

Analysis of crime in Karnataka to support strategic decision making for law enforcement and providing legal aid

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Abstract - Detailed analysis is done for crimes in Karnataka since 2001 to identify the trends in Crime over time in the various districts of Karnataka. The outcome can be utilized to determine which state/district requires relatively higher Legal aid and Law enforcement in Karnataka.

We utilize the data of crime against vulnerable groups in India and in detail for Karnataka since 2001. The analysis is used to identify the concentration of crimes against vulnerable sections of society that are entitled to get Legal aid according to the Indian penal code. The analysis is done for women, children, SC and ST. This analysis can be utilized to spread Legal Awareness amongst the citizens by identifying hotspots of particular crime. Identifying the hotspots of the crime will help in assisting better law enforcement by strategically distributing the resources. We can also provide Legal Assistance like appointing advocates and giving legal advice to people according to this analysis.

Keywords—Legal Aid, Law Enforcement, Data Analytics, Vulnerable groups

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I. INTRODUCTION

Legal aid is the provision of assistance to people who are unable to afford legal representation and access to the court system. Legal aid is regarded as central in providing access to justice by ensuring equality before the law, the right to counsel and the right to a fair trial.[1]

State-funded legal aid is essential in ensuring the right to defense as recognized in international legal instruments and national constitutions around the world. The United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems state that “legal aid is an essential element of a fair, humane and efficient criminal justice system that is based on the rule of law” and that “it is a foundation for the enjoyment of other rights, including the right to a fair trial, as a precondition to exercising such rights and an important safeguard that ensures fundamental fairness and public trust in the criminal justice process”.[2]

In India, legal aid is an act to constitute legal services authorities to provide free and competent legal service to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizens by reason of economic or other disabilities.

The Government has taken up policies to spread awareness to the common mass through organizing different programmes held by different authorities, governmental or non-governmental. Central Government has developed a plan and has also started to apply it by the help of the Legal Services Authorities, for this purpose. This authority spreads Legal Awareness amongst the citizens of our country, provides Legal Assistance like appointing advocates and offering advices to the people and also to suggest the Government different other plans relating this noble cause. These are the functions carried out by these organizations and authorities.[3]

To carry out these functions it is necessary to analyze which sections of the society are in need of assistance and to what extent. In this internship we analyze the situation of Karnataka within India and the crimes

against four vulnerable categories, namely, women, children, SC and ST specifically. We try identifying the hotspots of crime which will help in better Law Enforcement implementation.

II. IMPLEMENTATION

A. Data Collection

The Data is collected from two main sources:

1. Data set compiled by Rajanandllangovan based on data published by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and Government of India[4]. This dataset contains complete information about various aspects of crimes happened in India from 2001. It is a categorized dataset from which we have used details of crime against women, children, SC and ST.
2. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is the National Data Warehouse for case data including the orders / judgments for Courts across the country. Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, is responsible for the administrative functions and maintenance of the NJDG.[11] We have used the data available on NJDG to get the criminal, civil and total crime data from 2001 to 2018.

B. Data Analytics Tool Used - TABLEAU

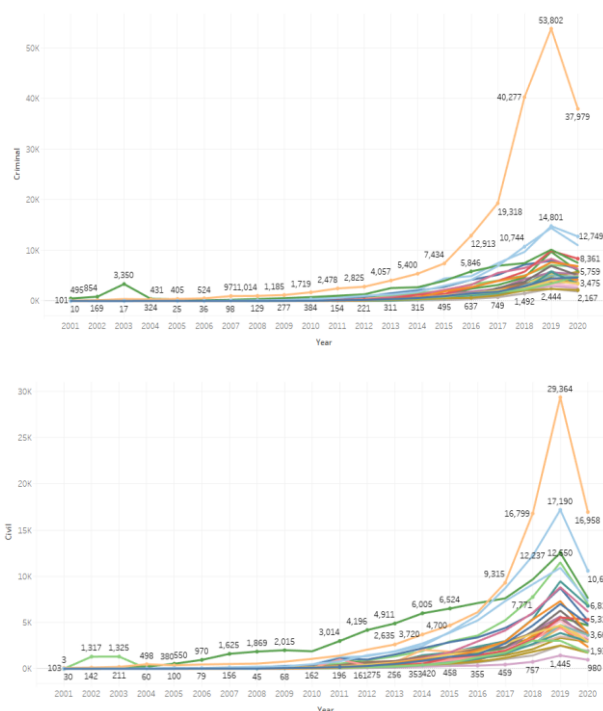
This software is mainly used for data analytics and data visualization during this internship. Tableau is a visual analytics platform transforming the way we use data to solve problems—empowering people and organizations to make the most of their data. Tableau software is one of the fastest growing data visualization tools which is currently being used in the BI industry.

Advantages of Tableau

- Fantastic Visualizations
- In-depth Insights
- Adding Datasets is easy new datasets get automatically blended with Tableau using common fields.
- User-friendly Approach
- Working with Disparate Data Sources is possible
- Switching Between Visualizations can be done to bring about a greater context, with ways of drilling down data and exploring it at a minute level.

III. ANALYZING TRENDS IN CRIME RATE OVER TIME IN KARNATAKA

Analyzing the crime in Karnataka we see that the criminal crime has been increasing since 2013 with a sharp increase visible in 2017 onwards especially in Bangalore. Similarly the civil cases have also been increasing since 2011 with a sharp increase since 2017.



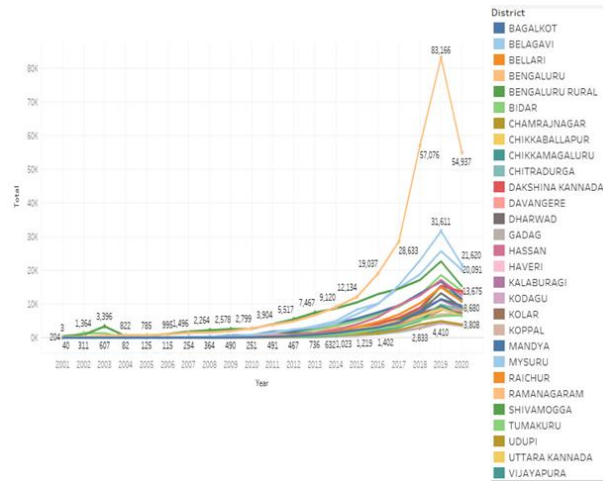


Figure 1: Analyzing the trends in Crime rate from 2001-2020 for a) Criminal crime b) Civil crime c) Total crime

The total crime rate has increased since 2015. The trend is most visible in Bangalore followed by Mysore. The increase in other districts is visible but not as much. This is probably due to lifestyle in cities and lack of updating the security system. This indicates the importance of increasing the infrastructural support depending on increase of crime rate rather than based on population census.

There is a dip in the crime rates in 2020 as due to COVID the number of crime rates and the number of cases reported has decreased. This is also significantly visible in the places that have seen a sharp increase in the crime rates since 2017. Hence we can conclude that over years there has been increase in crime rates especially since 2017.

IV. ANALYZING THE CRIME RATES IN KARNATAKA AGAINST THE VULNERABLE GROUPS

A. Crimes against women

A woman is entitled for free legal aid irrespective of her income or financial status. A woman is eligible to apply for free legal aid by virtue of Section 12(c) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

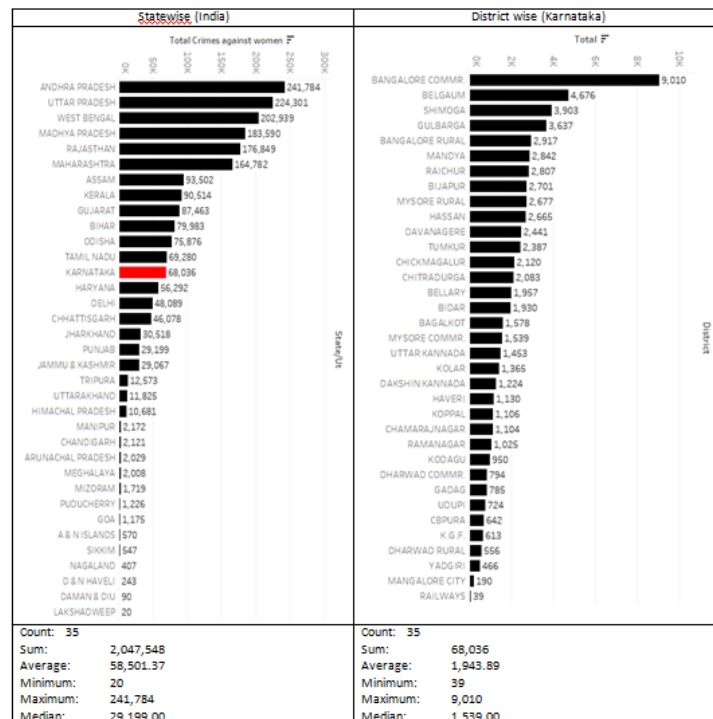


Figure 2: a) State wise analysis of crime against women in India (2001-12) b) District wise analysis of crime against women in Karnataka (2001-12)

Figure 2a shows the state wise analysis of crime against women in India. Karnataka stands in 13th position with a total of 68,036 crimes against woman. The crime rate is 2.3 times higher than the median value and also greater than the average crime rate. This shows that Karnataka can considerably improve the crime rates if law is enforced with greater strictness.

Figure 2b shows the district wise analysis of crime against women in Karnataka. 15 districts have above average crime rates. The highest crime rate is 4.6 times the average crime rate. This shows that if the crime rate in the hotspot regions can be controlled the overall crime rate of Karnataka would reduce drastically.

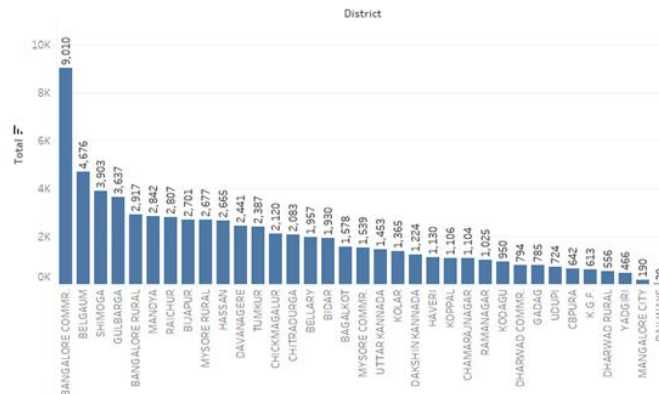


Figure 3: Total crimes against women in each district of Karnataka (2001-12)

Figure 3 shows the total crimes against women in each district in Karnataka. The maximum crime rates are in Bangalore commercial, whereas minimum are in Railways. Legal aid services can thus be provided accordingly to each district.

We analyze the various crimes against woman in the graphs below to get a better understanding of the main crimes and their hotspots. The various crimes analyzed are: i) Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage Her Modesty, ii) Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives, iii) Dowry Deaths, iv) Importation of girls, v) Insult to modesty of woman, vi) Kidnapping and abduction & vii) Rape

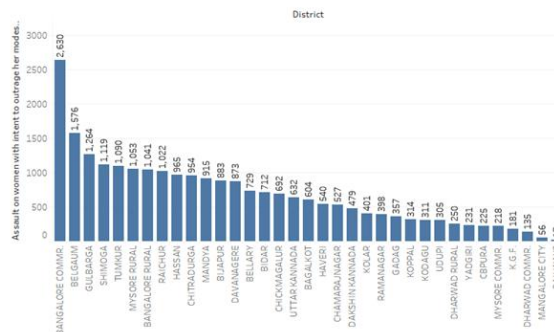


Figure 3: Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage Her Modesty (2001-12)

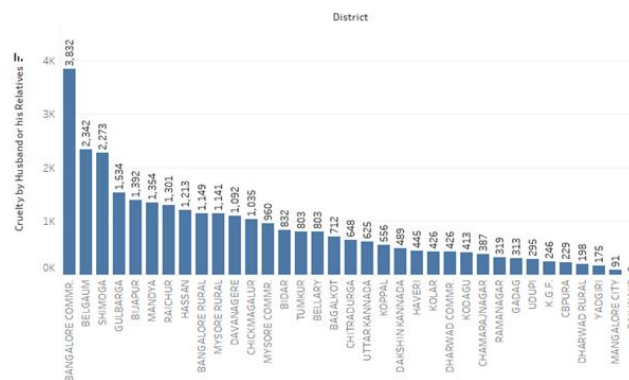


Figure 4: Cruelty By Husband Or His Relatives (2001-12)

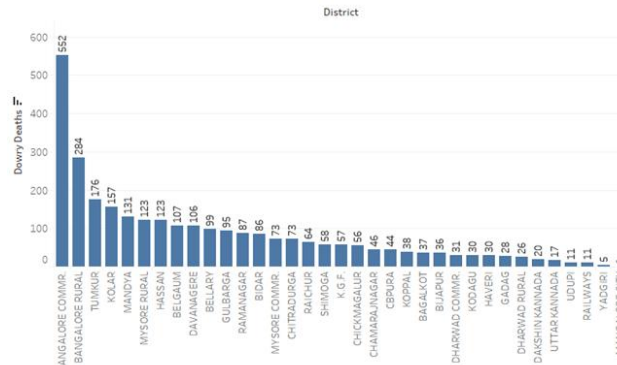


Figure 5: Dowry deaths (2001-12)

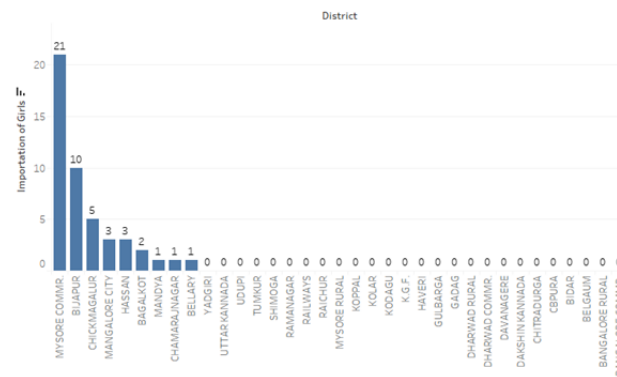


Figure 6: Importation of girls (2001-12)

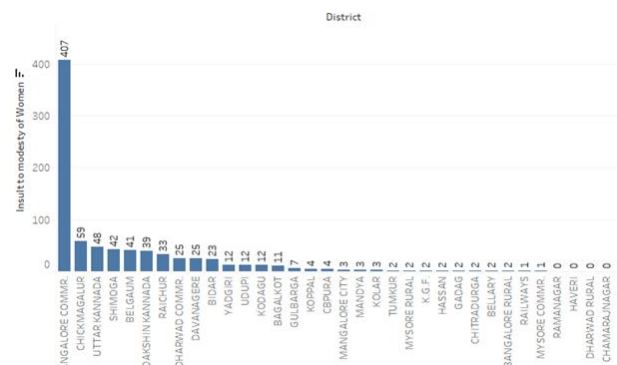


Figure 7: Insult to modesty of woman (2001-12)

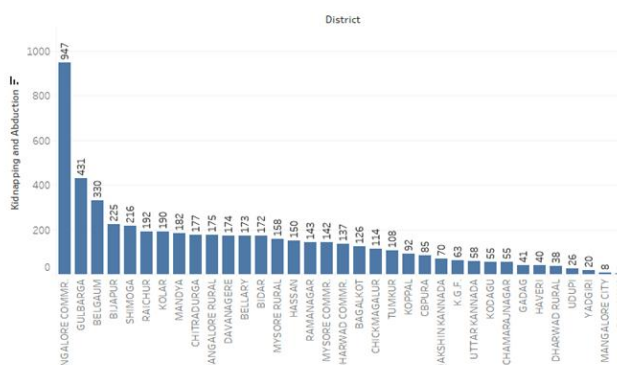


Figure 8: Kidnapping and abduction (2001-12)

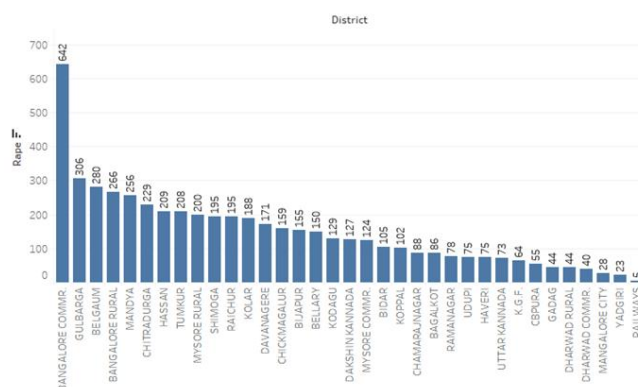


Figure 9: Rape (2001-12)

Analysis of Crime against women shows that the highest contributor in India is Andhra Pradesh followed by Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Karnataka stands at the 13th position having crime rate higher than the average crime rate in India. In Karnataka the Crime rates as per revenue divisions are as follows: Mysuru division- 16035, Bengaluru division- 26386, Belgavi division - 13673, Kalburgi division - 11903. As can be seen from the above figures crime in Bengaluru division is almost twice as the other three division with Bangalore commercial being the highest contributor to crime against women in Karnataka.

Among crimes against women, Domestic cruelty and Assault continue to be the most prevalent crime reported. The other major crimes against women include Dowry Deaths, Importation of girls, Insult to modesty of woman, Kidnapping, Abduction & rape.

Government has taken various measures to decrease crime against women. Criminal Law (Amendment) act, 2013 was enacted for effective deterrence against sexual offences. Further, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, was enacted to prescribe even more stringent penal provisions including death penalty for rape of a girl below the age of 12 years. The Act also inter-alia mandates completion of investigation and trials within 2 months each.

Government has also provided the Emergency Response Support System which provides a pan-India, single, internationally recognized number (112)-based system for all emergencies, with the computer-aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress. Safe City Projects have been sanctioned in the first Phase in 8 cities (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai).

In order to facilitate States and Union Territories (UT), the MHA launched an online analytic tool for police called 'Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences' to monitor and track time-bound investigation in sexual assault cases in accordance with the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018.

A "One Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme" has been implemented across the country since April 1, 2015, which is exclusively designed to provide integrated services such as medical aid, police assistance, legal counselling/ court case management, psycho-social counselling and temporary shelter to women affected by violence under one roof. As per available information, 728 OSCs have been approved by the Government of India, 595 OSCs are operational in the country.[5]

B. Crimes against children

Headings, or heads, are organizational devices that guide the reader through A child is eligible for free legal aid till the age of majority i.e. 18 years. This is effectuated by Section 12 (c) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

Figure 14a shows the state wise analysis of crime against children in India. Karnataka stands in 15th position with a total of 3,534 crimes against children. The crime rate is almost 50% lesser than the national average. Hence Karnataka's position is comparatively good on the national standards.

Figure 14b shows the district wise analysis of crime against children in Karnataka. The highest crime rate is 15 times higher than the median value and 6.75 times greater than the average crime rate. This shows that crime against children in Karnataka is highly concentrated in places like Bangalore commercial and Belgaum. Hence it is important to ensure safety of children in especially these regions by spreading awareness and providing increased legal aid in these regions.

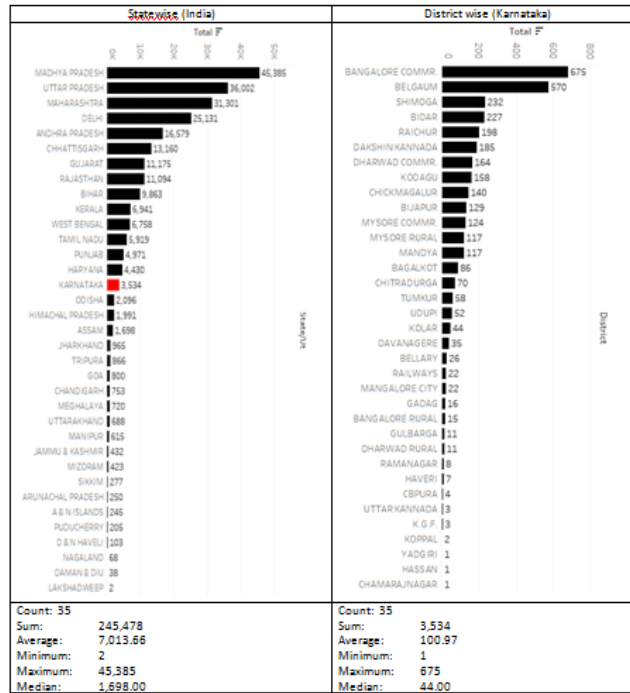


Figure 10: a) State wise analysis of crime against children in India (2001-12)

b) District wise analysis of crime against children in Karnataka (2001-12)

Figure 10 shows the total crimes against children in each district in Karnataka. The maximum crime rates are in Bangalore commercial closely followed by Belgaum. Crime rate in other districts is significantly low. Legal aid services can thus be provided accordingly to each district.

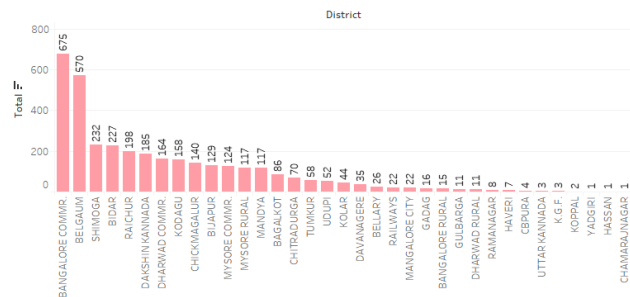


Figure 11: Total crimes against children district wise of Karnataka (2001-12)

We analyze the various crimes against children in the graphs below to get a better understanding of the main crimes and their hotspots. The various crimes analyzed are: i) Exposure and abandonment, ii) Kidnapping and Abduction, iii) Murder, iv) Procurement of minor girls, v) Prohibition of child marriage act & vi) Rape

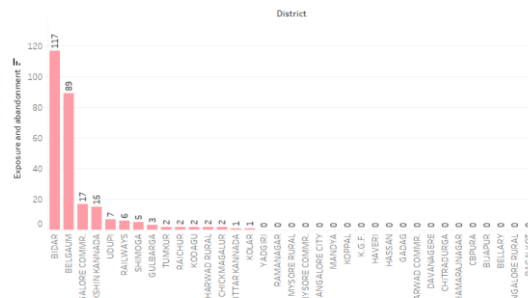


Figure 12: Exposure and abandonment (2001-12)

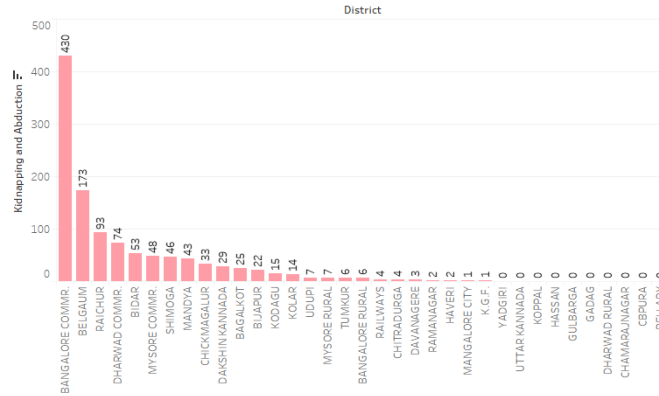


Figure 13: Kidnapping and Abduction (2001-12)

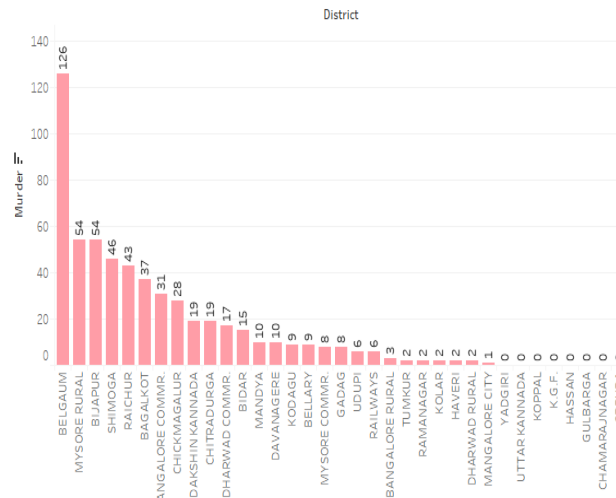


Figure 14: Murder (2001-12)

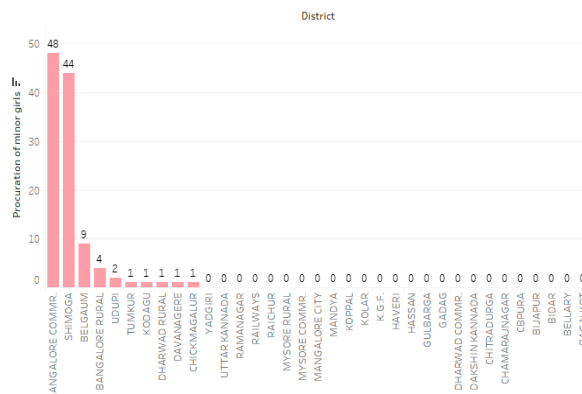


Figure 15: Procurement of minor girls (2001-12)

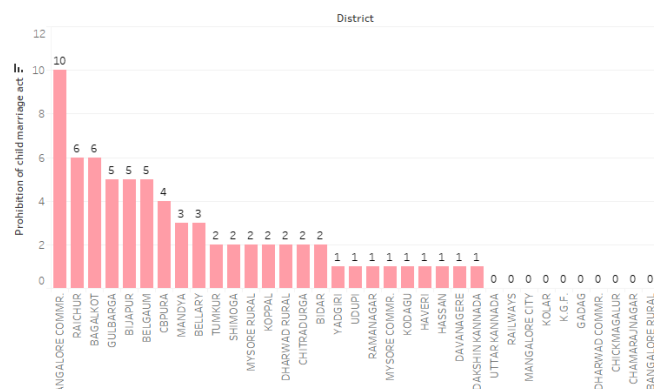


Figure 16: Prohibition of child marriage act (2001-12)

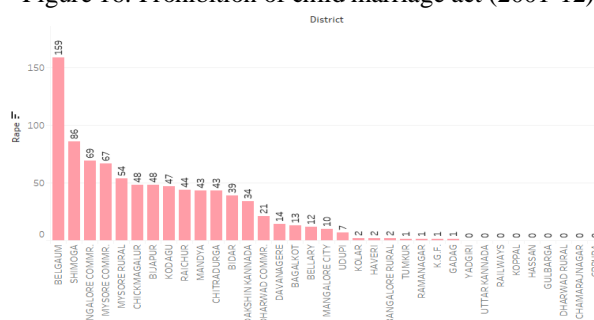


Figure 17: Rape (2001-12)

Analysis of Crime against children shows that the highest contributor in India is Madhya Pradesh followed by Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. Karnataka stands at the 15th position. In Karnataka the Crime rates as per revenue divisions are as follows: Mysuru division- 717, Bengaluru division- 1144, Belgavi division - 986, Kalburgi division - 461. As can be seen from the above figures crime in Bengaluru division is highest with Bangalore commercial being the highest contributor to crime against children in Karnataka. Belgaividivison follows closely and Belgaum is the highest contributor of this region and 2nd highest in Karnataka.

Among crimes against children, kidnapping and abduction continue to be the most prevalent crime reported. The other major crimes against children include Exposure and abandonment, Murder, Procurement of minor girls, violation of Prohibition of child marriage act & Rape.

In adherence to its commitment to ensure child rights, the Government has framed the National Policy for Children 2013 and National Plan of Action 2016. It has also framed Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015, The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and The Commissions for Protection of Child Right (CPCR) Act, 2005.

The Juvenile Justice Act mandates a security net of service delivery structures to provide Institutional or non-institutional care for children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law. The POCSO Act acknowledges various kind of child sex abuse and provides stringent punishment for the same. It provides for child friendly procedures at every stage of trial and stipulates mandatory reporting of the crime.

The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 mandates right of children to free and compulsory education. The CPCR Act, 2005 mandates establishment of Statutory Commissions at centre and State levels to protect, defend and promote child rights in the country. National Commission and all the State Commissions have been set up under the said Act.

The Ministry is also implementing umbrella ICDS scheme which comprehensively addresses the need for child development and protection. Samagra Shiksha Scheme has been launched by the Government to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education. National Child Labor Project is being implemented to eliminate all forms of child labor.[6]

C. Crimes against scheduled tribe

In Karnataka the Scheduled Castes (SCs) form a sizeable part of the state's population. Not all SCs are former untouchables. Some of the castes and sub-castes, classified as 'Scheduled Castes' during the 1970s and 1980s, were non untouchables who did, however, have a history of deprivation. Scheduled Castes are known by different names in different parts of the state and comprise many sub-castes and communities. At present, there are about 101 sub-castes that have been recognized as Scheduled Castes in Karnataka. The majority of these

castes are small in number. While the Scheduled Castes are the largest single group in Karnataka, they are also the weakest in terms of political, economic, social and cultural resources.[7]

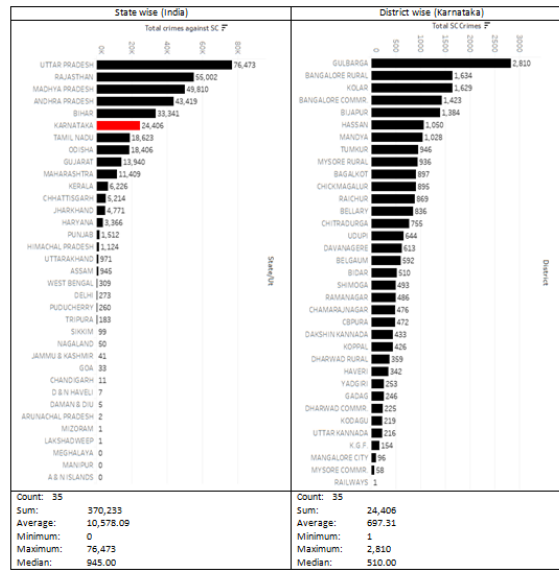


Figure 18: a) State wise analysis of crime against SCs in India (2001-12)
 b) District wise analysis of crime against SCs in Karnataka (2001-12)

A member of SCs is eligible to apply for free legal aid by virtue of Section 12(c) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

Figure 18a shows the state wise analysis of crime against SCs in India. Karnataka stands in 6th position with a total of 24,406 crimes against SCs. The crime rate is 25.8 times higher than the median value and 2.3 times greater than the average crime rate. A major reason for this could be the large population of SCs in Karnataka.

Figure 18b shows the district wise analysis of crime against SCs in Karnataka. The highest crime rate is 5.5 times the median and 4 times the average crime rate. Considering the proportion of crime against population is important to evaluate the performance of each district.

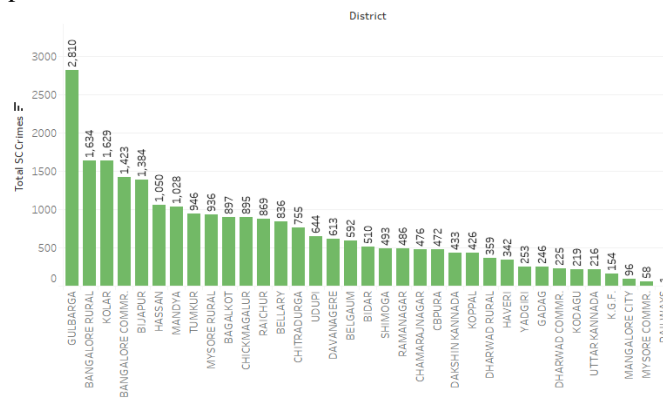


Figure 19: Total crimes against SCs district wise of Karnataka (2001-12)

Figure 19 shows the total crimes against SCs in each district in Karnataka. Legal aid services can be provided according to the concentration of the population in each district.

We analyze the various crimes against SCs in the graphs below to get a better understanding of the main crimes and their hotspots. The various crimes analyzed are: i) Hurt, ii) Kidnapping and Abduction, iii) Murder, iv) Prevention of atrocities (POA) Act, v) Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act & vi) Rape.

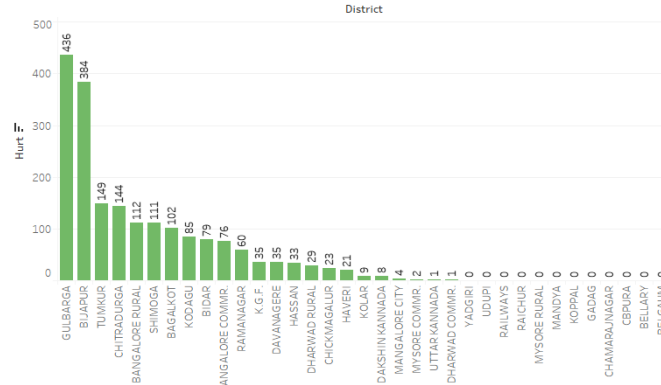


Figure 20: Hurt (2001-12)

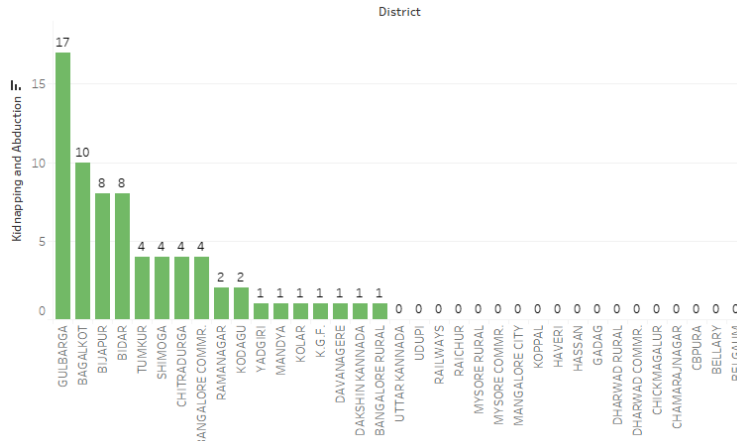


Figure 21: Kidnapping and Abduction (2001-12)

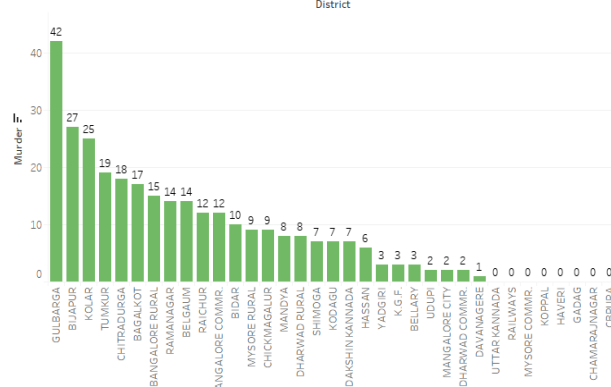


Figure 22: Murder (2001-12)

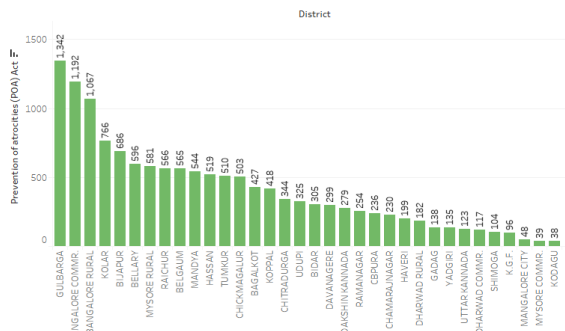


Figure 23: Prevention of atrocities (POA) Act (2001-12)

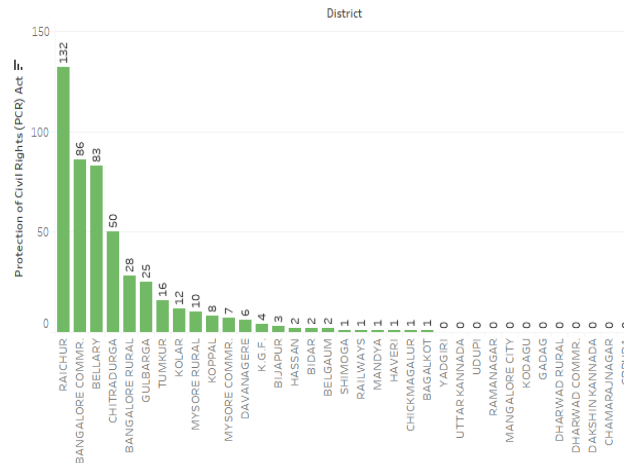


Figure 24: Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act (2001-12)

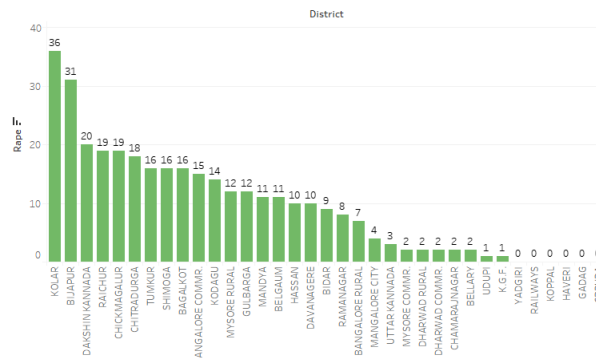


Figure 25: Rape (2001-12)

Analysis of Crime against SC shows that the highest contributor in India is Uttar Pradesh followed by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Karnataka stands at the 6th position having crime rate 2.3 times higher than the average crime rate in India. In Karnataka the Crime rates as per revenue divisions are as follows: Mysuru division- 5255, Bengaluru division- 8605, Belgavi division - 3548, Kalburgi division - 5451. As can be seen from the above figures crime in Bengaluru division is highest. Gulbarga is the highest contributor to crime against SC in Karnataka. Mysuru division and Kalburgi division have similar figures for crime against SC in Karnataka. Among crimes against SC, violation of POA act and causing injuries continue to be the most prevalent crime reported. The other major crimes against SC include Kidnapping, Abduction, Murder, violation of PCR Act & Rape.

D. Crimes against scheduled tribe

The Scheduled Tribes (STs) population constitutes 6.6 per cent of the population in Karnataka and 4.1 per cent of the country's ST population. Forty-nine STs have been identified in Karnataka by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 1976 and by the Act 39 of 1991. This is the second highest number, next to Orissa (64) if compared with the number of STs identified in any other states/UTs of the Country. Five STs namely, Kammara, Kaniyan, Kuruba, Maratha and Marati have been identified with area restriction.[8] A member of STs is eligible to apply for free legal aid by virtue of Section 12(c) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

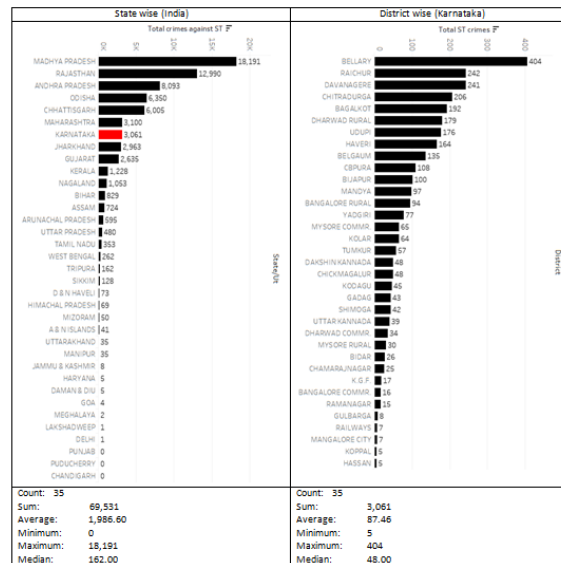


Figure 26: a) State wise analysis of crime against STs in India (2001-12)
 b) District wise analysis of crime against STs in Karnataka (2001-12)

Figure 26a shows the state wise analysis of crime against STs in India. Karnataka stands in 7th position with a total of 3061 crimes against STs. The crime rate is 18.9 times higher than the median value and 1.5 times greater than the average crime rate. A major reason for this could be the large population of STs in Karnataka since Karnataka has the second highest number of STs.

Figure 26b shows the district wise analysis of crime against STs in Karnataka. The highest crime rate is 8.4 times the median and 4.6 times the average crime rate. Considering the proportion of crime against population is important to evaluate the performance of each district. The above figures indicate that the crime rates are concentrated in some districts.

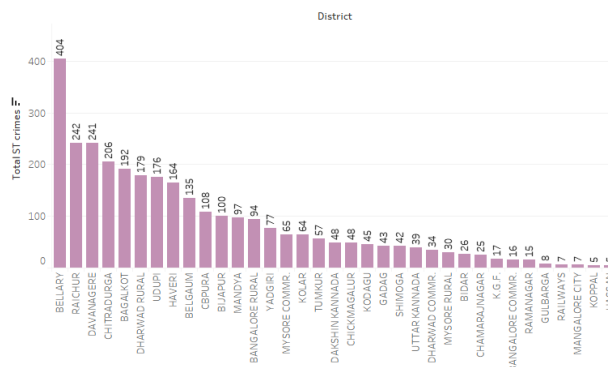


Figure 27: Total crimes against STs district wise of Karnataka (2001-12)

Figure 27 shows the total crimes against STs in each district in Karnataka. Legal aid services can be provided according to the concentration of the population in each district.

We analyze the various crimes against STs in the graphs below to get a better understanding of the main crimes and their hotspots. The various crimes analyzed are: i) Hurt, ii) Murder, iii) Prevention of atrocities (POA) Act, iv) Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act & v) Rape.

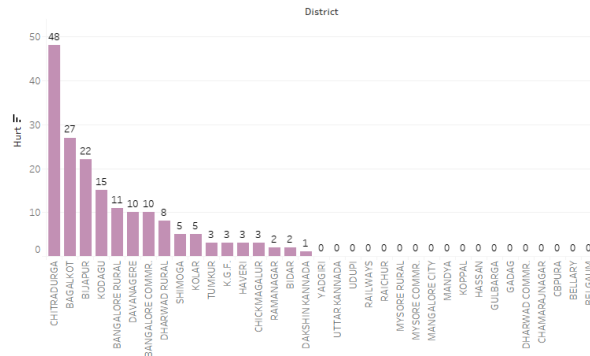


Figure 28: Hurt (2001-12)

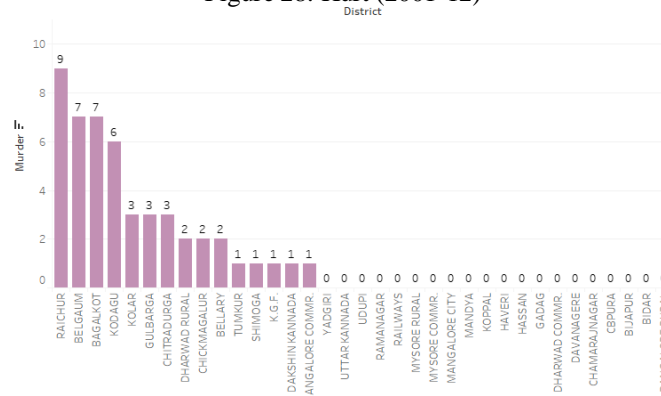


Figure 29: Murder (2001-12)

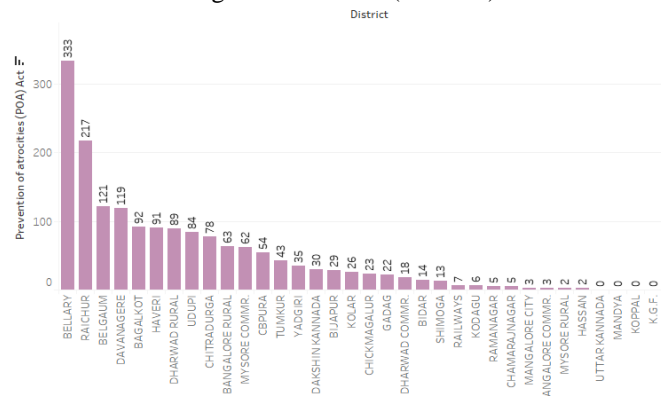


Figure 30: Prevention of atrocities (POA) Act (2001-12)

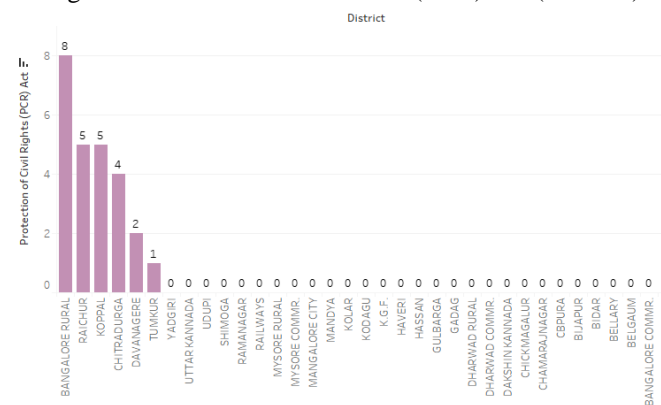


Figure 31: Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act (2001-12)

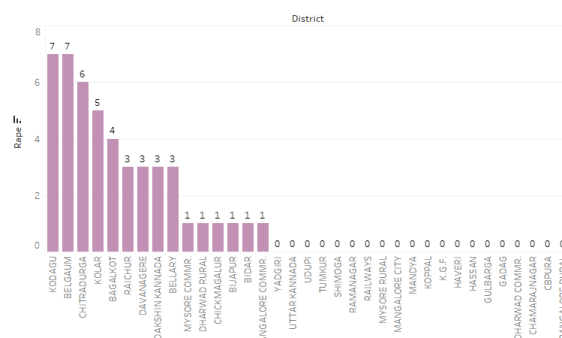


Figure 32: Rape (2001-12)

Analysis of Crime against ST shows that the highest contributor in India is Madhya Pradesh followed by Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. Karnataka stands at the 7th position having crime rate 1.5 times higher than the average crime rate in India. In Karnataka the Crime rates as per revenue divisions are as follows: Mysuru division- 546, Bengaluru division- 766, Belgavi division - 886, Kalburgi division - 762. As can be seen from the above figures crime in Belgavi division is highest. Gulbarga is the highest contributor to crime against ST in Karnataka. Bengaluru division and Kalburgi division have similar figures for crime against ST in Karnataka.

Among crimes against ST, violation of POA act and causing injuries continue to be the most prevalent crime reported. The other major crimes against ST include Murder, violation of PCR Act & Rape.

In 1989, the Government of India passed the Prevention of Atrocities Act (POA), which delineates specific crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as atrocities, and describes strategies and prescribes punishments to counter these acts. The Act attempts to curb and punish violence against Dalits through three broad means. Firstly, it identifies what acts constitute atrocities. Secondly, the Act calls upon all the states to convert an existing session's court in each district into a Special Court to try cases registered under the POA. Thirdly, the Act creates provisions for states to declare areas with high levels of caste violence to be atrocity-prone and to appoint qualified officers to monitor and maintain law and order.

While the 1955 Civil Rights Act, which only concerned itself with superficial humiliations such as verbal abuse of the lower castes, the POA is a tacit acknowledgement by the government that caste relations are defined by violence, both incidental and systemic. The POA gives Dalits vital ammunition in the form of legal redress for this violence.[9]

E. Conclusion

Although the government schemes are a powerful and precise weapon on paper, in practice the implementation and enforcement of these schemes is neglected.

According to the Karnataka State Annual Monitoring Report on the Implementation of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, in Karnataka one incident of murder or attempt-to-murder is committed against Scheduled Castes (SC) or Scheduled Tribes (ST) people once in three days in the State and an SC or ST woman is raped every two days on an average.[13]

Data from the Karnataka State Crime Records Bureau shows that 2,091 cases were registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) in 2019 including 1,510 rape cases and nine gang rape cases.[14]

According to the NCRB's Crimes in India 2018 report, Crimes in India rose by 1.8 per cent in 2018 as compared to the previous year. Bengaluru accounted for over 81% of all dowry cases reported across India in 2018. Bengaluru topped the list of the city with the most number of crimes against women reported to the police in that year.[15]

This may indicate that the measures to control crime have not been implemented strictly or there is still scope for improvement. Also general public is unaware of the facilities provided by the government. Hence it is important to educate the mass so that they can fully utilize these facilities.

Analyzing the trends in crime rates over the past years we can see that there has been an increase in the crime rates over the recent years. Especially in cities like Bangalore and Mysore the crime rates have drastically increased. This could probably be due to the change in lifestyle and urbanization. Hence it is important to provide appropriate security measures to keep a check on the increase in crime.

Seeing it in different light, the increase in crime rate could also be a result of more awareness, resulting in more cases being registered in recent years. Although the number of cases registered under POCSO has gone up, Kripa Amar Alva, former chairman of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) cautioned that there is a need to distinguish between crimes committed and cases registered [14].

In conclusion it can be seen that the distribution of crime is very uneven, i.e., it changes with time period, location and type of crime. Hence there is a need of customized solutions at district level which is revised at regular intervals to reduce the overall crime rate. Data analysis can be a helpful tool for this.

We can significantly reduce crime and strengthen law enforcement by analyzing the trends and enacting measures specific to cleanse the cause of crime. Legal aid should be provided to all needful of it to increase the number of cases reported. This will increase the trust of general public in the law enforcement and justice system of the country.

a. e)

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