



A Small Survey of Juvenile Delinquency Crime in India

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Abstract:

Delinquency is a kind of abnormality. When an individual deviates from the course of normal social life, his behaviour is called 'delinquency'. When a juvenile, below an age specified under a statute exhibits behaviour which may prove to be dangerous to society and to him he may be called a juvenile delinquent. Each state has its own precise definition of the age range covered by the world juvenile. The figures for juvenile delinquency till 2000 were collected as per the juvenile delinquency Act 1986. Male below the age of 16 years and female below the age of 18 years were considered as juveniles in the Act.

Keywords: *juvenile delinquency causes, crime, IPC SLL Crime, state wise distribution, Apprehended, Arrested*

Introduction of Juvenile Delinquency

Juveniles are the life vein of the society; they are the pillars of the coming times; they are 'crystallized energy reservoirs' of the country; they have the potential and dynamic energies intervened in them, they are the builders of and are the symbolic of representatives of nation's behavioral system.

The transition period from childhood to pre-adolescence and adolescence is very crucial as during this period different characteristic, behavior and problems are exhibited. There is a tremendous change in the physiological functioning and abrupt reclaiming in the dependency and activated thinking and viewing of things in different dimensions; there is a drive and propulsive egoistic feelings; urge for importance and recognition. Depending upon the environment, societal background under which juvenile hailed and belonged to; the upbringing; socialization process; interpersonal relationships, economic structure and educational background the deviance is either imbibed and exhibited or refrained.

An exact definition of juvenile Delinquency has been a debatable issue since long. Any unaccepted behavior of the society by the juveniles is covered under 'delinquency'. Legal definition of Juvenile Delinquency says: 'Any act prohibited by Law for children up to prescribed age limit' as envisaged in secs 82 & 83 of the Indian Penal Code, a child below the age of seven is doli incapax, i.e. incapable of a crime and can't be convicted; while a child between the age of seven & thirteen can only be convicted if he has attained sufficient maturity of understanding to judge the nature & consequences of his conduct on the occasion.

According the Juvenile Act, 1986, delinquent juvenile means a juvenile who has been found to commit an offence. It further defines that 'juvenile' means a boy who has no attained the age of 16 years or a girl who has not attained the age of 18 years. Juvenile Act 1986 was amended in 2000 according to which, the age of juvenile males and females was brought at par as below the age of 18 years.

Causes of Juvenile Delinquency

1. The home is the cradle of human personality. Every person from the moment of birth is deeply influenced by the people around him. From a warm, loving and caring family, the child learns that people are friendly, worth knowing, and can be depended upon. When a family is cold, despairing, rejecting or neglectful, the child learns distrust, hostility or downright hatred of people.

2. Poverty is one of the reasons for the causation of crimes and delinquency. Their direct relationship has been a quest since long.
3. A companionship also has a vital role to play in the juvenile delinquency. A child's companionship & associations are patterned by his economic, social & emotional needs of security, recognition & material gain.
4. The development process itself will generate more crime and delinquency. This is because the inspirational index of the people rises to a higher value and there is bound to be a higher degree of alienation.
5. Early physical maturity, inducement by oversexed films, T.V. & pornography, violence blended cinema etc. The imbibed feelings about criminals through media are vital reasons for juvenile delinquency. Juveniles learn and imitate such characters of the story.
6. Lack of moral education in the schools and colleges, etc. Lack of practicers of the true preaching's, lack of parental control at home and other similar things are also attributable factors for delinquency.

Who is a Juvenile Delinquent?

Juvenile Delinquents are those offenders including boys and girls who are normally under 18 years of age. A juvenile delinquent is a young person incorrigible, or habitually disobedient. Acts of delinquency may include.

1. Running away from home without the permission of parents.
2. Habitual truancy beyond the control of parents
3. Spending time idly beyond limits.
4. Use of vulgar language.
5. Wandering about rail-road, streets, and market places.
6. Visiting gambling centers
7. Committing sexual offences
8. Shop-lifting
9. Stealing

Juveniles may do such activities single or through a gang.

Juvenile Crime

The IPC crime committed by juvenile to total IPC crime reported in the country during 1999 and 2000 was same at 0.5%. This crime has increased to 0.9% in 2001 and further marginally increased to 1.0% in 2002 but remained static in 2003, 2004 and 2005. This crime marginally increased to 1.1% in 2006 and remained static in 2007. This crime increased marginal to 1.2% in 2008 and decreases to 1.1% in 2009. It further decreased to 1.0% in 2010. The considerable increase in 2001 may be partly attributed to increase in age of delinquent boys from 16 to 18 years as per the new definition of juveniles. Similar pattern was observed in juvenile crime rate also. Juvenile crime rate 0.9 during 2000 whereas it has shown a mixed trend during 2000-2010. The details may be seen in Table no.1

Sl.No	Year	Incidence of		Percentage juvenile crime of total crime	Estimated mid-year population (in lakh)	Rate of crime by juveniles
		Juvenile crime	Total cognizable crime			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1	2000	9267	1771084	0.5	10021	0.9
2	2001	16509	1769308	0.9	10270	1.6
3	2002	18560	1780330	1.0	10506	1.8
4	2003	17819	1716120	1.0	10682	1.7
5	2004	19229	1832015	1.0	10856	1.8
6	2005	18939	1822602	1.0	11028	1.7
7	2006	21088	1878293	1.1	11198	1.9
8	2007	22865	1989673	1.1	11366	2.0
9	2008	24535	2093379	1.2	11531	2.1
10	2009	23926	2121345	1.1	11694	2.0
11	2010	22740	2224831	1.0	11858	1.9

Table 1: Incidence and rate of juvenile delinquency under IPC (2000-2010)

Source: The registrar general of India

IPC Crime (incidence...22,740)

The juvenile IPC crime in 2010 have decreased by 5.0% over 2009 as 23,926 IPC crime by juveniles were registered during 2009 which decreased to 22,740 cases in 2010. The highest decrease in juvenile delinquency was observed under the crime head "Dacoity" (35.3%), 'Dowry death' (34.5%) and 'Arson' (25.3%) and 'Riots' (24.0%) in 2010 over 2009.

SLL Crime (incidence.....2,558)

Juvenile delinquency under SLL crimes has decreased substantially by 40.8% in 2010 as compared to 2009 as 4,321 cases of juvenile delinquency under SLL were reported in 2009 which decreased to 2,558 in 2010. Cases under 'Dowry Prohibition Act', and 'Gambling Act' have registered a sharp decline of 93.2% and 71.6% respectively, while that of 'Registration of Foreigner Act', 'Indian Passport Act' & 'Essential commodities Act' registered sharp increase of 171.4%, 157.1% & 133.3% respectively.

State-wise Distributions of Juvenile Delinquency (IPC)

Madhya Pradesh (5,554), Maharashtra (4,315), Chhattisgarh (2,128), Rajasthan (1,787), Gujarat (1,459), and Andhra Pradesh (1,369) have reported high incidence of juvenile crime under IPC. These six states taken together have accounted for 73.1% to total juvenile delinquency cases under IPC reported in the Country. Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra reported 113 and 98 cases of murder respectively during 2010. The highest incidence of the juvenile rape cases in the country was reported from Madhya Pradesh (183) followed by Maharashtra (88) which was 21.3% and 10.3% of total juvenile rape cases in the country. The highest incidence of the juvenile theft in the country was reported from Maharashtra (1152 i.e.23.4%). See table no .2

Sl. No	TYPE OF CRIMES	AP	MP	MH	CH	RJ	GJ
1	Murder	48	113	98	50	47	38
2	Attempt to commit murder	10	107	100	63	88	14
3	CH not amounting to murder	3	3	1	0	1	0
4	Rape	76	183	88	70	72	17
5	Kidnapping & abduction	35	49	42	14	80	34
6	Dacoity	2	3	46	2	1	6
7	Preparation for dacoity	0	1	18	0	3	0
8	Robbery	11	80	166	34	44	7
9	Burglary	164	332	548	282	183	147
10	Theft	529	475	1152	334	373	415
11	Riots	17	135	352	130	39	70
12	Criminal breach of trust	1	1	4	3	0	3
13	Cheating	12	21	20	4	10	6
14	Counterfeit	0	0	3	4	1	0
15	Arson	4	11	11	12	9	1
16	Hurt	198	1024	983	406	221	256
17	Dowry death	2	21	11	2	4	0
18	Molestation	49	167	93	105	25	14
19	Sexual harassment	69	46	30	16	0	1
20	Cruelty by husband/relative	15	60	65	8	8	53
21	Importation	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Causing death	14	95	38	17	12	9
23	Other IPC crimes	110	2627	446	572	566	368
	TOTAL	1369	5554	4315	2128	1787	1459

Table 2: State wise Distribution of JD (IPC)

SOURCE: The Registrar General of India

State-wise Distributions of Juvenile Delinquency (SLL)

The highest number of juvenile delinquency cases under special and local laws was reported from Tamil Nadu (550) which accounted for 21.5% of total juvenile crimes under SLL followed by Maharashtra (405), (15.8) and Gujarat (395), (15.4%) and Madhya Pradesh (371) (14.5%). These four States taken together have accounted for 67.3% of total juvenile delinquency cases under SLL reported in the country.

Out of 78 cases reported in the country under 'Arms Act' against juveniles, 36.4% cases were reported from Madhya Pradesh (56). Madhya Pradesh accounted for 95 cases reported under 'Gambling Act' Gujarat and Maharashtra contributed 174 and 119 cases reported under 'Prohibition Act'. 3 cases under immoral traffic act' were reported from Tamil Nadu whereas 28 cases reported from West Bengal and 6 registered under 'Essential Commodities Act' from Maharashtra. 7 cases under 'Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes Act' were registered in Gujarat and the four cases under "Forest Act' was registered in Himachal Pradesh. See table no .3

SI No.	SSL Crimes	GJ	MP	MH	HP	TN	WB
1	Arms Act	0	56	17	0	1	4
2	Narcotic drugs Act	4	2	3	3	1	0
3	Gambling Act	55	95	85	0	0	0
4	Excise Act	0	83	0	1	0	0
5	Prohibition Act	174	0	119	0	11	0
6	Explosive Act	0	1	0	0	0	1
7	Immoral Traffic Act	0	0	2	0	3	1
8	Railways Act	0	0	0	0	2	0
9	The forecquers Act	0	0	0	0	0	28
10	Protection of civil Act	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Indian Passport Act	0	0	2	0	0	2
12	Essential commodities Act	0	1	6	0	1	0
13	Terrorist Act	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Art treasures Act	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Dowry prohibition	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Prohibition of child	0	0	1	0	0	0
17	marriage	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Indecent rep. of women	5	0	5	0	7	0
19	Copy write Act	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Sati prohibition Act	7	0	4	0	3	0
21	SC/ST Act	7	2	4	4	3	0
22	Forest Act	150	131	161	1	521	5
	Other SLL crimes						
	TOTAL	395	371	405	9	550	41

Table 3: State wise Distribution of JD (SLL)

Juveniles Apprehended

(States & UT)

A total of 30,303 juveniles were apprehended during 2010 out of which 28,763 were boy and 1,540 were girls. The percentage of girl to total juveniles comes to 5.1% i.e. 1.1% point less than share relating to 2009. 927 juveniles were apprehended in the age-group of 7-12 years during 2010, 10,123 juveniles were apprehended in the age-group of 12-16 years whereas bulk of juveniles (19,253) was arrested under the age-group 16-18 years. The percentage share of juveniles apprehended under these age-groups was 3.1%, 33.4% and 63.5% respectively. The number of juveniles' apprehended in the age group 7-12 was 1,133 during 2009, under the age group pf 12-16 years was 10,741 and under the age group of 16-18 years were 21,768. The number of juveniles apprehended in the age group 7-12 during 2010 has decreased by 18.2% as compared to 2009 whereas the decrease in the number of juveniles apprehended in the age group 12-16 during 2010 as compared to 2009 was 5.8%. The number of juveniles apprehended in the age group 16-18 in 2010 has decreased by 11.6% as compared to 2009. The overall decrease in juveniles apprehended at the national level was 9.9% in 2010 as compared to 2009.

Out of total 30,303 juveniles arrested, 27,471 (90.7%) were arrested under IPC crimes while 2,832 were arrested for committing SLL crimes. The highest number of juveniles were arrested for theft (6,064) followed by Hurt (4,542) & Burglary (3,065). These heads taken together accounted for 49.8% of total juveniles arrested under IPC crimes. Out of total 2,832 juveniles arrested under SLL crimes Gambling Act' (4, 26) SLL crimes taken together accounted for 36.7% of total juveniles arrested under SLL. See table no.4

Sl.No	Year	7-12 Years	% Of total	12-16 Years	% Of total	16-18 Years	% Of total	Total Apprehended
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1	2000	3292	18.3	11389	63.3	3301	18.4	17982
2	2001	3696	11.0	12729	37.9	17203	51.2	33628
3	2002	4488	12.5	13864	38.7	17427	48.7	35779
4	2003	3584	10.8	11687	35.1	18049	54.2	33320
5	2004	2107	6.8	12415	40.1	16421	53.1	30943
6	2005	1645	5.0	13090	40.1	17946	54.9	32681
7	2006	1595	5.0	12535	39.0	18015	56.0	32145
8	2007	1460	4.2	12114	35.1	20953	60.7	34527
9	2008	1281	3.7	12272	35.6	20954	60.7	34507
10	2009	1133	3.4	10741	31.9	21768	64.7	33642
11	2010	927	3.1	10123	33.4	19253	63.5	30303
Percentage								
Change in		-71.8		-11.1		-483.2		68.5
2010 over								
2000								
Percentage								
Change in		-18.2		-5.8		-11.6		-9.9
2010 over								
2000								

Table 4: Juveniles Apprehended under IPC and SLL Crimes by Age Group(2000-2010)

(States & UT)

Disposal of Juveniles Arrested

A total of 29,404 juveniles were arrested and sent to various courts during 2010. The percentage of juveniles' awaited trial at the end of 2010 was 35.7% (10,479 out of 29,404). Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Nagaland and Uttarakhand have reported 100% disposal of juveniles arrested. 13.7% (3961) out of the total juveniles arrested in the country (29,404) were disposed of after advice or admonition, 18.9% (5641) were placed under care of parents/guardian, 3.5% (1,035) were sent to institution, 19.1% (5556) were sent to special homes, 3.6% (1,077) were dealt with fine and 5.6% (1655) were either acquitted or their cases were otherwise disposed off. See table no.5

Sl. No	State	Arrested & Sent to Courts	Sent to Home Advice	Released on probation and placed Under care of		Sent to special Homes	Dealt With Fine	Acquitted Or Otherwise Disposed Of	Pending disposal
				Parents/guardians	Fit Instt.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	1949	548	298	42	263	10	67	721
2	Arunchal Pradesh	81	9	72	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	385	158	112	75	4	0	12	24
4	Bihar	742	255	69	33	99	12	26	248
5	Chhattisgarh	2356	28	91	3	587	149	184	1314
6	Goa	77	4	5	0	10	0	1	57
7	Gujarat	2121	189	208	86	147	101	249	1141
8	Haryana	907	5	10	15	15	45	66	751
9	Himachal Pradesh	218	43	74	0	13	0	0	88
10	Jammu & Kashmir	27	0	10	1	0	10	0	6
11	Jharkhand	104	12	37	8	38	4	5	0
12	Karnataka	204	48	11	4	31	0	1	109
13	Kerala	826	134	98	10	50	1	35	498
14	Madhya Pradesh	6449	1033	1718	199	527	480	459	2033
15	Maharashtra	6388	808	1625	347	1482	100	192	1834
16	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	118	2	30	1	9	0	40	36
18	Mizoram	116	33	15	9	24	0	0	35
19	Nagaland	53	0	0	0	24	19	10	0
20	Odisha	544	142	146	26	186	0	12	32
21	Punjab	246	0	6	12	48	4	11	165
22	Rajasthan	2378	245	297	38	1170	4	96	523
23	Sikkim	82	30	10	1	9	2	20	40
24	Tamil Nadu	1644	176	556	90	323	69	53	377
25	Tripura	46	6	15	6	3	0	9	7
26	Uttar Pradesh	852	25	14	19	347	52	94	301
27	Uttarakhand	154	0	11	0	143	0	0	0
28	West Bengal	337	28	103	10	4	15	13	164
	TOTAL	29404	3961	5641	1035	5556	1077	1655	10479

Table 5: Disposal of juveniles arrested (under IPC & SLL crimes) and sent to courts

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