

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND FACTORS ASSOCIATED TO NATURE OF CRIME OF INMATES AT A JUVENILE DETENTION CENTRE, RANCHI, JHARKHAND, INDIA.



Community Medicine

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ABSTRACT

Background- A delinquent young person is one who is disobedient and wayward, runs away from home and school, cannot be controlled by the parents and teachers, is not amenable to any kind of discipline, is self-willed and habitually acts in a manner injurious to the welfare and happiness of others and himself. Our aim was to Find out the various socio-demographic factors associated to nature of crimes among the inmates.

Materials: Cross-Sectional, Analytical study carried out at Male Juvenile Detention Centre, Dumardugga, Near Booty more, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India.

Results: In the present study, 30(36.6%) of the detainees belonged to middle class and 32(39%) detainees belonged to lower middle and lower classes, with only 4(4.9%) belonging to upper class. Socio-economic status was significantly associated ($P=0.018$) with serious offences committed by the detainees.

Conclusions: Vocational Training and strong family values incorporated through Information Education Communication since childhood since majority were in young age group.

KEYWORDS

Inmates, Juvenile Detention Centre, Nature of Crime.

I. INTRODUCTION

Children Are the Building blocks of nation in which its future is built. All Children develop at different rate and with different behaviour and Views. They develop themselves to indulge in making their future planning, goal Setting and long term planning to find their individual Identity. These are normal Changes but Problem arises when they involve themselves in Delinquent activities. It has been Observed that Indulgence in the conventional crimes/ delinquency peaks in adolescence and diminishes with their age. Juvenile delinquency¹ refers to the antisocial or criminal activity of the child (below 16 years of age for boys and 18 years for girls) which violates the law. The term juvenile delinquency applies to violation of criminal code and certain patterns of behaviour that are not approved for children and young adolescents. Juvenile delinquency may be grouped as individual delinquency (in which only one individual is involved and the cause of delinquent act is traced to individual delinquent), or group supported delinquency (committed in companionship and the cause is attributed not to the personality of the individual but to the culture of the individual's home and neighbourhood), organized delinquency and situational delinquency. A delinquent young person is one who is disobedient and wayward, runs away from home and school, cannot be controlled by the parents and teachers, is not amenable to any kind of discipline, is self-willed and habitually acts in a manner injurious to the welfare and happiness of others and himself.³

In India, the concept of delinquent behaviour is confined to the violation of the ordinary Penal Laws of Country carried out by boys or girls up to the age of eighteen years.⁴ State laws prohibit two types of behaviour for juveniles: the first includes behaviour, which is criminal for adults, as for example, murder, rape, fraud, burglary, robbery, etc. and the second includes status offenses like running away from home, unruly or ungovernable truancy, etc.³ Juvenile Justice Act 2000 aims at evolving effective mechanisms and creating the necessary environment for care, protection, development and rehabilitation of juveniles in conflict with law.¹

Among juveniles, it has been observed that there is a specific trend that they are involved in heinous criminal. So being in a medical Profession the present study aims to delve into various socio-demographic factors and also to assess various aspects of health of detainees which may be the reasons for juvenile delinquency.

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II. Aims And Objectives

- To describe the socio-demographic background of study subjects.
- To Find out the various socio-demographic factors associated to nature of crimes among the inmates.

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This was a Cross-Sectional, Analytical study carried out at Male Juvenile Detention Centre, Dumardugga, Near Booty more, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India. Ethical approval for the study was obtained from Ethical Committee of Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Ranchi and from authority of juvenile detention centre (observation Home) before proceeding study. After Ethical Approval all the children living in Male Juvenile Detention Centre and are willing to participate in the study were included. Critically ill detainees and those juvenile who were unable to communicate were excluded from the study. Study participants were explained in details about purpose of the study and data were collected after getting informed assent from them. Duration of my Study Period was one year from January 2017 to December 2018.

In this duration total 265 youth were enrolled in juvenile home. Out of these, total of 154 detainees Contacted me for their health Checkups but only 82 of them who were willing to participate were included in the study. So Final Sample size came out to be 82.

A Semi-structured questionnaire was developed to fulfil the objectives and was tested using pilot study on Four subjects, this pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire was used for data collection. Questionnaire was filled on the basis of subject's response to the questions. It consisted of Socio demographic variables like age, sex, religion, residence, occupation, marital status, socioeconomic class and Performa developed for General health check-ups. Inmates were approached weekly during OPD time of clinic (10am to 1pm) of observation home.

Data was entered and Proper template was generated using MS-Excel. Data entry was done and 10% of data were randomly checked to assure the quality of data entry under the supervision of Guide. The data were analysed by using software- Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) 20.0 Version. Frequency tables were generated to see the distribution of variable. Chi square test was applied to see the statistical significant association/ difference categorical variable. For all statistical analysis p -value <0.05 was considered significant.

IV. RESULTS

The study comprised of 82 Participants in which analysis has been done.

Table 1 : Socio-demographic Profile of Detainees (n=82)

Sl. No.	Variable	Category	Frequency(%)
1.	Age	Less than 14 year	10(12.2%)
		14 – 16 year	30(36.6)
		Above 16 year	42(51.2%)
		Total	82(100.0%)
2.	Religion	Hindu	12(63.4%)
		Muslim	52(17.10%)
		Christian	14(14.60%)
		Other	4(4.9%)
		Total	82(100.0%)
3.	Category	General	13(15.9%)
		OBC	27(32.9%)
		Schedule Caste	14(17.10%)
		Schedule Tribe	28(34.10%)
		Total	82(100.0%)
4.	Ethnicity	Tribal	28(34.10%)
		Non Tribal	54(65.9%)
		Total	82(100.0%)
5.	Residence	Rural	53(64.6%)
		Urban	29(35.4%)
		Total	82(100.0%)
6.	Education	Illiterate	3(3.7%)
		Primary	36(43.9%)
		Secondary	30(36.6%)
		Higher Secondary	11(13.4%)
		Graduate	2(2.4%)
		Total	82(100.0%)
7.	Marital Status	Married	3(3.7%)
		Not married	79(96.3%)
		Total	82(100.0%)

Table 2:- Showing distribution of detainees according Education level of subject' Parents(n=82)

Category	Father		Mother	
	Frequency	Percent(%)	Frequency	Percent(%)
Illiterate	29	35.4	45	54.9
Primary	14	17.1	16	19.5
Secondary	27	32.9	17	20.7
Higher Secondary	3	3.7	1	1.2
Above Graduate	7	8.5	1	1.2
Information Not Available	2	2.4	2	2.4
Total	82	100	82	100.0

Table 2 shows that Father (35.4%) and Mother (54.9%) of most of the detainees were illiterate, with fathers and mothers educated up to secondary level in 32.9% and 20.7% of cases respectively. Two out of 82 detainees didn't know about the education of their parents

Table 3:- Showing Distribution of Detainees according their Parents occupation(n=82)

Category	Father		Mother	
	Frequency	Percent (%)	Frequency	Percent (%)
1. Government Job	7	8.5	2	2.4
2. Private Job	6	7.3	0	0
3. Framing	17	20.7	5	6.1
4. Self employed	11	13.4	1	1.2
5. Daily wages	21	25.6	9	11.0
6. House Wife	0	0	60	73.2
7. Other	11	13.4	0	0
8. Information Not Available	9	11	5	6.1
Total	82	100.0	82	100.0

Table 3 shows that Out of the 82 detainees, fathers in 25.6% of cases were daily wage workers and 20.7% were farmers. Fathers of nine detainees were not alive. Majority of detainee's mothers were house wives (73.2%) with 11% working as daily wage workers. Mothers of five detainees were not alive.

Table:- 4 Showing Distribution of Detainees according Family background(n=82)

Sl. No.	Variables		Frequency	Percent (%)
1.	Type of family	Nuclear	59	72.0

		Joint	23	28.0
		Total	82	100
2.	Type Of House	Pucca	54	65.9
		Kutchcha	19	23.2
		Semi-pucca	9	11.0
		Total	82	100.0
3.	SES*	Class I	4	4.9
		Class II	16	19.5
		class III	30	36.6
		class IV	28	34.1
		class V	4	4.9
		Total	82	100

* Socio-economic status according to Modified BG Prasad Classification.

Table 4 show that out of 82 detainees, 54 (65.9%) resident in Pucca house and 19 (23.2%) in Kutchcha house. According Modified BG Prasad classification, Most 36.6% of the detainees belong to Class III group and 4 detainees (4.9%) to class I group.

Table 5:- Association between of socio-demographic of Inmates and Delinquency

Factors	Category	Detainees involved in Serious Offence		Chi square value	P value
		Yes	No		
Age	<14 year	5	5	3.117	0.210
	14-16 year	23	7		
	>16 year	32	10		
Residence	Rural	38	15	0.166	0.684
	Urban	22	7		
Religion	Hindu	39	13	0.166	0.684
	Muslim	7	7		
	Christian	10	2		
	Other	4	0		
Category	General	7	6	3.937	0.268
	OBC	19	8		
	SC	11	3		
	ST	23	5		
Ethnicity	Tribal	23	5	1.744	0.187
	Non- Tribal	37	17		
Education	Illiterate	1	2	1.374	0.848
	Primary	26	10		
	Secondary	24	6		
	Higher secondary	7	4		
	Pursuing Graduation	2	0		

The association of serious offences with age ($P=0.210$), residence ($P=0.684$), religion ($P=0.684$), category ($P=0.268$), ethnicity ($P=0.187$) and education ($P=0.848$) of detainees is not statistical significant. But detainees belonging to Hindu religion and OBC category with age > 16 years were found to be proportionally more involved in serious offences.

Table 6:- Association between socio-demographic background of detainees and Serious Offence

Factor	Category	Detainees involved in Serious Offence		Chi square value	P value
		Yes	No		
Mother education	Information Not Available	1	1	7.138	0.211
	Illiterate	36	9		
	Primary	9	7		
	Secondary	13	4		
	Higher secondary	0	1		
Father education	Graduation	1	0	2.400	0.791
	Information Not Available	1	1		
	Illiterate	23	6		
	Primary	11	3		
	Secondary	19	8		
	Higher secondary	2	1		
	Graduation	4	3		

Mother occupation	Information Not Available	3	2	3.384	0.641
	Government job	1	1		
	Farming	5	0		
	Self employed	1	0		
	Daily wage	6	3		
	House wife	44	16		
Father occupation	Information Not Available	6	3	13.427	0.037*
	Government job	2	5		
	Farming	4	2		
	Self employed	15	2		
	Daily wage	6	5		
	Others	18	3		
Family	Nuclear	34	16	1.187	0.189
	Joint	26	6		
SES	Class I	1	3	11.85	0.018*
	Class II	9	10		
	Class III	25	6		
	Class IV	22	2		
	Class V	3	1		

The association between serious offences by detainees and mother's education ($P = 0.21$), father's education ($P = 0.791$), mother's occupation ($P = 0.641$) and family ($p = 0.189$) is statistically not significant. Statistically significant association is present between serious offences and father's occupation ($P = 0.037$) and socioeconomic status ($P = 0.018$).

V.DISCUSSION

In the present study a total of 82 detainees were interviewed during the study period. All the detainees in the juvenile justice home were males. Majority, 51.2 % of juvenile detainees were above 16 years of age while 36.6% were between 14 to 16 years of age and 12.2% were of less than 14 years. In another study conducted in 2014, of the 86,823 juveniles arrested in California, only 1,181 were under age 12; and out of these, 420 were ten years old or younger.⁵ Majority of the detainees belonged to Hindu religion (63.4%) followed by Muslim (17.1%). Similar findings were found in study done by Sharma et al.,⁶ which indicates that the highest representation of juvenile detainee was Hindus (64.5%) followed by Muslim (33.5%).

Most, 54(65.9%) of detainees were Non-tribals, with 27(32.9%) detainees were found to be OBC followed by schedule caste 14(17.1%) and general 13(15.9%) while remaining 28(34.1%) detainees were tribals. Majority of Detainees were from rural background that accounted for 53(64.6%) while 29(35.4%) were urban detainees. Majority, 79(96.3%) were unmarried and belonged to a nuclear family 59(72%). Out of 82 detainees, 36(43.9%) had primary education followed by secondary level of education 30(36.6%), with only 11(13.4%) having higher secondary education, while only 2(2.4%) were pursuing graduation. A total of 3(3.7%) detainees out of 82 were illiterate. In our study ethnicity, caste, rural background, type of family, level of education of detainees were not significantly associated with the serious offences committed by the detainees and these findings were in contrast with a cross-sectional study by Sunil D. Kumar,⁷ conducted among the inmates of central prison for one year on three hundred convicted life-term prisoners which found that rural people, unmarried, illiterates were more likely to have committed the crime resulting in the conviction for life, a smaller sample size in our study may be the reason for that.

In the present study, 30(36.6%) of the detainees belonged to middle class and 32(39%) detainees belonged to lower middle and lower classes, with only 4(4.9%) belonging to upper class. Socio-economic status was significantly associated ($P = 0.018$) with serious offences committed by the detainees. Similar findings were also found in cross-sectional study done by Sunil D. Kumar⁷ which shows that persons from lower socioeconomic status were more likely to have committed the crime resulting in the conviction for life, while a review by Sharma et al.⁶ also revealed that the majority of the detainee's sample belonged to low socioeconomic status and came from poverty-stricken areas also known as "slums".

Another study done in India on convicts, by Pankaj,⁸ found that the majority of the study subjects belonged to lower (36.6%) and lower middle (29.9%) socioeconomic status. In the study majority of the

inmates were illiterates (24.6%) unlike our study findings, followed by primary schooling (19.4%) and least being the graduates. However the study differed with our findings in type of family, where they found that joint family (73.9%) accounted for more convicts.

Further, from our study it was found that fathers (35.4%) and mothers (54.9%) of most of the detainees were illiterate, followed by secondary education level of the father (32.9%) and mother (20.7%). In relation to occupation, fathers of 21(25.6%) detainees were daily wage earners followed by farming 17(20.7%), while majority of detainee's mother were housewife (73.2%) followed by daily wage earner (11%). Levels of education of parents, of the detainees were not significantly associated with serious offences committed but father's occupation was significantly associated with serious offences committed by the detainees ($P = 0.037$).

Similar findings were found in study done by Manziani et al.⁹ in which young people aged 17-18 years were studied, among which 80% were males and 20% females, found that 48% were educated at guidance level. Gender and education level as well as occupation and education level of their mothers were significantly associated with delinquency ($P < 0.05$). However no significant relationship was observed among the marital status, place of residence, family size, birth order, educational backwardness, performing religious duties, education level, father's job, level of income.

VI.CONCLUSION

In our Study Fathers Occupation and lower socioeconomic class was found to be the major factors for Crimes among inmates, So job oriented education system must be strengthened, Vocational Training and strong family values incorporated through Information Education Communication since childhood since majority were in young age group.

VII. Limitation of the Study

The study was carried out in a single juvenile detention centre and hence the results cannot be generalized. Hence We suggest a larger multi-centric study involving all or majority of these type of Centres located in different parts of India for better understanding of Socio demographic factors associated with criminal behaviour of inmates.

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