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Why crime data in India is short on information on victims and witnesses? Give your suggestions for comprehensive collection of data on crimes.

Official statistics on crime rate in India is 379.3 per 1,00,000 persons. It indicates rate of decrease in crime instances in rape, robbery, dacoity, homicide. This contradicts the situation on the ground given mass unearthing of sexual assault cases, domestic violence, murder and killings.

Such contradicting facts points to dismal crime data collection of victims, witness in India. Only the FIR reports are accounted for arriving at crime statistics by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), the official record keeper. Data mismatch happen due to following reasons.

- 1) Paper method of record keeping which is time consuming for storing and generating reports. Such reports are subjected to wear and tear, damage, erasing vital information.
- 2) FIR registration procedure is lax, nonuniform across India. It doesnot provide a way for victim details and personal experiences. Due to such reason, most cases are still undertrails.
- 3) Instances of detailed reporting is missing when the complaint occurs against family members like assaults domestic violence. Reluctance to give information fearing family outcast.
- 4) External influences pressurize falsified information due to political, money and manpower.
- 5) Inter state investigation of crime involves separate record keeping of instances on account of jurisdictions. Incoherency in data sharing often ends up with missing links for evidences.

6) Issue of privacy of witness identity information is anathema to record keeping. Incent

7) Usage of Article 22 on grounds of forced evidences, incriminations acts as hindrance to records

COMPREHENSIVE DATA COLLECTION: A move towards tackling crime

1) Victimisation surveys:-

The initiative by Home Affairs ministry, can help grievance redressal for victims, measure punishments depending upon victims suffering

2) National Database on Sexual Offenders:-

Given the increased instances of reporting of rape incidents, such a database can be finalized for assortment of offenders data, which allows cross border sharing. This helps in faster case solving

3) VICTIM Protection linked to survey:-

victims who come out to name, shame perpetrators must be provided fullscale protection, privacy rights to give detailed description of crime evidences

4) Cybercrime initiatives and training

Emulation of Kerala's cybercrime model to track cybercriminals. This model must be linked to police station for time band updation

5) Cyber Crime Tracking and Networking Systems (CCTNS)

CCTNS model integrates criminal data into fingerprints, biometrics, Decentralised model can be allowed in every state to share information. Digital footprint of cyber crimes analysis feeds policy inputs for cyberworld

6) NATARID - Aadhaar linking:-

Aadhaar linking of NATARID profiles gives complete access to personal life of victims, perpetrators.

The concern of data privacy must not be breached under the garb of internal security that technology guarantees.