



A study on crime against children in India

Mithun Das

Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Bagnan College, Howrah, West Bengal, India

Abstract

Children are considered as future of a nation, but unfortunately children of our country are under a big threat as crime against children are increasing alarmingly throughout the nation in past decade. As per the reports of NCRB, the number of crimes against children has been increased about 650% during the period of 2006 to 2018. The highest number of crimes has been committed under the head kidnapping and abduction followed by child rape and sexual assault of children. The present paper is aimed to highlight the trend of number and rate of crime of all over India for the period of 2014 to 2018, the number and rate of crime in the nature of kidnapping and abduction, child rape and sexual assault of children in the states and UTs where the number of total crime exceeds 5000 as per the latest report of NCRB and to observe if there is any significant change during the study period. The study reveals that a large part of our country is not absolutely safe for our children because either the number of crimes is increasing alarmingly or rate of crime is higher than the national crime rate. The study concludes that if collective efforts are taken by parents, guardians, schools, police, administration and judiciary system, the evil of crime against children will surely be eradicated from our country.

Keywords: Crime against children, kidnapping and abduction, child rape, sexual assault of children, NCRB

1. Introduction

Rabindranath Tagore, the Nobel laureate poet of our country once said “every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man” and Oscar Wilde, the famous Irish author and poet said “the best way to make children good is to make them happy”. Children are considered as the future of a nation and a well-nourished child becomes the backbone of a society. The early years of a child’s life are very important for his or her health and development. Healthy development means that the children of all abilities including those with special health care needs, are able to grow up, fulfilling their social, emotional and educational needs. So, it is utmost important to provide a child well education and culture, fulfil different physiological and psychological needs and keep them happy and safe so that they are brought up properly. But unfortunately, we have failed to create a safe and ideal atmosphere to every child of our country even after 74 years of independence. It is a shameful fact that crime against children is one of the serious issues of our country since a long period of time and has been accelerated at a rapid pace in last one decade. As per the reports issued by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), total number of crimes against children has been increased from 18967 in 2006 to 141476 in 2018, resulting an increase of nearly 7.5 times (647%).

against children are broadly categorised under two laws- crimes under Indian Penal Code (IPC) and crimes under Special and Local Laws (SLL). The crimes that took place against children under IPC are murder (sec 302 IPC), abatement of suicide of child (Sec 305 IPC), attempt to commit murder (Sec 307 IPC), infanticide (Sec 315 IPC), foeticide (Sec 315 & 316 IPC), exposure and abandonment (Sec 317), simple and grievous hurt (Sec 324 to 335 IPC), kidnapping and abduction of children (Sec 363 to 369 IPC), human trafficking (Sec 370 & 370 A), selling and buying of minors for prostitution (Sec 372 & 373 IPC), rape (Sec 376 IPC), attempt to commit rape (Sec 376 & 511 IPC), assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (Sec. 354 IPC), insult to the modesty of women (Sec. 509 IPC) and other IPC crimes. Again, the crimes that took place against children under SLL are Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 (Sec 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15 and 17 to 22), Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956, Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, Transplantation of Human Organs Act, Cyber Crime/ Information Technology Act and other SLL crimes.

The latest report of NCRB reveals that 141764 crimes took place in India in 2018 against children out of which 98730 cases were registered under IPC and 43034 cases were registered under SLL. 150415 children were reported victims of these crimes out of which 105522 children were reported victims under IPC and 44893 children were reported victims under SLL. The rate of crime on all India basis was 31.8 out of which crime rate in states and UTs were 30.8 and 129.6 respectively. The highest number of cases were registered for kidnapping and abduction (total 62668 cases were registered u/s 363 to 369 IPC) followed by child rape (total 30917 cases were registered out of which 9312 cases were registered u/s 376 IPC and 21605

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Increment
No. of Crimes	18967	20410	22500	24200	26690	33090	38170	58220	89420	94170	106958	129032	141764	122779 (647%)

(Data source: NCRB Annual Reports)

Crime against children include physical and emotional abuse, neglect and exploitation such as through pornography, sex trafficking of minors etc. The crime

cases were registered u/s 4 & 6 of POCSO Act, 2012) and sexual assault of children (total 22350 cases were registered out of which 8030 cases were registered u/s 354 IPC and 14320 cases were registered u/s 8 & 10 of POCSO Act, 2012). The report also reveals that total 39827 cases were registered under POCSO Act, 2012. These facts clearly indicate that the crime against children has been emerging as a serious challenge and threat to our administration and law & order system.

2. Review of Literature

Dr. V. Shaharban (2019) ^[7] in her paper entitled 'Crime against Children- Prevalence and Prevention Strategies' suggested that educating children about the best ways to guard against predators, especially predators the child may know, is one of the best shields against child abduction. She opined that children's confidence to take action is an important facet of becoming empowered to protect themselves, whether through physical force, escape, working with children to develop awareness and courage is an important part of teaching them about self-protection.

Chandrasekhar S. V. (2014) ^[1], in his paper entitled 'Offences against Children: Criminal Justice and Social Issues in India' concluded that children are victimising due to many factors which affect child mentally and physically. Psychological trauma may remain and it will impact on children's future. This kind of developments will surely harm the society.

Rajeev Seth (2013) ^[9], in his paper entitled 'Protection of Children from Abuse and Neglect in India' opined that in India, child rights, protection and exploitation (street children, child labour, trafficking etc.) are intimately linked to poor socio-economic conditions in a large population base. Survival, early child health care, nutrition, education, development and child protection are most critical child rights.

Dr. Vinod Kumar (2016) ^[8] in his article entitled 'Corporal Punishment in Schools: A Crime against Children in Human Rights Paradigm' concluded that adult members should be equipped with a set of skills for creating a child friendly environment everywhere. Corporal punishment is not a way to inculcate discipline among children. All forms of corporal punishment are a fundamental breach of human rights and a grave form of child abuse and a sort of crime in the human rights paradigm.

3. Child Protection Law and Policy in India

The Constitution of India provides that the state, as a directive principle of state policy, must seek to ensure "that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment." On April 26, 2013, the government of India adopted a new National Policy for Children, 2013, which replaced the 1974 child policy. The new policy lays down the guiding principles that must be respected by national, state, and local governments in their actions and initiatives affecting children. The National Policy states that the "safety and security of all children is integral to their well-being and children are to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, violence, maltreatment and exploitation in all settings including care institutions, schools, hospitals, crèches, families and communities." The Policy also

provides that the States shall protect all children from all forms of violence and abuse, harm, neglect, stigma, discrimination, deprivation, exploitation including economic exploitation and sexual exploitation, abandonment, separation, abduction, sale or trafficking for any purpose or in any form, pornography, alcohol and substance abuse, or any other activity that takes undue advantage of them, or harms their personhood or affects their development and the States shall promote child friendly jurisprudence, enact progressive legislation, build a preventive and responsive child protection system, including emergency outreach services, and promote effective enforcement of punitive legislative and administrative measures against all forms of child abuse and neglect to comprehensively address issues related to child protection.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 is India's fundamental law in dealing with children in need of care and protection. It caters to their needs through care, protection, development, treatment, social reintegration, through its child-friendly approach by addressing matters in the best interest of children.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012 is one of the Indian government's most progressive laws, to combat sexual violence against children. POCSO qualifies penetrative sexual assault on a child below the age of 12 as aggravated penetrative sexual assault, a crime punishable with a fine and a minimum term of rigorous imprisonment for 10 years, which can be extended to life imprisonment.

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013's introduction of several new sexual offences under the Indian Penal Act, such as Section 376(2) (i), IPC, which punishes rape of a female under 16 years is considered an aggravated form of rape punishable with a fine and a minimum term of rigorous imprisonment for 10 years, which can be extended to life imprisonment.

4. Objectives of the Study

In spite of adopting different policies and enforcing different laws to protect children of our country, it remains a serious issue. As per the report of NCRB 2018, the children of our country are victimised mostly by kidnapping followed by rape and assault and total number of crimes against children has been increased by about 7.5 times since 2006. In the present paper the period from 2014 to 2018 is considered as study period and the objectives of this paper is to observe-

- The trend of total number of crimes against children in the States and Union Territories (UTs) of India,
- The trend of crimes in the nature of kidnapping and abduction, child rape and sexual assault of children of selected States and UTs and
- Any significant change during the study period.

5. Methodology

The present paper is done on the basis of secondary data only. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, publishes statistics on all crimes that takes place in India every year. Statistics up to 2018 is available till the paper is done. The statistics relating to crime against children in form of Kidnapping and Abduction, Child Rape and Sexual Assault of Children for the period from 2014 to 2018 has been used for present study. Simple statistical tools have been used for

data presentation and analysis purpose. The data relating to rate of crime used in the presentation indicates the number

of crimes reported per lakh population of the respective States and UTs.

6. Presentation of Data and its Analysis

Table 1: Total Number and Rate of Crimes against Children in India during the Study Period

States	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		Increase in Volume	% increase in Number
	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate		
Andhra Pradesh	2059	13.1	1992	12.7	1847	11.8	2397	15.3	2672	17	613	29.8
Arunachal Pradesh	134	28.6	181	38.7	133	28.3	138	29.5	166	35.5	32	23.9
Assam	1385	11.6	2835	23.8	3964	33.3	4951	41.6	5447	45.8	4062	293.3
Bihar	2255	5	1917	4.3	3932	8.8	5386	12	7340	16.4	5085	225.5
Chhattisgarh	4358	43.4	4469	44.5	4746	47.2	6518	64.9	6924	68.9	2566	58.9
Goa	330	63.5	242	46.5	230	44.2	196	37.7	182	35	-148	-44.8
Gujarat	3219	15.6	3623	17.5	3637	17.6	3955	19.1	4929	23.8	1710	53.1
Haryana	2540	27.4	3262	35.1	3099	33.4	4169	44.9	4869	52.5	2329	91.7
Himachal Pradesh	467	21.6	477	22.1	467	21.6	528	24.4	772	35.7	305	65.3
Jammu & Kashmir	211	4.7	308	6.8	222	4.9	359	8	473	10.5	262	124.2
Jharkhand	423	3.2	406	3.1	717	5.5	1247	9.5	1479	11.2	1056	249.6
Karnataka	3416	17.4	3961	20.2	4455	22.7	5890	30.1	6131	31.3	2715	79.5
Kerala	2391	25.6	2384	25.5	2879	30.8	3562	38.1	4253	45.5	1862	77.9
Madhya Pradesh	15085	50.2	12859	42.8	13746	45.7	19038	63.3	18992	63.1	3907	25.9
Maharashtra	8115	21.4	13921	36.8	14559	38.5	16918	44.7	18892	49.9	10777	132.8
Manipur	137	14.2	110	11.4	134	14	109	11.3	128	13.3	-9	-6.6
Meghalaya	213	21.3	257	25.6	240	24	379	37.8	385	38.4	172	80.8
Mizoram	178	4.8	186	50.1	188	50.8	220	59.3	198	53.4	20	11.2
Nagaland	25	3.7	61	9.1	78	11.6	93	13.9	70	10.4	45	180.0
Odisha	2196	15.6	2562	18.2	3286	23.4	3185	22.7	5217	37.2	3021	137.6
Punjab	1762	20.1	1836	20.9	1843	21	2133	24.3	2308	26.3	546	31.0
Rajasthan	3880	13.6	3689	12.9	4034	14.1	5180	18.2	5150	18	1270	32.7
Sikkim	93	45.8	64	31.5	110	55	190	93.6	221	108.9	128	137.6
Tamil Nadu	2354	11.7	2617	13	2856	14.1	3529	17.5	4155	20.6	1801	76.5
Telangana	1930	17.3	2697	24.1	2909	26	3580	32.1	3747	33.5	1817	94.1
Tripura	369	29.8	255	20.6	274	22.1	276	22.3	271	21.9	-98	-26.6
Uttar Pradesh	14835	16.7	11420	12.9	16079	18.2	19145	21.6	19936	22.5	5101	34.4
Uttarakhand	489	12.7	635	16.5	676	17.6	829	21.5	1306	33.9	817	167.1
West Bengal	4909	16.7	4963	16.9	7004	23.8	6551	22.3	6286	21.4	1377	28.1
Total States	79758	18.2	84189	19.2	98344	22.4	120651	27.5	132899	30.3	53141	66.6
UTs												
Andaman & Nicobar	50	36.8	102	75	86	61.4	119	87.5	162	119.1	112	224.0
Chandigarh	208	52	271	68.8	222	55.5	275	68.8	288	72	80	38.5
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	11	8.7	35	27.6	21	16.2	31	24.4	38	29.9	27	245.5
Daman & Diu	7	7.7	28	30.8	31	34.4	24	26.4	34	37.4	27	385.7
Delhi UT	9350	166.9	9489	169.4	8178	146	7852	140.2	8246	147.2	-1104	-11.8
Lakshadweep	1	5.6	2	11.1	5	25	4	22.2	8	44.1	7	700.0
Puducherry	38	8.2	56	12	71	15.1	76	16.3	89	19.1	51	134.2
Total UTs	9665	141.3	9983	146	8614	125.9	8381	122.6	8865	129.6	-800	-8.3
Total All India	89423	20.1	94172	21.1	106958	24	129032	28.9	141764	31.8	52341	58.5

(data source: NCRB Annual Reports)

The above table represents the number and rate of crime against children during the study period. The table shows that number of total crimes against children in all over India has been increased from 89423 to 141764, resulting an increment by 52341(58.5%) during the study period. The same is increased from 79758 to 132899 resulting an increment of 53141 (66.6%) in all States but is decreased from 9665 to 8865 resulting a decrement of 800 (8.3%) in all Union Territories during the same period. Among States, highest increment in number of crimes is found in Maharashtra (10777, 132.8%) followed by Bihar (5085, 225.5%) and Assam (4062, 293.3%) and highest increment among UTs has been observed in Andaman & Nicobar Island (112, 224%) followed by Chandigarh (80, 38.5%) and Puducherry (51, 134.2%) during the same period. The highest reduction of 1104 (11.8%) in number of crimes against children is found in Delhi in the same period. Again, from the above table it is found that the rate of total

crime against children has been increased from 20.1 to 31.8 during the study period in all over India. It has been increased from 18.2 to 30.3 in all states but has been decreased from 141.3 to 129.6 during the same period of time. The highest crime rate was observed in Delhi UT (147.2) followed by Andaman & Nicobar Island (119.1) and Sikkim (108.9) in 2018. The lowest crime rate was observed in Nagaland (10.4) followed by Jammu & Kashmir (10.5) and Jharkhand (11.2) in the same year. The States and Union Territories where the number of crimes against children exceeds 5000 in 2018 are Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Delhi UT. We will try to observe the trend of crime against children in the form of rape, assault and kidnapping in these States and UTs during the study period.

Table 2: The Number and Rate of Crime against Children in form of Kidnapping and Abduction in the Study Area and Period

State	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		Increase in Volume	% increase in Number
	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate		
Assam	152	1.3	383	3.2	2970	25.0	2771	23.3	2902	24.4	2750	1809.2
Bihar	1585	3.5	1231	2.7	3257	7.3	3836	8.6	4492	10.0	2907	183.4
Chhattisgarh	1844	18.3	1846	18.4	1989	19.8	2013	20.0	2341	23.3	497	27.0
Karnataka	1177	6.0	1605	8.2	2144	10.9	2374	12.1	2425	12.4	1248	106.0
Madhya Pradesh	6339	21.1	5265	17.5	6016	20.0	6889	22.9	7813	26.0	1474	23.3
Maharashtra	2616	6.9	6960	18.4	7956	21.0	8748	23.1	10117	26.7	7501	286.7
Odisha	800	5.7	986	7.0	1154	8.2	1315	9.4	3167	22.6	2367	295.9
Rajasthan	1814	6.4	1690	5.9	1891	6.6	1935	6.8	2197	7.7	383	21.1
Uttar Pradesh	5875	6.6	5913	6.7	9657	10.9	7034	7.9	8541	9.6	2666	45.4
West Bengal	2351	8.0	1951	6.6	4178	14.2	3516	12.0	3400	11.6	1049	44.6
Delhi UT	6452	115.2	6881	122.9	5935	106.0	5554	99.2	5634	100.6	-818	-12.7
All India	37854	8.5	41893	9.4	54723	12.3	54163	12.1	62668	14.1	24814	65.6

(data source: NCRB Annual Reports)

The above table represents the number and rate of crime against children in form of kidnapping and abduction in the specific States and Union Territories under study during the study period. The number of crimes and crime rate mentioned the table includes the cases registered u/s 363, 363A, 364, 364A, 365, 366, 366A, 366B, 367, 368 and 369 IPC. The table shows that number of crimes against children under this category in all over India has been increased from 37854 to 62668, resulting an increment of 24814 (65.6%) during the study period. Highest increment in number of this type of crimes is found in Maharashtra (7501, 286.7%)

followed by Chhattisgarh (2907, 183.4%) and Assam (2750, 1809.2%). The highest reduction of 818 (12.7%) is found in Delhi UT in the same period. Again, from the above table it is found that the rate of crime against children in form of kidnapping and abduction has been increased from 8.5 to 14.1 during the study period in all over India. The highest crime rate of this category was observed in Delhi UT (100.6) followed by Maharashtra (26.7) and Madhya Pradesh (26.0) in 2018. The lowest crime rate under this category was observed in Rajasthan (7.7) in the same year.

Table 3: Number and Rate of Crime against Children in form of Child Rape in the Study Area and Period

State	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		Increase in Volume	% increase in Number
	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate		
Assam	265	2.2	585	4.9	586	4.9	888	7.5	1313	11.0	1048	395.5
Bihar	151	0.3	158	0.4	170	0.4	599	1.3	828	1.8	677	448.3
Chhattisgarh	1017	10.1	1014	10.1	984	9.8	2215	22.0	2429	24.2	1412	138.8
Karnataka	994	5.1	1073	5.5	1136	5.8	1309	6.7	1411	7.2	417	42.0
Madhya Pradesh	2406	8.0	2248	7.5	2467	8.2	4030	13.4	3877	12.9	1471	61.1
Maharashtra	1837	4.9	2234	5.9	2292	6.1	2399	6.3	2832	7.5	995	54.2
Odisha	846	6.0	1054	7.5	1258	9.0	1435	10.2	1464	10.4	618	73.0
Rajasthan	906	3.2	774	2.7	858	3.0	1133	4.0	1104	3.9	198	21.9
Uttar Pradesh	3480	3.9	2036	2.3	2115	2.4	3113	3.5	3376	3.8	-104	-3.0
West Bengal	813	2.8	1106	3.8	718	2.4	1197	4.1	1382	4.7	569	70.0
Delhi UT	1026	18.3	939	16.8	813	14.5	940	16.8	994	17.8	-32	-3.1
All India	18661	4.2	19654	4.4	19765	4.4	27616	6.2	30917	6.9	12256	65.7

(data source: NCRB Annual Reports)

The above table represents the number and rate of crime against children in form of child rape in the specific States and Union Territories under study during the study period. The number of crimes and crime rate mentioned the table includes the cases registered u/s 376 IPC and u/s 4 & 6 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The table shows that number of crimes against children under this category in all over India has been increased from 18661 to 30917, resulting an increment of 12256 (65.7%) during the study period. Highest increment in number of this type of crimes is found in Madhya Pradesh

(1471, 61.1%) followed by Chhattisgarh (1412, 138.8%) and Assam (1048, 395.5%). The highest reduction of 104 (3%) is found in Uttar Pradesh in the same period. Again, from the above table it is found that the rate of crime against children in form of child rape has been increased from 4.2 to 6.9 during the study period in all over India. The highest crime rate of this category was observed in Chhattisgarh (24.2) followed by Delhi (17.8) and Madhya Pradesh (12.9) in 2018. The lowest crime rate under this category was observed in Bihar (1.8) in the same year.

Table 4: Number and Rate of Crime against Children in form of Sexual Assault in the Study Area and Period

State	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		Increase in Volume	% increase in Number
	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate	Number	Crime Rate		
Assam	155	1.3	186	1.6	159	1.3	307	2.6	401	3.4	246	158.7
Bihar	37	0.1	19	0.0	26	0.1	697	1.6	947	2.1	910	2459.5
Chhattisgarh	573	5.7	478	4.8	473	4.7	1122	11.2	1023	10.2	450	78.5

Karnataka	148	0.8	272	1.4	264	1.3	370	1.9	361	1.8	213	143.9
Madhya Pradesh	2500	8.3	2056	6.8	2106	7.0	3264	10.9	3782	12.6	1282	51.3
Maharashtra	1968	5.2	2485	6.6	2370	6.3	2801	7.4	3235	8.5	1267	64.4
Odisha	235	1.7	306	2.2	396	2.8	200	1.4	95	0.7	-140	-59.6
Rajasthan	329	1.2	374	1.3	359	1.3	584	2.0	613	2.1	284	86.3
Uttar Pradesh	4214	4.8	2281	2.6	2652	3.0	5882	6.6	5833	6.6	1619	38.4
West Bengal	273	0.9	305	1.0	374	1.3	628	2.1	643	2.2	370	135.5
Delhi UT	1123	20.1	917	16.4	766	13.7	598	10.7	687	12.3	-436	-38.8
All India	13737	3.1	12527	2.8	12226	2.7	20285	4.6	22350	5.0	8613	62.7

(Data source: NCRB Annual Reports)

The above table represents the number and rate of crime against children in form of assault with intend to outrage the modesty in the specific States and Union Territories under study during the study period. The number of crimes and crime rate mentioned the table includes the cases registered u/s 354 IPC and u/s 8 & 10 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The table shows that number of crimes against children under this category in all over India has been increased from 13737 to 22350, resulting an increment of 8613 (62.7%) during the study period. Highest increment in number of this type of crimes

is found in Uttar Pradesh (1619, 38.4%) followed by Madhya Pradesh (1282, 51.3%) and Maharashtra (1267, 64.4%). The highest reduction of 436 (38.8%) is found in Delhi UT in the same period. Again, from the above table it is found that the rate of crime against children in form of assault has been increased from 3.1 to 5.0 during the study period in all over India. The highest crime rate of this category was observed in Madhya Pradesh (12.6) followed by Delhi (12.3) and Chhattisgarh (10.2) in 2018. The lowest crime rate under this category was observed in Odisha (0.7) in the same year.

Table 5: Share of Kidnapping and Abduction, Child Rape and Sexual Assault of the Study Area on Total Crime at All over India

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total no. of Crime at All over India	89423	94172	106958	129032	141746
Kidnapping and Abduction in the Study Area	37854	41893	54723	54163	62668
% share of Kidnapping and Abduction in the study area on Total Crime	42.33	44.49	51.16	41.98	44.21
Child Rape in the Study Area	18661	19654	19765	27616	30197
% share of Child Rape in the study area on Total Crime	20.87	20.87	18.48	21.40	21.30
Sexual Assault of Children	13737	12527	12226	20285	22350
% share of Sexual Assault of Children on Total Crime	15.36	13.30	11.43	15.72	15.77

(data source: NCRB Annual Reports)

6. Major Findings

The statistics of the present paper clearly states that kidnapping and abduction remains the major crime head during the study period followed by child rape and sexual assault of children. The percentage of crime under the head kidnapping and abduction on total crime against children in India remained at 42% - 44% during the study period except in 2016 where it has been increased sharply at 51%, but at the same time, the total number of crime against children has been increased by 65% during the same period. Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra were the top three states in committing crime under this head. Delhi UT remained top throughout the study period in terms of crime rate under this head although a reduction has been observed here both in number of crime and crime rate during the study period. The statistics also reveals that the percentage of rape case on total crime against children remained around 21% during the study period except in 2016 where it was declined to around 18.5%, but at the same time, the number of rape case registered both under IPC 376 and Section 4 & 6 of POCSO Act, 2012 has been increased by 65% during the study period. Here also, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra were the top three states in committing crime under this head. In Delhi UT, the number of crimes against children under this category has been decreased slightly during the study period. Lastly, the number of crimes against children in form of sexual assault registered under section 354 IPC and section 8 & 10 of POCSO Act has been increased by nearly 63% during the study period. Here also, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra were the top three states in committing crime under this

head. In Delhi UT, the number of crimes against children under this category has been decreased considerably during the study period.

7. Conclusion

As per the report of NCRB 2018, which is the latest report so far, 141746 cases were registered as crime against children on which 150415 children were registered as victims of such incidents. It indicates that on an average, 16 crimes against children took place in every hour on which 17 children became victimised. The figures itself indicate the gruesomeness of the present situation. Unfortunately, the real picture is more severe as the figures indicate the fact about the registered cases only. But there are innumerable crimes against children are committing every day which are not registered in police station. Sometimes children do not disclose the incidents to their parents or guardians due to shame, fear or threats and again, in some cases the parents or the guardians do not disclose the incidents due to same cause. The tardy judicial process, legal and court expenses, fear of obloquy also restricts the victims or their parents or guardians to knock door of the judiciary system of our country. The latest report of NCRB shows that the number of crimes against children is alarmingly high in states and UT under study especially in three states- Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. As per the same report, the crime rate in all over India is 31.8 and the States and UTs (except the States and UT under study) where the crime rate is higher than the national average are Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana, Uttarakhand,

Andaman & Nikobar Island, Chandigarh and Lakshadweep. There are 29 states and 7 UTs in our country, of which there are 20 states and 5 UTs where either number of crimes is alarmingly high or the rate of crime is above the national average. So, it will not be a hyperbole that there are very few places in our country where our children are absolutely safe.

A child spends a considerable time in school. So, it should be the responsibility of the schools to develop and implement programmes designed to prevent crime against children. These programmes should help the children to learn self-defence techniques, identify dangerous situations, teaching techniques to evading these situations such as saying 'no', yelling, screaming and running away, encouraging them to tell their parents or guardian about a crime committed against them. The parents should also teach their children about good and bad touch, should aware about all activities of them, keep close mental contact, take necessary action in the hour of need and should always stand beside them. Police and administration should take immediate action after reporting a complain of any crime against children and the judiciary system should ensure the highest punishment as per law to the accused if they are proved guilty. This collective effort will surely reduce the number and rate of crime against children.

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