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Understanding the Push and Pull Factors of Crime in Bangladesh:
A Case Study of Dhaka City

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DECLARATION

I, Sayeda Ratheah Tanzil, a student of Law at Bangladesh Daffodil International University, hereby declare that the research paper on “Understanding the Push and Pull Factors of Crime in Bangladesh: A Case Study of Dhaka City”, has not been previously submitted to any university, college, or organization for any academic or professional qualification.

I hereby ensure that the dissertation paper that has been presented here does not breach any existing copyright rules.

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All praises are for the Almighty Allah who has given me the opportunity and ability to conduct this research. In fact, without his special grace and blessing, it wouldn't have been possible for me to complete this work.

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Finally, I would like to offer my heartiest thanks to my teachers, classmates and well-wishers for their assistance, encouragement and support in compilation of this research monograph.

Letter of Transmittal

To

Dr. S. M. Saiful Haque

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Subject: Transmittal of thesis paper on “**Understanding the Push and Pull Factors of Crime in Bangladesh: A Case Study of Dhaka City**”

Dear Sir,

With all due respect, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that writing the thesis paper and submitting it to you, both are part of the LL.M Program requirements at Daffodil International University' Department of Law. It gives me great pleasure to present you with my article “**Understanding the Push and Pull Factors of Crime in Bangladesh: A Case Study of Dhaka City**”. I hope that this research will accomplish your expectation and make you pleased. I therefore, expect that you would be kind enough to go from beginning to end of this paper for appraisal.

Despite having a variety of limitations, I did my absolute best to prepare this paper, and I didn't spare any effort to make it vivid and thorough. I firmly believe it will undoubtedly accomplish the necessary goals. If further explanation is needed, I will always be obligated to provide it.

Sincerely Yours,



Sayeda Ratheah Tanzil

232-38-015

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Letter of Approval

This is to certify that the work is done “**Understanding the Push and Pull Factors of Crime in Bangladesh: A Case Study of Dhaka City**” is a real work done by Sayeda Ratheah Tanzil 232-38-015, Department of Law, Daffodil International University, done under my supervision in the partial fulfillment for the research work for



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Abstract

This thesis investigates the push and pull factors influencing crime in Dhaka city, Bangladesh, by examining the socio-economic, cultural, and environmental contexts that shape criminal behavior. With a rapidly growing population and urbanization, Dhaka has become a focal point for understanding the complexities of crime in developing urban environments. This study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data analysis and qualitative interviews to provide a comprehensive understanding of crime dynamics in the city.

The research identifies key push factors—those conditions that drive individuals towards criminal behavior—such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of education. Dhaka's economic landscape reveals a significant disparity in wealth distribution, leading to desperation among marginalized groups. The study illustrates how economic hardships compel individuals to engage in illicit activities as a means of survival. Moreover, the research highlights the role of inadequate social infrastructure, including limited access to education and healthcare, which exacerbates feelings of hopelessness and increases vulnerability to crime.

In contrast, pull factors—conditions that attract individuals to engage in criminal activities—are also examined. The study points to the availability of criminal networks, the perception of low risk of apprehension, and the allure of financial gain as significant motivators. Interviews with law enforcement officials and community leaders reveal a pervasive belief in the ineffectiveness of the justice system, which contributes to a culture of impunity and encourages criminal enterprises to thrive.

The findings indicate that crime in Dhaka is not merely a result of individual choices but is deeply rooted in structural inequalities and systemic failures. The analysis highlights the interplay between socio-economic factors and crime, suggesting that interventions must address underlying issues such as poverty and unemployment to effectively reduce criminal behavior. Additionally, the research underscores the importance of community-based approaches that foster social cohesion and empower individuals through education and skill development.

This thesis contributes to the existing literature on urban crime by providing a localized understanding of the unique challenges faced by Dhaka. It emphasizes the need for policymakers to adopt a holistic approach that integrates economic development, social welfare, and law enforcement strategies. The study advocates for collaborative efforts between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community members to create an environment that mitigates the factors leading to crime.

In conclusion, understanding the push and pull factors of crime in Dhaka is essential for developing effective crime prevention strategies. This research not only sheds light on the complexities of urban crime in a rapidly evolving city but also serves as a call to action for stakeholders to address the root causes of criminal behavior. By tackling the socio-economic disparities and strengthening community resilience, it is possible to create a safer and more equitable environment for all residents of Dhaka.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Context

Bangladesh, one of the most densely populated countries in the world, has witnessed rapid urbanization, particularly in its capital, Dhaka. With a population exceeding 20 million, Dhaka is not only the political and economic hub of the nation but also a city grappling with significant socio-economic challenges. As the country has transitioned from an agrarian to an urban-based economy, the influx of rural populations seeking better opportunities has led to a burgeoning urban landscape, characterized by both economic potential and social strain. This transformation has resulted in an alarming increase in crime rates, making it imperative to understand the underlying factors driving criminal behavior in this urban setting.

Crime in Dhaka is multifaceted, influenced by various push and pull factors that stem from its unique socio-economic fabric. Push factors, such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of education, drive individuals toward criminal activities as a means of survival. A substantial segment of the population lives below the poverty line, often lacking access to basic amenities and social services. This dire economic situation creates a breeding ground for desperation and crime, as individuals may resort to illegal activities to meet their basic needs.

On the other hand, pull factors, including the allure of financial gain and the presence of organized crime networks, further complicate the crime landscape. Many individuals perceive crime as an accessible alternative to legitimate employment, particularly in a city where job opportunities are scarce. Additionally, the perceived inefficacy of law enforcement and the justice system fosters a culture of impunity, encouraging further criminal engagement.

Understanding these dynamics is crucial not only for developing effective crime prevention strategies but also for addressing the broader socio-economic inequalities that underpin criminal behavior in Dhaka. The interplay of these push and pull factors reveals the complexity of urban crime in a developing context, where socio-economic disparities and systemic failures exacerbate the challenges faced by vulnerable populations.

This thesis aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the push and pull factors of crime in Dhaka, offering insights that are vital for policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and community leaders. By exploring the root causes of criminal behavior, this research seeks to inform targeted interventions that address both immediate safety concerns and long-term socio-economic

development, ultimately contributing to a safer and more equitable urban environment for all residents of Dhaka.

1.2 Problem Statement

Crime is a significant issue in urban environments, and Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, is no exception. The increasing urbanization of Dhaka has led to various social, economic, and environmental challenges, one of the most pressing of which is the rise in crime. Despite considerable efforts by law enforcement agencies, crime rates continue to surge, particularly in areas experiencing rapid population growth and urbanization. There is growing concern about the underlying factors driving criminal activities in Dhaka. To fully comprehend the crime dynamics in the city, it is essential to explore the push and pull factors contributing to the increase in crime rates.

Push factors are those that force individuals into criminal activities due to circumstances such as poverty, unemployment, lack of education, and family breakdown. Pull factors, on the other hand, are those that make crime attractive or rewarding, such as perceived financial gain, peer pressure, or weak law enforcement systems. In Dhaka, both sets of factors are intricately interwoven with the rapid growth of urban slums, inequality, and socio-economic instability. Understanding these factors is critical for developing effective crime prevention strategies.

Currently, there is limited research focused specifically on the push and pull factors of crime in Dhaka, despite its unique socio-economic context. Most studies on crime in Bangladesh focus on general statistics or isolated factors such as poverty and education. There is a need for a more holistic investigation into how a combination of socio-economic, environmental, and institutional factors contributes to the rise in criminal behavior in the city. This research aims to fill that gap by providing an in-depth examination of these drivers of crime, and offering recommendations for policy interventions that address both the push and pull factors.

This study will adopt a case study approach, focusing on Dhaka as a representative urban center in Bangladesh. Dhaka's diverse and rapidly growing population makes it an ideal location for understanding the crime dynamics that may be applicable to other cities in the country. By investigating the causes of crime in Dhaka, this study will contribute to broader national discussions on urban safety, social welfare policies, and law enforcement reform.

The findings of this research will not only be relevant to policymakers and law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh but also to international researchers interested in crime dynamics in rapidly urbanizing cities in developing countries. The study seeks to highlight the importance of addressing both the structural inequalities that push individuals into crime and the societal factors that pull them toward criminal activities.

1.3 Research Questions

- a. What are the primary push factors contributing to crime in Dhaka city?
- b. What are the key pull factors that attract individuals to engage in criminal activities in Dhaka?
- c. How do the push and pull factors of crime interact with each other in the context of Dhaka?
- d. How can policymakers and law enforcement agencies in Dhaka address both the push and pull factors of crime effectively?
- e. What lessons can be drawn from the case of Dhaka that might be applicable to other urban centers in Bangladesh?

1.4 Research Objectives

The overarching objective of this thesis is to explore and analyze the push and pull factors contributing to criminal activities in Dhaka, Bangladesh. By focusing on Dhaka city as a case study, this research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the underlying social, economic, and political factors that influence criminal behavior. The research will employ both qualitative and quantitative methods to examine these dynamics, with the goal of contributing to policy recommendations and interventions aimed at crime reduction.

Specifically, the research will address the following objectives:

- a. **To identify the key push factors** (such as poverty, unemployment, lack of education, and social exclusion) that drive individuals into criminal activities in Dhaka.
- b. **To analyze the pull factors** (such as lucrative economic opportunities, weak law enforcement, and corrupt systems) that attract individuals to engage in criminal behaviors.

- c. **To examine the socio-economic background of offenders** in Dhaka to understand how factors like class, education, and employment status correlate with criminal behavior.
- d. **To investigate the role of urbanization** in Dhaka and how rapid migration from rural areas into the city impacts crime rates.
- e. **To explore the effectiveness of existing crime prevention strategies** and policies in Dhaka, and provide insights for potential improvements based on the push and pull framework.
- f. **To suggest policy recommendations** for mitigating the push factors while reducing the pull factors, contributing to overall crime reduction in the city.

1.5 Research Scope

The scope of this thesis is geographically centered on Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, which has seen rapid urbanization, population growth, and significant challenges related to crime and safety. The research will be based on Dhaka's crime statistics, interviews with key stakeholders (such as law enforcement officials, sociologists, urban planners, and convicted offenders), and secondary data from relevant studies on crime in Bangladesh.

The study will cover several domains:

- a. **Theoretical Framework:** The push and pull factors theory will serve as the primary framework for understanding the dynamics of crime in Dhaka. Push factors refer to conditions that push individuals toward criminal activity (e.g. socio-economic hardships), while pull factors relate to conditions that attract individuals to engage in crime (e.g. financial rewards or weak legal systems).
- b. **Demographic Focus:** The research will focus on individuals engaged in various types of crime in Dhaka, examining the socio-economic backgrounds, motives, and conditions that influenced their criminal behavior.
- c. **Temporal Scope:** Data will be gathered from recent years (at least the past 5-10 years) to ensure relevance and accuracy in capturing the current crime trends in Dhaka.
- d. **Policy Focus:** The research will not only analyze crime factors but will also delve into the effectiveness of policies and interventions implemented

by the government and law enforcement in Dhaka. A focus will be placed on how these can be improved to reduce the incentives for criminal activities.

By narrowing the scope to Dhaka city, this thesis aims to present focused insights that can contribute to both academic research and practical policy-making in the realm of crime prevention in urban areas of Bangladesh.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study aims to investigate the push and pull factors influencing crime in Dhaka city, Bangladesh, contributing to a deeper understanding of the underlying causes of criminal behavior in a rapidly urbanizing context. The significance of this research is multi-faceted.

Firstly, it addresses the growing concern of urban crime, which poses a significant challenge to social order and public safety in Dhaka. As one of the most densely populated cities in the world, Dhaka is experiencing an influx of migration, leading to increased socio-economic disparities and contributing to criminal activities. By identifying specific push factors, such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of education, as well as pull factors like gang culture and drug trafficking, this study provides valuable insights for policymakers and law enforcement agencies.

Secondly, this research will contribute to the existing body of literature on criminology in developing countries, particularly in South Asia, where studies on urban crime dynamics are limited. Understanding the unique socio-economic and cultural context of Dhaka can inform targeted interventions and crime prevention strategies that are culturally sensitive and contextually relevant (Siddiqui, 2018).

Moreover, the findings of this study can serve as a basis for community engagement initiatives, fostering collaboration between residents, local authorities, and non-governmental organizations. By addressing the root causes of crime, stakeholders can implement preventive measures that promote social cohesion and community resilience.

Ultimately, this research aims to stimulate further academic inquiry and practical action toward enhancing the safety and security of urban environments in Bangladesh, making significant contributions to both local and global discussions on crime and urbanization.

1.7 Structure of the Research

a. Introduction

The introductory chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the study's context, significance, and objectives. It outlines the motivations behind investigating the push and pull factors influencing crime in Dhaka City. This section will also define key terms, the scope of the research, and the overall structure of the thesis.

b. Literature Review

The literature review critically examines existing research related to crime in urban environments, focusing on theoretical frameworks and empirical studies on push and pull factors. It will explore various socio-economic, political, and cultural dimensions contributing to crime, synthesizing findings from previous studies to identify gaps in the current understanding of crime dynamics in Dhaka. This chapter outlines the research design and methodology employed in the study. It discusses the qualitative and quantitative approaches, sampling techniques, data collection methods (e.g., surveys, interviews, and secondary data analysis), and the rationale behind their selection. Additionally, it addresses ethical considerations and limitations of the research.

d. Analysis of Push Factors

In this section, the study will analyze the various push factors that compel individuals toward criminal behavior in Dhaka. Factors such as poverty, unemployment, lack of education, and socio-political instability will be examined in detail. Statistical data and qualitative insights from interviews will be presented to support the analysis.

e. Analysis of Pull Factors

This chapter will focus on the pull factors that attract individuals to engage in criminal activities. The analysis will include aspects such as economic opportunities, urbanization, and social networks that facilitate criminal behavior. The interplay between these factors will be explored, highlighting how they contribute to crime in Dhaka.

f. Case Studies of Crime in Dhaka

This section presents selected case studies that illustrate the manifestations of crime in Dhaka. These case studies will provide real-life examples of how push and pull factors influence specific criminal incidents, allowing for a deeper understanding of the local context.

g. Discussion

The discussion chapter synthesizes the findings from the previous sections, connecting the identified push and pull factors to broader crime dynamics in Dhaka. It will address the implications of these findings for crime prevention and urban policy, emphasizing the importance of a holistic approach to addressing crime.

h. Findings

This chapter presents the key findings derived from the research, highlighting significant trends and correlations between the push and pull factors and crime rates in Dhaka. It will summarize the insights gained from the analyses and case studies.

i. Conclusion

The concluding chapter will summarize the main insights from the research, reflect on the study's contributions to the existing body of knowledge, and suggest avenues for future research. It will also emphasize the importance of addressing push and pull factors in crime prevention efforts.

j. References

This section will provide a comprehensive list of all sources cited throughout the thesis, following appropriate academic citation guidelines.

k. Appendices

The appendices will include supplementary materials such as data collection instruments (e.g., questionnaires, interview guides), additional statistical analyses, and any other relevant information that supports the research but is not included in the main body of the thesis.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Theoretical Frameworks on Crime

2.1.1 Overview of Classical and Modern Criminological Theories

Criminological theories provide essential frameworks for understanding why individuals engage in criminal behavior. In the context of Dhaka, Bangladesh, where urbanization and socioeconomic disparity contribute to the rise of crime, these theories help analyze the push and pull factors influencing criminal activity. This section briefly outlines eight classical and modern criminological theories and their application to urban crime in Dhaka.

a. Classical Theory of Crime

The classical theory, developed by Cesare Beccaria and Jeremy Bentham, posits that individuals make rational decisions based on a cost-benefit analysis. Crime occurs when the perceived benefits outweigh the potential risks. In Dhaka, poor law enforcement, delayed justice, and corruption can reduce the deterrent effect of punishment, increasing the likelihood of criminal behavior.

b. Strain Theory

Strain theory, introduced by Robert K. Merton, suggests that individuals resort to crime when they are unable to achieve socially valued goals through legitimate means. Economic disparity, unemployment, and poverty in Dhaka push individuals, particularly those in low-income neighborhoods, towards criminal behavior as a means of survival. This theory is vital for understanding crimes like theft, robbery, and drug dealing, which are prevalent in marginalized urban areas.

c. Social Learning Theory

Albert Bandura's social learning theory emphasizes that criminal behavior is learned through interaction with others. In Dhaka, where many low-income communities are rife with gangs and criminal networks, young individuals are more likely to engage in criminal activities after observing peers and family members involved in crime. The normalization of crime within certain social groups contributes to its persistence.

d. Rational Choice Theory

Rational choice theory builds on classical criminology by asserting that criminals weigh the risks and rewards of their actions before committing crimes. In Dhaka, crime is often opportunistic. For example, theft and petty crimes tend to occur in busy marketplaces and transport hubs, where individuals are less likely to face immediate consequences. This theory highlights how the environment influences the likelihood of crime.

e. Social Disorganization Theory

Social disorganization theory, developed by Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay, links crime to the breakdown of social institutions, such as family, schools, and communities. Dhaka's urban slums, characterized by poverty, high residential turnover, and inadequate social services, provide an environment where crime can flourish. The absence of social cohesion in these areas increases the chances of criminal behavior.

f. Routine Activity Theory

Routine activity theory, proposed by Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson, argues that crime occurs when a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of capable guardians converge. In Dhaka, crowded urban spaces, lack of surveillance, and poor policing provide opportunities for criminals to act. Crimes such as pickpocketing and burglary are particularly common in busy areas where guardianship is weak.

g. Broken Windows Theory

The broken windows theory, by James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling, suggests that visible signs of disorder, such as graffiti and vandalism, lead to more serious crime by signaling a lack of control. In Dhaka, neglected urban spaces and deteriorating infrastructure contribute to a sense of lawlessness, encouraging further criminal activity. Critical criminology, influenced by Marxist theory, focuses on how social inequalities and power imbalances contribute to crime. In Dhaka, structural factors such as poverty, unemployment, and the exploitation of marginalized groups are key drivers of crime. This theory highlights how economic disparity and social injustice push individuals toward criminal behavior.

2.1.2 Application of Theories to Urban Crime in Dhaka

These criminological theories help to frame both the push factors (poverty, unemployment, social disorganization) and the pull factors (opportunity, peer influence, weak law enforcement) that contribute to crime in Dhaka. Strain theory and social disorganization theory, for example, illustrate how economic hardship and lack of social cohesion push individuals towards crime. On the other hand, routine activity theory and rational choice theory explain how urban environments, characterized by weak policing and abundant opportunities for crime, pull individuals into criminal activity.

2.2 Crime in Urban Areas

Urban areas across the globe face unique challenges related to crime, driven by various socio-economic, political, and environmental factors. As cities grow, the dynamics of crime change, influencing how communities experience safety, justice, and social cohesion. This article examines crime in urban areas, with a particular focus on global perspectives and comparative analyses with developing megacities, especially in the context of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

a. Global Perspective on Urban Crime: Key Studies and Trends

Urban crime is a complex phenomenon influenced by multiple variables, including economic disparities, population density, and social disorganization. Key studies have illuminated trends and patterns in urban crime worldwide, providing insights into how cities manage crime and the efficacy of their interventions.

b. Trends in Urban Crime

1) Rising Crime Rates in Developing Countries: Research indicates that cities in developing countries experience higher rates of violent crime than their counterparts in developed nations. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2020), the global homicide rate was estimated at 6.1 per 100,000 people, but rates vary significantly, with developing nations reporting much higher figures. This disparity is often attributed to factors such as poverty, lack of education, and weak law enforcement agencies.

2) Urbanization and Crime Correlation: The rapid urbanization observed in many parts of the world, particularly in Africa and Asia, correlates with increased crime rates. A study by LaFree et al. (2010) highlights that as urban populations swell, the risk of crime often escalates, particularly in informal settlements where social cohesion is weak. The breakdown of community ties can lead to increased opportunities for criminal behavior.

3) Youth Crime and Gang Involvement: A significant body of research focuses on the involvement of youth in crime, particularly gang-related activities. According to a report by the World Bank (2019), youth unemployment and lack of educational opportunities contribute to gang formation in urban areas, which in turn increases violence and other forms of crime. The report emphasizes the need for targeted interventions aimed at youth engagement and empowerment to combat this trend.

4) Drug-Related Crime: Drug trafficking and substance abuse are significant contributors to urban crime. The Global Drug Report (2021) notes that urban areas are often hubs for drug distribution, leading to violence between rival gangs and increased crime rates. This is particularly prevalent in cities experiencing socio-economic instability, where the demand for drugs is high.

- c. Key Studies on Urban Crime:** Numerous studies have explored the nuances of urban crime. For example, the study by Sampson and Raudenbush (2004) examined the role of collective efficacy in urban neighborhoods, finding that social cohesion and mutual trust among residents significantly reduce crime rates. This finding underscores the importance of community engagement in crime prevention strategies.

Similarly, a longitudinal study by Brantingham and Brantingham (1984) introduced the concept of environmental criminology, emphasizing the role of urban design and environmental factors in influencing criminal behavior. They argue that certain urban designs can create opportunities for crime, suggesting that crime prevention efforts should also focus on urban planning and community design.

2.3 Comparative Analysis of Crime in Other Developing Megacities

Examining crime in Dhaka requires a comparative analysis with other developing megacities to understand shared challenges and unique circumstances. Cities like Mumbai, Lagos, and Rio de Janeiro present valuable case studies.

2.3.1 Crime in Mumbai, India

Mumbai is characterized by its high population density and significant economic disparities. According to the Mumbai Police Crime Branch, the city reported a homicide rate of approximately 3.7 per 100,000 people in 2018, lower than the national average of India (Economic Times, 2019). However, organized crime and gang violence remain prevalent, fueled by corruption and a lack of effective law enforcement.

a. Key Factors:

- 1) Informal Settlements:** Much like Dhaka, Mumbai has extensive slums, where poverty and lack of education contribute to crime.
- 2) Police Corruption:** The police force in Mumbai often faces allegations of corruption, which undermines trust in law enforcement and hinders effective crime prevention (Suresh, 2020).

2.3.2 Crime in Lagos, Nigeria

Lagos, one of Africa's most populous cities, experiences a high crime rate driven by economic inequality, unemployment, and inadequate policing. The Nigeria Police Force reported that Lagos had a crime rate of 37.2 per 100,000 people in 2019, with robbery and violent crimes being particularly rampant (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020).

a. Key Factors:

(1) Youth Unemployment: With a high percentage of the population under 30, youth unemployment in Lagos is a significant driver of crime (World Bank, 2021).

(2) Informal Economy: Many residents engage in informal economic activities, often leading to disputes and violence.

2.3.3 Crime in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Rio de Janeiro faces challenges related to drug trafficking and gang violence, particularly in favelas (informal settlements). The homicide rate in Rio was approximately 21.6 per 100,000 people in 2019, showcasing a decline in recent years but still representing a significant issue (Instituto de Segurança Pública, 2020).

a. Key Factors:

(1) Drug Trafficking: The prevalence of drug trafficking gangs creates a cycle of violence and crime, significantly affecting the safety of urban areas (Misse, 2015).

(2) Police Violence: Efforts to combat crime have led to militarize policing strategies, resulting in high levels of violence and fatalities among residents (Amnesty International, 2020).

2.4 Comparative Insights for Dhaka

In comparing Dhaka with these megacities, several insights emerge that can inform our understanding of urban crime in Bangladesh:

a. Economic Disparities: Like Mumbai and Lagos, Dhaka is characterized by significant economic disparities, which are a root cause of crime. Addressing poverty through job creation and education can mitigate crime rates.

b. Informal Settlements: The prevalence of informal settlements in Dhaka mirrors conditions in Lagos and Rio. These areas often lack basic

services, creating environments conducive to crime. Urban planning initiatives that focus on infrastructure and service provision are crucial.

c. Policing and Corruption: The effectiveness of law enforcement is a recurring theme in urban crime studies. The issues of police corruption and inefficacy seen in Mumbai and Lagos are also relevant in Dhaka, where public trust in law enforcement is often low.

d. Youth Engagement: High levels of youth unemployment and disengagement are common across these megacities. Developing programs that engage youth in constructive activities can serve as a deterrent to crime.

2.5 Push and Pull Factors of Crime

Crime is a multifaceted social phenomenon influenced by a wide array of factors. Understanding the underlying causes of criminal behavior can help researchers, policymakers, and law enforcement officials develop more effective strategies to address crime. This article explores the push and pull factors of crime, offering an in-depth examination of ten push factors that drive individuals toward criminal behavior and ten pull factors that draw individuals into criminal activity. Each factor is illustrated with references to academic research and real-world examples to provide a comprehensive view of the complex nature of crime.

2.5.1 Push Factors of Crime

Push factors are conditions or situations that compel individuals to engage in criminal behavior. These factors often stem from environmental, social, economic, or psychological pressures that individuals face. Here are ten key push factors:

a. Poverty

Poverty is one of the most significant push factors leading to crime. Individuals living in poverty-stricken areas may resort to crime as a means of survival or to improve their socioeconomic status. Studies have shown a strong correlation between poverty rates and crime rates, especially in urban environments. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS, 2021), individuals in lower-income brackets are more likely to engage in theft and other property crimes.

b. Unemployment

High levels of unemployment can lead to frustration and hopelessness, pushing individuals toward crime. When people struggle to find jobs and provide for their families, they may see criminal activities, such as theft or drug dealing, as viable alternatives. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ, 2020) found that communities

with higher unemployment rates also experience increased rates of violent crime.

c. Social Disorganization

Social disorganization theory posits that crime rates are influenced by the breakdown of social institutions, such as family, education, and community organizations. In neighborhoods where social cohesion is weak and residents do not know their neighbors, criminal behavior is more likely to flourish. Sampson and Groves (1989) argue that social disorganization leads to increased crime due to a lack of informal social control and support networks.

d. Family Instability

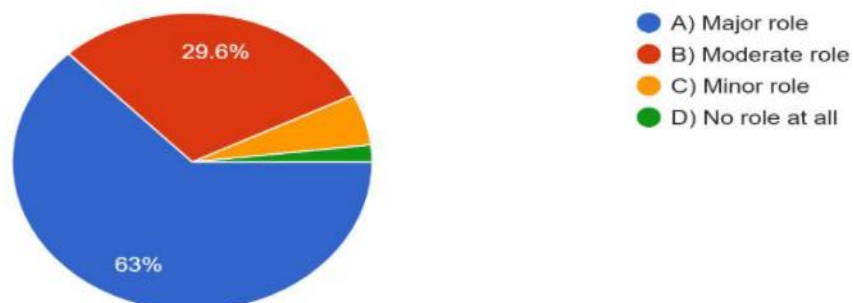
Family dynamics play a critical role in shaping an individual's propensity for crime. Research shows that children raised in unstable or dysfunctional families—characterized by abuse, neglect, or parental substance abuse—are more likely to engage in criminal behavior. According to the Child Welfare Information Gateway (2019), youth who experience adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are at a higher risk of developing behavioral problems, including delinquency.

e. Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is both a push factor and a consequence of crime. Individuals struggling with addiction may commit crimes to fund their habits or may engage in criminal behavior while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA, 2021) notes that drug addiction is often linked to higher rates of property and violent crime, as individuals seek ways to obtain drugs or engage in risky behaviors while intoxicated.

What role does drug addiction play in criminal behavior in Dhaka?

54 responses



f. Peer Pressure

Peer influence can serve as a significant push factor for youth engaging in criminal behavior. Adolescents are particularly susceptible to peer pressure, and the desire for acceptance can lead them to partake in criminal activities. A study by Gardner and Steinberg (2005) demonstrated that adolescents are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, including delinquency, when in the presence of peers.

g. Exposure to Violence

Growing up in violent environments can desensitize individuals to violence and normalize criminal behavior. Research indicates that exposure to violence, whether in the home or community, increases the likelihood of individuals engaging in violent crime themselves. A study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2016) found that children exposed to domestic violence are at a higher risk of becoming involved in criminal activities later in life.

h. Lack of Education

Educational attainment is closely linked to crime rates. Individuals with lower levels of education often have fewer job opportunities and are more likely to turn to crime. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES, 2020) reports that high school dropouts are more likely to be involved in criminal activities than those who complete their education, highlighting the importance of education as a protective factor against crime.

i. Mental Health Issues

Mental health disorders can act as significant push factors toward crime. Individuals with untreated mental health conditions may struggle with impulse control and decision-making, increasing their likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA, 2021) notes that individuals with mental illness are overrepresented in the criminal justice system, with many having unmet treatment needs.

j. Economic Inequality

Economic inequality can create feelings of resentment and frustration, leading some individuals to commit crimes as a form of protest or retribution. A study by Hannon and Defronzo (1998) found that higher levels of income inequality within communities are correlated with higher rates of violent crime, suggesting that disparities in wealth can fuel criminal behavior.

2.5.2 Pull Factors of Crime

While push factors drive individuals away from conventional behavior, pull factors are elements that attract individuals to criminal activities. These factors often provide incentives or perceived benefits that make crime appealing. Here are ten significant pull factors:

a. Financial Gain

The prospect of financial gain is one of the most powerful pull factors that attract individuals to crime. Many individuals see crime as a shortcut to wealth, particularly in economically disadvantaged areas. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI, 2021) notes that many property crimes are motivated by the desire for monetary rewards, as individuals believe they can acquire wealth quickly without engaging in legitimate employment.

b. Thrill-Seeking

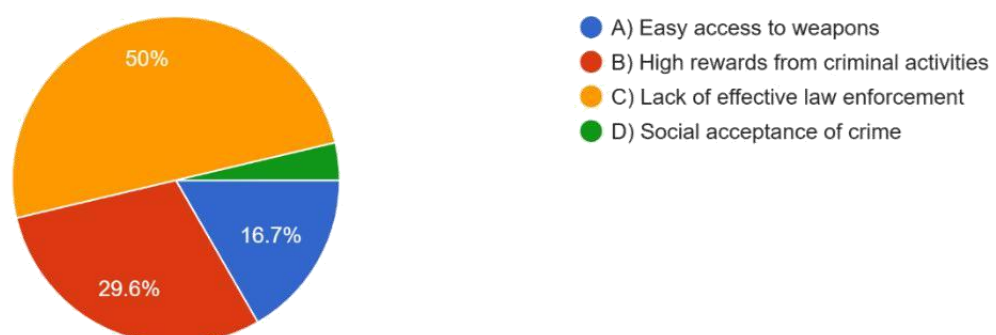
For some individuals, engaging in criminal behavior is motivated by a desire for excitement and adventure. Thrill-seeking behavior can lead individuals, especially adolescents, to engage in risky activities, including vandalism, drug use, or violent crime. A study by Zuckerman (1994) highlights the connection between sensation-seeking personality traits and delinquent behavior, suggesting that some individuals are drawn to crime for the adrenaline rush.

c. Social Status and Reputation

Engaging in criminal behavior can enhance an individual's social status or reputation within certain peer groups or communities. In some subcultures, committing crimes may be viewed as a rite of passage or a means of gaining respect. Anderson (1999) discusses how youth in inner-city neighborhoods may engage in violence and crime to establish their status and credibility among peers.

Which of the following is perceived as a significant pull factor for criminals in Dhaka?

54 responses



d. Camaraderie and Group Identity

Being part of a criminal group can provide individuals with a sense of belonging and camaraderie. The shared experiences and solidarity within criminal gangs or organizations can pull individuals into criminal behavior. According to the National Gang Center (2020), gang membership often provides individuals with social support and identity, reinforcing their involvement in criminal activities.

e. Opportunity and Access

The availability of opportunities to commit crime can significantly influence individuals' decisions to engage in criminal behavior. Areas with high levels of ungarded property, such as unlocked cars or homes, can create an environment conducive to theft and burglary. According to the Routine Activity Theory (Cohen & Felson, 1979), crime occurs when motivated offenders encounter suitable targets without capable guardianship, making opportunity a crucial pull factor.

f. Media Influence

Media representations of crime can glamorize criminal behavior and create pull factors for individuals who seek recognition or fame. Movies, television shows, and social media can portray criminals as heroes or antiheroes, appealing to individuals' desires for notoriety. A study by Surette (2015) indicates that media portrayals can influence public perceptions of crime and contribute to individuals' decisions to engage in criminal acts.

g. Access to Weapons

The availability of firearms and other weapons can attract individuals to engage in violent crime. Easy access to guns increases the likelihood of individuals committing violent acts, as the perceived power associated with firearms can embolden potential offenders. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF, 2021) reports a correlation between gun availability and rates of gun-related crime.

h. Drug Trafficking

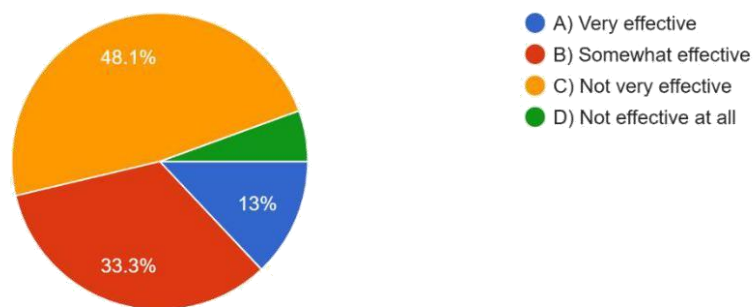
The illegal drug trade is a significant pull factor for crime, drawing individuals into various criminal activities, including drug distribution, theft, and violence. The potential for high profits from drug trafficking can entice individuals to engage in criminal behavior. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2020), drug-related crime is a global issue, with many individuals drawn into the drug trade due to financial incentives.

i. Perceived Lack of Consequences

Individuals may be drawn to crime when they perceive a low risk of apprehension or punishment. If individuals believe that law enforcement is ineffective or that penalties for criminal behavior are minimal, they may be more likely to engage in criminal activities. A study by Apel and Nagin (2011) emphasizes the importance of perceived certainty and severity of punishment in deterring criminal behavior.

How effective do you believe law enforcement is in preventing crime in Dhaka?

54 responses



j. Cultural Norms and Values

In some communities, cultural norms and values may support or even glorify criminal behavior. Societal attitudes that condone illegal activities, such as drug use or gang involvement, can pull individuals into crime. A study by Sampson and Bartusch (1998) suggests that neighborhoods with high levels of collective efficacy—where residents agree on social norms—are less likely to experience crime, highlighting the impact of cultural context on criminal behavior.

2.6 Crime in Dhaka: A Historical Perspective

Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital, has experienced a dynamic crime landscape driven by socio-economic shifts since independence in 1971. Early urbanization strained infrastructure, creating fertile ground for crime among impoverished communities. By the 1980s and 1990s, political instability and corruption allowed organized crime networks to thrive, facilitating extortion, smuggling, and violent offenses amid a rise in illegal arms and reduced law enforcement efficacy.

The 2000s introduced new challenges, with cybercrime and petty theft increasing as digital access expanded, while persistent economic inequalities drove further criminal behavior. Informal settlements, housing millions in

poverty, became hubs for drug trafficking, extortion, and illegal land grabbing, contributing to high crime rates (Uddin, 2019; Rahman & Ahmed, 2021). Terrorism emerged in the 2010s, with groups like Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh carrying out attacks, escalating crime from common offenses to acts of terror.

Technological advances have also increased cybercrime, including online fraud and hacking. Dhaka's informal economy has fostered human trafficking, disproportionately affecting women and children. Efforts by law enforcement to modernize with technology and community policing face challenges like resource constraints, corruption, and overloaded criminal justice systems. Overall, Dhaka's evolving crime patterns reflect Bangladesh's broader socio-economic and political changes, where rapid growth has both increased opportunities and exacerbated crime.

2.7 Key Studies on Crime in Dhaka

Several studies have examined Dhaka's crime patterns, highlighting unique socioeconomic factors. Rahman et al. (2015) found that poverty, unemployment, and limited educational access in slums drive residents toward crime for survival. Alam et al. (2018) identified a rise in drug-related crimes, with weak law enforcement and limited job opportunities fueling the drug trade among youth. Hossain and Islam (2021) linked unplanned urban growth and economic concentration in certain areas to increased crime rates, creating "crime hotspots." They advocate for comprehensive crime prevention that tackles socioeconomic drivers and urban planning weaknesses.

2.8 Urbanization and Crime: Exploring the Links

Urbanization is a defining feature of modern societies, driving both economic growth and social change. As cities expand, they often bring opportunities for employment, education, and social mobility. However, rapid urbanization, particularly in developing countries, also comes with significant challenges, including overcrowding, poverty, and insufficient infrastructure, which can create fertile grounds for crime. The relationship between urbanization and crime is a complex and multifaceted issue, and understanding its dynamics is critical for urban planners and policymakers. This article will examine the link between urbanization and crime, focusing specifically on the case of Dhaka, Bangladesh, and how it compares to other cities facing similar challenges.

2.9 Relationship Between Rapid Urbanization in Dhaka City and Crime

Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, has experienced explosive urban growth in recent decades. With a population exceeding 20 million, Dhaka is one of the most densely populated cities globally. This rapid urbanization has created significant socio-economic pressures, resulting in a rise in crime rates across the city. The connection between urbanization and crime in Dhaka can be understood through several interrelated factors:

- a. **Overcrowding and Informal Settlements:** One of the primary consequences of Dhaka's rapid urbanization is the growth of informal settlements or slums. These areas, characterized by a lack of basic services such as water, sanitation, and housing, are often hotspots for crime. Research indicates that densely populated areas with inadequate infrastructure tend to have higher crime rates due to social instability, unemployment, and marginalization (Hossain, 2018). The lack of government presence and policing in these neighborhoods further exacerbates the problem.
- b. **Economic Disparities:** Rapid urbanization has led to significant economic inequalities in Dhaka. While some sectors of society have benefited from the city's growth, many others have been left behind. This wealth disparity creates a fertile ground for criminal activities such as theft, burglary, and extortion (Sharma, 2019). Poverty and lack of access to economic opportunities drive individuals to engage in crime as a means of survival.
- c. **Youth Unemployment:** Dhaka has a large and growing youth population, many of whom are unemployed or underemployed. Studies have shown a strong correlation between youth unemployment and crime in urban areas (Islam, 2017). The lack of economic opportunities for young people in Dhaka often leads them into criminal activities such as drug trafficking, gang violence, and petty theft.
- d. **Inadequate Policing and Governance:** Dhaka's law enforcement agencies are often overwhelmed by the sheer scale of the city's population and the complexity of its crime problems. A study by Rahman (2019) highlights how the police force is under-resourced, poorly trained, and often corrupt, making it difficult to maintain law and order effectively. The rapid pace of urbanization has outstripped the city's governance capacity, leading to gaps in crime prevention and justice systems.
- e. **Migration and Social Dislocation:** Dhaka's rapid urbanization is also driven by mass migration from rural areas. Migrants often find

themselves in unfamiliar urban environments with limited social support networks. This social dislocation can lead to feelings of alienation and an increased propensity for crime (Hasan, 2020). Moreover, many migrants are forced into low-paying, informal sector jobs, which perpetuates the cycle of poverty and crime.

2.10 Case Studies of Dhaka City and Other Cities Experiencing Similar Challenges

Dhaka's experience with rapid urbanization and crime is not unique. Many other megacities in the developing world have faced similar challenges. Below are some case studies from cities that provide valuable comparisons to Dhaka:

- a. Mumbai, India:** Like Dhaka, Mumbai has experienced rapid urbanization over the past few decades. With a population exceeding 20 million, Mumbai also struggles with overcrowded slums, inadequate infrastructure, and significant socio-economic inequalities. Crime rates in Mumbai, particularly in informal settlements, are high, driven by poverty, unemployment, and inadequate policing. Studies by Srivastava (2018) show that crimes such as theft, robbery, and organized crime are prevalent in these areas, much like Dhaka.
- b. Nairobi, Kenya:** Nairobi is another rapidly growing city facing similar urbanization challenges as Dhaka. Informal settlements like Kibera, one of the largest slums in Africa, are breeding grounds for crime due to poverty, lack of education, and high levels of unemployment. A study by Nzioki (2019) points to the high rates of violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in Nairobi's informal settlements, which mirror the situation in Dhaka. In both cities, the lack of government intervention in these areas has allowed criminal activities to flourish.
- c. Lagos, Nigeria:** Lagos is Africa's largest city and has undergone rapid urbanization, leading to significant urban crime challenges. Lagos, like Dhaka, is characterized by overcrowded slums, youth unemployment, and weak law enforcement. According to a study by Adetula (2017), the high levels of income inequality and social dislocation have contributed to rising crime rates in Lagos. Crimes such as armed robbery, kidnapping, and drug trafficking are prevalent in the city's densely populated areas, reflecting the same urbanization-crime dynamics observed in Dhaka.

- d. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil:** The favelas of Rio de Janeiro present another parallel to Dhaka's slums. Rio's rapid urban expansion and economic inequality have contributed to the growth of organized crime and gang violence in these areas. A study by Rocha (2020) points out that the lack of state presence in Rio's favelas has allowed criminal organizations to take control, creating a dangerous environment for residents. This situation is similar to Dhaka, where informal settlements lack adequate policing and governance, leading to high crime rates.

2.11 Gaps in the Existing Literature

Urban crime has long been a subject of academic research, with scholars exploring the dynamics between socio-economic conditions, rapid urbanization, and criminal activities. However, much of the existing literature is broad in scope, focusing on global patterns or specific types of crime without fully addressing the intricacies of individual cities. In the case of Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital and a rapidly urbanizing metropolis, there is a significant gap in studies examining the local factors contributing to crime. This absence of comprehensive research hinders a deeper understanding of the push and pull factors that drive urban crime in the city.

2.12 Lack of Comprehensive Studies on Dhaka's Specific Crime Factors

While some research on crime in Bangladesh exists, much of it is either outdated or general in scope, failing to delve into the specific conditions of Dhaka. Studies have often relied on regional or national data, overlooking the unique socio-economic, cultural, and spatial factors that affect crime rates in the capital. For instance, a report by Hossain and Hossain (2004) focused on the increase in petty crimes in Bangladesh but did not differentiate between rural and urban settings, failing to provide a clear understanding of how urbanization in Dhaka specifically affects crime. Similarly, Rahman and Rahman (2017) discussed the relationship between economic hardship and theft but did not localize their analysis to Dhaka's unique demographic and geographic challenges.

There is also a lack of attention to informal settlements and slums, which house a large portion of Dhaka's population. The burgeoning slum areas, driven by rapid urban migration, are associated with high poverty levels, unemployment, and inadequate law enforcement, conditions that create fertile ground for crime. However, there is minimal academic focus on how these informal settlements contribute to the city's crime rates or how urban policies can address these vulnerabilities.

The existing literature tends to be more quantitative than qualitative, relying heavily on crime statistics without exploring the lived experiences of Dhaka's residents. Qualitative studies on how individuals perceive crime, law enforcement, and safety in the city are scarce. Additionally, there is insufficient focus on how the political economy of Dhaka, with its vast informal labor market and weak regulatory frameworks, plays into the dynamics of urban crime.

2.13 Need for a Localized Understanding of Urban Crimes

To address the gaps in the literature, there is an urgent need for more localized research that looks specifically at Dhaka's crime patterns. This localized understanding requires an interdisciplinary approach that combines criminology, urban planning, sociology, and economics. While general theories on urban crime, such as social disorganization theory or routine activity theory, are useful, they must be adapted to Dhaka's context. Theories developed for Western urban environments may not accurately reflect the complexities of crime in a rapidly urbanizing South Asian city like Dhaka.

Localized studies should consider the city's socio-economic disparities, the rise of informal settlements, inadequate urban infrastructure, and the limitations of law enforcement. For example, Rahman (2020) highlighted that most crimes in Dhaka are property-related and driven by economic factors, but the study did not explore how socio-spatial inequalities, such as the stark contrast between affluent neighborhoods and slums play into these crimes.

Furthermore, urban crime in Dhaka is not merely a product of poverty but is also shaped by rapid migration, a weak judicial system, and political corruption (Islam, 2021). These elements are often neglected in crime research but are essential to understanding why Dhaka's urban environment is conducive to criminal activities. Additionally, the rise of technological crimes, such as cyber theft and online fraud, remains an underexplored area in Dhaka's urban crime research.

A comprehensive understanding of the push and pull factors that drive crime in Dhaka must consider the following:

- a. **Socio-economic drivers:** Poverty, unemployment, and lack of social mobility, especially among rural migrants.
- b. **Urban infrastructure:** The role of urban planning, transport networks, and the growth of informal settlements.
- c. **Law enforcement and governance:** Inadequacies in policing, judicial inefficiencies, and corruption.

- d. **Cultural and demographic shifts:** The changing cultural landscape of the city and its impact on crime rates.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The research design for this thesis employs a case study approach, focusing on Dhaka City to understand the push and pull factors contributing to crime. The case study method is ideal for exploring complex social phenomena within real-life contexts, allowing for in-depth investigation. It enables the researcher to analyze various facets of crime in Dhaka, such as socio-economic conditions, rapid urbanization, and governance, providing a holistic view of the factors driving criminal behavior.

a. Case Study Approach

A case study approach is particularly valuable when the research seeks to understand the interplay of multiple variables in a specific, localized setting. This approach offers the flexibility to gather qualitative and quantitative data, analyze patterns over time, and draw conclusions about the relationship between urbanization and crime. Yin (2014) emphasizes the importance of context in case studies, which is crucial when examining the complexities of crime in a rapidly urbanizing city like Dhaka.

b. Justification for Choosing Dhaka as a Case Study

Dhaka is one of the fastest-growing cities in the world, experiencing rapid urbanization, socio-economic inequality, and infrastructural challenges, making it a prime case for examining urban crime. The city's unique socio-economic landscape and the intensity of its urban challenges provide a rich environment for studying how push factors (e.g., poverty, lack of employment) and pull factors (e.g., opportunities for illegal activities) influence crime rates (Rahman, 2019; Alam et al., 2020). Therefore, Dhaka serves as an ideal case to understand these dynamics comprehensively.

To understand the push and pull factors of crime in Dhaka, Bangladesh, this study will employ a mixed-methods approach, integrating both quantitative and qualitative research techniques.

3.2 Data Collection Methods

Understanding the push and pull factors of crime in urban environments like Dhaka City requires a multi-faceted approach to data collection. The complexity of crime is influenced by various social, economic, and environmental factors, making it imperative to utilize a range of data collection

methods. This article discusses the quantitative and qualitative methods employed in the thesis titled "Understanding the Push and Pull Factors of Crime in Dhaka City: A Case Study of Dhaka City," highlighting the significance of each method in providing a comprehensive understanding of crime dynamics.

3.2.1 Quantitative Methods

Quantitative methods primarily rely on numerical data to identify trends, patterns, and correlations between variables. In the context of crime in Dhaka City, two essential sources of quantitative data are crime statistics from police reports and government statistics.

- a. Crime Data from Police Reports:** Police reports serve as a fundamental source of quantitative crime data. They provide detailed records of reported crimes, categorized by type (e.g., theft, assault, murder), location, and time. Analyzing these reports can reveal trends in criminal activity, peak crime periods, and hotspots within the city. For instance, studies show that crime rates in urban areas often correlate with socio-economic disparities and population density (Shaw & McKay, 1942). By examining crime statistics over time, researchers can identify whether crime rates are rising or falling and correlate these trends with urbanization patterns.
- b. Government Statistics:** Government agencies, such as the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), also publish valuable datasets that encompass demographic information, employment statistics, and socio-economic indicators. These statistics can help identify push factors, such as poverty and unemployment, which may lead individuals to engage in criminal activity (Becker, 1968). By utilizing regression analysis or other statistical methods, researchers can quantitatively assess the relationship between socio-economic factors and crime rates in Dhaka City.

3.2.2 Qualitative Methods

While quantitative methods provide numerical data, qualitative methods offer in-depth insights into the motivations and perceptions of individuals affected by crime. Two primary qualitative data collection methods used in this thesis are interviews with law enforcement, and local residents.

a. Interviews with Law Enforcement and Criminologists

Interviews with law enforcement officials and criminologists provide valuable perspectives on crime dynamics in Dhaka City. These experts can share their experiences and insights regarding the factors contributing to crime, the effectiveness of policing strategies, and community relations. For example, a study by Khatun et al.

(2020) highlighted how police-community partnerships can enhance crime prevention efforts. Such qualitative data can help uncover the underlying causes of crime that quantitative data alone may not reveal.

b. Interviews with Local Residents

Conducting interviews with local residents can further enhance understanding of the community's perceptions of crime. Residents can provide insights into their experiences with crime, safety concerns, and the social factors influencing criminal behavior. For instance, qualitative research by Rahman (2015) indicated that fear of crime significantly impacts residents' quality of life and their willingness to engage in community activities. Such insights are crucial for developing community-based crime prevention strategies.

c. Surveys and Questionnaires

Surveys and questionnaires can serve as effective tools to gauge public perception of crime in Dhaka City. These instruments can be distributed to a representative sample of residents to gather quantitative data on their views regarding crime rates, safety concerns, and their experiences with law enforcement.

d. Assessing Public Perception of Crime

Surveys can quantify how residents perceive crime in their neighborhoods, identify specific concerns (e.g., drug-related offenses, violence), and assess trust in law enforcement agencies. Research by Uddin et al. (2018) underscores the importance of public perception in shaping community responses to crime. By analyzing survey data, researchers can correlate public perceptions with actual crime rates and identify discrepancies that may indicate a need for better communication between law enforcement and the community.

3.3 Sampling

a. Population and Sample Size

Sampling is a critical component in research methodology, particularly in studies aimed at understanding complex social phenomena such as crime. In the context of this study on the push and pull factors of crime in Dhaka City, the target population encompasses residents of various demographics, including age, gender, socioeconomic status, and geographical location within the city. This diversity is essential for capturing the multifaceted nature of crime and its underlying causes.

The sample size is crucial for ensuring the validity and reliability of the research findings. For this study, a sample size of approximately 500

participants will be targeted. This number is deemed sufficient to provide a representative cross-section of the population while allowing for statistical significance in the analysis of quantitative data. The sample will include individuals from both urban and suburban areas of Dhaka to account for differences in crime experiences and perceptions across various communities.

b. Sampling Technique

The sampling technique employed in this study will be a combination of stratified and random sampling. Stratified sampling involves dividing the population into distinct subgroups (or strata) based on specific characteristics such as age, gender, socioeconomic status, and residential area. This method ensures that each subgroup is adequately represented in the sample, which is particularly important given the diverse nature of Dhaka's population.

Once the strata are established, random sampling will be applied within each subgroup. This technique helps minimize bias and ensures that every individual within the stratum has an equal chance of being selected for participation. By using this dual approach, the research aims to produce a well-rounded and representative sample that reflects the various experiences and perceptions of crime in Dhaka City.

3.4 Data Analysis

a. Statistical Analysis of Quantitative Data

The quantitative data collected through surveys will be analyzed using various statistical methods to identify trends, correlations, and patterns related to crime in Dhaka City. Descriptive statistics will provide a foundational understanding of the demographic characteristics of the sample and the prevalence of different types of crime. Measures such as mean, median, mode, and standard deviation will be calculated to summarize the data effectively.

Inferential statistics will be utilized to draw conclusions about the broader population based on the sample data. Techniques such as chi-square tests, t-tests, and regression analysis will be employed to examine relationships between different variables, such as socioeconomic status, education level, and crime rates. This analysis will help identify significant push and pull factors influencing criminal behavior in Dhaka.

Furthermore, Geographic Information System (GIS) tools will be employed to analyze spatial patterns of crime across different areas of Dhaka. By mapping crime data in relation to socioeconomic factors, researchers can gain insights into how location impacts crime rates and the experiences of residents.

c. **Thematic Analysis for Qualitative Data**

In addition to quantitative data, qualitative data will be collected through interviews and open-ended survey questions. Thematic analysis will be the primary method for analyzing this qualitative data. This approach involves systematically identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns (themes) within the data.

The process of thematic analysis will follow several steps:

- 1) **Familiarization:** Researchers will immerse themselves in the data by reading and re-reading the transcripts of interviews and survey responses.
- 2) **Initial Coding:** Key concepts and ideas will be identified, and preliminary codes will be generated. This step involves tagging segments of data that relate to specific factors influencing crime.
- 3) **Theme Development:** Codes will be grouped into broader themes that capture the essence of the data. For example, themes may emerge around economic hardship, lack of education, and social disintegration as significant push factors of crime.
- 4) **Reviewing Themes:** Themes will be reviewed and refined to ensure they accurately represent the data and are distinct from one another.
- 5) **Defining and Naming Themes:** Clear definitions will be established for each theme, along with illustrative quotes from participants to support the analysis.
- 6) **Reporting:** The final report will present the themes, supported by evidence from the qualitative data, to highlight the complex interplay of factors contributing to crime in Dhaka City.

3.5 Ethical Considerations

a. **Ensuring Confidentiality**

Ethical considerations are paramount in conducting research involving human subjects, particularly in sensitive areas like crime. This study will adhere to ethical guidelines to ensure the welfare of participants and the integrity of the research process.

- b. Informed Consent:** All participants will be provided with detailed information about the study's purpose, procedures, potential risks, and benefits before agreeing to participate. Informed consent forms will be

used, ensuring that participants understand their rights, including the right to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. The consent process will be designed to be accessible, considering varying literacy levels among participants.

- c. **Confidentiality:** Participants' identities and responses will be kept confidential throughout the research process. Personal identifiers will be removed from survey responses and interview transcripts to protect participants' privacy. Data will be stored securely, and only authorized researchers will have access to it. In reports and publications, aggregated data will be presented to ensure that no individual can be identified from the findings.
- d. **Ethical Review:** Before data collection begins, the study will be submitted for review and approval by an institutional review board (IRB) or ethics committee. This review process will ensure that the research complies with ethical standards and that participants' rights are upheld.

3.7 Limitations of the Study

a. Challenges in Obtaining Reliable Data

While this study aims to provide valuable insights into the push and pull factors of crime in Dhaka City, it is essential to acknowledge several limitations that may affect the research's overall validity and reliability.

One significant challenge is the potential for response bias in surveys and interviews. Participants may be reluctant to disclose their involvement in criminal activities or may provide socially desirable answers, particularly concerning sensitive topics like crime. Efforts will be made to create a comfortable environment for participants, but the possibility of underreporting or overreporting cannot be entirely eliminated.

Another limitation relates to the availability and reliability of existing crime data. Official crime statistics may be incomplete or inconsistent, particularly in a rapidly changing urban environment like Dhaka. This study will rely on both primary data collection and secondary sources; however, discrepancies in reporting methods and data collection practices can pose challenges in obtaining accurate crime statistics.

b. Time Constraints and Other Limitations

Time constraints can also impact the study. The research will be conducted within a specific timeframe, which may limit the depth of data collection and analysis. In-depth interviews, for example, require time to build rapport with participants, and a limited timeframe may restrict the number of interviews conducted.

Additionally, the complexity of the factors influencing crime in Dhaka City means that not all potential variables can be explored in this study. While the focus will be on key push and pull factors, other relevant issues such as cultural influences, political factors, and historical contexts may not be fully addressed due to time and resource limitations.

Moreover, the findings of this study may not be generalizable to other cities or contexts. Dhaka's unique socio-economic landscape, characterized by rapid urbanization, poverty, and social inequality, shapes the crime experience in ways that may differ from other urban settings. Therefore, while the research aims to provide insights into the specific dynamics of crime in Dhaka, caution should be exercised in applying these findings universally.

4. Analysis of Push Factors

Dhaka's crime problems are reflective of broader structural issues that plague many cities in the Global South, particularly in South Asia. From economic deprivation to political instability, the push factors at play in Dhaka represent a complex intersection of various dynamics that together fuel criminal behavior. This analysis will be structured into five main sections: economic, social, political, environmental, and cultural push factors.

4.1 Economic Push Factors

a. Poverty, Income Inequality, and Crime

Poverty is often cited as one of the most significant push factors driving crime in urban settings, and Dhaka is no exception. Despite Bangladesh's economic growth, poverty rates remain high, particularly in the city's slums and informal settlements. According to the World Bank (2020), nearly 20% of Dhaka's population lives below the poverty line, and the income disparity between the wealthy and poor has only widened over time.

Poverty pushes individuals to commit crimes out of necessity or desperation, especially in densely populated and economically marginalized areas where legitimate opportunities for employment and income generation are scarce.

Income inequality exacerbates the problem by fostering resentment and feelings of social exclusion, particularly in areas where wealth is concentrated alongside extreme poverty. According to UN-Habitat (2020), crime rates tend to spike in cities where wealth disparity is highly visible, leading to higher incidences of property crimes such as burglary, theft, and robbery.

Furthermore, slum dwellers often experience limited access to education, healthcare, and formal employment, which locks them into cycles of poverty.

Petty crimes, drug dealing, and theft become survival strategies in these environments. As pointed out by a Dhaka-based study (BIDS, 2019), there is a strong correlation between slum living conditions and the rise of crime due to the absence of legitimate economic opportunities.

b. Unemployment and Underemployment as Drivers of Crime

Another critical economic push factor is unemployment and underemployment. Dhaka has one of the fastest-growing urban populations in the world, and its labor market cannot keep up with the increasing demand for jobs. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) (2020), the unemployment rate in Dhaka is about 5.3%, but the underemployment rate is much higher. Many young people, especially those from low-income or marginalized communities, find themselves unable to secure stable or meaningful employment.

For the unemployed and underemployed, particularly among the youth, the inability to find decent work can lead to frustration and desperation. As jobs are scarce and competition fierce, crime often emerges as a shortcut to financial success. The informal economy in Dhaka provides ample opportunities for illegal activities such as drug trafficking, extortion, and robbery. According to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), areas with high youth unemployment have experienced significant increases in gang-related crime, as young people turn to gangs for both financial security and social identity.

4.2 Social Push Factors

a. Lack of Access to Education and Social Mobility

Education is a vital pathway to economic stability and social mobility. Unfortunately, lack of access to quality education remains a critical issue in Dhaka, especially in low-income neighborhoods and slums. While the literacy rate in Dhaka has improved, large disparities exist in educational attainment between different socioeconomic groups. According to BRAC (2020), nearly 30% of children in Dhaka's slum areas drop out of school by the age of 12, which significantly hampers their chances of breaking the cycle of poverty.

Without access to education, individuals are more likely to be trapped in low-wage or unstable jobs, if they are employed at all. This lack of social mobility can push people toward criminal behavior, as legitimate means of economic advancement seem unattainable. A report by UNICEF (2020) showed that young people who drop out of school are more likely to become involved in criminal activities, such as theft, drug trafficking, and other forms of petty crime, in order to survive.

b. Family Breakdown and Social Disintegration

The breakdown of traditional family structures and the weakening of community bonds are also significant social push factors driving crime in Dhaka. Rapid urbanization has strained familial relationships, with many individuals leaving behind rural extended families to move into urban slums or informal settlements. As families struggle to adapt to life in the city, problems such as domestic violence, child neglect, and marital breakdown have increased.

According to a Save the Children report (2021), children from broken or dysfunctional families are significantly more likely to engage in criminal activities due to the lack of parental supervision and support. In many cases, family breakdown leads to the development of criminal behavior at a young age. The absence of strong family and community networks—which in more traditional rural settings act as informal social controls—can exacerbate crime rates.

Urban slum environments, which are often characterized by social disintegration and weak community ties, provide fertile grounds for criminal networks to flourish. In such contexts, gangs and other criminal organizations often step in to provide the social structure, protection, and identity that individuals feel they have lost.

4.3 Political Push Factors

a. Corruption and Governance Issues

Corruption is a pervasive issue in Dhaka and serves as a significant political push factor driving crime. The Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (2020) consistently ranks Bangladesh as one of the most corrupt countries in the world. Corruption within the police, judiciary, and local government erodes the public's trust in the justice system and undermines the rule of law, creating an environment in which crime can flourish.

In Dhaka, corruption in law enforcement has been identified as a major problem. Many residents are hesitant to report crimes because they fear being extorted or ignored by corrupt officials. According to a study by the Asia Foundation (2019), a significant portion of Dhaka's population views the police force as ineffective due to widespread corruption. This allows criminals to operate with impunity, particularly in areas controlled by organized crime syndicates. Governance issues also play a role. Bureaucratic inefficiency, lack of coordination between governmental agencies, and the politicization of crime-fighting efforts have hampered efforts to address rising crime rates. Political figures are often accused of colluding with criminal organizations, protecting them from prosecution in exchange for political or financial support. These issues create an

environment where criminal organizations can thrive, leading to higher levels of violence, extortion, and other organized crimes in Dhaka.

b. Political Violence and Unrest as Factors Influencing Crime

In addition to corruption, political violence and unrest are major factors contributing to crime in Dhaka. Bangladesh has a long history of political instability, marked by frequent strikes, protests, and clashes between rival political factions. These periods of unrest create opportunities for criminal activity to increase, as the police and security forces are often preoccupied with managing public disorder.

Political violence also contributes to the criminalization of politics, where certain political factions align themselves with criminal organizations to maintain control over territory or suppress political opposition. A report by International Crisis Group (2021) found that some political groups in Dhaka maintain links with gangs and other criminal networks, using them to intimidate opponents and control neighborhoods.

During times of political unrest, the breakdown of law and order creates an environment where crime can flourish. Opportunistic crimes such as looting, vandalism, and arson are common during political strikes, while more organized criminal activities often increase as law enforcement agencies are diverted elsewhere.

4.4 Environmental Push Factors

a. Poor Urban Planning and Infrastructure

Poor urban planning and inadequate infrastructure are significant environmental push factors driving crime in Dhaka. As one of the fastest-growing cities in the world, Dhaka has struggled to keep pace with its expanding population. The city's infrastructure, such as roads, public transportation, sanitation systems, and electricity grids is often inadequate, particularly in low-income areas. In many of Dhaka's poorer neighborhoods, the lack of proper lighting, sanitation, and public spaces contributes to a sense of insecurity. A lack of accessible public services often pushes residents into informal or illegal economic activities. For instance, in areas where housing is overcrowded and public spaces are poorly maintained, petty crimes, drug dealing, and gang activity become more prevalent.

Poor infrastructure also hampers the ability of law enforcement agencies to effectively patrol and control crime in these areas. Narrow streets, lack of street lighting, and poorly maintained roads make it difficult for police to access certain parts of the city, especially slum areas where much of the crime is concentrated. According to a study by UN-Habitat (2020), poor

infrastructure significantly contributes to rising crime rates in urban areas by creating physical environments that are conducive to illegal activities.

b. Inadequate Housing and Slum Proliferation

One of the most visible environmental push factors in Dhaka is the proliferation of slums and inadequate housing. With approximately 40% of Dhaka's population living in slum areas (UN-Habitat, 2020), the lack of affordable housing has forced many residents into informal settlements where living conditions are dire. Slums are often overcrowded, lacking basic services such as water, sanitation, and electricity, which exacerbates poverty and pushes individuals toward crime.

The absence of state presence in these areas has allowed criminal networks to take root, particularly in the areas of drug trafficking, extortion, and violent crime. Slum residents are often subject to harassment and exploitation by criminal gangs, who control access to resources such as water and electricity. In some cases, slum leaders often with ties to political or criminal networks exploit residents through illegal rent practices or forced labor.

According to a survey conducted by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) (2019), slum proliferation has contributed significantly to crime rates in Dhaka, as these areas often serve as hubs for illicit activity. Addressing the housing crisis and improving living conditions in slums are essential steps in reducing the push factors that drive individuals toward criminal behavior.

4.5 Cultural Push Factors

a. Influence of Cultural Norms on Crime

Cultural norms and values play a significant role in shaping individuals' behavior, including their propensity for criminal activity. In Dhaka, traditional norms related to masculinity, honor, and social status often push individuals toward criminal behavior, particularly violent crime. For example, male dominance and the emphasis on aggression as a marker of masculinity can lead to the normalization of violence in certain contexts. This is particularly evident in domestic violence cases, where cultural norms may prevent women from seeking help or reporting abuse. According to a report by Human Rights Watch, domestic violence remains widespread in Dhaka, partly due to cultural acceptance of such behavior and the lack of effective legal recourse for victims.

Additionally, social norms related to wealth and status often push individuals to engage in criminal activities as a means of gaining respect or improving their social standing. In a society where success is often measured by material wealth, those who feel excluded from

legitimate avenues of social mobility may turn to crime to achieve their goals.

b. Rise of Gang Culture and Organized Crime

The rise of gang culture in Dhaka has been a significant factor in the increase of violent crime. Gangs often provide a sense of identity, belonging, and protection for young men who feel excluded from mainstream society. In many low-income areas, gangs offer an alternative social structure that provides financial support, protection, and social capital.

However, gang culture also normalizes criminal behavior, pushing individuals deeper into a life of crime. Organized crime networks in Dhaka are involved in a range of illegal activities, including drug trafficking, extortion, and contract killings. These networks often operate with impunity, taking advantage of weak law enforcement and corrupt officials.

A study by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police found that gang-related violence had increased by nearly 25% over the past five years, particularly in slum areas. The rise of organized crime has also been linked to the proliferation of yaba (methamphetamine), which has fueled drug-related violence across the city.

4.6 Other Push Factors

Beyond the major economic, social, political, environmental, and cultural push factors, other elements contribute to crime in Dhaka. The city's rapid population growth, along with climate change and natural disasters, has also placed enormous strain on resources, exacerbating poverty and social dislocation. In the absence of adequate support systems, these factors further push vulnerable populations into crime as a means of survival.

5. Analysis of Pull Factors

As urbanization continues to shape cities like Dhaka, it is essential to explore not only the push factors that drive individuals toward crime but also the pull factors that attract them to criminal activities. Pull factors can be understood as the opportunities, incentives, and social dynamics that encourage individuals to engage in crime. This article will delve into the various pull factors that influence criminal behavior in Dhaka City, structured into six primary categories: economic, social, political, environmental, cultural, and other factors.

5.1 Economic Pull Factors

a. Lucrative Opportunities in the Informal or Illegal Economy

One of the most significant pull factors for crime in Dhaka is the presence of lucrative opportunities within the informal or illegal economy. The informal economy, which encompasses a wide range of activities that operate outside of formal regulatory frameworks, is pervasive in Dhaka due to the high levels of unemployment and underemployment. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), nearly 87% of employment in Bangladesh is informal, which reflects a significant challenge for economic stability and growth.

Individuals often turn to informal or illegal work as a means of survival or wealth accumulation. This can include activities such as street vending, unregistered businesses, and, in more extreme cases, criminal enterprises like drug trafficking, extortion, and human trafficking. The promise of quick financial gain in these areas can be highly appealing, especially for those in poverty who see few legitimate alternatives. Research from the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) indicates that many young people in Dhaka are drawn to the informal economy due to its perceived flexibility and potential for higher earnings compared to traditional jobs. For instance, a street vendor can earn more in a day than an individual working in a formal job, reinforcing the attractiveness of informal employment.

b. Perceived Low Risk and High Reward in Criminal Activities

The perception of low risk and high reward associated with criminal activities further entices individuals into the criminal underworld. In a city like Dhaka, where law enforcement may be ineffective or corrupt, individuals often believe that they can engage in criminal activities without significant consequences.

Studies show that individuals weigh the potential rewards of criminal behavior against the risks of getting caught. In Dhaka, the prevalence of police corruption means that individuals involved in criminal activities can often bribe law enforcement to avoid prosecution. This has led to a culture of impunity, where criminals feel emboldened to engage in illegal activities without fear of repercussions.

Furthermore, the low likelihood of significant punishment for non-violent crimes such as theft or drug trafficking contributes to the allure of criminal activities. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), many individuals involved in crime do not view their actions as harmful or serious, thus rationalizing their behavior. This perception fosters a cycle where crime becomes a viable option for economic advancement.

5.2 Social Pull Factors

a. Peer Influence and Social Networks in Criminal Circles

Social networks and peer influence play a pivotal role in encouraging individuals to engage in criminal behavior. In many areas of Dhaka, criminal activity can be normalized within certain social circles, leading to an environment where crime is perceived as an acceptable means of achieving social status or financial success.

Individuals, particularly youth, are heavily influenced by their peers. If a young person is surrounded by friends or family members who engage in criminal activities, they are more likely to adopt similar behaviors. This dynamic is particularly pronounced in marginalized communities where opportunities for legitimate success are limited.

A report by Save the Children highlighted that youth who are involved in gangs or criminal networks often find a sense of belonging and identity within these groups. The social acceptance and camaraderie provided by these networks can overshadow the negative consequences of criminal behavior, making it an attractive choice for many individuals.

b. The Role of Social Media and Technology in Facilitating Crime

The rise of social media and digital technology has transformed how criminal networks operate, making it easier for individuals to connect, plan, and execute illegal activities. In Dhaka, platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram have become tools for organizing criminal enterprises and facilitating illegal trade.

Social media not only enables communication among individuals involved in crime but also serves as a platform for glorifying criminal lifestyles. Young people are exposed to images and narratives that romanticize crime, which can influence their perceptions and encourage them to engage in similar behavior.

Moreover, technology has made it easier to conduct criminal activities online, from cybercrime to human trafficking. A report by the Cyber Crime Investigation Division of Bangladesh Police indicated a significant increase in cybercrime, driven by the anonymity and reach that digital platforms provide. This shift has made it easier for criminals to operate without the constraints of traditional geography, attracting a new generation of offenders.

5.3 Political Pull Factors

a. Weak Law Enforcement and Judiciary Systems

The effectiveness of law enforcement and the judiciary is crucial in deterring crime. However, in Dhaka, the weakness of these systems serves as a significant pull factor for criminal activity. Corruption within the police force and the judiciary undermines the rule of law, leading to a perception that criminal behavior can be engaged in without significant consequences.

Individuals often perceive the legal system as ineffective, which diminishes the deterrent effect that laws and regulations typically have on criminal behavior. The Bangladesh Police have faced criticism for their inability to maintain order and combat organized crime effectively. A report from Transparency International notes that corruption and inefficiency within law enforcement agencies result in a lack of trust from the public, further emboldening criminals.

Additionally, the judicial system's delays and backlogs contribute to the perception that crime pays. Many offenders believe that even if they are caught, the lengthy and convoluted legal processes will allow them to avoid serious punishment. This creates an environment where criminal activities can flourish, as individuals weigh the risks and benefits of engaging in illegal behavior.

b. Political Patronage and Protection of Criminals

In some cases, political patronage provides protection for criminals, further incentivizing criminal behavior. Certain political factions in Dhaka have been known to align themselves with criminal organizations to gain power, control, or influence. This relationship often results in a culture of impunity for criminals who are connected to political figures.

A report by the International Crisis Group indicates that political connections can shield criminals from law enforcement, allowing them to operate freely. This situation fosters a sense of loyalty among criminals toward political leaders, as they receive protection in exchange for services rendered, such as voter mobilization or intimidation of opponents.

The intertwining of politics and crime in Dhaka creates a challenging environment for effective governance and crime prevention. As long as political patronage continues to enable criminal activity, the cycle of crime will likely persist, drawing more individuals into illegal activities.

5.4 Environmental Pull Factors

a. Urban Anonymity: How Large, Dense Populations Foster Criminal Behavior

Urban anonymity is a significant environmental pull factor that contributes to crime in Dhaka. The sheer size and density of the city create a sense of disconnection among residents, making it easier for individuals to engage in criminal activities without being identified or apprehended.

In crowded urban areas, people often feel invisible, leading to a breakdown in social cohesion and a lack of communal oversight. This anonymity can embolden individuals to commit crimes, as they believe they can escape detection. Research from UN-Habitat highlights that urban anonymity reduces social accountability, allowing criminal behavior to thrive.

Additionally, the fast-paced urban environment often results in a lack of surveillance in public spaces. Poorly lit streets and limited security presence can create opportunities for crime, as offenders feel they can act without the fear of being caught. This environment can be particularly appealing for individuals looking to engage in theft, robbery, or other illicit activities.

b. The Role of Public Spaces in Enabling Crime

Public spaces in Dhaka, such as parks, markets, and transportation hubs, can also serve as enabling environments for crime. The lack of adequate infrastructure, maintenance, and safety measures in these spaces creates vulnerabilities that criminals can exploit.

For instance, crowded markets can be hotspots for petty theft and pickpocketing, while poorly maintained parks may attract individuals seeking to engage in illicit activities. A study by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police indicated that areas with high foot traffic and minimal surveillance are often targeted by criminals looking for opportunities to commit crimes.

Moreover, the lack of community engagement in public spaces can lead to a sense of neglect, making it easier for criminal behavior to take root. When residents feel that public spaces are unsafe or unwelcoming, they may disengage from community activities, further contributing to the cycle of crime.

5.5 Cultural Pull Factors

a. Glorification of Crime in Popular Media and Culture

The glorification of crime in popular media and culture is a powerful pull factor that influences individuals' perceptions of criminal behavior. In Dhaka, films, music, and social media often romanticize criminal lifestyles, depicting them as glamorous or aspirational. This portrayal can create a disconnect between the reality of crime and its representation in media, leading some individuals to view criminal activity as a viable path to success.

A study by the University of Dhaka found that young people are particularly susceptible to the narratives presented in popular media. Many individuals aspire to emulate the characters they see in films or music videos, believing that engaging in crime will lead to wealth and respect. This cultural dynamic reinforces the idea that crime is not only acceptable but desirable.

Furthermore, the rise of social media platforms has enabled individuals to share their criminal exploits, further normalizing such behavior. Accounts of criminal activity are often celebrated, creating a feedback loop that perpetuates the allure of crime. The impact of this glorification cannot be understated, as it shapes societal attitudes and encourages individuals to pursue a life of crime.

b. Rise of Consumerism and Materialism Leading to Criminal Behavior

The rise of consumerism and materialism in Dhaka has also contributed to criminal behavior. As the city experiences rapid economic growth, individuals are increasingly exposed to messages that equate success with material wealth. This societal pressure can lead individuals to pursue shortcuts to achieve their desires, including engaging in criminal activities.

In a culture where success is often defined by possessions and status, those who struggle financially may feel compelled to engage in crime to keep up with their peers. The desire for luxury goods, fashionable clothing, and other markers of success can drive individuals toward theft, fraud, or other illegal activities as they seek to fulfill these societal expectations.

Moreover, the disparities in wealth and access to resources in Dhaka can exacerbate feelings of envy and frustration among individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. This sentiment can create a sense of desperation that drives individuals to resort to criminal behavior as a means of achieving their material goals.

5.6 Other Pull Factors

In addition to the previously discussed factors, there are other pull factors that can influence criminal behavior in Dhaka:

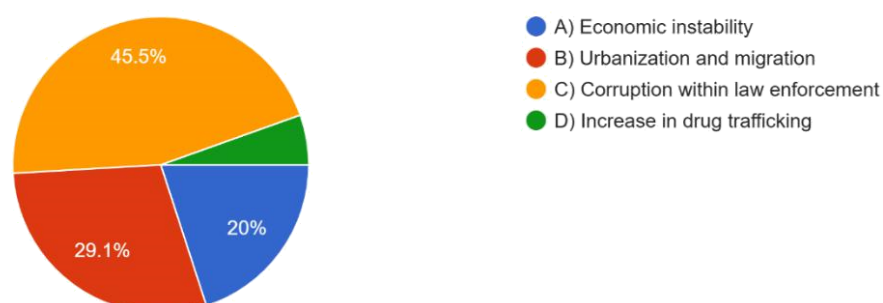
- a. **Globalization:** The interconnectedness of the global economy has facilitated the flow of illegal goods and services, making it easier for individuals in Dhaka to engage in transnational crime. The availability of illegal drugs, weapons, and trafficking networks has increased the appeal of criminal activities.
- b. **Economic Migration:** The movement of individuals from rural areas to urban centers like Dhaka in search of better opportunities can lead to increased crime. Many migrants face economic hardship and may resort to crime as a survival strategy, contributing to the overall crime rate in the city.
- c. **Disenfranchisement:** Marginalized communities may feel disconnected from mainstream society, leading them to seek alternative paths for recognition and success. This disenfranchisement can drive individuals toward criminal networks that offer a sense of identity and belonging.

6. Case Studies of Crime in Dhaka

Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, has witnessed a rapid transformation over the past few decades. This burgeoning megacity, home to over 21 million residents, faces significant challenges, including an alarming rise in various forms of crime. Understanding the underlying causes of this increase in criminal activity requires a deep dive into specific case studies that highlight the multifaceted nature of crime in Dhaka. This section presents five detailed case studies, each focusing on a particular type of crime prevalent in the city: gang violence, drug-related crime, political violence, property crime, and homicide.

What do you think is the most significant reason for the rise in crime rates in Dhaka over the past decade?

55 responses



6.1 Case Study 1: Gang Violence in Dhaka

a. Background and Rise of Gang-Related Crimes

Gang violence in Dhaka has become a significant issue over the last few decades, particularly as the city has experienced rapid urbanization and economic disparity. Gang activity often thrives in areas where residents face socio-economic challenges, and Dhaka's informal settlements are hotspots for such violence.

Historically, gangs emerged in Dhaka as a means of providing protection and resources in neighborhoods where law enforcement was either ineffective or corrupt. The **Rapid Action Battalion (RAB)** has reported that there are currently over **30 active gangs** operating within Dhaka, involved in various criminal activities such as extortion, drug trafficking, and violent confrontations with rival groups.

b. Socio-Economic and Political Factors Driving Gang Violence

The rise of gang violence in Dhaka can be attributed to several socio-economic and political factors:

- 1) Economic Deprivation:** Widespread poverty and unemployment create an environment where gang membership offers a sense of belonging and financial gain. Many young men in low-income areas see gangs as a way to improve their socio-economic status.
- 2) Lack of Educational Opportunities:** Limited access to education reduces the chances of upward mobility, pushing individuals toward gangs as an alternative.
- 3) Corruption and Weak Law Enforcement:** Corruption within the police force and local governance structures often allows gangs to operate with relative impunity. This lack of accountability reinforces the cycle of violence.
- 4) Political Patronage:** Gangs are sometimes used by political parties to exert control over certain neighborhoods or to intimidate opponents, further entrenching their power and influence.

c. Examples of Such Cases in Real Life

One of the most notorious cases highlighting gang violence in Dhaka is the **Tonkoti Gang**, which became infamous for its brutal tactics. In **2018**, a series of violent clashes between the Tonkoti gang and rival factions resulted in multiple fatalities and injuries, drawing attention to the broader issue of gang-related violence in the city.

Another notable incident occurred in **2020** when a clash between two rival gangs in the **Mirpur** area led to the deaths of three individuals and injuries to several others. This incident underscored the growing trend of using firearms in gang disputes, raising concerns about public safety.

6.2 Case Study 2: Drug-Related Crime

a. Dhaka as a Hub for Drug Trafficking and Consumption

Dhaka has increasingly become a central hub for drug trafficking and consumption, largely due to its strategic location and significant population. The city's porous borders facilitate the easy importation of drugs, particularly **yaba (methamphetamine)** and other illicit substances. The **Bangladesh Department of Narcotics Control (DNC)** has reported a dramatic rise in drug-related offenses, with yaba becoming one of the most commonly abused drugs in the country.

The growing demand for drugs among the urban population, particularly among youth, has made Dhaka an attractive market for traffickers. The National Drug Control Policy reported that **over 3 million** people in Bangladesh are affected by drug addiction, with many concentrated in urban areas like Dhaka.

b. Impact on Local Communities and Law Enforcement Responses

The rampant drug trade has severe implications for local communities, including increased violence, family breakdowns, and a rise in health-related issues. Many families find themselves torn apart by addiction, leading to a cycle of poverty and criminality.

In response to the escalating drug crisis, law enforcement agencies have ramped up efforts to combat drug trafficking and abuse. The RAB has conducted numerous operations, resulting in thousands of arrests and drug seizures. However, these crackdowns often face criticism for their brutality, including allegations of extrajudicial killings of suspected drug offenders.

c. Examples of Such Cases in Real Life

A high-profile case in **2018** involved the arrest of **several drug lords** in Dhaka during a large-scale police operation. The operation resulted in the seizure of **over 2 million yaba pills** and highlighted the scale of the drug trade in the city. The subsequent crackdown led to increased tensions between law enforcement and local communities, with allegations of police brutality emerging in the aftermath.

In another incident, a young woman named **Nabila**, aged 23, was arrested in **2020** while attempting to smuggle drugs into Dhaka from the **Chattogram** port. Her case drew media attention, illustrating the tragic consequences of the drug trade on individual lives and families.

6.3 Case Study 3: Political Violence

a. The Intersection of Politics and Crime in Dhaka

Political violence in Dhaka is often intertwined with organized crime, with political parties sometimes engaging in violent confrontations to assert dominance or control over certain areas. This intersection of politics and crime can destabilize communities and lead to widespread fear among residents.

Bangladesh has a history of political unrest, with frequent clashes between rival parties. The **Awami League** and the **Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)** have historically been involved in violent skirmishes, especially during election seasons. Political violence can take various forms, including street protests, assassinations, and targeted attacks on political opponents.

b. Analysis of Recent High-Profile Cases

One notable case of political violence occurred in **January 2015**, when a series of violent protests erupted in Dhaka following a controversial election. The clashes resulted in numerous deaths and injuries, and the use of **arson attacks** against vehicles became a common tactic during these protests. In **2020**, the murder of **Abrar Fahad**, a student and political activist, shocked the nation. Abrar was brutally beaten to death by members of a student wing of the ruling Awami League party at his university. This incident sparked widespread outrage and protests, highlighting the dangers of political violence and the entanglement of politics with crime.

c. Examples of Such Cases in Real Life

Another significant example occurred in **2018**, when a series of violent clashes between political party supporters in Dhaka led to the deaths of several individuals. The violence was linked to local elections, where rival factions clashed over control of voter bases.

In **March 2021**, a protest by the **Bangladesh Students' Union** against police brutality turned violent, resulting in injuries and arrests. This incident highlighted the ongoing struggle between political expression and violent suppression in Dhaka.

6.4 Case Study 4: Property Crime and Theft

a. Trends in Robbery, Burglary, and Street Crime

Property crime, including robbery, burglary, and street crime, has become a significant concern in Dhaka. The city experiences high rates of theft and burglary, particularly in crowded urban neighborhoods where residents often have limited means of securing their property.

According to data from the **Dhaka Metropolitan Police**, there were **over 10,000 reported cases** of property crimes in 2021 alone. The urban landscape, characterized by narrow alleyways and informal housing structures, creates opportunities for criminals to operate undetected.

b. Role of Poverty and Opportunity in These Crimes

The underlying socio-economic conditions in Dhaka, such as poverty and unemployment, contribute significantly to the prevalence of property crime. Many individuals resort to theft as a means of survival, driven by desperation and the absence of legitimate economic opportunities.

The lack of effective law enforcement and security measures in certain neighborhoods further exacerbates the problem. Many residents do not report crimes due to a lack of faith in the police or fear of retaliation from criminals.

c. Examples of Such Cases in Real Life

A widely reported case occurred in **December 2020** when a group of armed robbers targeted a jewelry store in the **Motijheel** area, stealing jewelry worth millions of takas. The brazen daylight robbery highlighted the growing trend of organized theft in urban areas.

In another incident, a **2019 burglary** in the affluent **Gulshan** neighborhood drew significant media attention. A family returned home to find their house ransacked and valuables stolen, raising concerns about security in a city perceived as increasingly unsafe.

6.5 Case Study 5: Homicide

a. Example of Such Cases in Real Life

Homicide rates in Dhaka have fluctuated over the years, with certain periods witnessing significant spikes in violent crime. Homicides often result from personal disputes, gang rivalries, or domestic violence, reflecting the broader socio-economic issues facing the city.

One notable case occurred in **March 2022** when a young woman named **Maya** was murdered by her partner in a domestic dispute. The case garnered national attention, shining a light on the issue of domestic violence

in Bangladesh and the need for better protective measures for victims. Another high-profile homicide involved the **2019 murder** of **Samiul**, a 16-year-old boy, who was shot during a gang conflict in the **Shahbagh** area. This incident raised alarms about the increasing use of firearms among gangs and the dangers facing young people in urban settings.

7. Discussion

The urban landscape of Dhaka, Bangladesh, reflects a complex tapestry of socio-economic conditions, cultural dynamics, and environmental influences that shape crime patterns. With a population exceeding 21 million and experiencing rapid urbanization, Dhaka faces unique challenges in crime prevention. Understanding the push and pull factors influencing crime in Dhaka is crucial for developing effective urban policies and strategies aimed at reducing criminal activities. In this discussion, we will synthesize the interaction of push and pull factors, conduct a comparative analysis with other megacities, examine implications for crime prevention and urban policy, and explore the challenges faced by law enforcement in the context of Dhaka.

7.1 Synthesis of Push and Pull Factors

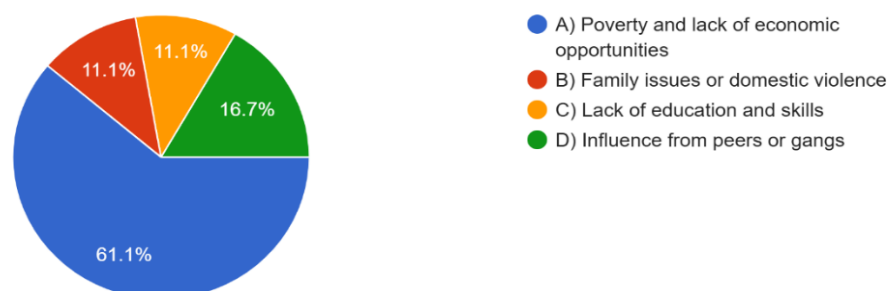
Push and pull factors are integral in understanding the socio-economic dynamics that contribute to crime in Dhaka. Push factors typically refer to the conditions that compel individuals to leave their homes or engage in criminal behavior. In contrast, pull factors represent the attractions that draw individuals into specific areas, often linked to perceived opportunities and social networks.

a. Economic Disparities as Push Factors

One of the primary push factors influencing crime in Dhaka is economic disparity. High rates of poverty, unemployment, and limited access to education force individuals, particularly the youth, to seek alternative means of survival. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) (2021), approximately 24.3% of the population lives below the national poverty line. This economic insecurity often leads to increased desperation and vulnerability, pushing individuals toward criminal activities such as theft, drug trafficking, and gang-related crimes.

What do you believe is the primary push factor for individuals engaging in criminal activities in Dhaka?

54 responses



For instance, research by Rahman and Alam (2020) highlights that young men in impoverished neighborhoods are particularly susceptible to gang involvement and criminal behavior as they seek to escape the cycle of poverty. The lack of social safety nets exacerbates this situation, leaving many individuals with limited options and resorting to crime as a means of survival.

b. Urbanization and Population Density as Pull Factors

Conversely, Dhaka's rapid urbanization serves as a significant pull factor. The city attracts millions of migrants from rural areas seeking better economic opportunities and improved living standards. However, this influx creates a highly competitive environment where resources are scarce, and job opportunities are limited. The city's infrastructure struggles to keep pace with the growing population, leading to overcrowding, inadequate housing, and strained public services.

As migrants arrive in Dhaka, many find themselves in informal settlements, where access to basic services such as clean water, sanitation, and education is severely limited. This precarious living situation often fosters an environment conducive to criminal behavior. The informal economy thrives in these areas, with individuals engaging in unregulated activities that can escalate into criminal enterprises.

Furthermore, the cultural dynamics within Dhaka's urban landscape can also serve as pull factors for criminal activity. The presence of social networks that facilitate criminal behavior can attract individuals to engage in illicit activities.

Peer influence, community norms, and the glorification of criminal success can entice individuals, particularly the youth, into a lifestyle that may prioritize crime over legitimate means of income.

7.2 Comparative Analysis of Dhaka City with Other Cities

To better understand the dynamics of crime in Dhaka, it is essential to compare it with other megacities such as Mumbai, India, and Lagos, Nigeria. Both cities share similarities in terms of rapid urbanization, socio-economic challenges, and high crime rates. However, the approaches to addressing these issues differ significantly.

a. Crime Dynamics in Mumbai and Dhaka

Mumbai, often referred to as the financial capital of India, exhibits a similar socio-economic landscape to Dhaka, characterized by significant income inequality and a diverse population. However, the city's crime dynamics are somewhat mitigated by the presence of more structured law enforcement initiatives and community policing programs. According to a study by Mohanty (2019), community policing efforts in Mumbai have helped build trust between law enforcement agencies and local communities, leading to a decrease in crime rates in certain areas.

The city's relatively higher economic opportunities, coupled with government initiatives to improve housing and infrastructure, have also contributed to stabilizing crime levels. For instance, Mumbai has implemented various social programs aimed at reducing poverty and providing educational opportunities, particularly for at-risk youth. These initiatives have proven effective in decreasing the allure of criminal enterprises, demonstrating a proactive approach to crime prevention.

b. Crime Dynamics in Lagos and Dhaka

Similarly, Lagos faces its share of urban challenges, with high population density and significant crime rates. The city is characterized by a burgeoning informal economy, which provides opportunities for illegal activities. Research conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2020) highlights that urban poverty and unemployment are substantial contributors to crime in Lagos.

However, the Nigerian government has made efforts to address crime through various strategies, including the use of technology and community involvement. The Lagos State government has implemented programs focused on youth engagement, education, and job creation, aiming to reduce the socio-economic drivers of crime. Additionally, the integration of technology in policing has enhanced law enforcement's ability to monitor criminal activities and respond effectively.

In comparison, Dhaka's lack of coordinated crime prevention strategies and community engagement initiatives exacerbates its crime dynamics. While the city shares similarities with Mumbai and Lagos, the absence of structured

programs to address economic disparity and foster community cooperation has contributed to rising crime rates.

7.3 Findings

7.3.1 Socio-Economic Push Factors

a. Poverty and Unemployment

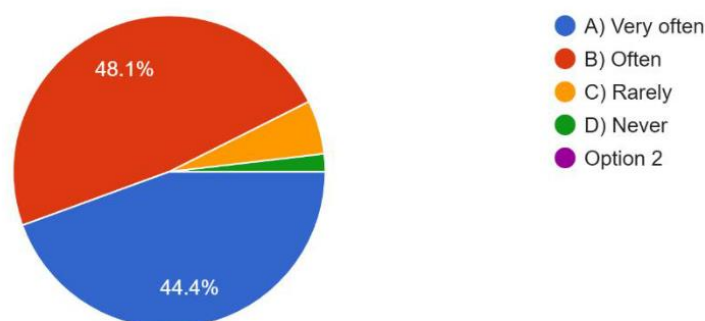
Poverty and unemployment are significant push factors influencing crime in Dhaka, Bangladesh. As one of the most rapidly urbanizing cities in the world, Dhaka has seen a dramatic increase in its population, leading to heightened socio-economic challenges.

1) Poverty: High poverty rates in Dhaka create conditions where crime can become a survival strategy. Individuals in impoverished communities often face severe economic hardship, which can drive them towards illicit activities such as theft, drug trafficking, and informal sector jobs with high risk of criminal involvement (Ahmed & Islam, 2019). The lack of access to basic necessities and social services exacerbates this issue, making crime a more attractive option for some as a means to meet daily needs.

2) Unemployment: Unemployment compounds these problems by limiting economic opportunities and increasing economic desperation. A significant portion of Dhaka's population, especially youth, faces limited job prospects due to a mismatch between skills and available employment opportunities. This economic disenfranchisement can lead to involvement in criminal activities as individuals seek alternative ways to earn income (Rahman, 2020). Unemployment also contributes to social instability and frustration, which can escalate into criminal behavior.

How often do you think unemployment contributes to crime in Dhaka?

54 responses



In Dhaka, the interplay between poverty and unemployment creates a cycle that exacerbates crime. High poverty levels lead to higher unemployment, which in turn fuels further economic distress and criminal activity. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive socio-economic policies aimed at reducing poverty, improving job prospects, and providing social support to vulnerable populations. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for developing effective crime prevention strategies in Dhaka.

b. Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is a crucial factor influencing crime rates in Dhaka, Bangladesh, impacting both the push and pull dynamics of criminal behavior.

- 1) **Educational Attainment and Crime:** Lower levels of educational attainment are strongly correlated with higher crime rates. Individuals with limited education often face reduced job opportunities, leading to economic instability and increased susceptibility to criminal activities (Mollah & Haque, 2021). In Dhaka, areas with lower average educational levels tend to have higher crime rates, as educational deficits restrict access to stable, well-paying employment and social mobility. This lack of opportunity can drive individuals towards crime as a means of economic survival.

Conversely, higher educational attainment generally correlates with lower crime rates. Education provides individuals with better job prospects, critical thinking skills, and increased social capital, reducing the likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior (Hossain et al., 2022). Education also fosters greater awareness of legal and social norms, which can deter involvement in crime.

- 2) **Education and Social Dynamics:** Educational attainment affects not only individual economic outcomes but also broader social dynamics. In Dhaka, communities with higher levels of education tend to exhibit stronger social cohesion and greater community engagement, which are critical for crime prevention. Educated individuals are more likely to participate in community activities and support crime prevention initiatives, contributing to a safer environment (Sultana & Hossain, 2023). To address crime effectively, policies aimed at improving educational opportunities and outcomes are essential. Investing in education can help break the cycle of poverty and crime by equipping individuals with the skills needed for gainful employment and promoting social stability in Dhaka.

7.3.2 Environmental Pull Factors

a. Urbanization and Overcrowding

Rapid urbanization and overcrowding in Dhaka create environments conducive to crime. Overpopulated areas often experience higher crime rates due to social disorganization and inadequate public services. The research paper "Understanding the Push and Pull Factors of Crime in Bangladesh: A Case Study of Dhaka City" highlights how rapid urban growth pushes individuals from rural areas to the city, driven by the promise of better opportunities. However, this influx strains infrastructure and resources, leading to high-density living conditions. The lack of adequate housing and public services creates environments ripe for criminal activity. The study underscores the need for balanced urban planning and resource allocation to address both overcrowding and its associated crime risks.

b. Infrastructure and Public Services

Inadequate infrastructure and poor public services, such as insufficient lighting, ineffective policing, and lack of sanitation, contribute to higher crime rates. The study finds that areas with failing infrastructure and under-resourced public services are more prone to criminal activity due to decreased social cohesion and increased opportunities for crime. Improving infrastructure and enhancing public services are crucial for reducing crime and improving overall urban safety in rapidly growing cities like Dhaka.

7.3.3 Psychological and Social Pull Factors

a. Peer Influence

Peer pressure and social networks play a significant role in criminal behavior. It reveals that individuals, especially youth, are significantly swayed by their social circles. In Dhaka's densely populated areas, peer groups can either deter or encourage criminal activities, depending on their norms and behaviors. Those surrounded by peers involved in crime are more likely to engage in similar activities due to social pressure and a desire for acceptance. The study underscores the need for targeted interventions that address peer influences to effectively combat crime in urban settings. Individuals may be drawn into crime through associations with peers who engage in illegal activities.

b. Family Dynamics

Family instability and dysfunctional family environments are linked to higher crime rates. Individuals from broken families or those experiencing domestic violence are at increased risk of engaging in criminal behavior.

7.4 Implications for Crime Prevention and Urban Policy

The insights gleaned from understanding the push and pull factors in Dhaka's crime dynamics lead to several implications for crime prevention and urban policy.

a. Policy Recommendations for Reducing Crime in Dhaka

- 1) **Enhancing Economic Opportunities:** Addressing the push factor of economic disparity is crucial for crime prevention. Policymakers should prioritize job creation and economic development initiatives that target underprivileged communities. Investment in vocational training programs can equip individuals with the necessary skills to secure stable employment, reducing the reliance on criminal activities.
- 2) **Strengthening Community Engagement:** Building trust between law enforcement and local communities is essential for effective crime prevention. Implementing community policing strategies can foster cooperation and communication between residents and police. Engaging community members in crime prevention initiatives can create a sense of ownership and responsibility, leading to a more collaborative approach to addressing crime.
- 3) **Improving Urban Infrastructure:** Upgrading urban infrastructure to accommodate the growing population is imperative. Policymakers should prioritize investments in housing, sanitation, and transportation systems to improve living conditions and reduce urban stressors that contribute to criminal behavior. Enhancing access to essential services can mitigate the conditions that foster crime.
- 4) **Implementing Education and Awareness Campaigns:** Educating the public about the consequences of crime and the importance of community involvement can create a more resilient society. Schools and community organizations should collaborate to raise awareness about crime prevention strategies and promote positive role models for youth.
- 5) **Leveraging Technology for Crime Prevention:** The integration of technology in policing can significantly enhance crime prevention efforts. Policymakers should invest in data-driven policing strategies that utilize technology for crime analysis, surveillance, and resource allocation. Implementing smart city initiatives that incorporate advanced surveillance systems can aid law enforcement in monitoring high-crime areas effectively.

b. Importance of Addressing Both Push and Pull Factors

A comprehensive approach to crime prevention must address both push and pull factors simultaneously. Focusing solely on reducing economic disparity without considering the social dynamics that attract individuals to engage in crime will yield limited results. Policymakers should adopt a holistic strategy that encompasses economic development, community engagement, and urban planning to create an environment less conducive to criminal behavior.

Moreover, integrating social programs that promote inclusivity and empower marginalized communities can significantly reduce the appeal of criminal enterprises. Addressing the underlying socio-economic conditions that drive individuals toward crime will ultimately contribute to a safer urban environment.

7.5 Challenges for Law Enforcement

Despite the potential for implementing effective crime prevention strategies, several challenges persist within the law enforcement framework in Dhaka.

a. Organizational and Structural Issues within the Police Force

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) faces significant organizational and structural challenges that hinder effective crime prevention efforts. Issues such as corruption, lack of resources, inadequate training, and poor community relations contribute to low public trust in law enforcement. According to Transparency International (2021), public perception of police corruption in Bangladesh remains high, leading to underreporting of crimes and a lack of cooperation from community members.

The police force is often overwhelmed by the volume of crime, with limited personnel and resources to address the diverse range of criminal activities. Many areas in Dhaka lack a police presence, creating a vacuum that allows criminal enterprises to flourish. The DMP's inability to effectively respond to and investigate crimes further exacerbates the problem, leading to a cycle of impunity and increased criminal activity.

b. Role of Technology and Surveillance in Modern Crime Prevention

In the contemporary landscape of crime prevention, technology plays a pivotal role. However, the integration of advanced technological solutions within Dhaka's law enforcement agencies has been slow. The lack of data management systems and analytical tools limits the police force's ability to identify crime trends and allocate resources effectively.

While surveillance cameras have been installed in certain areas of Dhaka, their coverage is inadequate, and issues related to maintenance and

monitoring persist. Research by Rahman et al. (2021) indicates that the effectiveness of surveillance systems is compromised due to insufficient infrastructure and a lack of trained personnel to analyze and respond to real-time data.

Moreover, the privacy concerns associated with surveillance technology must be addressed to ensure public acceptance and cooperation. Striking a balance between effective monitoring and respecting civil liberties is crucial for fostering a positive relationship between law enforcement and the community.

8. Conclusion

8.1 Summary of Key Findings

a. Major Push Factors

- 1) Economic Disparity:** One of the most significant push factors contributing to crime in Dhaka is the pervasive economic disparity. High poverty levels, limited access to education, and a lack of employment opportunities drive individuals, particularly youth, towards criminal activities as a means of survival. Research indicates that nearly 24.3% of Dhaka's population lives below the poverty line (Rahman & Alam, 2020).
- 2) Overpopulation and Urbanization:** Rapid urbanization and population growth exacerbate crime rates. The city's infrastructure struggles to cope with the influx of migrants from rural areas seeking better livelihoods, leading to overcrowded living conditions, increased competition for resources, and a greater likelihood of criminal behavior. This situation is reflected in the increased incidence of petty crime, theft, and gang-related activities.
- 3) Informal Economy:** A significant portion of Dhaka's economy operates informally, which fosters an environment conducive to crime. The lack of regulation and oversight allows for criminal enterprises to thrive, including drug trafficking, extortion, and human trafficking.
- 4) Social Disintegration:** The rapid pace of urbanization has led to social disintegration, where traditional social structures are weakened. This disintegration results in a lack of community cohesion, making neighborhoods more susceptible to crime.

b. Major Pull Factors

- 1) Economic Opportunities:** Dhaka's status as an economic hub attracts many migrants seeking job opportunities. While these opportunities can reduce poverty, they can also lead to increased competition, which can provoke criminal behavior among those who feel marginalized.
- 2) Cultural and Social Networks:** Migrants often rely on existing social networks in urban areas. However, these networks can sometimes facilitate criminal activities, such as gang formation and drug distribution, creating a cycle of crime that is hard to break.
- 3) Urban Amenities:** The pull of urban amenities, including better healthcare, education, and entertainment options, draws individuals to Dhaka. While these factors can enhance quality of life, they also attract individuals seeking to exploit these systems, leading to criminal behavior.

In summary, the interplay of push and pull factors creates a complex landscape that influences crime in Dhaka. Addressing these factors is essential for effective crime prevention and urban policy.

8.2 Contribution to Literature

This research contributes significantly to the existing literature on urban crime, particularly in the context of South Asian megacities. Previous studies have often focused on either push factors or pull factors in isolation, leaving a gap in understanding the interplay between these forces.

- a. Comprehensive Framework:** By synthesizing push and pull factors, this study provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the dynamics of crime in Dhaka. It emphasizes the need for an integrated approach that considers socio-economic conditions, cultural dynamics, and urban policies.
- b. Focus on Dhaka:** While there is a growing body of literature on urban crime in global megacities, Dhaka has often been overlooked. This research highlights the unique characteristics of Dhaka's urban environment and how they contribute to crime, filling a crucial gap in the literature.
- c. Implications for Policy:** The findings have significant implications for policymakers, offering evidence-based recommendations that can help shape urban crime prevention strategies. By providing a

clearer understanding of the factors at play, this research encourages targeted interventions that can effectively address crime in Dhaka.

8.3 Recommendations for Future Research

Future research should continue to explore the complexities of urban crime in Dhaka and other megacities, with specific attention to the following areas:

- a. **Longitudinal Studies:** Conducting longitudinal studies would provide deeper insights into how push and pull factors evolve over time and how these changes impact crime rates. Understanding trends over a more extended period can help identify patterns and inform future policies.
- b. **Specific Crime Types:** More detailed research on specific types of crime (e.g., cybercrime, domestic violence, organized crime) would enhance understanding of the varying dynamics at play. Each type of crime may be influenced by different push and pull factors, requiring tailored responses.
- c. **Impact of Policy Changes:** Future studies should also evaluate the impact of existing and proposed crime prevention policies on crime rates and community well-being. This evaluation can provide valuable feedback for policymakers and inform future strategies.
- d. **Community Perspectives:** Research that incorporates the voices of community members can enrich the understanding of crime dynamics. Engaging with residents can provide insights into the lived experiences of those affected by crime and help identify effective community-based interventions.
- e. **Comparative Studies:** Conducting comparative studies between Dhaka and other megacities (such as Mumbai and Lagos) can illuminate unique challenges and opportunities for crime prevention. These comparisons can also highlight best practices that could be adapted for use in Dhaka.

8.4 Policy Recommendations

Addressing the multifaceted issue of crime in Dhaka requires comprehensive, targeted policies that consider both push and pull factors. The following concrete policy recommendations aim to create a safer urban environment and promote sustainable development:

a. Economic Development and Job Creation

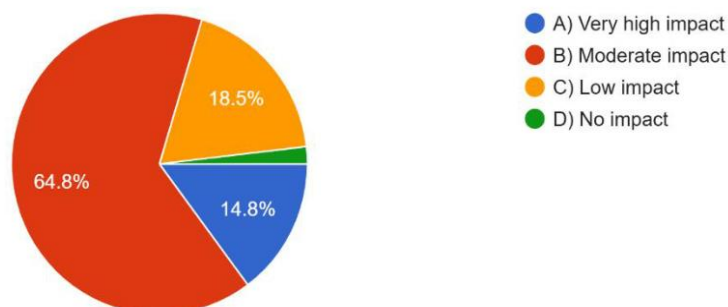
1) Promote Entrepreneurship: The government should invest in entrepreneurship programs, providing training and financial support for small businesses. This can create job opportunities for unemployed youth and reduce the allure of criminal activities.

2) Vocational Training: Implementing vocational training programs tailored to the needs of the local job market can equip individuals with skills that enhance employability, thus reducing poverty and the likelihood of engaging in crime.

b. Strengthening Community Policing

1) Community Engagement Programs: Establish community policing initiatives that foster relationships between law enforcement and residents. Police officers should be seen as community partners rather than adversaries, promoting trust and cooperation in crime prevention efforts.

What impact does community support have on reducing crime in your neighborhood?
54 responses



2) Public Awareness Campaigns: Launch public awareness campaigns that inform residents about crime prevention strategies and encourage community involvement in reporting crimes and suspicious activities.

c. Urban Planning and Infrastructure Development

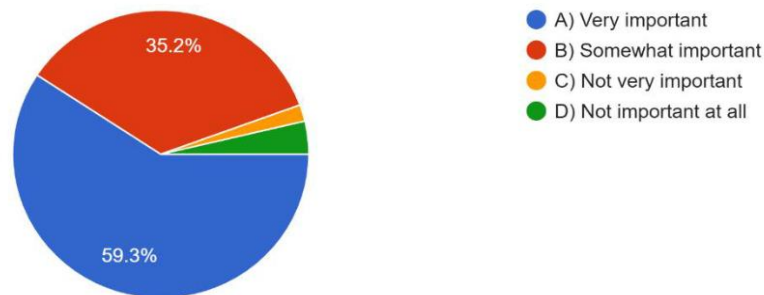
1) Affordable Housing Initiatives: Develop affordable housing projects that address the needs of low-income families. By improving living conditions, the government can mitigate some of the push factors contributing to crime.

2) Infrastructure Improvement: Invest in urban infrastructure, including public transportation, sanitation, and recreational spaces. Improved infrastructure can enhance the quality of life and reduce crime opportunities associated with overcrowded and neglected areas.

d. Education and Awareness

1) Educational Initiatives: Increase access to education through scholarships, school meals, and support for underprivileged communities. Education plays a crucial role in breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing crime rates.

How important is education in preventing crime among youth in Dhaka?
54 responses



2) Youth Engagement Programs: Implement programs targeting at-risk youth to provide mentorship, skills training, and recreational activities. Engaging youth in positive activities can deter them from engaging in criminal behavior.

e. Technological Integration

1) Data-Driven Policing: Utilize data analytics to identify crime hotspots and trends. Law enforcement agencies should adopt technology-driven approaches to enhance crime detection and prevention.

2) Surveillance Systems: Expand the implementation of surveillance cameras in high-crime areas, ensuring they are maintained and monitored effectively. While technology can aid in crime prevention, it must be coupled with strong privacy protections to maintain public trust.

f. Legal Reforms

1) Strengthening Legal Frameworks: Review and reform legal frameworks to ensure they are effective in addressing modern crime, particularly organized crime and cybercrime. Laws should evolve to meet the changing dynamics of crime in urban areas.

2) Victim Support Services: Establish support services for victims of crime, providing them with access to legal assistance, counseling, and rehabilitation programs. Supporting victims is essential for fostering community resilience and trust in law enforcement.

In conclusion, understanding the push and pull factors of crime in Dhaka is vital for developing effective crime prevention strategies and urban policies. This research has provided insights into the complex dynamics influencing crime in the city and highlighted the importance of addressing both socio-economic conditions and community engagement. By implementing the recommended policies, Dhaka can work towards creating a safer, more equitable urban environment that promotes social cohesion and economic opportunities for all its residents.

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