

Crime Among Youth and its cause: A study of under-trial youths in Nagpur Central Prison

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Introduction

India ranks first in population, with around 1.46 billion people, surpassing China's population. Indeed, the youth are the gems and future of India. While there is so much to celebrate about youth in India, unfortunately, some engage in immoral, unbecoming behaviour, committing crimes and related activities that harm society and raise concerns about public safety, security, and well-being. Crime is one of the most baffling problems of human society. It is a national and a global issue.

Crime and law: In legal terminology, crime is defined as any violation of a country's statutes, interpreted as any violation of the legal statutes of the country. The elements necessary to comprise a crime are the following:

1. A perpetrator committing the crime and a victim of that crime.
2. There must be evidence of the perpetrator's legal intent.
3. Substantiated evidence of the intent to commit a crime.
4. Substantiated evidence as proof of the crime committed. (Huda 1902).

Crime statistics: There was a documented increase in violent crimes and murders from the 1950s to the 1990s. There were 55,726 violent crimes committed in 1961, but they increased substantially by 1996, when there were continued increases of 243,574 crimes. 1986 Statistics revealed 27,269 homicides, which rose dramatically to 37,671 in 1996. In 2004, there were nearly 35,000 murders in India and about 28,000 attempted murders (NCRB 2004). 1992 was the highest crime occurrence. (NCRB 2004). There were 243,574 about 4,000 & " culpable homicides not amounting to murder (NCRB 2004). In 2004, there were more than 64,000 deaths from negligence (NCRB 2004). Most Indian murder victims were between 18 and 30 years of age and male (NCRB 2004). The most prevalent crimes are stabbings and beatings (NCRB 2004). Additionally, in 1971 there were 2,500 rapes committed and reported to the authorities. In 1993, that number increased to 12000. (NCRB 2004). By 2004, the number of rape cases rose to 18,233 (NCRB 2004). In 1980, approximately 23,000 robberies were reported in India. In 1992, the number of rapes increased to its peak year for rapes to be committed. In 1992, there was a staggering increase to 26,444. Moreover, by 2004, the number of reported robberies had declined to about 18,5000, In 1975, there were 192,854 reported burglaries. In 2004, it declined to 92,490 (National Crime Records Bureau, 2004).

The age range for youth, as defined by the United Nations (2003), is 15-24 years. India's national youth policy for 2014 expanded the age range from 15 to 29 years. This bridges the link between the early and late stages of development. The youth stage is influenced by social, economic, political, and cultural factors. Statistics show that various social, economic, political, and cultural factors influence adolescents.

Also contributing factors include family, peers, neighbourhoods, schools, and communities. All these factors play a vital role in the development and growth of the youth. From adolescence to adulthood, youth face many roadblocks. It is crucial to recognise that this transition is not solely a physical process but also a complex social and economic issue, as Prakash (2013) emphasises. Bennell (2007) further highlights that young individuals residing in rural areas of India are expected to contribute to their families' way of life. However, they encounter various barriers, including limited access to education, limited skills, financial constraints, and limited land ownership (Zaneta, 2022), all of which hinder their entry into the workforce. Adding to this is limited access to opportunities that may affect their growth and development. To understand young people's well-being, it is essential to consider social, political, cultural, and historical contexts (Kehily, 2007). Before COVID-19, most youth had limited access to employment opportunities. The number of non-working youths was estimated at 6.1 per cent, the highest in 45 years, according to the periodic Labour Force Survey (PLF5) for 2017-2018. It declined further in 2018-19 to 5.8 per cent (Gupta, M., & Kishore, A., 2022). Panel data on monthly changes in conception and employment status showed that 4.6 per cent of households reported that a member who was working in March 2019 had become unemployed in April 2019. (Gupta, M., & Kishore, A., 2022). National Sample Surveys took three different approaches to this problem to determine the status of each unemployed youth.

There are three different approaches adopted in the National Sample Surveys (NSS) to determine the activity Status of each person in the population-

1. The Customary Status approach: A youth is considered unemployed if he was not working or seeking employment for a period of 1 year.
2. The Weekly Status approach: A person's status is determined by how long he has worked and the length of that work, or by his status as a person deemed to be unemployable is determined by how long he has worked and the length of that work, or the availability to work for that week.
3. The Daily Status approach: An individual is given one or more activities for each day of a week.

A person is unemployed if he/she has not worked for at least one hour on a given day of the week, and has been seeking work or available for work at any time during the week (Satya Paul, 1988). To reduce poverty, productivity has to increase, which would be a great thing for people experiencing it. Even though the nation's GDP has increased, unemployment has not grown to that extent. There is also concern regarding the educated unemployed, which can lead to the waste of human resources and social tensions. (S. Mahendra Dev, Mahajan 2002). There are three basic facts about unemployment in India:

1. Most of them work as self-employed or on a daily-wage basis, and only a few hold regular jobs.
2. There is limited access to social security for all; only a few who are well off have social security.
3. Say's Law of employment Holds That the Supply of labour creates its own demand. (Ajit K. Ghose 2004).

Juvenile offences in India increased by about 2.7% compared to 2022 (National Crime Records Bureau 2023). There were 31,365 registered juvenile cases nationwide. 40,036 Juveniles were

apprehended, of whom 79% were aged 16-18. (National Crime Records Bureau 2023). Delhi recorded the highest juvenile crime rate. Maharashtra had about 12% of juvenile crime cases in 2023. (Times of India 2023) More serious offences were committed by youth in recent years, such as murder, rape, attempted murder, robbery, and extortion. Police reports testify that juveniles were involved in gangs and violent crimes in some major cities. (Unacademic, 2025). Violent crimes are more common than petty crimes, and petty crime is declining. Underlying causes for these offences are said to be socioeconomic stress, influence of violent media, weak parental supervision, and association with gangs or organised crime elements. (Unacademic 2025). Crime is a significant concern in India, especially in urban areas. Several studies have examined the causes, patterns, and consequences of Crime among youth. A study by Kumar and Verma (2018) found that illiteracy and school dropout rates significantly increased the likelihood that youth would engage in criminal activity, especially in urban areas. Another study by Singh (2017).

A study on Juvenile delinquency in Indian prisons revealed that friends have a very significant impact on initiating crime among youth; many offenders reported that their friends or gangs influenced them, and they felt identity and belonging. These findings align with social theory, which states that social behaviours are learned through interactions with close friends. According to a study by Patil (2015), youth from dysfunctional families, broken families, and families with a history of Crime or severe poverty are more vulnerable to criminal activities. Lack of parental supervision and discipline has contributed to behavioural problems and delinquency. A research study conducted by Roa and Mehta (2019) said that youth who are exposed to violent movies, crime-based television shows, and media with violent content have been influenced by it. A report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB, 2022) stated that a significant portion of prisoners under trial in India are youth. Delays in the judicial process, repeated arrests, and custodial mistreatment further affect the psychological well-being and chances of rehabilitation. These studies, of course, provide considerable insights, yet there remains a lack of focused research on undertrial youth in central prisons. The early juvenile court reformers argued that the justice system should offer young offenders treatment that would help them to cure them of their antisocial ways. The justice system fails to take age and immaturity into account when calculating criminal punishment. In 2005, the United States Supreme Court abolished the Juvenile death penalty as cruel and unusual punishment, emphasising that the immaturity of adolescents was found to be less culpable than that of adult Criminals. (Scott, E.S., Steinberg, L., 2008). The authors present a developmental model for the justice system to revise the Juvenile justice policy that treats adolescents neither as children nor as adults, but as an intermediate legal category. This model, they stress, is compatible and more likely to promote social welfare by reducing the societal cost of juvenile crime. (Scott, E.S., Steinberg, L. 2008).

A study by Meek R (2006) in England says that the rural policy and practice have failed to meet the needs of young people, particularly those caught up in the criminal justice system. The key issues within rural communities include a lack of Services, isolation, and inter-generational tensions, which could increase the chance for the young to commit a crime again when returning to their communities after release from prison. (Meek, R. 2006). (USA) Virginia Powell, in her Study of juvenile justice, reveals that the system followed at present is

not conducive to youth and their development of life skills as they experience animosity and loneliness in jail. Putting youth behind bars is not a long-term solution to their crime; rather, it brings more profound psychological consequences. Among youth who are incarcerated, emotional and behavioural issues are found. These suggest a more developmental and diplomatic approach within the juvenile justice system to provide effective treatment for the youth. (Virginia Powell 2014).

Researchers' questions in the study:

- What is the pattern and prevalence of crime committed by youth globally and nationally?
- What types of crimes are commonly committed by youth?
- How do youth vary by age, gender, and locality (Urban and Rural)?
- What socioeconomic factors are associated with youth involvement in Crime?
- How has youth crime changed over the last decade in India?
- What interventions could be done to reduce youth crime? What policies and programs would help rehabilitate and reintegrate youth back into society?

The objective of the research in studying this topic:

- To study the nature and patterns of crime among youth.
- To understand the personal and family backgrounds of youths; know the personal and Family background of the youths who are engaged in various crimes.
- To understand the economic status of the youth criminals.
- To identify the various factors responsible for youth becoming criminals. Find out various possible factors responsible for the youth becoming criminals.
- To suggest various remedies to prevent the youth from committing crimes.
- To elucidate the characteristics of youth criminals. To study their educational background.

Methodology

Social work research plays a vital role in the field of professional social work. The profession of Social Work requires systematic, empirical, reality-based data collection and its validation through rigorous methods. It seeks to discover new truths and explanations.

Rationale of the Study

Youth crime is increasing day by day. The increasing number of such crimes poses a threat to society. In a country like India, the majority of the crimes are committed by the youth. As far as the researcher's knowledge goes, a microscopic Study has been done among youth criminals. The researcher himself is a professional social worker specializing with a specialization in criminology and correctional administration. He has been gaining knowledge of criminals from books, but his knowledge is limited to young criminals. He was curious about why youths are becoming criminals. In other words, the researcher wanted to know what factors are responsible for turning youths into criminals.

Crimes committed by youth are seen as a breakdown in the established order of society. Youth crime is increasing day by day. The increasing number of such offenders poses a threat to society. It affects a vast number of people in society in various ways. In a country like India,

the majority of crimes are committed by the youth. Crimes committed by youth are violations of the law. Given the numerous laws, there are many ways to become a criminal. The researcher wanted to know which factors are responsible for youth becoming criminals. At the same time, he wanted to understand the problems faced by youth and propose solutions to those problems.

Research Design for the topic

Research design is a temporary plan that undergoes many modifications as the Study progresses. It is a blueprint that helps the researcher. In it, a general scientific model is translated into different research procedures. It provides an outline of the research program's structure and process. Without such a plan, no scientific study is possible.

Type of Research Design

For the proposed Study, the researcher will use a descriptive and exploratory method. The descriptive method highlights the characteristics of an individual, group, or a situation. Descriptive studies require prior knowledge of the universe, measurement techniques, and related methods. It is mainly concerned with the past form of the problem. The problem is described, and a hypothesis is formulated based on the description of existing data or material. Its aim is not to cause the problem or provide a solution, but to acquire knowledge. Moreover, in an exploratory Study, new facts are discovered. In the present Study, the researcher also aims to acquire more information about youth crime and its causes. At the same time, he wants to discover new facts on the causes of youth crimes.

Sampling Universe, Method and Size

The research project topic was "Crime among youth and its causes: A study of undertrial youths. Nagpur Central Prison. It includes all youth criminals currently in the Central Prison. For the present Study, the researcher used purposive sampling. Here, the researcher purposively selects a few units as a sample. He is free to choose them as he wishes. Hence, it is called purposive sampling. The researcher has selected the purposive sampling method because he selected those respondents who, in his judgment, support the whole data. The researcher selected the respondents with a specific purpose in mind. A sample of 50 male respondents from the Central Prison, Nagpur, was selected through purposive sampling.

Tools of Data Collection

For the present study, the researcher used an interview schedule as a data collection tool. An interview schedule is a set of questions to be asked of the respondent in a particular format. An interview is the best tool for data collection, as it provides an opportunity for an informal conversation with respondents and to explore relevant aspects beyond formal data collection.

Limitations of the Study:

1. As the research period was limited, it was not possible for the researcher to conduct a census study or take a larger sample size. So the Study was restricted to the findings on the responses of 50 respondents.
2. As the researcher had to complete his research project within a specific timeframe, he limited his study to youth offenders.

3. The Prison authority did not permit women prisoners, which is why the Study was limited to male prisoners only.
4. As the criminals were on trial, they were not accepting their crimes and were also giving wrong information

Quantitative Analysis of Youth and Crime

Youths have different character structures, goals, aspirations, values, and a radically different tempo of life. They have competitive and aggressive attitudes toward life and possess courage, guilt-free morality, and a settled self-judgment. When they experience frustration at their ego being attacked and traumatised, they project hostility. The search of the youth or the adult in the new society has emulated a desperate and futile quest. Often, they find it quite difficult to perform the expected roles. Some of the youths feel alienated, detached, isolated, frustrated, and relatively deprived. Society provides very little that is stable, relevant, and meaningful. They often look in vain for values, goals, means, and institutions to which they can commit, because their drive to do so is strong. The youth crime information of the respondents includes the age at which Crime started, reason for Crime, awareness about Crime, reasons for becoming a criminal, encouragement from the media, ambition as a child, whether a family member was arrested, time of committing Crime, and likeness towards Crime. These factors, combined, provide the background of the respondents. In this chapter, the investigator has attempted to present the analysis of the mentioned factors.

1. It was found that the majority, i.e., 74 per cent of the respondents, started committing crimes before age 18. The percentage of respondents aged 25 and above is significantly lower in the middle-aged group.
2. The response of 64 per cent of respondents shows that they were aware of their crime, yet they committed it. This shows that circumstances compelled them to break the law and commit a crime.
3. 34 per cent of the respondents committed a crime to get money. In India, poverty is a major problem. So, poor people, to get money, become criminals. 4.88 per cent of the respondents do not want to continue in this field. This also shows that they committed a crime accidentally. Whereas some of the youth criminals, i.e., 12% of respondents, want to be in this field only. They are mostly habitual criminals, or they want to take revenge on the opposite party; that's why they wanted to do it again.
4. 56 per cent of the respondents are good at quarrelling. This is very common among the youth, and that's why the maximum respondents belong to this category, whereas murder and gambling percentages are very low because in this category, youth are not very interested, and they are afraid of murder.
5. It was found that 40 per cent commit a crime with no specific time. The second-highest group of respondents commits a crime at a friend's request. This proves that friends play an important role in a respondent's life.
6. The majority, i.e., 56 per cent of the respondents, are not encouraged by the media. That means some other factors are also responsible for their crime.

7. 68 per cent of the respondents said that the police did not arrest family members; this shows that youth can become criminals, even when their parents were not arrested or involved in criminal activity.
8. The respondents wanted to be in a good field. But for one reason or another, they became criminals. However, some respondents have wanted to become criminals since their childhood. Their ambition was to become criminals.

Personal and Family Background Results Analysis

The necessity of personal information arises out of the fact that one's background, to a certain extent, influences one's understanding and attitude towards every aspect. The personal information includes age, marital status, caste, religion, type of Family, and earning members in the Family. One of the most direct sources of youth becoming criminals has been traced to the family's failure to meet needs, provide necessary emotional support, maintain social control, and transmit society's moral and social values of society. Youth aged 16-25 are still very much dependent on family support, which provides love, affection, and sympathy from both parents.

The family information includes the family atmosphere, the father's occupation and income, the family's relationship after the crime, and the family's habits. These factors, combined, provide the background of the respondents. In the chapter, the investigator has attempted to present the analysis of the mentioned factors.

1. It is noted that 36 per cent of the majority of the respondents are in the age group of 18-28, and the crime committed by these people is more than that of middle-aged people. During youth, a person is not established mentally. So a person's mental condition is also related to crime.
2. 34 per cent of the respondents are illiterate, and only a few have higher education. This shows that an illiterate person has a high likelihood of becoming a criminal. Hindu respondents were in higher numbers, i.e., 48 per cent. In India, the majority of the population is Hindu, so the Study reflects the same ratio.
3. The maximum percentage of respondents (72 per cent) are unmarried. This suggests that married people have more responsibility. Whereas an unmarried person is totally free from responsibility, so he lives according to his own will and pleasure.
4. The majority, i.e., 66 per cent of the respondents, live in an urban area. Most of the people in India live in rural areas, but the crime rate is higher in urban areas.
5. Marathi mother tongue respondents were the maximum, i.e., 56 per cent. The local language of Maharashtra is Marathi, so respondents with a Marathi mother tongue are more.
6. The majority of the respondents, i.e., 38 per cent, are very close to their mothers. This is because the mother is the person who loves the child from birth. Moreover, no one loves a person more than a mother.
7. The majority of the respondents, i.e., 56 per cent, have been arrested more than 5 times. There are youth criminals who are habitual in this field. However, sometimes when the police do not find the right criminal, they arrest these youth criminals.

8. The largest share of respondents, i.e., 58 per cent of the friends circle, are moderately educated; at the same time, the percentage of highly educated people is very low.
9. The majority of the respondents, i.e., 52 per cent, are addicted to alcohol. Of these, 36 per cent belong to the 18-23 age group.
10. The majority, i.e. 64 per cent of the respondents, want to earn money steadily. The commoner also wants to earn steadily, so there is not much difference between the respondents and the common man.
11. 72 per cent of the respondents believe in God. They say it is the work of the devil that has put them in prison. In every human being, there is a fear of some external forces. The soul, which is given to humanity, always speaks against evil. That is why the majority of the respondents believe in God.
12. It is found that the majority of the respondents, i.e., 48 per cent, think that family members alone can change a youth criminal. This is because family members of the Family are very close to a criminal, and they never want to harm him.
13. It shows that the majority, i.e., 50 per cent of the respondents, have a relationship with a family member that has not spoiled, even after committing a crime.
14. Most respondents (32 per cent) want to continue in this field, and the same percentage want to join as daily labourers.
15. It is found that the majority of the respondents, i.e., 48 per cent, want to leave the criminal field.
16. The family with a peaceful atmosphere, i.e., 58 per cent, are in the majority. This states that a criminal can also come from a peaceful Family. However, there is a greater chance of becoming a criminal, stemming from a quarrelsome or neglectful Family.
17. The majority of the respondents, i.e., 24 per cent of fathers, are illiterate or have significantly less education.
18. Most of the respondents' mothers are illiterate (36 per cent). In most Indian states, women lack access to education, except in a few states like Kerala. Women in Maharashtra also lack education and have no impact on their children
19. Most of the respondents' fathers are daily labourers, i.e., 32 per cent. This means they do not have a permanent job, and also do not have any fixed income.
20. The majority of the respondents, i.e.. 38 per cent of neighbourhood people work as daily labourers because they lack education and come from poor backgrounds.
21. The largest number of respondents are cool-minded, at 48 per cent; their percentage is 48. Nevertheless, usually cool-minded people do not become criminals easily, so the data may not be authentic.
22. Most of the youths, i.e., .58 per cent of the respondents, belong to the middle-medium class. The percentage is high in this class because they are economically weak and, moreover, they don't have any status.
23. It was found that 56 per cent of the respondents' fathers are earning between Rs. 2000 to 3000. This means they are earning less than Rs 100 per day, which is not at all sufficient to support a family in modern times.

Result Analysis on Causes of Youth Crime

A lot of debates are going on about the possible factors which are responsible for promoting the youth to move towards crime and criminality. Biological and psychological researchers who believe that genetic, environmental, hereditary, temperament, and intelligence are factors need to be studied by criminologists. Biological researchers believe it is the genetic composition (i.e., low arousal) and/orand / or heredity, and if the parents are criminal, then there is a high tendency of that particular youth to become criminal. Whereas the Psychological scholar states that the personality of the offenders plays an important role rather than biology. The unconscious elements (i.e. Freud) and impulsive antisocial behaviour are the characteristics of youth offenders. Hence, youth offenders have no control or are not able to balance these characteristics and ultimately such youths are more likely to engage in criminal activity. The spectrum in the middle includes social organisation, social control, and developmental scholars have their own theories of factors contributing to criminal behaviour. For example, social control scholars say that the types of formal and informal social controls an individual determines their criminality. Schools, sports organisations, and churches are referred to as informal controls. Developmental and Age- graded scholars have a longitudinal approach, covering the life span of an individual and their movements towards crime. According to Age -graded scholars, juvenile delinquency and childhood antisocial behaviour are the best predictors of adult criminality. Developmental theorists assert that some factors may explain criminality that begins in early adolescence, but other factors may explain criminality that starts in adulthood (Daniel, C. 1998). The information regarding causes of youth crime includes spending Money, opinions toward Crime, the cause of becoming a criminal, supporting factors, encouraging factors, discouraging factors, and the likeness of the movie. The combined factors provide the background of the respondents. In this chapter, the investigator has attempted to present an analysis of the mentioned factors.

1. In the majority of the respondents, i.e., 52 per cent, the responsible factors are those that they don't want to share. The other factors included that included politicians, gangs, teams, and other social phenomena. For the next majority group, i.e., 38 per cent of the respondents, the main factor is poverty, which is a social cause for crime.
2. A high number of respondents, i.e. 34 per cent of the respondents, committed a crime for monetary gain. In India, poverty is indeed a significant problem.
3. The majority, i.e., 24 per centper cent of the respondents, are involved in criminal activity. However, in this group, only the respondents' friends are involved.
4. It is found that the majority, i.e., 68 per centper cent of the respondents, are not supported by anyone and hence they are alone. But it is very strange that 14 per centper cent of the total respondents are supported by the police. Police receive a certain percentage of the criminal's money as support.
5. 58 per cent of respondents believe that prison can't change their life. It shows that youths are ready to commit crimes again and again, and they have no fear of punishment in jail. It proves that a fearless lifestyle also leads to crime among youths.
6. The majority, i.e., 48 per centper cent of the respondents, share their criminal experiences with friends at any time without experience at any time with their friends without any fear, shame, or hesitation.

7. Mostly, i.e., 86 per cent of the respondents, are discouraged by family members from committing crimes. It is because the Family teaches the person all the good things. Nevertheless, the youths disobey the teachings and commit a crime. Disobedience is the cause.
8. The majority, i.e., 38 per cent of the respondents, are not encouraged by anyone. But friends and police are the factors that encourage them to commit a Crime.
9. A high number of respondents, i.e., 30 per cent, like criminal movies. This shows that the youths are very much interested in criminal movies. By watching criminal movies, youths want to learn the techniques shown and follow them in their future criminal lives.
10. The youth criminals who are unmarried may spend their money on a luxurious life. But the youth criminal who is married spends the Money on his Family.
11. The majority, i.e., 40 per cent of the respondents, share their Money with friends. It is because the youth tend to form friend circles and don't have much responsibility.
12. The maximum number of respondents, i.e., 34 per cent, are illiterate. Out of the 34 per cent who are illiterate, 12 per cent of respondent belong to the age group of 18-23, who are very young in age.

Conclusion

The present research study gave significant conclusions. In this study, most of the aims and objectives were achieved. The purpose of the study is to understand the patterns of crime among youths and the factors that lead youths to become criminals. To know the family and personal backgrounds; to understand the economic status of youth criminals, to identify possible factors responsible for youths becoming criminals, and to study their educational background of the youths who are engaged in crimes, to understand the economic status of the youth criminals, to find out the possible factors responsible for the youth to become a criminal, and to study the educational background.

In this study, it was observed that 74 per cent of the undertrial youths began their criminal activities before the age of 18. This shows that the youths' parents have no control over them, and that the youths acted independently. 64 per cent of undertrial youth criminals are well aware of their crimes, but still they commit them. 34 per cent of the undertrial youth criminals are committing crimes to get money. This indicates the poverty of the youth's family. 56 per cent of youth criminals are experts at quarrelling. This shows the family background. Parents failed to teach them about patience. In this study, 68 per cent of the undertrial youths' parents were never arrested or committed crimes. However, their children have committed crimes. It proves that society helps youths commit crimes. Another factor revealed that 24 per cent of the undertrial youths' ambition as a child was to become a criminal. This is a strange thing. Most of them may be the children of old criminals. In the next factor, 36 per cent of the study youth criminals are aged 18-23. This may be due to a lack of job opportunities. The government should take special steps to curb youth crime and engage these youths in productive work.

About 34 per cent of the youth criminals are illiterate. This shows that our country still has a long way to go in education. Proper educational facilities should be available in all prisons to avoid such miserable conditions. As per the study, 48 per cent of youth criminals are Hindus

and 42 per cent are Buddhists. 10 per cent are Muslim youth criminals. In all religions, there are many ways to transform humanity from doing evil to doing good. Nevertheless, none of the religions seems to have attracted the youth criminals. Proper moral instruction classes should be conducted in prisons for youth criminals to avoid such a lack. The next factor is caste. 86 per cent of the youth criminals belong to S.C. and S.T., 14 per cent belong to O.B.C. This shows that S.C. and S.T. people are still living as they did in the pre-independence era. S.C. and S.T. youths are not utilising the facilities available to them. The government should establish more welfare information centres to benefit S.C. and S.T. youths.

In this study, around 72 per cent of the youth criminals are unmarried, and 66 per cent of the youth are from urban areas. Unmarried youths are free from responsibilities and live according to their own will. Urban youths are not as hardworking as rural youths. Urban youths are lazy and irresponsible, so urban youth crime is more prevalent. According to a study, 56 per cent of youth criminals were arrested more than 5 times. Indian prisons are good for nothing. Still, 56 per cent of the youths wanted to stay at their place frequently. For them, prison is better than being outside. The prison authority should partner with a reputable NGO to support the rehabilitation of youth criminals, so that the youths are not habituated to this field.

It is observed that almost 100 per cent of the youth criminals are addicted to one or another harmful thing, like drugs, smoking, and alcohol. 52 per cent are addicted to alcohol, 30 per cent to smoking, and 18 per cent to drugs. This is not only bad for health but also very bad for society. Various youth counselling centres should be opened to give proper guidance to young people to avoid dangerous addictive substances. A study revealed that 48 per cent of the youth criminals wanted to leave the criminal field. It is a perfect sign. For such youth offenders, alternative arrangements should be made to support their livelihoods. Priority should be given to these youths in job placements.

It has been observed that up to 86 per cent of the family members of youth criminals discourage their criminal activities. The family members do not want their kin to suffer in prison. So they discourage the youths from committing crimes. On the other hand, 34 per cent of the youth criminals are encouraged by the police. This should not have happened. This may be occurring at the lowest level of the police department. Higher police authorities should take note of this and take serious action to avoid police officers encouraging youth criminals.

After a detailed study, it is observed that the factors for crime among youth criminals are poverty, poor education, addiction, greed for money, encouragement of friends/police, unemployment, bad society, criminal movies, sharing of criminal experience, unawareness of law and circumstances.

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