

# Decadal Analysis of Crimes against Children in India

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## ABSTRACT

Using a decadal analysis, this study investigates society's fundamental issue of horrific acts against children. Crime incidents between 2010 and 2021 are taken from Crime in India, a premium data centre of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, for deliberation to have a holistic approach to issues such as reported, crime incidents, nature of crimes against children, state-by-state analysis, current policies such as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in India, and the impact on social issues are deliberated with data. The Criminal Justice Administration is concerned with a study of criminal incidents from 2010 to 2021, which reveals disturbing societal conditions and animosity toward crimes against children in the country. Overall, this study highlights the need for continued efforts to prevent and address crimes against children in India. The increasing trend in kidnapping and abduction cases is particularly concerning and requires immediate attention from law enforcement agencies and policymakers.

## INTRODUCTION

Crimes against children are the most serious societal challenges in any country, and they are particularly devastating because children's innocence has been tainted by crimes against them. Meanwhile, in India, despicable acts have been deeply disconcerting, but there has been a widespread failure to protect children from abuse. When we look at the reasons for a higher number of crimes against children in India, serious offences against children's bodies come out on top. Sexual offences are heinous in nature and children are disproportionately targeted due to their immature state of mind and lack of sexual prudence. It is disturbing that criminals have no emotions about the children they target as their victims and that in all cruel actions, children are just seen as objects.

Even though many crime prevention strategies are in place, crime incidents remain concerning. Perhaps the reasons and motives for crimes are still miserable, but many studies have gone with the research to find the causes of acts against children. Perhaps the reason and the motive of crimes are still

miserable, General reviews on researches to find the causes for the act against children<sup>1</sup> and other economic motives for crimes such as kidnapping and ransom.

As usual deliberation, children are a vulnerable target and they are more prone to victimization. 4.5 % of the crime rate increased since 2009 compared to 2018, also there is a significant increase of 18.9 % under the POCSO Act<sup>2</sup>. Is the increasing growth of crime against children being dooming? Whether measures from the criminal justice agencies not fitting in preventing crimes against kids? How far are the government's actions to save children from crimes? These are the general deliberation that could not still justify the core issues. Most of the crimes against children are Sexual actions, Trafficking and Child Labour.

## Absurdity of Condition

According to a UNICEF report, 10 per cent of the

1 (Violence against Children, Interpol Report)

2 (Ravi, 2020)

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world's children are not entitled to protection, and 15 million adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 have pushed for forced sex (Global Annual Results Reports 2020)<sup>3</sup>. As per World Health Organization, 1 billion children aged 2 to 17 years will have experienced sexual, emotional, or physical violence. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda's aim 16.2 is to eradicate abuse, exploitation, and trafficking of children, as well as all forms of violence<sup>4</sup>.

According to the National Crimes Record Bureau's 2020 report, 1.28 lakh crimes against minors were reported in a single year, with 1.34 lakh victims. The evaluation of the rising rate of crime is quite relevant and important to understand the societal conditions, why children are most prone to crimes, and how cold-hearted criminals are targeting children, particularly a heinous sexual offence against children that have been reported is pretty awful. Children are more vulnerable to victimhood since they are weak and frail. Child victimhood is as old as mankind itself<sup>5</sup>. Crime against children is a global phenomenon, Hence it is a global fight towards protecting children from victimization, Through the ages children are victimized, bought, Sold, Enslaved, Exploited, Sexually misused and Killed, more you dig into the history of children's had never been in a Golden age<sup>6</sup> Concerning policy and the deterrent effects of punishments, it is possible that crime prevention strategies, in conjunction with social participation, are ineffective in the reduction of crimes. As a result, even though crime prevention is society's primary social concern, it remains a major challenge for law enforcement and criminal justice agencies to focus their efforts on developing a strategy. The Indian Penal Code defines crimes against children, and the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 was enacted to reduce the crime rate.

### OBJECTIVES

To identify the core issues, to study the Decadal growth of Crimes against Children and their severity. Also, to explore the Highest crime incidents reported among the states and the cities in India and the gravity of the offences has been analysed to highlight

the gravity of the crime, to bring the problem to social platforms as a sensitising tool to seek the attention of Criminal Justice stakeholders.

### METHODS

National Crimes Records Bureau -NCRB, standard officials Bureau (Ministry of Home Affairs), Crime in India data is been drawn from 2010 to 2020 to study the decadal analysis of the crime incidents, and the trends reported during these years for analysis purposes. Crime in India is the premier data bureau in the country and publishes data every year in India. 10 years of data (Crime Growth) and average crimes per year are drawn to understand the trends of crime recorded in India.

### RESULTS

**Table 1** signifies, The Average (mean crime during the last decade) is 90378 per year. Maximum crimes reported in the year 2019 constitute 4116.25 crimes on average. Comparing to 2010, 4 times higher in 2020. These increasing trends and the average crimes reported per year indicate the foremost resistor to curb crimes. The decrease in crimes in 2020 could be attributed to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to restrictions on movement and decreased opportunities for criminal activity. However, it's important to note that the data may also be influenced by changes in reporting practices or disruptions in law enforcement activities due to the pandemic.

**Table 2** graphs depict the top 5 states which are facing severe burdens in regulating crime against Children in India. These five states are more Significant states in India, even though the population is higher compared to other states, the minimum number of crimes reported between 2010-2021 is in West Bengal (50623 cases) and the maximum number of crimes is in Madhya Pradesh (139805). When we look at the population size of these states as per the 2011 general census, Uttar Pradesh has the highest population with 11.23 crore followed by Maharashtra with 19.95 crores. Madhya Pradesh has a population of 7.27 crore. The data highlights the need for targeted efforts to address and prevent crimes against children in these states with the highest incidence rates. It also emphasizes the importance of addressing the root causes of these

3 (UNICEF, 2020)

4 (Violence against Children, n.d.)

5 (Fattah, 1989)

6 (Chandrashekar, 2014)

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crimes, such as poverty, inadequate education, and societal attitudes towards children.

**Table 3**, figures indicate that the highest reported crimes against children in the cities of India, in the last three years, Delhi (19774) holds the highest number of crimes with an average of 6500 cases per year between 2010-2021. This is one of the terrible conditions of the capital state of India. Secondly, Mumbai (3133) stands next to Delhi with an average of 3000 crimes per year, especially in crimes against Children. Both Delhi and Mumbai are great cities in India, but the dark shade of reality would be harsh. Delhi has registered an average of 6591 cases during these years. In 2018, Delhi had the highest number of reported crimes with 6,853 incidents, followed by Mumbai with 3,511 incidents. Bangalore had the third-highest number of crimes with 1,815 incidents, while Indore and Surat had 962 and 1,075 incidents, respectively. In 2019, Delhi again recorded the highest number of crimes with 7,565 incidents, followed by Mumbai with 3,640 incidents. Bangalore saw a decrease in the number of reported crimes with 1,488 incidents. Indore and Surat had 967 and 770 incidents, respectively.

In 2020, Delhi recorded a decrease in the number of crimes with 5,356 incidents. Mumbai also recorded a decrease with 2,248 incidents, while Bangalore had 1,103 incidents. Indore and Surat had 767 and 419 incidents, respectively. Delhi and Mumbai where the number of incidents is highest. Law enforcement agencies and government authorities need to work collaboratively to ensure the safety and protection of citizens and also create awareness campaigns to prevent these crimes. Additionally, there is a need to address the root causes of these crimes,

**Table 4**, Protection of children from sexual offences (POCSO) Act enacted in 2012, from the table it is evident that there was a rise in sexual offences against children (A total of 226830 cases are reported between 2014-2021, The Protection of Children from Sexual offences act was enacted to regulate Child sexual abuses cases, it's a comprehensive law to protect children, it has child-friendly judicial process and cases are designated to Special Courts. In 2014, there were 8,904 crimes registered under the POCSO act, which increased to 47,221 in 2020. The year 2016 recorded the highest number of crimes under the POCSO act with 36,022 cases registered. The data highlights the rising incidence of sexual

offences against children in India, which is a cause for concern. It is important to note that the increase in the number of registered cases may also be due to increased awareness and reporting of such crimes, rather than an actual increase in the incidence of the crimes. Nonetheless, the data indicate the need for stricter implementation of laws and measures to prevent such offences and ensure the safety and protection of children.

**Table 5**, depicts the highest reported crimes (Nature wise) Kidnapping and Abduction, Murder and Procurement of Girls. Kidnapping (392238) cases are the Highest among all, an average of 39223.8 cases were registered per year during the assessment period of 2010 to 2020 with a high variance of reported crimes. Secondly, the Procurement of Minor Girls (22346) has reported 2234.6 cases per year. Both kidnapping and Procurement of Minor Girls are causing victimization in Increasing trends. Murder has been reported highest and has 1545 crimes as average reported per year. The reasons for changes in reported cases from year to year are perhaps the implementation of the POCSO act, and the movements which against the crimes created sensitization among people, national news coverage and deliberations could've been the reason.

**Table 1: The following figures show the Year wise growth of Crimes and Average Crimes per year from 2010 to 2020**

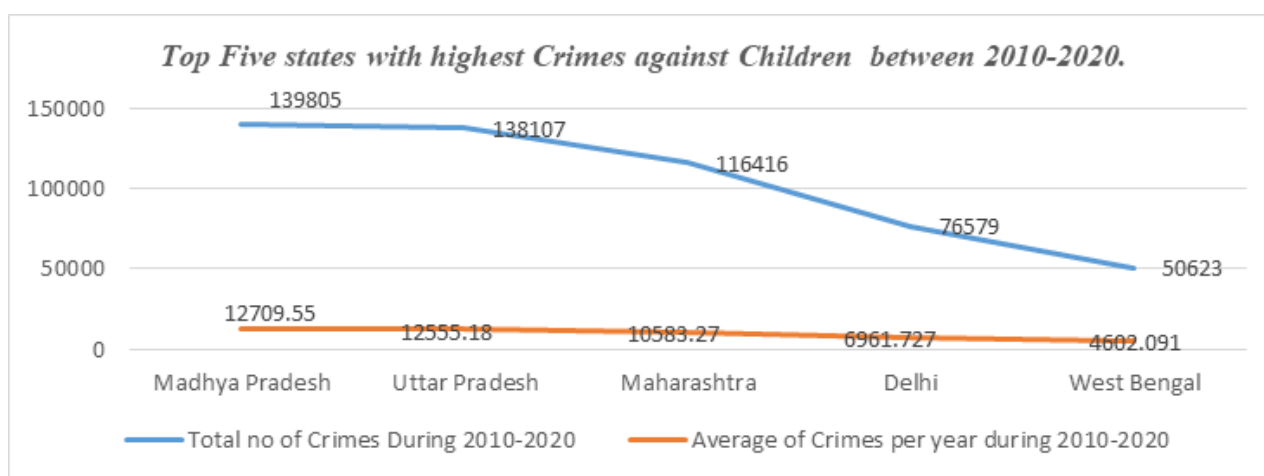
Year	Crimes	Mean*
2010	26694	741.5
2011	33098	919.33
2012	38172	1060.33
2013	58224	1617.33
2014	89423	2484
2015	94172	2615.88
2016	106958	2971.05
2017	129032	3584.22
2018	141764	3782.11
2019	148090	4116.25
2020	128531	6947.62

\* Average Crimes from Each state (All India, Including Union Territories) During 2010-2020.

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**Table 2: The following table shows the top Five states with the highest Crimes against Children recorded in India between 2010-2020.**

States	Total no of Crimes During 2010-2020	Average of Crimes per year during 2010-2020	Population (2011 General Census)
Madhya Pradesh	139805	12709.55	7.27 crore
Uttar Pradesh	138107	12555.18	11.23 crore
Maharashtra	116416	10583.27	19.95 crore
Delhi	76579	6961.727	1.68 crore
West Bengal	50623	4602.091	9.13 crore



**Table 3: The following table shows the crime figures of the top 5 cities, City wise crime data since the last three years.**

Year	Delhi	Mumbai	Bangalore	Indore	Surat
2018	6853	3511	1815	962	1075
2019	7565	3640	1488	967	770
2020	5356	2248	1103	767	419
<b>SUM</b>	<b>19774</b>	<b>9399</b>	<b>4406</b>	<b>2696</b>	<b>2264</b>
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>6591.333</b>	<b>3133</b>	<b>1468.6</b>	<b>898.6</b>	<b>754.6</b>

**Table 4: The following data is related to the Crimes registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.**

Year	Crimes Under POCSO*
2014	8904
2015	14913
2016	36022
2017	32608
2018	39827
2019	47335
2020	47221
<b>Total</b>	<b>226830</b>

\*Act enacted in the year 2012, hence the crime data available since 2014 onwards

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**Table 5: The following table signifies the Highest Recorded Crime Heads from the NCRB data on offences against Children in India during 2010-2020.**

Year	Murder	Kidnapping and Abduction	Procuration of Minor Girls
2010	1408	10670	679
2011	1451	15284	862
2013	1657	28167	1224
2014	1817	37854	2020
2015	1758	41893	3087
2016	1640	54723	2465
2017	1393	54163	3382
2018	1497	42908	3039
2019	1409	69075	3117
2020	1420	37501	2471
SUM	15450	392238	22346
Average	1545	39223.8	2234.6
S. D	159.184	17921.82944	997.165895

## DISCUSSION

### Theorising the probability of being Victimized among children

Immaturity and lack of prudence among children and lack of parental guidance are the main factors influencing the victimization of children.

Prudence	Factors to Sensitize Among Children
Physical	Biological growth and standard Behaviour
Mental	Parental Guidance, Socialization, Neighbourhood Environment, Human Relations
Sexual	Good/Bad Touch among Known and Strangers.

### Profiling the Motives of Criminals

Nature	Behaviour	Motives of Crime
<b>Avaricious Personality</b>	Greed, Selfish and Stingy behaviour. Humanly emotions are less, usually these people will target the children to kidnap or abduct with demand of Ransom, other purposes are Child trafficking, Pornography, Slavery, Sexual Slavery, Domestic Works and Bonded Labour, House Chores.	Wealth

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<b>Sadistic Personality</b>	Seeking pleasure by wreaking pain, humiliation, jealous. The possibility of actions against children perhaps from the known, Family members will be higher than the strangers.	Instant Gratification, Exploitations, Violence's.
<b>Paedophilic</b>	Psycho sexual disorder, attracting to young boys/Girls/Children for Sexual Gratifications.	Sexual Pleasure

Victimization as well as perturbation of children is disgraceful in just about any society; presumably, in India, children are prone to victimisation and are vulnerable in many instances. A possible two-dimensional analysis can be made, first by having a look at the strange perpetrators who have been held accountable for crimes. Second, UNICEF India reports that violence, exploitation, and abuse are perpetrated by people known to the child, such as parents and other family members, neighbours, caretakers, and so forth,<sup>7</sup>. Victimization as well as perturbation of children is disgraceful in just about any society; presumably, in India, children are prone to victimisation and are vulnerable in many instances. A possible two-dimensional analysis can be made, first by having a look at the strange perpetrators who have been held accountable for crimes. Second, UNICEF India reports that violence, exploitation, and abuse are perpetrated by people known to the child, such as parents and other family members, neighbours, caretakers, and so forth.

sexual abuse, children must be educated on sexual matters. They must be aware of any sexual acts that are violent in nature, and they must be able to comprehend the consequences of actions made to them.

North Indian states, in general, have a higher violent crime rate than southern states. Many situations, especially with Dark Figures of Crimes, will not be overlooked. Many incidents would just go unregistered owing to fear of the legal process, and police public relations issues in individuals reporting crimes, as well as poor police ratios, are wreaking havoc on society. Examining how little children are being exploited for economic and sexual gain is horrifying. Delhi is on high alert, which is not a good indication for the capital city. Mumbai, India's commercial hub, has the second highest crime rate, with an average of 3133 cases each year during the last three years. These large cities are densely populated and feature a variety of amenities that would cost criminal actions.

### Overview of Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012

POCSO act was enacted to deal with Sexual offences against children that protect children from sexual assaults, harassment and Pornography, safeguarding the interest of the child at every step of the Judicial process<sup>8</sup>. The data covers the years 2014 to 2020. There were 226830 reported cases, with an average crime rate of 32404 every year. This shows the growing number of paedophilic abusers who have ruthlessly abused children, as well as the public reaction to such stories in the media, which contributes to social insecurity. To prevent child

### Government's Role

The government of India has implemented legal laws to combat crimes against children at the national level, as well as in all states and union territories, which has increased the focus on rising trends in crime against children. However, the savagery of the crimes, particularly kidnapping and abduction as an organised crimes, makes it difficult for law enforcement to battle the crimes. The Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India has launched a rescue app named KHOYA PAYA<sup>9</sup>, a citizen's corner of Track Child, here people should fill in proper details of missing children, and a pan India functionary will take the issues to go with

<sup>7</sup> (End Violence against Children | UNICEF India, n.d.)

<sup>8</sup> (Ministry of Women and Child Development, 2012)

<sup>9</sup> (Khoja-Paya, n.d.)

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the investigation a citizen's area of Track Child, where individuals may put in the details of a missing child, and a pan-India team would handle the case. After the Prevention of Children from sexual offences Act, 2011-12, kidnapping and abduction are the second most commonly recorded crimes (in terms of Nature of Crimes).

### CONCLUSION

Crimes against children are disconcerting for any society, thus law enforcement and the justice system must address the concerns and be watchful to prevent such crimes. Although social interference

and increased sensitization may be necessary to protect our children from evil, parent conditions and supervision are also recommended as part of family care and protection because police officers and criminal justice cannot be held completely responsible for the causes. Academic institutions should take a lead in raising awareness about crimes against children among children. Societal interference may play a key role in preventing social fairs. Because perpetrators are frequently cruel, their actions toward them take advantage of their vulnerability and innocence. It is necessary to profile them and develop a strategy for dealing with them.

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