

Modernization and the Opportunity Factors of Crime: Dhaka City Experience

Md. Bashir Uddin Khan ¹

Mohammad Ashraful Alam ²

Md. Omar Faruk ³

Abstract— Modernization is a process which drives a society ahead. This process always is not appreciated by all and necessarily involves different calculations in response to the cultural and philosophical diversity. Modernization creates competition which involves elements of criminal activities. This study focuses on the issue in what extent modernization facilitates or creates opportunity factors of crimes. Perception analysis of the respondents provides an idea about the modernization-induced crimes. Increasing number of broken families, declining kinship, deteriorating family integrity, weakening religious practices and transformation of extended families into nuclear families are putting impact on individual's psychology and thought to have manifestations with criminal outbreaks. Mobile, internet, satellite TV and other means of communication sometimes are provoking city people to be involved in crimes. This study was an effort to justify whether modernization puts any impact on the above factors (termed as opportunity factors) which are considered as important reasons of criminal behavior.

Keywords: Modernization, family integrity, kinship, mass communication, cultural diffusion, criminal outbreaks.

Introduction & Background

'Modernization' is a concept which conveys different ideas in different sectors. In the social sciences, 'modernization' refers to a model of an evolutionary transition from a 'pre-modern' or 'traditional' to a 'modern' society [1]. Weisner & Abbott (1975) define modernization as the product of multiple experiences with the mass media and with modern institutions, for instance, schools,

1 Lecturer, Department of Criminology and Police Science, Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, Santosh, Tangail-1902 (bashir_cps_mbstu@yahoo.com).

2 Associate Professor, Department of Criminology and Police Science, Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, Santosh, Tangail-1902 (prodip_sust2005@yahoo.com).

3 Associate Professor, Department of Criminology and Police Science, Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, Santosh, Tangail-1902 (ru_faruk@yahoo.com).

Modernization and the Opportunity Factors of Crime: Dhaka City Experience -3128

factories, or bureaucratic situations [2]. Stephenson (1968) defines modernization as the movement of persons or groups along a cultural dimension from what is defined by the cultural norms as traditional toward what is defined by the same culture as modern [3]. Smith and Inkeles (1966) state that “modernization” generally means a national state characterized by a complex of traits including urbanization, high level of education, industrialization, high rates of social mobility, and the like. Many of the items used in instruments of individual measures of modernization suggest they are measuring psychological change in the individual as he or she goes from a traditional to a modern worldview [4].

Modernization is defined by Divale and Seda as- a change from traditional customs and behaviors to ones that are forcibly or voluntarily borrowed from a dominant society that results in changes in the behavior and worldview of its people or customs [5]. Modernization occurs when a more dominant and complex society comes into sustained contact with a less complex society and the more dominant and complex society exerts an influence for change in the less complex society. Some of the change is involuntary, such as the influence of technology and more complex social organization imposed by the dominant culture, and some of the changes are voluntary, such as changes in role expectations and material culture desired by the members of the less complex society. When the differences in complexity between the two cultures are great the results can be psychologically traumatic [6][7].

Imam (1998) referring Talcott Parsons books ‘Societies’ (1966) and ‘The System of Modern Societies’ (1971) expressed his opinions regarding modernization. Parsons divided the social change or development in 3 levels as-Primitive, Intermediate and Modern. Later, he added more levels and divided the change of society in 5 consecutive levels by which a society can reach to its development. These are Primitive Societies, Advanced Primitive and Archaic Societies, Historic Intermediate societies, ‘Seedbed’ Societies and Modern Societies [8]. On the other hand, Hoogvelt stated the indicators of development as –the degree of urbanization, literacy rates and vocational training, newspaper circulation, political democracy, free enterprise, secularism, degree of social mobility, occupational differentiation, Proliferation of voluntary associations including trade unions, national unity, nuclear family patterns and independent judiciaries [9].

Modernization is often thought to diminish the closure of social networks, and, as a consequence, social capital and social control. An increase in functional delineation may cause problems of harmonization and integration and these tradeoffs may initiate a trend toward dedifferentiation. These kinds of reversals are the underlying structural condition of what is often referred to as postmodernity. Generally, Crime is treated as behavior defined as criminal by the law of the state. States typically undergo profound changes in modernization processes. So do criminal law and its enforcement. Thus, while behaviors change during modernization, so does their definition as criminal versus law-abiding. Both changes affect crime records. It is a common perception that modernization

by making complex life pattern influences the total frequency of crimes in a greater dimension. The rising number of crimes in city areas is responsible for this perception. Rapid modernization in the twentieth century led to different effects on crime. **Modernization in third world societies**, especially after the end of authoritarian or dictatorial rule and **rapid modernization during periods of fundamental reform** in societies with state-socialist forms of government, some crimes were found as the most frequent [10].

Robert K. Merton's strain approach, revived for an explanation of some U.S. crime trends, appears applicable to the post-Communist situation [11]. Rates of crime increases with the proportion of people who have internalized material goals but do not have access to legitimate means of achieving them. The breakdown of communism (just like rapid development elsewhere) tends to be accompanied by intense hopes for economic improvement. Yet the economic situation has deteriorated for many groups in formerly state socialist societies. Basic goods have become much more expensive, unemployment rates have soared in some countries, and pension payments have been cut or fallen victim to high inflation rates [12]. In addition to material hopes, democracy and political liberty do not simply appear when so ordered by proclamation or constitutional change. Frustration with political conditions is widespread. John Hagan and others demonstrate in an empirical analysis of survey data on (post-unification Berlin youths) how East Berlin youths were much more exposed to anomic aspirations than their West Berlin counterparts. Related periods of rapid transformation are typically associated with a massive loss of legitimacy of major government and economic institutions. Recent research for the United States has provided evidence that such loss of legitimacy may result in an increases in crime rates [13].

In this study modernization has been perceived with some parameters in the present society. As the society is advancing ahead with various facets of behaviors and practices, modernization is seen in this study as bringing changes in such selective sectors like family integrity, kinship, nuptial behavior, technological orientation, cultural diffusion and social harmony. On the other hand the concept of crime is essential to define for the study. A precise definition of crime is really very difficult. Whatever, a working definition of crime can be given from the legal perspective as-‘the activities which are forbidden by the criminal laws of a country and are punishable by statutory laws are crimes’. Paranjape (1973) referred a definition which is more appropriate in this regard where it is viewed as-‘an act which is both forbidden by law and revolting to the moral sentiments of the society’. From a sociological perspective, crime and culture has a symbiotic relationship, that is, the nature of crime shapes and is shaped by the quality and dimensions of culture [14].

Bangladesh is a developing country of the third world and recently has undergone a considerable headway in different sectors. Dhaka is the capital of this country. Modernization is contributing changes in the traditional look of this city. Due to the centralized state system, this city is oriented with comparatively more modern facilities than the other ones. Thereby its cohesion to cultural

Modernization and the Opportunity Factors of Crime: Dhaka City Experience -3128

diversity is relatively rapid than that of other parts of this country. As modernization necessarily overtakes the age-old value system, a cultural vacuum is created between generations. On the other hand, modernization promotes organic solidarity mentioned by Durkheim. This organic solidarity accelerates the criminogenic cultures in the city area. This study is therefore, based on Dhaka city to apprehend the impact of Modernization, especially of technological advancement on criminality which has been measured through the interviewing and perception analysis of educated residents of this city. The study is perceived to identify the opportunity factors of crime evolved with modernization. As modernization brings changes in social behavior, it is logical to think that these changes also put impact on changing social norms and thereby changing patterns of criminal and deviant behavior. Thus, this study seeks to understand how far modernization influences the opportunity factors of criminal behavior. This study is also supposed to provide some policy recommendations to minimize the risk of criminal outbreaks due to technological advancement on the basis of data analysis.

Objectives of the Study

The following objectives were devised for the study:

1. This study intended to understand the impact of westernization (changing in norms and values) on family patterns and its connection with criminal outbreaks.
2. The study sought to understand the impact of mass communication on Crime.
3. Present study tended to apprehend the changing patterns of crime which is swayed by technological advancement.

Methods and Materials

This study was exploratory in nature which tended to explore how and why the people of the study area relate modernization parameters to the crime and criminality. Dhaka city was primarily selected as the field of study. The study was based on a questionnaire survey conducted on the university students mostly. Dhaka University and two other private universities namely University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and Northern University have been purposively selected. The number of respondents was 87. Relevant primary data have been collected through a questionnaire that was pre-tested. Various attitude scales like Likert's summated scale and Thurstone's scale with some open and closed-ended questions have been used to formulate the questionnaire of the study.

The analysis of the study was conducted by applying some statistical tools like mean, frequency distribution etc. For reviewing related studies, relevant data

have been collected from various sources like newspapers, research reports, journals, books, media etc. All relevant data for the research were collected during December 2010 to February 2011.

Findings of the Study

This study tends to present the overall findings with some sub-heads to differentiate various aspects regarding the subject matter. The explanation thus goes as the following:

Relationship of People with Family Members and Relationship with Relatives

Present study conducted a survey on 67 respondents who were supposed to tell about their relationship status with the family members and other relatives. Most of the respondents stated that they have a great relationship with the family members. 32.8 percent of them told that they have a good relationship with other family members where, 67.2 percent of the respondents said that their relationships with other family members are very good. This indicates a good family orientation of the city dwellers. On the other hand, they were asked about their relationship with the relatives. 47.8 percent of them answered that they had moderate relationship, where 34.3 percent answered that they had good relationship and only 17.9 percent of them answered that they had very good relationship with their relatives (Table 1). In the traditional village communities the relationship/kinship with the relatives was as strong as the relationship with the family members but at present people’s relationship with relatives has become relatively fragile. Is this indicating the complexity of life in city area due to modernization? Data analysis shows that the family integrity though exists among the respondents, the relationship with other relatives is degrading. Social bondage is thus seemingly in the decreasing trend and it is evident where social bondages are fragile, crime spreads their like epidemic.

Table 1.

Relationship Status	Bad	Moderate	Good	Very Good	Total
Relationship with Family Members (in Percentage)	-	-	32.8	67.2	100
Relationship with Relatives (in Percentage)	-	47.8	34.3	17.9	100

Participation of the respondents in rituals

Present age is considered as the age of science and rationality. Religion, like other age old institutions is now being considered in many parts of the world as an irrational belief. Religion provides the people with a feeling of tranquillity, a place of hope, last resort of trust and acceptance of unexpected incidents easily. Because of being away from religion, people are getting frustrated with their

Modernization and the Opportunity Factors of Crime: Dhaka City Experience -3128

lives. Bangladesh is also being influenced by this thought. But the people are still participating in their religious activities. This study reveals that the participation of people in religion is quite good. All the respondents were asked about their participation to rituals (Table 2). It is also true that people are more interested now-a-days in participating only in rituals but not in other daily activities. This situation is keeping them away from doing everything which is supported by divine law. Thus committal of petty offenses does not create any sense of remorse to them. It is thus apparent that because of the fragile control of religious sentiments in their everyday activities, people are found to be very much prone to criminality.

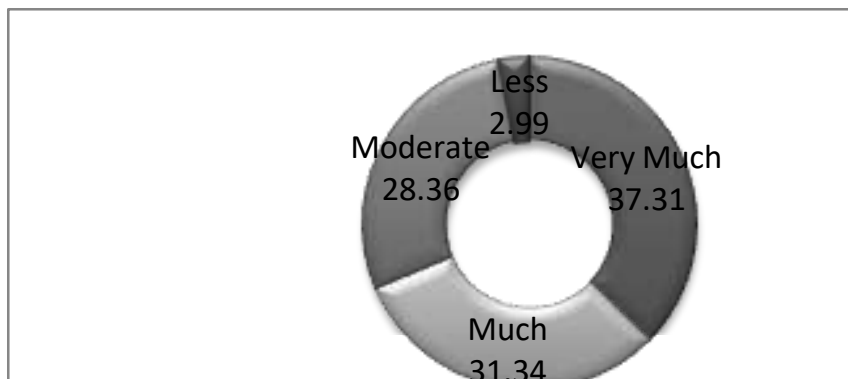
Table 2.

Participation in Rituals	Regular	Irregular	Not at all	Total
Participation of Respondents (in Percentage)	47.8	52.2	-	100
Participation of other Family Members (in Percentage)	44.8	49.3	6	100

People’s Feelings towards Non-Relative Neighbours

Modernization has an impact on people’s feelings to the pain and pleasures of other people. Though, it seems that people are not sensitive to the feelings of others or to the wells and woes of others in the city area, the study shows that some of them feel pretty kind for others irrespective of not doing anything for them. This study found that the feelings of 37.31 % of the respondents to their non-relative neighbours’ accidents and incidents are very strong where 31.34% answered that their feelings are strong, other 28.36 percent answered that their feelings are moderately strong and the rest 2.99% respondents answered that they have less strong feeling for their non-relative neighbours (Figure 1).

Figure 1.



Impact of Westernization

Modernization sometimes is thought as westernization because of its downstream trend to the western culture or western leaning parameters. People of the third world city areas are prone to accept the similar life pattern of the city areas from the Western Europe or USA. To measure the impact of westernization several issues need to be considered. These are- whether the number of broken families is increasing, whether the kinship is declining, state of present cultural diffusion, condition of family integrity, structure of the family etc. Present study conducted a thorough opinion survey on the relevant issues. These issues certainly have impact on criminal outbreaks. Thus analysis of these issues in city areas can reveal a good portrait of potential criminal outbreaks. The following steps of this report will focus on the issues which are termed as the impact of westernization because of its importance in analyzing modernization inducing crime pattern.

Number of Broken Families at Present Comparing to the Past

This study claims from the opinion survey that, 92.5 % of the people believe that the number of broken families has increased in the cities with respect to the past. Only 7.50% of the respondents think that the number of broken families is remaining the same. It is definitely a sign of westernization in the social system. Peoples' perception is important because of their experience through various means. Children of broken families always become attracted to the criminal tendencies. So, the city area is becoming more crime prone as the number of broken families is increasing.

Kinship among City People

Perception analysis from the studied respondents indicates that kinship among the city people is declining at present. 92.5 percent of the respondents think that kinship is declining continuously in the city areas where only 7.5 percent of the people think that it is remaining the same. It is the bare truth that due to the high cost of daily commodities, competitive life-style, Organic environment and continuous gravitation towards a financially secured condition kinship is declining among the city people. Thus being detached from the relatives the children of these families become alone if both of the parents are service holder. Being away of the love and care from family they mix with various peer groups to pass time in joy. This peer group if is not selected properly, the criminal outbreaks could be unavoidable. So, this declining kinship puts a great impact in boosting up the criminal nature among the city population.

Cultural Diffusion, Family Integrity and Structure of Family

The westernization takes place in a country through the cultural exchange. As the western cultures are wide and the independence from all spheres is recognized there, this has always attracted the people of other nations who want to lead a free lifestyle where the social, traditional and familial boundary is seemingly limited. Thus like a mirage, young generation fantasize themselves to lead a non-controlled life. This induces a crime prone situation. It brings the inevitable

Modernization and the Opportunity Factors of Crime: Dhaka City Experience -3128

conflict between the tradition and modernization. Though taking alcohol and maintaining extramarital relationship is recognized in western culture, these are crimes under the statute of this country. That is why clashing between popular culture and traditional culture outbursts which leads to criminality. Present study collected data from the respondents about whether people are agreeing with the statement “Present cultural Diffusion is inducing crime”. Most of the people (56.7 percent) are only **agreed** with this statement while other 43.3 percent of the respondents are **strongly agreed** with this statement. This indicates that present cultural diffusion whether this may be on dress pattern, social issues, beliefs or family responsibilities can lead to criminality.

Family is one of the oldest institutions of the world. In traditional village communities family responsibilities were associated with the extended or joint family pattern where all the members used to look after one another. Any problem or disharmony was subject to be considered as the problem of all. Thus the children used to learn about their self-esteem and responsibilities from the early childhood. At present family integrity is under a severe threat. To lead a descent city life both of the parents have to go outside for work. There stays no one to look after the children and to teach them values and ethics. Thus, declining of family integrity and interest to form nuclear families can lift up the unexpected behaviors due to the lacking of moral teaching to the children. Present study shows that, 50.7 percent of the respondents agree with the statement that “family integrity is declining” where 49.3 percent of the respondents strongly agree with this statement (Table-4.5.3). Thus it seems that the affinity of city people to crime can be more severe if this situation continues.

Perception analysis about the matter “the members from joint and extended families are mostly law abiding than that of nuclear families” reveals a mixed statistics. 22.2 percent of the respondents strongly agree with the issue where other 26.9 percent, 35.8 percent and 14.9 percent of the respondents are agreed, undecided and disagreed with the issue respectively (Table 3).

Table 3.

Statements	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Undecided	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed	Total
Present Cultural diffusion is inducing crime	43.3%	56.7%	-	-	-	100 %
Family integrity is declining	49.3%	50.7%	-	-	-	100 %
The members from joint or extended families are mostly law abiding than that of nuclear families	22.4%	26.9%	35.8%	14.9%	-	100 %

Differences between Traditional Believers and Modernists as Contributor of Crime Incidents

Many people believe that the differences between traditional culture and popular culture can create crime. According to them if the cultural uniformity is not maintained then crime prone situation evolves. Durkheim in his writings mentioned a term “Organic Solidarity”. City people have to go through the anomic situation due to the cultural disharmony among various groups. The fact of cultural disharmony provides people with different life patterns but the law is associated with only the traditional cultures. That’s why a clash between modernists and traditional believers evolves. Political crimes may be a good example for the explanation. However, the present study shows the public perception regarding whether the difference between traditionalists and modernists is responsible for crime. 32.3 percent of the respondents think that this issue is moderately responsible where others think that this difference is less or much responsible for crime (Table 4).

Table 4.

How much Responsible the difference is	Frequency	Percent
Very Much	6	9.0
Much	11	16.4
Moderate	21	31.3
Less	14	20.9
Not At All	15	22.4
Total	67	100.0

Impact of Technological Advancement on Crime

Technology necessarily has an impact on criminality. It directly puts impact on the life style of people. Now a days TV, internet, mobile and other devices are playing important role to mold people specially the juveniles in a certain way. These are making people sometimes crazy and paranoid. To analyze the impacts of these tools on criminal outbreaks the perceptions from the respondents have been collected and analyzed hereinafter.

Impact of TV, Internet and Newspaper on Criminality (How Far People agree with the Stated Statements)

Television is a wonderful gift of modern science. It is the mostly used electronic device used as a means of recreation. People pass their leisure before this device. Children are also addicted to this medium. Although television plays an

Modernization and the Opportunity Factors of Crime: Dhaka City Experience -3128

important role in promoting education and raising awareness, it also contributes to children’s familiarity with weapons, drugs, vulgarism, terrorism and other criminal traits. Sometimes children like to act in a way to be like their most favourite super-heroes. Thus they become crazy and a criminal outbreak becomes the ultimate output in the very outset of the children.

To understand the people’s attitude towards the television and internet in term of its contribution towards criminality, data on some statements were collected. Almost all of the respondents agree or strongly agree that the cultural association that happens due to internet and television is liable to make children crime prone (Table 5). 77.8 percent of the respondents think that satellite TV has an impact on increasing overall crime rate (Table 5). On the other hand, Most of the people do not think that newspaper has impact on lifting up the criminality, though for the rapidly increasing eve-teasing was considered as it was happening frequently due to the excessive proclamation of newspaper. It has been proved later on that crimes like eve-teasing or suicide are found to be committed in all times. But in the later, it has been proved that the coverage or reporting of these crimes were more at that time than that of general reporting. Being so, many people believe that newspaper has an impact on inspiring crimes like eve-teasing and suicide. 28.3 percent of the respondents think that newspaper can induce criminality (Table 5).

Table 5.

Statements	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Undecided	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed	Total
Cultural aggression due to Internet and TV causes Crime	40.3%	49.7%	-	-	-	100%
Satellite TV has an Impact on increasing Overall Crime rate	16.4%	61.2%	11.9%	10.4%	-	100%
Newspaper has an Impact on increasing Crime Rate	11.9%	16.4%	16.4%	43.3%	11.9%	100%

Impacts of Satellite TV and Internet on Sexual Assault, Eve-teasing, Spreading of Pornographic Contents and Cyber-Stalking

Internet and TV have significant impact on some crimes namely sexual assault, eve-teasing, spreading of pornographic contents and cyber-stalking. Most of the respondents think that sexual assault and eve-teasing are largely increasing due to satellite TV and internet in Dhaka city. All the respondents think that spreading of pornographic contents and cyber stalking are becoming very commonplace incidents in the city area (Table 6).

Table 6.

Crimes	Increasing	Decreasing	Remaining Unchanged	Total
Sexual Assault	92.5%	-	7.5%	100%
Eve-Teasing	97%	-	3%	100%
Spreading of Pornographic contents	100%	-	-	100%
Cyber Stalking	100%	-	-	100%

Impacts of Cell Phone on Some Specific Crimes

Cell-phone is a blessing of science. Abusing of cell phone is also proved. Most of the people think that in case of mobile abuse numbers of extortion, fraud, pornography and eve-teasing have increased than the numbers of homicide, smuggling and drug trafficking. Fraud and extortion are increasing day by day due to the abuse of cell-phone because of the facility of hiding the identity and location of the caller. Sexual assault is in an accelerating trend now-a-days because of the access of people to pornographic contents through the mobile. In case of drug trafficking, smuggling and homicide like other traditional crimes, mobile phone has eased the job but has no significant role so that it can not be said that in absence of mobile these crimes would be impossible (Table 7).

Table 7.

Crimes	Increasing	Decreasing	Remaining Unchanged	Total
Homicide	35.8%	9%	55.2%	100%
Sexual Assault/ Eve Teasing	100%			
Drug Trafficking	77.6%		22.4%	100%
Smuggling	62.7%	-	37.3%	100%
Pornography	98.5%	1.5%	-	100%

Modernization and the Opportunity Factors of Crime: Dhaka City Experience -3128

Fraud	92.53%		7.47%	100%
Extortion	86.57%		13.43%	100%

Impact of Communication Structures (Roads, Highways and Transports) on Crime

Most of the people believe that because of the development of the communication structures like roads, highways and transport system number of various crimes is increasing. Due to the advancement of these structures (communication structures) crimes like drug trafficking, smuggling and human trafficking are increasing in frequency. 64.2 percent of the respondents think that due to the development of communication structure drug trafficking has greatly increased where for smuggling and human trafficking this percentage is 41.8 and 26.9 respectively. The respondents who think that these three crimes have increased slightly due to the development of communication structures are 35.8 percent, 46.3 percent and 55.2 percent respectively for drug trafficking, smuggling and human trafficking (Table 8).

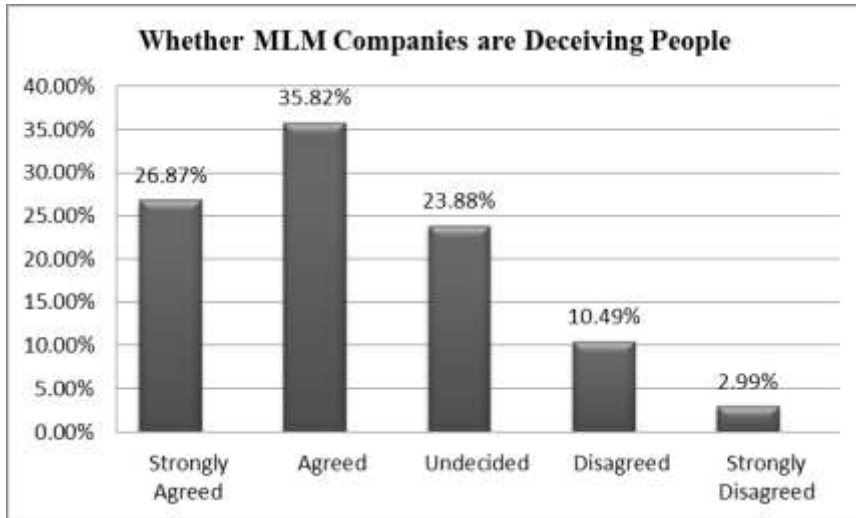
Table 8.

Crimes	Great Increasing	Slight Increasing	Remaining Unchanged	Slightly Decreasing	significantly Decreasing	Total
Drug Trafficking	64.2%	35.8%	--	-	-	100 %
Smuggling	41.8%	46.3%	11.9%	-	-	100 %
Human Trafficking	26.9%	55.2%	12%	-	-	100 %

“Multi Level Marketing Companies are Deceiving People” How Much One Agrees with This Statement?

At present the forms of fraud have encountered some changes. Sudden appearing of various Multi-Level-Marketing (MLM) companies are the best examples of this. Newspaper reports show that a number of MLM companies are deceiving people and representing fake documents and false statements. They are committing crimes under Anti Money Laundering Acts. They also violating the laws executed by Bangladesh Bank. MLM companies expand their networks by computer networking. Thus these fraudulent acts are being committed with the technological assistance. This study revealed the perception of the people about these MLM companies whether they are deceiving people and thus committing crimes. 62.69 percent of the respondents think that they are deceiving people where 26.87 percent people are strongly agreed and 35.82 percent people are agreed about their deception (Figure 2).

Figure 2



Deliberate Responses from the Respondents (based on open ended questions)

What Crimes are increasing Due to the Advancement of Technology?

People’s perception about the crimes is straightforward. According to the survey, 61.19 percent of the respondents Fraud and Extortion are increasing due to the advancement of technology. 53.73 percent of the respondents mentioned about sexual harassment, 47.76 percent of the respondents mentioned about the cyber crime and 43.28 percent of them mentioned about illegal sexual relationship. If the crimes are rank ordered then the series can be found as- **Fraud, Extortion > Sexual Harassment > Cyber Crime > Illegal sexual Relationship** (Table 9).

Table 9.

Ranking	Crimes	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Fraud, Extortion	41	61.19
2	Sexual Harassment	36	53.73
3	Cyber Crime	32	47.76
4	Illegal Sexual Relationship	29	43.28

Modernization and the Opportunity Factors of Crime: Dhaka City Experience -3128

Why Crimes are being Committed Due to Modernization?

Respondents were interviewed about the causes of crimes associated with modernization that swell the crime rate. 82.08 percent of the respondents mentioned about the lack of Parental Supervision as a cause of crime. 73.13 percent mentioned improper way of modernization as a cause of crime though 53.17 percent and 41.79 percent of the respondents mentioned the influence of western culture and abusing of technological tools as the causes of crime respectively. Parental Supervision is very important for a child’s development. The respondents insisted on this issue (Table 10).

Table 10.

Why Crimes are Committed (Rank Ordered)	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Lack of Parental Supervision	55	82.08
Improper way of Modernization	49	73.13
Influence of Western Culture	36	53.73
Abusing of Technological Tools	28	41.79

In What Extent Cultures are Facing changes in Bangladesh over Time?

It was one of the intentions of the researcher to know the public perception about the extents where cultures are getting changed in Bangladesh. The respondents provided their opinions. Each of the respondents was supposed to provide more than one answer. The answers were merged to three options. Study indicates that these changes are happening in the customs, conjugal relationship and idealism or belief. Most people (67.16 percent) told about the customs. 37.31 percent indicated the conjugal relationship and other 20.91 percent mentioned about idealism or belief (Table 11).

People illustrated their opinions with various explanations. In case of customs people are accepting the western formalities. In occasions they are going to parties, taking fast foods, celebrating birthdays etc. Thus customs is encountering the maximum change over the time. In case of conjugal relationship, a vast change is noticeable. Due to the job enrolment of women all are passing their days outside of the house. This is believed to be establishing the women’s independence. In case of idealism, it can be said that with the advancement of time people are getting materialistic. Their dependence up to the

spiritual existence is pretending as low. Thus changes in these three issues are noticeable according to the present study. The rank ordered form of the extents of cultures is - **Customs > Conjugal Relationship > Idealism or Belief** (Table 11).

Table 11.

Rank Order	What Extent? (Rank Ordered)	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Customs	45	67.16
2	Conjugal Responsibilities	25	37.31
3	Idealism or Belief	14	20.90

What Changes in the Present Marital relationship are being Apparent in the Present Age?

Changes are inevitable in all the societies of the world. With the advent of new culture institution like marriage pattern may change. Present study revealed some changes in the marriage patterns. These are the selection of own marital partner in lieu of guardian’s choice, affinity to form nuclear family and serial monogamy. Most change has been found from the respondents in the selection of own partner (62.69 percent). Formation of nuclear family is a change in the traditional family pattern of Bangladesh. The other form of marriage pattern has evolved in the present age which can be termed as “serial monogamy”. It is a form of marital relationship where people keep one partner at a time but take another one after the dismissal of the previous relationship. This form of marriage has a negative impact on the children of the families. This has come as a problem at present among the city people. (Table 12).

Table 12.

Changes	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Selection of Own Partner	42	62.69
Prone to Nuclear Family	39	58.21
Serial Monogamy	17	25.37

What Are the Differences (in Nature of Crime) between the Past and Present Crime Incidents of Bangladesh?

In response to an open question respondents provided valuable information

Modernization and the Opportunity Factors of Crime: Dhaka City Experience -3128

regarding the differences between the features of past and present crime. Most of them (50.75 percent) mentioned about the **extortion over the phone**. Others (49.25 percent) mentioned about the **technological orientation of the crime incidents**. Many of the respondents (38.81 percent) mentioned about the **identification of criminal** which has become very difficult at present (Table 13). If these differences are rank-ordered according to the frequency the series which is found is- **extortion over the phone > technological orientation of the crime incidents > difficult identification of criminals**.

Table 13.

Ranking	Differences in the Nature of Crime from the Past	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Extortion over the Phone	34	50.75
2	Technology orientation	33	49.25
3	Identification of Criminal has become difficult	26	38.81

What Are the Reasons of Great number of Premarital/ Extramarital Sexual Relationship in the Modern Age?

A problem which the aged people are very much anxious about is the premarital sexual relationship of their unmarried young children. Even in case of married people extramarital sex is not very uncommon at this present age. The reasons for this are manifold. 79.10 percent of the respondents mentioned that the average marital age of the people has increased which are making them crazy about committing of such sexual crimes. 64.17 percent of the respondents mentioned that the free mixing opportunity among males and females is much more at present time than it was in any other time in the past. That is why if they get any chance of getting involved in illegal sex, they accept the opportunity. That is why premarital sex is increasing. 55.20 percent people think that the impact of westernization is inducing this crime because they are not considering this issue as a taboo any more. The apathy to the religious belief is being considered as one of the most important causes of people's involvement in premarital or extramarital sex. The rank-ordered form of the causes of this crimes provides the series as- **Increased Average Age of Marriage > Chances of Free Mixing > Impact of Westernization**.

Table 14.

Reasons for Extramarital Sex	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Average Age of Marriage Increased	53	79.10
Chances of Free Mixing	43	64.17
Impact of Westernization	37	55.22

Conclusion and Recommendations

Modernization is a continuous process. It gets accelerated through the process of globalization. With the advancement of time people are developing the technological sectors throughout the world. Technology always put impacts on life-style. Dhaka city is one of the busiest cities of the world. Different classes of people are living in this city. Dhaka as a busy and populated city has to encounter a number of crime incidents. The patterns of crimes are not constant issues. Technological advancement is now being considered as supporting subjects to the potential offenders in this city. Even many people without being aware about their activities are being involved in various activities that have been defined as crimes in penal code. People leaving their traditional village community apart are being attracted to the luxurious life of Dhaka city. So, this city has become the destination of people from various ends of this country. Thus, Dhaka city is hosting number of people from different opinions and levels.

People of Dhaka city are becoming attracted to more materialistic culture over the time. Busy working hour, congestion, competitive working conditions, excessive costs of living, low security system etc. are acting as the enduring factors for ever-increasing crime rate here. Continuously increasing number of broken families is making the children of those families attracted to the drugs or bad peers. As the number of broken families is in increasing trend here (according to the public opinion), the children of those families are at severe risk of being potential actors of offensive activities. In case of extended families people were mostly controlled by superior members of the families which allowed them to share their well and woes with each other. This tradition is not recognized in this city. The families of this city area are mostly nuclear. That is why their feelings to the pain and pleasures of the relatives and neighbours are getting lowered day by day. This is encouraging the offenders to attack those families as they have no one to help them cordially. TV and internet have made the life of people more individualistic. People are passing their leisure before TV or internet. People are not mixing with each other like the past ages. Thus social bondage is becoming fragile. The fragile bondage increases crime prone situations. Satellite TV, multimedia mobile phone and Internet have also found as the causes of moral deterioration of people. As a result sexual assault, drug abuse

Modernization and the Opportunity Factors of Crime: Dhaka City Experience -3128

and other such crimes are taking place. Snatching and theft of cars have become commonplace incidents. Possession of fake Driving license is more in frequency there than the previous years. This is causing problems in roads and highways. Cyber-stalking, spreading of pornographic contents etc. are being committed by some groups of young offenders. Fraud, extortion, illegal sexual relationships etc. are increasing seriously due to abuse of mobile phone in this city.

Addressing the issues of crimes caused by modernization is now a crying need. Law-enforcing agencies, guardians of the families and civil society have to take immediate effective initiatives to prevent such crimes. Juveniles are very important for taken under various treatment and preventive measures to keep them away from the crime facilitating stimulations in the very outset. Moral and religious education is also essential. Ensuring of ethical liability in cultural practices of the people can be a great solution of the problem. Ethical practices, good family relationship, sound environment, good culture and great humanistic qualities are the key components that can help the city dwellers to lead a well and dignified life.

Considering the crime situation, present study tried to yield a comprehensive approach to effective crime management addressing various patterns of crimes that are being induced by modernization in the studied area. Based on the results, the law enforcing agencies as well as the planners and policy makers might be able to take effective approaches to prevent criminality caused by modernization. It may aid to improve the law and order situation of the studied area and the whole country as well. This study tried to reflect the opinion of city dwellers about the modernization as a cause of criminal outbreaks.

Relationship between modernization and crime seems apparent from this study. The ways of modernization should not be curtailed but the number of crimes. To reduce the overall number of crime is the demand of time. Insistence should be given on curbing the offenses of young offenders so that they might be the asset of the country. Various need based assessment programs can show the way to work for the motivation of youngsters to keep them away from the criminal tendencies. However, the following recommendations are suggested for the successful reduction of the crime incidents that are triggered by modernization.

- Generating a well-mannered family intimacy among the family members
- Keeping children under careful parental observation and control
- Practicing of a good culture to mould people psychologically as sound
- Raising awareness among people to reduce the gender discrimination
- Using of technological devices and tools like internet, computer and cell-phone in proper way
- Ensuring awareness about religious regulations

- Banning various offensive websites and using filtering softwares for the computers to keep the children away from pornographic contents or such other offensive materials
- Culturing values and ethics in everyday affairs
- Ensuring proper education upholding the legal or moral codes
- Managing special education system for all students
- Addressing School based counselling centers
- Prosecuting the offenders with certain punishment
- Court system has to be speedier than the existing system so that exemplary punishment becomes possible.

This research was an attempt to discover the relationship of modernization and crime in Dhaka city. Research based on longitudinal and time series analysis may be conducted by further researchers to find out the trend and changing patterns of crimes in city areas like Dhaka.

References

- [1] Brugger, Bill and Kate, Hannan (1983). *Modernization and revolution*, Routledge. ISBN 0709906951.
- [2] Weisner, T. S., and S. Abbott (1975). *Women, Modernity, and Stress: Three Contrasting Contexts for Change in East Africa*. Journal of Anthropological Research, 4: pp. 421-451.
- [3] Stephenson, J. B. (1968). *Is Everyone Going Modern? A Critique and a Suggestion For Measuring Modernis*, American Journal of Sociology, 74: pp. 265-75.
- [4] Smith, D. H., and Inkeles A. (1966), *The OM Scale: A Comparative Socio-psychological Measure of Individual Modernity*, Sociometry 29: pp.353-77.
- [5] Divale, W., and A. Seda (2001), *Modernization As Changes in Cultural Complexity: New Cross-Cultural Measurements*, Cross-Cultural Research.
- [6] Wallace, A. (1966), *Religion: An Anthropological View*, New York: Random House.
- [7] Wallace, A. (1969) *The Death and Rebirth of the Seneca*, New York: Vintage Books.
- [8] Imam, Muhammed H. (1998), *Unnayan and Anunnayan Prashanga*, ISBN: 984-31+0291-4.
- [9] Hoogvelt, A.M.M. (1976), *The Sociology of Developing Societies*, London: Macmillan.

Modernization and the Opportunity Factors of Crime: Dhaka City Experience -3128

- [10] <http://law.jrank.org>. Downloaded on 22 March, 2011.
- [11] Savelsberg, Joachim J. (1995), *Crime, Inequality, and Justice in Eastern Europe: Anomie, Domination, and Revolutionary Change In Crime and Inequality*, Edited by John Hagan and Ruth Peterson, Stanford, Calif., Stanford University Press, pp. 206–224.
- [12] Gerber, Theodore P., and Hout, Michael. *More Shock than Therapy: Market Transition, Employment, and Income in Russia, 1991–1995*. *American Journal of Sociology* 104 (1998): pp.1–50.
- [13] Lafree, Gary (1998). *Loosing Legitimacy: Street Crime and the Decline of Social Institutions in America*, Boulder, Colo., Westview Press.
- [14] Paranjape, N.V. (1973). *Criminology and Penology*, Central Law Publications, Allahabad.