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**THE RISING TREND OF VIOLENT CRIMES AMONG JUVENILE
DELINQUENTS IN INDIA: A SOCIO-LEGAL STUDY**

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Abstract

In recent years, India has seen a disturbing rise in violent crimes committed by the Juvenile delinquents. This rise has led us to question the effectiveness and efficiency of our country's legal and social systems in tackling this growing concern. The reports from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shows an alarming rise in the violent crimes despite an overall decrease in numbers. Most of the violent crimes are committed by the older teenagers falling in the age group of 16-18 years. Cities like Delhi especially showed a higher crime rate in comparison to other cities which made the capital a hotspot for the juvenile offences.

This research paper studies the patterns of violent juvenile offences and the main causes responsible for the said increase. It also assesses the current legal system i.e. the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 that how well it is able to cope up with the rising violent behavior of the young children. It also suggests various changes which are required to be made in the existing system. Although the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 allows the juveniles aged between 16-18 years to be tried as an adult for committing heinous offences but its implementation is not able to be achieved smoothly due to various hurdles in the system like practical issues and limited resources.

Overall, this paper argues that India needs a balanced approach that combines legal responsibility with strong community support, better rehabilitation, and early prevention strategies.

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Keywords: juvenile delinquents, violent crimes, India, juvenile justice, causes, rehabilitation, NCRB

Introduction

Juvenile delinquency, which means the involvement of juveniles or minors in unlawful activities, has become a growing concern for India's criminal justice system. In recent years, India has seen a distressing increase in the violent crimes committed by young delinquents. The offences committed by the children nowadays are no longer the small acts of misbehavior. Nowadays, the acts committed by the youth are bone-chilling as well as nerve-racking as more and more children are involved in committing murder, sexual offences, gang violence, robbery, assault, etc. The rise in violent crimes challenges the traditional notion that children are innocent and only capable of committing minor mistakes. The youth's increasing involvement in heinous offences has also become a growing concern for the families, communities, and the government. It is important to understand why the youth is turning violent day by day and for that, various social, personal, psychological, and environmental factors are to be seen.

Many juveniles those who commit violent crimes often comes from problematic backgrounds. Factors like poverty, broken families, lack of proper guidance and exposure to violence at a very young age at home or in community can drive youth towards criminal behavior. There are various other reasons also like rapid urbanization, migration and social inequality which shape the way in which the children grow up leaving the vulnerable ones to negative influences. Peer pressure, substance abuse and exposure to violent content in media can further enhance the violent behavior in children.

Adolescence is crucial stage of development where the youth faces various emotional, psychological and physical changes and along with these changes, there is impulsiveness and a strong desire for independence. During this period, the children are easily influenced by their surroundings, friends or social groups and are more likely to take risk without thinking about its consequences.

The aim of the Indian juvenile justice system is to focus on the rehabilitation rather than punishment but it faces numerous challenges. The Juvenile courts are usually overburdened

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and rehabilitation homes and social support systems are also very limited in number. And when the high-profile cases creates enormous public pressure for harsher punishments to juvenile, most of the time, it overshadows the need to address the root cause behind the delinquent behavior of the children.

The rise in violent crimes by the juvenile delinquents is not just a law and order issue, it reveals deeper social, psychological and economic problems. The study of this issue can help families, educators and policymakers in preventing the juvenile offences and supporting the young generation in making better life choices. This research paper will examine the causes, patterns and consequences of violent juvenile offences in India. It also aims to understand why this problem is growing day by day and how it can be effectively tackled.

Statement of the Problem

In recent years, India has seen a distressing rise in violent crimes committed by juvenile delinquents which include serious offences like murder, rape, armed robbery, assault, and gang violence. According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB, 2023), large number of juveniles falling in the age group of 16-18 years were arrested under IPC for serious offences.³ This shows that the juvenile offences are not just becoming frequent but also severe in nature which indicates towards deeper social, economic and institutions problems.

Since India has one of the largest youth populations in the world, the rise in violent crimes by the juvenile delinquents poses a real threat to the India's social security and national development. Various factors contribute to this problem like poverty, broken families, urban migration, peer pressure, substance abuse and exposure to violent media. These factors along with limited access to education and mental health support makes the child more vulnerable to criminal behavior.

The Juvenile Justice (care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 was enacted to maintain balance between rehabilitation and accountability but its implementation faced various challenges. Observation homes are usually overcrowded, there is a lot of shortage of trained staff as well and the reintegration programs for the juveniles are also very weak.

³Government of India, National Crime Records Bureau: Crime in India Report 2023 (Ministry of Home Affairs), <https://www.ncrb.gov.in/uploads/files/1CrimeinIndia2023PartI1.pdf>.

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The rise in violent crimes by juvenile delinquents is not just a law and order problem, it is a very deep rooted social issue with various psychological, moral, and institutional implications. This problem point out the gaps in the child protection systems, the challenges in the justice system, and the limitations of existing prevention and rehabilitation programs of India. Without an evidence based and well planned approach that deals with both the deep rooted causes and system gaps, this situation can get worse with time. This could lead to vicious cycle of violence, victimization, and social alienation among India's youth.

Research Questions

1. What are the recent trends and statistical patterns in the violent crimes committed by juvenile offenders across different regions of India?
2. What are the reasons for the rise in violent crimes by juvenile delinquents in India?
3. How effective is the Indian Juvenile Justice system in dealing with the juveniles offenders involved in violent crimes?
4. What measures can be adopted to cure the increasing menace of the violent juvenile crimes in India?

Hypothesis

1. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in violent crimes committed by juvenile offenders in India.
2. Various reasons such as social, economic, psychological, and institutional factors are responsible for the rise in the violent crimes.
3. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 is effective in providing a legal framework for juvenile justice but it faces various challenges in its implementation.

Research Objectives

1. To analyze the recent trends and statistical patterns in the violent crimes committed by juvenile offenders across different regions of India.
2. To identify the various reasons for the rise in violent crimes by juvenile delinquents in India.

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3. To examine the effectiveness of the Indian Juvenile Justice system in dealing with the juveniles offenders involved in violent crimes.
4. To suggest the various measures in dealing with the increasing menace of violent crimes by juvenile delinquents in India.

Research Methodology

The present research work is a Doctrinal Research. It is based on both primary sources as well as secondary sources. As far as primary sources are concerned, the considerable reliance is placed on legislations, case laws, law reports etc. while secondary sources includes books, articles, research papers, journals, online database etc.

Literature Review

1. **Prof. N.V. Paranjape** in his book “**Criminology, Penology with Victimology**”⁴ addresses the concern of juvenile delinquency. From what is juvenile delinquency to what are the causes for it and the legislation dealing with it have been discussed by the author. The author has analyzed the provisions of JJ Act, 2015 and provided various possible solutions for the better implementation of the Act.
2. **Dr. Nisha** in her article on “**Juvenile Delinquency in India: A Socio-Legal Aspect**”⁵ discusses the concept of juvenile delinquency in the light of socio-legal factors. This article not only explains the juvenile justice system of India but also addresses the weakness or challenges in the implementation of it. This article also provides the suggestions for making improvement in the Indian juvenile justice system.
3. **Shweta Mittal** in her article on “**Juvenile Justice in India: Challenges, Reforms, and the way ahead**”⁶ discusses the key advantages and challenges of the Indian

⁴ DR. N.V. PARANJAPE, CRIMINOLOGY & PENOLOGY WITH VICTIMOLOGY (Central Law Publications, Allahabad, 17th ed., 2017).

⁵ Dr. Nisha, *Juvenile Delinquency in India: A Socio-Legal Aspect*, 6 JHED (2024) <https://media.neliti.com/media/publications/632712-juvenile-delinquency-in-india-a-socio-le-bcb1ada0.pdf>.

⁶ Shweta Mittal, *Juvenile Justice In India: Challenges, Reforms, And The Way Ahead*, 5 IJIRL (2025) <https://ijirl.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/JUVENILE-JUSTICE-IN-INDIA-CHALLENGES-REFORMS-AND-THE-WAY-AHEAD.pdf>.

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Juvenile Justice system. This article further provides the key recommendations for strengthening the juvenile justice system in India.

4. **Sudha Yadav & Akilesh Ranaut** in their research paper on “**Juvenile Justice Reforms: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Rehabilitation Vs Punishment**”⁷ critically evaluates the effectiveness of rehabilitation compared to punishment in the context of juvenile justice. This paper not just explores the impact of rehabilitation programs on reducing recidivism but it also assesses the consequences of punitive measures on young offenders.
5. **Ayushi Singh & Riddhi Solanki** in their research paper on “**Criminals or Victims? The Unresolved Struggles of Juvenile Justice in India**”⁸ delve into the historical, legal, and socio-cultural aspects of child-centric justice in India, analysing its evolution from ancient roots to current practices. This paper also discusses the contemporary challenges in the Indian juvenile justice system along with suggesting some reforms to the same.

Who is a Juvenile?

The word ‘Juvenile’ has been derived from a Latin word *juvenis* which means ‘young’.⁹ A Juvenile is a person who is not old enough to be called an adult and who cannot be tried as an adult for a criminal offence in the court of law.¹⁰ A juvenile is a person who has a low level of mental maturity and physical strength which distinguishes them from a full grown adult. This is the reason that the juveniles can easily fall prey to the inducement and temptations which leads them on the path of criminality.

⁷ Sudha Yadav & Akilesh Ranaut, *Juvenile Justice Reforms: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Rehabilitation Vs Punishment*, 5 IJFMR (2023),

<https://www.ijfmr.com/papers/2023/6/9541.pdf#:~:text=One%20of%20the%20primary%20indicators%20of%20the,underlying%20factors%20that%20led%20to%20criminal%20behavior.>

⁸ Ayushi Singh & Riddhi Solanki, *Criminals or Victims? The Unresolved Struggles of Juvenile Justice in India*, 2 IJLRA (2024), <https://www.ijlra.com/details/criminals-or-victims-the-unresolved-struggles-of-juvenile-justice-in-india-by-ayushi-singh-riddhi-solanki->.

⁹ Shipra Mishra & Dr. Mrinalini Singh, *Determination of juvenile’s age: In reference to legality of documents and its relevancy*, 9 IJCRT, 807, 808 (2021), <https://ijcrt.org/papers/IJCRT2108428.pdf>.

¹⁰ Oishika Banerji & Mohd Atif Zakir, *Juvenile crimes in India*, iPleaders (Jan. 20, 2026, 2:12 PM), <https://blog.ipleaders.in/juvenile-crimes-india/>.

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As per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, juvenile means a child who has not completed the age of eighteen years.¹¹

What is Juvenile Delinquency?

The word 'delinquency' comes from a Latin word *delinquer* which means 'to omit'.¹² The term "juvenile delinquency" refers to a variety of disapproved behavior of the children which the society does not approve of and for which some kind of admonition and punishment should be awarded in the larger public interest.¹³

The Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, defined the term "delinquent juvenile" as a juvenile who has committed an offence.¹⁴ Later, this term was substituted by the words "juvenile in conflict with law" in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.¹⁵ As per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the juvenile delinquent is a child in conflict with law which has been defined as a child who has committed some offence and who has not completed the age of eighteen years on the date of commission of such offence.¹⁶

Juvenile Crime Rate in India

The National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB), which is a part of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India, provides data on Juvenile crimes every year to show the magnitude of juvenile delinquency in India. The latest 'Crime in India' report published by the NCRB for the year 2023 stated that a total of 31,365 cases have been registered against Juveniles during 2023 showing an increase of 2.7% over 2022 (30,555 cases). The crime rate increased from 6.9 in 2022 to 7.1 in 2023. Maharashtra reported the highest number of crimes

¹¹The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015§ 2 (35), No. 2, Acts of Parliament, 2015 (India).

¹²Manmeet Singh, *Juvenile Delinquency: A Comparative Study between India, U.K. & U.S.A.*, 1 LAJ 4, 5 (2018), <https://www.lawaudience.com/juvenile-delinquency-a-comparative-study-between-india-u-k-u-s-a/>.

¹³DR. N.V. PARANJAPE, *CRIMINOLOGY & PENOLOGY WITH VICTIMOLOGY* 661 (Central Law Publications, Allahabad, 17th ed., 2017).

¹⁴ The Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, § 2 (e), No. 53, Acts of Parliament, 1986 (India).

¹⁵ The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, § 2 (l), No. 56, Acts of Parliament, 2000 (India).

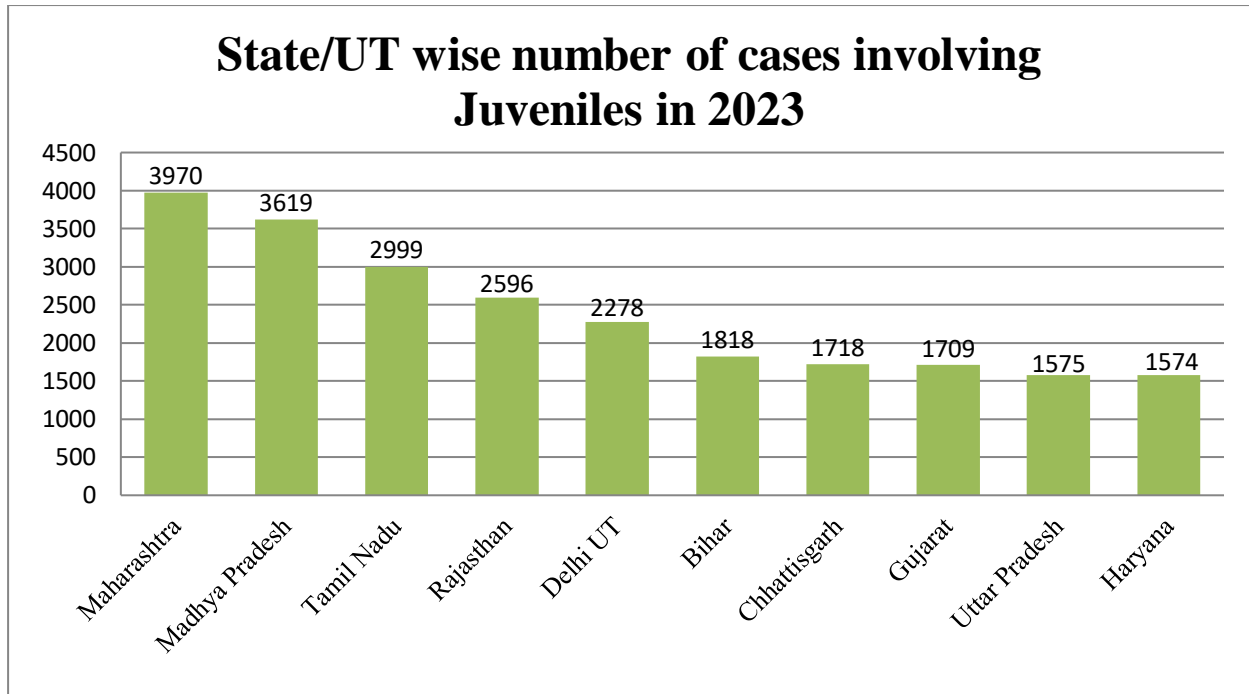
¹⁶The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015§ 2 (13), No. 2, Acts of Parliament, 2015 (India).

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committed by the juveniles in 2023. After Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu were on second and third in the line for having reported 3619 and 2999 cases respectively.¹⁷

Graph 1: State/UT wise number of cases involving Juveniles in 2023.¹⁸



Graph 1: shows the top 10 states who have reported the highest number of cases involving juveniles in 2023. These ten states alone were accountable for 76% of cases in India in 2023.

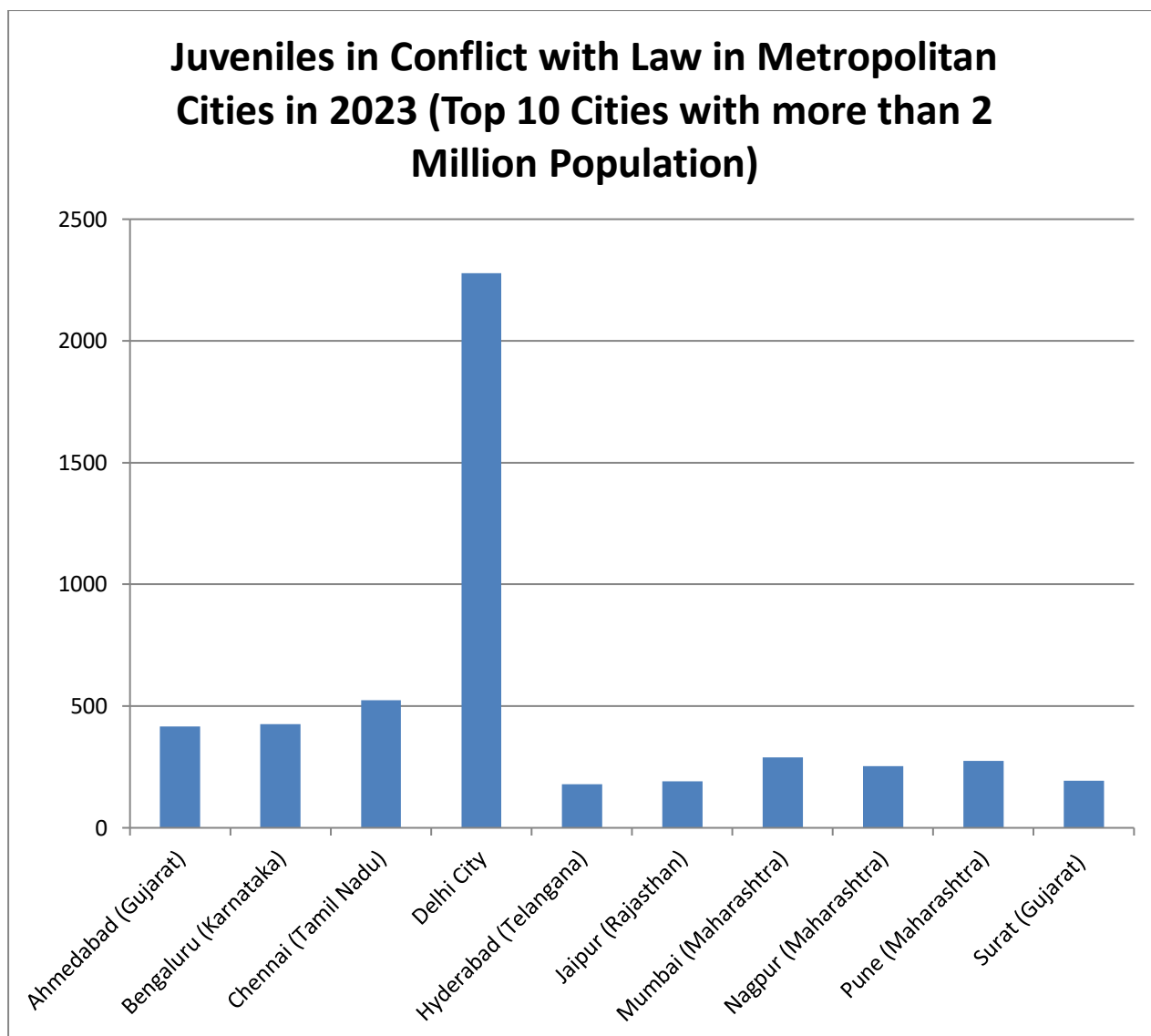
Graph 2: Juveniles in conflict with Law in Metropolitan Cities in 2023 (Top 10 Cities with more than 2 Million Population)¹⁹

¹⁷Supra note 3.

¹⁸*Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

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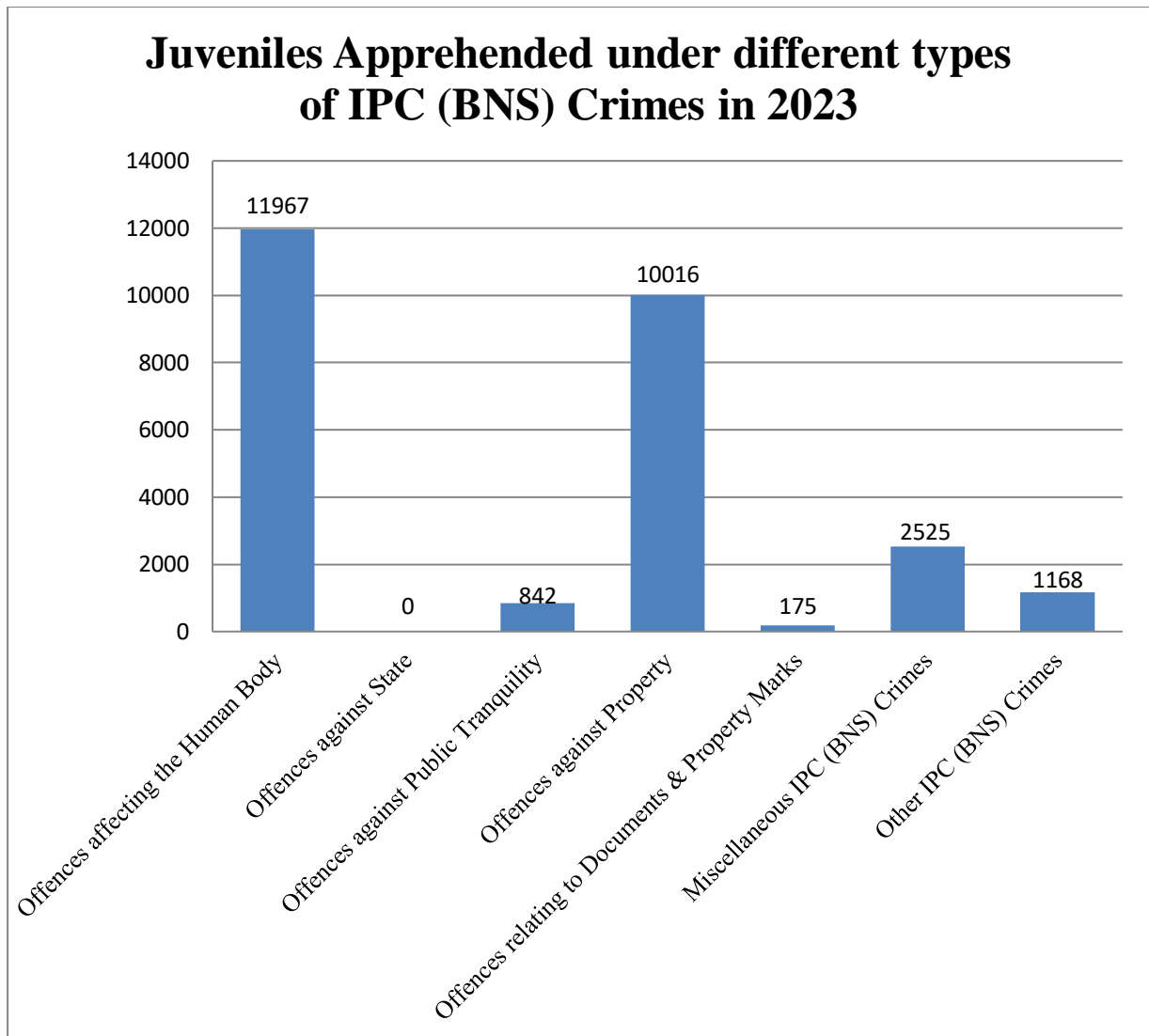
Graph 2 shows the Crime Committed by Juveniles under IPC (BNS) and SLL in Metropolitan Cities. This graph clearly shows that Delhi is the only metropolitan city where the highest number of crimes were committed by the juveniles.

Graph 3: Juveniles Apprehended under different types of IPC (BNS) crimes in 2023.²⁰

²⁰*Id.*

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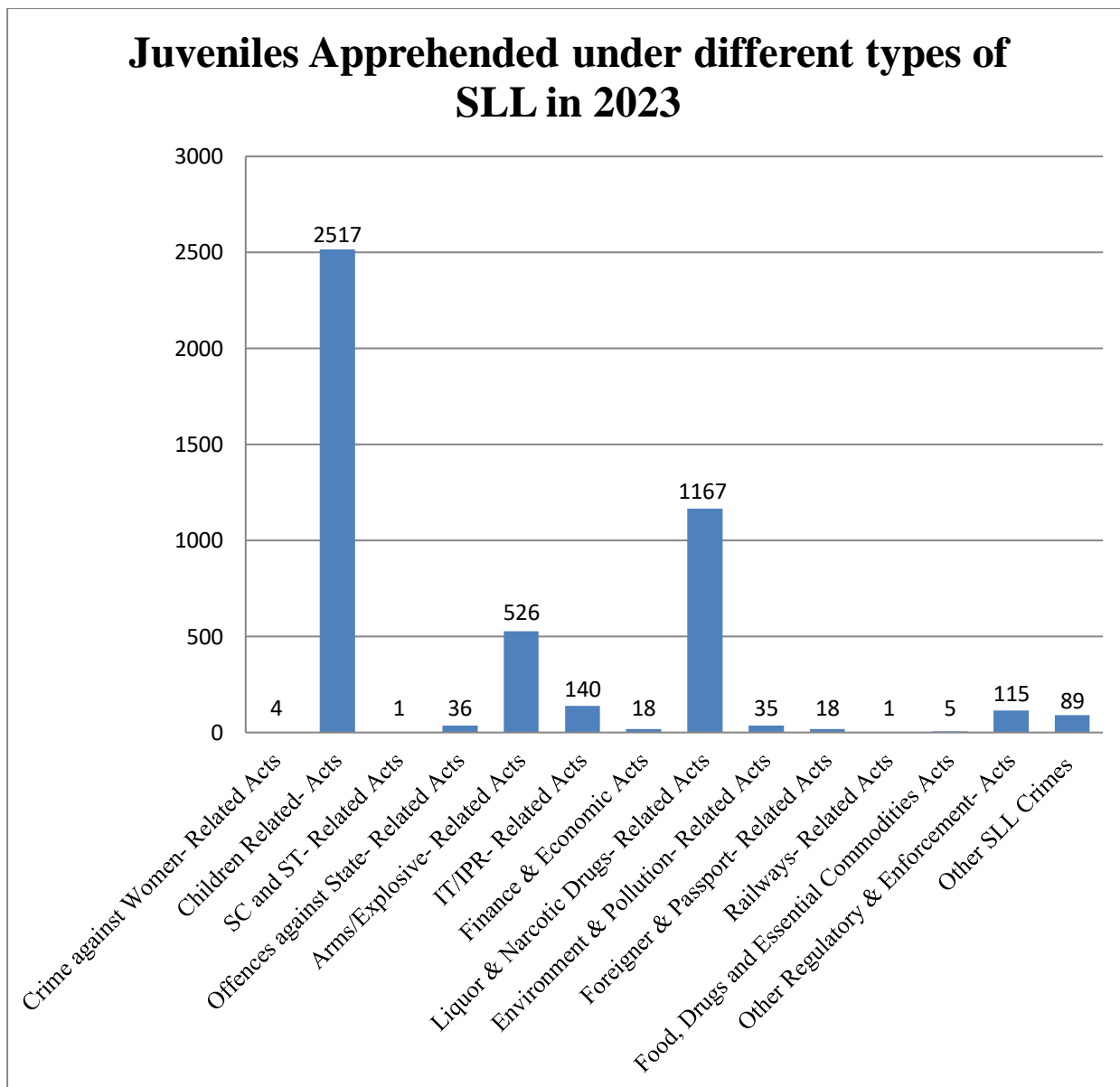
Graph 3 shows that in 2023, majority of crimes committed by juveniles under IPC (BNS) were offences affecting the human body (11,967) in which 5,836 were cases of hurt only followed by attempt to Commit Murder with 1476 cases. The second highest number of cases were of offences against property (10,016) followed by miscellaneous IPC (BNS) crimes (2,525).

Graph 4: Juveniles Apprehended under different types of SLL in 2023.²¹

²¹*Id.*

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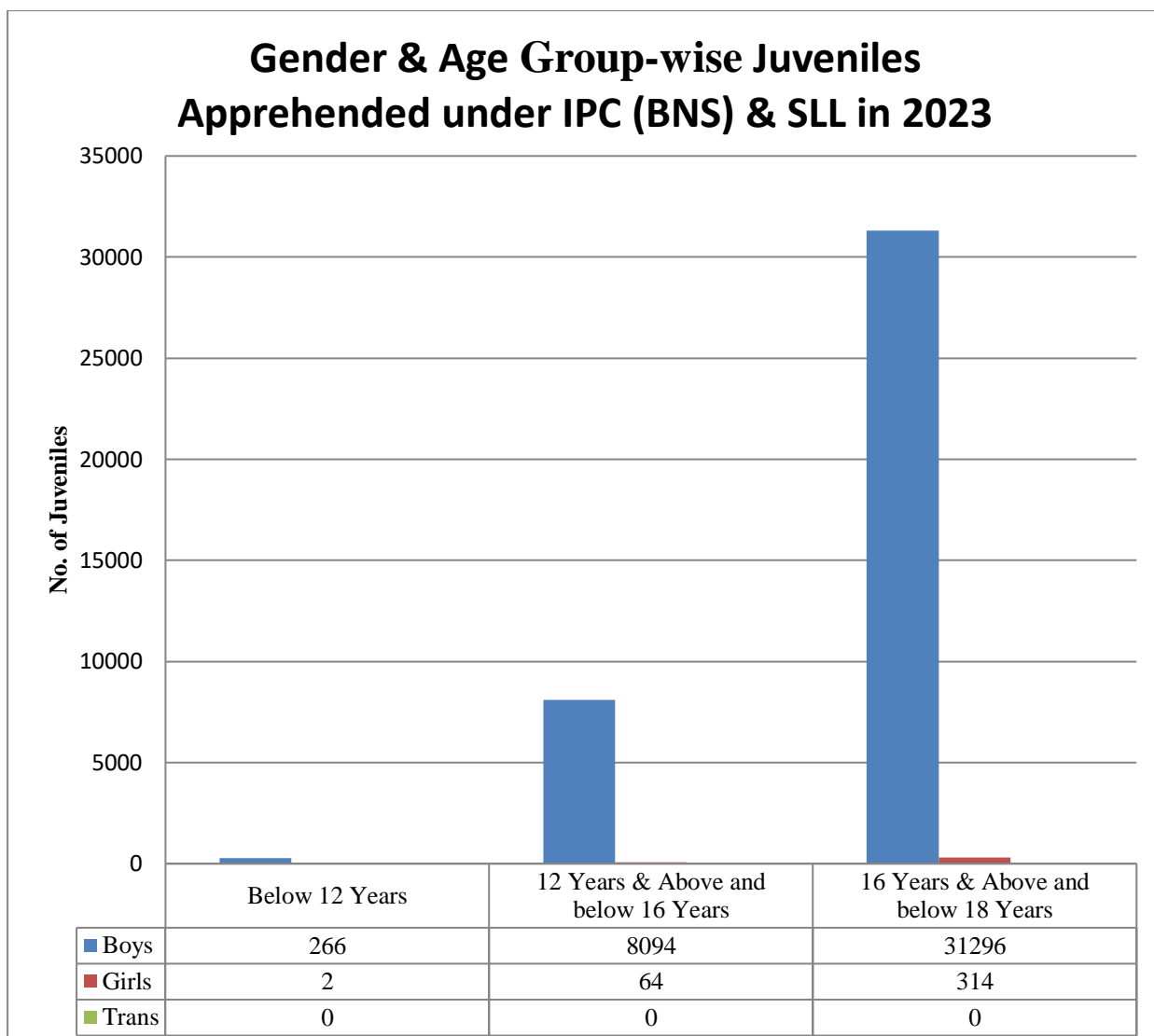


Graph 4 shows that in 2023, with regard to SLL, the maximum number of cases against juvenile were under Children related Acts followed by Liquor and Narcotic drugs related Acts. Under SLL, the juveniles committed the highest number of crimes under the POCSO Act, 2012 i.e. 2478 cases.

Graph 5: Gender and Age Group-wise Juveniles Apprehended under IPC (BNS) and SLL in 2023.²²

²²*Id.*

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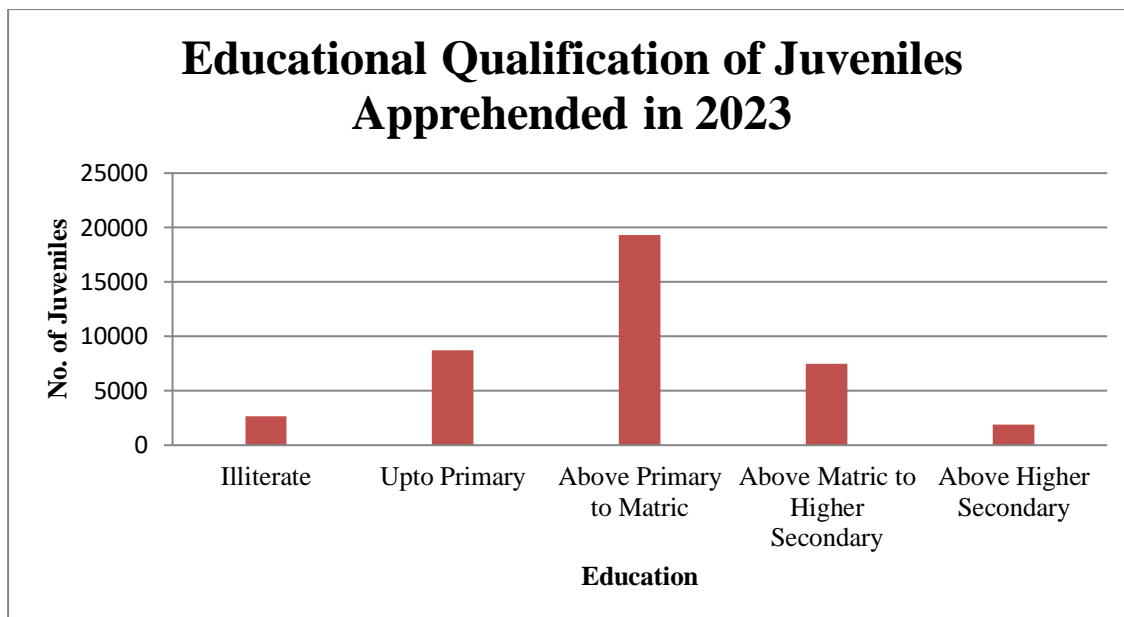


Graph 5 shows that in 2023, the highest number of juveniles who were apprehended under IPC (BNS) and SLL were juveniles falling within the age-group of 16-18 years (79.0%) followed by juvenile in the age-group of 12-16 years. Among all the apprehended juveniles, the ratio of boys is much more than girls.

Graph 6: Educational Qualification of Juveniles Apprehended in 2023.²³

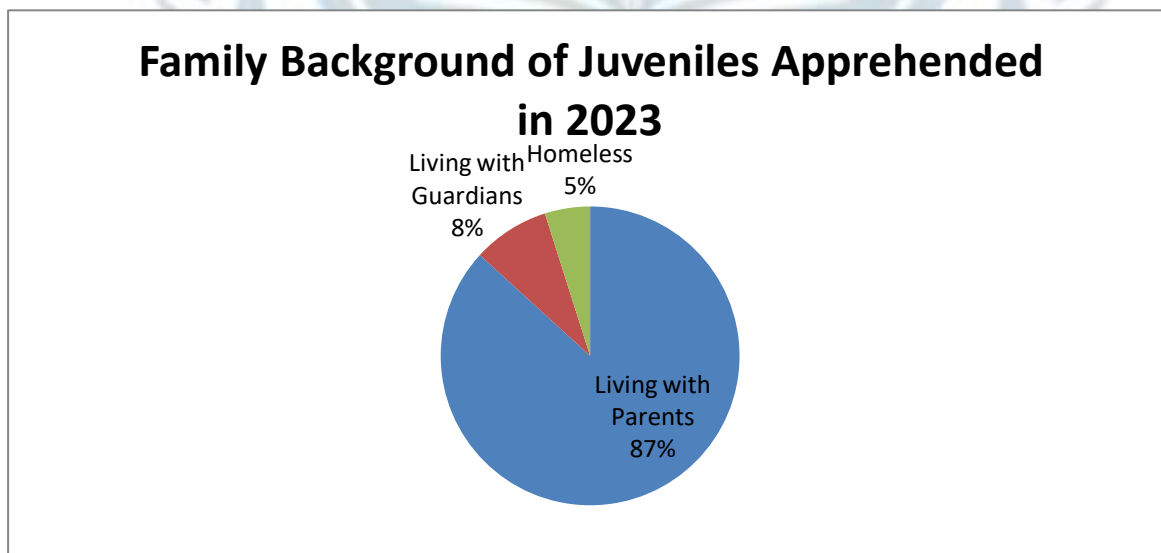
²³*Id.*

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Graph 6 shows that in 2023, about 48.2% of the apprehended juveniles were educated above primary to matric followed by 21.7% of the juveniles educated upto primary and 18.6% of the juveniles were educated above matric to higher secondary. This graph also shows that 6.6% of the juveniles were illiterate while the juveniles educated above higher secondary were only 4.6%.

Graph 7: Family Background of Juveniles Apprehended in 2023.²⁴

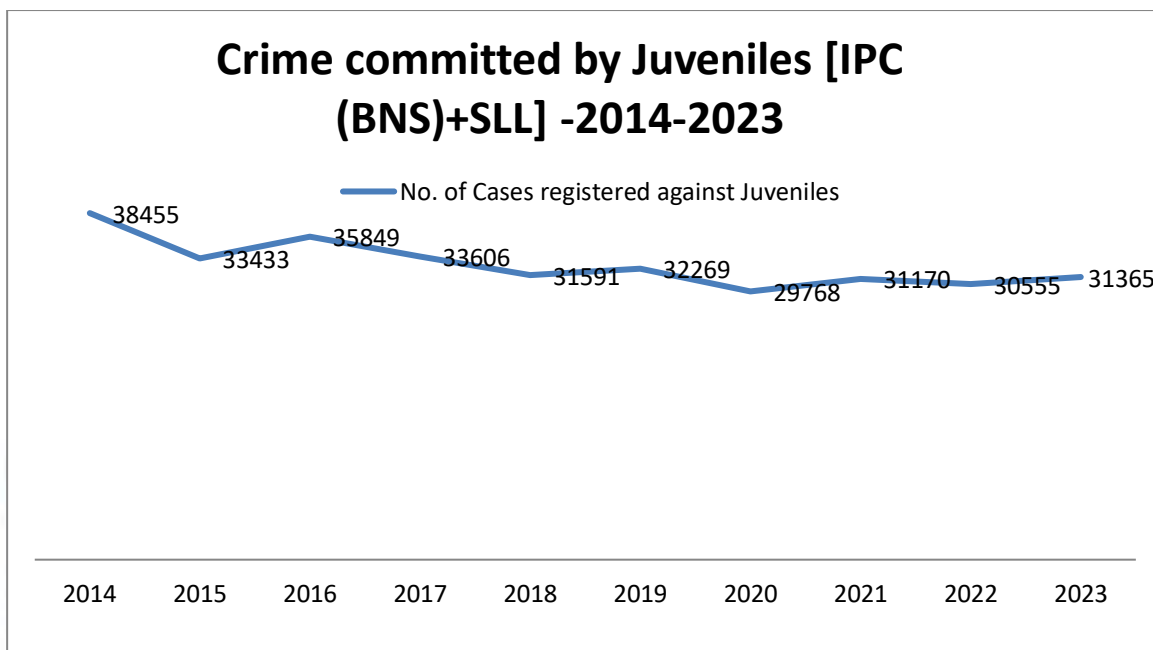


Graph 7 shows that almost 87% of the juvenile apprehended in 2023 were living with their parents while 8% were living with guardians and 5% were homeless.

²⁴*Id.*

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Graph 8: Crime committed by Juveniles under IPC (BNS) and SLL during the period of 2014-2023.²⁵



Graph 8 shows that in 2014, crimes committed by juveniles were the highest among the last ten years. This graph is showing a downward trend in crimes committed by juveniles despite fluctuations from year to year. Even though 2023 cases are very less than 2014 cases, there is still an increase of 2.7% from 2022.

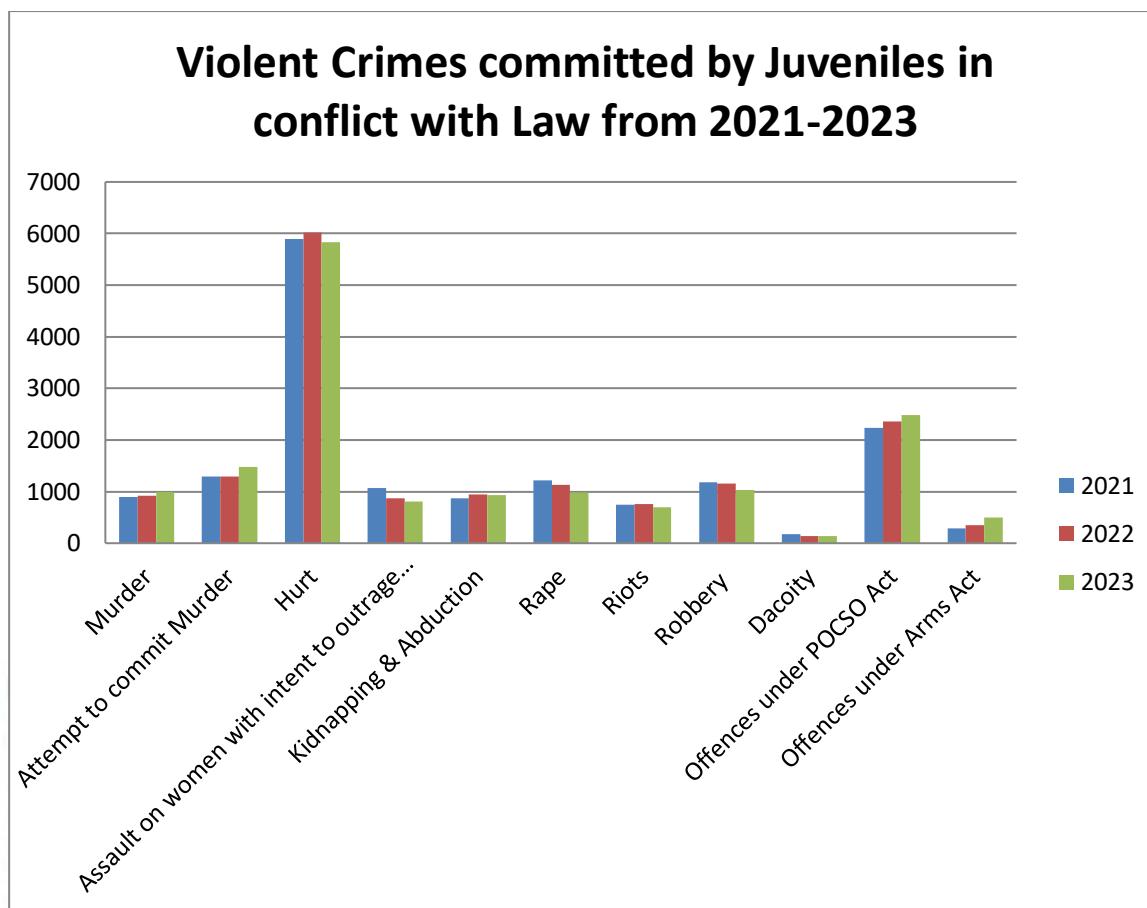
Graph 9: Violent crimes committed by Juveniles in conflict with law from 2021-2023.²⁶

²⁵ Government of India, National Crime Records Bureau: Crime in India Report 2014-2023 (Ministry of Home Affairs), <https://www.ncrb.gov.in/>.

²⁶ Government of India, National Crime Records Bureau: Crime in India Report 2021-2023 (Ministry of Home Affairs), available at: <https://www.ncrb.gov.in/>.

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Graph 9 shows the violent crimes which are committed by the Juveniles in conflict with law from 2021-2023. Even though there is fluctuation in the violent crimes over the past three years, the offences under POCSO Act, murder, attempt to commit murder and offences under Arms Act are the highest in 2023 over the past three years.

Reasons for rise in Violent Crimes by Juvenile Delinquent in India

No one is born criminal but it is the circumstances that leads a child on the path to criminality. So, when we talk about the reasons for rise in violent crimes by juvenile delinquents in India, it is not easy to narrow them down to one or two because there are various factors which contribute to this socio-legal problem. However, some of the main reasons are as follows:

1. Breakdown of Family Structure-

Family play an important role in shaping the child's behavior. If there is instability in homes due to death of parents, divorce, parents living separately, parents beings drunkards or doing drugs, fight between parents or abuse, it can cause a huge impact

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on the mind of the child and makes him insecure. As a result of which he gets attracted towards anti-social elements. Absence of security, lack of parental control and want of love and affection which results from broken homes causes a child to become a delinquent.²⁷

2. Poverty and Economic problems-

The rise in violent crimes by juveniles can also be due to poverty and limited economic opportunities. Failure of parents to provide basic necessities of life such as food and clothing, etc. draws their children on the path to criminality in order to earn money by whatever means and sometimes even parents help and conspire together in committing the crime for petty monetary gains.²⁸ Sometimes in order to fulfill their daily necessities and sometimes to gain the luxuries which they are normally not able to have it, they start committing crimes.

3. Peer pressure-

Peer influence on the child can also be a factor which can indulge him in criminal activity if the child is in a bad company of people who have deviant behavior because these peer groups have a great impact on the child's personality development.²⁹

4. Adverse Surroundings-

Migration of deserted and destitute boys to slums can also cause delinquency as it brings them in contact with anti-social elements carrying on prostitution, smuggling of liquor or narcotic drugs. Thus, they land into the world of delinquency without knowing what they are doing is prohibited by law.³⁰ Similarly, if the child is living in a neighborhood which is violent, then that child will have a tendency to be more prone to delinquency.³¹

²⁷ Supra note 8 at 665.

²⁸ Supra note 8 at 665-666.

²⁹ Shivangi Tiwari, *Analytical Study of Juvenile Delinquency in India*, 5 JCIL 101, 104 (2019), <https://www.scribd.com/document/534426537/Analytical-Study-of-Juvenile-Delinquency-in-India>.

³⁰ Supra note 8 at 665.

³¹ Sadaf & Punam Kumari Bhagat, *Juvenile Delinquency: A Critical Analysis*, 6 IJRAR 257, 258 (2019), <https://www.ijrar.org/papers/IJRAR19H1188.pdf>.

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5. Biological and Psychological factors-

Biological factors such as hormonal changes, speech or hearing problem, excessive strength, ocular ailment, throat and nose problem, hypoglycemia etc. may be responsible for causing delinquent behavior in children.³² Similarly, psychological factors such as low intelligence, mental disorders, emotional problems of inferiority and jealousy, depression, anxiety, etc. also causes delinquency among children. Mental problems can causes abnormal impulses, lack of empathy and disregard for societal norms, inability to distinguish between right and wrong and lack of development in emotional control.³³

6. Substance Abuse-

Alcohol and drug addiction can also be one of the reasons for juvenile delinquency as due to its consumption, they lose self-control and commit crimes. When these children don't have the means to satisfy their addictions, they start resorting to illegal means.³⁴

7. Media and Technology Influence-

Social media and Cinema also play a great role in influencing the minds of the young children as children these days learn a lot from movies and internet. The movies and programs loaded with violence and vulgarity contaminates the minds of young children and induces them to commit crimes as children of younger age usually lack the ability to differentiate between reality and fiction or right and wrong.³⁵

8. Institutional shortcomings-

Criminal groups often use juveniles to commit crimes on their behalf because they get lenient punishments in comparison to the adult offenders. Despite reforms, the juvenile justice system suffers from the slow disposal rate, lack of trained and qualified staff, poor rehabilitation facilities and weak aftercare services. Many

³²Supra note 24 at 104.

³³Saumya Uma, *Evolution of Juvenile Justice System in India-Part 1*, SCRIBD, (Jan. 21, 2026, 1:45 PM), <https://www.scribd.com/document/722198752/evolution-part-1-juvenile-system>.

³⁴Supra note 26 at 258.

³⁵Abhilasha Belwal & Ashish Belwal, *Juvenile Delinquency in India*, Bharati Law Review 307, 313 (2016), <https://docs.manupatra.in/newslines/articles/Upload/B4443CDC-5144-4816-946C-7C5EBE5122FC.pdf>.

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juveniles return to the same harmful environment which increases their chances of committing crimes again.

Effectiveness of the Indian Juvenile Justice System in Tackling Violent Juvenile Crimes

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 was enacted at a crucial time in the Indian history following massive outrage after the 2012 Delhi gang rape case, where one of the accused persons was a juvenile.³⁶The Act wanted to respond to the rising concerns about the involvement of juveniles in the heinous offences while maintaining its core principle of rehabilitation. However, its effectiveness continues to be a major concern among the legal experts, child rights advocates and criminologists.

The Act deals with the juveniles aged between 16-18 years in a strict manner as it provides that the juveniles aged 16-18 years those who have committed heinous offences may be tried as an adult after the preliminary assessment by the Juvenile Justice Board. The preliminary assessment evaluates the mental and physical capacity of the juvenile to commit the offence and also his ability to understand its consequences.³⁷ The aim of this provision was to make the older juveniles accountable for the serious violent crimes committed by them. This provision is intended to act as a deterrent by sending a message that age will not shield the juveniles from the stricter consequences in extreme cases.

The Act also strengthened the **institutional framework**, including Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), and child care institutions. It introduced better procedures for psychological evaluation, improved standards for observation homes, and incorporated social workers to ensure more informed decision-making. These measures are designed to enhance rehabilitation, reduce recidivism, and ensure juveniles receive counselling, education, and vocational training.

Despite these positive steps, the Act is unable to completely control the increasing menace of violent juvenile crimes. NCRB data is the proof of the same because in the recent years, there has not been a significant decline in the violent crimes committed by the juveniles. This is primarily because **juvenile delinquency is deeply rooted in social and economic factors**,

³⁶Mukesh and Anr. v. State for Nct of Delhi and Ors., (2017) 6 SCC 1.

³⁷The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 § 15 (1), No. 2, Acts of Parliament, 2015 (India).

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including poverty, family dysfunction, substance abuse, peer pressure, and lack of education or employment opportunities. Stricter laws alone cannot overcome these underlying causes.

A major criticism of trying juveniles as adults is that it may weaken the rehabilitative spirit of the Indian juvenile justice system. Young offenders those who are transferred to the adult courts or prisons may experience stigma, trauma, and exposure to hardened criminals, increasing the risk of becoming repeat offenders.³⁸ It can be seen that punitive approaches are less effective than rehabilitative methods in preventing long-term criminal behaviour among youth.³⁹

Implementation challenges further weaken the impact of the Act. The India Justice Report titled “*Juvenile Justice and Children in Conflict with the Law: A Study of Capacity at the Frontlines*” highlighted critical gaps in the Indian juvenile justice system such as there is high pendency of cases before the Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) along with structural gaps in the JJBs constitution as 24% of the JJBs were not fully constituted and 30% JJBs do not have an attached legal services clinic which points towards the inadequate legal aid. There is evidence of substantial number of staff vacancies in child care institutions. There is no central and public repository of information on JJBs like the National Judicial Data Grid. There are 14 states which did not have Places of Safety to hold children between the ages of 16 to 18 years who were accused of or had committed a heinous offence. Additionally, inadequate data monitoring and funds have created severe constraints in the implementation of juvenile justice. In a decade since the passing of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the IJR study finds that the decentralised architecture meant to deliver child-centric services suffers from systemic gaps, including a lack of inter-agency coordination and data-sharing.⁴⁰

³⁸ Ayushi Singh & Riddhi Solanki, *Criminals or Victims? The Unresolved Struggles of Juvenile Justice in India*, 2 IJLRA 5, 15-16 (2024), <https://www.ijlra.com/details/criminals-or-victims-the-unresolved-struggles-of-juvenile-justice-in-india-by-ayushi-singh-riddhi-solanki->.

³⁹ Sudha Yadav & Akilesh Ranaut, *Juvenile Justice Reforms: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Rehabilitation Vs Punishment*, 5 IJFMR 1, 4 (2023), <https://www.ijfmr.com/papers/2023/6/9541.pdf#:~:text=One%20of%20the%20primary%20indicators%20of%20the,underlying%20factors%20that%20led%20to%20criminal%20behavior.>

⁴⁰ India Justice Report, 2025, *Juvenile Justice and Children in Conflict with the Law: A Study of Capacity at the Frontlines*, JJ Press Release_English, (Jan. 28, 2026, 3:35 PM), https://indiajusticereport.org/files/IJR_JJ%20Report_Press%20Release_20%20November%202025.pdf.

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NCPCR, the apex child rights body, also received various complaints regarding the inadequate rehabilitation services, poor conditions in child care institutions and limited support for children with disabilities.⁴¹ Observation homes are also overcrowded, inadequately staffed and underfunded. There is also lack of trained social workers, psychologists and counsellors which hampers the quality of the rehabilitation programs.⁴²

While the Act strengthened legal responses to heinous crimes, it **does not sufficiently address prevention**. Effective juvenile justice requires early interventions, mental health support, community-based programs, education, and family counselling—areas that remain underdeveloped in India's policy framework.

Suggestions to curb the increasing menace of violent juvenile Crimes

To address the growing menace of violent juvenile crimes in India, a multi-dimensional approach involving legal reforms, social intervention, education, and community participation is required. The following suggestions may help in effectively reducing juvenile delinquency and promoting the rehabilitation of young offenders.

1. Strengthening Family and Parental Guidance

The family plays a very crucial role in the life of a child because they are the ones those who shape the personality of a child. Parents and guardians must provide the much needed emotional support, supervision and moral guidance to the child. There should be awareness programs and parenting workshops which can help families in understanding the early signs of aggressive or delinquent behavior in their child and to address them in time.

2. Improving Access to Quality Education

Education is one of the most useful preventive tools against juvenile delinquency. Schools should not only focus on academic learning but also on value-based education, moral development, and life skills. Incorporating counselling services, extracurricular activities, and conflict resolution training can help students manage emotions and social pressures.

⁴¹ The Hindu, <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/juvenile-justice-child-labour-and-welfare-among-top-ncpcr-complaint-list-in-2024-govt-report/article70109918.ece> (last visited Jan. 29, 2026).

⁴² Dr. Nisha, *Juvenile Delinquency in India: A Socio-Legal Aspect*, 6 JHED 52, 57 (2024) <https://media.neliti.com/media/publications/632712-juvenile-delinquency-in-india-a-socio-le-bcb1ada0.pdf>.

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3. Early Identification and Psychological Counselling

Many juveniles involved in violent crimes have underlying psychological or emotional issues. Schools and communities should have trained counsellors and psychologists to identify behavioural problems at an early stage and provide appropriate guidance and therapy.

4. Strengthening the Juvenile Justice System

The institutions such as Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), and observation homes must be strengthened with trained professionals, better infrastructure, and effective monitoring mechanisms. The government must allocate more funds and resources to upgrade the juvenile justice system. Rehabilitation centres should focus on education, vocational training, and behavioural reform rather than punishment.

5. Community-Based Intervention Programs

Community participation is essential in preventing juvenile crime. Youth clubs, sports activities, mentorship programs, and community engagement initiatives can provide constructive outlets for young individuals and reduce their exposure to criminal influences.

6. Regulation of Harmful Media and Digital Exposure

Excessive exposure to violent content through social media, online games, and films may influence young minds. Parents, schools, and regulatory authorities should promote responsible digital usage and media literacy among children and adolescents.

7. Addressing Socio-Economic Inequalities

Poverty, unemployment, and lack of opportunities often push juveniles toward criminal activities. Government policies should focus on improving living conditions, providing skill development programs, and creating employment opportunities for youth, particularly in vulnerable communities.

8. Promoting Awareness of Legal Consequences

There are many juveniles those who are unaware about the serious and legal consequences of the violent crimes. So, the awareness campaigns in schools and communities can educate young generation about the laws, their rights, and responsibilities.

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9. Collaboration Between Government and Civil Society

The non-governmental organizations (NGOs), educational institutions, law enforcement agencies, and social workers should work together to make comprehensive prevention and rehabilitation programs for at-risk youth. They should collaborate to create skill development programs so that the juveniles can learn practical skills with the help of which they can earn a livelihood.

10. Focus on Rehabilitation and Reintegration

The main goal of the juvenile justice system should be reformation instead of retribution. There is a need to strengthen and improve the rehabilitation and reintegration programs. By providing vocational training, educational opportunities, and psychological support to the juveniles, we can help them reintegrate into society as responsible citizens of India. There should be a post release support mechanism which will help in ensuring that the rehabilitated juveniles have access to employment opportunities, financial assistance, and social inclusion programs.⁴³

Conclusion

The rise in violent juvenile crimes in India reflects the involvement of various social, economic and legal factors. To reduce this growing menace, we need collective responsibility from families, schools, communities, and the state. By addressing the root causes of juvenile delinquency and strengthening both preventive and rehabilitative mechanisms, society can effectively curb this growing menace while ensuring the protection and development of its youth.

⁴³ Shweta Mittal, *Juvenile Justice In India: Challenges, Reforms, And The Way Ahead*, 5 IJIRL 484, 495 (2025) <https://ijirl.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/JUVENILE-JUSTICE-IN-INDIA-CHALLENGES-REFORMS-AND-THE-WAY-AHEAD.pdf>.

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