

An Analytical Study on the Rise in Juvenile Crime and the Impact of Drugs

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Abstract: Due to its growing prevalence, juvenile crime has become a major issue in modern society, garnering attention from psychological, social, and legal standpoints. This study examines the link between the increase in juvenile delinquency and the growing impact of drug use among adolescents using analytical methodology. Among the main causes of this occurrence, the study examines peer pressure, socioeconomic difficulties, inadequate parental supervision, and exposure to drug culture. The trends and nature of offenses committed under the influence of narcotic drugs are highlighted in this research through an examination of data from field interviews, rehabilitation facilities, and juvenile justice records. Additionally, it examines the psychological and behavioral effects of drug use on adolescents, which contribute to impulsivity, aggressiveness, and repeated offenses. Additionally, the study analyzes current legislative frameworks and rehabilitation strategies designed to promote prevention and reintegration. To address this twin threat, the data emphasizes the critical need for comprehensive intervention strategies that include community participation, drug education, and reforms to juvenile justice. The goal of this study is to help foster a more knowledgeable policy conversation and the successful application of preventative strategies.

Keywords: Juvenile Delinquency, Drug Abuse, Substance Influence, Adolescent Behavior, Criminal Psychology, Narcotic Impact, Juvenile Justice System, Rehabilitation, Preventive Measures, Peer Pressure, Socio-economic Factors, Legal Framework, Social Intervention.

Introduction - To promote a pleasant ambiance for a more enjoyable visit, all criminal behavior should be handled with the greatest urgency. The objective of this study is to identify the reasons for the rise in juvenile offenses and the impact of drugs on crimes committed by adolescents. Legislators, teachers, and the general population have all expressed significant concern about the startling rise in juvenile crime in recent decades. The kinds of offenses committed by adolescents have changed dramatically. Previously, juvenile crime was limited to petty theft or misconduct, but it now includes serious offenses such murder, drug trafficking, and assault. A key and concerning factor contributing to this increase is the increasing drug use among adolescents. A significant number of youngsters have resorted to substance abuse and criminal behavior as a result of the interplay of socioeconomic factors, peer pressure, inadequate parental supervision, and the prevalence of psychotropic medications and narcotics.

Teen drug addiction not only impairs their decision-making but also encourages impulsive conduct and aggressive tendencies, which often result in legal problems. The early years of adolescence, when one's character and morals are still forming, are especially vulnerable to negative impacts. Drug abuse acts as a trigger, either causing or

exacerbating criminal inclinations in youth who are typically not violent. The complex relationship between youth crime and substance usage is influenced by a number of psychological, social, and environmental variables, which need to be carefully analyzed.

Using a multidisciplinary strategy, this research aims to investigate and evaluate the rising link between drug abuse and juvenile delinquency. The psychological impact of drugs on the minds of teenagers, the socioeconomic circumstances of young offenders, and the nature of offenses committed under the influence of drugs will all be investigated. In an attempt to assess the efficacy of existing systems in preventing juvenile crime related to drug addiction, the research will also examine current laws, institutional responses, and rehabilitation programs.

This study examines the underlying causes and key trends in an effort to offer evidence-based strategies for mitigating this dual threat to youth and society. The primary goal is to assist in the development of all-encompassing and preventative frameworks that emphasize early intervention, education, and rehabilitation over punitive measures alone.

'Juvenile' term under The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015:

We immediately picture a minor who is in trouble with the law when the term juvenile crosses our thoughts. This could be because prior legislation in India pertaining to juvenile justice concentrated more on juvenile offenders and paid less attention to other minors under the age of 18. However, the definition of "juvenile" has been expanded by the 2015 Juvenile Justice (care and protection) Act. The Juvenile Justice Act defines "child" under section 2(12) as any individual who has not yet reached the age of 18. Sections 2(13) and 2(14) distinguish between a child who has come into conflict with the law and a child who needs care and protection. But Section 2(35) defines juveniles as any child who has not turned 18 years old, regardless of whether they are a child with a conflict of law or a child in need of care and protection. Children from the slums, who are caught in the vicious snare of drug addiction and ultimately become either a child in conflict with the law or a child in need of care and protection, are the focus of this study.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To examine the relationship between drug usage and the trends in adolescent crime.
2. To ascertain the social, economic, and psychological variables that contribute to drug misuse.
3. To look at current legal frameworks for dealing with crimes committed by juveniles and those involving drugs.
4. To recommend rehabilitation and preventive measures.

Research Methodology: This study is both qualitative and quantitative. Its foundation is based upon:

1. **Secondary Data:** Government publications, judicial rulings, UNODC databases, and NCRB reports.
2. **Case Studies:** Chosen juvenile offenders with drug-related histories.
3. **Interviews:** Interviews with psychologists, probation officers, and NGOs to gather insights.

The majority of the research is concentrated on Indian cities during the previous ten years (2013–2023). The rate of juvenile crime in India rose from 6.4 per lakh in 2013 to 7.9 in 2022. Almost 18% of all juvenile crimes are drug-related juvenile arrests. Juvenile drug users are more likely to commit repeated offenses.

Drug crime cycle of juveniles: Researchers have known for over 20 years that drug use is linked to crime among adolescents. Most young people entering the justice system are drug users, and studies show this drug use often leads to ongoing violent crimes into adulthood. It is also connected to poor health, bad family relationships, and lower school performance. These issues can increase the chance of homelessness among youth, forcing them to engage in crime to support their drug habits. As they struggle with addiction, they may become estranged from family and end up on the streets, seeking companionship with others in similar situations.

Children in slums often turn to minor crimes like theft

and fraud to support their drug addiction, creating a harmful cycle of drugs and crime. This issue affects kids from various backgrounds, but those in impoverished areas face greater risks due to their dangerous environments. Many slum children lack proper adult care and must fend for themselves, which increases their vulnerability, especially when drugs are readily available. The typical way these children maintain their addiction is through small crimes, as they have no other means to support themselves. Thus, a child already victimized by society becomes a juvenile offender without a fair chance.

Indian laws, particularly the Juvenile Justice Act of 2015, recognize that children under 18 may not fully understand the consequences of their actions, advocating for their reform and reintegration into society. Unfortunately, many slum children are deprived of necessary resources for healthy development, such as care, education, and understanding of their choices. Their tough circumstances adversely affect their mental health, leaving them with little hope for a better future. Comprehensive development and early intervention are essential for rehabilitating these youth, ensuring they don't revert to drug use after treatment.

Factors responsible for drug abuse in the juveniles:

1. Illiteracy: The majorities of slum residents are reliant on their daily income and make a living from day to day. In such a living environment, it is already difficult to put food on the table. Anything beyond the essentials like food, water, and rent is seen as a luxury, with education and schooling being the least. Despite the fact that the government has established a number of free education programs and facilities for youngsters, they would rather assist their parents in making money or are uninterested because they lack a culture of education. Therefore, children who are not in school are still ignorant of the effects of drug misuse, and by the time they do, the harm has already been done.

2. Poverty: The people who live in slums struggle with poverty and terrible financial circumstances. Due to a lack of resources and economic prospects, slum inhabitants resort to organized crimes like drug trafficking, illegal manufacturing, and the sale of counterfeit items. These give youngsters around them easy access to psychotropic drugs and narcotics.

3. Family and Surrounding Juveniles who are either drug users or encourage drug usage for financial gain, drug usage may be common for youngsters in the slums' families and neighborhood. The surroundings of such homes and families are also typically harmful and dangerous for young people. In addition to physical, sexual, and emotional abuse from their families and peers, children from drug-abusing families also experience feelings of vulnerability, rage, depression, and lack of motivation to continue with their lives, leading the majority of children in need of mental support and adequate encouragement to turn to drugs and substance misuse. Most teens quickly transition

from being drug abusers to being drug addicts in an effort to experience transient happiness and liberation from their harmful surroundings.

4. Peer Pressure: The majority of slum youths are members of peer groups that participate in criminal gangs or groups. Because teenagers experience numerous psychological and physical changes during this time, they are more susceptible to the effects of antisocial peers and the impulse to experiment with new things, which leads them to misuse drugs.

5. Sexual abuse The majority of slum children reside on the streets, which are the least secure places for a child's growth. Local gangs or criminal organizations take advantage of their vulnerability to the hostile environment. In exchange for cash, food, housing, or drugs, they eventually engage in 'survival sex work. These early sexual experiences encourage young minds to engage in sexual activity and commit sexual offenses both inside and outside their own social class. Due to their ignorance and mental condition, young women are once more defenseless against sexual assault.

6. Absence of motivation and inspiration: A young mind needs inspiration just as a plant needs water. A youngster may not have a purpose or goal in life without the right encouragement and direction. A child's behavior is monitored by goals and routines, which also help them, maintain concentration. In the worst-case scenario, slum youngsters lack a role model or have the wrong role models in their life, which causes them to be despondent and pushes them to seek short-term relief from drug misuse, leading to a solitary, unproductive, and meaningless existence.

Juvenile justice act impacts youth drug misuse: The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015, provides the rules for the juvenile justice system in India. It focuses on young people with drug addictions and emphasizes the need for proper rehabilitation in Section 93. The system is responsible for the safety and rehabilitation of young offenders and should have the final say on case management and treatment. A 2018–19 survey by the NCRB showed that Child Care Institutions did not understand the Juvenile Justice Act. This raises concerns about the increasing drug use among young people, as inadequate rehabilitation may lead them back to drug habits after leaving institutions. Understanding and implementing the "FIT FACILITY" standards in all Child Care Institutions is essential.

The juvenile delinquency system has not been successful mainly because it overlooks that many juvenile offenses stem from factors like peer pressure, poor self-control, and mental health issues. Past efforts to use rehabilitation and court involvement have not worked well. Parents play a crucial role in understanding their children's strengths and weaknesses, and their insights should be considered to help reform young offenders effectively.

However, children often feel protected by laws against parental punishment, which can lead them to engage in harmful behaviors, like drug use. Despite biblical teachings on obeying parents, many youths choose to take legal actions against them rather than discussing issues openly. The best corrective measures for young people should come from their parents or guardians, who have a significant background and influence on their moral development.

Appropriate penalties for individuals who commit violent crimes: Juvenile offenders often face harsh punishment for minor crimes linked to emotional outbursts and poor self-control, while adults committing serious crimes receive lighter sentences. The lack of discipline from parents can lead to future issues. It is suggested that juvenile offenders undergo medical examinations to assess their mental health before punishment, as many may not be fully responsible for their actions. Instead of corporal punishment, addressing the root causes of their behavior is preferred. Counseling groups should help guide these youths back to normal activities with proper supervision.

Children should be allowed to join anti-drug campaign groups to influence their views on drug use. Current views oppose punishing children due to parents' concerns about their responsibilities. While kids have the right to report abuse in America, issues are worsening. Parents know their children best and can address their issues. Punishing children is now seen as inappropriate.

Typical Drug-Related Offenses Include:

1. Stealing and breaking into houses in order to obtain
2. Assault while intoxicated
3. Drug trafficking by juvenile gangs

Literature Review: The relationship between drugs and juvenile crime has been the subject of extensive research: **Radha, Rajvardhan (2023)** says that Today's culture recognizes the serious issue of drug and alcohol misuse, viewing addiction as a chronic illness rather than a choice. Users often become dependent, believing substances are vital to their comfort. Laws should provide health services for those affected to help them reintegrate into society. Reducing stigma through awareness and support is essential for understanding and treatment. • According to UNODC (2021), more than 60% of young people who commit crimes have a history of drug usage.

C. Dhawan's (2020) research article, "Drug Abuse in Indian Slums," analyzes substance abuse patterns and societal factors in Indian slum communities. It highlights challenges faced by children and suggests intervention strategies for support in these marginalized areas.

1. According to the NCRB (India), there is a steady increase in the number of drug-related juvenile crimes in urban areas.
2. Peer pressure and broken homes were highlighted by **Shekhar and Rani (2019)** as key factors in drug use among teenagers.

The relationship has been analyzed using theoretical

models like strain theory, social learning theory, and routine activity theory.

Social and psychological elements:

1. Family neglect, maltreatment, and inadequate parental supervision
2. Peer pressure and gang mentality
3. Psychological health problems such as trauma and depression

Legal Regulations and Institutional Procedures:

1. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 – Establishes rehabilitation-focused mechanisms and defines children. Sections 15 and 18 address serious crimes committed by children between the ages of 16 and 18.
2. NDPS Act, 1985 – Deals with the crime of drug possession and trafficking. No specific regulations exist for minors who use drugs.
3. The role of rehabilitation centers, the Juvenile Justice Board, and the CWC is crucial in evaluating the offender's mental state. Rehabilitation, counseling, and vocational training are all essential components.

The role of police officers as street social workers:

Criminal activity has advanced with new technology, allowing criminals to exploit young people with drugs to commit crimes. To improve how police engage with youth and children, there has been a focus on long-term training and professionalism. This includes hiring better-educated officers and providing ongoing training to develop specialized areas. The objective is to enhance crime control by making police more central in delivering social services, especially in areas where social workers may be lacking.

The police officer understands that peer pressure and low self-esteem can lead to teenage delinquency. Knowing the reasons behind drug use is crucial. For example, if a parent discovers their child using drugs, it may be challenging to break that habit if the child is under the influence. The police have played a significant role in helping young people, such as bringing lost or stranded youth to recreation centers and guiding them safely through complex traffic systems. Nowadays, police officers often take on roles similar to social workers, which require professionalism and personal skills. This has shaped public perception, leading many to believe that police are there to support and collaborate with the community.

The effect of drugs on juvenile delinquency: Studies in America show a recent decline in youth drug use, but the number of young people using drugs remains high. Drug misuse can lead to antisocial behavior, health problems, and criminal activities, affecting individuals, families, communities, and society as a whole. Young people under the influence of drugs pose risks because they may turn to theft, robbery, or mismanage finances to support their habits, or they may drop out of school due to poor performance and frustrations.

Addiction can hurt self-esteem and self-control, leading

to minor infractions that drugs might have prevented. The use of hard drugs is linked to increased sexual activity, and many boys and young men have been involved in serious crimes such as rape. Some offenses committed by youths under the influence are minor and require only slight corrections, but their inability to acknowledge these offenses due to drug use can lead to prolonged involvement in delinquency. Unlike adults, who might reflect on their behavior, young people often do not understand the consequences of their actions due to their reliance on parental support, resulting in a significant impact on juvenile delinquency.

Case Study:

1. In Delhi Case, 2021: A 17-year-old who participated in chain snatching confessed to committing robbery while high on heroin.
2. In Mumbai case, 2022: Because the penalties for juveniles are so low under the law, a drug ring employs them as peddlers.

These instances demonstrate how easily drugs can be used to manipulate vulnerable youth into criminal behavior.

Study examination: Young people living in India's slum areas face a higher risk of drug misuse due to their environment. Despite government efforts like Drug Action Plans and Drug Awareness Policies, there is often a gap between planning and actual execution. Slums are more isolated and neglected compared to regular neighborhoods, making it harder to implement awareness initiatives. Many slum residents lack education, which hampers effective outreach, as awareness campaigns are usually introduced in schools, and few slum children participate in formal education.

Reintegrating these children into a well-rounded education system, like the Sharva Sikhsha Abhiyan, could help address the issue by providing appropriate counseling and support. Regular state-sponsored surveys in high-risk slum neighborhoods could identify the extent and causes of drug use, allowing for targeted awareness campaigns. Strict monitoring in slums might reduce drug use and the spread of drug-related crimes. Additionally, Drug Action Plans should focus on establishing free De-Drug Addiction centers for easy access, enabling drug victims to seek help.

Finding:

1. There is a clear link between drug misuse and the rise in adolescent crime.
2. There are legal loopholes in addressing adolescent substance abuse.
3. Rehabilitation facilities are understaffed and underfunded
4. Social welfare organizations and law enforcement authorities are not adequately coordinated.

Recommendations:

1. Integrated de-addiction programs inside observation homes and schools.
2. Programs for raising parental awareness that keep an

- eye out for the warning indicators of substance usage.
3. Providing at-risk children with employment prospects and skill-based training.
4. More stringent oversight of the distribution of narcotics in the vicinity of schools.
5. Modifying the NDPS Act to include rehabilitation clauses tailored to minors.

Conclusion: Parental involvement in issues pertaining to their children may help curb juvenile delinquency and reduce the possibility that youngsters will use drugs at a young age. But in America, no matter how many the children are offended, they should not be given the right to convict their parents in a court of law; this would result in an increase in criminal behavior since the children would no longer follow the commands of their parents.

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