

Cybercrime in Davanagere District: A Study of Local Trends and Case Insights

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Abstract—The study examines local trends of cybercrimes in the Davanagere district, Karnataka, the secondary data collected from the District Crime Record Bureau, Davanagere, from 2020 to August 01, 2024. It creates a significant challenge for individuals, organizations, and the government. According to IAMAI & Kantar reports, in India, 886 million active internet users are recorded in 2024. According to a Times of India article, India is facing a financial loss of 22,845.73 crores due to cybercrime in 2024. In Karnataka, 22,194 cases of cybercrimes were reported in 2024. In Davanagere, the incidence of cybercrime is increasing year by year. The number of reported cases is 416 as of August 01, 2024. The offences include APK fraud, investment fraud, rating fraud, debit/Credit card fraud, and trading fraud. The findings highlight that false cases are gradually decreasing, which shows improvement in case verification. The conviction rate was zero across five years, indicating the challenges such as delayed reporting, insufficient evidence, and third-party platforms. The pending trials and other disposal cases are gradually decreasing. The under-investigation cases are peaking in 2024, and undetected cases are peaking in 2022, because of an increase in cybercrime reporting. Case insights, the matrimonial and investment fraud cases occur for financial gain. The study suggests providing personnel training, establishing cyber forensic labs, and raising public awareness about digital literacy. Findings indicate reporting and investigation are improved, but there is a lack of conviction.

Index Terms—Cybercrimes, Davanagere district, Conviction challenges, Fraud cases

I. INTRODUCTION

In this digital era, cybercrimes have emerged as a critical global concern. It creates a significant challenge for individuals, organizations, and the government. Cybercrime refers to illegal activities carried out using computers, digital gadgets, and the online network. It includes, but is not limited to,

hacking, identity theft, APK fraud, investment fraud, and rating fraud. In India, active internet users are 886 million in 2024, as per the IAMAI and Kantar report. Among 886 million, the average internet spend is 90 minutes a day. Rural internet users are spending time on the internet are less compared to urban users. According to a Times of India article, India is facing a financial loss of 22,845.73 crores due to cybercrime in 2024. This financial loss has increased by 206% compared to the previous year, the Ministry of Home Affairs said. In Karnataka, 12,879 cases of cybercrimes were reported in 2022, but in 2024, 22,194 cases were reported. It shows that the rapid growth in cybercrime cases has doubled in two years. According to the Home Department, Karnataka is facing 2,047 crores of financial loss because of cyber fraud till November 2024. Davanagere also has the highest number of internet and mobile phone users in recent years.

The rapid growth of cybercrime has an impact on individuals, organizations, and societies worldwide. At the individual level, identity theft, phishing, sexual harassment, breach of privacy, and psychological stress. From an organizational perspective, cybercrimes lead to financial losses, loss of customer trust, and reputation. At the societal and worldwide level, cybercrimes are decreasing economic stability, weakening the government, cyberterrorism and internet penetration.

Types of cybercrimes reported in Davanagere:

1. APK (Android Package Kit) fraud:

APK fraud is the act of creating, distributing, or using modified or fake APK files with the intent to deceive users, steal personal data, spread malware, or bypass legitimate app processes such as payments or permissions.

2. Investment fraud:

It involves a wide range of investments, including stocks, bonds, notes, and real estate. Fraudsters may also use social media platforms to advertise their scams, and may create fake investment groups on WhatsApp or fake handles on X.

3. Rating frauds:

Movie review or rating fraud involves the deliberate manipulation of film ratings or reviews by individuals or groups to achieve objectives such as financial profit, promotion, or defamation of a movie or swaying public opinion.

4. Debit/Credit card fraud:

Credit card fraud broadly refers to any fraudulent activity committed using a payment card. The purpose may be to obtain goods or services or to make a payment to another account, which is controlled by a criminal.

5. Trading fraud:

Trading fraud is a type of cybercrime that involves online scams that target people through social media and WhatsApp advertisements. In these scams, victims receive ads about free trading tips classes and are redirected to WhatsApp groups where fraudsters persuade them to invest.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To collect and analyze official cybercrime data.
2. To examine the rising trend of cybercrime in Davanagere district.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design: Descriptive research

Area of the research: Davanagere

Sample of the study: Secondary data from the District Crime Record Bureau, Davanagere

Cybercrime cases in Davanagere:

1. Matrimonial case:

The matrimonial case of online fraud was registered in the Cyber Economic and Narcotics (CEN) police station, Davanagere. The complaint involving a software engineer was deceived out of 9.4 lakh through a fraudulent matrimonial scheme.

The victim, Tejaraj T, 29-year-old guy. He resides in Ashok Nagar and registered his profile on a matrimonial website. He was contacted individual who identified herself as Abhinaya Subhash via

WhatsApp on April 24, 2025. She claimed to be a resident of Malaysia with a permanent address in Chennai. After several conversations, she expressed interest in marrying Tejaraj and gained Tejaraj's trust.

Later, she convinced him to invest in cryptocurrency and explained about profit. She shares the investment platform link with Tejaraj. He transferred a total of 9.4 lakh via UPI through 17 payments.

When he attempted to withdraw the funds, he was directed to another contact posing as customer support. The fake customer care executive asked him to pay 46,431 as a service and conversion fee. He is suspicious about the incident and consults a friend who has knowledge about cryptocurrency, who confirms that the company was fake.

Then he realized this was a scam and filed a complaint through the National Cyber Crime Portal. It was redirected to the CEN police station in Davanagere. The investigation is going on.

2. Investment fraud:

The investment fraud case of online financial fraud was registered in the Cyber Economic and Narcotics (CEN) police station, Davanagere. The doctor invests the money around 2.4 crore in the stock market through the Telegram messaging app.

According to officials, the fraud occurred between February 18 and May 15, 2025. The doctor transferred a total of 2,40,92,150 in several transactions. The unknown individual gained the trust of the doctor and convinced him to invest in the stock market. The doctor invested money in the stock market through a telegram group.

The doctor initially withdrew 5 lakhs on May 11. This incident gained the trust of the doctor, and he invested more money in the stock market. Later, the doctor tries to withdraw money, but the money is blocked and asked for additional money to unblock it. Then the doctor realized it had been scammed by an individual and filed a complaint at the CEN police station.

Limitations:

As per the District Crime Record Bureau, data showed that overall cybercrimes in 5 years (2020 to 2024 Aug 1), but doesn't differentiate types of cybercrime in Davanagere district.

Aim of the study:

The study aims to analyze official cybercrime data and the rising number of reported cybercrime cases in Davanagere district. 2020 to August 1, 2024.

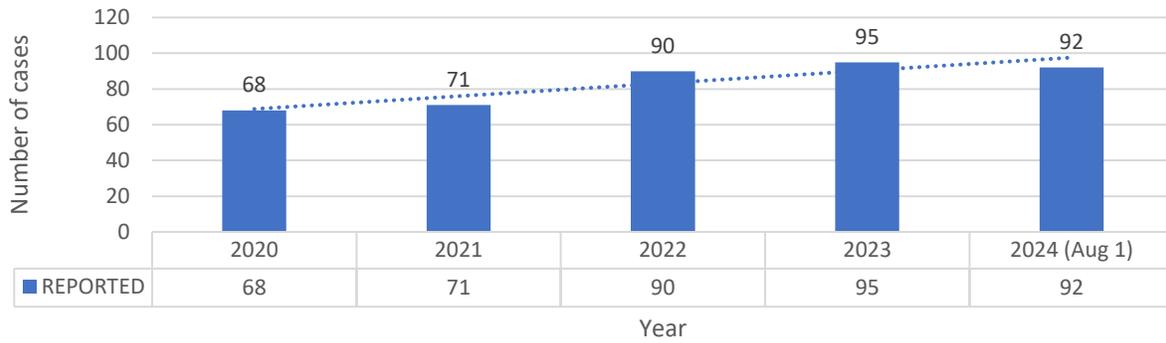
IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The collected cybercrime data from the District Crime Record Bureau, Davanagere, is mentioned in Table No.1

Table No 1 DCRB data from Davanagere related to cybercrime from 2020 to 2024 (Aug 1)

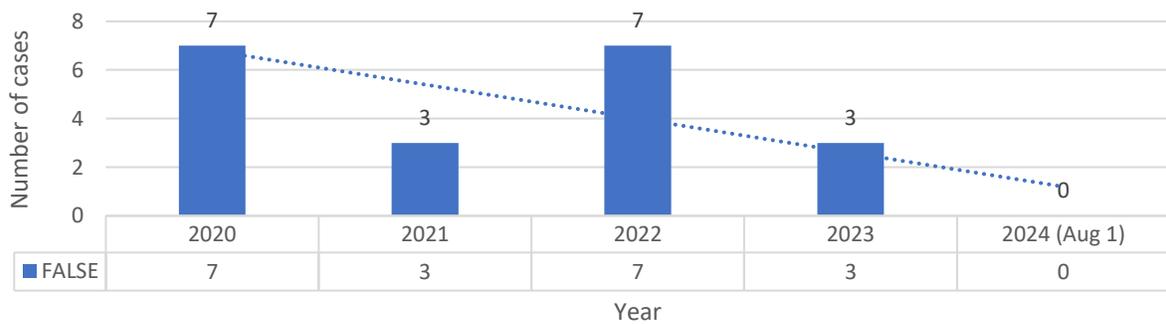
Sl. No	Year	Reported	False	Conviction	Pending trial	Under investigation	Undetected	Other disposal
1	2020	68	07	00	02	00	57	02
2	2021	71	03	00	03	00	65	00
3	2022	90	07	00	06	04	73	00
4	2023	95	03	00	02	67	23	00
5	2024 (Till Aug-01)	92	00	00	00	92	00	00
Total		416	20	00	13	163	218	02

1. Reported cases:



Graph 01 Graphical representation of reported cases of cybercrime in Davanagere from 2020 to 2024 (Aug 1)
 Graph 1 shows a continuous increase in reported cases from 2020 to August 1, 2024. The reported cases rose from 68 in 2020 to 95 in 2023, with a significant increase between 2021 and 2022. By August 1, 2024, 92 cases have already been registered in the cyber police station, Davanagere. It is close to the previous year’s total. 2024 is likely to surpass all previous years' data. The upward trend shows the increase in cybercrime cases in Davanagere district. 2024 is likely to surpass all previous years' data.

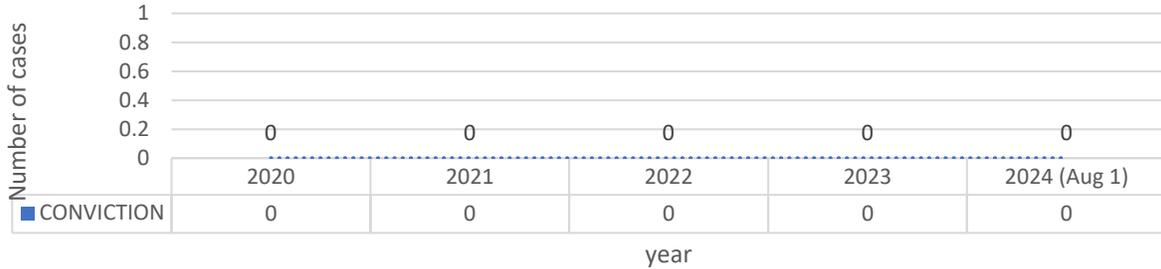
2. False cases:



Graph 2 Graphical representation of false cases of cybercrime in Davanagere from 2020 to 2024 (Aug 1)

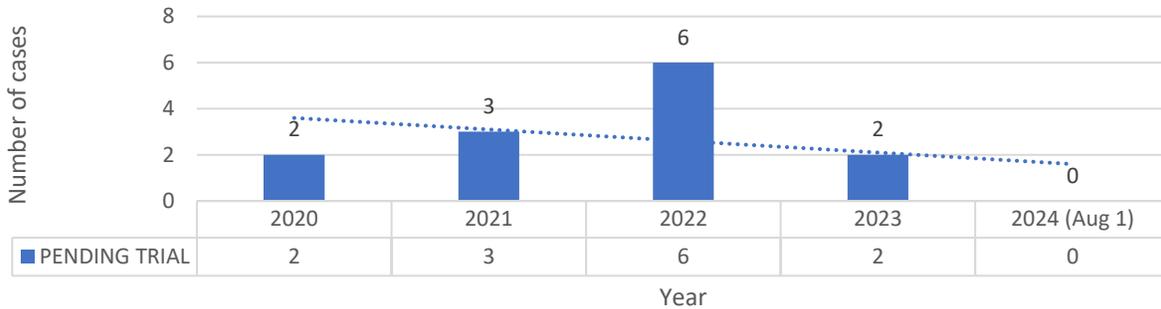
Graph 2 shows the false cases reported from 2020 to August 01, 2024. In 2020 and 2022, the highest number of false cases was registered at seven cases each. In 2021 and 2023, shows a decrease in falsely reported cases by three cases. But there are notable changes in 2024; there are no false reports. The trendline indicates a gradual decrease over the year. It shows the improvement in case verification or increased fear of false case reporting the cybercrime cases.

3. Conviction:



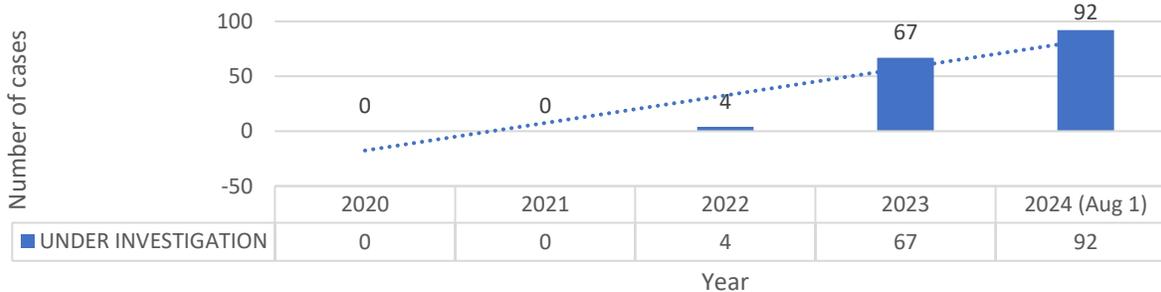
Graph 3 Graphical representation of conviction cases of cybercrime in Davanagere from 2020 to 2024 (Aug 1) Graph 3 shows that there were no convictions recorded from 2020 to August 01, 2024. But an increase in cybercrime year by year can be seen in DCRB data. This trendline shows a delay in judicial proceedings, dependency on a third-party platform, and insufficient evidence. The main reason no conviction was delayed in reporting the crime.

4. Pending trial:



Graph 4 Graphical representation of pending trial cases of cybercrime in Davanagere from 2020 to 2024 (Aug 1) Graph 4 shows the number of pending trial cases from 2020 to August 01, 2024. In 2020, two cases were pending, while in 2021, slight increase of one case. But in 2022, increased by six additional cases, and a drop in 2023. The 2024 doesn't show any pending cases. The 2022 report shows a temporary delay in that year, followed by the clearance of pending cases in subsequent years. The decrease in pending trial cases shows the improvement in fast trials and investigations.

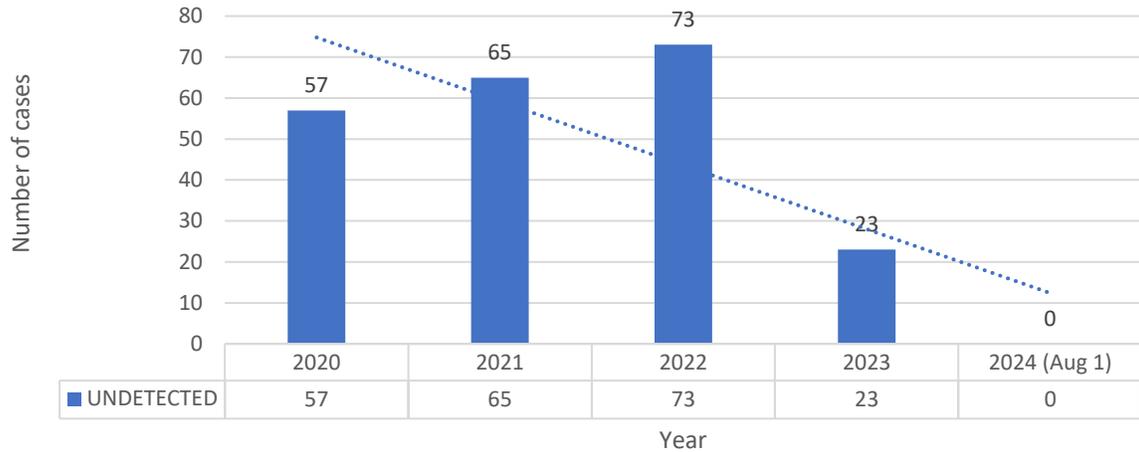
5. Under investigation:



Graph 5 Graphical representation of under investigation cases of cybercrime in Davanagere from 2020 to 2024 (Aug 1)

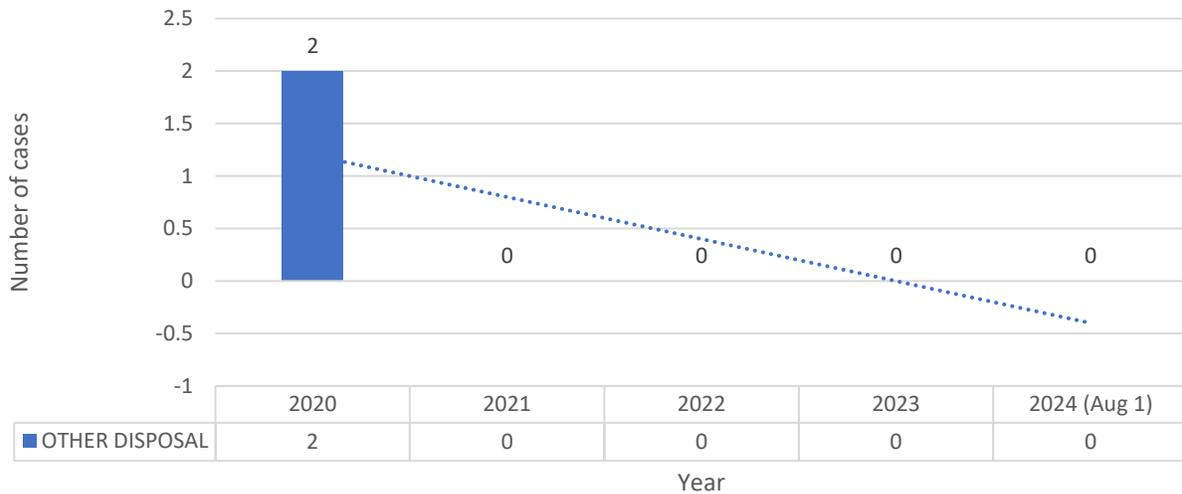
Graph 5 shows the number of cases under investigation from 2020 to August 1, 2024. There are no under-investigation cases found in 2020 and 2021. In 2022, a slight increase to 4. But in 2023, a notable increase in under investigation cases to 67. By August 2024, 92 cases are registered and under investigation. The increase in under-investigation cases is because of a possible increase in reporting cases.

6. Undetected:



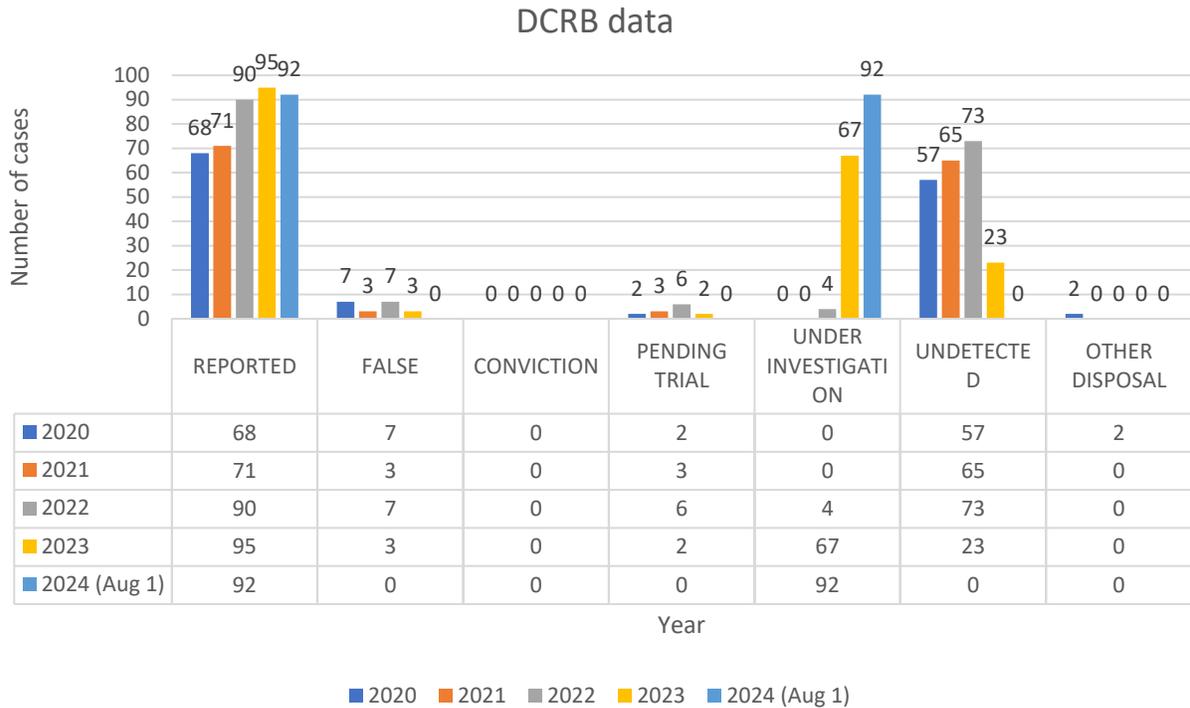
Graph 6 Graphical representation of undetected cases of cybercrime in Davanagere from 2020 to 2024 (Aug 1)
 Graph 6 shows the number of undetected cases from 2020 to August 01, 2024. The undetected cases have increased from 2020 to 2022; each year, eight cases have increased. But notable changes in undetected cases are a decline in 2023 and 2024. There are no undetected cases found in 2024. The trendline goes downwards in undetected cases. It shows improvement in case detection and resolution after 2022.

7. Other disposal:



Graph 7 Graphical representation of other disposal cases of cybercrime in Davanagere from 2020 to 2024 (Aug 1)
 Graph 7 shows the number of other disposal cases from 2020 to August 01, 2024. In 2020, only two cases were recorded as other disposal. But notable changes from 2021 to 2024; there are no cases reported as other disposal cases. It indicates improvement in investigation and stricter procedural compliance.

Overall discussion:



Graph 8 Graphical representation of data given by DCRB Davanagere related to cybercrime from 2020 to 2024 (Aug 1)

Graph 8 shows the number of cybercrime cases registered in Davanagere district. The DCRB data shows the increase in cybercrime cases from 2020 to August 1, 2024. The number of reported cases has increased from 68 in 2020 to 92 as of August 1, 2024. There are 92 cases already registered in August, which surpasses the previous year's data. The false cases are fluctuating between 3 and 7, but in 2024, zero cases were reported. The conviction rate from 2020 to August 1, 2024, was zero. This conviction rate shows the difficulties in concluding cases. The pending trial cases are increasing from 2020 to 2022, but in 2023, only 2 cases are pending trial. In 2024, there were no cases found pending trial. The under-investigation is zero in 2020 and 2021, but slightly increases in 2022. In 2023 and 2024 sudden increase in cases because of an increase in reporting cybercrime. The undetected cases have increased from 2020 to 2022, but after 2022 decrease in 2023 and 2024. In 2024, zero undetected cases were registered. The two other disposal cases were registered in 2020. After 2020, there are no other disposal cases registered. Overall cybercrime data from 2020 to August 1, 2024, indicates an increase in reporting, investigation, improvement in detection, and resolution.

V. FINDINGS

Findings indicate the research outcome after the analysis and interpretation of the data collected from the District Crime Record Bureau.

The findings from the data are as follows:

- Reported cases in Davanagere rapidly increased from 2020 to 2024. In 2024, 92 cases have already been registered as of August 01. It surpasses the previous year's data.
- False cases are higher in 2020 and 2022, but decreased to 3 in 2022 and 2023. There are no

cases found in 2024. It shows improvement in case verification.

- There are no convictions from 2020 to 2024. It reflects issues such as insufficient evidence and delayed reporting.
- Pending cases are increasing from 2020 to 2022. From 2023, the registration of pending cases has decreased. There are no cases found in 2024. It shows improvement in judicial proceedings.
- Under investigation cases are zero in 2020 and 2022, but slightly increased in 2023. The rapid growth of under-investigation cases from 2023 to

2024 because to an increase in reported cases of cybercrime.

- Undetected cases are continuously increasing from 2020 to 2022, but peaked at 73 in 2022. After 2022, undetected cases are decreasing. There are no cases found in 2024. It indicates improvement in case detection and resolution.
- Other disposal cases are two in 2020. Later on, there were no other disposal cases registered till August 2024.

VI. SUGGESTIONS

- Providing regular training for law enforcement personnel.
- Establish a cyber forensic lab for faster evidence collection.
- Conduct a cyber awareness program in Davangere.
- Providing digital literacy to society.
- Establish fast fast-track court for cybercrime cases.
- Recruitment of cyber experts.
- Provide proper equipment for the cyber police station.
- Using integrated artificial intelligence for cybercrime investigation to analyze large volumes of data.

VII. CONCLUSION

The study of cybercrimes in Davanagere has increased from 2020 to 2024. The number of reporting cases has increased, but false, pending trial, and other disposal cases have decreased. The rate of conviction was zero in five years. It shows the difficulties, such as insufficient evidence and delayed reporting. At the same time lack of officers, advanced tools and technology, fast-track courts, and training. The increasing number of cybercrime cases is impacting the officials who have less equipment and a lack of technological skills. Also impact on law enforcement during a trial, like improper evidence, leads to a delayed case and makes it pending. Strengthening tools of cyber forensics, building fast-track courts, providing training, providing cyber safety education, and public awareness are essential for decreasing and controlling cybercrime in the district.

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