

Study on Parental Perception on Increase in Crime Against Children

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Abstract—The study aims to examine parents' attitudes towards the increasing crime against children, as children are the most vulnerable and innocent victims, with sexual abuses and physical abuses being more prevalent in our nation. Focusing on factors influencing this issue, awareness of laws related to crime against children, and potential preventive measures. The research was conducted in Mangaluru city, with parents as respondents. Most parents are aware of the increasing crime against children and are concerned about sexual abuse. They are familiar with laws but not confident in the justice system's ability to handle such crimes. They favour harsher punishment and stricter laws for crime against children. To address this issue, stricter laws are needed. Encouraging open communication and educating children about self-defence are crucial. And reporting concerns are also essential to ensure the safety of children.

Index Terms—crime against children, parental perception, prevention, punishment.

I. INTRODUCTION

crime as "an intentional act or omission in violation of criminal law, committed without defence or justification, and sanctioned by the state for punishment" (Paul Tappan). It encompasses a range of behaviours, from minor infractions to severe offenses, and its interpretation is influenced by varying legal jurisdictions and evolving social norms. While legal frameworks define specific criminal acts, sociological perspectives also highlight how societal structures and power dynamics shape what is deemed criminal. Children are the future of a nation as they are the ones who will take the country in the track of progress and prosperity but in present scenario the crime rate against the builders of the nation i.e. "children" are

increasing day by day. Children are the most vulnerable and innocent victims of crime. They can be easily targeted and many times they being targeted by the known people. They can be parents, relatives, caretakers, guardian or any other who are being appointed to look after them. They are being forcefully indulged in various activities such as trafficking, begging, sexual offence etc they are being sold just for the sake of money, and are being killed also. Sexual offence against the children is a very serious crime which not only affects them physically but also, they are mentally affected. This article deals with the various offences against the children including the sexual offences.

II. METHODOLOGY

Methodology refers to the comprehensive strategy and plan employed to address a research topic or evaluate a hypothesis. The objective followed by the study is

- To find the various factors influencing crime against children
- To examine the different perception of parents on increase in specific crime against children
- To study the awareness on the laws regarding crime against children
- To determine parent's opinion regarding punishment for crime against children

The present study is empirical in nature and the data is collected accordingly. Data collected with preplanned questionnaire consists of 24 questions. For conducting this study, The researcher has chosen parents and non-parents 25-55 years who residing in mangaluru city as the universe for the study. After getting consent from the respondents the researcher collected the data through face-to-face verbal communication.

Researcher will get 100 samples from 100 parents in total. Purposive sampling method was chosen as sampling technique. The response of the sample will be analyzed in Microsoft Excel and SPSS software and the data will be presented in tables and graph. The limitations are

- The research was limited because of time restrictions.
- Only 100 samples were used in the study, more samples might have produced more accurate results.
- The range of samples was constrained to a particular region.

III. DATA INTERPRETATION

Data analysis is the process where through logical and systematic techniques, the data gets evaluated and an unbiased inference gets illustrated. The data from the

bi-variant table has been cross-related for interpretation.

TABLE NO:1 Gender and factors influencing crimes against children

Crime against children is a complex issue with contributing factors at different levels. Individual child characteristics like age, gender, or disabilities can play a role. Family situations with poor parenting skills, domestic violence, or substance abuse can increase risk. Social factors like poverty, lack of community support, or exposure to violence in the environment also contribute. It's important to remember these are just risk factors, not guarantees. Understanding this complex web of influences is crucial to preventing crimes against children.

Male and female have different perception about factors influencing crime against children that's why the researcher choose gender as independent variable and factors as dependent variable.

		FACTORS INFLUENCE IN INCREASE OF CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN					Total
		.00	increased access to technology	lack of awareness about child safety	breakdown of family structure	lack of education	
GENDER	Count	5	11	14	8	3	41
	male % of	5.0%	11.0%	14.0%	8.0%	3.0%	41.0%
	Total						
	Count	4	25	13	10	7	59
	female % of	4.0%	25.0%	13.0%	10.0%	7.0%	59.0%
	Total						
Total	Count	9	36	27	18	10	100
	% of Total	9.0%	36.0%	27.0%	18.0%	10.0%	100.0%

The data shown in the above table no (1) indicates that 59 percentage of respondents are female where as 41 percentage of them are male. The data shown in the table (1) pertaining to the factors influencing crime against children indicates that 36 percentage of the respondents that increased access to technology is the major factor influencing crime against children followed by 27 percentage of respondents stated that lack of awareness about child safety are the reason for crime against children where as 18 percentage of respondents opined that breakdown of family structure is the factor influencing crime against children only 10

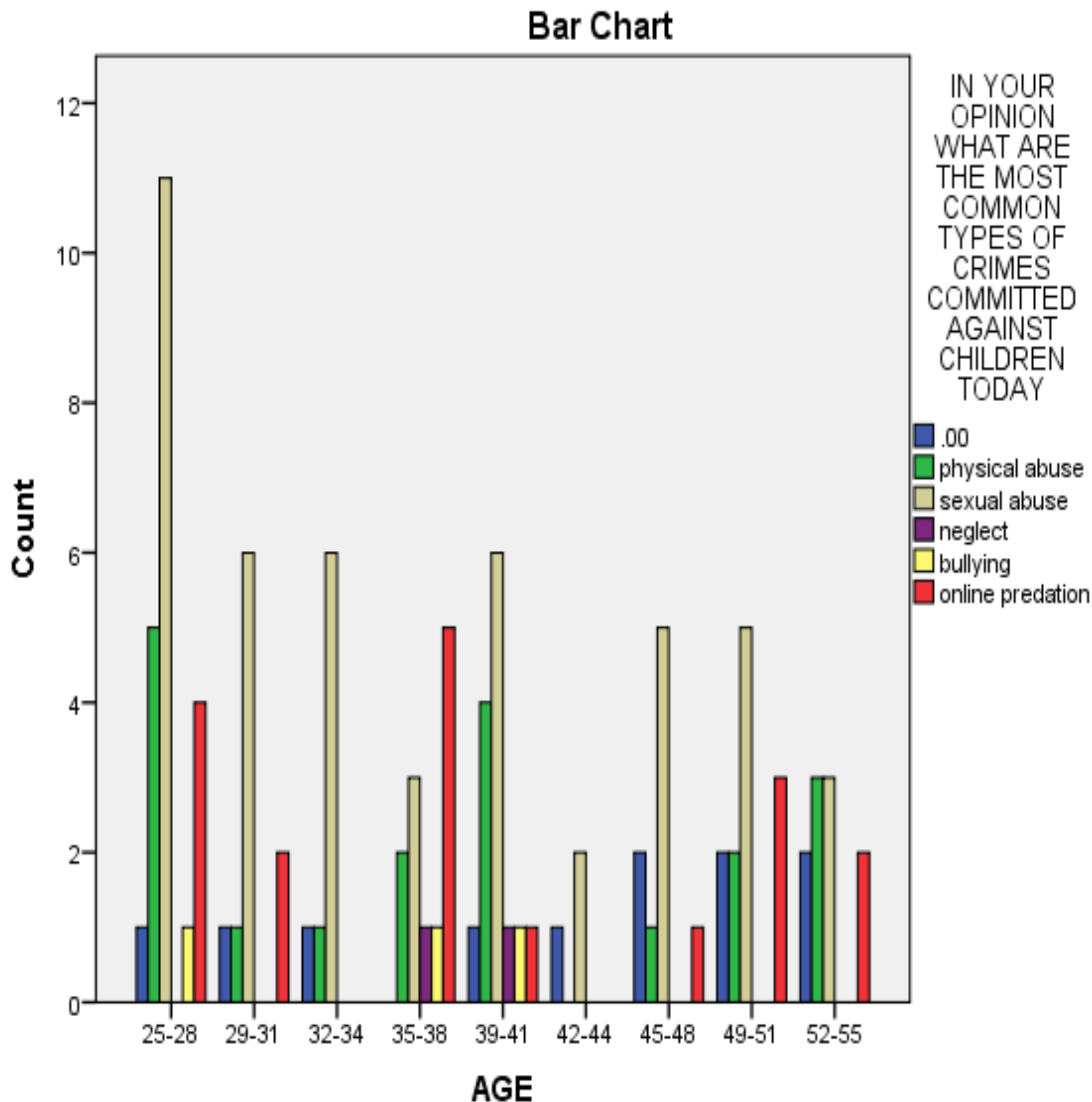
percentage of respondents stated that lack of education is the cause for crime against children.

CHART NO.1 Age and common types of crimes committed against children today

children are vulnerable to a range of horrific crimes. Some of the most common ones include physical and emotional abuse, neglect, and sexual exploitation. This sexual exploitation can take many forms, from child sexual abuse and the creation or distribution of child pornography to sex trafficking. Shockingly, these crimes are often perpetrated by people entrusted with

a child's care, like family members or caregivers. Researcher choose age as independent variable

because different age group have different opinion about types of crimes against children.



The data shown in the above chart (1) indicates that 22 percentage of respondents are in the age of 25 – 28 years followed by 14 percentage of respondents from the age category of 39-41 years 12 percentage of respondents each from the age of 35-38 years and 49-51 years respectively 10 percentage of each respondents from the age of 29-31 years and 52-55 years respectively 9 percentage of respondents are from the age of 45-48 years whereas 8 percentage of respondents from the age of 32-34 years only 3 percentage of respondents are from the age of 42-44 years. The data shown in the chart (1) pertaining

common types of crimes committed against children today indicates that 47 percentage of the respondents that sexual abuse is the major type of crime committed against children today followed by 19 percentage of respondents stated that physical abuse is the type of crimes committed against children today 18 percentage of respondents opined that online predation is the type of crime committed against children today whereas 3 percentage of respondents opined that bullying is the type of crime committed against children today only 2 percentage of respondents stated that neglect is the type of crime against children today.

TABLE NO.2 Residential area and familiar with the laws regarding crime against children

Laws around the world take a strong stance against crimes against children. These laws typically define a specific age below which a child cannot consent to any sexual activity. They criminalize acts like physical or

sexual abuse, neglect, exploitation, and endangerment. Many countries also have laws against child marriage and trafficking. The goal is to protect children, who are seen as vulnerable and unable to make informed decisions, from harm. Researcher choose residential area as independent variable to find out people are aware about the laws regarding crime against children.

			FAMILIAR WITH THE LAWS REGARDING CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN				Total
			yes	no	somewhat familiar	5.00	
RESIDENTIAL AREA	urban	Count	0	1	1	0	2
		% of Total	0.0%	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	2.0%
	rural	Count	15	13	24	0	52
		% of Total	15.0%	13.0%	24.0%	0.0%	52.0%
	semi-urban	Count	8	15	22	1	46
		% of Total	8.0%	15.0%	22.0%	1.0%	46.0%
	Total	Count	23	29	47	1	100
		% of Total	23.0%	29.0%	47.0%	1.0%	100.0%

The data shown in the above table (2) indicates that 46 percentage of respondents are from semi urban area followed by 52 percentage are from rural area whereas 2 percentage are from urban area. The data shown in the table (2) pertaining to familiar with the laws regarding crimes against children indicates that 47 percentage of the respondents that somewhat familiar in the laws regarding crime against children followed by 29 percentage of respondents stated that not familiar with the laws regarding crime against children whereas 23 percentage of respondents opined that they are familiar with the laws regarding crime against children.

TABLE NO.3 Family type and the opinion about justice system ability to effectively handle crimes against children

The justice system faces challenges in effectively handling crimes against children. While its aim is to deliver justice for victims and hold perpetrators

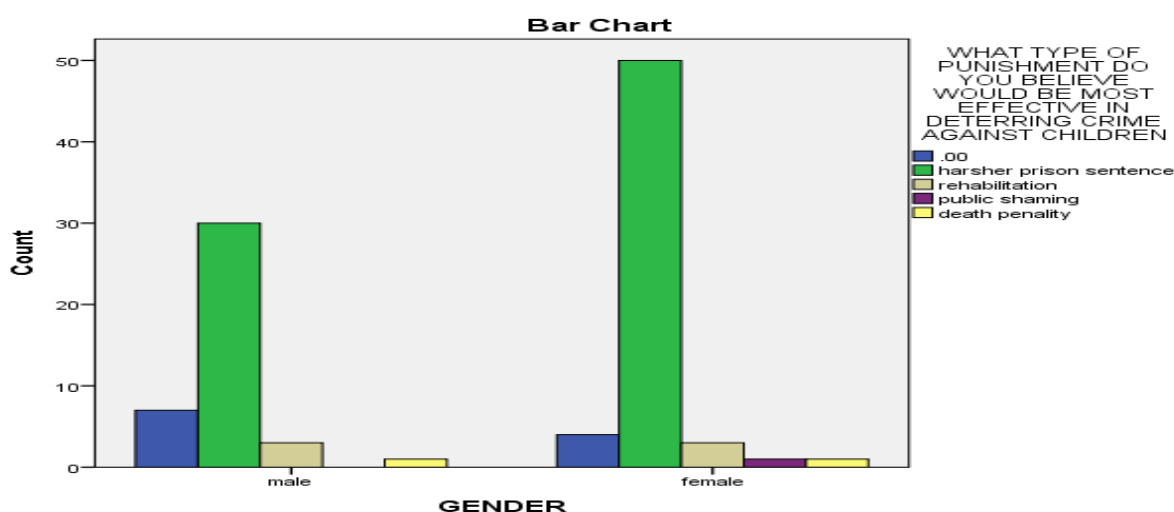
accountable, several factors hinder this process. First, investigating and prosecuting these crimes requires specialized skills and training for legal professionals to understand child development and properly interview young victims. Second, the emotional trauma experienced by children can make it difficult for them to come forward and provide clear testimony. Third, resource limitations can strain the system, leading to case backlogs and delays that further traumatize victims. Despite these obstacles, there are ongoing efforts to improve the system's response. Training programs for law enforcement and court personnel, child-friendly interview spaces, and victim support services are all crucial steps towards ensuring a more effective and sensitive handling of crimes against children. Researcher choose family type as independent variable because different type of family has different opinion about the justice system ability to effectively handle crimes against children.

			OPINION ABOUT THE JUSTICE SYSTEMS ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY HANDLE CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN					Total
			very confident	somewhat confident	neutral	somewhat not confident	not confident at all	
FAMILY TYPE	joint family	Count	1	2	4	4	5	16
		% of Total	1.0%	2.0%	4.0%	4.0%	5.0%	16.0%
	nuclear family	Count	7	14	23	27	13	84
		% of Total	7.0%	14.0%	23.0%	27.0%	13.0%	84.0%
Total		Count	8	16	27	31	18	100
		% of Total	8.0%	16.0%	27.0%	31.0%	18.0%	100.0%

The data shown in the above table (3) indicates that 84 percentage of respondents are from nuclear family where as 16 percentage from join family. The data shown in the table (3) pertaining to the justice system ability to effectively handle the crime against children indicates that 31percentage of the respondents that somewhat not confident in the justice systems ability to handling the crime against children followed by 27 percentage of respondents stated that neutral opinion about justice system 16 percentage of respondents opined that somewhat confident in the justice systems 18 percentage of respondents stated that they are not confident at all in the justice systems ability to handling the crime against children only 8 percentage of respondents stated that very confident in the justice system.

(CHART NO. 2) Gender and opinion about the type of punishment do you believe would be most effective in deterring crime against children

There's no single most effective punishment for deterring crimes against children. However, a multi-pronged approach can be powerful. One key element is ensuring swift and certain consequences. Long delays in the justice system can lessen the impact of punishment. Additionally, combining strong prison sentences for serious offenses with mandatory treatment programs for some offenders can address both retribution and potential rehabilitation. Public awareness campaigns that highlight the severity of these crimes and support resources for victims can also play a crucial role in deterring potential perpetrators. Researcher choose gender as independent variable because male and female have different opinion about the punishment regarding crime against children.



The data shown in the above chart (2) indicates that 59 percentage of respondents are female where as 41 percentage of them are male. The data shown in the chart (2) pertaining to the most effective punishment in deterring crimes against children indicates that 80 percentage of the respondents that harsher prison sentence is the most effective in deterring crime against children followed by 6 percentage of respondents stated that rehabilitation is the effective way to deter crime against children where as 2 percentage of respondents opined that death penalty is the way to deter crime against children only 1percentage of respondents stated that public shaming is the way to deter crime against children.

IV. FINDINGS

The study was focused on the parental perception on increase in crime against children in Mangalore City, Karnataka. The number of samples was 100 from different parents in Mangalore city. The following are the major findings of the study.

- Most of the parents are aware about crime against children. They are very concerned about the increase in crime against children.
- Study reveals that 47% of irrespective of their age are stated that sexual abuse are the common type of crime committed against children.
- In their opinion there are so many factors are influencing crime against children such as increased access to technology, lack of awareness about child safety, breakdown of family structure, lack of education. Study reveals that 36% of irrespective of their gender stated that increased access technology is the major factor influencing crime against children.
- 47% of irrespective of their residential area are stated that somewhat familiar with the laws regarding crimes against children.
- 31% of irrespective of their family type are stated that somewhat not confident in the justice systems ability to handle crime against children.
- 80% of irrespective of their gender are stated that harsher punishment is the most effective way to deterring the crime against children and they are supporting stricter laws for crime against children.

V. SUGGESTION

Crime against children are increasing day by day so the study indicates that to overcome this scenario to implement stricter laws for crime against children. Now a days children are more vulnerable in everywhere so make sure the safety of children and educate children about staying safe and teach them self-defence also. encourage open communication and teach them to report any concern. To preventing the scenario should be give effective punishment for deterring crime against children.

VI. CONCLUSION

The conclusion is to make sure the safety of a child and to Educate them about the vulnerabilities of outside world. Encourage open communication with parents and give concern about child safety. Government should also increase the punishment what currently exists and give proper awareness about child safety. Crime against children is a complex issue that requires comprehensive efforts from various sectors of society. By implementing preventive measures, early intervention strategies, and providing appropriate support and treatment, we can work towards minimizing the impact of crimes against children lives of children and fostering healthier futures for them.

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