

Towards a Safer India: Policy Frameworks for Effective Crime Prevention

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Abstract—Crime prevention continues to pose a significant challenge for India's criminal justice system, necessitating a multi-faceted and proactive policy approach. This research paper investigates the current crime prevention frameworks in India, evaluating their effectiveness, shortcomings, and potential for reform. It analyses legislative actions, law enforcement strategies, community-driven initiatives, and technological advancements that together influence India's preventive landscape. By utilizing national crime data, policy documents, and international best practices, the study underscores the necessity for a transition from reactive policing to preventive governance. It highlights the importance of inter-agency collaboration, public engagement, and evidence-based policymaking in creating a safer and more equitable society. Furthermore, the paper promotes inclusive strategies that tackle the underlying causes of crime, including socio-economic disparities, educational deficiencies, and unemployment. In conclusion, the research emphasizes the significance of a comprehensive and integrated policy framework that not only deters criminal activity but also enhances public trust and social unity in India. A multi-layered policy framework is essential—one that integrates urban planning, social welfare, education, and technology with traditional policing methods. Strengthening institutional coordination among law enforcement agencies, judiciary, and community organizations is also critical. Moreover, modernizing the criminal justice system, improving data-driven policing, and ensuring transparency and accountability are key components of an effective framework. The role of preventive legislation, victim support services, and rehabilitation of offenders is discussed as part of a comprehensive approach.

The document also emphasizes effective global crime prevention models and their applicability to India, advocating for flexible, evidence-driven policymaking. The involvement of marginalized groups in the policy-making process and the advancement of gender-sensitive policing further guarantee equitable safety. By adopting an integrated and participatory approach to policy design, India can achieve considerable

progress towards a safer society. This research concludes that although substantial reforms have been implemented, there are still gaps in execution, inter-agency collaboration, and public involvement. Looking ahead, a restructured, inclusive, and technology-enhanced crime prevention framework is essential for tackling emerging threats and safeguarding the security and welfare of all citizens. The journey towards a safer India depends on the adoption of preventive strategies that are fair, inclusive, and future-oriented.

Index Terms— Community driven, Future- oriented, Marginalized, Preventive.

I. INTRODUCTION

Preventing the onset of an illness is not only easier but also more beneficial for health than seeking a remedy and mitigating its harmful effects. This age-old wisdom applies similarly to the issue of crime. Violence and crime can be likened to an epidemic of a contagious disease. Criminal acts and violence affect not just individuals but also the broader community. Various interpretations have been provided by criminologists, politicians, intellectuals, and social workers. The factors attributed to the rise in crime encompass unemployment, economic stagnation, inadequacies within the criminal justice system, overpopulation, illiteracy, and insufficient resources for law enforcement. Crime, in essence, is the shadow cast by civilization. Its magnitude and form are influenced by societal structure and thus evolve with the progress and development of the system. Each era presents its unique and specific challenges regarding crime; however, in many respects, the issue of crime is as ancient as humanity itself, with changes merely reflecting variations of a long-standing theme. Crime encompasses a wide range of activities, including theft, fraud, robbery, corruption, assault, rape, and murder. Nevertheless, it is worthwhile to consider what these diverse

activities and their even more varied perpetrators share in common. Some may define crime simply as the commission of wrongdoing, a perspective closely tied to moral concepts. However, not all actions or behaviours deemed immoral are classified as crimes. For instance, poverty and social deprivation may be viewed as 'crimes against humanity' but are typically not recognized as criminal acts. Conversely, certain actions that are classified as crimes, such as parking in a restricted area or, in some instances, tax evasion, may not be perceived as immoral.¹

In the current context, prevention is defined by criminologists in a narrow manner, specifically as the act of preventing criminal behaviour through proactive measures involving both individual and environmental modifications. To elaborate, this form of prevention encompasses initiatives aimed at enhancing family dynamics, fostering improved school adjustments, providing education and recreational opportunities intended to cultivate responsible and virtuous citizens, as well as utilizing resources in the domains of social work, medicine, and psychiatry. It is clear that such programs can be effectively executed in societies that possess a certain level of affluence. Conversely, in nations like India, which are plagued by widespread poverty, the shortcomings of preventive programs observed in other regions are likely to be more pronounced.²

Crime Prevention refers to the measures taken to avert the occurrence of future crimes within a society. It represents an effort to halt or diminish actions that constitute criminal behaviour. The significance of crime prevention is paramount in fostering a safer environment for a nation's citizens. Policing aimed at reducing crime can be categorized as either proactive or reactive. Proactive crime prevention policing seeks to prevent crimes from occurring initially, whereas reactive policing focuses on addressing crimes that have already taken place. The reactive approach often imposes a financial strain on the Indian Justice System and contributes to the dissatisfaction of the general public in their pursuit of justice.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)³ has recently released its annual report entitled "Crime in India for 2022," which offers a detailed analysis of crime patterns throughout the country. What are the Key Highlights of NCRB's Crime in India 2022 Report?

(a) *Overall Crime Statistics:*

A total of more than 58,00,000 cognizable offenses were recorded, including both the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special & Local Laws (SLL) crimes. The number of registered cases experienced a 4.5% decrease in comparison to 2021.

(b) *Crime Rate Decline:*

The crime rate per lakh population dropped from 445.9 in 2021 to 422.2 in 2022. This decline is considered a more reliable indicator, considering the impact of population growth on absolute crime numbers.

(c) *Safest City:*

Kolkata has been recognized as the safest city in India for the third consecutive year, having recorded the lowest number of cognizable offences per lakh population among major cities. Pune (Maharashtra) and Hyderabad (Telangana) followed in the second and third positions, respectively.

(d) *Increase in Cyber Crimes:*

Reports of cybercrime increased by 24.4%, reaching a total of 65,893 cases, a notable rise from 52,974 cases in 2021. Cyber fraud made up the majority of these cases (64.8%), followed by extortion (5.5%) and sexual exploitation (5.2%). The crime rate in this category escalated from 3.9 in 2021 to 4.8 in 2022.

(e) *Suicides and Their Causes:*

In 2022, India experienced a significant rise in suicides, with over 1.7 lakh cases reported, indicating a concerning increase of 4.2% compared to 2021. The suicide rate also saw a rise of 3.3%, calculated as the number of suicides per lakh of the population. Major contributing factors included

¹ Roger Hopkins Burke, *An Introduction to Criminological Theory* 5 (Willian Publishing, USA, 2nd edn., 2005).

² Ahmed Siddique, *Criminology* 289 (Eastern Book Company, Lucknow, 5th edn., 2007).

³ Government of India, "Report of the National Crime Record Beurea" (Ministry of Home Affairs, 2022).

'Family Problems,' 'Marriage Related Problems,' bankruptcy and indebtedness, 'Unemployment and professional issues,' and illness. Maharashtra recorded the highest number of suicides, closely followed by Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Telangana.

Daily wage earners represented a significant segment, accounting for 26.4% of total suicides. Agricultural workers and farmers were also disproportionately affected, making up a substantial portion of the suicide statistics. This was followed by unemployed individuals, who constituted 9.2% of all suicides reported in India in 2022. Among all reported suicides for the year, over 12,000 involved students.

(f) *Rising Crimes Against SCs and STs:*

The Crime in India report indicated an overall increase in crimes and atrocities against Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) individuals. States such as Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana saw a rise in such cases in 2022.

Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan continue to be significant contributors, consistently ranking among the top five states with the highest occurrences of crimes against SCs and STs.

(g) *Crimes Against Women:*

In 2022, there were 4,45,256 reported cases of crimes against women, reflecting a 4% rise from 2021. The primary categories included 'Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives,' 'Kidnapping & Abduction of Women,' and 'Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage Her Modesty.'

(h) *Crimes Against Children:*

The number of crimes against children increased by 8.7% compared to 2021. A significant portion of these cases involved kidnapping and abduction (45.7%), while 39.7% were registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

(i) *Crime against Senior Citizens:*

The cases of crimes against senior citizens rose by 9.3%, total 28,545 cases compared to 26,110 in 2021. The majority of these incidents (27.3%) were related to physical harm, followed by theft (13.8%) and offenses such as forgery, cheating, and fraud (11.2%).

(j) *Animal Attacks on the Rise:*

The NCRB report indicates a troubling increase in the number of individuals either dying or being injured due to animal attacks, with a notable 19% rise in such occurrences in 2022 compared to 2021.

Maharashtra recorded the highest number of incidents, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh, each with varying case numbers. Additionally, cases of animal/reptile and insect bites also saw a 16.7% increase, with Rajasthan reporting the highest number of bite incidents, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh, respectively.

(k) *Environment-Related Crime:*

In 2022, the total number of environmental crimes in India decreased by approximately 18% compared to 2021. Environmental offenses encompass violations of seven acts: The Forest Act, 1927, Forest Conservation Act, 1980, The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, The Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, and the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. The cases registered for violating the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 have increased by around 42%. Violations registered under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 also have increased by around 31%.

(l) *Offences Against the State:*

In 2022, there was a slight uptick in offences against the State compared to the previous year. Specifically, cases registered under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) saw an approximate increase of 25% during this timeframe. In contrast, there was a notable decrease in cases related to the sedition section of the IPC. This decline in sedition cases can likely be linked to the Supreme Court's ruling in May 2022, which placed sedition cases in abeyance (suspended).

(m) *Rise in Economic Offences:*

Economic offences are classified into categories such as criminal breach of trust, forgery, cheating, fraud (FCF), and counterfeiting. The majority of cases were attributed to FCF, total 1,70,901 cases,

followed by criminal breach of trust with 21,814 cases and counterfeiting with 670 cases.

The Crime in India report revealed that government authorities confiscated fake Indian currency notes (FICN) amounting to over Rs.342 crore in 2022.

(n) *Crimes Against Foreigners:*

There were 192 cases reported against foreigners, marking a 28% increase from 150 cases in 2021. Of the victims, 56.8% were from the Asian continent, while 18% originated from African nations.

(o) *High Chargesheeting Rates:*

The states with the highest rates of charge sheeting for IPC crimes include Kerala, Puducherry, and West Bengal. The charge sheeting rate indicates the number of cases where the police have progressed to the stage of framing charges against the accused, relative to the total number of true cases (where a charge sheet was not filed but a final report was submitted as true, in addition to the total cases that were charge-sheeted).

II. MEASURES TO PREVENT THE CRIME

Currently, crime is no longer merely a societal issue; instead, it has evolved into a challenge affecting a nation's social, cultural, political, and economic landscape. Governments have been endeavouring to create and enforce regulations aimed at curbing social crimes; however, to this day, many of the prevention strategies have largely proven ineffective⁴. Crime prevention involves various strategies and measures designed to diminish the likelihood of crimes occurring and to mitigate their potential adverse impacts on individuals and society.

Situational Crime Prevention

The approach of situational crime prevention concentrates on the location or environment where a crime may take place, with particular emphasis on certain types of crimes. This is a preventive strategy that does not seek to enhance societal conditions but rather to diminish the 'opportunities for crime'. An

illustration of SCP in action is the implementation of Automated Traffic Enforcement Systems (ATES), which utilize automated cameras on roadways to identify drivers who exceed speed limits or disregard red traffic signals. Such systems are widely employed across the globe. They have been installed and promoted as a measure to reduce instances of illegal driving. For a potential offender, an individual contemplating speeding or running a red light is aware that their likelihood of being apprehended is nearly 100% with these systems in place. This effectively discourages individuals from engaging in speeding or running red lights in areas where they are aware that ATES are operational.⁵

Developmental Crime Prevention

This approach is implemented to enable individuals from a young age to make improved decisions, thereby preventing crime that arises from behaviours influenced by adverse past experiences. Developmental crime prevention aims to deter offenders who are driven by their environment, which may include impulsive criminal actions. This strategy is intended to foster a safer community for everyone.

Community Crime Prevention

Community crime prevention strategies aim to implement modifications in community infrastructure, culture, or the physical environment to deter criminal activity. These strategies engage residents, community members, non-governmental organizations, and local government agencies in addressing crime at the local level.⁶

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Surveillance: Public surveillance systems consist of a network of cameras and associated components designed for monitoring, recording, and transmitting video footage. The primary objective of deploying public surveillance cameras is to diminish both property and personal crime.

Enhancing Street Lighting: A strategy for crime prevention that focuses on enhancing street lighting

⁴ Crime Prevention: What can the government do to lower the crime rate? available at: <https://lawtimesjournal.in/crime-prevention-what-can-the-government-do-to-lower-the-crime-rate/> (last visited on April 22, 2024)

⁵ Dr. S.N Myneni, *Crime and Criminology* 133 (Allahabad law agency, Faridabad, 1st edn., 2017).

⁶ Crime Prevention Strategies and approaches in Crime Prevention, available at: https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/epgpdata/uploads/epgp_content/S001608/P001807/M027587/ET/1521106439E-TEXT.pdf (last visited on June 21, 2024).

to mitigate crime by modifying and improving environmental conditions.

Community Watch Programs: Commonly referred to as block watch, apartment watch, home watch, and community watch, these initiatives engage citizens in efforts to deter crime within their neighbourhoods or communities. Participants stay vigilant for any suspicious activities and promptly report them to law enforcement.⁷

Preventive Programs: The preventive approach is evident in the following strategies implemented in crime prevention programs:

(a) *Psychiatric Clinics:* The aim of psychiatric assistance, provided by psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, and psychiatric social workers, is to support potential delinquents by comprehending their personality issues and subsequently offering treatment and counselling at suitable times. The extent and availability of psychiatric services in India can be readily envisioned⁸.

(b) *Educational Programs* - In spite of the POCSO Act being in place, proactive prevention strategies like the incorporation of Personal Safety Education (PSE) into the school curriculum, as specified in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, can equip children and adolescents with the necessary knowledge and skills to prevent and combat child sexual abuse (CSA). The program employs a comprehensive approach to educate children on how to identify and react to abuse. It works in partnership with adult caregivers, including school administrators and parents, to foster a safe environment and offer a secure space for disclosure.⁹

Recreation is crucial for children, just as it is for others, in fostering a healthy mind. For a child, nothing holds more significance and seriousness than play. The games they engage in should be wholesome and contribute positively to their development. Wholesomeness is typically assessed according to middle-class standards. Games should be free from vagrancy or immorality. Activities such as music, dance, and both outdoor and indoor games

can have a beneficial impact on a child's growth. An idle mind can become a breeding ground for negativity; therefore, it is essential to provide children with a healthy environment filled with games that they enjoy. Children who are inclined to cause trouble for themselves and others can be redirected through engaging games; otherwise, over time, they may develop mental disorders that could lead to violent behaviour and criminality.¹⁰

III. MODERN TECHNIQUES FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRIME

At present, penologists' strategies for crime prevention revolve around five key considerations:

(i) The offender is fundamentally a human being. Thus, there should be a stronger emphasis on the individualization of the offender for the purpose of reformation;

(ii) The aim of imprisonment is to facilitate the re-socialization of the prisoner through rehabilitation:

(iii) There is an increased necessity for legislative involvement in the development of correctional policy, ensuring that correctional theory and practice adhere to the rule of law within the criminal justice system.

(iv) Managing delinquency necessitates an ecological interpretation of sociological issues. Consequently, to mitigate the occurrence of crime, the factors that foster criminality must also be regulated.

(v) There is a requirement for 'socializing' the administration of criminal justice through enhanced public engagement and intervention by community representatives, both during criminal court proceedings and in the enforcement of sentences. Therefore, it is essential to bridge the gap between criminal justice and the community, as both judges and those being judged are integral parts of the same society. Social involvement in the administration of criminal justice can be achieved through the implementation of a jury system, Honorary Magistrates, people's assessors, technical advisors, and administrative boards.¹¹

⁷ S.M Afzal Qadri, *Criminology* 301 (Eastern Book Company, Lucknow, 5th edn., 1998).

⁸ *Id* at 290

⁹ Pooja Taparia, Anchna Mathew "Why personal safety education is the need of the Hour" *The Hindu*, April 06, 2024.

¹⁰ Dr. S.S Srivastva, *Criminology Criminal Administration* 351 (Central Law Agency, Allahabad, 3rd edn., 2007).

¹¹ N.V. Pranjape, *Criminology and Penology* 728 (Central Law Publications, Allahabad, 19th edn., 2023).

E-Beat: E-beat refers to the electronic beat utilized by a constable's night patrol attendance system, designed to replace the previous method of manually recording time and attendance. This system aids in conserving the duty time of any constable during sign-in/sign-off at various beat points.

In this method, the traditional beat book is substituted with a Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) tag, which possesses a unique ID and is affixed at the location of the beat point book. The pen is replaced by a compact handheld RFID Tag Reader that captures the unique ID of the tag when it is operated in proximity to the tag.

Crime Mapping: Crime Mapping is a technique employed by analysts within law enforcement agencies to map, visualize, and analyse patterns of crime incidents. It serves as a fundamental aspect of crime analysis and the CompStat policing strategy. By utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for crime mapping, crime analysts can identify crime hot spots, along with other trends and patterns related to criminal activity.

Crime Analysis: Crime analysis is a technique used in law enforcement that entails the systematic examination of crime data to identify analytical patterns and trends in crime and disorder. Insights into these patterns can assist law enforcement agencies in deploying resources more effectively and aid detectives in identifying and apprehending suspects. Furthermore, crime analysis is crucial in developing solutions to crime-related issues and in formulating strategies for crime prevention.¹²

As a result of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, nearly all offenses are now subject to arrest, and the detention limit at police stations can be prolonged beyond 24 hours for all offenses.¹³

IV. ROLE OF POLICE IN PREVENTION OF CRIME

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) is set to replace the Criminal Procedure

Code, 1973 (Cr.PC). The Cr.PC outlines the procedures for arrest, prosecution, and bail.

- The BNSS requires forensic investigations for offenses that carry a punishment of seven years of imprisonment or more. Forensic specialists will be dispatched to crime scenes to gather forensic evidence and document the process.

- All trials, inquiries, and proceedings may be conducted electronically. The presentation of electronic communication devices, which may contain digital evidence, will be permitted for investigation, inquiry, or trial.

- Under the BNSS, police custody may extend up to 15 days, which can be granted in segments during the initial 40 or 60 days of the 60 or 90 days of judicial custody. This could result in the denial of bail for the entire duration if the police have not utilized the full 15 days of custody.¹⁴

Offences against Public Tranquillity

(a) Unlawful Assembly¹⁵:

- Being a member of unlawful assembly.
- Joining an unlawful assembly with deadly weapons.
- Joining or continuing in an unlawful assembly.
- Hiring of persons to join an unlawful assembly.
- Harbouring persons hired for an unlawful assembly.
- Being hired to take part in an unlawful assembly.

(b) Rioting¹⁶ The prerequisites for applying this provision is that there should have been an unlawful assembly as defined in section 141, that force or violence was used by the assembly or by any member of the assembly thereof in prosecution of common object of the assembly and that finally that an offence has been committed and it is punished under section 147 IPC

(c) Promoting Communal Violence between different Classes¹⁷

¹² Dr. N. Maheshwara Swamy, *Criminology and Criminal Justice System* 134-135 (Asia Law House, Hyderabad, 1st edn., 2013).

¹³ Jannet Loveless, *Criminal Law* 29 (Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2nd edn., 2010)

¹⁴ The Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 available at: <https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the->

bharatiya-nagarik-suraksha-sanhita-2023 (last visited on June 21, 2024)

¹⁵ The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Act 45 of 2023), s.189

¹⁶ The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Act 45 of 2023), s.191.

¹⁷ The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Act 45 of 2023), s.196, 197

Preventive Action under Indian Police Act, 1861:

Under section 15 of Police Act, the state government can declare any area within the state, a disturbed area. It also empowers the state government to station additional police force in a specified area and recover the cost from the inhabitants of that area.

Under section 30 of Police Act, the District Superintendent of Police or Assistant Superintendent of Police may, as occasion requires, direct the conduct of all assemblies and processions on the public roads, or in the public streets or thoroughfares and prescribe the routs by which, and the times at which such procession may pass. Clause (3) of section 30 gives the police power to define the conditions on which a procession shall be permitted to take place

V. ROLE OF JUDICIARY IN THE PREVENTION OF CRIME

The District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Executive magistrate are come u/s. 20 to 23 of Code of Criminal Procedure¹⁸. Chapter VIII (section 125 to 130 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023) has been held to be constitutionally valid.

- Security for keeping the peace on conviction (Sec. 125 of BNSS).
- Security for keeping the peace in other cases (Sec. 126 of BNSS).
- Security for good behaviour from persons disseminating seditious matters (Sec. 127 of BNSS); from suspected persons (Sec. 128 of BNSS); and, from habitual offenders (Sec. 129 of BNSS).
- Other provisions regarding security (S. 130 of BNSS).

This Chapter has been divided into four parts:

1. Unlawful Assemblies (S. 148-151 of BNSS).

a. No Executive Magistrate or police officer acting in good faith under (Sections 148-150 of BNSS).

b. No person doing any act in good faith in compliance with a requisition under (Section 148 or Section 149 of BNSS)

c. No officer in the armed forces acting under the section 150 of BNSS in good faith.

d. No members of the armed forces doing any act in obedience to any order which he was bound to obey shall be deemed to have thereby committed an offence. (S. 151 of BNSS)

e. No prosecution against any person for any act purporting to be done under Sections 148-150 shall be instituted in any criminal court except

- with the sanction of the Central Government where such person is an officer or member of the armed forces;
- with the sanction of the State Government in any other case. (S. 151 of BNSS)

2. Public Nuisances (S. 152- 162 of BNSS).

3. Urgent Cases of Nuisance or Apprehended Danger (S. 163 of BNSS).

4. Disputes as to Immovable Property (S. 164-167 of BNSS).

Under Constitution of India

Article 32 and Article 226 of the Indian Constitution grant authority to the Supreme Court and High Courts, respectively, to establish mechanisms that safeguard the fundamental rights of citizens from violations. Furthermore, the judicial authority of High Courts encompasses the protection against any infringement of an individual's rights by the executive, including law enforcement agencies. Additionally, Articles 20, 21, and 22 of the Constitution offer protections concerning the right to life and liberty of individuals, ensuring that actions are taken in accordance with established legal procedures and providing a safeguard against unlawful detention¹⁹.

VI. ROLE OF VICTIM IN PREVENTION OF CRIME

1. Emergency help to immediate needs
2. Continuing medical, psychological, social and material help
3. Advice to prevent further victimisation
4. Information on victim's right
5. Assistance during the criminal process²⁰.

¹⁸ The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Act 46 of 2023), s.14 to 17

¹⁹ J.P.S Sirohi, *Criminology and Penology* 158-159 (Allahabad Law Agency, Haryana, 6th edn.,

2004).

²⁰ N.V. Pranjape, *Criminology and Penology* 728 (Central Law Publications, Allahabad, 19th edn., 2023).

VII. ROLE OF MEDIA IN PREVENTION OF CRIME

Given the significant number of individuals who depend on the media for information regarding crime, it follows that the media can be quite effective in highlighting specific types of crime. Campaigns in the media aimed at preventing residential burglary, along with information about the dangers of illegal drugs and alcohol, illustrate how the media can play a crucial role in crime prevention. The media can assume a democratic function concerning crime prevention. By making more information accessible to the public, the media educates citizens on various issues, which in turn fosters critical thinking among the populace and encourages accountability from institutions, agencies, organizations, and the government.

VIII. ROLE OF PUBLIC IN PREVENTION OF CRIME

The public plays a significant role in crime prevention by remaining alert and notifying the police about criminal activities occurring in their vicinity. The involvement of the public is crucial in preventing crime. At times, community members engage in *Pahra* during the night, where individuals take turns patrolling their villages and neighbourhoods, blowing whistles or calling upon others to stay vigilant. This practice helps to deter criminals' movements at night, thereby reducing the likelihood of offenses such as theft or robbery. The people, sometimes, employ night watchmen also for this purpose.

IX. ROLE OF PARENTS IN PREVENTION OF CRIME

The rise in delinquency and youth crime signifies a deterioration in family group relations, leading to a disintegration of group unity. Regardless of how much the connections among members extend beyond the confines of intimate, emotional, and moral relationships, the threat of losing the crucial function of the family—instilling social norms and values in children—will inevitably loom. What holds significance is the relationships and bonds within the family group, where individuals, as bearers and agents of roles, must fulfill their responsibilities in a manner that upholds the

fundamental function of preserving the unity and cohesion of the family. A household lacking in affectionate communication becomes detrimental to the mental, emotional, and social development of a teenager; the absence of love and affection, along with instability and disharmony within the family, serves as a foundation for criminal behaviour.²¹

X. ROLE OF EDUCATION IN PREVENTION OF CRIME

Crime prevention initiatives motivate young individuals to understand the areas where they can feel secure within their educational institutions and neighbourhoods, as well as to develop awareness regarding issues such as substance abuse, harassment, civic duties in reporting crimes, and the significance of adhering to regulations and laws.

Students are urged to collaborate and engage in community service projects that contribute to crime prevention. Examples of such initiatives include: covering graffiti-laden surfaces with messages promoting peace and safety, high school students instructing middle or elementary school pupils on crime prevention strategies, or even advocating to their school board for the implementation of additional crime and violence prevention programs.

Educational institutions possess significant potential as centres for crime prevention. They offer consistent access to students during their formative years and may be the only reliable means of reaching a large number of the most at-risk young children during their early schooling; they are staffed by professionals dedicated to assisting youths in becoming healthy, happy, and productive members of society; and the community typically backs the schools' endeavours to socialize young people.

XI. OTHER COMMISSIONS & AGENCIES IN PREVENTION OF CRIME

- *National Human Right Commission:*
The National Human Rights Commission was set up under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 for the protection and promotion of human rights in India. One of the important instructions issued by the NHRC immediately after its constitution was that deaths in police custody should be reported to it within 24 hours.

²¹ Mohammadi Nevisi Hassan, "The Role of The Family in preventing the Youth Crime" 3 *Mathews*

- *Non- Governmental Organizations (NGO)*

These organizations, established since the early 1970s with the objectives of supporting women and children, promoting environmental protection, fostering peace, and addressing sources of environmental pollution, have evolved to become active in various other social sectors today. The history of non-governmental organization activities in Iran dates back to ancient times, beginning with the association of the Brethren of Purity, which was created to aid individuals, and extending to chivalrous groups whose responsibilities included caring for the poor and dispossessed members of society, who have traditionally formed and operated within these frameworks. Additionally, other non-governmental organizations that have been active in the country for several years include local councils and municipalities, which are directly elected by the populace and their representatives. For instance, councils can work to resolve issues related to suburbanization in cities, thereby contributing to a reduction in crime rates. Meanwhile, municipalities can utilize their resources to eliminate begging in urban areas and prevent child labour on the streets and at intersections, thus safeguarding children from criminal activities.²²

- *ICPO (All India Crime Prevention Organization)*

Supporting the National Crime Prevention campaign serves as a vital foundation. It plays a crucial role in the mission of crime prevention by generating and distributing ideas, enabling individual and corporate members, as well as policy-makers, journalists, police administration, other law enforcement agencies, and concerned citizens in India and abroad, to gain a better understanding of the context of law and order.

- *The National Crime Investigation Bureau*

Recognized as a dedicated team combating crime and corruption, operating throughout India with the assistance of committed officers and a robust legal team. This non-governmental organization (NGO) functions independently and significantly contributes to the services of our nation, striving to create a crime-free and secure society. We have taken urgent measures and initiated investigations

into crime and corruption, playing a pivotal role in reducing corruption across various government departments.

XII. CRIME PREVENTION: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Crime prevention is recognized as a global priority, tackled through various strategies influenced by cultural, social, political, and economic contexts. International organizations like the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have stressed the significance of proactive initiatives aimed at crime reduction via policy frameworks, community involvement, and justice systems focused on rehabilitation.

The UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime (2002) underscore the principles of social development, community participation, and practices grounded in evidence. Countries such as Canada, the Netherlands, and Australia have embraced integrated approaches to crime prevention, emphasizing education, urban development, social inclusion, and early intervention. Conversely, some countries still favour punitive models, which frequently result in limited effectiveness in curbing long-term criminal behaviour.

The international viewpoint highlights the need for a balanced strategy that merges law enforcement with developmental and situational tactics. Consequently, effective crime prevention depends on international collaboration, capacity enhancement, and a dedication to tackling the underlying causes of crime, such as poverty, inequality, and inadequate access to justice.

XIII. LAW COMMISSION REPORT

The following suggestions are made by the Law Commission of India in its 154th Report, shall be enforced in word and spirit:

- (i) reduction of executive control over police investigation as the latter would enjoy protection of the judiciary.
- (ii) better investigation owing to scrutiny of courts which will lead to successful prosecutions,

²² Shahram Mirzanzhad Asl, "The role of NGOs in the prevention of crimes against children" 2

Specialty Journal of Politics and Law 105 (2017).

(iii) reduction in the possibility of unjustified and unwarranted prosecutions,

(iv) speedy investigation leading to speedy disposal of cases,

(v) enhancement of expertise of investigating police; and

(vi) increased public cooperation and confidence.

2) Manning of the skilled, experience, efficient and intellectuals in the Police Department and the Judiciary. Increase in the strength of police force and the number of Police Stations in urban and rural areas.

3) Mandating the Police Officers to visit the areas under their jurisdiction at least once in a period of ten days to meet local people and develop rapport with them unconnected with their socio-economic status, as a measure of identification of people and the areas more prone to crime.

4) Police investigation should be public friendly and in public interest.

5) Legal immunities to Police people from undue influence being caused by the persons in controlling positions, especially the political parties.

6) Initiating severe action against the erring Police Officials.

7) Strict adherence to the provisions of procedure and other laws and respect to the Constitutional assurances by Police persons.

8) Ascertaining the general problems of locals and helping them in resolving the same amicably.

9) Avoiding victimization of sincere and committed Police personnel and the citizens.

10) Easy and convenience access to the citizens with the Police personnel, at times of necessity.

11) Special watch on those who are suspects and are more prone to commit crimes with the help of local people, after due verification of individual cases.

12) Initiation of suo moto proceedings against those indulging in making false complaints and false evidence; and

13) Resorting to the system of preventive detention wherever any suspicion arises without disturbing the dignity and decency of the person to be detained, which is especially in the form of detaining²³.

XIV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Recent developments in correctional practices have unequivocally demonstrated that merely one-fourth of the overall criminal population comprises incorrigible offenders, while the vast majority are corrigible and respond positively to treatment methods. It is essential to emphasize that the treatment of offenders through contemporary clinical approaches reflects society's willingness to accept delinquents as reliable citizens. The notion of personalized treatment through correctional measures assumes that an offender is a deviant who can be reintegrated into normal societal life if sufficient rehabilitation opportunities are provided. The systems of parole, probation, indeterminate sentencing, and incarceration are among the rehabilitative strategies incorporated into the modern penal programs of numerous countries worldwide. The corrective measures include, but are not limited to:

1. Custodial measures that restrict the offender's freedom and assess their ability to exercise self-control and discipline within an institutional environment, aiding them in becoming law-abiding citizens upon release.

2. The semi-detention method aims to limit liberty without entirely isolating the offender from their job or family.

3. Reformatory strategies such as probation and parole allow the offender to rehabilitate within society. Crime prevention encompasses rigorous enforcement of statutory laws, widespread education, local justice administration through the Panchayati-Raj System and Nyaya-Panchayat, community involvement, and dedicated service to the community through committed policies. Most importantly, crime prevention methods are integral to development strategies across economic, cultural, and social dimensions. Since crime is a societal issue, its prevention is a collective responsibility.

(August, 1996).

²³ Law Commission of India, "154th Report Pertaining to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973"

The police play a vital role in both the prevention and detection of crime.

The process of evidence collection and reporting must be reformed to ensure accurate reporting of facts. Frequently, individuals driven by malicious intentions such as spite, jealousy, anger, and self-interest do not hesitate to initiate legal actions against their adversaries or competitors. Consequently, if intelligence and police personnel carry out their responsibilities with integrity, free from external influences or political pressures, only then can respect for law enforcement agencies be reinstated.

Seminars and literacy camps should be organized by the "crime prevention committee" to educate the public about laws and regulations. It is crucial for individuals to understand that laws exist for their protection, and adherence to these laws is vital if we aspire to maintain the rule of law in our city or village. In India, crime reporting remains inadequate even today; consequently, many crimes are either underreported or not reported at all. Therefore, it is imperative that the reporting process be completely reformed.

The establishment of a "crime prevention home" should be implemented, modelled after the concept of "observation homes" for juveniles or open jails. This facility would serve to temporarily remove individuals who are likely to commit offenses from society. Such an approach would benefit both the individuals and their associates by demonstrating that this measure does not carry the stigma associated with a tarnished character or reputation, nor does it entail the severe consequences of incarceration or police custody.

Aligning laws and policies among nations can eliminate legal gaps that criminals take advantage of. This complicates the ability of criminals to escape justice by crossing borders. Numerous crimes today, including human trafficking, cybercrime, drug trafficking, and terrorism, possess a transnational character. International collaboration is crucial for effectively tackling these global issues. Joint initiatives can create international standards and protocols for crime prevention and law enforcement practices. This fosters uniformity and effectiveness in addressing crime on a global scale. Implementing these reforms will necessitate unified efforts from policymakers, law enforcement agencies, civil society, and the general populace. By

thoroughly addressing legal, socio-economic, educational, and technological factors, India can achieve substantial advancements in crime prevention and foster a safer environment for all its citizens.

Ultimately, it can be concluded that crime poses a significant threat to the entire world, and it is increasingly escalating with the emergence of new types of criminal activities. Undoubtedly, it is a challenging task to completely eradicate this menace; however, efforts must be made, and progress is already underway. The responsibility for the crime rate and its prevention does not solely rest with the government of any given nation; numerous other factors must also play a role in crime prevention. The involvement of the public is crucial in combating crime, and NGOs should actively engage at both national and international levels. The treatment of offenders is a rational approach to crime prevention, as many of the same individuals repeatedly commit offenses and become recidivists after receiving harsher penalties. Therefore, prisons and rehabilitation centres are vital in the treatment of offenders. Nothing is unattainable in this world when pursued with the right intent. Thus, the government, the public, NGOs, and others should strive to contribute their utmost efforts to mitigate this menace.

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