



Child Protection in 21st Century's India

Insecure Childhood

2018

Crime Against Children in India

National and State-wise Analysis of Registered Cases of Crime
Reference Period – Year 2001 to 2016

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The Prior Annunciation

- ☀ **Primarily, this document serves the purpose of interpreting data and numbers.**
- ☀ **This situation analysis of crime against children is based upon the reports of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).**
- ☀ **This analysis refers to the information and data pertaining to the period of 2001 to 2016.**
- ☀ **Since our existing dispensation across the board presents and appreciates every subject and every aspect only in terms of 'percentage', 'growth rate' and 'data figures', we too have sought to make use of the similar indicators to measure the situation of changes/increase-decrease in crime against children.**
- ☀ **If any discrepancy is perceived, main documents released by the NCRB may be taken note of and referred to.**

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Main Conclusions

Total Number of Registered Crimes against Children

- ☀ A total of 10814 cases of crime against children were registered in year 2001. The number increased to 106958 in year 2016. This is an increase of 889 percent.
- ☀ During these 16 years, a total of 595089 cases of crime against children have been registered. Scenario across some states is as below:

1.	Madhya Pradesh	95324 (16%)
2.	Uttar Pradesh	88103 (15%)
3.	Maharashtra	74306 (12%)
4.	Delhi	59347 (10%)
5.	Chhattisgarh	31055 (5.2%)

- ☀ During this period, number of crimes against children increased from 72 in year 2001 to 4455 (rise of 6088 percent) in Karnataka, from 68 to 3286 (4732 percent) in Odisha, from 61 to 2856 (4582 percent) in Tamil Nadu, from 1621 to 14559 (798 percent) in Maharashtra, from 3709 to 16079 (334 percent) in Uttar Pradesh and from 1425 to 13746 (865 percent) in Madhya Pradesh.

Total Number of Registered Offences of Rape and Sexual Abuse against Children

- ☀ The count of rapes of children and serious offences of sexual abuse increased from 2113 in year 2001 to 36022 in year 2016. This is an increase of 1605 percent.
- ☀ During these 16 years, 153701 cases of rape of children and sexual abuse have been registered. States picking up 5 percent or more of these crimes are as follows:

1.	Madhya Pradesh	23659 (15%)
2.	Uttar Pradesh	22171 (14%)
3.	Maharashtra	18307 (12%)
4.	Chhattisgarh	9076 (6%)
5.	Delhi	7825 (5%)

- ☀ During this period, number of such crimes of rape of children and their sexual abuse increased from 11 in year 2001 to 1565 in year 2016 (rise of 14227 percent) in Karnataka, from 17 to 1928 (11341 percent) in Odisha, from 12 to 2132 (17767 percent) in West Bengal, from 35 to 1479 (4226 percent) in Rajasthan and from 562 to 4954 (881 percent) in Uttar Pradesh.

Total Number of Registered offenses of Kidnapping of Children

- ☀ In India, 54723 cases of kidnapping were registered in year 2016 whereas the number stood at 2845 in year 2001. Thus, during these 16 years, cases of kidnapping of children have risen by 1823 percent.

- ☀ In year 2016, out of total 54723 cases of kidnapping, 39842 (73 percent) were those of the girls. Out of the girls' kidnapping cases, 16937 (43 percent) were the ones committed with the intention of marriage.
- ☀ During the years 2001 and 2016, as many as 249383 children were kidnapped in India. Amongst these, 55% were from four states, namely, Uttar Pradesh accounted for 45953 (18%), Delhi had 43175 (17 percent), Maharashtra with 25625 (10 percent), Madhya Pradesh had 23564 (9 percent) and Bihar had 14829 (6 percent).

1.	Uttar Pradesh	45953 (18%)
2.	Delhi	43175 (17%)
3.	Maharashtra	25626 (10%)
4.	Madhya Pradesh	23563 (09%)
5.	Bihar	14829 (06%)

Cases of Crime against Children Pending in Courts

- ☀ In India, number of cases of crime against children pending in courts where trial was yet to be completed stood at 21233 in year 2001. Over the 16 years since then, the number has become 11-fold at 227739 by year 2016. The major 'culprits' are –

1.	Uttar Pradesh	39749 (17.4%)
2.	Maharashtra	37125 (16.3%)
3.	Madhya Pradesh	31392 (13.8%)
4.	West Bengal	15538 (6.85)
5.	Gujarat	12035 (5.3%)

- ☀ In Madhya Pradesh, number of cases of crime against children pending in courts where trial was yet to be completed stood at 2065 in year 2001. Over the 16 years since then, the number has risen to 31392. It means that not only total cases of crime against children have gone up, even the number of cases pending in courts too have registered a huge increase by as much as 1420 percent by the year 2016. Further, it is notable that in the year 2016, trial of a total of 5444 cases could be completed though out of the trial cases, only 30 percent, i.e., 1642 persons were convicted!
- ☀ In Maharashtra, number of cases of crime against children pending in courts where trial was yet to be completed increased from 3999 to 37125 over the period of 16 years, registering an increase of 828 percent. In Uttar Pradesh, the number of pending cases increased by 275 percent, increasing from 10597 to 39749. stood at 2065 in year 2001. Over the 16 years since then, the number has risen to 31392. Likewise, in Gujarat, the number rose from 830 in year 2001 to 12035 in 2016, an increase by 1300 percent.
- ☀ In most of the cases of crime against children, the accused are let free after the trial is over. It means that in the first place, the investigation is weakened and subsequently the loopholes in the judicial process are made use of in securing the acquittal of the accused. In year 2001, at all India level, judicial trial was completed in 3231 cases. Out of these, 1531 persons (74

percent) were convicted. In Madhya Pradesh, trial was completed in 404 cases whilst only in 157 cases (39 percent), the accused were held guilty. In Bihar, in 2 out of 15 cases (13 percent), in Andhra Pradesh, 7 out of 77 cases (9 percent), in Maharashtra, in 37 out of 263 cases (14 percent) and in Delhi, in 42 out of 132 cases (32 percent) respectively, the accused were found guilty.

- ☀ The situation has not changed in year 2016. Across India, trial was completed in 22763 cases. Out of these, in 6991 cases (31 percent), the accused were held guilty. In Madhya Pradesh, 1642 persons out of 5444 cases (30 percent) were held guilty. In Bihar, out of 316 cases, 75 accused (24 percent) were found to be guilty in Andhra Pradesh, 113 cases out of 1012 cases (11 percent), the conviction was handed out. In Maharashtra, out of 1813 cases wherein trial was completed, in 399 cases (22 percent) the accused were convicted and in Delhi, out of 704 cases, in 294 cases (42 percent), the conviction was pronounced. Clearly, when these data are viewed with a sharp eye, the concern gets serious that for the children in India, in the first place, the path of life is afflicted with danger of harm and that they don't even get justice when the case goes in to the judicial trial after they have been violated.

Child Protection is Not in Priority

- ☀ For the year 2018-19, the Government of India has allocated a sum of Rs. 1183.40 Crore for child protection out of the total budget of Rs.24.42 Lakh Crore (i.e., just 0.048 percent).
- ☀ Government of Madhya Pradesh made a total allocation of Rs. 90.61 Crore for 3.2 Crore children, i.e., Rs. 28/- per child for a Year. Out of this allocation of Rs.90.61 Crore, Rs. 67.76 Crore have been provided for the Integrated Child protection Scheme. From this allocation, 27.09 Crore (40 percent) goes towards salaries and wages.
- ☀ A review of the MP's budget for 2018-19 suggests that only 0.044 percent of the total budget of Rs. 2.05 Lakh Crore has been provided for child protection; whereas for Teerth Darshan Yojna (free visit to pilgrimages), the State Government has made an allocation of Rs. 200 Crore.

Crimes against Children in India

India is becoming not only unsafe for the children but also a dangerous place for them. Probably, the children are being meted out colonial and barbaric treatment across the world. Would you believe that during the period 2001 to 2016, 595089 cases of crimes against children were recorded? Out of these, as many as 290553 cases, i.e., 49 percent cases were recorded only during the last 3 years (2013-2016). Amongst these, there was an increase by 54 percent during the period 2013 to 2014. Out of the registered cases of crime against children, as many as 153701 cases (26 percent) pertained to rape and sexual abuse and 248383 (42 percent) cases were of kidnapping alone. During these 16 years, cases of kidnapping rose by 1923 percent and those of serious rape-sexual abuse increased by 1705 percent.

During this period of 16 years, crime against children has not been uniform across all age-groups. At all-India level, crimes increased by 147 percent during 2001 to 2010 whereas the increase quantum rose to 301 percent during 2010 to 2016. On the other hand, the increase was of the order of 245 percent in the first 10 years in Madhya Pradesh. However, the data on crime against children shows that increase in the 6 years of the second decade of the twenty first century in the state of Madhya Pradesh has been at 180 percent. Nevertheless, overall increase has been of the order of 865 percent in Madhya Pradesh. In Bihar, the increase has been by 2120 percent in the first 10 years followed by 113 percent in the subsequent 6 years. Further, the states of Karnataka, Rajasthan West Bengal and Maharashtra have also recorded several serious crimes that have been meted out against the children.

Total Number of Crimes Against Children Percent Change During 2001 to 2016			
Country/State	Year 2001 - 2010	Year 2010 - 2016	Year 2001 - 2016
India	147	301	889
Madhya Pradesh	245	180	865
Maharashtra	101	346	798
Bihar	2120	113	711
Uttar Pradesh	-37	589	333
Kerala	141	383	1066
Gujarat	76	262	536
West Bengal	427	696	4094
Delhi	298	125	797
Tamil Nadu	1228	253	4582
Rajasthan	505	206	1750
Karnataka	468	989	6087

In the previous year, i.e., 2017, there was a girl child of 10 years in Chandigarh. She was a very nice and happy child, though she spoke very little. She specially liked the subjects of Mathematics and English. She liked to watch cartoon serial on the TV. Her name was Chinky, albeit the changed name. You may be thinking as to what is new in it. All children are like this. On 28th July 2017, the Supreme Court of India declined to allow termination of her pregnancy because foetus was of 32 weeks. Her pregnancy could be confirmed only in the 29th week when she complained of stomach ache and was consequently clinically examined. The simple family of this child was shocked. A person who was a close relation to the family had raped the child!

We witness a strong wave of 'growth rate', 'development' and 'progress' around us these days! Regrettably, this wave is taking away the tenets of love, humaneness and morality from amongst us. On 28th February 2018, a girl child was raped in Delhi. She was just 8 months old. Her parents had left the child in the care of their sister-in-law before leaving for work. When the mother returned home, she found that the child had heavily bled. The child had been raped by the sister-in-law's son. People recount that when the baby was taken to the hospital for treatment, her cries had shaken the entire hospital. Her operation had continued for three hours. It is necessary to point out here that in the year 2016, as many as 520 cases of rape of children under six years of age had been registered. Has this been the traditional character of India's superior culture?

Does this kind of perpetration appear to be in sync with India's claim to be the emerging Guru of the world? I would rather assert that there cannot be an obscener, more violent and ghastly society than what we are today. The history depicts the spate of wars and stately dispensations that have been afflicted with violence, loot and insensitivity. Viewed against this background, the question is whether we as the members of the society are not ourselves party to the ghastly crime being committed against the children? How are we different? Practice of wars, violence and colonialism over the thousands of years have, after all, rooted this crime in our society. This society has also become deadly because the perpetrator of violence, crime and exploitation is not just an unknown person or an enemy but also happens to be a close relative of the victim.

We are often told that children are like blank paper and that the environment of our society, family and dispensation cast and define the individuality of the child on the blank paper. The child will develop the way we treat her/him. Her/his environment of being reared will determine the course of child's development. And that, as the child's development shapes, society's character will be formed.

Over the last three decades, there has been a massive change in the political and economic policies both in our country as well as across the entire world. This has had a huge impact on the societal policy. Colonialism has acquired a newer form now. Even today we are not able to determine as to the price and its magnitude that we are paying for the kind of economic development that we are coming up with. On the one hand, the existing policy scenario is destroying the environment and eco-system, burning and drowning the Earth, increasing the havoc of diseases; and violence is expanding across the society at an alarming rate and mutual trust amongst the people is getting degenerated, on the other. The worst aspect is that we have given up our belief that children and their socio-economic change are the biggest force and the most significant resource for the human society.

Now these are not merely the 'statements in principle' that our society is in the grip of deep crisis. The 21st century has been perceived as the decade of fastest growth rate. It is said that people are becoming very rich. However, the fact is to the contrary. In year 1982, 1 percent persons in the country had 6 percent wealth of the entire nation. In the next decade, this increased to 10 percent. In year 2014, 1 percent persons had 23 percent of country's total wealth and that 10 percent persons held 56 percent of country's wealth. And, now 0.1 percent of the persons hold country's wealth that is not there even with the half of the entire population. According to OXFAM Report, in year 2016, the richest 1 percent persons owned 58 percent of private property. It increased to 73 percent in year 2017!

When the world was moving from the 20th century to the 21st century, it was being said that the world was becoming a better place to live in and that development was on the anvil. Many pictures were published wherein the rising sun was depicted. They also showed flowers blossom and weather being shown as very pleasant. This is the eighteenth year of that century. It means that the decade is growing in to adulthood. It is also the time to review ourselves whether the rising sun is same as was envisaged and depicted on 1st January 2000. Rather, we need to check whether this decade is turning in to an ever horrifying one and that with a view to hide the horrendousness, we are living in everyday delusion of 'elation', 'happiness' and 'development', shaped with profound absorption. It appears that we have been plunged in to the bazaar of intoxicants and the inebriation of the bazaar itself to keep the increasing outrageousness and disgrace of this society under the cover!

Persons occupying the highest echelon in the country's dispensation reach the pinnacle of delusion that they are not able to realise that our societal segment of women and children are falling in to the trough of despair

and lifelessness. The governance dispensation makes boisterous claims with such data that cannot be reviewed. *Raja Babu, whether you say that country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 10, 000 Arab (Billions) or 10 Lakh Arab (1 Million Billion), it does not make a difference.* This is because your measure for gauging the development rest on the foundation of delusion, falsehood and despicable mindset. After all, your yardsticks do not give any space to equality and dignity. Also, your yardsticks do not allow freedom in expression of dissent and dispels acceptance of thoughts. Likewise, your indices are devoid of feeling for responsiveness towards the future that is engrained with the thoughts in favour of safeguarding water, mountains and hills, minerals, rivers and forests.

Fine, let us leave these thoughts aside. These appear to you to be too deep. You may not be able to appreciate them because the character of governance has rather been afflicted with loot and the belief that the governance is rather positioned opposed to the society at large. Does the definition of 'development' has any space for the children of today's generation? It rather appears that we have been asked to sacrifice them at the 'altar of development'.

A study of the reports of the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) suggests that over the period 2001 to 2016, there has been an increase in crime against children by 889 percent. During this period, there has been only a 6-fold rise in the Gross Domestic Product (which cannot be measured as such) which has ostensibly been sown upon the hollow yardsticks! In fact, what we need today is to evolve, with complete honesty and seriousness, such a definition of 'development' that accords central precedence to the 'humane' aspect.

How would you relate the economic development of the country in the backdrop of this fact that over the last 16 years, there has been an increase of 1605 percent in rape and sexual abuse of the children? In year 2001, 2113 cases of rape of children were registered. The number of cases of sexual abuse rose to 38022 in year 2016. And, these are only the data that pertain to the registered cases. Regrettably, our dispensation in governance 'reduces' the severity of crimes by not registering the cases! What is most astonishing is the fact that 95 percent of the rape and sexual abuse cases (36856 cases out of 38947) were those committed by the close relations and acquaintances. Are we having any thoughts on the crisis that there is growing phenomena of frittering away of trust and people choosing to remain unfazed at occurrences of spate of violence? Is this the emerging manifestation of development?

We are a very religious nation. These days we witness the deployment of huge microphones and sport sharp arms in the air to prove that we are immersed in patriotism. However, the truth is that in doing so, we are suppressing the voice and call of the children under the noise of development and the so-called religiosity. Why do our representatives nowadays speak in a shouting manner? Undoubtedly, they want people to be afraid of bringing out the real face of the society. In the event of rape, family and the society prefer to keep quiet lest their name is spoiled. They forget that by doing so, they are rather causing a deep blow to the society's character. It is possible that some friends will rationalise to state that it is not that the government is not doing anything about the situation.

However, my straightforward question is not about the government not taking an initiative on the issue. My question pertains to the evolving character and ethos of the society. Likewise, no one around us would be there who does not know the situation of our schools. In fact, we have converted our education centres in to 'heinous butchery' where children's voice is killed and systematically violence is perpetrated. Children are pushed in to the fire of competition so much that their sensitivities perish and their glands for asking questions and searching answers become lifeless. They are rather taught to commit violence and ransack in

the name of 'development'. They learn that their sexual abuse is a foregone conclusion and that they must keep quiet. The result is that even an 8-month-old girl is not spared from rape in our country!

Whilst casting the yardsticks of better and developed society, we have missed including the lives of children and women in our thoughtful consideration. From politics to economics, whatever has been done serves not only the expansion of inequality but also in appallingly thrusting children and women in to the clutches of violence. It is rather evident that today the party politics and policy framing institutions are making all out efforts to ensure that the children do not make it to the centre in the canvas of development. This is happening because they fear that they will have to completely dismiss their current policy of development that is founded on massive exploitation of resources, inequality and violence and carve a newer definition of development. Children in India are deprived of justice and freedom. Is development possible without the justice? We are in an era where 6 lakh children die within the first month of their death in a year and where there are 6.5 crore children suffering from malnutrition. Our era is also marked by the fact that every hour 6 children are kidnapped, and 4 children are raped.

How contradictory it is that our governments need to resort to loud claims and spend billions of rupees on advertisements in putting out fictitious figures to inform the country that 'a lot of development is happening'! Children and women must be wondering as to where has the 'development' gone to. In fact, 'development' has been 'raped' and 'abducted'. Recently, India's official agency, namely, National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) releases data on crime for the year 2016. These data are released every year. These are publicised on newspapers and TV too.

We feel sad about the data and then get back to our daily routines. This is the boundary of our State and the society. Possibly, we are aware that we are headed towards the end of human society. May be, the human body will remain in existence. However, its form is moving towards extinction. You and I may belong to any political thoughts. Let us keep that aside for a while and 'humanely' seek to look for an answer to this question as to how that society looks like where a girl child of 8 months is raped. Where 95 percent perpetrators of rape and violence are the acquaintances and close relations, i.e., one who is the repository of trust turns out to be the rapist, the agony is writ large!

21st Century has Broken Children's Trust, That's the Crux of the Matter!

Nothing much but this article endeavors to place certain data. We seem to have considered economic development as being fundamental to development, at whatever cost that it may be. We are given to feel that we have advanced in our development and that we are still moving forward at a fast pace. Let's have a look at this too. India's Gross Domestic Product (i.e., all that was produced – products, services, inclusive of duties and taxes) in year 2001 was 23558 billion rupees. Every year, we are told that it has been registering an annual increase; sometimes at 6 percent, at times at 7 percent or at 8 percent. With this being dished out, all governments have been exhibiting a huge sense of pride. This Gross Domestic Product has become 6.5-fold over the past 16 years since 2001 and stood at Rs. 151837 billion. I am aware that a count of this magnitude is still not taught in our education system and that the governments take advantage of our ignorance. They seek to use their count and statistics to force us to accept their false claim that the country is changing and thus hide the blackest aspect of social status.

The overall crime data of India informs that 595089 cases of crime against children have been registered in the first 16 years of this century. Out of this, as many as 290553 cases, i.e., 49 percent pertain to just the latest three years, namely, 2014, 2015 and 2016. It shows that in our society, children are becoming more and more insecure. In this entire period, majority of crimes against children were recorded in in Madhya Pradesh (95324), Uttar Pradesh (88193), Maharashtra (74306) and Delhi (59347).

If we look at the rate of crimes against children in India, we find that there were 10814 cases of crime against children that were registered. The number has swelled to 14975 in year 2005 and to 26684 in year 2010. In the next 6 years, crimes against children have increased by 4 times, taking the total number to 106958. In other words, over 16 years, number of crimes against children has recorded an increase of 889 percent. In Madhya Pradesh, 1425 such cases were registered in year 2001. These increased to 13746 in year 2016. In Uttar Pradesh, such cases rose from 3709 in 2001 to 16079 in year 2016. Likewise, Delhi recorded an increase in crimes against children from 912 in year 2001 to 8178 in year 2016. Maharashtra recorded an increase from 1621 to 14559 whilst Rajasthan has had an increase from 218 to 4034 and Karnataka recorded an increase from 72 in 2001 to 4455 in the year 2016. Thus, crimes against children have registered an increase of 864 percent in Madhya Pradesh, 798 percent in Maharashtra, 585 percent in Andhra Pradesh, 333 percent in Uttar Pradesh, and massive rise in Tamil Nadu at 4582 percent.

The saddest aspect is about the truth that our society has rather become a society that commits crime against the children and that this truth is guised behind the cover of definition of development, evaluation of culture and the phrase of patriotism. Strangely, this subject has not been viewed to be an important one worthy of discussion in India's Parliament or States' Legislatures as to how our dispensation has become anti-child to such a vast extent. Further, the so-called nationalist organisations are also wary of the significance of this matter because it does not aggravate any political feelings. And, the worst part is about the society always choosing to be silent; after all, our societal garb has been used to hiding sexual abuse of children and child rape. Most often, the person committing rape happens to be an acquainted person or a close relation and the family seeks to hide the incidence with the child so that family's honour is not hurt. Essentially, family and the society are as much responsible for crime against children as the one who commits the crime because by

keeping silent and forcing the children to be silent, we are rather preparing them to become criminals and encouraging them to commit more and more of crimes.

Crime Against Children – Total Cases (2001-2016)											
S. No.	State Unit	2001				2016				Total Number of Registered Cases of Crime Against Children During 2001-2016	% Increase in Total Number of Registered Cases of Crime Against Children During 2001 to 2016
		Murders	Rape/Sexual Abuse	Kidnapping	Crime Against Children – Total Cases	Murders	Rape/Sexual Abuse	Kidnapping	Crime Against Children – Total Cases		
1	Andhra Pradesh	34	84	57	270	54	830	494	1847	25053	584.1
2	Assam	0	0	18	18	35	821	2970	3964	10444	21922
3	Bihar	2	16	26	83	33	233	3257	3932	19547	4637.3
4	Chhattisgarh	8	150	46	585	75	1570	1989	4746	31055	711.3
5	Goa	1	10	6	34	3	75	88	230	1872	576.5
6	Gujarat	77	39	120	572	79	1408	1749	3637	23730	535.8
7	Haryana	31	108	124	363	58	1020	1282	3099	14971	753.7
8	Himachal Pradesh	5	35	20	82	3	205	230	467	3829	469.5
9	Jammu & Kashmir	2	6	15	28	5	25	167	222	1248	692.9
10	Jharkhand	2	11	4	41	10	348	247	717	2640	1648.8
11	Karnataka	12	11	14	72	84	1565	2144	4455	16723	6087.5
12	Kerala	75	64	28	247	33	1848	157	2879	16658	1065.6
13	Madhya Pradesh	72	390	100	1425	126	4717	6016	13746	95324	864.6
14	Maharashtra	177	367	210	1621	162	4815	7956	14559	74306	798.1
15	Odisha	2	17	22	68	19	1928	1154	3286	11263	4732.4
16	Punjab	17	38	35	123	55	596	1031	1843	11749	1398.4
17	Rajasthan	16	35	62	218	39	1479	1891	4034	25585	1750.5
18	Tamil Nadu	23	20	7	61	87	1583	373	2856	14934	4582.0
19	Telangana	NA	NA	NA	NA	48	1158	759	2909	NA	NA
20	Uttar Pradesh	450	562	1185	3709	506	4954	9657	16079	88193	333.5
21	Uttarakhand	9	9	16	46	4	218	436	676	2719	1369.6
22	West Bengal	3	12	86	167	67	2132	4178	7004	26164	4094.0
23	Delhi	21	113	612	912	36	1620	5935	8178	59347	796.7
	India	1042	2113	2845	10814	1640	36022	54723	106958	595089	889.1

Rape of Children and their Sexual Abuse – Increase in Crimes by 1705 Percent Over 16 Years

In India, there is one case of rape that occurs in every four cases of crimes against children. During these 16 years from 2001 to 2016, a total of 153701 cases of child rape and sexual abuse were registered. And, we know it well that there are many cases even today which do not reach the records of the police.

During these 16 years, cases of child rape and sexual abuse increased from 2113 in year 2001 to 36002 in the year 2016, i.e., we have made a huge ‘progress’ in these crimes in an era of fast growing economic development, registering a gigantic rise by 1705 percent. It is notable that after the Act for protection of children from sexual abuse came in to being in year 2012 (POCSO Act), higher numbers of cases have been registered from year 2014 onwards.

If we look at only the figures pertaining child rape, the number of cases rose from 2113 to 19765. The cases of child rape are registered under section 376 of IPC and sections 4 and 6 of the POCSO Act, 2012.

During these 16 years, Madhya Pradesh has had the ignominious distinction of having recorded the highest number of cases of rape of children and sexual abuse (23569). Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Delhi follow suite with ‘records’ of 22171, 18307, 9076 and 7825 respectively.

The moot question is that when the standards of development are defined, why is it that certain facts presenting this horrid face of the society are veiled. These facts include, inter alia, cases of rape of children and sexual abuse increased from 11 to 1565 in year 2017 in Karnataka. The corresponding figures for Madhya Pradesh are from 390 to 4717, for Maharashtra from 367 to 4815, for Gujarat from 39 to 1408, for Chhattisgarh from 150 to 1570, for Odisha from 17 to 1928, for West Bengal from 12 to 2132 and for Tamil Nadu from 20 to 1583.

In West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, cases of rape of children have been registered from year 2014 onwards under the POCSO Act. It is established that the government spokespersons would argue that the number of cases has not really gone up and that it has been an endeavour of the government to ensure that every case is duly registered and is acted upon. Does such an effort on the part of the government address any solid initiative to get to know the causes and factors of such occurrences of crimes against children so that the crimes are effectively prevented?

During this period, Madhya Pradesh recorded an increase in such crimes by 1109 percent, Maharashtra by 1212 percent, Uttar Pradesh by 781 percent, Tamil Nadu by 7815 percent and Rajasthan by 4126 percent.

It is notable here that the rate of increase of crimes against children has not been an unfluctuating one during the period 2001 to 2016. Across India, crimes of rape and sexual abuse against children increased by 160

Total Number of Rape of Children and Sexual Abuse Percent Change During 2001 to 2016			
Country/State	Year 2001 - 2010	Year 2010 - 2016	Year 2001 - 2016
India	160	557	1705
Madhya Pradesh	203	299	1109
Maharashtra	104	545	1312
Bihar	613	104	1456
Uttar Pradesh	(-)20	998	881
Kerala	882	1349	14227
Gujarat	130	226	750
West Bengal	508	2821	17767
Delhi	169	433	1434
Tamil Nadu	915	680	7915
Rajasthan	954	301	4226
Karnataka	882	1349	14227

percent over the period 2001 to 2010 whereas it touched a high of 557 percent during 2010 to 2016. There are, of course, some states where the crimes increased at a fast rate until 2010 and that there has been a slowdown in the increase thereafter. The increase in rape of children and sexual abuse in Andhra Pradesh was 431 percent during 2001 to 2010. However, it (the increase) declined to 86 percent during 2010 to 2016. Likewise, earlier the increase was by 613 percent in Bihar and it declined to 104 percent. However, in Gujarat, earlier the increase was by 162 percent which rose to 1280 percent during 2010 to 2016. In the same vein, the increase in the earlier period of 2001 to 2010 stood at 203 percent, 104 percent and 225 percent in states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Kerala respectively. The corresponding increase in cases of rape of children and sexual abuse against children in these three states rose to 299 percent, 545 percent and 788 percent respectively in the latter period of 2010 to 2016.

Children are the Main Sufferers!

The study of data on crime pertaining to the rape of children over the period 2007 to 2016 shows that insecurity of children is continually on the rise in India. In year 2007, across all age-groups, a total of 20737 cases of rape were registered. However, out of these, as many as 5124 (25 percent) pertained to girls. During the same year, Delhi recorded 598 total cases of rape in all age-groups whilst rape of girls accounted for 67 percent, with 398 cases. Likewise, Madhya Pradesh had 35 percent (1043 from 3010), Maharashtra had 36 percent (517 from 1451) and Uttar Pradesh had 29 percent cases of rape against girls (471 from 1648).

In 10 years, the number of girls suffering from rape increased from 25 percent in year 2001 to 43 percent in year 2010 in India. Further, it is important to flag here that as many as 38947 cases of rape were recorded in India in year 2016 and that the girl sufferers accounted for 16883 cases (43 percent). The corresponding figures on rape of girls out of total cases of rape in all age-groups for states are 2479 out of 4882 (51 percent) in Madhya Pradesh, 1258 out of 1983 in Odisha (63 percent), 2310 from 4189 in Maharashtra (55 percent), 1142 out of 1655 in Karnataka (69 percent) and 984 out of 1626 in Chhattisgarh (61 percent).

Rape of Children and Sexual Abuse 2001-2016					
S. No.	State Unit	Rapes (2001)	Rape and Sexual Abuse (Including POCSO) (2012) (2016)	Total No. of Rape and Sexual Abuse Cases (2001-2016)	% Change
1	Andhra Pradesh	84	830	7499	888
2	Assam	0	821	2733	nv
3	Bihar	16	233	1311	1356
4	Chhattisgarh	150	1570	9076	947
5	Goa	10	75	477	650
6	Gujarat	39	1408	4702	3510
7	Haryana	108	1020	3885	844
8	Himachal Pradesh	35	205	1294	486
9	Jammu & Kashmir	6	25	197	317
10	Jharkhand	11	348	869	3064
11	Karnataka	11	1565	5490	14127
12	Kerala	64	1848	7470	2788
13	Madhya Pradesh	390	4717	23659	1109
14	Maharashtra	367	4815	18307	1212
15	Odisha	17	1928	5298	11241
16	Punjab	38	596	3430	1468
17	Rajasthan	35	1479	7685	4126
18	Tamil Nadu	20	1583	6379	7815
19	Telangana	NA	1158	nv	nv
20	Uttar Pradesh	562	4954	22171	781
21	Uttarakhand	9	218	745	2322
22	West Bengal	12	2132	5885	17667
23	Delhi	113	1620	7825	1334
	India	2113	36022	153701	1705

Kidnapping of Children

In India, 54723 cases of kidnapping of children were registered in year 2016, whereas this number stood only at 2845 in year 2001. These 16 years have witnessed an increase in crime of kidnapping of children by 1823 percent.

I do not know whether this fact will move you or not that as many as 39842 (73 percent) of these cases of kidnapping of children pertained to girls. Further, out of these kidnapped girls, as many as 16937 girls (43 percent) were kidnapped with the intention of marriage.

Nevertheless, an important social facet of this phenomenon is also that parents of the minor girls register cases of abduction when the girls who run away from their homes either in the wake of their love affair or when they want to marry out of their caste/religion. It is notable that as many as 10986 children of the total registered cases of kidnapping in year 2016 could not be traced.

When we look at this situation from a comprehensive approach, we find that the phenomenon is very dreadful and grim. During the period 2001 to 2016, as many as 249383 were kidnapped. Uttar Pradesh with 45953 (18.4 percent), Delhi with 43175 (17.3 percent), Maharashtra with 25626 (10.3 percent) and Madhya Pradesh with 23563 (9.4 percent) constitute the major share of 56 percent of this crime against children.

The truth is that mostly the cases of child trafficking are shielded behind this phenomenon of kidnapping and abduction. Lately, the issue of child trafficking is being viewed with seriousness given judiciary's activeness on the subject.

It is also a truth that organised criminal groups resort to child kidnapping for using them in sexual abuse, smuggling of drugs, beggary and such other crimes. In such matters, role of police has always been questionable. It is evident that during these 16 years, cases of child kidnapping have registered a huge rise. Karnataka recorded 14 cases of crime of this nature in year 2001. The number swelled to 2144 in year 2016 (an increase by 15214 percent). In the same vein, Madhya Pradesh had the increase from 100 to 6016 cases, i.e., an increase by 5916 percent. In Maharashtra, such crime against children rose from 210 to 7956 (an increase by 3689 percent) whilst Uttar Pradesh had the corresponding figures at 1185 to 9657 (an increase by 715 percent) and that Delhi recorded increase from 612 in year 2001 to 5935 (an increase by 870 percent) in year 2016.

It is also noteworthy that there has been varied changes in some states during the two-time intervals, namely, 2001 to 2010 and 2010 to 2016. For example, Andhra Pradesh witnessed an increase in kidnapping of children by as much as 919 percent up to 2010 whilst there has been a decline by 15 percent between 2010 to 2016. Likewise, Bihar had an increase of 5127 percent until 2010 whereas the increase came down to 140 percent after 2010. On the other hand, Madhya Pradesh had increase of 340 percent during 2001 to 2010 whilst rising to 1267 percent in the post 210 years!

Kidnapping of Children (2001 – 2016)								
S. No.	State Unit	2001	2010	2016	% Change (2001-2010)	% Change (2010-2016)	% Change (2001-2016)	Total Number of Cases Registered During 2001-2016

Kidnapping of Children (2001 – 2016)

S. No.	State Unit	2001	2010	2016	% Change (2001-2010)	% Change (2010-2016)	% Change (2001-2016)	Total Number of Cases Registered During 2001-2016
1	Andhra Pradesh	57	581	494	919	-15	767	8118
2	Assam	18	17	2970	-6	17371	16400	3805
3	Bihar	26	1359	3257	5127	140	12427	14829
4	Chhattisgarh	46	186	1989	304	969	4224	8807
5	Goa	6	14	88	133	529	1367	561
6	Gujarat	120	565	1749	371	210	1358	11937
7	Haryana	124	123	1282	-1	942	934	5997
8	Himachal Pradesh	20	86	230	330	167	1050	1554
9	Jammu & Kashmir	15	5	167	-67	3240	1013	853
10	Jharkhand	4	6	247	50	4017	6075	656
11	Karnataka	14	125	2144	793	1615	15214	6763
12	Kerala	28	111	157	296	41	461	1532
13	Madhya Pradesh	100	440	6016	340	1267	5916	23563
14	Maharashtra	210	749	7956	257	962	3689	25626
15	Odisha	22	51	1154	132	2163	5145	3711
16	Punjab	35	373	1031	966	176	2846	5990
17	Rajasthan	62	706	1891	1039	168	2950	11825
18	Tamil Nadu	7	459	373	6457	-19	5229	4339
19	Telangana	NA	NA	759	NA	NA	NA	2001
20	Uttar Pradesh	1185	1225	9657	3	688	715	45953
21	Uttarakhand	16	9	436	-44	4744	2625	1586
22	West Bengal	86	332	4178	286	1158	4758	12679
23	Delhi	612	2982	5935	387	99	870	43175
	India	2845	10670	54723	275	413	1823	249383

Presently, Many Crimes Have Social Approval!

Out of the total 595089 cases of registered crimes against children, rape (153701) and kidnapping (249383) account for the bulk at 68 percent. Notably, at present, greater attention is being given only to the cases of heinous crimes or acute violence. It means that generally, other cases like those of scuffle, untouchability and other exploitations do not even get registered. There are certain deeds which are cognizable offences in the eyes of law have social approval and thus skip entry in the crime records.

As per the report of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 4 (2015-16), 26.8 percent girls were married bely the age of 18 years during the period 2011 to 2015. India reports about 1.2 crore marriages in a year. The NFHS Report, thus, indicates that as many as 29 lakh marriages of girls take place in the country every year even when they have not attained the legal age for marriage. The state-wise percentages of marriages of girls taking place before the legal age shows that Bihar tops with 42.5 percent followed by Rajasthan at 35.4 percent, Madhya Pradesh at 32.4 percent, Maharashtra at 26.3 percent and Gujarat at 24.9 percent. Despite this, only 2243 cases were registered in the initial 16 years of the 21st century under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006. Apparently, given the context of social traditions and practices, social groups and judicial institutions do not consider child marriage as a matter of crime and rather view and accept it as a normal practice. Efforts are afoot that positive changes are brought out in these perceptions.

The status of this extreme neglect of children applies to the phenomenon of child labour as well. As per Census 2011, there are 1 crore children who are entrenched in child labour. Out of these, 10 lakh children (10 percent) are engaged in hazardous activities. The problem is that the new Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 allows children beyond 14 years age to work in family enterprises and other than hazardous occupation or processes. Notably, throughout the country only 204 cases were registered in year 2016 under child labour Act. Also, 23 of the 36 states did not register even a single case of child labour!

Rampant inequality and extreme poverty in India does not allow an easy way in protecting children from hazardous labour. If we try to wean them away from wage work, they get pushed in to the web of hunger. Children cannot be safely protected from labour until we bring about basic changes in our economic policy and intent.

Likewise, there is a vastly growing trend of child exploitation on and through the internet. It is believed that every day, 116000 searches are made on the internet for child pornography. The government had directed the internet service providers to remove and close as many as 7574 such web pages during 2015 to 2017 which dish out material on child sexual exploitation explicit content. However, what is worrisome is that due to societal passivity and lack of insight, there are negligible cases being registered on the issue of child exploitation.

Who Commits the Crimes against Children?

Is it an established doctrine that the person whom we know, and trust commits crime against us? At least the data pertaining to total number of rapes occurring and those with the children indicate so. In India, total 20737 cases of rape had been registered. However, out of them, as many as 19188 cases (93 percent), rape was committed by the person who was known to or acquainted with or was a close relation of the victim woman or the child.

In Madhya Pradesh, in all the 3010 cases, in Uttar Pradesh, in 1638 out of 1648 cases, In Rajasthan, in 1159 out of 1238 cases and in Maharashtra in 1451 cases, the perpetrator of rape was either a close relation of or acquainted with the victim! It looks that unknown persons inflict lesser injury. One needs to be alert to the danger at the hands of the closer persons

This continues to be an unrelenting situation. As per the latest data by the NCRB, out of the total 38907 cases of rape, 95 percent of rape cases were committed by persons who were known or close to the victim. In Madhya Pradesh, in 4789 out of 4882 cases, in Uttar Pradesh, in 4803 out of 4816 cases, in Rajasthan, in 3626 out of 3656 cases and in Maharashtra, in 4126 out of 4189 cases, the person committing rape was either acquainted with or a close relation of the victim. For today's society, the challenge is as to who the women and children trust and to what extent?

Distanced from Justice, Children are Amidst Injustice!

India's judicial system does not appear to be getting justice delivered to the children. There are 3 main aspects in this regard; namely, first - cases not getting registered in the first place, second – cases getting registered but protracted delay occurring in pronouncement of judgment and third, about 70 cases failing to come up with conviction at the end of court trials. One needs to ponder over this. After all, someone would have committed the crime against the child. However, when 70 percent of the accused are let free, how can crimes against children be prevented.

Whilst social evils are making children's life unsafe, the judicial system is also failing to render its envisaged role efficaciously. Consequently, there has been a huge rise in crimes against children during 2001 to 2016. We will also need to mull about the very slow pace of the judicial investigation proceedings and that where the investigation is completed, most of the accused are being let free. In the first 16 years of the 21st century, the pending cases of crime against children in courts have increased by 973 percent in India. At States' level, the figure of increase for Bihar 15015 percent, for Karnataka 10927 percent, for West Bengal 10690 percent, for Rajasthan 3519 percent, for Madhya Pradesh 1420 percent and for Maharashtra, the increase in pendency has been 828 percent.

When we consider the serious crimes, pending cases of murder of children for the period stand at 239 percent, those of rape at 1311 percent and those of kidnapping of children at 1431 percent.

In India, in year 2001, trial was completed in 354 of 2482 cases of child murders and that 193 accused persons were convicted. However, 161 accused persons were acquitted. Likewise, in case of rape of children, trial was completed in 726 cases out of the total of 4546 cases and that conviction was handed to 281 persons whilst 445 accused were let free. In case of kidnapping of children, trial was completed in 701 cases out of the total of 4837 cases and that 326 accused persons were held guilty whilst the remaining 375 persons were acquitted.

In India, in year 2016, trial was completed in 640 of 7915 cases of child murders. Out of the completed trials, only in 283 cases the accused were found to be guilty. In case of kidnapping of children, there were 74052 cases registered out of which trial was completed in 6077 cases and that only 1381 accused persons were held guilty. Likewise, in case of rape of children, trial was completed in 6626 cases out of the total of 64138 pending cases and that conviction was handed to 1879 persons.

We need to reflect that when 50 to 70 percent of the accused persons are getting acquitted in cases of murder, rape and kidnapping of children, will the children have faith in country's judicial system. If those committing violence and crime against the children are being let free, how can the children's safety be assured and that to what extent will these children come forward to demand registration of cases against the future offenders. Generally, the experience in India is that people try to avoid getting in touch with police and courts. After all, the agony of the victims gets aggravated when they confront the police and the courts!

Cases of crimes against children are continually rising. Over the period of 16 years, cases increased from 10814 to 106958 taking the total number to 595089. This is also a matter of inquest in to the societal dispensation as to why and how the society chooses to keep mum and remain calm even though the cases of child suffering have been continually increasing. Strangely, the society is 'rejoicing' over the '(economic) development' whilst the judicial system is entirely impassive. The government has sought to make efforts to see that all cases of crime against children are duly registered so that the same may be acted upon. However, at the

implementation level, children and their families are bearing the intensified brunt of indifference and pressure (not to persist the registration of cases).

In year 2001 in India, 21233 cases of crimes against children were pending in courts. These were yet to go through trials. However, out of these cases, only 3231 cases could have their trials completed in the year, i.e., the rate of completion of trial was just 15.2 percent. Moreover, the reprehensible part is that out of the 3231 completed trials, conviction was held out only in 1531 cases (47 percent) and that in 53 percent of the trial completions, the accused were freed!

In Madhya Pradesh, trial was completed in 404 cases out of 2065 pending cases (19 percent), In Rajasthan, 29 out of 250 pending cases (12 percent), in Maharashtra, 262 out of 3999 pending cases (7 percent) and in Karnataka, 2 out of 63 pending cases (3 percent) the trial was completed. Under these circumstances, only 157 persons were found guilty, followed by 37 in Maharashtra and 11 in Rajasthan. In Karnataka, no one was found guilty!

At all-India level, the number of pending cases of crime against children increased to 30316 in year 2004 and touched the high of 72315 in year 2010. Amongst these as well, only one-third of the accused were convicted, and the rest were freed.

In the existing situation (year 2016, year for which the data has been released by the NCRB), the number of pending cases of crime against children which was 21233 in year 2001 has gone up 11-times to reach 227739. Therefore, it needs to be realised that violation of child rights is not just associated with the crimes inflicted on them. The platitude of judicial system and its weakening also conflicts with child rights as justice is delayed to them.

In Madhya Pradesh, in year 2001, there were 2065 pending cases of crime against children awaiting trial in courts. The number rose to 31392 in year 2016. It means that not only the crimes increased, even the pending cases went up by as much as 1420 percent. In year 2016, a total of 5444 pending cases could go through the trial completion and that out these, only 1642 (30 percent) were found to be guilty.

In Maharashtra, number of pending cases increased from 3999 to 37125 over the span of 16 years, i.e., an increase of 828 percent. In year 2016, a total of trial was completed in respect of 1847 pending cases out of which only 388 (21 percent) accused were convicted and the rest were set free.

In Uttar Pradesh, pending cases rose from 10597 to 39749 (by 275 percent) over the period of 16 years. Likewise, in Gujarat, the number of pending cases rose from 830 to 12035 (1350 percent).

Regrettably, the situation is very ironic in the modern India today. Whether children continue to be suffering from injustice and they remain distanced from justice, the environment has been made such that in the wake of these conditions of delayed justice, India's citizens have been deprived of their right to make a critiquing review of the judicial system as the dissent is frowned upon! Any endeavour to make such a review is labelled as violation of judiciary's privileges and deemed as contempt of court.

Crime Against Children, Cases Pending Investigation, Trials Pending, Rate of Trial Completion and Conviction Rate (year 2001 – 2016)											
Type of Crime	2001 - India					2016 - India					% Increase (2001 – 2016) Rounded Off
	Total Pending Cases – Previously Pending and New Registered Cases	Trials Completed	Rate of Trial Completion	Cases Convicted	Conviction Rate	Total Pending Cases – Pending at the End of Previous Year and New Registered Cases	Trials Completed	Rate of Trial Completion	Cases Convicted	Conviction Rate	
Murder	2335	344	14.7	188	54.7	7915	640	8.086	283	44.2	239
Rape	4546	726	16	281	38.7	64138	6626	10.33	1869	28.2	1311
Kidnapping	4837	701	14.5	326	46.5	74052	6077	8.206	1381	22.7	1431

Crime Against Children, Cases Pending Investigation, Trials Pending, Rate of Trial Completion and Conviction Rate (year 2001 – 2016)													
India/States	2001						2016						% Increase (2001 – 2016)
	Total Pending Cases – Previously Pending and New Registered Cases	Pending at Year End	Trials Completed	Rate of Trial Completion	Cases Convicted	Conviction Rate - %	Total Pending Cases – Previously Pending and New Registered Cases	Pending at Year End	Trials Completed	Rate of Trial Completion	Cases Convicted	Conviction Rate - %	
India	21233	17768	3231	15.2	1531	47.4	227739	204100	22763	10.0	6991	30.7	973
Madhya Pradesh	2065	1504	404	19.6	157	38.9	31392	25453	5444	17.3	1642	30.2	1420
Rajasthan	250	221	29	11.6	11	37.9	9048	8300	715	7.9	266	37.2	3519
Bihar	54	39	15	27.8	2	13.3	8162	7846	316	3.9	75	23.7	15015
Uttar Pradesh	10597	8630	1959	18.5	1164	59.4	39749	36694	2998	7.5	1529	51.0	275
Delhi	436	304	132	30.3	42	31.8	9763	9054	704	7.2	294	41.8	2139
Tamil Nadu	73	62	11	15.1	8	72.7	5826	4345	1481	25.4	634	42.8	7881
W. Bengal	144	96	30	20.8	7	23.3	15538	14772	766	4.9	78	10.2	10690
Karnataka	63	61	2	3.2	0	0.0	6947	6340	607	8.7	76	12.5	10927
Gujarat	830	762	68	8.2	40	58.8	12035	11729	295	2.5	34	11.5	1350
Andhra Pradesh	394	314	77	19.5	7	9.1	3980	2887	1012	25.4	113	11.2	910
Jharkhand	51	45	6	11.8	1	16.7	953	791	162	17.0	45	27.8	1769
Haryana	324	296	28	8.6	6	21.4	3773	2948	825	21.9	150	18.2	1065
Maharashtra	3999	3702	263	6.6	37	14.1	37125	35189	1847	5.0	399	21.6	828

**Crime Against Children, Cases Pending Investigation, Trials Pending, Rate of Trial Completion and Conviction Rate
(2001 – 2016): In Group Years**

India and States	2001						2004					
	Total Pending Cases – Previously Pending and New Registered Cases	Pending at Year End	Trials Completed	Rate of Trial Completion	Cases Convicted	Conviction Rate - %	Total Pending Cases – Previously Pending and New Registered Cases	Pending at Year End	Trials Completed	Rate of Trial Completion	Cases Convicted	Conviction Rate - %
India	21233	17768	3231	15.2	1531	47.4	37602	30316	6379	17.0	2303	36.1
Madhya Pradesh	2065	1504	404	19.6	157	38.9	7541	5391	1893	25.1	602	31.8
Rajasthan	250	221	29	11.6	11	37.9	463	401	62	13.4	15	24.2
Bihar	54	39	15	27.8	2	13.3	129	120	9	7.0	1	11.1
Uttar Pradesh	10597	8630	1959	18.5	1164	59.4	10486	8669	1783	17.0	1069	60.0
Delhi	436	304	132	30.3	42	31.8	1160	903	257	22.2	69	26.8
Tamil Nadu	73	62	11	15.1	8	72.7	406	315	91	22.4	28	30.8
W. Bengal	144	96	30	20.8	7	23.3	189	126	41	21.7	4	9.8
Karnataka	63	61	2	3.2	0	0.0	267	204	61	22.8	3	4.9
Gujarat	830	762	68	8.2	40	58.8	2137	1970	152	7.1	37	24.3
Andhra Pradesh	394	314	77	19.5	7	9.1	2113	1499	539	25.5	75	13.9
Jharkhand	51	45	6	11.8	1	16.7	168	143	24	14.3	6	25.0
Haryana	324	296	28	8.6	6	21.4	408	188	220	53.9	51	23.2
Maharashtra	3999	3702	263	6.6	37	14.1	7544	6900	605	8.0	101	16.7
India and States	2007						2010					
	Total Pending Cases – Previously Pending and New Registered Cases	Pending at Year End	Trials Completed	Rate of Trial Completion	Cases Convicted	Conviction Rate - %	Total Pending Cases – Previously Pending and New Registered Cases	Pending at Year End	Trials Completed	Rate of Trial Completion	Cases Convicted	Conviction Rate - %
India	52686	43185	9052	17.18	3313	36.6	72351	59221	12543	17.34	4334	34.5
Madhya Pradesh	10947	7985	2713	24.78	1036	38.2	13945	9987	3499	25.09	1384	39.5
Rajasthan	1797	1669	126	7.012	46	36.5	3015	2758	255	8.46	103	40.4
Bihar	403	361	35	8.685	13	37.1	2262	2118	144	6.37	35	24.3
Uttar Pradesh	10024	8032	1963	19.58	1118	57.0	9908	7530	2378	24.00	1456	61.2
Delhi	2539	2088	451	17.76	166	36.8	3681	3190	491	13.34	198	40.3
Tamil Nadu	669	468	201	30.04	47	23.4	1345	1005	340	25.28	116	34.1
W. Bengal	472	341	105	22.25	16	15.2	1175	1015	142	12.09	44	31.0
Karnataka	560	430	126	22.5	12	9.5	891	735	155	17.40	23	14.8
Gujarat	3599	3278	307	8.53	73	23.8	4798	4471	320	6.67	26	8.1

Crime Against Children, Cases Pending Investigation, Trials Pending, Rate of Trial Completion and Conviction Rate (2001 – 2016): In Group Years												
Andhra Pradesh	2689	1818	819	30.46	136	16.6	3794	2488	1260	33.21	46	3.6
Jharkhand	224	152	69	30.8	17	24.6	170	80	84	49.41	3	3.6
Haryana	565	468	97	17.17	34	35.1	669	397	272	40.66	67	24.6
Maharashtra	11455	10781	654	5.709	82	12.5	15900	14772	1117	7.03	92	8.2
India and States	2013						2016					
	Total Pending Cases – Previously Pending and New Registered Cases	Pending at Year End	Trials Completed	Rate of Trial Completion	Cases Convicted	Conviction Rate - %	Total Pending Cases – Previously Pending and New Registered Cases	Pending at Year End	Trials Completed	Rate of Trial Completion	Cases Convicted	Conviction Rate - %
India	114295	97602	15890	13.9	4916	30.9	227739	204100	22763	10.0	6991	30.7
Madhya Pradesh	18559	13866	4063	21.9	1366	33.6	31392	25453	5444	17.3	1642	30.2
Rajasthan	4683	4065	609	13.0	240	39.4	9048	8300	715	7.9	266	37.2
Bihar	4620	4101	513	11.1	117	22.8	8162	7846	316	3.9	75	23.7
Uttar Pradesh	18067	16024	2040	11.3	1177	57.7	39749	36694	2998	7.5	1529	51.0
Delhi	4956	4153	803	16.2	259	32.3	9763	9054	704	7.2	294	41.8
Tamil Nadu	2242	1700	542	24.2	164	30.3	5826	4345	1481	25.4	634	42.8
W. Bengal	3772	3539	222	5.9	17	7.7	15538	14772	766	4.9	78	10.2
Karnataka	1549	1158	383	24.7	28	7.3	6947	6340	607	8.7	76	12.5
Gujarat	7108	6577	524	7.4	123	23.5	12035	11729	295	2.5	34	11.5
Andhra Pradesh	5017	3783	1138	22.7	96	8.4	3980	2887	1012	25.4	113	11.2
Jharkhand	128	76	47	36.7	2	4.3	953	791	162	17.0	45	27.8
Haryana	1758	1146	612	34.8	123	20.1	3773	2948	825	21.9	150	18.2
Maharashtra	22262	21255	994	4.5	119	12.0	37125	35189	1847	5.0	399	21.6

What is the Government's Take on Child Protection?

Whilst crimes against children have risen both in absolute numbers as well as in percentage by leaps and bounds, it is high time that the governance, both at central and state levels is critically scrutinized vis-à-vis the challenges of child protection. Like the Government of India comes out with its claims on per capita annual income, shouldn't its investment in child protection plans and programmatic interventions be looked in to? A look at budget allocation on child protection for the current financial year, i.e., 2018-19 shows that the Government of India allocates a sum of Rs. 14/- per child per annum and that the Government of Madhya Pradesh allocates a sum of Rs. 28/- per child per annum. Thus, it could be said that the phrase of child protection is very much reflected in government's schemes that are being formulated, given that budgetary allocations are there. We shall come back with more critiquing insight in to the extent and efficacy of these public investments as are rendered by the central and state governments.

However, it is also a pity that despite the government's stated investment, children are increasingly becoming insecure, year-on-year as the foregoing analytics of the NCRB reports shows. Whilst the data depict the extent to which injustice and barbarism are being meted out to the children, the story does not end here. There is a critical issue of cases not being addressed effectively by the country's judicial system – the arm of governance that examines the trials and holds out convictions to those proven guilty. It is notable that both the police investigations and the trials in court are marked by profound and protracted delays. Further, these trials have been yielding a very poor conviction rate. The accused are getting free to a large extent. The perpetration of crimes against children, thus, remains largely unresolved. Is it not government's major failure that a large chunk of crimes against children go undetected, undecided and that the culprits continue to roam free? Should we stop short of saying that a 'systematic anarchy' has been let loose?

Persisting vacancies both in the lower and higher judiciary amply show that the government has neither been keen nor 'honest' in bringing the culprits to justice, given the longstanding pendency of cases across the board. Lack of timely investigative and judicial actions serves the dictum, "Justice delayed is justice denied". Another question is that whether the judicial reforms are in pace with the grave challenges that it encounters.

Whilst the different governments across the board make false and self-fulfilling claims of economic development and rise in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the 'Gross Credibility Index' (GIC) of the dispensation of governance comprising the tripod of judiciary, executive and the legislature is continually dropping. The Gross Credibility Index here refers to the success in building a sense of empathy in the society towards children and deliverance of accelerated and meaningful justice to them in the event of crime committed against them. The first outcome of this endeavour will be that we will not inflict another blow to the children who are the victims of crimes perpetrated against them, in the garb of investigative and judicial process.

Or, should we accept that India has been registering the fastest growth in the 'Gross Injustice Product' (GIP)? Kidnapping of children is on the rise and sexual abuse and exploitation is increasing. And, subsequently when the cases are brought to the notice of police and the judicial system for redressal, their indifferent treatment adds further injustice to the children. Probably, this statement of mine may be viewed by the legislature and the judiciary as amounting to committing contempt. However, the truth remains that the way the investigations are done, and trials are handled, the child goes through another 'murder', after having been 'killed' earlier. Likewise, the tortured and tormented child goes through another round of horror associated with the 'rape' and 'kidnapping' when the registered case of crime against the child is taken through the police

and judicial system. For the second time, this horrific act is committed by the system of our governance. Please ponder over this fact that between years 2001 and 2016, number of pending cases for trials increased from 21233 to 227739, i.e. an 11-fold increase. Further, it is shocking that the cases wherein trials were completed, more than 60 percent of them saw the accused getting freed – ‘held not guilty’!

Is it not a reflection on the prosecution and the judicial system of governance? It means that the ‘rape’ was committed but it could not be determined as to who committed it. The ‘kidnapping’ did occur but the culprit could not be identified! Today, the biggest question is that when the accused is let free by the court, why doesn’t it mandate the police to nab the culprit? What kind of judicial system do we have where the criminals are being vested with further right of freedom to commit more crimes? Essentially, the extreme insecurity of children owes its phenomenon to the inept role of the government and its anti-child politics.

Allotted Budget for Child Protection in India – Government of India (Rs. In Crore)			
Schemes		2017-18	2018-19
1	National Creche Scheme	200.00	128.39
2	Integrated Child Protection Services (ICPS)	648.00	725.00
3	Welfare Scheme for Children Requiring Care and Protection	2.00	0.01
4	Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao	200.00	280.00
5	Deendayal Divyang Punarvas Yojana	24.00	28.00
6	Accessories for Children with Special Needs	15.00	22.00
Total		1089.00	1183.40

Are the Governments’ Budgets Efficacious for Securing Child Protection?

Government of India has determined its total budget for about Rs. 24.42 lakh Crore. Out of this, Rs. 1183.4 Crore have been allocated for Child Protection. The budgetary allocation for child protection provides for arrangements for prevention of crimes, violence and exploitation against children, for sensitising society and securing justice under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015.

The question is that when it is evident that crimes against children are rising at a very fast rate, why the government is not allocating requisite budget as per the norms to effectively check the spate of crime rate. This question, thus, is directed at the intent of the Government of India!

The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) document by the Ministry of Women and Child Development informs that about 40 percent children in India (about 21 Crore as per the country’s population) are suffering because of deprivation and are living in difficult circumstances. It is notable that the ICPS was introduced in year 2009. Prior to this, an allocation of Rs. 194 Crore was made on child protection out of the total budget of the Government of India for Rs. 5.64 Lakh Crore in year 2006-07 (i.e., a mere 0.034 percent). 12 years later, now for the year 2018-19, the Government of India has allocated a sum of Rs. 1183.40 Crore for child protection out of the total budget of Rs.24.42 Lakh Crore (i.e., just 0.048 percent). It is thus, clear even though child insecurity has become much larger and extremely pronounced, the policy and ethical commitments of Government of India stay relegated at lower levels.

Allotted Budget for Child Protection in India – Government of India (Rs. In Crore)		
Schemes	2017-18	2018-19
Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)	65.04	67.76
Beti Bachao Abhiyan	9.20	8.95
Shourya dal	5.90	5.71
National Creche Scheme	1.72	4.00
Establishment of Juvenile Justice Board	0.01	0.70
Beti bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana	0.66	3.48
Total Allotment for Child Protection	82.53	90.61
Allotment for Pilgrimage	165.00	200.00

Likewise, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is also an important scheme. A mere allocation of Rs. 725 Crore has been provided for the ICDS for the year 2018-19. If we look the National Creche Scheme from the perspective of child protection, it is a very significant programme. However, the allocation for the National Creche Scheme has been scaled down from Rs. 200 Crore that was made for the year 2017-18 to Rs. 128.39 Crore in the year 2018-19. Nevertheless, regarding the situation of child protection amidst the economic policies, it is being argued by the spokespersons of the Government of India in last 3 years that the central government has hiked the budgetary allocations for the state governments and hence it has not been felt necessary to increase the allocation for its Ministry of Women and Child Development on this count!

And, when we look at the state levels, the picture becomes clearer. State Governments too are not according priority to child protection. Let us take the example of Madhya Pradesh. Whilst the central government made an allocation of Rs. 14/- per child for child protection for 52 Crore children, Government of Madhya Pradesh made a total allocation of Rs. 90.61 Crore for 3.2 Crore children, i.e., Rs. 28/- per child. Out of this allocation of Rs.90.61 Crore, Rs. 67.76 Crore have been provided for the Integrated Child protection Scheme. Whilst it is right that the budgetary allocation is not made based on such computations, using such data analytics helps in flagging the issue when it acquires alarming proportions and the solutions to the huge problems do not appear to be in sight.

Child Protection in Madhya Pradesh				
How much is the allotment (In Crore)?				
Budget		2017-18	2018-19	
Total	Budget	–	3817	4836
Department of Women and child Development				
State's Total Budget		175500	204642	
Total Allocation for Child Protection		82.53	90.61	
Share of Child Protection in Department's Budget-%		2.16	1.87	
Share of Child protection in State's Total Budget - %		0.05	0.044	

A review of the State's budget for 2018-19 suggests that only 0.044 percent of the total budget of Rs. 2.05 Lakh Crore has been provided for child protection; whereas for free pilgrimages, the State Government has made an allocation of Rs. 200 Crore. When it is evident in the civilized society that children are in a precarious situation, should the government priorities state-sponsored pilgrimages? The question is what the government's constitutional obligations are.

The issue is not limited to this aspect that the State Government has made an allocation of only Rs. 67.76 Crore for Integrated Child Protection Services (ICPS). It goes beyond in to the question of expenditure framework from the allocation. From the allocation, 27.09 Crore (40 percent) goes towards salaries and wages, Rs. 83 Lakh (1.2 percent) towards travel and allowances, Rs. 70 Lakh (1.02 percent)

Integrated Child Protection Scheme – Expenditure Framework									
Allotment (2018-19) Rs. In Crore	Salaries and Wages	Travel and Travel Allowances	Training	Telephone and Postal Services	Electricity	Rent	Professional Services	Maintenance of Fixed Assets	
67.76	27.09	0.83	0.80	0.70	0.77	1.55	6.25	9.9	
100%	40%	1.2%	1.2%	1.02%	1.14%	2.28%	9.23%	14.62%	

towards telephone and postal expenses, Rs. 77 Lakh (1.14 percent) on electricity and Rs. 1.55 Crore (2.28 percent) have been allocated on rent. Further, Rs. 6.25 Crore (9.2 percent) have been allocated for availing professional/specialist services and on running the centres/homes for child protection, an allocation of Rs. 9.9 Crore (14.6 percent) has been planned. It needs to be critically examined whether the budgetary allocations are in line with objectives for the ICPS. Whilst with reference to the NCRB Report of 2016, Madhya Pradesh has been having 38 cases registered every day on crimes against children (including 13 cases of rape and 17 cases of kidnapping everyday), the budget allocation can be the appropriate measure to assess State's intent

on securing child protection. Though, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) and Juvenile Justice (care and Protection) Act are of crucial significance, the problem is that these are being used for vested political interests. The District Level Child Welfare Committees have been given wide-ranging powers for child protection. However, 80 percent appointments in these committees have been made on serving political interests. Despite many clamoring calls to action, many districts have failed to establish the envisaged Special Juvenile Police Units. Children today are not secure, be it in home, school, playground; anywhere! Under these circumstances, central and state governments ought to have addressed the need for ensuring child security and protection. Their silence is deafening, and inaction is most painful.

However, as usual, what the Government of India has done is to come up with an attractive document, “National Action Plan for Children – NACP - (2016) – Safe Children - Happy Childhood”. Its Key Priority 3 pertaining to Protection reads Objective 2 thus:

“Protect all children from all forms of violence and abuse, harm, neglect, stigma, discrimination, deprivation, exploitation including economic exploitation, and sexual exploitation, abandonment, separation, abduction, sale or trafficking”.

This Objective 2 has the following 3 sub-objectives:

1. Create a caring, protective and safe environment for all children to reduce their vulnerability in all situations and to keep them safe at all places.
2. Legislative, administrative, and institutional prevention and redressal mechanisms for child protection, strengthened at national, state and district level with special focus on protection of girl child.
3. Mainstream child protection in all programming designed for children and humanitarian assistance.

However, with a view to have these good thoughts in the form of action at the ground level, there is a strong need for making the dispensation of governance realise that ‘children are most important’. Therefore, there is need to ponder as to what investment have been made by the government and the society for the wellbeing of children.

This Action Plan informs that with a view to make safer and better environment for children, district-wise vulnerability mapping will be undertaken so that those areas may be given better attention where vulnerability is more pronounced. It states that Child Protection Committees will be formed at district, block, village and ward levels and that their capacity will be built for preparing integrated child protection plans. Such messaging will be disseminated in the society and training imparted so that all people can understand different aspects pertaining to exploitation of children and violence etc. and play their positive roles in favour of children’s protection and safety. The envisaged measures are of great importance but have yet to seen occurring at the ground level.

India has had the system in place for resolving cases pertaining to children in the Juvenile Courts since 1986. However, in year 2000, it took the form of Juvenile Justice Board. Primarily, the Board resolves those matters where the children may have committed a crime. The children who themselves are the victims of exploitation come under the purview of Child Protection Committees. The extent to which children are unsafe in India necessitates that the judicial system becomes far more sensitive regarding child exploitation and violation of their rights.

What is painful is that our existing political leadership has become immune to the issue of violence and exploitation. It has mastered the art of dramatics to charm the society. However, there are now indications that a large chunk of society is coming out of the dramatics’ enchantment and has started reacting. Our

concern is that children do not form the priority of political parties. After all, the society has learned over the decades that whatever happens with the children is their fait accompli whereas the fact is that children are accursed because of our stupidities.



The Inference

The data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) presents the reality check for us vis-à-vis crimes against children. We infer from the wide-ranging information from the NCRB that it will not be possible for the government's initiative alone to control the rise in crimes against children. However, this is also correct that the Government has a significant and key role in securing such a dispensation in governance that catalyzes and maintains an effective positive and forward action.

It is the critical and basic need of the hour that we endeavour to define socio-economic development and political changes/development from the perspective children's better life. We need to search an answer to this question as to why the violation of child rights is also occurring at a very fast pace whilst the economic development is in a fast-forward mode. In fact, at some level, we confront the reality that the rate of increase of child insecurity is higher than that of the economic development!

We should not hesitate to acknowledge that the government is not rendering a completely responsible and accountable dispensation whereby the interests of the deprived sections of the society, particularly those of women and children can be assuredly safeguarded.

The NCRB data speaks, and that it speaks loudly. The NCRB or the respective state police units seek to record each crime against the children, investigate the same and that the courts decide the cases. The question that looms large, however, is about the causes of the occurrences of the crimes. Why are the girls of 8 months age or 3 years age getting raped?

Why are the children being kidnapped? Why are the children taking to commit suicide? Acting after the 'incidence' has occurred and remaining limited to its record is essentially the failure of the governance. Whilst the law and order are in place, it is also true that the dispensation is fraught with weak, unaccountable and inefficient implementation system.

What is needed now is keen, focused and priority action on the part of the central and state governments. After all, with callous, persisting and ever-increasing severity of violation of child rights ought to force us to reflect in terms of securing mitigation in the situation of crime against the children. Viewed against this interpretation, it is not wrong to state that the governments over the decades have rather failed to fulfill their constitutional obligations. An effort to look in to the kind of measures that the governments have taken brings out that a plethora of Acts are in place and that the governments have sought to issue certain advisories from time to time. The list of the Acts and the advisories is placed below:

1. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015 and Integrated Child Protection Scheme

Following are the advisories issued to states/union territories on crimes against children:

- **Advisory issued on 14th July 2010 on crime of children**
- **Advisory issued on 4th January 2012 with reference to IT/Cyber-crimes committed against children – preventing and combating various crimes.**
- **Advisory dated 31st January 2012 and 29th October 2012 on measures pertaining to the subject of prevention of trafficking of missing children and finding out such suffering children**
- **Advisory issued on 28th May 2013 on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2013.**
- **Advisory issued on 25th June 2013 in line with the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court on mandatory registration of First Information Report (FIR).**

These advisories are available at <https://mha.gov.in/csdivadvisory>

2. The Immoral Traffic Prevention (Prevention) Act, 2016
3. The Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005
4. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
5. IT(Amendment) Act, 2008
6. Childline (1098)
7. Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
8. Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 1986
9. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1976
10. Indian Penal Code and provisions related to children
11. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Campaign of Government of India
12. Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994
13. Code of Conduct for Safe & Honorable Tourism, 2010 issued by the Government of India
14. Guidelines under Section 35 (1) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 for Implementation of Clause (c) of Sections 8 & 9 of the RTE Act
15. Children's Act, 2005
16. Child's Right Act, 2006
17. Children Act, 1960

It obviously brings out that learning from the critical data emerging from the NCRB has not yet been transformed in to a robust action on the ground; both in terms of a policy-cum-strategic framework as well as an efficacious implementation of Acts and advisories.

Further, across the societal milieu, people appear to have chosen to be passive to the acute social deviance that threatens the 'humane' aspect of human life. With blunted sensitivity, the society appears to be headed for self-destruction. The anti-social behavior as is reflected in the crime against children needs to be perceived by the society as violative of the public sentiment and that it needs to be recognised that the deviant behavior is completely unacceptable and that something that is forbidden by statute must reach its logical conclusion in the form of exemplary punishment.

In fact, we must seek to look for the factors of children's insecurity on the canvas of our societal weft because crimes are occurring within the proximity of relations, family and community. We also need to answer this difficult question that in Indian society where children are broadly the responsibility of the family and the society, are we well-advised to treat the children as unique and separate units? In the changing scenario, families have undergone revolutionary changes wherein children have been rendered hapless and insecure. On the other hand, the governments, both at the Centre as well as at the states have miserably failed to secure safe and dignified institutional architecture for our children.