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CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN: A STATISTICAL AND ANALYTICAL STUDY BASED ON PRIMARY DATA

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ABSTRACT:

Crimes against children have been a growing concern worldwide, affecting their physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. This study explores the nature, frequency, and impact of crimes against children using primary data collected from 150 cases. The data includes various types of crimes, perpetrators' profiles, and legal interventions. The findings aim to highlight the urgency of addressing child victimization and suggest preventive measures for policymakers and law enforcement agencies.

INTRODUCTION:

Children are one of the most vulnerable sections of society, often subjected to abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Crimes against children encompass a broad range of offenses, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, trafficking, child labor, and cybercrimes. These crimes not only violate fundamental human rights but also have long-term psychological, emotional, and social repercussions. The increasing prevalence of such offenses necessitates an in-depth analysis to understand their patterns, underlying causes, and potential preventive measures.¹

The objective of this study is to analyze the extent and nature of crimes against children using primary data, providing insights into the factors contributing to these crimes and suggesting mechanisms for prevention and intervention². By employing statistical tools and qualitative assessments, this study aims to present a comprehensive overview of crimes against children and offer recommendations for policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and social welfare organizations.

Review of Literature:

¹ UNICEF, [State of the World's Children | UNICEF](#) (last visited Feb. 22, 2025).

² Pinheiro, Paulo Sergio, World report on violence against children, UNESCO (Feb. 22, 2025, 7:10 P.M.), [World report on violence against children - UNESCO Digital Library](#).

Crimes against children have been widely studied across various disciplines, including criminology, sociology, psychology, and child welfare studies. Scholars and researchers have attempted to identify the causes, risk factors, and impact of such crimes while also exploring the effectiveness of legal and institutional frameworks.

1. **Nature and Prevalence of Crimes Against Children** Several studies have highlighted the alarming prevalence of crimes against children worldwide. According to UNICEF (2020), millions of children experience abuse and exploitation annually, with developing countries facing a disproportionately higher burden. Studies by Finkelhor et al. (2014) suggest that child abuse is underreported due to fear, lack of awareness, and inadequate legal frameworks.³
2. **Types of Crimes Against Children:**
 - **Physical and Sexual Abuse:** Research by Jones et al. (2017) emphasizes that physical and sexual abuse have severe consequences on a child's physical and mental well-being, often leading to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other psychological issues.⁴
 - **Child Trafficking:** A study by Bales (2012) indicates that child trafficking is a major global concern, often linked to forced labor and sexual exploitation. Economic deprivation and lack of legal protection contribute significantly to trafficking cases.
 - **Child Labor:** Edmonds & Pavcnik (2005) found that poverty and lack of education are primary drivers of child labor, with children working in hazardous industries facing severe health risks.⁵
 - **Cybercrimes Against Children:** As internet accessibility increases, cybercrimes against children, such as cyberbullying, online exploitation, and grooming, have risen (Livingstone & Smith, 2014). Studies indicate that online predators often target children due to their vulnerability and lack of digital literacy.

³ Ruth Gilbert, Cathy Spatz Widom, Kevin Browne, David Fergusson, Elspeth Webb, Staffan Janson, Burden and consequences of child maltreatment in high-income countries, PUB Med (Feb. 22, 2025, 7:10 P.M.), [Burden and consequences of child maltreatment in high-income countries - PubMed](#).

⁴ American Economic Association, [Child Labor in the Global Economy - American Economic Association](#) (last visited Feb. 22, 2025).

⁵ BALES, K. (2012). *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy* (3rd ed.). University of California Press (Feb. 22, 2025, 7:10 P.M.), <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/j.ctt1pp4n3>

3. **Risk Factors and Contributing Causes** Researchers have identified several factors that contribute to crimes against children, including socio-economic disparities, family background, cultural norms, and ineffective legal frameworks. A study by Gilbert et al. (2009) suggests that children from low-income families are at higher risk of abuse and⁶ exploitation due to financial instability and parental stress. Additionally, inadequate child protection laws and weak enforcement mechanisms exacerbate the problem (Pinheiro, 2006).
4. **Preventive Mechanisms and Policy Interventions** Various scholars have proposed strategies to prevent⁷ crimes against children, including strengthening legal frameworks, community awareness programs, and child welfare initiatives. Krug et al. (2002) emphasize the importance of early intervention programs and education in reducing the risk of child abuse⁸. Moreover, international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO)⁹ advocate for multi-sectoral approaches to address these crimes effectively.

Methodology:

This study is based on a Primary dataset of 150 reported cases¹⁰ of crimes against children. The data has been categorized into different crime types, age groups of victims, relationship with perpetrators, and legal actions taken. The analysis employs descriptive statistics to identify trends and patterns.¹¹

Findings and Analysis:

⁶ Divya Mehta, Adrian B Kelly, Kristin R Laurens, Divna Haslam, Kate E Williams, Kerryann Walsh, Philip R A Baker, Hannah E Carter, Nigar G Khawaja, Oksana Zelenko, Ben Mathews, Child Maltreatment and Long-Term Physical and Mental Health Outcomes: An Exploration of Biopsychosocial Determinants and Implications for Prevention, PMC (Feb. 22, 2025, 7:10 P.M.), [Child Maltreatment and Long-Term Physical and Mental Health Outcomes: An Exploration of Biopsychosocial Determinants and Implications for Prevention - PMC](#).

⁷ Jorge Cuartas, Ana Salazar, Sophia Backhaus, Madison T Little, Dana McCoy, Hirokazu Yoshikawa, Michelle Bass, Nicholas Metheny, Felicia Knaul, Strategies to Prevent Violence Against Children in the Home: A Systematic Review of Reviews, Pub Med (Feb. 22, 2025, 7:10 P.M.), [Strategies to Prevent Violence Against Children in the Home: A Systematic Review of Reviews - PubMed](#).

⁸ Cintya Lanchimba, Juan Pablo Diaz-Sanchez, Franklin Velasco, Exploring factors influencing domestic violence: a comprehensive study on intrafamily dynamics, PMC (Feb. 22, 2025, 7:10 P.M.), [Exploring factors influencing domestic violence: a comprehensive study on intrafamily dynamics - PMC](#).

⁹ Divya Mehta, *Supra note 2*, at 2105.

¹⁰ EtienneG.Krug, Linda L. Dahlberg, James A. Mercy, Anthony B. Zwi and Rafael Lozano, World report on violence and health, IRIS (Feb. 22, 2025, 7:10 P.M.), [9241545615_eng.pdf](#)

¹¹ Karen Hughes, *Supra note 3*, at 2106.

A. Demographic Distribution of Victims:

Age Group	Number of Cases	Percentage
0-5	30	20%
6-10	45	30%
11-15	50	33.3%
16-18	25	16.7%

B. Types of Crimes Reported:

Type of Crime	Number of Cases	Percentage
Physical Abuse	40	26.7%
Sexual Abuse	35	23.3%
Child Labor	25	16.7%
Cybercrime Exploitation	20	13.3%
Child Trafficking	15	10%
Other Neglect & Exploitation	15	10%

C. Perpetrators' Relationship to Victims:

Perpetrator Type	Number of Cases	Percentage
Family Members	45	30%
Acquaintances (Teachers, Neighbours, etc.)	55	36.7%
Strangers	35	23.3%
Online Predators	15	10%

D. Legal Actions Taken:

Legal Action	Number of Cases	Percentage
FIR Registered	110	73.3%
Arrests Made	85	56.7%

Cases Under Investigation	45	30%
Convictions	30	20%
Pending Cases	75	50%

E. Distribution of Crimes by Location:

Location Type	Number of Cases	Percentage
Urban Areas	90	60%
Rural Areas	60	40%

F. Age-wise Distribution of Different Crimes:

Age Group	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Child Labor	Cybercrime	Trafficking
0-5	10	5	8	2	5
6-10	15	10	7	5	8
11-15	10	12	5	8	10
16-18	5	8	5	5	7

G. Conviction Rate by Crime Type:

Crime Type	Convictions	Percentage of Convictions
Physical Abuse	10	25%
Sexual Abuse	8	22.9%
Child Labor	5	20%
Cybercrime Exploitation	4	20%
Child Trafficking	3	20%

Discussion:

The findings highlight the alarming prevalence of crimes against children, particularly sexual abuse and physical violence. Family members and acquaintances emerge as major perpetrators, which emphasizes the need for stronger protective measures at home and in the community. Cybercrimes against children are on the rise¹², necessitating improved online safety awareness programs. The data also reveals gaps in legal actions, with a significant number of cases pending or under investigation, which points to systemic challenges in law enforcement and judicial processes.

Recommendations:

1. **Strengthening Legal Frameworks:** Laws related to child protection should be strictly implemented, and fast-track courts should be established for swift justice.
2. **Community Awareness and Education:** Parents, teachers, and children should be educated about identifying and reporting child abuse.
3. **Technology-Based Protection:** Stricter regulations and child safety features should be implemented on social media and online platforms.¹³
4. **Rehabilitation and Counseling:** Victims should receive proper psychological support and rehabilitation to recover from trauma.
5. **Enhanced Law Enforcement:** Training law enforcement officers to handle child-related crimes with sensitivity and efficiency is crucial.¹⁴

CONCLUSION:

Crimes against children continue to be a critical social issue, requiring urgent intervention from multiple stakeholders, including the government, law enforcement, civil society, and the general public. This study, based on Primary data, underscores the importance of prevention, timely legal action, and victim support mechanisms to ensure the safety and well-being of children.

¹² Cintya Lanchimba, *Supra note 4*, at 2106.

¹³ Lisa Jones, Mark A Bellis, Sara Wood, Karen Hughes, Ellie McCoy, Lindsay Eckley, Geoff Bates, Christopher Mikton, Tom Shakespeare, Alana Officer, Prevalence and risk of violence against children with disabilities: a systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies, PUB Med (Feb. 22, 2025, 7:10 P.M.), [Prevalence and risk of violence against children with disabilities: a systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies - PubMed](#).

¹⁴ Sonia Livingstone and Peter K. Smith, Annual research review: harms experienced by child users of online and mobile technologies: the nature, prevalence and management of sexual and aggressive risks in the digital age, Eprints (Feb. 22, 2025, 7:10 P.M.), [Research_review.pdf](#).