Juvenile Violent Crime Trends in Metropolitan Cities of India

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Abstract- Juvenile crime in India signifies a major concern in criminological inquiry, that reflects the analogy of interplay of Social Issues, economic conditions, developmental issues in shaping the behaviour. This study accentuates juvenile crime trends from 2016 to 2023, by the official data published by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in Crime in India. This study examines the juvenile criminality with age and gender distribution, spatial distribution and the year wise trends across the country. Particular focus is placed on crime against human body such as Murder, Attempt to Murder, Hurt, Kidnap, Rape and against the modesty of Women. In addition, study investigates the distribution of juvenile crime across the metropolitan cities to know the urban crime dynamics.

Index Terms- Juvenile violent Crimes, Juvenile Criminality, Crime against Human Body, Urban crime Dynamics.

I. INTRODUCTION

Juvenile crime is serious issue to deliberate because it has complex phenomenon just not a legal angel but it is major social issue too. Juvenile crime is not a new to this era, but requires more attention to control because of societal values. Violent juvenile crimes encompass such murder rape and Sexual assault, robbery, dacoity and causing bodily injuries (Juvenile Justice Act 1986,). There several interpretations to give proper explanation for juvenile criminal behaviour that is deep rooted to socio-economic, psycho-biological factors. Juvenile crime referred as unlawful acts committed by individuals who are legally considered as minors in terms of age, in India individuals below 18 years who involve in crime are governed by the juvenile justice (care and protection of children) act, 2015. Criminologically it is widely observed the age crime curve tend to peak in early adolescence, as age curve was the concept given by Adolf Quetelet a Belgian statistician around in the year 1833(Miller, 2014). Broadly the reasons for juvenile criminal behaviour deep rooted with socio-economic, neglected/ broken family due to lack of proper early socialization, peer influences, digital exposers and poor education (Juvenile Delinquency).

Juvenile Justice Acts of 1986, 2000, and 2015 in India

The Juvenile justice act in India, 1986 was foundation legislation which denoted the age of a juvenile boy was 16 years and the girl age was 18 years, lagging with not enough international standards, to achieve as United Nation convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC,1992). In the year 2000 the Juvenile Justice Act in India(Gazettes OF INDIA), amendments were made and the age define as 18 years irrespective of gender, then categorised the juveniles justice administration into two distinct categories as Juvenile in conflict with law which will be referred to Juvenile Justice Board(JJB) and children in need of care and protection will be referred to child welfare committee also this amendment enabled the focus on rehabilitation such as foster cares, adoptions and sponsorships(Compilation of Important Cases on Juvenile Justice Method of Ascertainment of Age of Juvenile). In the year 2015 again, the amendments were made saying the act as Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Act) 2015. The act allowed for juvenile aged 16 to 18 who commit "Heinous Crime" to be tried as adults in the adult courts, also included with definitions for petty, serious offences.

II.   OBJECTIVES

1. To critically analyse trends in juvenile violent crimes in metropolitan cities in India
2. To analyse the Juvenile age and gender distribution.
3. To identify the key patterns and distribution of juvenile crimes from 2016 to 2023 from the National crime records bureau.

III.   METHODOLOGY

This study adopts the descriptive and analytical model, the data sets are collected from National Crime Records Bureau's Crime in India report publishes by Union Ministry of Home Affairs (2016-2023), firstly the overall crime statistics in table 1 involves an overall crime distribution Year wise. Secondly, the further table and analysis are categorised, the violent crimes such murder, attempt to murder, hurt, outrage of modesty of women, rape and kidnap offences against human body are categorised and taken as violent crimes committed by juveniles. Data further classified and distributed age and gender wise for the analysis age below 12 years and above 12 years. The crime distribution is shown in the table consisting the metropolitan cities and the states the cities belong, year wise and crime wise trends are shown in the charts. The incomplete data of a city is omitted from the data set and not considered.

IV.   RESULTS

Table 1: The following table depicts the Metropolitan cities (State) and year wise Violent crime distribution.

City (State)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)	22	16	4	12	67	9	7	20	47	34	238
Amritsar (Punjab)	4	1	5	1	3	9	6	0	21	0	50
Asansol (Assam)	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	19	129	152
Aurangabad (Maharashtra)	104	161	158	147	101	111	149	130	143	314	1518
Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)	131	326	363	749	492	859	293	539	394	119	4265
Chandigarh City	107	80	87	149	137	117	50	54	80	0	861
Dhanbad (Jharkhand)	22	20	8	11	12	27	0	2	0	120	222
Durg-Bhilainagar (Chhattisgarh)	350	204	241	198	197	140	149	146	151	114	1890
Faridabad (Haryana)	155	98	228	225	171	302	73	158	155	76	1641
Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh)	213	184	170	201	144	154	61	56	59	154	1396
Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)	181	454	307	442	407	396	185	376	119	0	2867
Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)	53	46	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	191	335
Jodhpur (Rajasthan)	85	274	137	102	133	117	166	152	216	6	1388
Kannur (Kerala)	21	17	11	9	13	12	10	11	7	27	138
Kollam (Kerala)	58	44	45	23	21	26	24	28	38	222	529
Kota (Rajasthan)	146	105	163	133	122	247	156	175	174	74	1495
Ludhiana (Punjab)	57	24	27	27	21	28	36	38	61	85	404
Madurai (Tamil Nadu)	67	101	64	87	115	124	86	93	117	11	865

Malappuram (Kerala)	49	37	8	10	22	23	10	9	24	0	192
Meerut (Uttar Pradesh)	12	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	43
Nasik (Maharashtra)	143	118	191	184	202	185	32	36	32	36	1159
Raipur (Chhattisgarh)	165	160	170	189	852	188	182	199	163	78	2346
Rajkot (Gujarat)	54	37	94	90	40	73	30	47	23	95	583
Ranchi (Jharkhand)	0	0	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	93
Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir)	20	44	100	47	19	62	31	51	32	17	423
Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)	32	12	11	57	18	22	4	3	5	27	191
Thrissur (Kerala)	15	33	35	25	51	44	65	48	19	59	394
Tiruchirapalli (Tamil Nadu)	18	0	22	0	27	53	62	50	73	100	405
Vadodara (Gujarat)	177	114	191	145	145	133	87	62	107	71	1232
Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)	16	0	14	28	56	42	50	38	69	165	478
Vasai Virar (Maharashtra)	82	64	90	113	133	73	40	72	74	56	797
Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh)	61	132	148	164	112	122	74	77	110	7	1007
Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)	74	49	87	162	117	119	61	67	73	39	848
Total	2694	2962	3325	3731	3950	3817	2180	2737	2605	2444	30445

Source: NCRB, Crime in India. The incomplete data sets pertaining to cities are not considered.

Crime distribution and temporal trends

The data represents 2016 to 2023 signifies a pervasive lens into the metropolitan juvenile violent crime dynamics across India. A cumulative total of 30,445 reported incidents reveals temporal fluctuations. Steady rise can be observed from 2016 (2,694 Cases) to a peak in 2018 (3,950 cases). A slight decline thereafter in 2023 (2,444 cases) socio economic disruptions and pandemic, a dip in 2020 (2,180 cases) signifies some cities are contributing a disproportionate share because Bhopal city in Madhya Pradesh alone contributes for 4,265 cases consist of 14% of national data followed by Jabalpur (2,867), Raipur (2,346). This reveals the Juvenile violent crime concentrates higher in the central India, cities share persistent high crime rates year after year. This is to be focused by the criminological inquiry. In contrast Meerut city of Uttar Pradesh, Kannur and Malappuram, Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala report consistently low crimes below 200 over the decade.

Emerging trends and Challenges

There is a need for complete administrative efforts, the rise of crime incidents in educational and historical tourist venues such Kota and Gwalior may reflect the issues, some industrial cities like Faridabad and Vadodara stands mid-level shares may be linked to labour and employment dynamics. Data also hints at possible migration of populations because of these cities are emerging and hubs for many socio-economic facilities. Smart policing initiatives such community-based surveillance and high alerts especially in controlling the juvenile crimes is essential.
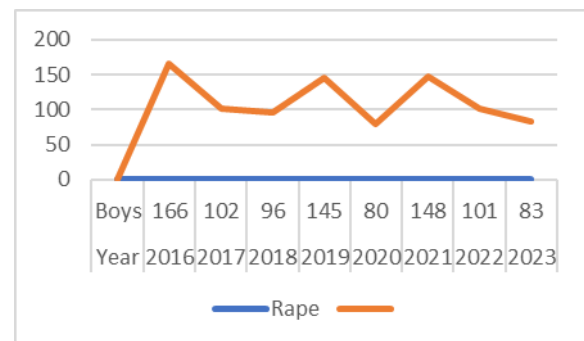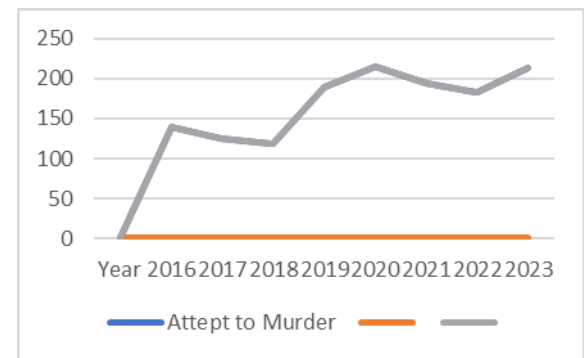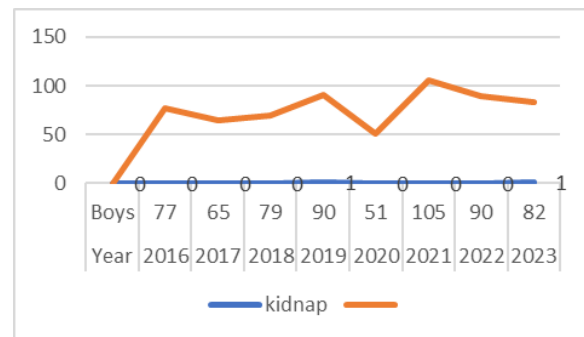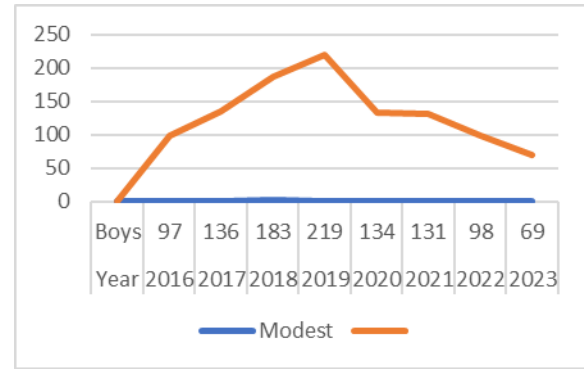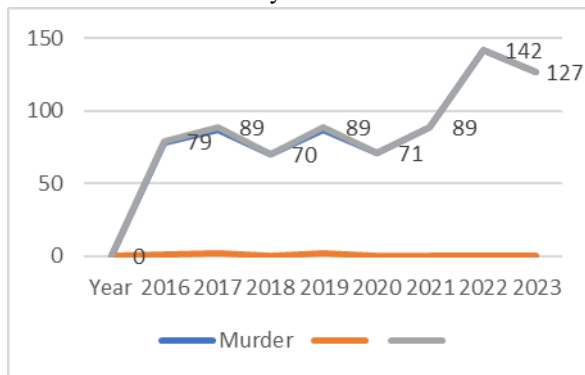
Table 2: The following table indicates the crime statistics of Violent crime heads and Gender wise juvenile involved from the year 2016 to 2023.
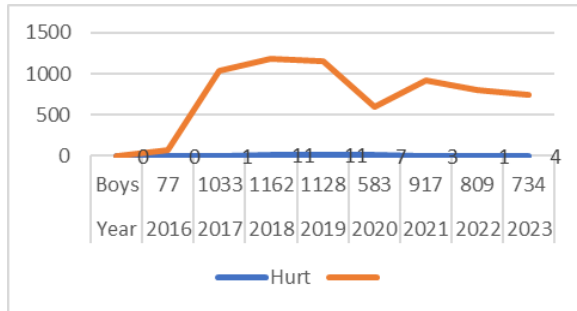
From 2016 to 2023			
	Boys	Girls	Total
Murder	751	7	758
Attempt to murder	1378	0	1378
Hurt	6443	38	6481
Against the modesty of women	1067	3	1070
Rape	921	0	921
Kidnap	639	2	641
Total	11199	50	11249

Gender Disparity

The data signifies a trepidation picture of juvenile serious crimes for 8 years of span boys share 99.6% of the cases 11,199 cases out 11,249 while girls are merely with 50 cases. Its officially the legal and criminological academic expertise can declare there is no much significance in female juvenile criminality in India. This suggest boys are more significantly involved in violent offences against human body related crimes. Interestingly the absence of female involvement in cases such Attempt to Murder, Rape, whereas kidnap and murder 2 and 7 correspondingly. Though the female involvement is present in Hurt (38 cases) may be under reported or overlooked in conventional narratives. However, outraging the modesty of Women, female involvement seems to distressing.

Table 3: The following table shows nature of juvenile crimes and year wise trends

	0	0	1	11	11	7	3	1	4
Boys	77	1033	1162	1128	583	917	809	734
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023

—Hurt

Dominance of Hurt and Sexual offences

The data shows the Hurt cases are most prevalent in juvenile violent crimes with histrionic rise from 77 cases in 1026 to over 1,173 in 2018 and sustained in 2023 (738), due to age analysis physical aggressive intents, gang violence, conflicts are possible incidents shows poor dynamics. The worrying factor is Juvenile Sexual offences, Rape cases require urgent attention towards safety, sex education and gender sensitization as well as emotional regulations.

Table 4: Crime Incidents among boys and girls, highlighting cases above 12 years from 2016 to 2023

Crime Head	Boys	Girls	Total
Murder	134	4	138
Attempt to Murder	303	0	303
Hurt	1785	7	1792
Modesty	238	1	239
Rape	267	0	267
Kidnap	121	0	121
Total	2848	12	2860

Juvenile Crime Composition and Gender Disparity

The data signifies overall 2,860 juvenile crime cases in which 2,848 boys and only 12 girls show gender disparity in juvenile violent crimes especially crimes against human body. Most prevalent crime is hurt accounting for 1,792 cases over 62% the physical aggression, interpersonal issues and misconducts are possible factors behind. 267 rape cases are disturbing factor of juvenile sexual violent crime, questions the influence of socio-economic and psychological factors. However, juvenile crime is not just a legal issue it is a major social problem which occurs due to unmet emotions and needs. Hence social responsibility of society plays significant role in order to regulate.

Table 5: Crime incidents among boys and girls, highlighting cases below 12 years from 2016 to 2023

Crime Head	Boys	Girls	Total
Murder	2	0	2
Attempt to Murder	5	0	5
Hurt	45	0	45
Against Modesty of Women	5	0	5
Rape	12	0	12
Kidnap	7	0	7
Total	76	0	76

The data shows total 76 juvenile crimes (below 12 years), no female involvement still the offence Hurt reported (45 Cases) is disturbing. The below 12 years age boys engaging in sexual offences are terrible factors (12 cases).

V. KEY FINDINGS

Juvenile violent Crimes (Crimes against Human Body) is major concern to the society the increasing trends shows the proactive regulation and strict vigilance over the young boys in India especially in metropolitan cities (urban ventures).

1. Total of 30,445 incidents of Juvenile Violent Crimes (Crimes against Human Body- Murder, Rape, Kidnap, Against Modesty of Women, Hurt, Attempt to Murder) were reported between 2016 to 2023, signifies certain cities contribute disproportionately to the crime trends
2. Data shows the pattern and distribution of Juvenile violent crimes concentrates higher in the central India, lesser from the southern states for over a decade.
3. for over 8 years of span, juvenile serious crimes 11,249 cases, in which boys involve in 99.6% (11,199 cases) shows the lesser of female juvenile violent crimes in India, boys' involvement is higher.
4. The data shows the Hurt cases are most prevalent in juvenile violent crimes with histrionic rise.
5. Rape cases require urgent attention towards safety, sex education and gender sensitization as well as emotional regulations.

Social Concerns and Challenges

1. Migration of populations from various places to urban centres: Rapid migration towards the city

creates alienation in the environmental conditions. When the opportunities are strained juvenile often face issues in their behavioural outcome.

2. Socio-Economic issues: Poverty, lack of education causes frustration among youth, economic conditions limit the chances of better life.

3. Lack of Moral upbringing: Poor value system and ethics leads to vulnerable conditions without any sort of strong foundation for early childhood.

4. Socialization: Isolated poor family advices, poor peer hinders, weak social bonds among family, pathetic conditions may lead to anti-social tendencies.

5. Brocken Homes: Early abuse, neglect, divorced parents, conflict parenthood causes for susceptibility to violence.

6. Parenting Negligence: Absence of proper supervision, no care and love will cause risky violent behaviour. Parenting without proper values will lead to the development of criminal tendencies.

7. Technology & Media: Over exposure to the violent content, aggression, brutal scenes, glorification of gore and sex, lack of parental guidance, unchecked digital handling shapes distorted values and violent tendencies.

VI. CONCLUSION

This study reveals a painful picture of juvenile crimes in India; lot of disparities needs targeted interventions to curb the juvenile violent crimes. There is a need of comprehensive empirical research that should integrate with criminology, forensic psychology and social work expertise to frame a best rehabilitative frameworks and solutions.

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