



Juvenile crimes in India: A sociological study

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Abstract

In India, juvenile crime is a grim reality. A juvenile is a child who has not reached the age at which they may be held accountable for their criminal activities in the same way that an adult can. When referring to an underage young criminal offender, the term juvenile is used. Most countries specify an offending person as juvenile as an individual under 18 years of age while a few countries have set the maximum age slightly different. In India, a child must be 14 years old to be declared a criminal, with the maximum age of the same being 18 years.

In recent years, India has seen it enhance the crime rates committed by minors. On the discussion of sociologists, the major Causes is that the core of these crimes is their family facing financial issues. They feel neglected, frustrated, and distressed, leading to crimes like murder, etc.

Several minor and serious crimes, including theft, burglary, snatching, robbery, dacoity, murder, and rape, are perpetrated on a regular basis throughout India, and the awful fact is that all of these crimes are perpetrated by youngsters under the age of eighteen.

Keywords: juvenile, crimes, India, sociological

Introduction

According to statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau, of the 43,506 offences perpetrated against children under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 and the Special Local Law (SLL) by juveniles in 2019, 28,830 were committed by individuals of the aforementioned age range.

In India, authorities charged 27,936 minors in 2012 for their involvement in major crimes such as banditry, murder, rape, and rioting. According to NCRB data, two-thirds (66.6 percent) of individuals who appeared before JJB (Juvenile Justice Boards) in 2012 were between the ages of 16 and 18. Further, 30.9 percent of those surveyed were between the ages of 12 and 16, while the rest (2.5 percent) were between the ages of 7 and 12. There was a 143 percent rise in the

number of minor rapes from 2002 to 2012. It also indicated that the number of murders has increased by 87 percent, while the number of women and girls kidnapped by juveniles has increased by 500 percent.

however, between 2007 and 2012, the number of serious crimes like rape and murder perpetrated by juveniles accounted for just 8% of all crimes committed by minors. Petty crimes such as stealing, burglary, and inflicting harm account for 72 percent of all crimes committed by juveniles.

As per data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, the incidents of juvenile crime have constantly increased between 2010-2014

ALARMING STATISTICS					
Year	Juveniles caught	Age 16-18 yrs	Age 12-16 yrs		
2013	2,140	1,148	875 boys +10 girls		
2012	1,541	860	617 boys +12 girls		
CRIME TREND		Year	Type of case		
2012	2013		Theft/ Snatchings	Rape	Murder
Theft	Theft	2013	928	163	76
Murder	Rape	2012	523	63	100
Rape	Murder				

Fig 1

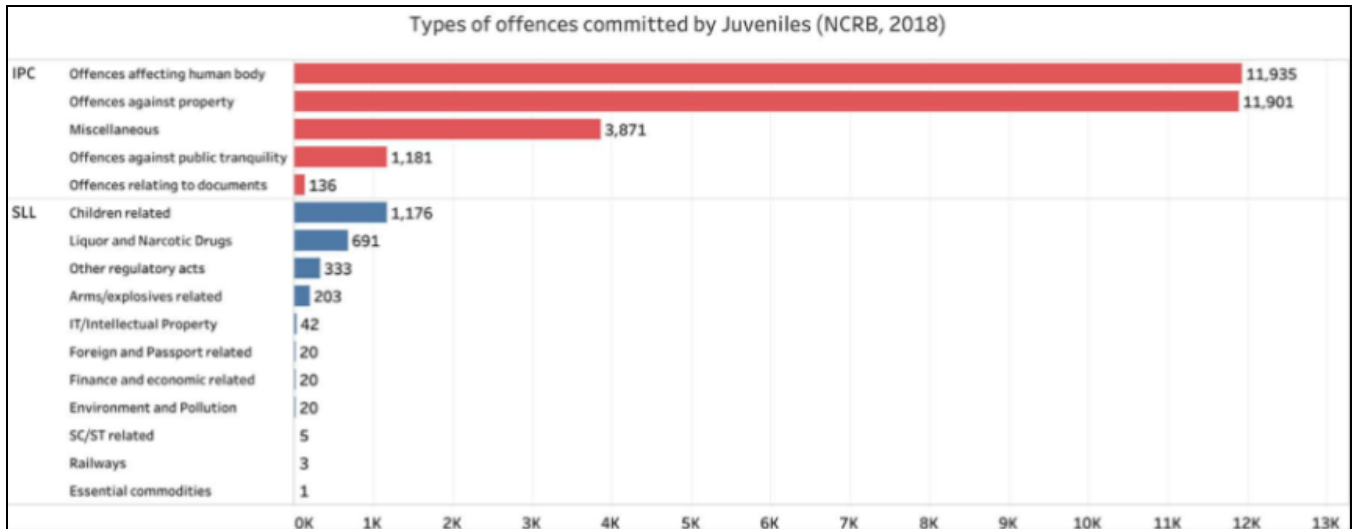


Fig 2: Types of offences committed by Juveniles (NCRB, 2018)

Objectives of the study

The primary objective of this research is to study the crimes and the reason of immature youngsters who commit crimes at such young age in closely tight community like Indian society. The study also outlines the possible solutions which can be implemented by the government and the society as a whole to reduce the high rising statistics.

Research methodology

This research is a descriptive study. The necessary secondary data was collected from various websites including those of Government of India, magazines, journals, other publications, etc. This data was then analyzed and reviewed to arrive at the inferences and conclusions.

Most Common Causes of Juvenile Crimes

1. Family

Family defines the overall personality of the children Single parent families, separated families, frequent parents’ conflict, lack of trust and confidence among the parents, psychological problems in parents, etc. can be some of the reasons behind juvenile delinquency. Another reason can be sibling rivalry due to unequal treatment between children.

2. Economic issues

High financial aspirations of youth which are unaffordable by parents might led to involvement in criminal activities. Juveniles want to improve their status and for this purpose they sometimes choose a wrong path, leading to criminal activities.

3. Psychological problems

Mental illness or other psychological problems like depression, frustration, anger showed by the parents can make a child feel low. Sometimes children adopt depression and anger from parents or elder siblings.

4. Substance abuse factors

Substance abuse is found in a majority of juvenile delinquent cases. Juveniles today starts consuming drugs at a younger age. The use of these mind-altering substances leads to these adolescents to engage in committing crimes. Additionally, when a child is under the influence of drugs or

alcohol, he is most likely to engage in destructive, harmful or illegal activities.

5. Effects of social media

Nowadays social media impacts a lot on youth. Films and other media houses are exposing the violence and vulgar crime as interesting and in fashion to the young minds. Use of weapons are romanticized by youth.

6. Friends and companions

Adolescents also commit crimes as a result of poor friendships. According to studies, delinquent behaviors are committed in groups. Shaw examined 6000 youths involved in criminality in his Illinois Crime Survey of 1928. In 90% of the instances, he discovered that two or more youths were involved in the crime.

Most Common Juvenile Crimes

Young people may commit crimes. Some of these crimes are the same as adult offenders commit while others are based more on their age or other factors. The most common juvenile crimes are typically juvenile misdemeanor crimes.

1. Larceny

One of the most common juvenile crimes is stealing, otherwise known as larceny. They may steal from other people or stores. They may target items that are easily disposable and typically inexpensive. These crimes may go unsuspected or unreported. The adolescent may increase the value of items that he or she steals if there have not been consequences for the petty theft. Statistics indicate that theft is the most common juvenile offense.

2. Assault

Another common juvenile crime is assault. Teens are more likely to get in fights. They may be referred to a resource officer if the fight occurred at school. They could assault victims as part of other crimes, such as stealing or purse snatching. Some juvenile offenders act like bullies at school and may include physical violence along with emotional abuse or taunting. People who get involved in the juvenile justice system may have problems with authority figures, which may contribute to an altercation with an adult.

3. Illegal Purchases

Teens may try to make illegal purchases such as buying cigarettes or alcohol. They may try to convince older people to buy these items for them, or they may try to use fake identification to secure these purchases. Young people are sometimes targeted by gangs to use as drug distributors who take illegal substances back and forth between various locations. Adolescents may become addicted to drugs.

4. Other Drug and Alcohol Crimes

Teens may commit other drug and alcohol crimes. They may be charged with possession of alcohol or drugs. They may be arrested for drunk and disorderly conduct. Alcohol-related car crashes are common.

5. Violent Crimes

Teens may take part in violent crimes. They may be victims of abuse and may lash out. They may be addicted to drugs and commit violent crimes like assault or robbery to get money for drugs. Teens may commit aggravated assault in which they cause serious bodily harm to victims or use a firearm during the attack. Teens may also commit other violent crimes like auto theft.

6. Sexual Offenses

Some teens may commit sexual offenses. They may have been sexually abused and may act out sexually with others. They may lack judgment and may sext pornographic pictures of themselves or others, which may be prosecuted as possession of child pornography. They may commit rape or sexual assault. Some teens get involved in prostitution and may be brought into sex trafficking.

7. Vandalism

Teens may commit acts of vandalism by themselves or with others. They may add graffiti to buildings, homes or other property.

Few Examples of many cases found involving teenagers

- **Kathua rape case: Police finds inconsistencies in birth certificate of accused 'juvenile', court to hear matter on 6 June**

The affidavit also has findings of the medical board which was constituted after the crime branch found inconsistencies in the age of the juvenile, who remains unnamed because of his minor status and whose case is being heard by the Juvenile Board in Kathua.

- **Delhi: 22-year-old woman alleges gang rape; police arrests five, including four juveniles**

A 22-year-old woman has alleged that she was raped by five people, including four juveniles, in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri area, police said on Thursday

- **Children of Bollywood stars allegedly thrash, bully classmate; no immediate action from police**

The children of two Bollywood stars allegedly bullied and beat up the victim. This case is the first instance where the complaint has gone directly to the juvenile court.

- **Two teenagers sentenced to life imprisonment for murder**

Two teenagers were sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of a 16-year-old by a sessions court in Jhabua,

Madhya Pradesh in what could be the first case under the amended Juvenile Justice Act

- **Juvenile delinquency: Root of the problem needs to be addressed instead of the punishment**

Studies have identified higher violent tendencies of juveniles, and potential underlying factors need to be analyzed in depth; the root of the problem needs to be dealt with rather than focusing only on the punishment aspect of it

- **Nine-year-old schoolboy dies after assault by classmates in Tamil Nadu**

A class four student died after being allegedly attacked by two classmates at a government school in Tamil Nadu over a quarrel about using his geometry box

- **Kerala: 4-year-old sexually assaulted by seniors in school hostel**

A four-year-old girl student was sexually assaulted by two seniors in the school hostel in Kozhikode in Kerala.

- **Delhi: 15-year-old involved in 8 cases of rape taken into custody**

In a shocking case in Delhi, a 15-year-old boy allegedly involved in eight cases of sexual assault has been arrested by the Delhi Police.

- **Delhi: Teen murdered by three friends in Haryana's Murthal**

An 18-year-old Delhi school boy was allegedly strangled and shot dead by three friends, including his juvenile classmate, in Haryana's Murthal village where his charred body was recovered.

- **Ghaziabad: Class IV student raped by her 14-yr-old classmate**

An eight-year-old girl, studying in class IV, was allegedly raped by her 14-year-old classmate in Masuri town, police said today.

Preventive Programmes of Juvenile Delinquency

There may be two kinds of programs for preventing the juvenile delinquency:

1. Clinical Program

The object of this clinic is to provide aids through Psychiatrists Clinical Psychologists and Psychiatric Social workers to help the Juveniles delinquents in understanding their personality problems.

- a. To participate in discovery of pre delinquents.
- b. To investigate cases selected for study and treatment.
- c. To treat cases itself or to refer cases to other agencies for treatment.
- d. To interest other against in psychiatrically oriented types of treatment of behavioral disorders in children.
- e. To reveal the community unmet needs of children.

2. Educational Program

The impacts of educational institutions are very significant in the countries where almost every child going to school and preventive program can be launched in an effective manner through the schools. Teachers should not discriminate among the students; they should be treated equally and provided the moral education which is very

helpful to the students for their life stand. Moral education is a significant factor for the students, which decide their life. They should be able to understand the difference between right and wrong ideas which are favorable for them and which are not.

3. Parent education

Every community should ensure opportunities for parental educations, which will help making good homes, improve family relationship, and education and care of children. Some educational program informs parents on how to raise healthy children.

4. Recreational programs

The recreational programs are a good check on delinquency. Recreation programs enable youths to mix up with other adults and children in the community and develop friendship. Such positive friendships may assist children in later years. Youth programs are designed to fit the personalities and skills of different children and may include sports, dancing, music, rock climbing, drama, karate, bowling, art, and other activities. It is believed that the energies of youth can be very well channelized into pursuits like sport games and other healthy activities, which would counteract delinquent among the participants. The establishment of recreational agencies like sports, playgrounds community centers, concerts drama, puppet shows are very necessary for preventing the delinquency and developing social group work and youth groups.

5. Community Program

The basic aim of community program is to reach the people in need of help instead of people approaching the workers and agencies. Another significance of this program is that the participation of the local community is considered to be more important and role of professional leadership is sought to be kept at the minimum level.

6. Publicity

This method can also be very useful in preventing the Juvenile Delinquency. The newspapers, magazines, radio, television and motion pictures etc. should show the juvenile delinquency in proper perspective honestly and should also present real reports about the various wrong done by the juveniles and analyze its true causes and also protect the juvenile against false and misleading reporting. The actual position should be presented and produced before the society about their delinquent behavior so that they may be properly assessed.

7. Parental Love and Affection

Child needs unconditional, immediate and true love, care and protection of his mother and father. On account of deprivation of such love and care the child may develop frustration and dissatisfaction leading to crime. So parental love, care and protection is very necessary for the child to prevent him for committing or doing the crime. So parental love, care and protection is very necessary for the child to prevent him for committing or doing the crime.

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