend over the years.

Table: Chargesheeting Rate in Dacoity Cases (2009-2013)

Dacoity	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
India	70.5	76.4	72.2	77.8	79.6
Assam	34.0	57.6	59.9	58.8	51.7

4.8. Rate of Conviction in Property Crime Cases: Assam and India

Let us know analyze the rate of conviction in property crime cases in Assam and India. Conviction rate expresses the ratio of cases in which offenders have been convicted against the total number of cases tried in a given year.

4.8.1. Theft

If we see the table below, it can be seen that the conviction rate of Assam is lower than that of India as a whole throughout the period from 2009 to 2013. The rate of conviction is also quite low, whether it is in India as a whole or in Assam. Moreover, the conviction rate has also declined over the years.

Table: Conviction Rate in Theft Cases (2009-2013)⁴¹

Theft	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
India	39.3	37.5	35.0	33.3	33.5
Assam	22.0	21.9	23.4	14.8	12.0

4.8.2. Burglary

In case of burglary too, the conviction rate is low and Assam's rate is lower than that of the national average. Here also, the rate has shown a decreasing trend, with the conviction rate going down three folds in Assam between 2009 and 2013.

Table: Conviction Rate in Burglary Cases (2009-2013)⁴²

⁴¹ Ibid.

Burglary	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
India	36.2	34.5	33.0	29.7	31.5
Assam	24.4	19.0	37.3	11.9	8.4

4.8.3. Robbery

Conviction rate in burglary cases too has been decreasing both in Assam and India. And, Assam has a lower rate of conviction than the national average.

Table: Conviction Rate in Robbery Cases (2009-2013)⁴³

Robbery	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
India	30.3	28.3	29.5	28.6	29.8
Assam	21.9	25.4	24.3	16.2	9.0

4.8.4. Dacoity

Conviction rate in dacoity cases too has been decreasing both in Assam and India as a whole. However, Assam had a higher conviction rate in dacoity cases in 2009 and 2011, but it fell down drastically in 2013.

Table: Conviction Rate in Dacoity Cases (2009-2013)⁴⁴

Dacoity	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
India	22.9	21.9	25.0	21.1	19.7
Assam	26.2	14.3	30.6	20.0	5.8

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

From the analysis it can be seen that while the chargesheeting rate has improved and increased over the years in property crime cases, the conviction rate has however not increased. This is an issue which needs to be sorted out through coordinated action between the police and the judiciary.

Overall, the analysis of the various statistics related to property crime in Assam, Kamrup and Guwahati, shows that there has been a rise in theft and burglary cases but the number of robbery and dacoity cases are less and are going down gradually. This in itself is a little comforting as this means that even though there may be a loss of property, there are less chances of physical violence, which are associated with robbery and dacoity. But this does not mean that the police and citizens can be complacent.

The statistics, however, do not reflect the mental trauma faced by a victim of property crime not does it explain the psyche of an offender. This current study therefore undertook a field survey to understand these issues. The next two chapters of this report present the findings of the field survey that was undertaken among convicts and victims of crime against property.

Chapter 5

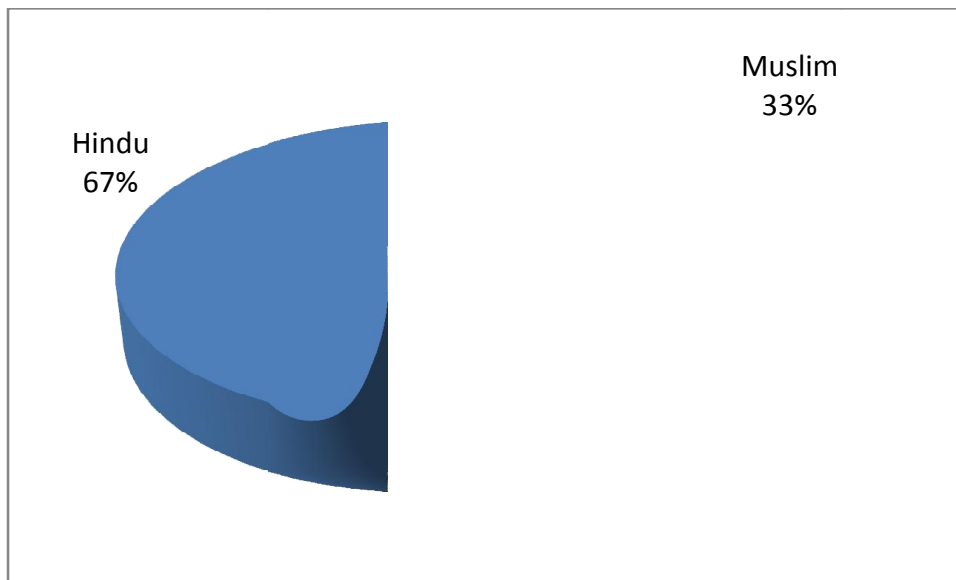
Field Survey Findings: Convicts

As a part of the field survey, 30 persons convicted of crime against property were interviewed. All of these respondents were housed in the Guwahati Central Jail. Necessary permission was taken from the Jail authorities before conducting the interview with the respondents. The answers provided by the respondents about their crime were cross-checked with the jail records. The findings of this survey are analyzed in this chapter.

5.1. Respondent Profile

5.1.1. Gender and Religion

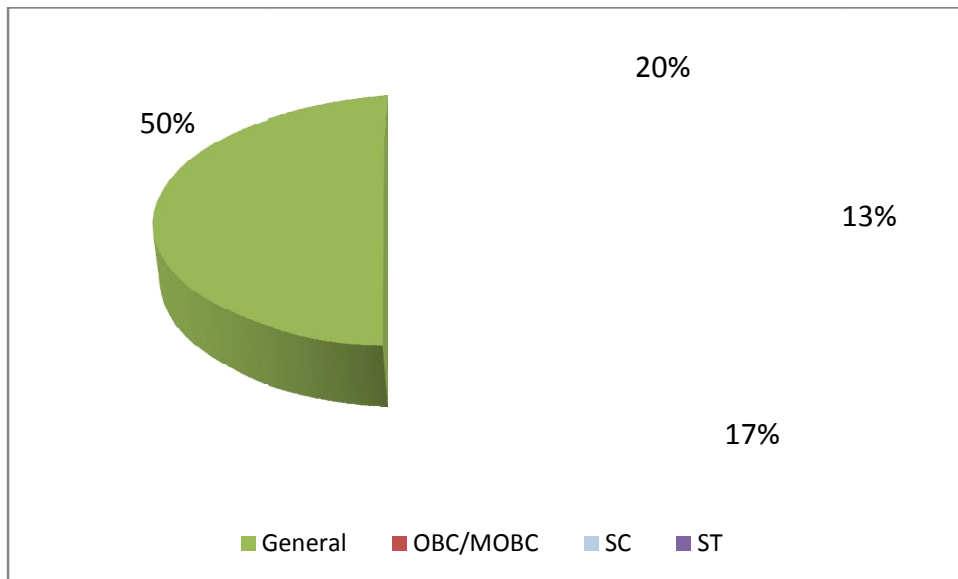
All the respondents interviewed during the survey were male. While 67 per cent of the respondents were Hindu, the rest 33 per cent were Muslim.



Graph: Religion

5.1.2. Caste

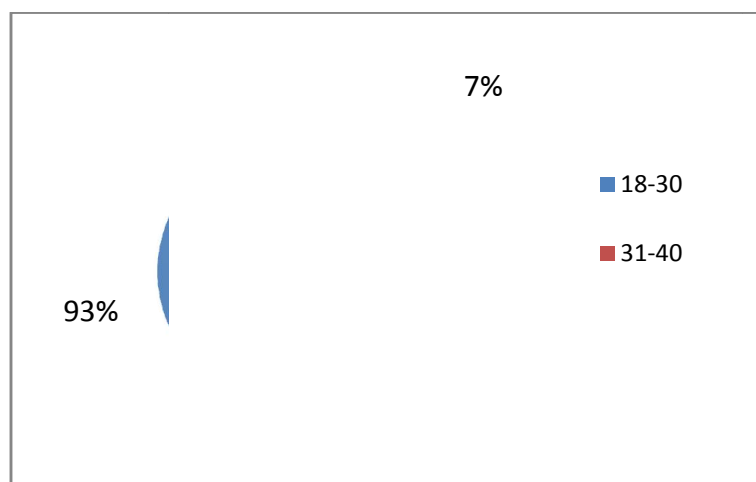
Half of the respondents (50 per cent) belonged to the General caste. Among the rest, 20 per cent were OBC/MOBC, 13 per cent were SC, while the rest 17 per cent were ST. From the religion and caste composition of the convicts, it can be observed that criminals can be found in every strata of the society, irrespective of their religion or caste.



Graph: Caste

5.1.3. Age

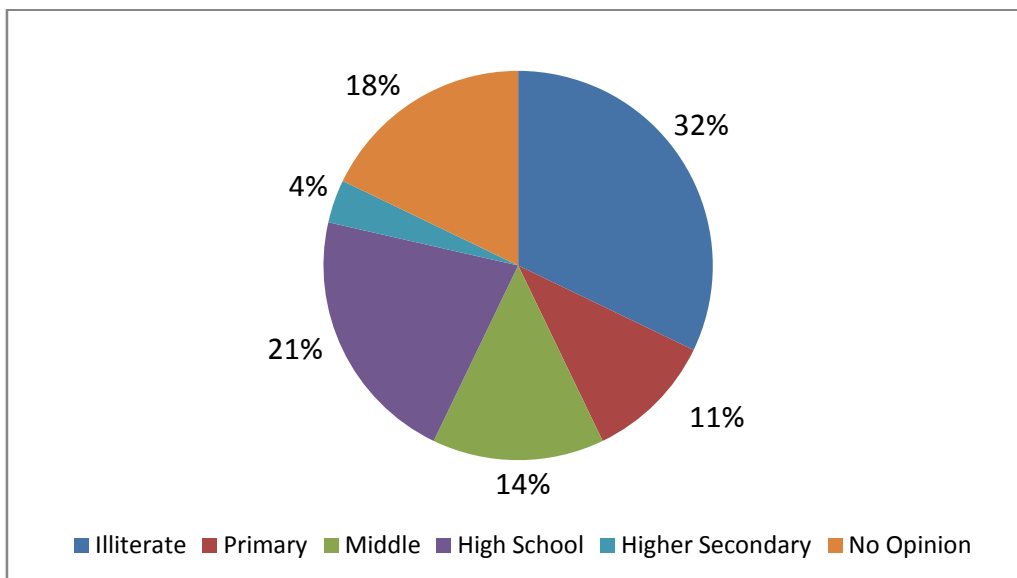
Majority of the inmates convicted of crime against property in Guwahati Central Jail fall under the age bracket of 18 years and 30 years (93 per cent). The rest 7 per cent are between 31 and 40 years of age. This shows that these people have taken to crime quite at a young age. The reasons for taking the path of crime are discussed later in this chapter. However, the young age of the convicts also offers an opportunity for reformation of these misguided youths. With proper intervention, these youths may be persuaded to leave the path of crime and lead a proper respectable life (some such measures are discussed in Chapter 7 of this report).



Graph: Age

5.1.4. Education

It is an established fact that lack of education is one of the main reasons because of which people tend to take up the path of crime. This fact has once again been corroborated by this field survey. It was found that 32 per cent of the respondents convicted of crime against property were illiterate, while 11 per cent had studied till primary level and 14 per cent studied till middle school level. Only 21 per cent of the respondents had completed studies till high school level and a meagre 4 per cent had passed higher secondary. The rest 18 per cent of the respondents refused to provide their education details.



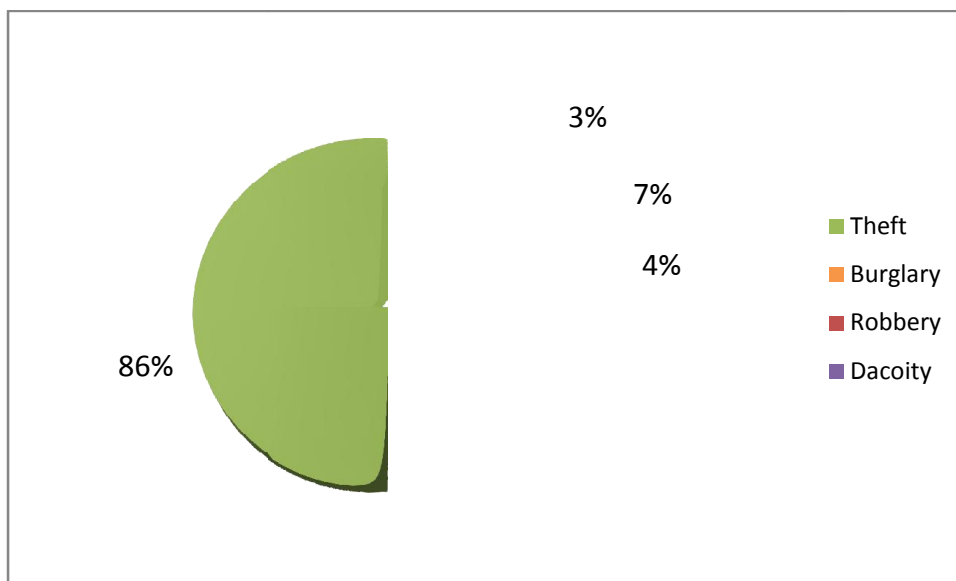
Graph: Education

Lack of education makes it difficult for a person to get a meaningful employment. This has led many persons to look up ways to earn money in an illegal way and forced them to commit crimes. Unless the access to education is improved to all the areas of the state and the country, there will be no end to criminal activities.

5.2. Nature of Crime

The respondents were asked to answer questions related to the crime for which they were in jail presently. On being asked about the nature of the property crime they had committed, it was found

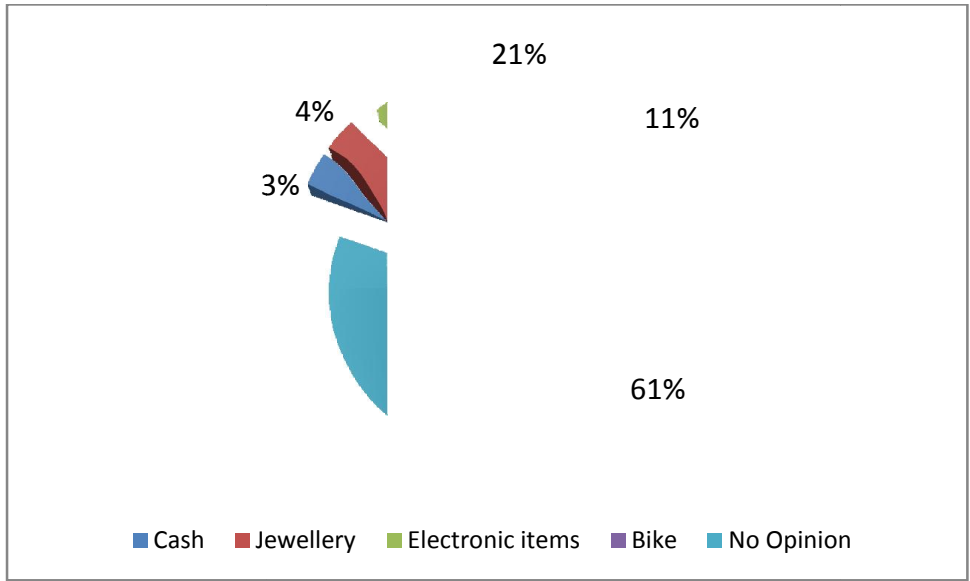
that, 86 per cent were serving time in the jail for committing theft. Among the rest, 3 per cent were convicted for burglary, 7 per cent for robbery and the rest 4 per cent for dacoity.



Graph: Nature of Crime

5.3. Items Stolen

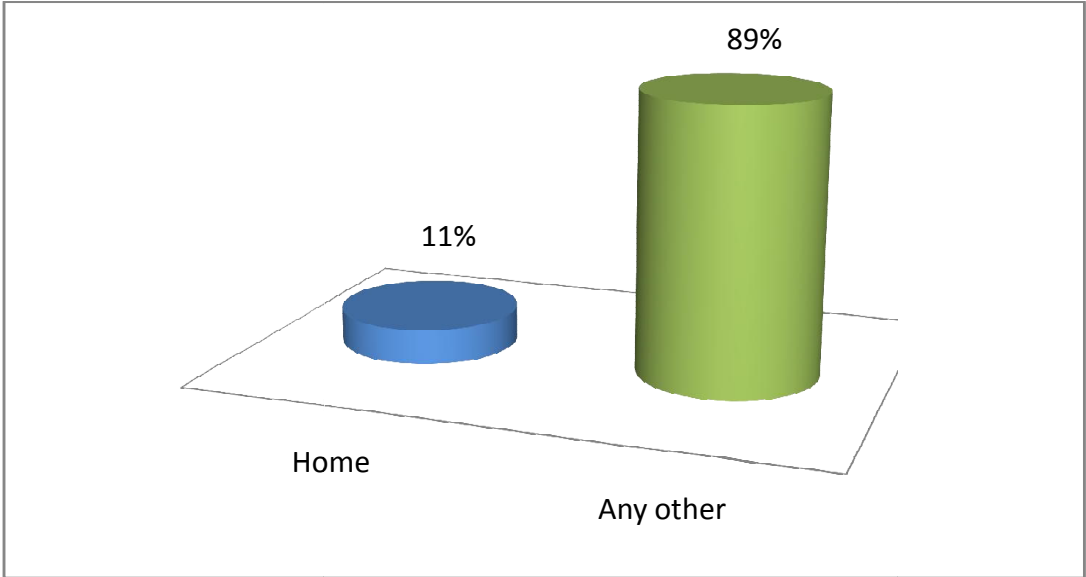
Many respondents were reluctant to share details about the crimes they committed. Majority of them (61 per cent) refused to say what items they had stolen. Among the rest, 21 per cent said that had stolen electronic items like laptops, mobile phones, etc; 11 per cent said that they stolen two-wheelers (bikes); 3 per cent had stolen cash; while 4 per cent had stolen jewellery.



Graph: Items Stolen

5.4. Place of Committing Crime

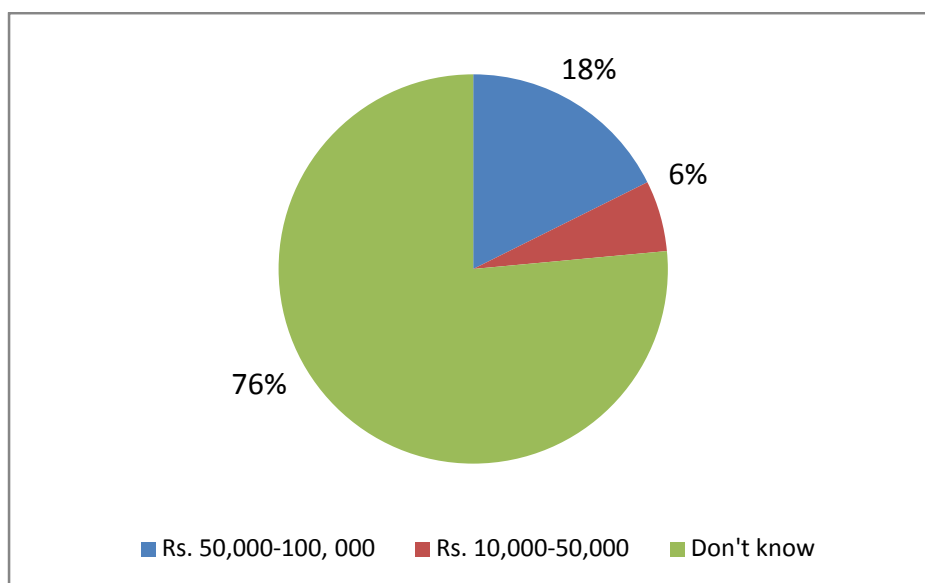
Among the respondents, 11 per cent had committed crimes by breaking in into private residences, while the rest 89 per cent had committed crime somewhere else. This included bike-lifting from parking places, theft from godowns, pick-pocketing in public transport, etc.



Graph: Place of Committing Crime

5.5. Value of items stolen/robbed

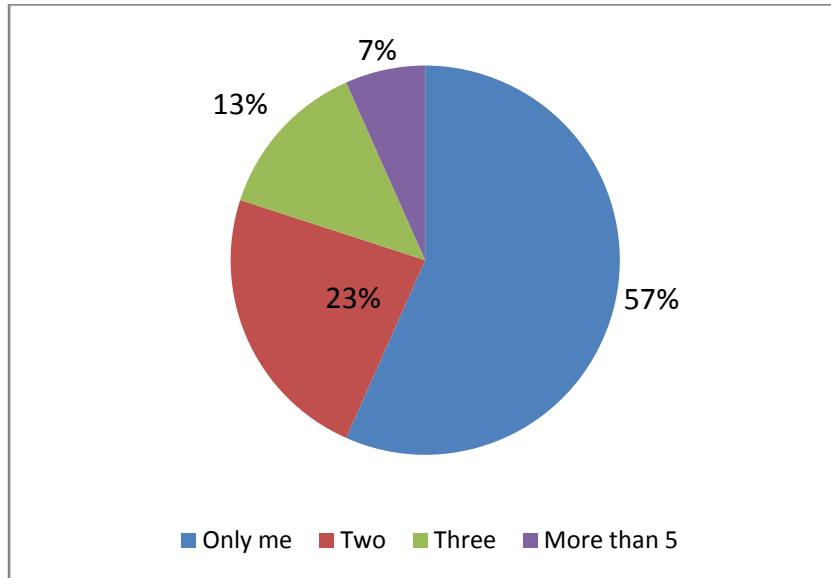
Majority of the respondents (76 per cent) said that they do not know the value of the items they had stolen. There was no way to verify whether they spoke the truth or not. On being asked, at what price had they sold or were planning to sell the stolen items before they were caught, they did not divulge any details. Among the rest, 18 per cent said that they had stolen items worth Rs. 50,000 – Rs. 100,000; while 6 per cent had stolen items worth Rs. 10,000 – Rs. 50,000.



Graph: Value of items stolen/robbed

5.6. Number of people involved in the crime

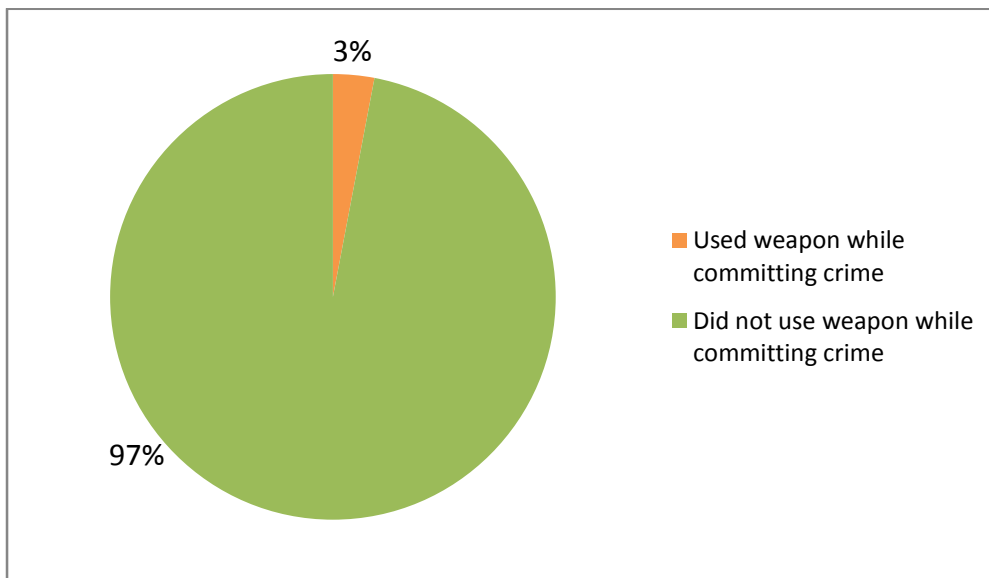
The respondents were asked how many persons were involved in the crime they had committed. It was found that majority of the respondents (57 per cent) committed the crime alone. These crimes included pick-pocketing, stealing of cash, mobile and laptop. 23 per cent of the respondents said that two persons were involved in the crimes they committed. This involved two-wheeler theft, chain snatching, and, stealing of jewellery. Three persons were involved in 13 per cent of the crimes, which included car theft, two-wheeler theft and house break-ins. In case of 7 per cent of the respondents, they carried out their crime like house break-ins with help of more than 5 persons, and hence were convicted for dacoity.



Graph: Number of people involved in the crime

5.7. Use of weapon while committing crime

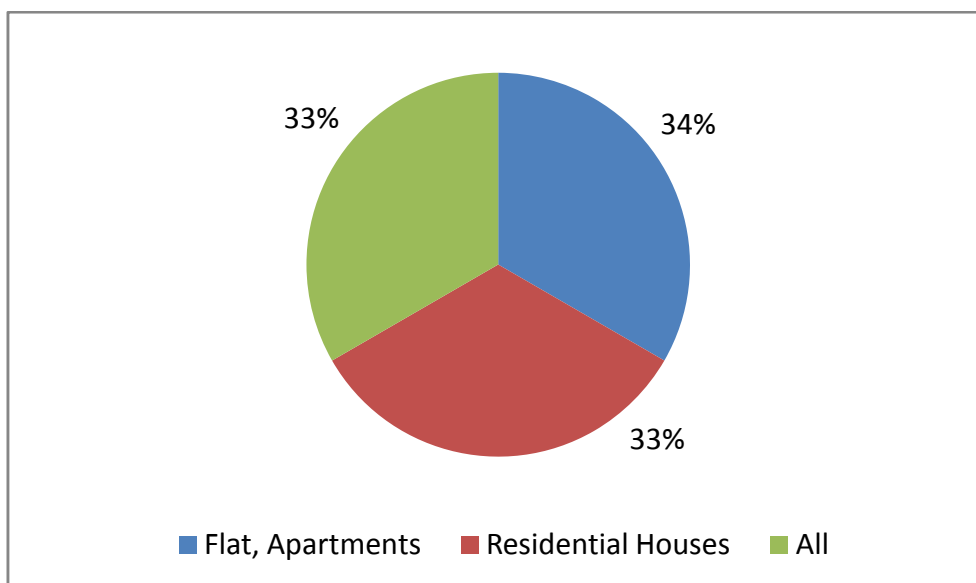
The survey found that only 3 per cent of the respondents had used weapon while committing crime. The rest of the respondents denied the use of weapons, but there was no way to verify whether they told the truth or not.



Graph: Use of weapon while committing crime

5.8. Dwellings targeted for crime

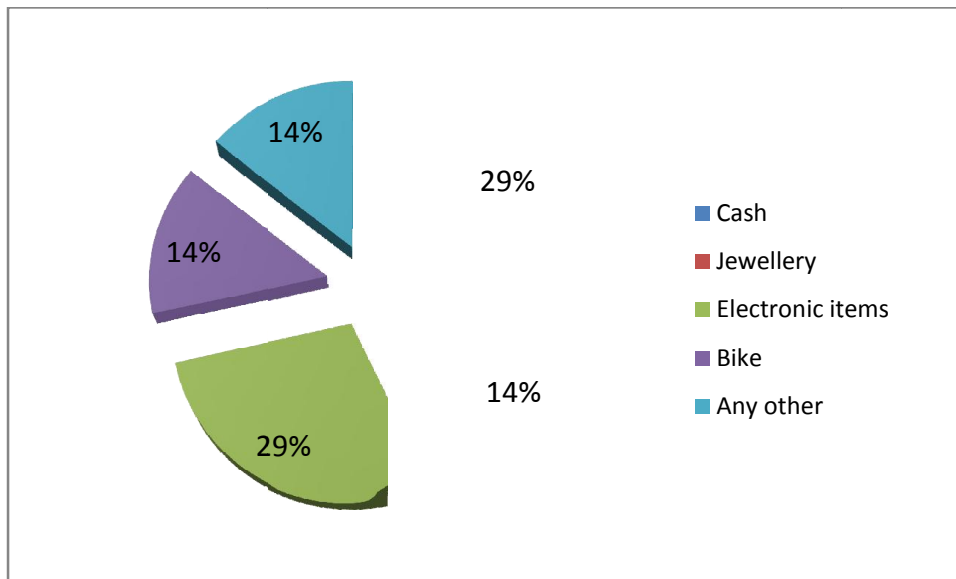
The study tried to assess what types of dwellings are mostly targeted for committing theft or burglary. It was found that all the dwellings are equally targeted, with 33 per cent of the respondents saying they mostly targeted flats and apartment, 34 per cent saying they targeted residential houses and the rest 33 per cent saying that they targeted all types of dwellings whether it is a flat or a residential house or a godown. Thus, no dwelling is particularly safe from property crime in Guwahati city.



Graph: Dwellings targeted for crime

5.9. Most-stolen items

The respondents were asked which type of items they mostly targeted. It was found that most of them targeted cash and electronic items (29 per cent each), while the rest were after jewellery (14 per cent), bikes (14 per cent) and other items like household utensils, cloths and accessories, or commercial vehicles (14 per cent each). Thus, almost every type of property is under the scanner of criminals in the city.

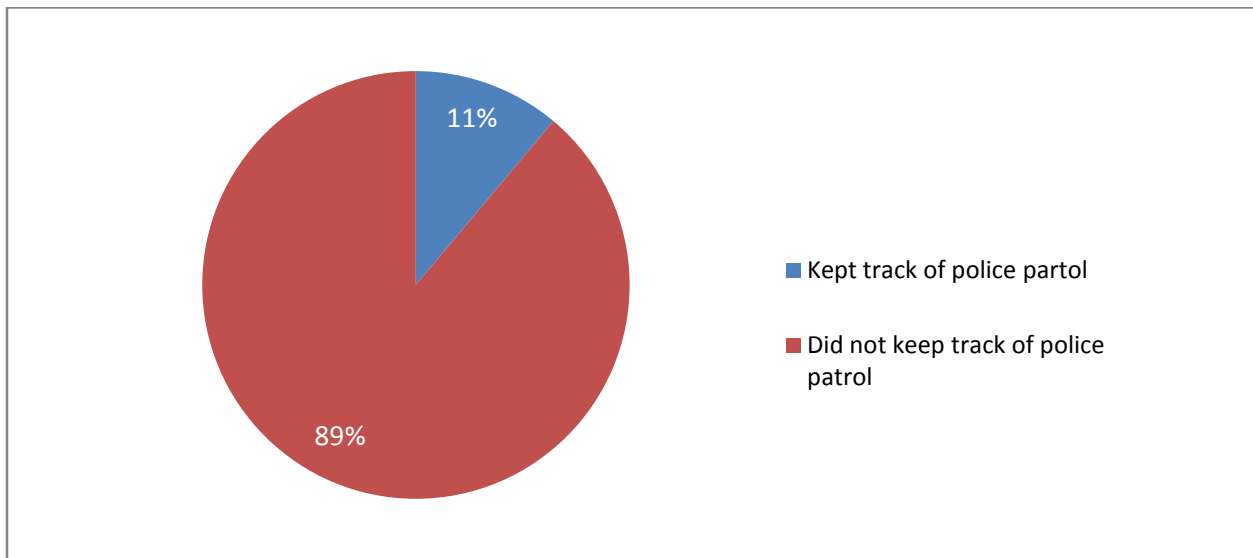


Graph: Mostly stolen items

The respondents were asked what they did with the stolen items. Most of the respondents said that they sold off the stolen items. One of the respondents, who is involved in bike theft, said that they sold the stolen bikes in Karbi Anglong. Another respondent said that he use to steal household utensils and sell them in a few shops near the railway tracks around Bamunimaidan in Guwahati. A few confessed of selling stolen mobiles to their friends. One respondent said that he used the stolen goods to buy drugs. He used to get drugs in exchange for the goods he stole.

5.10. Offenders and Police Patrol

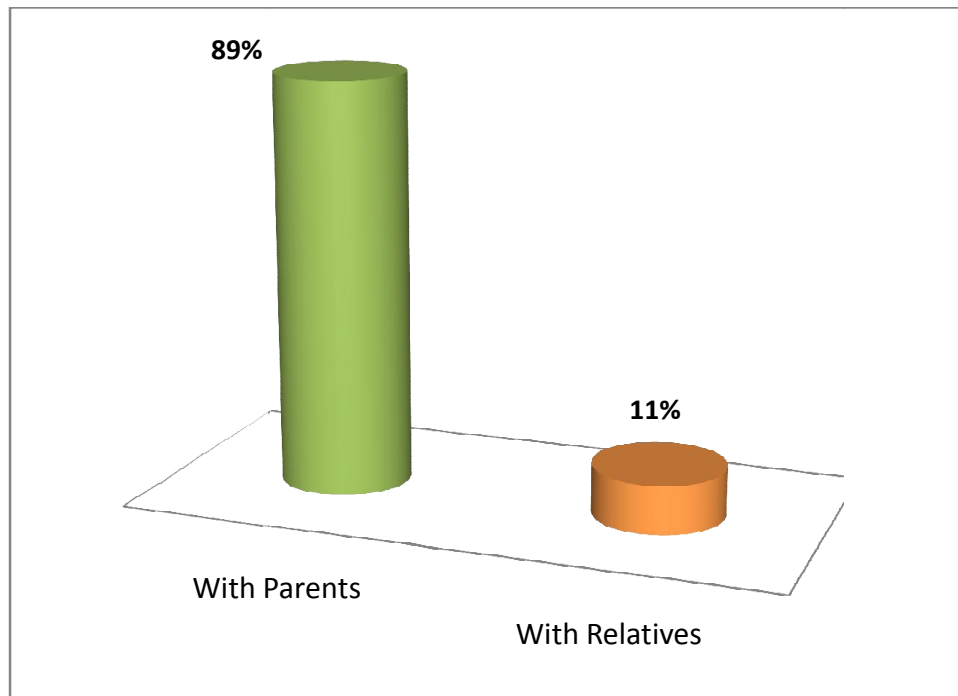
With increased police patrolling, the frequency of crimes like theft should have declined. But, as we have seen from the statistics presented in Chapter 4 of this study, such incidents are on the rise over the years. Thus, police patrolling has not been able to prevent such crimes from occurring. And the criminals too do not seem to care about police patrolling. Majority of the respondents (89 per cent) said that they did not keep track of the police patrolling vehicles and went on with their activities.



Graph: Whether respondents kept track of police patrolling vehicles

5.11. Childhood upbringing

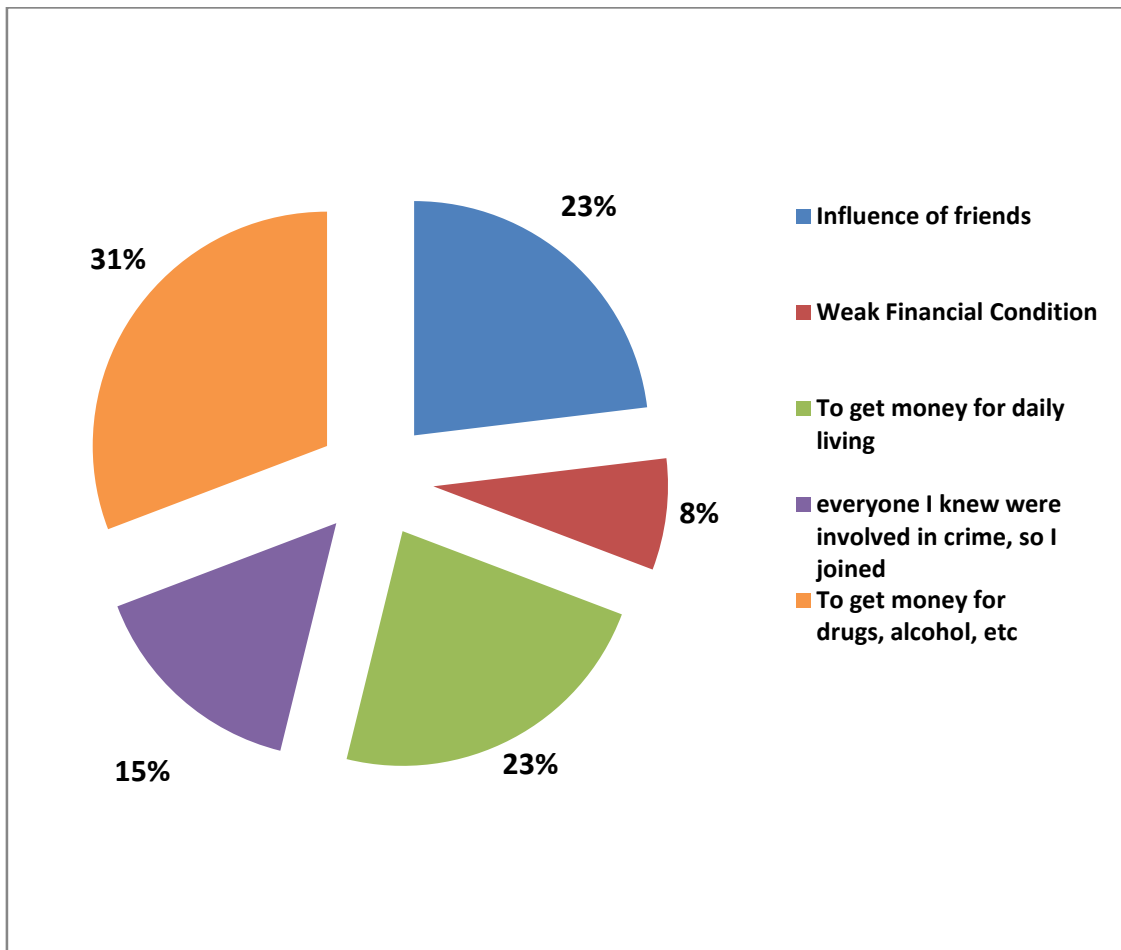
The study tried to assess if any social or psychological factor induced the respondents to take up the path of crime. The respondents were asked where they had spent their childhood. The idea behind this was to find if lack of parental care may have led the respondents to commit crime. However, it was found that majority of them (89 per cent) had spent their childhood with their parents. The rest of the respondents (11 per cent) grew up with their relatives after they lost their parents at an early age. Thus, the lack of parental care during childhood cannot be said to have influenced these respondents to take up criminal activities.



Graph: Where did the respondent spend their childhood

5.12. Reasons for getting involved in crime

The respondents were asked to state the main reason behind their getting involved in crime in the first place. It was found that most of them (31 per cent) took to theft and related activities to get money for drugs, alcohol and other psychotropic substances. Another 23 per cent of the respondents said that they took to crime to get money for their daily living. They said that they were poor and illiterate and stealing was the only way for them to earn money.



Graph: Reasons for getting involved in crime

Another 23 per cent of the respondents were influenced by their friends to step into the world of crime. Their friends were already involved in theft and other activities and were earning money, so this led some respondents to take up similar kind of activities.

Some respondents (15 per cent) said that the people he lived with were involved in criminal activities like theft and burglary, so he too joined them. The rest of the respondents (8 per cent) said that weak financial condition forced them to take up theft as a profession.

From these responses, it can be seen that poverty, lack of education, unemployment and substance abuse are the main reasons behind people taking up criminal activities.

Case Study 1

A native of Simla in Baksa district, Gwnsar Basumatary grew up in Lalung Gaon in Garchuk off National Highway 37 in Guwahati. Gwnsar did not face the complexities of life until he reached High School. At that time, the girl he was in love with ran away from her house and began staying with him. As a result, Gwnsar could not attempt his Class X exams. He dropped out of school thereafter.

Gwnsar's father ran an automobile workshop in Garchuk to feed the family. Gwnsar began to assist his father in the workshop. One fine day, his uncle approached his father to build a body for his bus. This meant a lot of work for them; from erecting an iron framework for the body to getting the upholstery done and from electrical wirings, to painting it to a shine, in short. Both the father-son duo worked day in and day out to complete the task before the bus is put to commercial service. Of their own, they spent about rupees one and half lakh to complete the job.

When Gwnsar's uncle came to receive the bus, his father produced the total job bill. On seeing the amount he declined to pay saying that he did not have that much money then. Promising that he would pay the money in time, he left with the bus.

Days passed into months without a word from his uncle. With each passing day it required a lot of effort to manage the workshop efficiently. In a way bankruptcy crept in and finally Gwnsar's father had to close down the workshop.

From the gossip in the neighbourhood, Gwnsar came to know that his uncle bought a brand new Maruti Suzuki Alto for his family and an equally new motor bike for his son. The news infuriated Gwnsar to no end. His young mind ran wild. The workshop being the only source of income, Gwnsar and his family were seeing very bad times. Then, one day; Gwnsar collected some chloroform and left for his uncle's house. He knocked out his cousin brother and made good with his bike.

After this incident, Gwnsar's uncle registered a First Information Report at the Garchuk Police Station. As things progressed, he was charged for theft. Police submitted a chargesheet to the court and young Gwnsar was subjected to immediate punitive detention. This was Gwnsar's first brush

with police, the judiciary, life in jail and the different inmates who make for a rather colourful population in jail.

Even while in jail, Gwnsar's only concern was to find a way to cope with the financial hardships he and his family was facing. Once inside the jail, he met members of a bike lifter's gang. The exchange of pleasantries he had with them was more than casual.

Out of jail, Gwnsar became a seasoned bike lifter. His prior knowledge of bikes and their functioning helped him to reverse engineer bike locking systems well. He began to lift bikes from the adjoining areas of his neighbourhood, namely, Bamunpara and Dakshingaon. The modus operandi involved two to three individuals. One would drop him off near about the area where Gwnsar intended to lift a bike from and leave the place as fast as possible. Gwnsar would single-handedly manipulate the electrical wiring and after unlocking the bike, make good with it. Often, to draw cover, Gwnsar would pass off the bike to a third team member after riding out of the area, who in turn would ride the bike to a temporary hideout before it is transported for sale. "I exactly know when police is out on patrol and when not. They are not out all time," confides Gwnsar.

Over a period of time he randomly lifted about sixteen to twenty two odd bikes with no target for a specific social class from among whom he will lift a bike or the particular make of the bike itself. He sold them to buyers in Nellie (Morigaon), Nagaon and Karbi Anglong. One bike would ideally fetch him somewhere between rupees thirty to forty thousand. He made enough money to admit his younger brother as a boarding student at the Bathou Mission High School in Bengtol in Kokrajhar for a good education.

Gwnsar's father now works as a security guard in a company and earns rupees eight thousand per month. His young brother is back home from his boarding due to non-payment of school fees.

"I am in need of rupees three lakhs. I have to send my brother back to the boarding. I'll have to do something once I'm out," says Gwnsar.

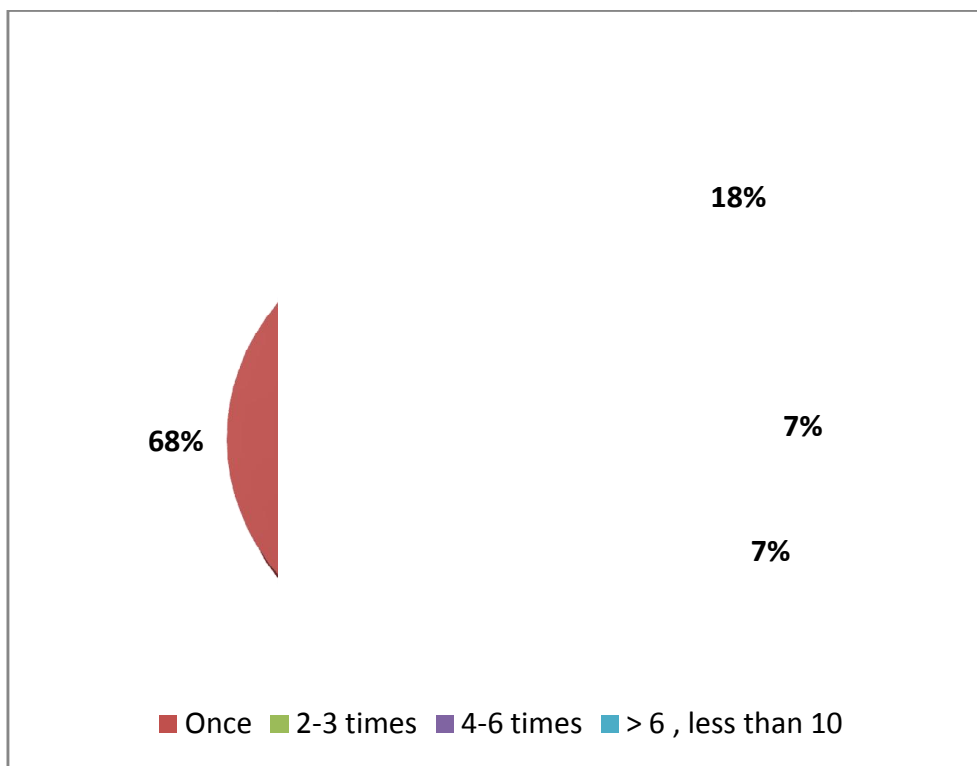
He plans to search for work or start a small business after he is out of jail. Two things that interest him are mobile repairing and painting automobiles.

This case shows how a small act of revenge, fuelled by anger, turned a young boy into a habitual offender. Unless one is focussed enough, life in jail can turn a person into a more hardened criminal than helping him in getting reformed.

Unless these youths are provided opportunities to reform themselves and are trained in some skills which can help them in income generation once they get of jail, there are very little chance that anyone will leave the path of crime.

5.13. Number of times arrested by police

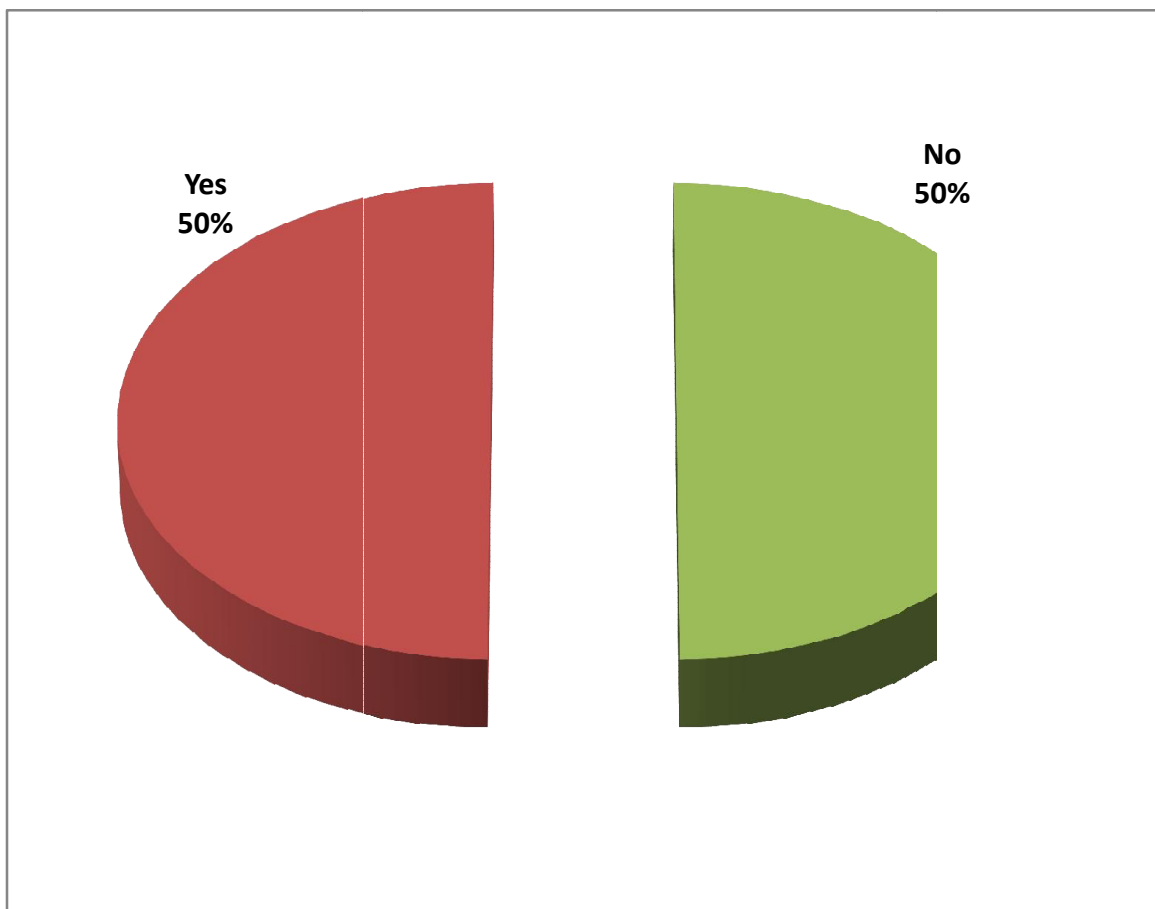
The respondents were asked how many times they had been arrested by the police. Their answers were cross-checked with the jail records as well. It was found that 68 per cent of them had been arrested once, 18 per cent had been arrested 2-3 times, 7 per cent had been arrested 4-6 times, while the rest 7 per cent had been arrested more than 6 times. This shows that among the surveyed respondents there were many who were habitual offenders.



Graph: Number of times arrested by police

5.14. Jailed Earlier

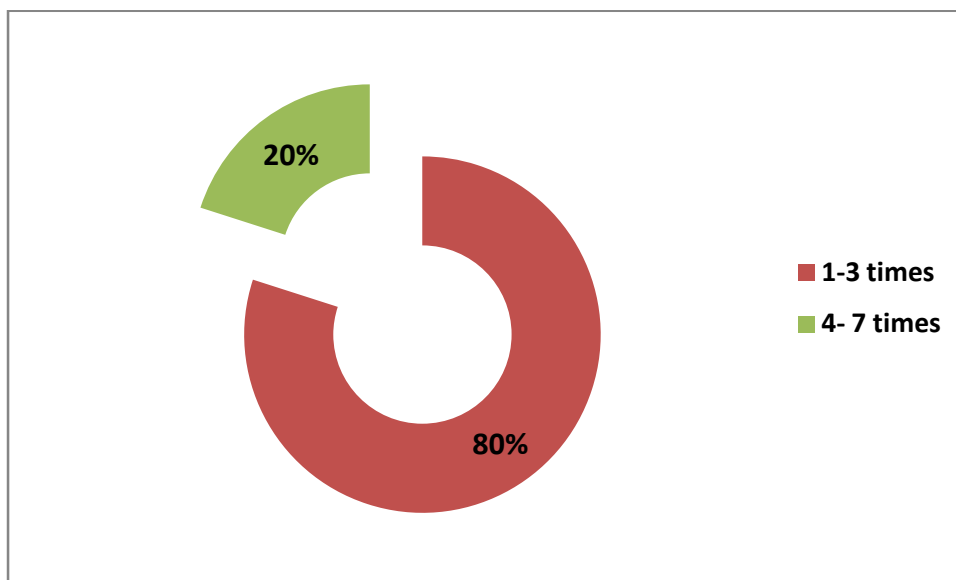
Those respondents who have been arrested more than once were asked whether they were also jailed earlier for their crimes. In reply, half of them said that they have been jailed earlier also. The facts were checked with the jail authorities as well. In fact, five respondents were found to have served jail terms more than once, apart from the current jail term. This shows that even after staying in jail, the inmates do not hesitate to take up crime once again. Lack of measures to rehabilitate the persons who serve time in jail may be one of the reasons why some people do not stay away from criminal activities.



Graph: Whether Respondents' have been jailed earlier

5.15. Number of times jailed

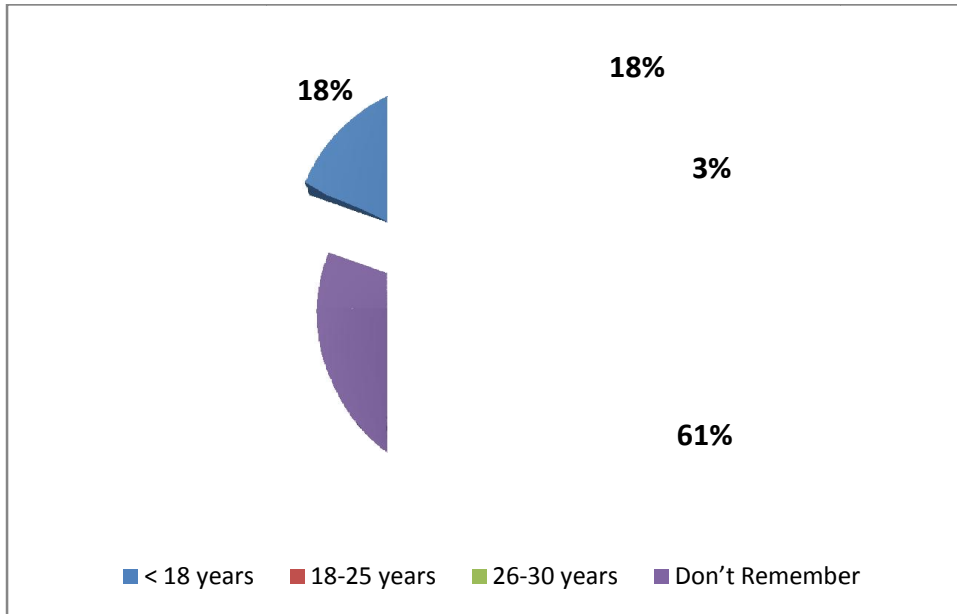
As already mentioned earlier, five respondents had served jail term more than once. Of these, four (80 per cent) have served jail term 1 to 3 times, while the other one served jail term between 4 to 7 times (the exact number was not able to be verified).



Graph: Number of time jailed

5.16. Age when first convicted of crime

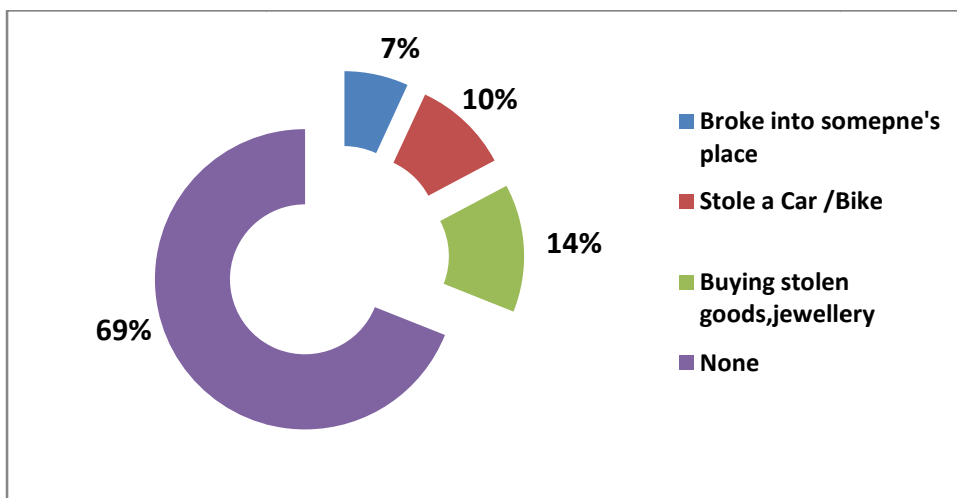
The study tried to analyze as to how early in their lives the respondents were drawn to crime. It was found that most of them were quite young when they were first convicted of their crime – 18 per cent were below 18 years of age, another 18 per cent was between 18 and 25 years of age and 3 per cent were between 26 to 30 years of age. The rest of the respondents do not remember the age when they were first arrested, but they said that they were surely below the age of 30 when they got first convicted of crime. Thus, all the respondents had taken up crime at a young age and many of them have become habitual offenders who have found it hard to leave this path. Unless these people are trained in some livelihood generating methods, there is little chance that they would stop committing crimes.



Graph: Age when first convicted of crime

5.17. Crimes committed before 18 years of age

Some respondents agreed that they have been involved in criminal activities even before becoming an adult i.e. reaching the age of 18 years. They were asked what kind of activities they were involved in. In reply, 7 per cent of the respondents said that they had broken into someone's place, 10 per cent said that they had stolen a car/bike, while 14 per cent said that they had purchased goods and jewellery, which they knew were stolen from someone else. Getting involved in crime at a young age, these respondents have continued to commit crimes.



Graph: Crimes committed before 18 years of age

Case Study 2

Javed Khan is a twenty six year old convict, who is lodged in Guwahati Central Jail since December 2016 on charges of crime against property. He had stolen a bike. Born and brought up in Juripar, Six Mile, Guwahati, Javed lived with his parents until he decided to marry at a young age of 17. His father Salim Khan was opposed to his early marriage and did not want him in the house after he got married. Estranged, Javed took to live with his wife in Kalatuni, a village in Chaygaon in Kamrup Rural district.

Life for Javed before marriage was fine. His father ran a bike repairing workshop and brokered land deals to maintain the family. Javed would frequently assist his father in the workshop in repairing bikes. But after marriage, things took a different turn. After staying for some time in Chaygaon, he came to Guwahati and took up a rented accommodation with his wife in Hatigaon area. Since the time he dropped from school in Class 7, Javed was exposed to the world of menial jobs. He worked at construction sites making shuttering to contain setting concrete for six months and gradually a time came when paying rupees 1500 as house rent became somewhat impossible.

Driven by economic woes, Javed took to stealing cars and bikes and ferrying them from one place to another for selling these stolen vehicles. He soon got caught and since then has been arrested many time by the police and been jailed more than once.

During the interview for this study, Javed seemed disillusioned and doubted if he would ever be able to lead a normal life again. He said that he has not received any skill development training and neither was he aware of any such activities within the jail.

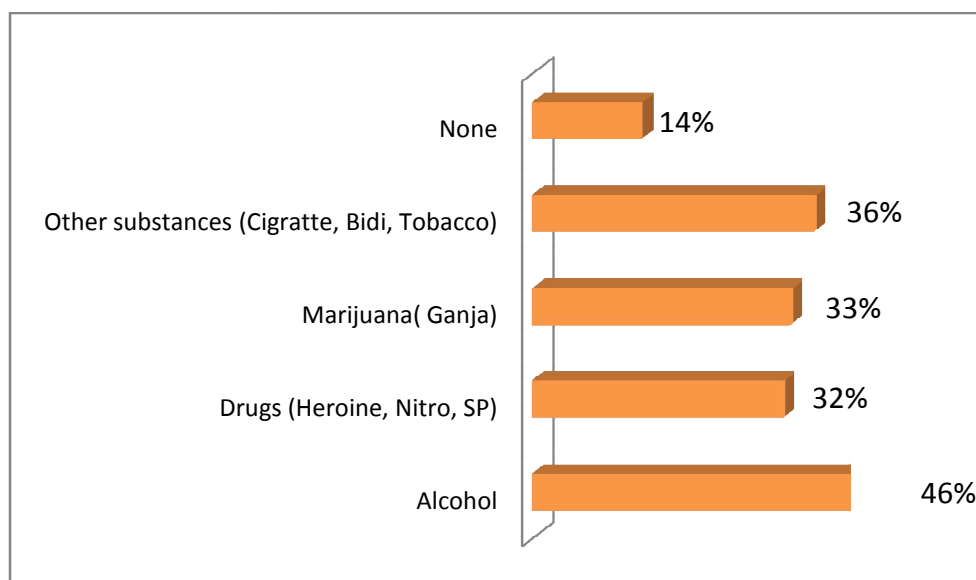
On being asked whether the jail terms would help in his reformation, he said “The time spent in jail doesn’t give me an opportunity to reform. The jail is a storehouse of things gone wrong with channels for different types of crimes one can imagine of. The police wish that we do not reform and keep coming to the jail. I need the tag removed from me that I’m a thief. Even if I’m bailed out, informers will falsely tip off the police about something I have not done or not involved with and I’ll be back here again.”

Once out of the jail, Javed plans to change location and go to a place where people don't recognize him. "I'll take my wife and children along and start life anew," says Javed remorsefully.

Financial hardship has turned many people like Javed into criminals. Lack of reformation measures in jail as well as lack of awareness about skill development initiatives acts as a hindrance to bring these people into the mainstream.

5.18. Substance Abuse

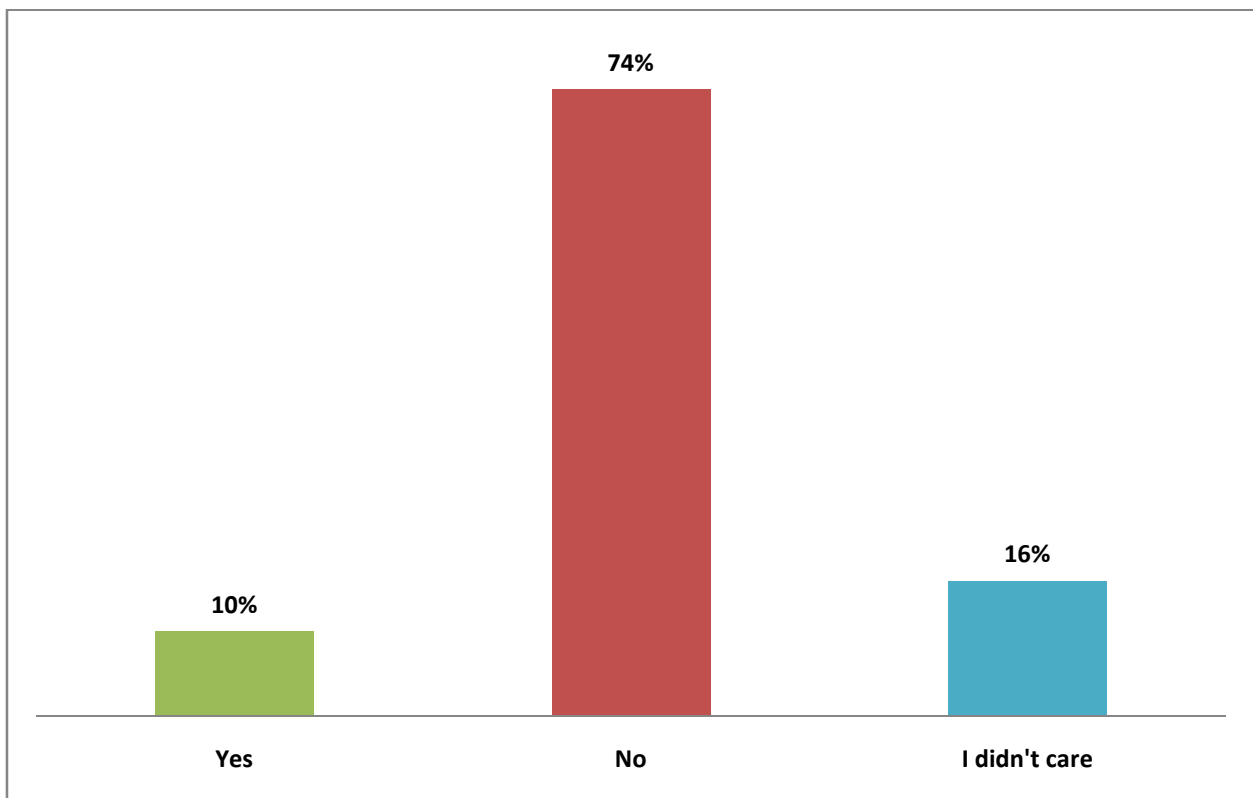
As mentioned earlier in this chapter, substance abuse is one of the major reasons why people tend to commit crime against property. They use the money earned through these ways to buy drugs and alcohol. It was found that barring a few respondents, all the others were hooked to such substances. Alcohol was mostly consumed by the respondents (46 per cent), while 32 per cent were into drugs like Heroine, Nitro and SP. Marijuana (Ganja) was used by 33 per cent of the respondents, while 36 per cent of the respondents were hooked to cigarette, bidi and tobacco products. Many respondents were involved in more than one of these vices.



Graph: Substance Abuse

5.19. Thought about feelings of family members

Many a time family bonds prevent people from committing crimes, as they do not want to embarrass their family by getting arrested and convicted for a crime. While doing this survey, the respondents were asked whether they thought what their family will feel if they get arrested. It was found that majority of the respondents (74 per cent) had never thought of that, while 16 per cent said that they did not care about the feelings of their family members. Only 10 per cent of the respondents said that they thought about their family, but earning money was the sole thing in their mind, so they continued with their crime anyway. Thus, family bonds were unable to prevent the respondents from taking up criminal activities.

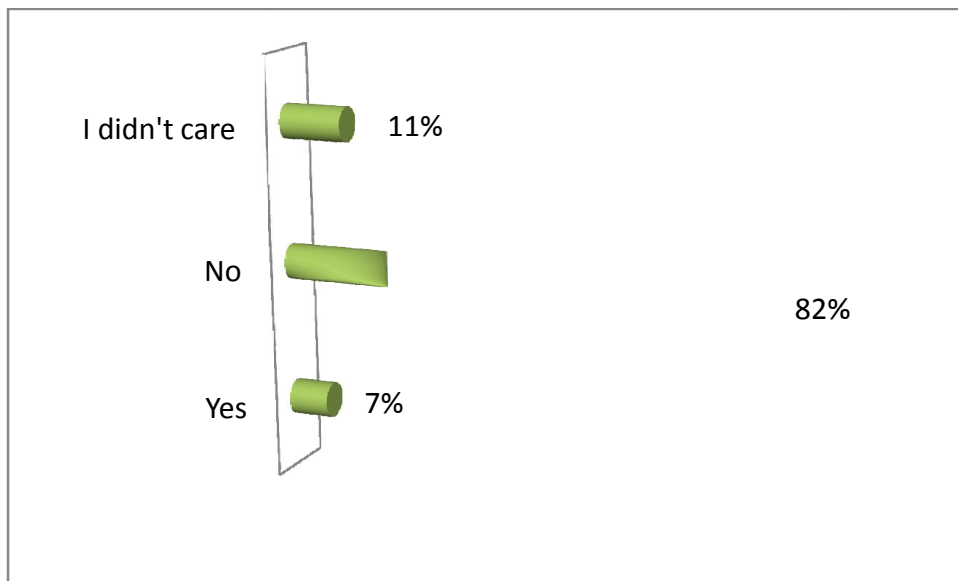


Graph: Whether respondents bothered about feelings of family members

5.20. Aware of punishment

The respondents were asked whether they were aware of the punishment they would face if they were caught. In reply, majority of the respondents (82 per cent) said that they did not know, while 11 per cent said that they did not care. The rest 7 per cent said that they knew what punishment they

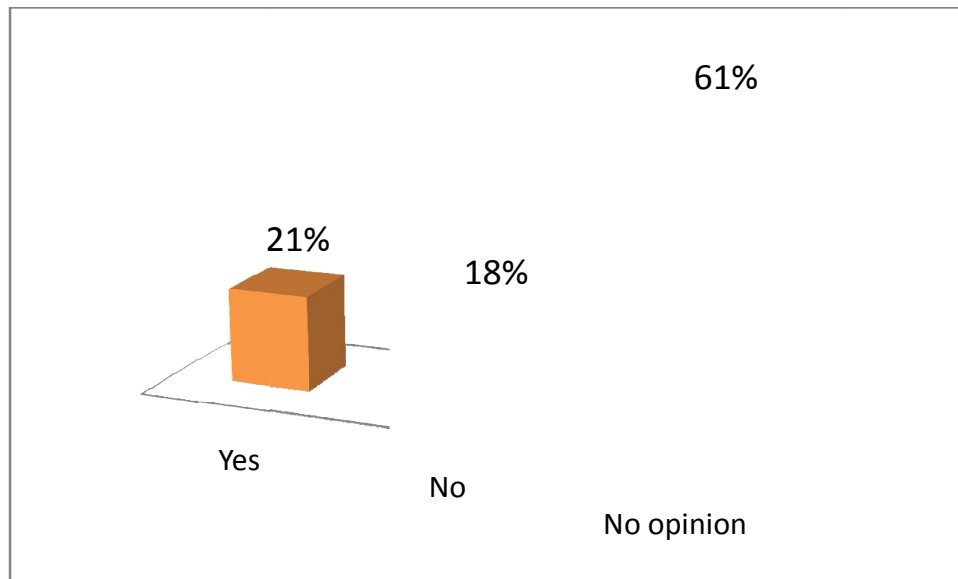
would face, but went ahead nonetheless. Thus, the fear of punishment is not a factor that can prevent crimes against property.



Graph: Whether respondents were aware of punishment if caught

5.21. Feeling of Regret

The respondents were asked whether they regret what they had done. It was found that majority of the respondents (61 per cent) declined to give any reply to this question. The question itself may have induced a feeling of regret among them, but they refused to acknowledge it. While 18 per cent of the respondents said that they do not feel any regrets for what they have done or for serving time in jail, the rest of the respondents (21 per cent) said that they were regretting now for their actions and would like to stay away from such activities in the future.

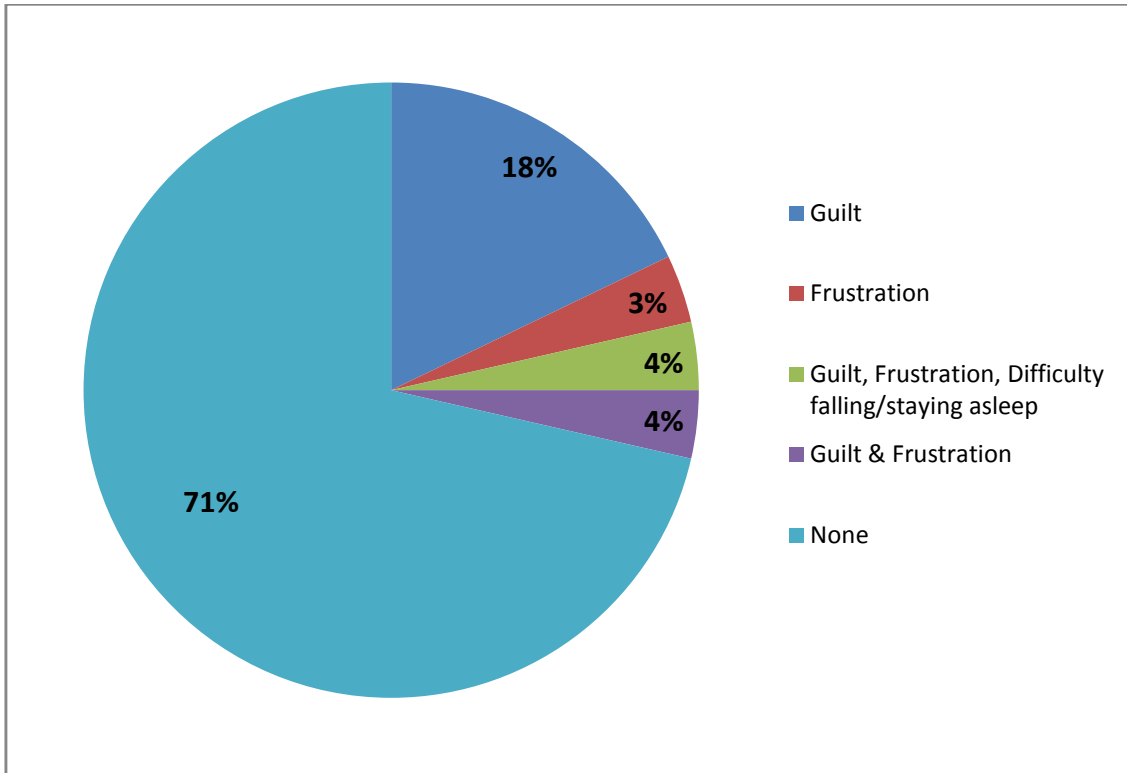


Graph: Feeling of regret among the respondents

5.22. Psychological state after committing crime

Crime and punishment tends to have some psychological impact on the criminals as well as on the victims. This includes guilt, frustration, difficulty in sleeping, etc. The respondents were asked what kind of feeling was on their mind after committing the crimes. Surprisingly, 71 per cent of the respondents said that there was no such feeling, which indicates that these people have totally turned into hardened criminals with no guilt or remorse for what they have done.

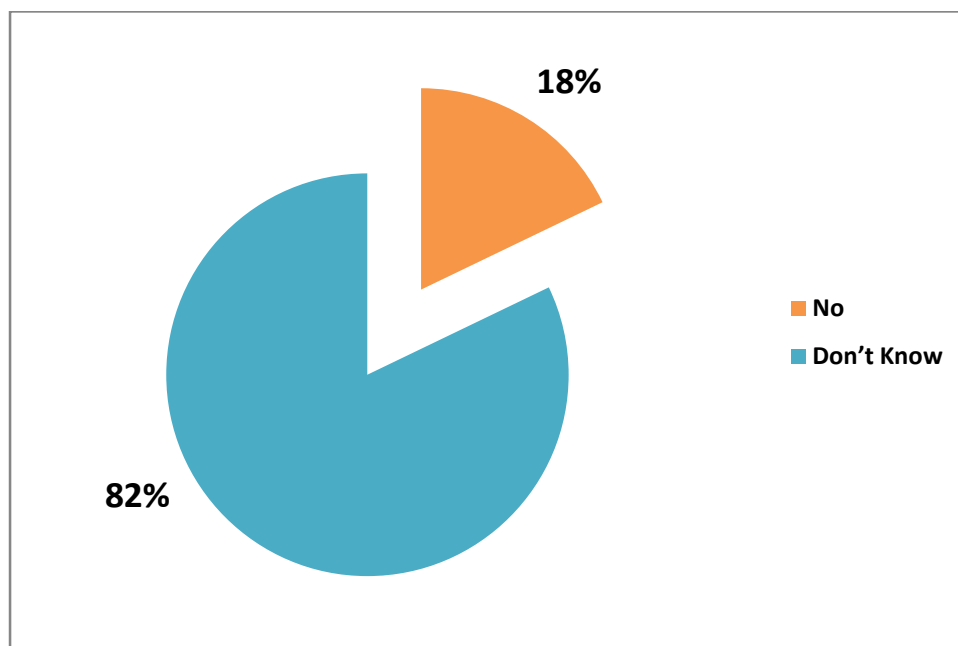
Among the other respondents, 18 per cent said that they felt guilty after committing the crime, 3 per cent felt frustrated, 4 per cent had a mixed feeling of guilt and frustration, while another 4 per cent had feelings of guilt, frustration as well as faced difficulty in sleeping.



Graph: Psychological state after committing crime

5.23. Any skill development activities in jail

Providing skill development training to the jail inmates may help in preventing them from taking up crime once again, as they can use their training to earn a decent living of their own without turning to crime. But it was found that none of the respondents have been provided any type of skill development training while serving their jail terms. While 18 per cent of the respondents expressly termed that there were no skill development activities in the jail, the rest 82 per cent said that even if such activities have been organized in the jail, there were not aware of it.



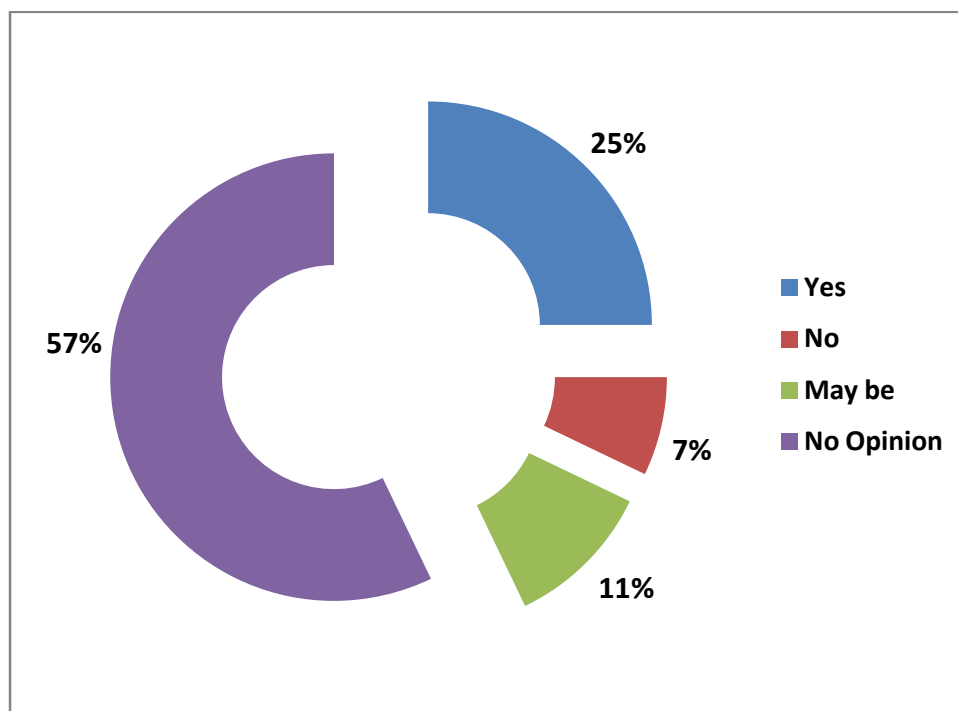
Graph: Any skill development activities in jail

While going into activities carried out at the Guwahati Central Jail, it was found that skill development programmes were running inside the jail campus for the inmates. A few short-term skilling courses like tailoring, weaving, garment making, etc, were organized at periodic intervals in the jail. The University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) has even established a Skill Development Centre for the jail inmates in October 2016, in association with Nagen Sarma Memorial Society. The Centre provides computer training and tailoring. This shows that the respondents were either totally unaware of these initiatives or were not interested in learning those. Whatever be the case, continuous efforts has to be made by the jail authorities as well as skill development trainers to attract jail inmates to pick up such courses and explain to them the benefits of such courses.

5.24. Jail time and outlook towards life

The respondents were asked whether the time spent in jail will help them to have a relook at their life and help them in reformation. It was found that majority of the respondents (57 per cent) stayed clear of the question. These were mostly those respondents who have been arrested many times for their crimes and have been jailed earlier as well. It seems staying in jail no longer has any affect on them. Also, 7 per cent of the respondents clearly said that the jail term is not going to change their outlook towards life. Among the rest of the respondents, 25 per cent agreed that the jail term would surely

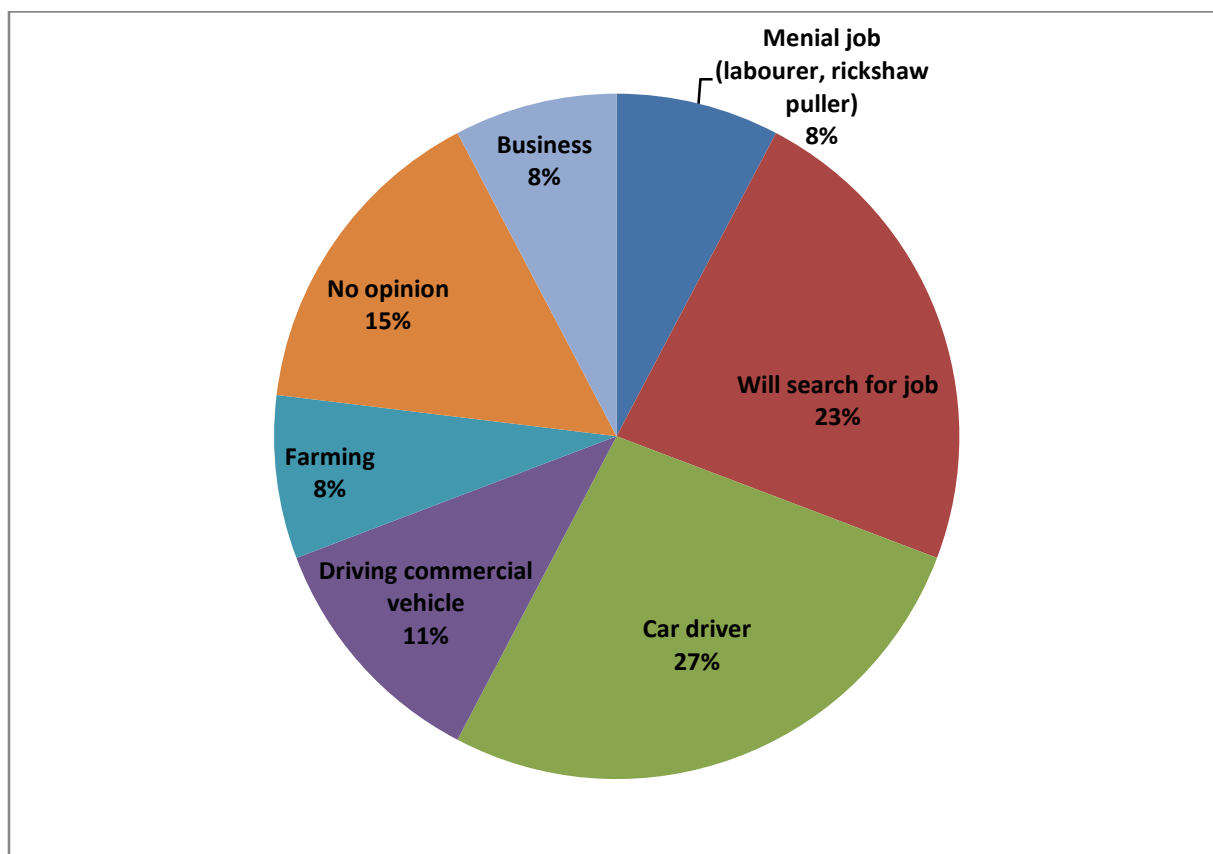
make them think about amending their ways, while 11 per cent believed that may be the jail term may make them relook at their lives.



Graph: Whether time spent in jail will help relook life and help in reformation

5.25. Means of living after being released from jail

The respondents were asked what they would do earn a living after they are released from jail. It was nice to observe that none of the respondents talked about getting back to criminal activities and most of them had some plan or the other chalked out for the future. Most of the respondents (27 per cent) said that they would be a car driver, while 11 per cent said that they would drive commercial vehicles. Another 23 per cent said that they would start looking for a job once they are out of jail, while 8 per cent talked about starting a business. Among the other respondents, 8 per cent talked about doing menial jobs like rickshaw puller or a day labourer, while 8 per cent said they would take up farming. The rest of the respondents (15 per cent) did not have any specific ideas as to what they would do after leaving the jail but they said that they would like to stay away from crime.



Graph: Means of living after released from jail

5.26. The Psycho-Social-Cultural Factors behind Property Crime

The field survey among the persons who have been convicted of crime against property provided an opportunity to study the minds of these people as well as their working methods. From looking at the profile of the interviewed persons, it was seen that almost all of them have taken up crime at a young age. Lack of education among these respondents was clearly visible. Poor financial condition has led many of them to take up a life of crime and it was observed that they are now finding it difficult to leave this path.

From the field survey it can be ascertained that the main factors behind property crime are:

- Low level of education
- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Substance abuse

The survey also found that the upbringing or family bonds have had very little impact on the respondents taking up crime. Thus, this is not a factor which has contributed to property crime in Guwahati city.

Many of the respondents were habitual offenders with little signs of remorse or guilt. However, there were a few respondents who agreed that the time served in jail would make them take a relook into their lives and they hoped to get away from criminal activities.

As to the working methods of these convicts, it was seen that they are interested in stealing almost anything that can fetch them money and they are ready for theft anywhere, whether it is a residential property or a godown or within the limits that public transport can take them. Most of the stolen items are sold, while a few respondents use the stolen items to buy drugs.

Lack of awareness on skill development training was evident from the survey. This is one area in which more focus has to be given by the jail authorities, the state government as well as the various NGOs. In fact, the Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM) is planning to provide skill development training to jail inmates, which is indeed a welcome step.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ “Assam: Govt to provide skill development training to over 30 thousand surrendered militants”, The Northeast Today, 11 September 2017, <https://thenortheasttoday.com/assam-govt-to-provide-skill-development-training-to-over-30-thousand-surrendered-militants/>

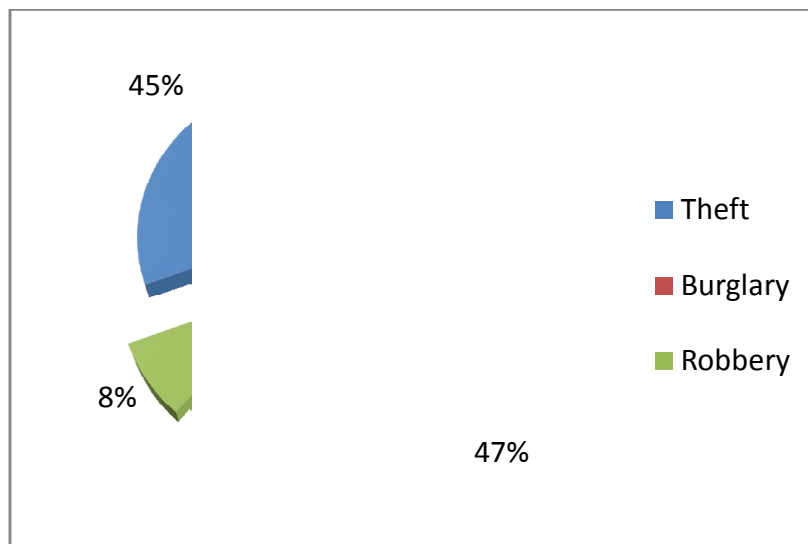
Chapter 6

Field Survey Findings: Victims

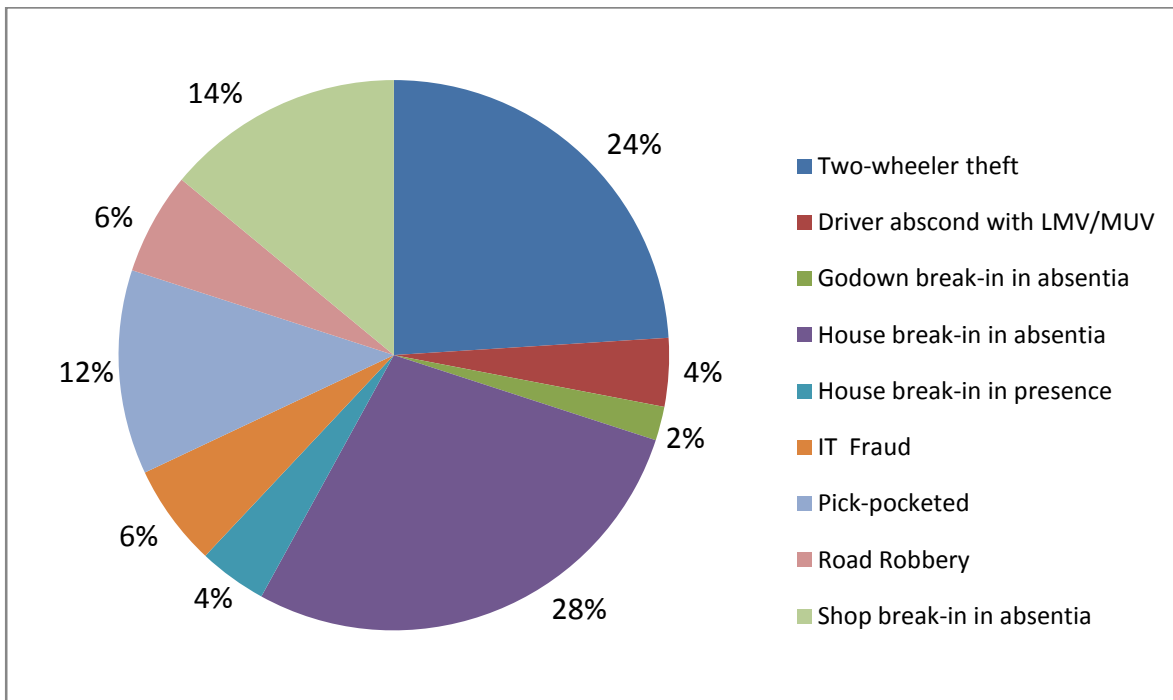
During the study, a field survey was conducted in Guwahati city, wherein the victims of property crime were interviewed. A total of 120 persons, who have personally been victims or their households have been victims of property crime were covered under the field survey. These persons were selected on the basis of Stratified Random Sampling from a sample base collected from the FIRs filed by the citizens in different police stations in Guwahati. It was ascertained that the selection was made such that people living in various parts of Guwahati were covered for the interview.

6.1. Property Crime Type

Among the respondents, 47 per cent were victims of burglary, 45 per cent of theft, while 8 per cent were victims of robbery.



Graph: Type of Property Crime



Graph: Nature of Crime

If we analyze the nature of the crimes, it can be seen that the maximum number of crimes involved house break-ins. 28 per cent of the respondents had their house broken in while they were not present. Another 4 per cent reported break-in while they were in the house. Also, 14 per cent of the respondents had their shop broken in during night time, while in case of 2 per cent of the respondents goods were stolen from their godown.

The next highest number of property crime involved theft of vehicles. Of the interviewed respondents, 24 per cent had their two-wheeler stolen, while in case of 4 per cent of the respondents, their driver absconded with their vehicle. These vehicles were all commercial vehicles like Tata DI.

Pick-pocketing resulted in the loss of money and valuables in case of 12 per cent of the respondents. Most of these cases took place in the city buses of Guwahati, while there were two cases of chain-snatchings, when motorcycle-borne youths run away with the victim's necklaces.

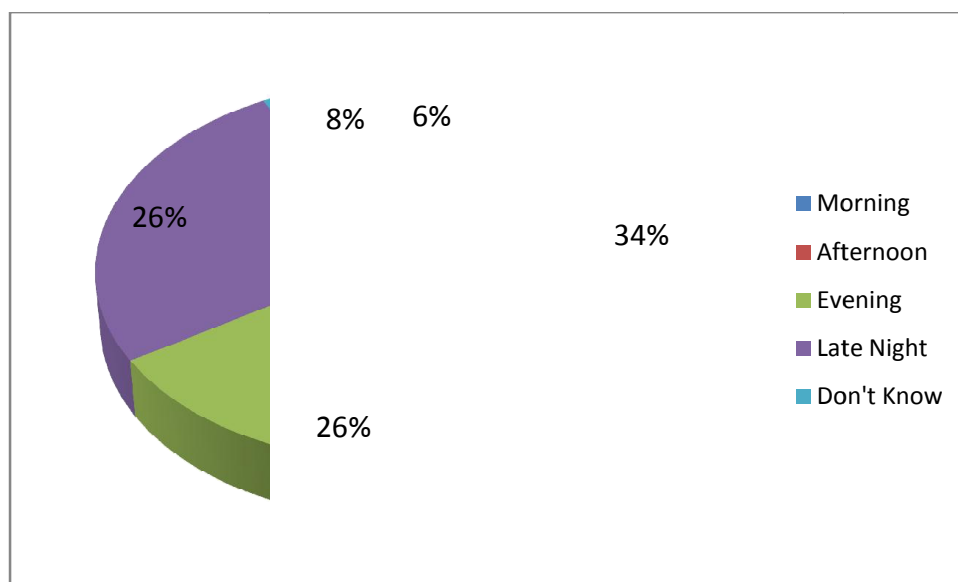
Another 6 per cent of the respondents were robbed on the road. In all these road robbery cases, the victims had been threatened with a weapon, mostly knives, either by an individual assailant or with

one more accomplice. All these cases happened at night. In one particular case, the victim had made a hue and cry, but even though there were a few houses nearby, nobody came to his rescue.

Information Technology-related crime resulted in the loss of money in case of 6 per cent of the cases. The victims were defrauded through phone calls made to them, wherein they were informed about winning money in a lottery. They were then asked to deposit money in a bank account as a 'processing fee'. They later realized that they were duped of their money.

6.2. Time of Occurrence

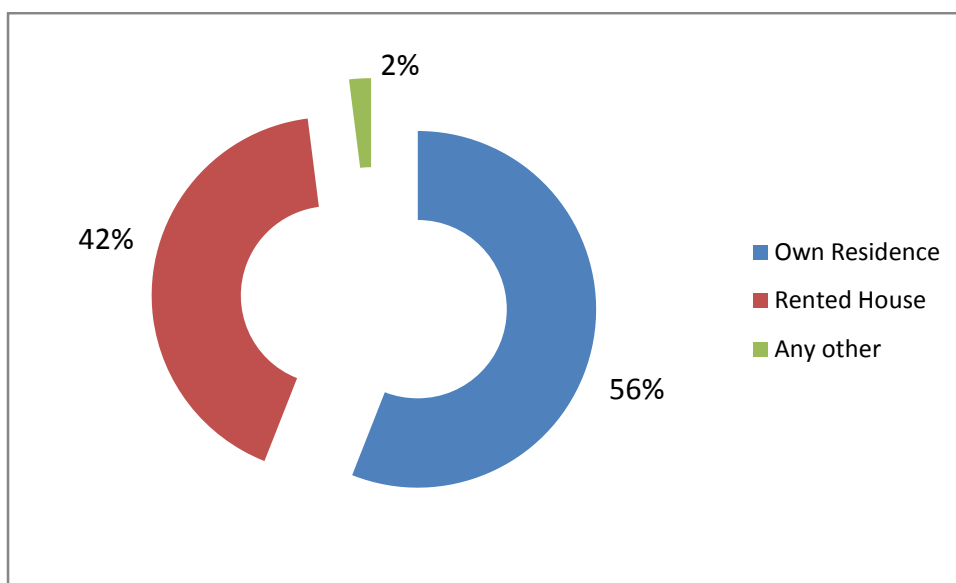
Crimes like pick-pocketing and vehicle theft mostly took place in the afternoon (12 pm – 6 pm), with 34 per cent of the respondents informing that it was the time when their valuables were stolen. The next highest number of cases (26 per cent) was reported during evening (6 pm – 12 midnight) and late night (12 midnight – 6 am). A few crimes (6 per cent) were committed in the morning (6 am – 12 pm) also. This included pick-pocketing and theft of two-wheeler. Another 8 per cent of the respondents were unaware of the time of occurrence of the crime. These cases include those where the drivers took away their vehicles.



Graph: Time of Occurrence of Crime

6.3. Residence Type

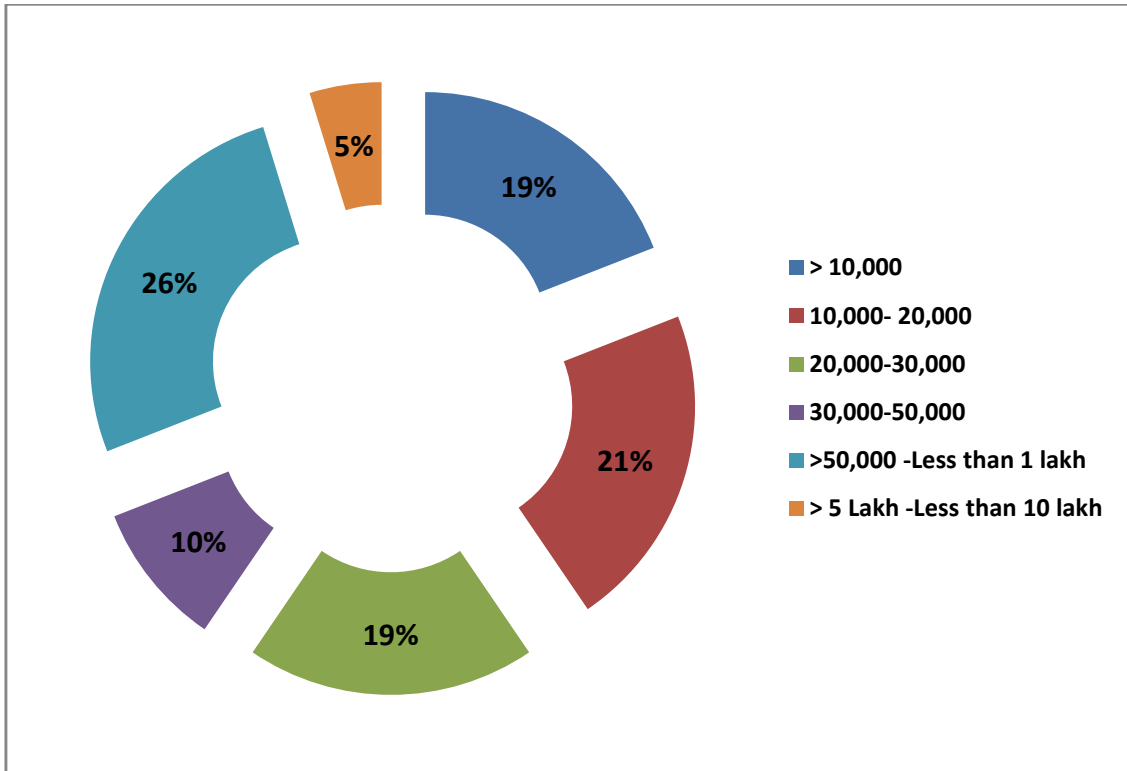
In case of house break-in cases, 56 per cent of the victims were living in their own houses, 42 per cent were living in rented accommodation, whereas in case of 2 per cent of the respondents, the valuable was stolen while they were staying at someone else's residence. Thus, property type has taken place in Guwahati irrespective of whether citizens live in their own houses or in rented accommodations.



Graph: Residence Type

6.4. Value of Property Stolen

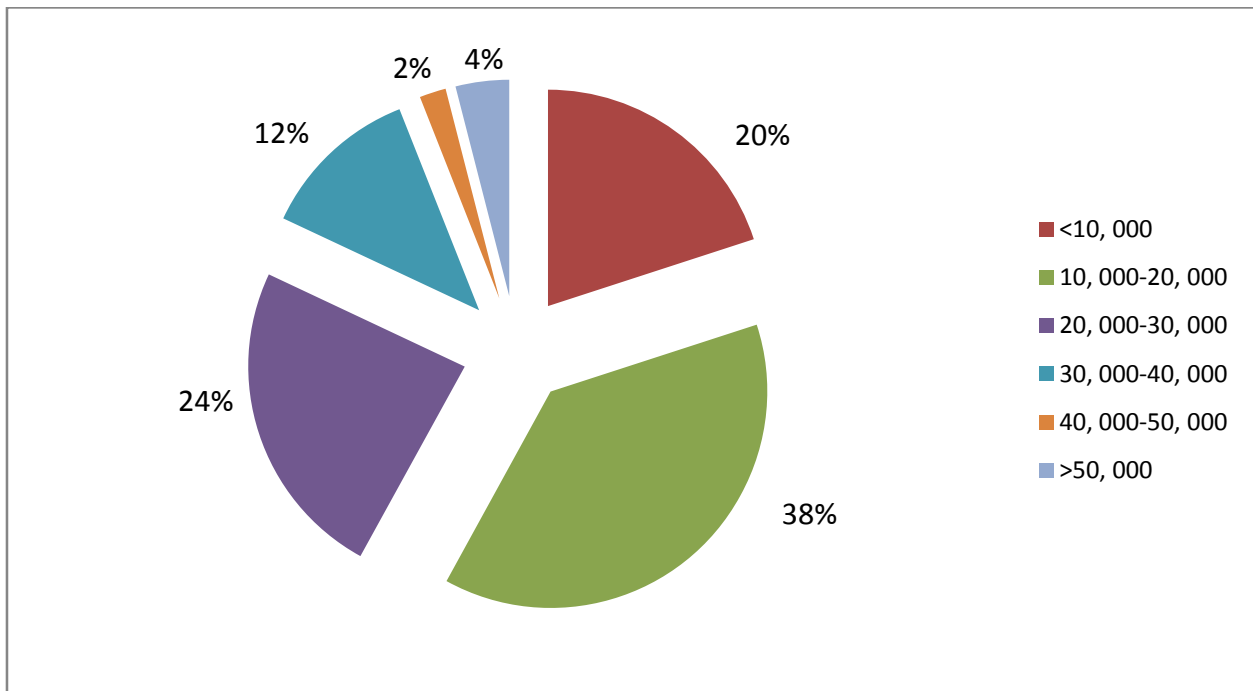
Most of the respondents (26 per cent) lost their property which were worth between Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 1,00,000. These included cash, jewellery, laptops, two-wheeler, etc. Again, 21 per cent of the respondents lost property worth Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000. These mostly included mobile phones. In 19 per cent of the cases, most of which involved pick-pocketing, property stolen was worth less than Rs. 10,000. In another 19 per cent of the cases, property (cash, mobile phone, jewellery) worth Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000 were stolen. In 10 per cent of the cases, property worth Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 50,000 was stolen. This included cash, jewellery and laptop. The rest 5 per cent lost property worth more than Rs. 5,00,000. These respondents lost their commercial vehicles.



Graph: Value of Property Stolen

6.5. Income

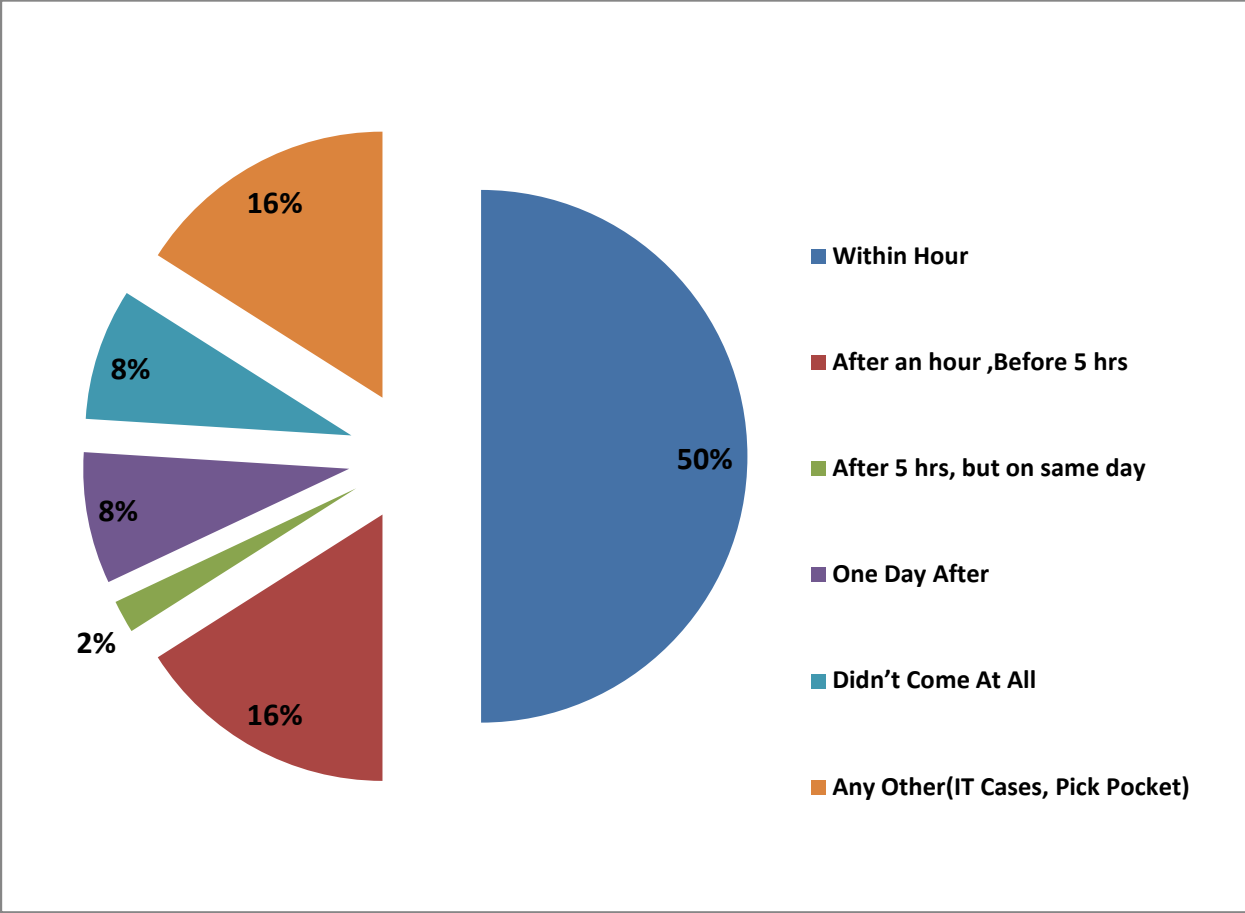
The study tried to ascertain the income levels of the victims, so as to understand how much trauma the victims might have felt after the loss of their valuables. It can be seen from the graph that majority of the respondents (38 per cent) had a monthly income between Rs. 10,000 and Rs, 20,000, while another 20 per cent had less than Rs. 10,000 as their monthly income. The loss of their valuables, whether it was cash or a mobile phone or a two-wheeler, had come as a shock for all of them. These incidents had affected their psyche. The psychological impact of these crimes on the victims is explained later in this chapter.



Graph: Income

6.6. Police Response Time

It is seen that chances of recovery of stolen property increases when the response time of the police is quite fast. The respondents were asked how much time had police taken to reach the crime spot after they had reported the crime. It was found that in majority of the cases (50 per cent), the police was quite proactive and had arrived at the crime scene within an hour of intimation of the crime. In 16 per cent of the cases, police came between one and five hours of intimation, while in 2 per cent of the case, police came after 5 hours of intimation but on the same day itself. There were a few cases of negligence on the part of the police in 16 per cent of the cases; in half of these cases, police came the next day, while in case of the other half, police did not come at all. In the rest of the 16 per cent of the cases, which included cyber fraud or pick-pocketing, police was not required to visit the place of occurrence.



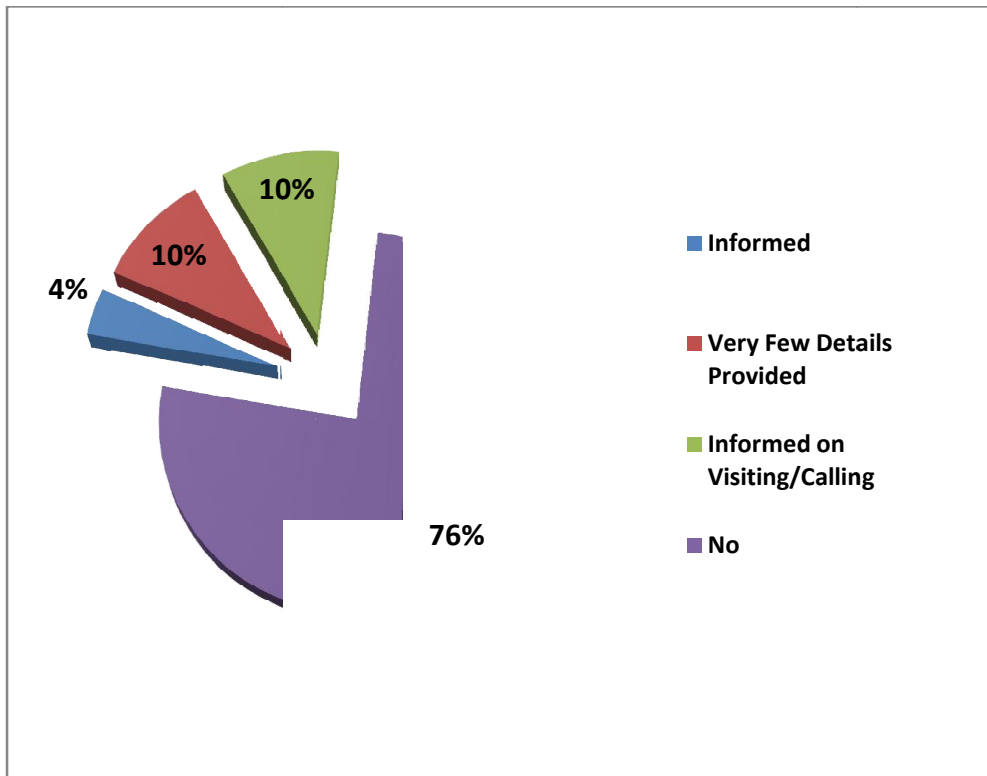
Graph: Police Response Time

6.7. Case Update

The victims of property crime remain anxious about whether they would be able to recover their stolen property or not. For this, they are more or less dependent on the police. The respondents were asked whether police kept them updated about the investigation into their case or not.

It was found that in majority of the cases (76 per cent), police did not inform the victims about the status of the investigation of their stolen property. In 10 per cent of the cases, the victims got an update on their case, when they visited the police station or called the Investigating Officer. In another 10 per cent of the cases, the respondents said that police kept them informed but provided very few details. Only 4 per cent of the respondents said that police kept them updated about the investigations of their stolen property.

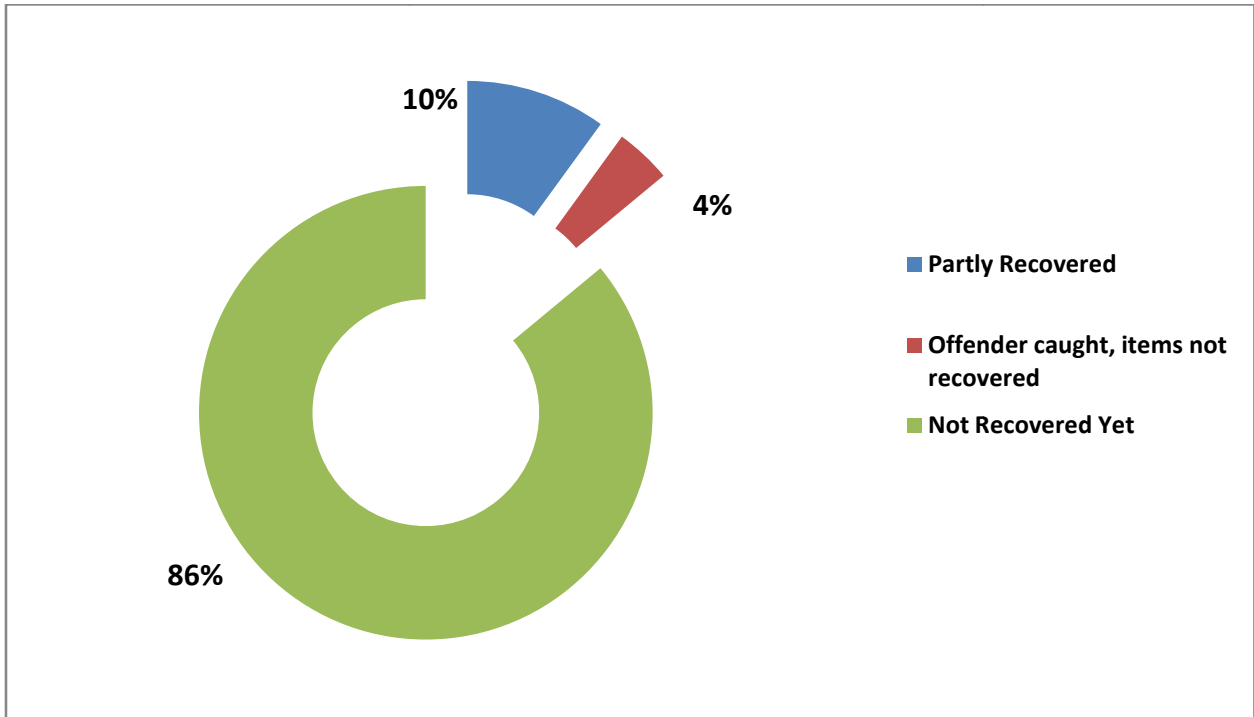
This shows that police has shown a total lack of empathy in most of the cases. On top of the mental anxiety that the victims had faced because of the loss of property, they also had to face the lack of cooperation from the police personnel, who they expect to help them recover the property. This lack of empathy has created a negative image in the mind of the victims towards the police.



Graph: Whether Police kept the victims updated about the case

6.8. Recovery of Stolen Property

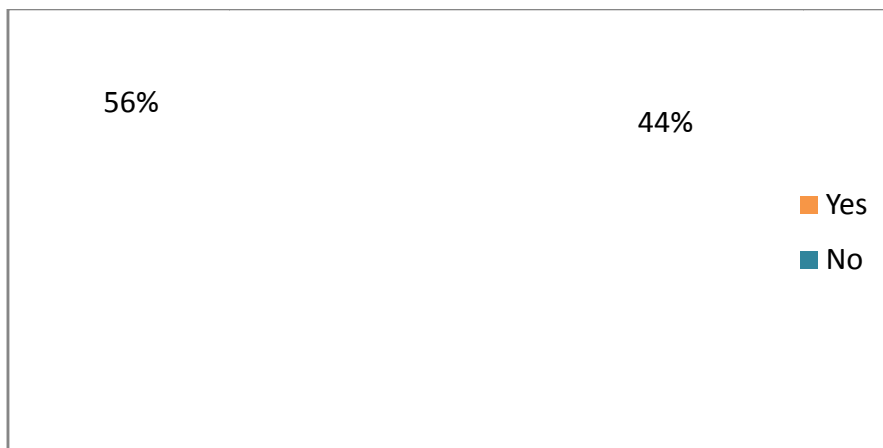
The respondents were asked whether the stolen property were recovered. It was found that in 10 per cent of the cases, the property was recovered. Recovered property included cash and jewellery. In 4 per cent of the cases, the offenders were caught but the items were not recovered as those were sold off. These included cases of two-wheeler theft. The respondents said that police had informed them about the arrest of the offenders. And in case of 86 per cent of the cases, there has been no recovery of stolen property as yet.



Graph: Recovery of Stolen Property

6.9. Insurance

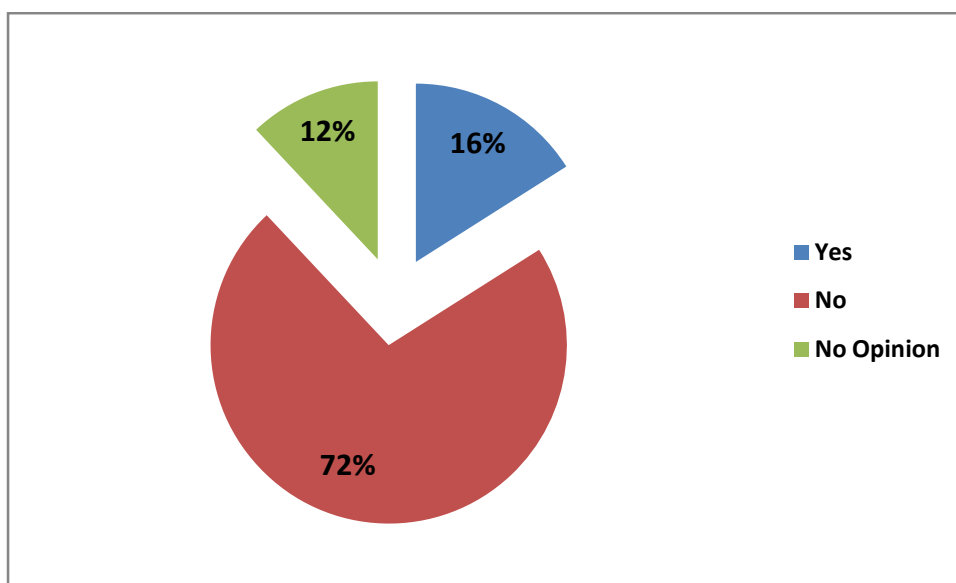
Many of the victims register cases of crimes against property to avail insurance claims. During the survey, it was found that 56 per cent of the respondents had filed for insurance claim against the stolen property. As the cases covered during this study are quite recent, none of the respondents has yet received the insurance money from the respective insurance companies.



Graph: Whether Filed for Insurance Claim

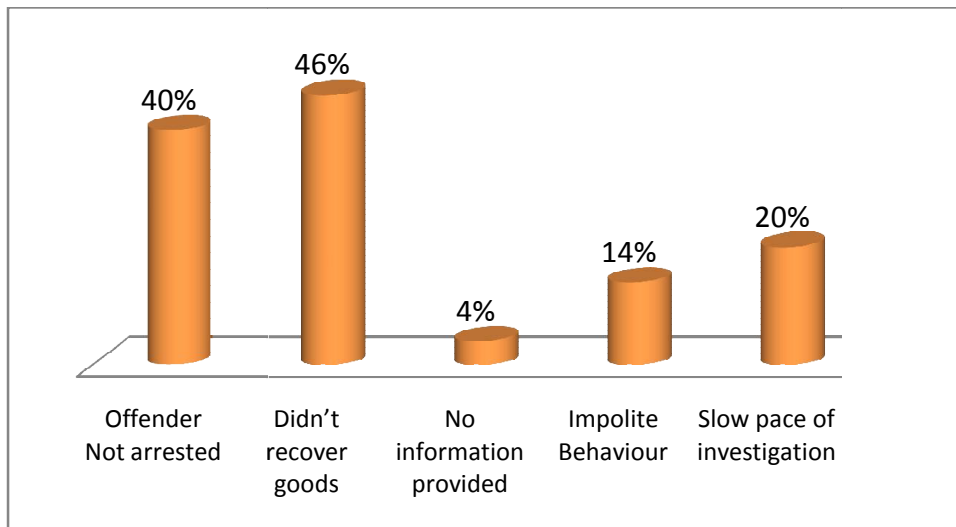
6.10. Satisfaction with Police Response

With non-recovery of stolen property and visible lack of empathy shown by police, it can easily be ascertained that the victims would not be satisfied with the police response. This was reflected in the field survey, with 72 per cent of the respondents saying that they were not satisfied with the response given by police. While 12 per cent of the respondents refrained from giving any opinion in this matter, 16 per cent of the respondents said that they are happy with the police response.



Graph: Satisfaction with Police Response

The respondents who had expressed dissatisfaction with the police response were asked as to what are the main reasons for it. While 46 per cent said that they were not satisfied because police was not able to recover the stolen property, 40 per cent said that they were dissatisfied because police was not able to arrest the offenders. Again, 20 per cent of the respondents said that they were appalled by the slow pace of investigation of the police, while 14 per cent of the respondents complained of impolite behaviour by the police personnel. A section of the respondents (4 per cent) were not happy because police did not keep them informed of the investigation process.



Graph: Reasons for Dissatisfaction with Police

Case Study 3

Aastik Deka (name changed) is a young businessman based in Guwahati who runs a transport business. He has a few commercial vehicles which are used to transport various materials across the Northeast. In 2014, he purchased a new Tata DI, with loan from Tata Motor Finance Corporation. He hired a driver to drive the vehicle. The driver was recommended to him by a friend of his.

Aastik usually kept all the details of the driver like copy of his PAN card and Driving license, etc., with him. But in this case, he failed to do so. He was busy preparing for his own marriage at that time and even though he had asked the driver to give him the copies of his driving license and PAN card, he did not pursue the matter.

Meanwhile, the driver was working in good manner. There was no complaint in the way he was driving the vehicle and he used to turn in the daily earnings to Aastik on time.

One day, Aastik was away from Guwahati. That afternoon, the driver called and informed him that a person wants to hire the car to Golaghat and he had already talked about the hiring charges. Aastik asked the driver to go. That was the last time he heard from the driver.

When Aastik did not receive any call from the driver till the evening, he called his number. It was

found to be switched off. Initially he thought that it might be because his mobile may not have battery. But even when no calls came the next day and his number was still showing switched off, only then Aastik thought about foul play.

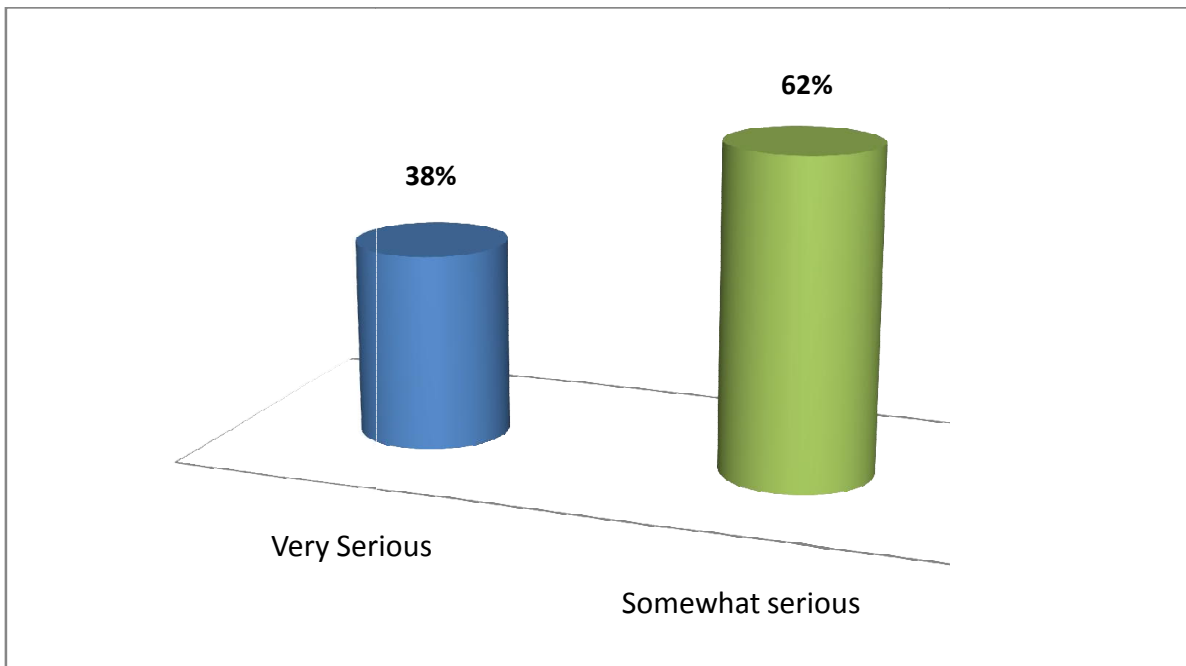
He immediately filed a FIR with the police. Here again he faced a lot of inconvenience. The police did not start their investigation on time. They collected the call data records of the driver only after four days of registering of the FIR. The call data records showed that the driver was at Silchar. Instead of taking any action from their side, the police personnel asked Aastik to make his own investigation in Silchar.

The months passed by and there was no progress in police investigation. The police too did not provide him any update on the case. He used to periodically visit the police station to check if there is any update. Meanwhile, he had to keep paying the installments on the loan that he had taken, even though he was not earning any money from that vehicle. The insurance company too was not releasing the money as they needed a copy of the driving license of the driver, which Aastik did not have. All these issues combined have impacted negatively on him and he accepts that he is going through mental trauma.

Thus, lack of individual alertness, coupled with poor investigation, has led to loss of a valuable property as well as psychological trauma for a citizen in Guwahati.

6.11. Psychological Impact

It is an established fact that any type of crime committed against a person creates a psychological impact on the victim. Some of these impacts are short-term, while some of the victims display signs of long-term psychological impact. This study also tried to analyze the psychological impact (both short term and long term) on the victims of property crime.

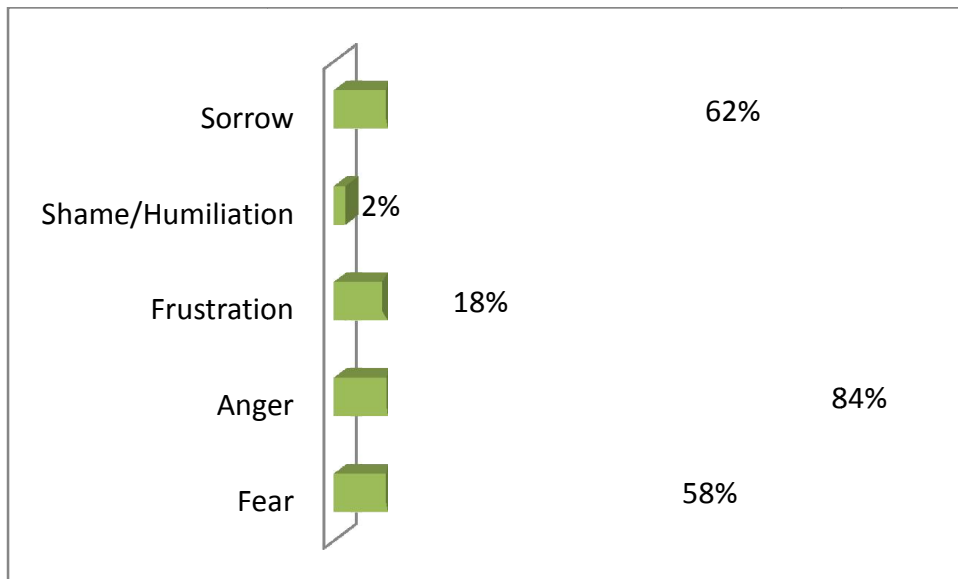


Graph: Impact of property crime on the victim/household

All the respondents agreed that the crime against property had impacted them and their households. Of these, 38 per cent termed that the impact was very serious. These respondents mostly included those who had income less than Rs. 20,000 and had lost valuables above that amount. Thus, loss of property to crime by people with lower income creates a greater psychological impact than on those with a better level of income.

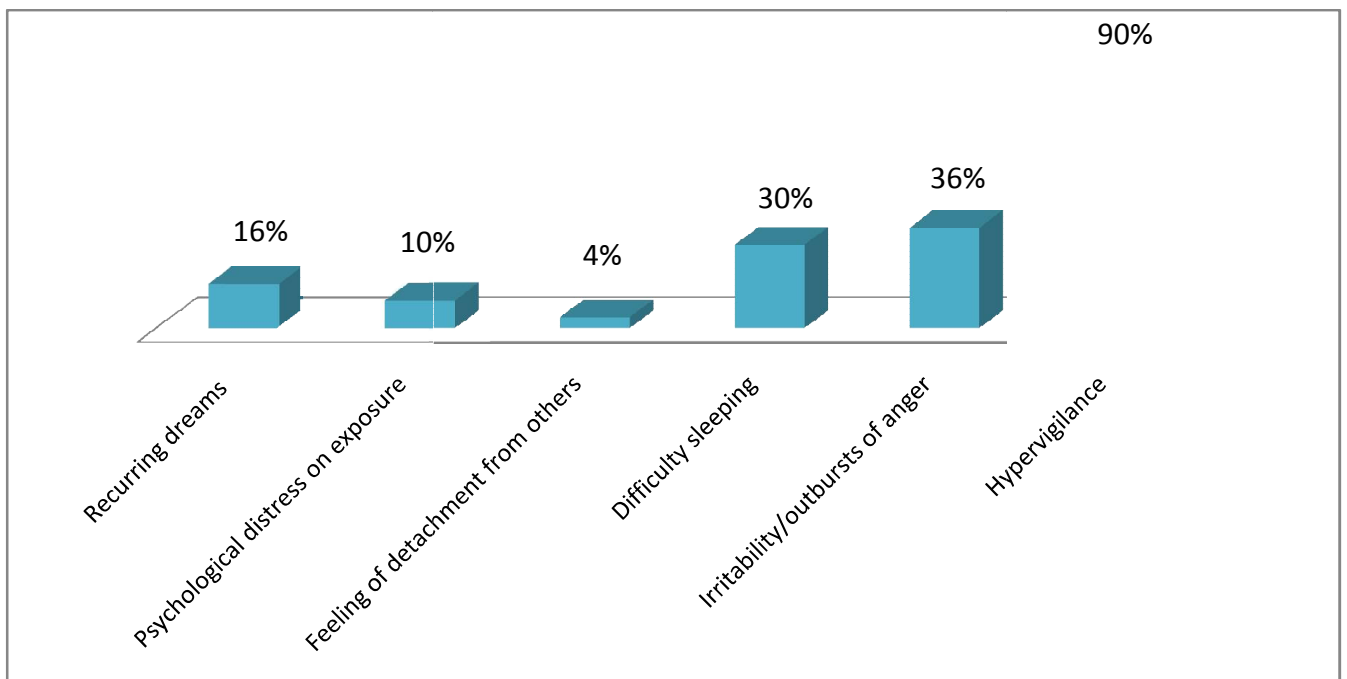
Crime against a person induces various types of emotions through the mind of the victims. On being asked about the type of emotions that ran through their mind, majority of the respondents (84) said that they were angry. Anger was the most displayed short-term psychological impact on the victims of property crime. The anger was mostly on the criminals who had committed the crime as well as anger on oneself for not being able to prevent the crime.

Another mostly displayed psychological impact was of fear, which was expressed by 58 per cent of the respondents. The fear was of being unsafe in the city, the fear of being robbed again, the fear of being not protected against such type of crimes. One respondent, who was robbed on gunpoint while on his way to home at night, said that, "I am afraid that I may be robbed once again when I go home at night. The familiar road to home doesn't seem any safer to me."



Graph: Type of emotions running through the mind after the crime was committed

Loss of property caused the feel of sorrow among 62 per cent the respondents, as they had to part away with the property they had bought with their hard-earned money. The feeling of frustration was there among 18 per cent of the respondents, as they felt a total helplessness in preventing the crime and could take to action to nab the culprits. A few respondents (2 per cent) felt shame and humiliation on losing their property.



Graph: Long-term Psychological Impact

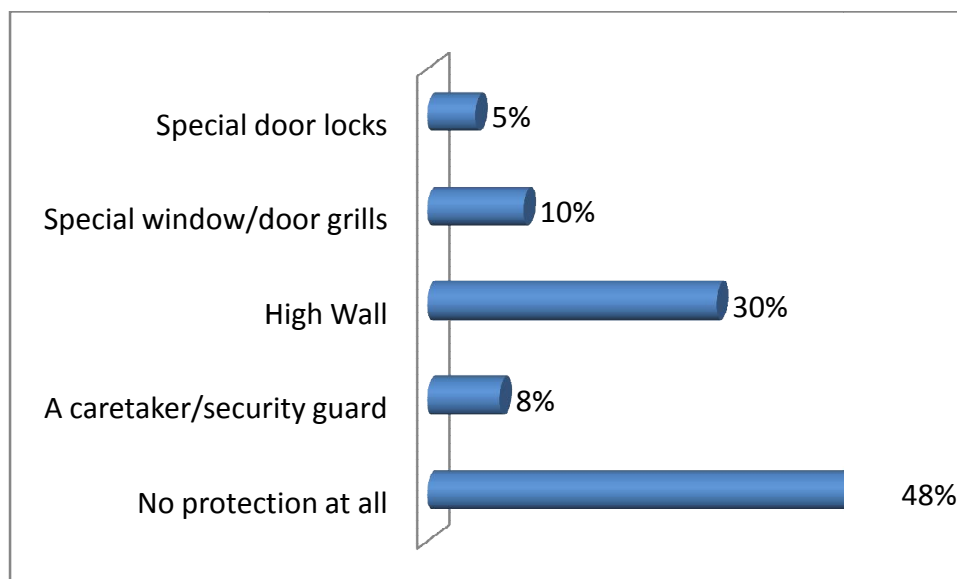
All the respondents displayed signs of long-term psychological impact. Majority of the respondents (90 per cent) had become hypervigilant. Hypervigilance is an increased state of vigilance and awareness that may be caused by fear and anxiety. It is characteristic of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). It may also trigger panic attacks and flashbacks. Among the respondents of this survey, many of the respondents agreed that they had flashbacks about the crime but none had experienced panic attacks.

The other types of long-term psychological impact found among the respondents included irritability and outbursts of anger among 36 per cent of the respondents. Difficulty in sleeping was experienced by 30 per cent of the respondents, while 16 per cent agreed that they had recurring dreams about the crime. Respondents (10 per cent) also said that they faced intense psychological distress when they heard or saw similar type of occurrences, whether in person or on the television. A small percentage of the respondents (4 per cent) said that they sometimes felt like getting complexly detached from others.

From analyzing these reactions of the respondents it can be stated that crime against property has both short-term and long-term psychological impact on the victims. These types of people need psychological counselling so that they are able to let go their trauma. However, it was found that none of the respondents were provided any kind of counselling nor has anyone gone to a counsellor.

6.12. Security Measure

In order to prevent crime against property, especially at the residence or godowns, it is necessary that some type of security measures are installed at these places. During the survey, CDPS team checked the security measures in place at the surveyed households. It was seen that 30 per cent of the households had a high perimeter wall to prevent criminals from trespassing. However, it was found that the wall was already there before the crime took place and it was not able to prevent the crime, though it might have left the criminals to look up for other modes of entry to the house.



Graph: Precautionary measures undertaken to prevent crime against property

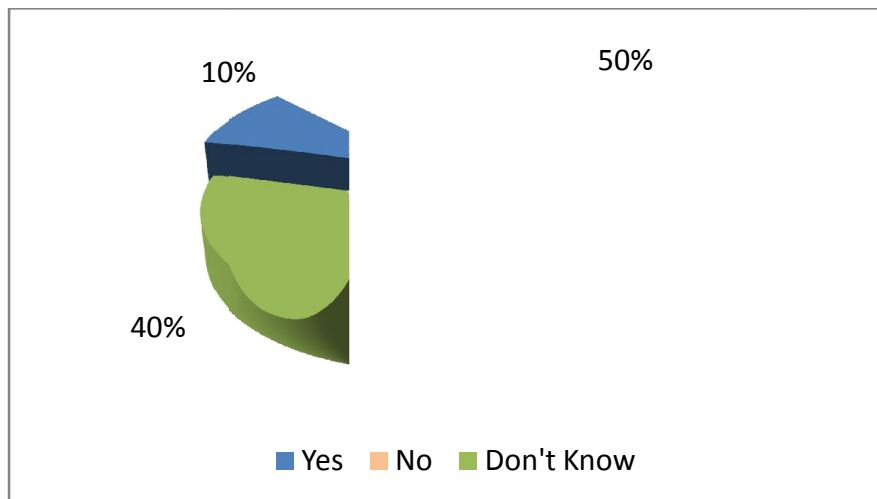
In 10 per cent of the households, special window and door grills have been fixed after they had a break-in their house. The respondents said that they felt much more secure than before now. Special door locks were installed by 5 per cent of the households, after they had faced house break-in. In case of 8 per cent of the respondents, the housing apartments where they live have appointed a caretaker/security guard. However, the survey team found that 42 per cent of the households covered in the survey do not have any kind of such security measures installed. While most of the respondents cited lack of money to install these features, a few respondents said that such features would not deter the criminals from stealing and robbing people. Rather they asked for improvement in the police patrolling.

6.13. Police Patrol

Police patrolling acts as a deterrent for crime. In Guwahati city, the police patrol the various areas of the city so as to prevent occurrences of crime as well as catch criminals if there is a crime. However, as mentioned earlier in Chapter 4 of this report, the Guwahati Police Commissionerate is facing shortage of manpower, which is having a negative impact on police patrolling activities.

The respondents were asked whether there is regular patrolling by the police in the locality they live in. Surprisingly, only 10 per cent of the respondents said that there is police patrolling in their area. While 40 per cent of the respondents said that they were not aware, the rest 50 per cent of the

respondents said that there is no police patrolling in their area. While it may be true that many of the respondents who have said that there is no police patrolling have not seen police patrolling vehicles in their area, it cannot be also denied that some areas may be left out of police patrolling because of shortage of manpower.



Graph: Whether respondents' locality covered in regular police patrolling

Case Study 4

Vivek Agarwal (name changed) is a businessman, who runs a stationery shop and wholesale business in Japorigog, Guwahati. He and his wife, both in their sixties, work together in the shop. Both of their children stay outside Assam for their studies. They live in a residential area and their shop is not far away from their home.

One day after closing their shop around 9.30 pm, when they reached their home, they found that there has been a break-in. The back door to their house has been forced in and the thieves had run away with their valuables, which included jewellery, a few electronic gadgets and a little cash. They were surprised that no one had noticed anything, as their house is surrounded on three sides by other houses.

They immediately went to the police station and filed an FIR. They listed everything they had lost along with their value in the FIR. Police came to their house the next day. But after that they have

not received any update from them. Mr. Agarwal used to go to the police station periodically to check if any progress has been made in his case, but now he no longer keeps track. He believes that he will never get back the stolen items.

Pointing towards the construction activity going on for an apartment building near his house, he says that there are many workers who work in these types of construction sites. It is doubtful if anyone keeps track of their credentials. He is of the view that some workers from the nearby construction site must have broken into his house. He suggested that police should keep a tab on the identity of the workers who works in such construction sites.

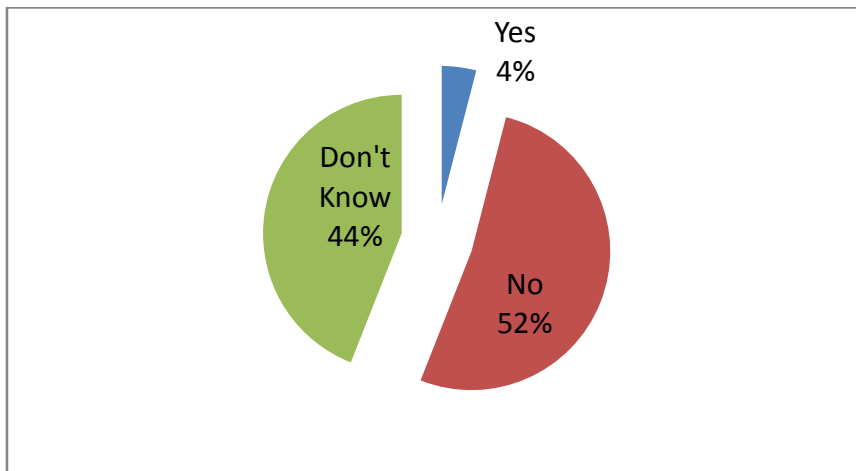
6.14. Citizen Committees

The first Nagarik Committee (Citizen Committee) was formed in Guwahati in July 1996, under the tutelage of Kuladhar Saikia, the then Superintendent of Police, Guwahati City⁴⁶. It was formed under Panbazar Police Station. In the subsequent years, more numbers of such Citizen Committees came into existence, which provided a platform for peoples' participation in policing their localities. In the year 1999, Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, the then SP of Guwahati city, compiled a booklet containing formal guidelines which gave an impetus to the committees⁴⁷. As per the structure of Citizen Committees, each municipality ward of Guwahati City has one committee with several sub-committees to take care of the problems of the specific areas of the wards. The Officer-in-charge of the Police Station is the ex-officio Secretary of the committee.

During the field survey, attempts were made to ascertain whether such committees existed in the areas where the respondents lived. Only 4 per cent of the respondents said that there is a citizen committee in their locality. Majority of the respondents (52 per cent) said that there is no Citizen Committee in their area, while 44 per cent of the respondents said they are not aware whether there is any such committees in their area or not. This shows that the zeal and enthusiasm with which such committees were formed in the 1990s has fizzled away over the years. It is the duty of both the citizens and the police to revive these committees, as these can be a deterrent to crime against property.

⁴⁶ Nagarik Committees, Assam Police, <http://assampolice.gov.in/community3.php>

⁴⁷ Ibid.



Graph: Whether there is a Citizen Committee in respondents' locality

The field survey among the citizens of Guwahati city, who have been victims of property crime, have brought forward various findings. It has been seen that while the response time of police after a crime has occurred has been quite satisfactory, the response of the police while investigating the case has not been satisfactory. The work done by the police for recovery of the stolen items or arrest of the offenders too is not satisfactory.

It was found that every respondent have had both short-term and long-term psychological impact because of the crime against their property. However, neither counselling was provided to them nor had they themselves gone to a counsellor. The psychological impact was more seen in those respondents who had an income of less than Rs. 20,000 per month, indicating that impact of property crime is more on people with lower levels of income.

The survey also found that there is a need to increase police patrolling around Guwahati city as well as initiatives by the police and the public to form as well as revitalize the existing Citizen Committees in the city.

Chapter 7

Recommendations

Based on the observations made during the field survey as well as the suggestions gathered from the respondents and after studying various measures implemented across various states and countries, a set of recommendations have been provided. These recommendations are divided into three parts. The first part states some measures that can prevent attraction towards crime, the second states some non-policing measures to combat crime against property, while the third part mentions measures that may be taken up by the police to reduce crime against property.

7.1. Reducing Attraction towards Crime

7.1.1. Skill Development

From the earlier researches on the subject as well through the field survey made as part of this study, it is clear that unemployment or lack of avenue to earn money forces many people to get attracted towards crime, especially crime against property. This can be prevented if skill development training is promoted extensively.

Government of India has already formulated a programme to train over 40 crore people in India in different skills by 2022. Training under skill development schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikash Yojana (PMKVY) and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) are already going on around the country, including Assam. The best part of these schemes is that even school drop-outs and people studying till only middle school level can also apply to train under these. The numerous trades available under these schemes can easily be availed by the citizens. Most of these training are also free of cost.

However, it is seen that there is a lack of awareness about these schemes as well as lack of knowledge on how to apply for these schemes. Also, there is a section of the population who do not usually get information through television, radio or social networks. Therefore, the first job will be to spread awareness about skill training among these type of people through road shows or door-to-

door visits. NGOs may play an important role in this. People who are unemployed and financially weak and are not well educated should be the target for such promotional activities.

Skill training will allow these people to take up some decent job or be self-employed and this will surely prevent them from moving towards criminal activities.

7.1.2. Reformation Measures in Jail

Jail is a place which can give a person time to introspect on his life and help him mend his ways. But at the same time, jail can also turn a petty criminal into a hardened one. Therefore, running a few reformation programmes in the jail may help the inmates to refrain from taking up crime once they are released. Skill development training inside jails too may be very beneficial to inmates, as they could use the skills learned inside the jail to find a job or be self-employed. **These training courses have to be run professionally with career counselling and placement cells to connect such programs with actual employment. The convicts, who complete the training, should be given course completion certificates, which will help them apply for jobs once they are out of jail.**

Examples of such training programmes have already been mentioned in Chapter 5 of this report. However, it was seen during the survey that inmates are not aware of such programmes going on inside the jail.

Therefore, it is the duty of the organizations providing skill development training or running other reformation measures inside the jail, to talk to the inmates about the benefits of these schemes and how they could use these programmes to lead a better life away from crime.

7.1.3. Bridge Courses for School Dropouts

Various studies have found that a significant chunk of criminals are school dropouts. Even during the field survey this particular fact was observed. Lack of education, coupled with poverty and unemployment, leads a person to commit crime. This can be prevented if such dropouts are identified and are enrolled in bridge courses, which are provided by several institutions and agencies in Assam. NGOs, especially those working among children and those working for rehabilitation of drug victims, can carry out a survey to identify such dropouts and help them get enrolled in bridge courses, so that they can continue with their education.

7.1.4. Preventing Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is one of the major reasons which lead people to commit crimes. In this aspect, a major role has to be played by parents, teachers as well as the civil society. Parents and teachers have to stay vigilant to note signs of substance abuse among their wards and take professional help if they think it is necessary. Civil society can play a role by identifying individuals with proven record of substance abuse involved in property crime for counselling programmes.

7.1.5. Psychological Counselling

Psychological counselling to substance abusers as well as criminals is necessary to further prevent them from committing crimes. Such programmes need to be made a regular part of jail activities, so that people who want to reform do not take up a path of crime just because of the influence of their inmates while in jail, as is seen in many cases. Psychological counselling will help such people to stay focussed to swerve away from the path of crime.

7.1.6. Support from NGOs

NGOs can play an important role in preventing people getting attracted towards crime. They can spread awareness about skill development, they can teach the people how to get enrolled in such programmes, they can also help the trained people to take loans from banks for starting a business. They can play a role in organizing psychological counselling for substance abusers and help them in overcoming the addiction. The role that can be played by NGOs is immense in this issue.

7.2. Non-Policing Measures

7.2.1. Citizen Committee

The Citizen Committees in Guwahati are no longer active in many parts of the city. There is lack of communication and coordination between the committees and the police. As such, a proper institutionalized mechanism for Citizen Committees has to be newly built in Guwahati. Commissioner of Police may direct all the police stations in Guwahati to collect feedback from the citizens in their respective areas in this regard.

7.2.2. Home Security System

Installing tamper-proof/anti-theft security locking systems as well as CCTV may help in preventing crime against property.

7.2.3. Community Watch

People in a particular locality, especially those localities where there are many incidents of property crime, may provide collective employment to night guards. This will be cost-effective and will help in preventing crime against property.

7.2.4. Individual alertness

Lack of individual alertness is a reason of many property crimes. With increase in the number of property crimes, the level of alertness too has to increase among the citizens. When employing a new domestic help or driver, his/her credentials, address, etc needs to be verified. Home security system, tamper-free safes, etc, may be installed in the houses. Valuables should be kept away from windows.

7.2.5. Emergency Numbers

A list of emergency phone numbers, such as those of the nearest police station, hospital, etc has to be saved in the mobile phones of each member of the household.

7.3. Policing Measures

7.3.1. Police patrol

Police patrolling needs to cover every nook and corner of the city. For this, if required, the police department may ask the government for supply of more vehicles.

7.3.2. Filling up vacancy in police

Manpower shortage in police is preventing the police from effectively providing round-the-clock-patrolling around the city. This problem can only be solved if vacancy in police staff is filled up at the earliest.

7.3.3. Verification of workers at construction site

Police need to keep a tab on the workers working in the various construction sites. Many people have alleged that such workers may be involved in various crimes against property. Police may ask the company undertaking the construction to provide them with a list of people working at their site, along with their identity and address proof.

7.3.4. Coordination between police and judiciary

Analysis of the conviction rate done during this study has found that the conviction rate is quite low in the state. As such, a proper coordination is necessary between the police and the judiciary so that the offenders do not escape punishment. Senior police officers may from time to time scrutinize the chargesheets so that there are no loopholes in the case made by the police.

7.3.5. Keeping the Victims Informed

During the field survey, majority of the respondents had said that police had not kept them informed about the progress of the investigation of their case. A mechanism has to be developed through which the complainants are able to keep track of the investigation of their case. Either an online portal or a helpline number need to be established at the earliest, so that the complainant can check the portal or call that number to get updates about their case.

7.3.6. Use of Social Media

Police can use various social media platforms to keep the citizens informed about the status of their pending cases. Through its official Facebook page or Twitter handle, police can interact with the complainants and address their query. They can also use the social media platforms to seek information from the public on specific crimes against property. They can ask citizens to directly

post the information or provide the citizens with a phone number where they can contact the relevant police officials. Social media, as well as traditional mediums like Television and Newspapers, can also be used by the police to spread awareness among the citizens about what kind of steps are needed to safeguard their property.

Annexure

Annexure I

Indian Penal Code

Crime Against Property

Section 378

Theft

Whoever, intending to take dishonestly any moveable property out of the possession of any person without that person's consent, moves that property in order to such taking, is said to commit theft.

Explanation 1.—A thing so long as it is attached to the earth, not being movable property, is not the subject of theft; but it becomes capable of being the subject of theft as soon as it is severed from the earth.

Explanation 2.—A moving effected by the same act which affects the severance may be a theft.

Explanation 3.—A person is said to cause a thing to move by removing an obstacle which prevented it from moving or by separating it from any other thing, as well as by actually moving it.

Explanation 4.—A person, who by any means causes an animal to move, is said to move that animal, and to move everything which, in consequence of the motion so caused, is moved by that animal.

Explanation 5.—The consent mentioned in the definition may be express or implied, and may be given either by the person in possession, or by any person having for that purpose authority either express or implied.

Section 379

Punishment for theft

Whoever commits theft shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 380

Theft in dwelling house, etc.,

Whoever commits theft in any building, tent or vessel, which building, tent or vessel is used as a human dwelling, or used for the custody of property, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 381

Theft by clerk or servant of property in possession of master

Whoever, being a clerk or servant, or being employed in the capacity of a clerk or servant, commits theft in respect of any property in the possession of his master or employer, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 382**Theft after preparation made for causing death, hurt or restraint in order to the committing of the theft**

Whoever commits theft, having made preparation for causing death, or hurt, or restraint, or fear of death, or of hurt, or of restraint, to any person, in order to the committing of such theft, or in order to the effecting of his escape after the committing of such theft, or in order to the retaining of property taken by such theft, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 383**Extortion**

Whoever intentionally puts any person in fear of any injury to that person, or to any other, and thereby dishonestly induces the person so put in fear to deliver to any person any property, or valuable security or anything signed or sealed which may be converted into a valuable security, commits "extortion".

Section 384**Punishment for Extortion**

Whoever commits extortion shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 385**Putting a person in fear of injury in order to commit extortion**

Whoever, in order to the committing of extortion, puts any person in fear, or attempts to put any person in fear, of any injury, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 386**Putting person in fear of death or of grievous hurt, in order to commit extortion**

Whoever in order to the committing of extortion, puts or attempts to put any person in fear of death or of grievous hurt to that person or to any other, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 387**Putting person in fear of death or of grievous hurt, in order to commit extortion**

Whoever in order to the committing of extortion, puts or attempts to put any person in fear of death or of grievous hurt to that person or to any other, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 388**Extortion by threat of accusation of an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life, etc.**

Whoever commits extortion by putting any person in fear of an accusation against that person or any other, of having committed or attempted to commit any offence punishable with death, or with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, or of having attempted to induce any other person to commit such offence, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine; and, if the offence be one punishable under section 377 of this Code, may be punished with imprisonment for life.

Section 389**Putting person in fear or accusation of offence, in order to commit extortion**

Whoever, in order to the committing of extortion, puts or attempts to put any person in fear of an accusation, against that person or any other, of having committed, or attempted to commit, an offence punishable with death or with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine; and, if the offence be punishable under section 377 of this Code, may be punished with imprisonment for life.

Section 390**Robbery**

In all robbery there is either theft or extortion. When theft is robbery.—Theft is “robbery” if, in order to the committing of the theft, or in committing the theft, or in carrying away or attempting to carry away property obtained by the theft, the offender, for that end, voluntarily causes or attempts to cause to any person death or hurt or wrongful restraint, or fear of instant death or of instant hurt, or of instant wrongful restraint. When extortion is robbery.—Extortion is “robbery” if the offender, at the time of committing the extortion, is in the presence of the person put in fear, and commits the extortion by putting that person in fear of instant death, of instant hurt, or of instant wrongful restraint to that person or to some other person, and, by so putting in fear, induces the person so put in fear then and there to deliver up the thing extorted. Explanation.—The offender is said to be present if he is sufficiently near to put the other person in fear of instant death, of instant hurt, or of instant wrongful restraint.

Section 391**Dacoity**

When five or more persons conjointly commit or attempt to commit a robbery, or where the whole number of persons conjointly committing or attempting to commit a robbery, and persons present and aiding such commission or attempt, amount to five or more, every person so committing, attempting or aiding, is said to commit “dacoity”.

Section 392**Punishment for robbery**

Whoever commits robbery shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine; and, if the robbery be committed on the highway between sunset and sunrise, the imprisonment may be extended to fourteen years.

Section 393**Attempt to commit robbery**

Whoever attempts to commit robbery shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 394**Voluntarily causing hurt in committing robbery**

If any person, in committing or in attempting to commit robbery, voluntarily causes hurt, such person, and any other person jointly concerned in committing or attempting to commit such robbery, shall be punished with 1[imprisonment for life], or with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 395**Punishment for dacoity**

Whoever commits dacoity shall be punished with 1[imprisonment for life], or with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 396**Dacoity with murder**

If any one of five or more persons, who are conjointly committing dacoity, commits murder in so committing dacoity, every one of those persons shall be punished with death, or 1[imprisonment for life], or rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 397**Robbery, or dacoity, with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt**

If, at the time of committing robbery or dacoity, the offender uses any deadly weapon, or causes grievous hurt to any person, or attempts to cause death or grievous hurt to any person, the imprisonment with which such offender shall be punished shall not be less than seven years.

Section 398**Attempt to commit robbery or dacoity when armed with deadly weapon**

If, at the time of attempting to commit robbery or dacoity, the offender is armed with any deadly weapon, the imprisonment with which such offender shall be punished shall not be less than seven years.

Section 399**Making preparation to commit dacoity**

Whoever makes, any preparation for committing dacoity, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 400**Punishment for belonging to gang of dacoits**

Whoever, at any time after the passing of this Act, shall belong to a gang of persons associated for the purpose of habitually committing dacoity, shall be punished with 1[imprisonment for life], or with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 401**Punishment for belonging to gang of thieves**

Whoever, at any time after the passing of this Act, shall belong to any wandering or other gang of persons associated for the purpose of habitually committing theft or robbery, and not being a gang of thugs or dacoits, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 402**Assembling for purpose of committing dacoity**

Whoever, at any time after the passing of this Act, shall be one of five or more persons assembled for the purpose of committing dacoity, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 441**Criminal trespass**

Whoever enters into or upon property in the possession of another with intent to commit an offence or to intimidate, insult or annoy any person in possession of such property, or having lawfully entered into or upon such property, unlawfully remains there with intent thereby to intimidate, insult or annoy any such person, or with intent to commit an offence, is said to commit "criminal trespass".

Section 442**House trespass**

Whoever commits criminal trespass by entering into or remaining in any building, tent or vessel used as a human dwelling or any building used as a place for worship, or as a place for the custody of property, is said to commit "house-trespass". Explanation.—The introduction of any part of the criminal trespasser's body is entering sufficient to constitute house-trespass.

Section 443**Lurking house-trespass**

Whoever commits house-trespass having taken precautions to conceal such house-trespass from some person who has a right to exclude or eject the trespasser from the building, tent or vessel which is the subject of the trespass, is said to commit "lurking house-trespass".

Section 444
Lurking house-trespass by night

Whoever commits lurking house-trespass after sunset and before sunrise is said to commit “lurking house-trespass by night”.

Section 445
House breaking

A person is said to commit “house-breaking” who commits house-trespass if he effects his entrance into the house or any part of it in any of the six ways hereinafter described; or if, being in the house or any part of it for the purpose of committing an offence, or, having committed an offence therein, he quits the house or any part of it in any of such six ways, that is to say—

(First) —If he enters or quits through a passage by himself, or by any abettor of the house-trespass, in order to the committing of the house-trespass.

(Secondly) —If he enters or quits through any passage not intended by any person, other than himself or an abettor of the offence, for human entrance; or through any passage to which he has obtained access by scaling or climbing over any wall or building.

(Thirdly) —If he enters or quits through any passage which he or any abettor of the house-trespass has opened, in order to the committing of the house-trespass by any means by which that passage was not intended by the occupier of the house to be opened.

(Fourthly) —If he enters or quits by opening any lock in order to the committing of the house-trespass, or in order to the quitting of the house after a house-trespass.

(Fifthly) —If he effects his entrance or departure by using criminal force or committing an assault or by threatening any person with assault.

(Sixthly) —If he enters or quits by any passage which he knows to have been fastened against such entrance or departure, and to have been unfastened by himself or by an abettor of the house-trespass. Explanation.—Any out-house or building occupied with a house, and between which and such house there is an immediate internal communication, is part of the house within the meaning of this section.

Section 446
House-breaking by night

Whoever commits house-breaking after sunset and before sunrise, is said to commit “house-breaking by night”.

Section 447
Punishment for criminal trespass

Whoever commits criminal trespass shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, with fine or which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

Section 448**Punishment for house-trespass**

Whoever commits house-trespass shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

Section 449**House-trespass in order to commit offence punishable with death**

Whoever commits house-trespass in order to the committing of any offence punishable with death, shall be punished with 1[imprisonment for life], or with rigorous imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. Punishment—Imprisonment for life, or rigorous imprisonment for 10 years and fine—Cognizable—Non-bailable—Triable by Court of Session—Non-compoundable.

Section 450**House-trespass in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment for life**

Whoever commits house-trespass in order to the committing of any offence punishable with 1[imprisonment for life], shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 451**House-trespass in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment**

Whoever commits house-trespass in order to the committing of any offence punishable with imprisonment, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine; and if the offence intended to be committed is theft, the term of the imprisonment may be extended to seven years.

Section 452**House-trespass after preparation for hurt, assault or wrongful restraint**

Whoever commits house-trespass, having made preparation for causing hurt to any person or for assaulting any person, or for wrongfully restraining any person, or for putting any person in fear of hurt, or of assault, or of wrongful restraint, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 453**Punishment for lurking house-trespass or house-breaking**

Whoever commits lurking house-trespass or house-breaking, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 454

Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment

Whoever commits lurking house-trespass or house-breaking, in order to the committing of any offence punishable with imprisonment, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine; and if the offence intended to be committed is theft, the term of the imprisonment may be extended to ten years.

Section 455

Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking after preparation for hurt, assault or wrongful restraint

Whoever commits lurking house-trespass, or house-breaking, having made preparation for causing hurt to any person, or for assaulting any person, or for wrongfully restraining any person, or for putting any person in fear of hurt, or of assault, or of wrongful restraint, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 456

Punishment for lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night

Whoever commits lurking house-trespass by night, or house-breaking by night, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 457

Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment.—Whoever commits lurking house-trespass by night, or house-breaking by night, in order to the committing of any offence punishable with imprisonment, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine; and, if the offence intended to be committed is theft, the term of the imprisonment may be extended to fourteen years.

Section 458

Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night after preparation for hurt, assault, or wrongful restraint

Whoever commits lurking house-trespass by night, or house-breaking by night, having made preparation for causing hurt to any person or for assaulting any person, or for wrongfully restraining any person, or for putting any person in fear of hurt, or of assault, or of wrongful restraint, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to fourteen years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 459

Grievous hurt caused whilst committing lurking house trespass or house-breaking

Whoever, whilst committing lurking house-trespass or house-breaking, causes grievous hurt to any person or attempts to cause death or grievous hurt to any person, shall be punished with

1[imprisonment for life], or imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 460

All persons jointly concerned in lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night punishable where death or grievous hurt caused by one of them

If, at the time of the committing of lurking house-trespass by night or house-breaking by night, any person guilty of such offence shall voluntarily cause or attempt to cause death or grievous hurt to any person, every person jointly concerned in committing such lurking house-trespass by night or house-breaking by night, shall be punished with 1[imprisonment for life], or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Section 461

Dishonestly breaking open receptacle containing property

Whoever dishonestly or with intent to commit mischief, breaks open or unfastens any closed receptacle which contains or which he believes to contain property, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Section 462

Punishment for same offence when committed by person entrusted with custody

Whoever, being entrusted with any closed receptacle which contains or which he believes to contain property without having authority to open the same, dishonestly, or with intent to commit mischief, breaks open or unfastens that receptacle, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Annexure II

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Centre for Development and Peace Studies

**Crime against Property in Kamrup District:
Decoding the Role of Psycho-Social Factors**

QUESTIONNAIRE I

(Target Respondent: Crime Victims)

RESPONDENT PROFILE

A1. Name of the Respondent:

A2. Phone No.

A3. Address:

House/Flat No..... Apartment Name.....

Street Name.....

Village/Locality.....

Police Station.....

B1. Gender: 1) Male 2) Female 3) Others

B2. Age: 1) < 18 2) 18 – 30 3) 31 – 40
4) 41 – 50 5) 51 – 60 6) > 60

B3. Religion:
1) Hindu 2) Muslim 3) Christian 4) Sikh 5) Other.....

B4. Caste:
1) General 2) SC 3) ST 4) OBC / MOBC

B5. Income Per Month (in Rs.):
1) < Rs. 10,000 2) Rs. 10,000 -Rs. 20,000 3) Rs. 20,000 – Rs. 30,000
4) Rs. 30,000 - Rs. 40,000 5) Rs. 40,000 - Rs. 50,000 6) > Rs. 50,000

B6. Occupation:

- 1) Govt. employee
- 2) Private Sector employee
- 3) Agriculture
- 4) Business
- 5) Shopkeeper
- 6) Any other.....

B7. Educational Qualification

- 1) Illiterate 2) Below primary 3) Primary 4) Middle 5) High School
- 6) Higher Secondary 7) Graduate 8) Post Graduate 9) Any other.....

B8. Respondent's Family Details

Sl. No.	Relation with Respondent	Occupation	Monthly Income (in Rs.)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

INTERVIEW BEGINS

Part I: Nature of Crime

Q.1) How long have you lived in this area?

- 1. Less than One Year
- 2. More than One year but less than 5 years
- 3. More than 5 years but less than 10 years
- 4. More than 10 years

Q.2) Which of the following crimes you/your household have been the victim of:

- 1. Theft
- 2. Burglary
- 3. Robbery
- 4. Dacoity

Q.3) Kindly explain the nature of crime?

.....

.....

.....

Q.4) When did this happen?

.....

Q.5) Where was the crime committed?

- 1. My House
- 2. My Office
- 3. In Public Transport
- 4. On the highway
- 5. Any other.....

Q.6) If crime occurred at home, were you alone when the crime occurred?

Yes 2. No

1.

Q.7) If No, who else were there?

Q.8) What was the time when the incident took place?

- 1. Morning (6:00 -12:00)
- 2. Afternoon (12:00- 18:00)
- 3. Evening (18:00-0:00)
- 4. Late night (0:00 -6:00)

Q.9) What was the estimated value of the property stolen/damaged?

.....

Q.10) Did any of the offender(s) have knife, a gun, another weapon or something used as a weapon?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

Q.11) During the crime, were you or any member of your household physically injured?

1. Yes
2. No

Q.12) If Yes, what was the extent of injury?

1. Minor Injury
2. Grievous Injury
3. Injury leading to death
4. Death at the spot
5. Any other.....

Q.13) Did you know the offender(s)? 1. Yes 2. No

Q.13A) If Yes, who was the person(s)?.....

Q.14) How often you or your household have been a victim of crime against property?

1. Once
2. Twice
3. Thrice
4. More than 3 times

Q.15) Have there been an instance when you found evidence that someone tried to get into your house or flat unsuccessfully? For example damage to locks, doors or window or scratches around the lock etc.

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

Q.15A) If Yes, when did this happen?

Q.15B) Did you report it to Police? 1. Yes 2. No

Q.15C) If No, why?.....

Part II: Reporting of Crime and Police Action

Q.16) Who reported the crime to the police?

1. Me/My Family
2. My Neighbour
3. Don't know
4. Any other.....

Q.17) How much time did police take to reach the crime spot?

1. Within an hour of reporting
2. After an hour but before 5 hours
3. After 5 hours but on the same day of reporting the crime
4. One day after reporting the crime
5. Police didn't come at all
6. Any other.....

Q.18) Did the police keep you informed on the follow-up of the case?

1. Yes, I was fully aware of the case proceedings
2. Yes, but very few details were provided
3. Yes, but only when I called or visited the police station
4. No
5. Any other.....

Q.19) Whether your stolen goods were recovered or not?

1. Yes, all were recovered
2. Yes, partly recovered
3. No, police caught the offender(s) but all the items were sold off
4. No, police could not catch the offender(s)

Q.20) Were you satisfied with the way the police have dealt with the issue?

1. Yes
2. No
3. No Opinion

Q.21) If No, Why?

1. Police did not find or apprehend the offender(s)
2. Didn't recover my lost property
3. Didn't keep me properly informed
4. Behaved impolitely with me
5. Were very slow
6. Any other.....

Q.22) If the offender(s) was arrested, were you informed by the police?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not Applicable
4. Any other.....

Q.23) If the offender(s) was arrested, was he sent to jail for his crime?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not Applicable
4. Any other.....

Part III: Psychological Assessment

Q.24) How seriously did the incident impact you and your household?

1. Very serious
2. Somewhat serious
3. Not very serious
4. Any other.....

Q.25) What kind of emotions ran through your mind after the crime was committed?

1. Fear
2. Anger
3. Frustration
4. Confusion
5. Guilt/Self-blame
6. Shame/Humiliation
7. Sorrow
8. Any other.....

Q.26) Have you/any of your family members experienced any of the following conditions after the crime?

1. Recurring dreams of the incident
2. Hallucinations
3. Intense psychological distress at exposure to events that symbolize or resemble an aspect of the incident
4. Deliberate efforts to avoid activities or situations that arouse recollections of the event
5. Feeling of detachment from others
6. Difficulty falling or staying asleep
7. Irritability or outbursts of anger
8. Difficulty concentrating
9. Hypervigilance
10. Any other.....

Q.27) Was any counselling service provided to you or your family members?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

Q.27A) If yes, can you tell us who provided the counselling service and for what period?

.....

Q.28) Do you feel secure now?

- 3. Yes
- 4. No
- 5. Any other.....

Part IV: SECURITY MEASURES

Q. 29) What are some of the precautionary measures that you have taken up to prevent such incidents?

- 1. CCTV Camera
- 2. Burglar alarm
- 3. Special door locks
- 4. Special window or door grills
- 5. A high wall
- 6. A caretaker/security guard
- 7. Not protected by any of these
- 8. Any other.....

Q. 30) Were any of these already present before occurrence of the crime?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

Q.30A) If Yes, what and did it help in arresting the offender(s)?

.....

Q.31) Is your locality covered in regular police patrolling?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Don't Know

Q.32) Is there a Citizen Committee in your locality?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Don't Know

Q.32A) If yes, does the committee have a liaison with the local police station?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Don't Know

Q.33) According to you, what kind of measures should be taken for prevention of crimes against property?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Annexure III

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Centre for Development and Peace Studies

**Crime against Property in Kamrup District:
Decoding the Role of Psycho-Social Factors**

QUESTIONNAIRE II

(Target Respondent: Convict)

RESPONDENT PROFILE

A1. Name of the Respondent:

A2. Permanent Address:

Village.....

Town.....

District.....

Police Station.....

B1. Gender: 1) Male 2) Female 3) Others

B2. Age: 1) < 18 2) 18 – 30 3) 31 – 40
4) 41 – 50 5) 51 – 60 6) > 60

B3. Religion:
1) Hindu 2) Muslim 3) Christian 4) Sikh 5) Other.....

B4. Caste:
1) General 2) SC 3) ST 4) OBC / MOBC

B5. Educational Qualification
1) Illiterate 2) Below primary 3) Primary 4) Middle 5) High School
6) Higher Secondary 7) Graduate 8) Post Graduate 9) Any other.....

B6. Respondent's Family Details

Sl. No.	Relation with Respondent	Occupation	Monthly Income (in Rs.)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

INTERVIEW BEGINS

Part I: Nature of Crime

Q.1) For what crime are you in jail currently?

- 5. Theft
- 6. Burglary
- 7. Robbery
- 8. Dacoity
- 9. Dacoity with Murder

Q.2) Since when you are in Jail?

Q.3) What is the period of your jail sentence?.....

Q.4) What did you steal/rob for which being convicted?

- 1. Cash
- 2. Jewellery
- 3. Clothing
- 4. Electronic items (T.V, laptop, mobile etc)
- 5. Car
- 6. Bike
- 7. Any other.....

Q.5) Where did you commit the crime?

1. Home
2. Office
3. Hostel, Hospital, Godowns
4. From Vehicle
5. Shops or supermarket
6. Any Other.....

Q.6) What was the value of the item you stole/rob?

1. < Rs.5000
2. Rs. 5,000 - Rs.10,000
3. Rs. 10,000 - Rs.50,000
4. Rs.50,000 – Rs. 1,00,000
5. Rs. 1,00,000
6. Don't know

Q.7) How many people were involved in the crime that you carried out?

1. Only Me
2. Two
3. Three
4. Four
5. More than 5
6. No Opinion

Q.8) Did you or any of your partner use knife, a gun or any other weapon during the crime?

1. Yes
2. No
3. No Opinion

Q.9) Did you or any of your partner hurt anyone during the crime?

1. Yes
2. No
3. No Opinion

Part II: Modus Operandi

Q.10) What type of people did you mostly target?

1. Rich
2. Upper Middle Class
3. Lower Middle Class
4. Poor
5. Any other.....

Q.11) Which of the dwellings you targeted more?

- 1. Flat & Apartment
- 2. House
- 3. Shanties
- 4. Institution (hospital, house of the elderly, hostel)
- 5. Any Other.....

Q.11A) Reasons for targeting?

.....

.....

Q.12) Which items did you mostly target?

- 1. Cash
- 2. Jewellery
- 3. Electronic item
- 4. Car
- 5. Bike
- 6. Any other.....

Q.13) What did you do with the stolen goods?

.....

.....

Q.14) Who bought the stolen goods from you?

.....

.....

Q.15) Did you/your partners keep track of the police patrolling vehicles?

- 4. Yes
- 5. No
- 6. No opinion

Part III: Social and Psychological Assessment

Q.16) Where did you spend your childhood?

1. With my parents
2. With my relatives as I was orphan
3. Orphanage
4. Stayed at a place I was working
5. Any other.....

Q.17) How many times have you been arrested by the police?

1. Once
2. 2-3 times
3. 4-6 times
4. 7-10 times
5. More than 10 times

Q.18) Before this, have you been in jail earlier? 1. Yes 2. No

Q.18A) If Yes, how many times?

Q.19) How old were you when you were first convicted of a criminal offence?

Q.20) What were the main reasons that you first got involved in crime?

1. For excitement
2. Friends got me into it
3. To get nice clothes, shoes, etc.
4. To get money for daily living – self or family support
5. Everyone I knew was involved in criminal activities; I too joined
6. To get money for drugs, alcohol etc
7. Any other.....

Q.21) Before you were 18 years of age, did you ever do anything on this list?

1. Broke into someone's place
2. Stole a car/bike
3. Stole cash or something valuable like jewellery
4. Pick pocketed
5. Any other.....

Q.22) Do you use anything mentioned below in the list?

1. Alcohol
2. Drugs
3. Dendrite or erase ex (liquid)
4. Marijuana (Ganja)
5. Any Other substance.....

Q.23) Have you or your own household been victim of any crime? 1. Yes 2. No

Q.23A) If yes, what?

.....
.....

Q.24) Did you ever think about the feelings of your family members, if you are arrested and convicted?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. I didn't care

Q.25) Were you not aware of the punishments that you would face if caught?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. I didn't care

Q.26) Do you regret now? 1. Yes 2. No

Q.27) Have you experienced any of the following conditions after committing a crime?

- 11. Guilt
- 12. Frustration
- 13. Confusion
- 14. Difficulty falling or staying asleep
- 15. Irritability or outbursts of anger
- 16. Difficulty concentrating
- 17. Any other.....

Part IV: Reform Measures

Q.28) Was any skill development training provided to you in the jail?

- 6. Yes
- 7. No

Q.28A) If yes, what and how long was that training?

.....

Q.29) Do you think that the time spent in jail would help you to relook into your life and help in reformation?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

Q.29A) How?

.....
.....

Q.30) If released, what would you like to do to make a living?

.....
.....

Q.31) According to you, what kind of intervention programmes can help you to better rehabilitate in the society once you are out from jail?

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.....

Annexure IV

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