

A Study on Public Perception of Youngsters Crime or Juvenile Delinquency

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Abstract: Public opinion survey of youth crime and justice was conducted with a sample of 170 people in India. Gender and age differences in estimations of youth crime were compared to official and self-reported youth offending statistics nationally and locally. Attitudes to sentencing and preventative measures were evaluated with reference to Swansea's positive, inclusionary approach to young people. Findings indicate that the Indian public overestimates the extent of youth crime locally, yet it remains ambivalent about appropriate sentencing responses, favouring both punitive and preventive measures. This suggests that local public opinion is shaped by national media and political rhetoric, rather than the local realities of youth offending

Keywords: vulnerability, youth crime, juvenile offenders, risk, narrative review

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, a host of juvenile justice issues have been in the forefront of public debate and policy discussion. Juvenile justice battles are increasingly fought in the court of public opinion. The myth that a new breed of young and violent "super-predators" threatens the nation (also debunked by the Surgeon General's report) may be the most obvious example of a sound bite driving national policy, but it is hardly the only one. India is seeking a growth phase but the notable population boom alongside with rapid urbanization are combining to create large challenges this has contributed in giving upward thrust to crimes, violence, mob lynching and many social issues. India is recognized as the "Youth Country" of the world. Undoubtedly the young people are the future builders of the nation. But these days the gradually changing way of lifestyle has grown to be so intricate that the traditional patterns guiding the relationship between family, school and kids have come to be pretty difficult and so complicated that such relations and the socialization ensured by the capacity of the way of social relationship are slowly collapsing. To forestall our nation's future together we need to tackle the problem of "Juvenile Delinquency" which is a significant concern. Children below 7 years of age are considered doli incapax under the Indian Penal Court. The act of taking part in illegal actions or negative behavior that may result in crime with the aid of a child of 7 to 18 years is termed as juvenile delinquency. Generally one between 12 to 18 years is seen as an adolescent. An adolescent is usually immature socially and mentally. They generally have no aspirations. They are free from household obligations. Their attitudes are rigid and stern too. Delinquency characteristics tend to be perfect for the duration of early adolescence as it is the peak time for offences against teenagers. A juvenile is not totally accountable for his criminality. There are many causal factors contributing that are right now or circuitously in a way responsible for a minor to emerge as a juvenile.

OBJECTIVES:

- To know the major reason for youth committing crime
- To know what are the important cause of juvenile delinquency.
- To know how to control the youngsters crime in society
- To investigate major crime done under which area

LAW RELATING TO JUVENILE CRIMES:

In India, the first legislation dealing with juvenile crimes was the Apprentices Act, 1850 which provided that children under the age of 15 years found to have committed petty offences will be bounded as apprentices.

Thereafter, the Reformatory Schools Act, 1897 came into effect which provided that children up to the age of 15 years sentenced to imprisonment would be sent to reformatory cell.

After Independence, with an aim to provide care, protection, development and rehabilitation of neglected or delinquent juveniles, our Parliament enacted the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986. It was an Act which brought uniform system throughout the country.

Section 2(a) of the Act defined the term 'juvenile' as a "boy who has not attained the age of 16 years and a girl who has not attained the age of 18 years".

Later on the Parliament enacted the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2000 which raised the age bar to 18 years for both girl and boy.

According to this act a juvenile can be detained only for a maximum period of 3 years irrespective of the gravity of offence committed by him. It provides immunity to the child who is less than 18 Years of age at the time of the commission of the alleged offence from trial through Criminal Court or any punishment under Criminal Law in view of Section 17 of the Act.

The purpose of this new Act was to rehabilitate the child and assimilate him/her in mainstream society. The rationale is that a child still has the possibility of getting reformed due to his/her tender age and lack of maturity and it is the responsibility of the State to protect and reform the child

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Describing young people who offend or who are more likely to offend as vulnerable or having vulnerability seems commonplace in the literature as of late (Lloyd, 1998; Loeber, 1990; Singh et al., 2014; Tarolla et al., 2002).

It could be that the use of the term reflects contemporary times: global trends show an overall decline in youth crime in recent years but those who offend have a markedly higher level of mental health issues, especially gang members, compared with those who do not offend (Young et al., 2017).

For example, although first-time entrants decreased¹ in England and Wales during April 2018 to March 2019, compared to the year before, self-harm incidents while in custody increased 3% to 1,800, and is considered the highest number of incidents in the last five years (Youth Justice Board, 2019).

In particular, young people engaging in serious offending are more likely to have adverse backgrounds of abuse, poor mental health, violence, and deprivation compared to those on the side of low to no offending (Borschmann et al., 2020; Fazel et al., 2008; Malvaso et al., 2016).

Seriousness indicates severity and persistence, and many characteristics related to offending are more apparent among a minority who engage in a disproportionate amount of the total youth crime committed (Baglivio et al., 2014; Schubert et al., 2011; Skeem et al., 2014). Although the use of vulnerability in the research literature related to youth crime is widespread, its meaning, nonetheless, is unclear: if not assumed or implicit, it fluctuates across studies.

The emotions where "an emotion is a feeling comprising psychological and behavioral and possibly cognitive reactions to internal and external events"(Jennifer, 2007) . Moreover, perception of young adults are deliberated, which means "how something is regarded, understood, or interpreted" or „intuitive understanding and insight" of young adults, where 'young adults PEE, 17 (6) (2020)

"In 2012, Delhi gang-rape case involved a rape and fatal assault on December 16, 2012, in Munirka, a South Delhi neighborhood. The incident took place when a 23-year-old female physiotherapy intern, Jyoti Singh, was beaten, gang-raped, and tortured in a private bus in which she was traveling with her friend, Awindra Pratap Pandey by the driver and five other men" (Time of India, 2019). This incident heightened the insecurity of the place Delhi. Reports on child abuse, women assault cases all started to burst out. Different NGOs, newspaper articles, foundations started to research crimes against women and children in Delhi.

which belongs to the age 19 to 25 and it includes the facts that young adults perceived from different 'media' which consist of social media's, newspapers and information received through oral communication regarding crimes against

women and they are “rape, molestation, kidnapping and abduction, eve-teasing, dowry and death” (Mesch, G., 2000). Human minds are dynamic as they can vary from person to person. Similarly, the thoughts and feelings of different people while knowing the crimes against women will be different. Some of the common negative feelings that humans have are; apprehension here means the fear of people towards family members, strangers, public, neighbors and friends after perceiving news reports regarding crime against women; Avoidance behavior is the by-product of fear, where people starts to stop visiting certain places and stop mingling with particular people because they think that someone will attack them; Anger in this study means the irrational emotion experiences towards offenders, victims, government, police officials and society after hearing news regarding crime against women; Skepticism is an attitude of doubt towards people and particular places after dealing with news reports on crime against women; Ambivalence here means, a mix of all feelings at a point while perceiving crime reports against women; A strong dislike towards the offenders, victims, government, police officials and society as a result of hearing crime reports about women(Ashifa, 2019). There are literature, newspaper articles that say about some of these emotions and found that people have felt after hearing crime reports.PHASEE, 17 (6) (2020)

Women fear any victimization primarily because of their perceived risk of such crimes and fear of rape in daily life (Ferraro K. F., 1996). “All women are believed to be fearful of crime, and all men are fearless” (Gilchrist, Bannister, Ditton, & Farrall, 1998)

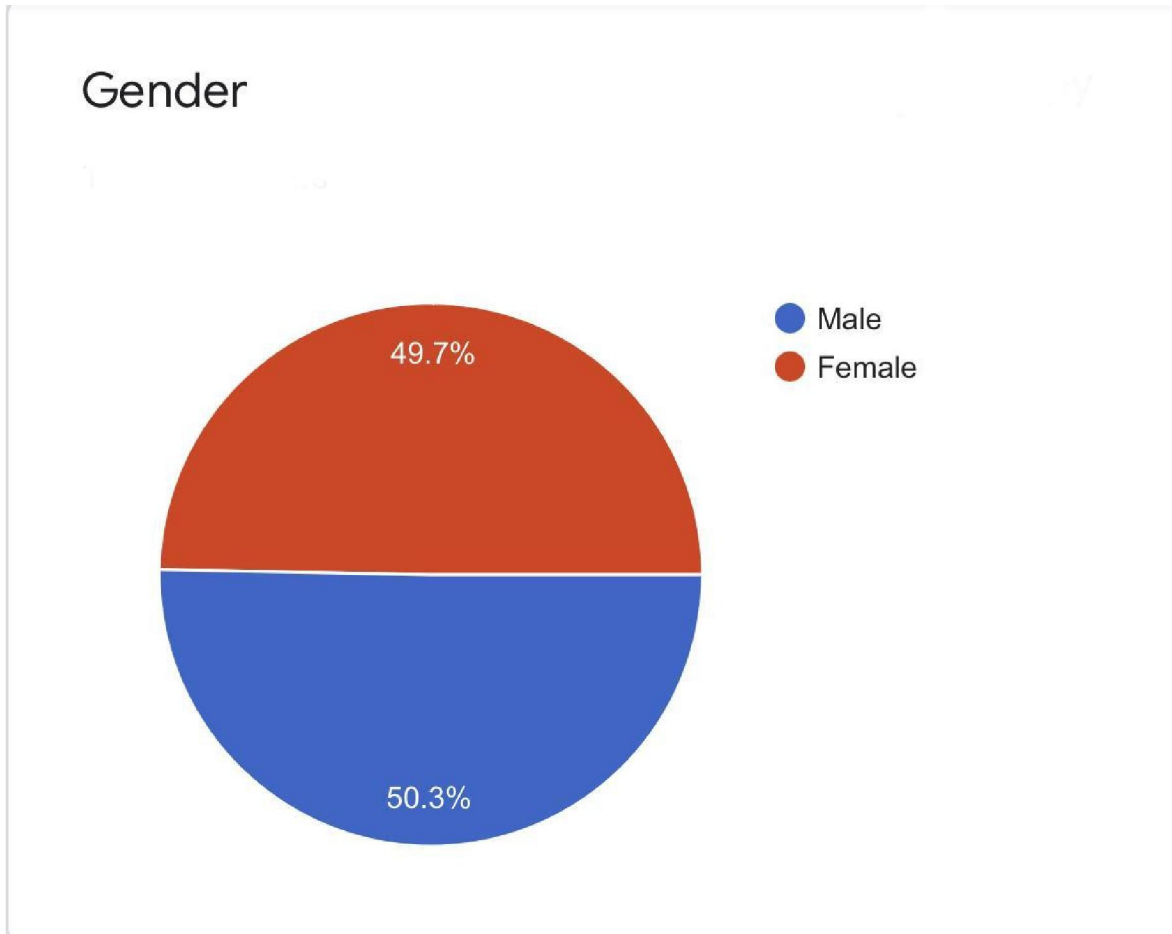
Poor mental health, decreased physical functioning on goals and subjective metrics and reduced quality of life were correlated with a concern for crime participants who report greater fear may have depression” (Stafford, Chandola, & Marmot, 2007). The fear of rape that women are shadowed by a fear of another crime, as women see rape as a contemporary crime, can lead to other offenses. "Women are significantly more fearful of crime before controlling for fear of rape; the findings indicate that once the fear of rape is considered, women's higher fear of other crimes seems to diminish such that there are either no sex differences in fear or men are more fearful than women” (Dobbs, Shelley, & Waid, 2009). “Women's reported level of fear of crime is three times higher than reported by men. Crime surveys, though, show that it is young men who are at greatest risk to violent victimization” (Stanko, 1993). The gender impact at the personal level varies between models, and routine behavior variables provide much stronger previews of burglary-specific fear relative to the perception of risks. On the contextual level, neighborhood inclusion reduces neighborhood risk perception among respondents, but this variable is positively linked to burglary-specific fear (Rountree & Land, 1996). “The fear of crime may be a prescriptive gendered norm in its own right, causing women (and men) to feel that their expressed fear is a yardstick by which they might be judged” (Sutton, 2011).

III. METHODOLOGY

The research method followed here is descriptive research. A total of 200 samples have been taken out of which is taken through convenient sampling. The data was collected through an online survey. The SPSS software by IBM was used to calculate the descriptive statistics. Independent variables are age, gender, marital status, educational qualification, occupation, and monthly income. Dependent variables are social media sites, types of social media services, time spent on social media, reason for using social media, inclination towards social media, addiction to social media. The statistical tool used by the researcher is graphical representation.

IV. ANALYSIS

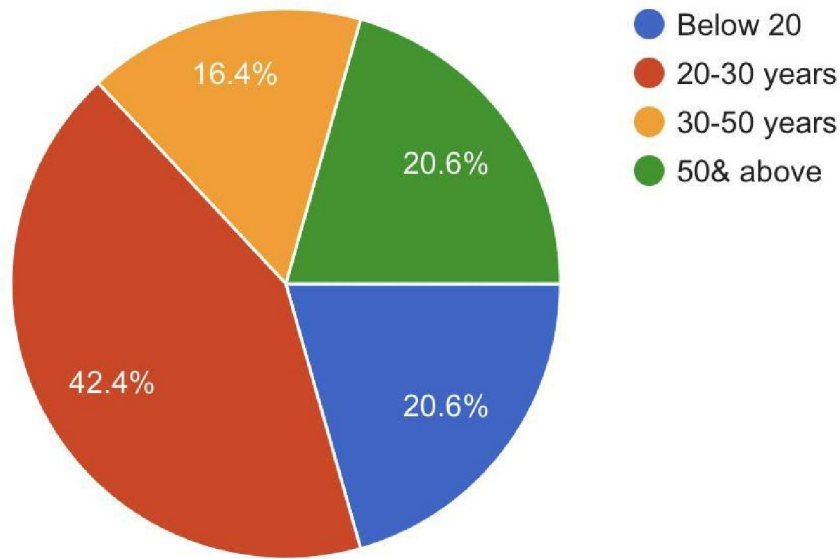
CHART:1



Legend: the above pie chart is representing the gender group of responses

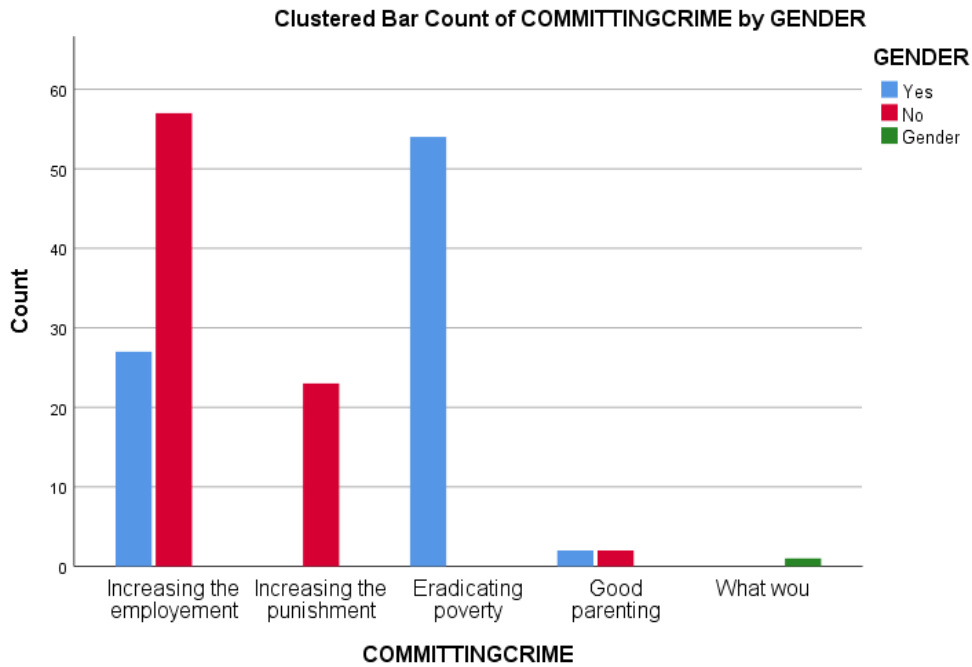
CHART:2

Age



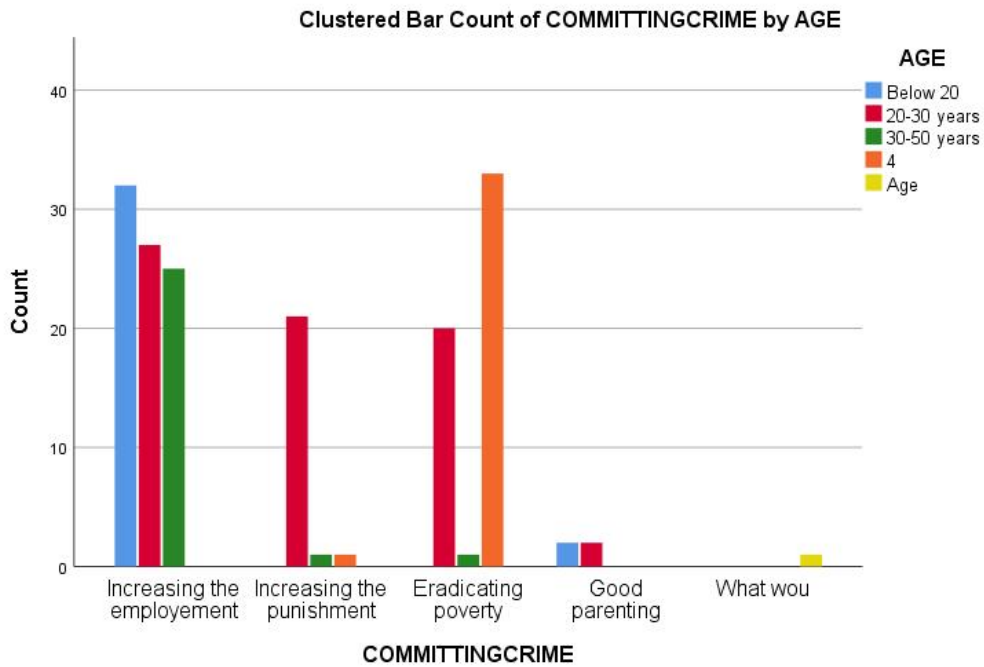
Legend: the above pie chart is representing the age group of responses

FIGURE: 1



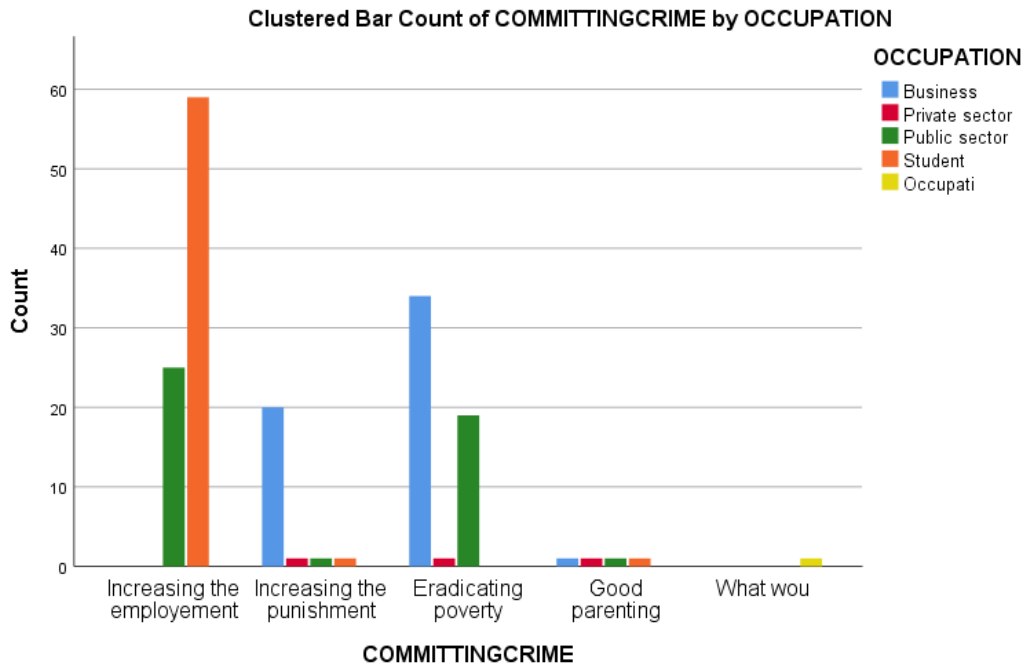
Legend : the above graph represents the gender and ways to stop crime according to responses

FIGURE:2



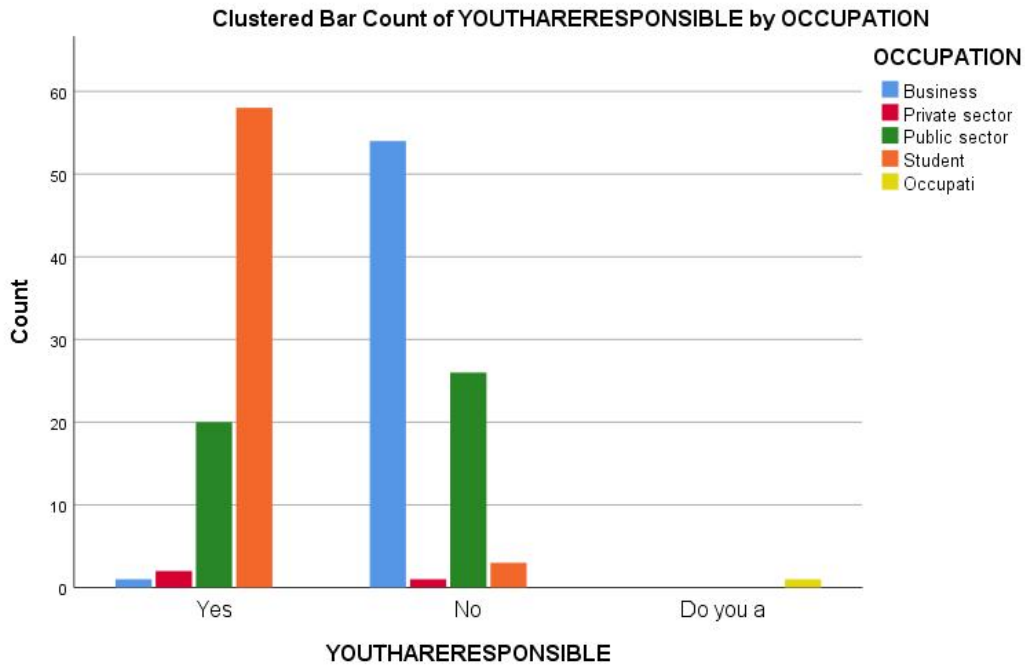
Legend: the above graph represents the age and ways to stop crime according to responses

FIGURE 3



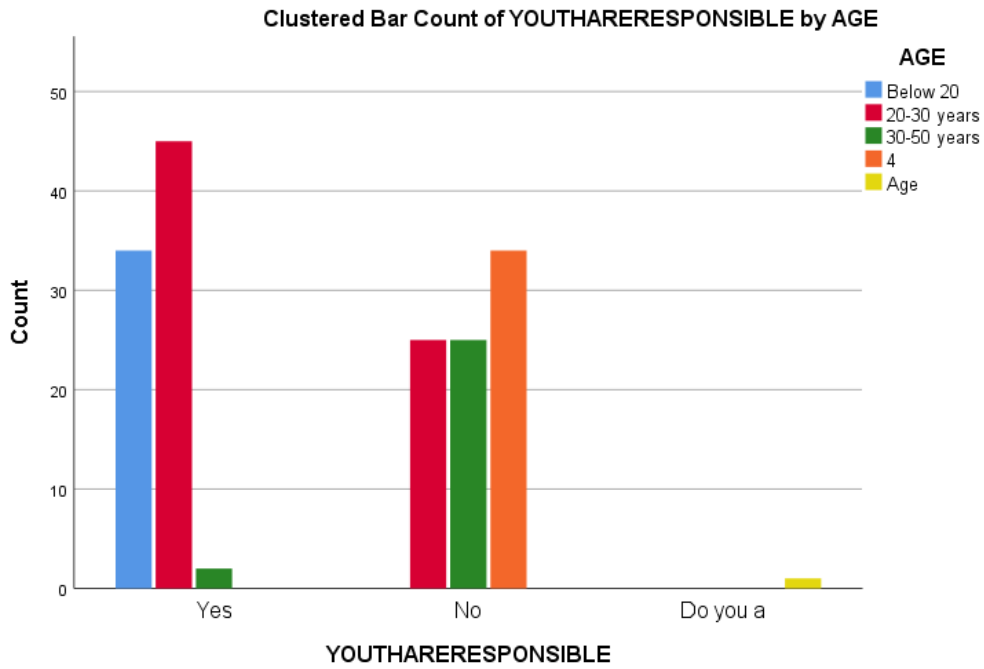
Legend: the above graph represents occupation and ways to stop crime according to responses

FIGURE:4



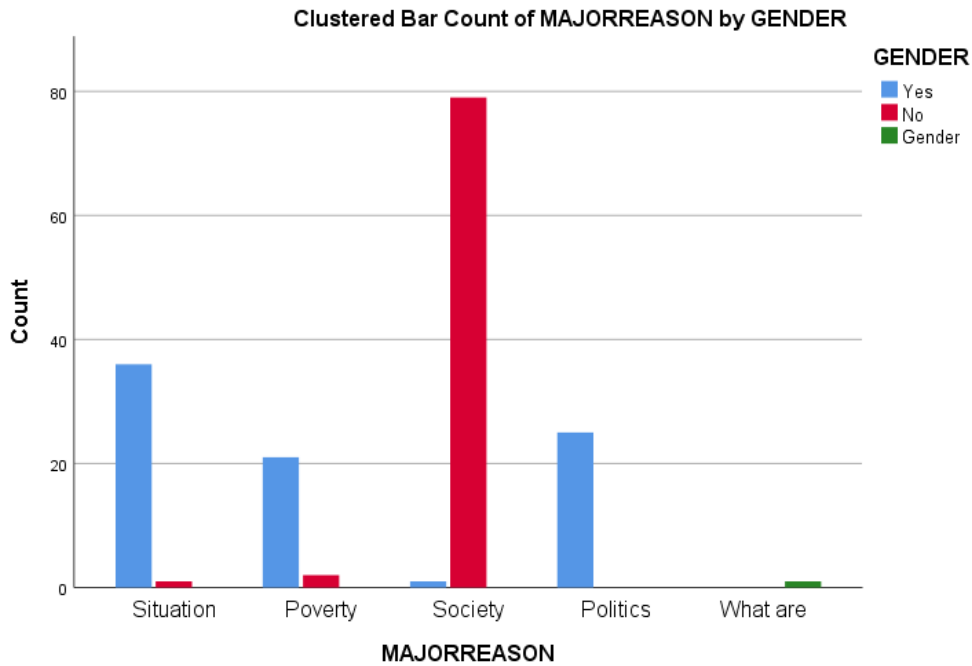
Legend: the above graph represents occupation and if youth are responsible for crime according to responses

FIGURE :5



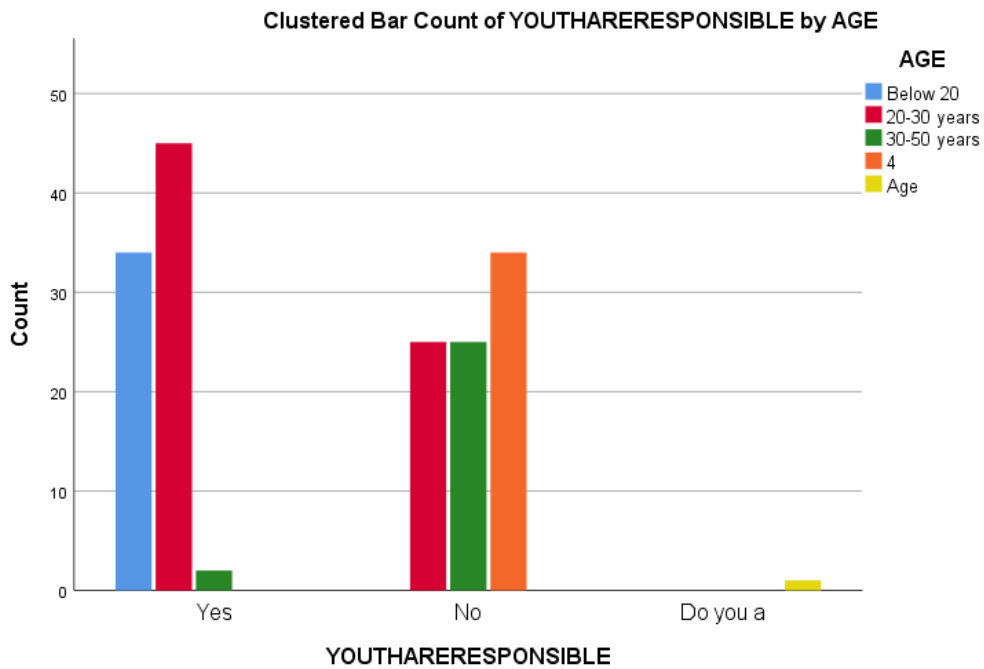
Legend: the above graph represents age and if youth are responsible for crime according to responses

FIGURE :6



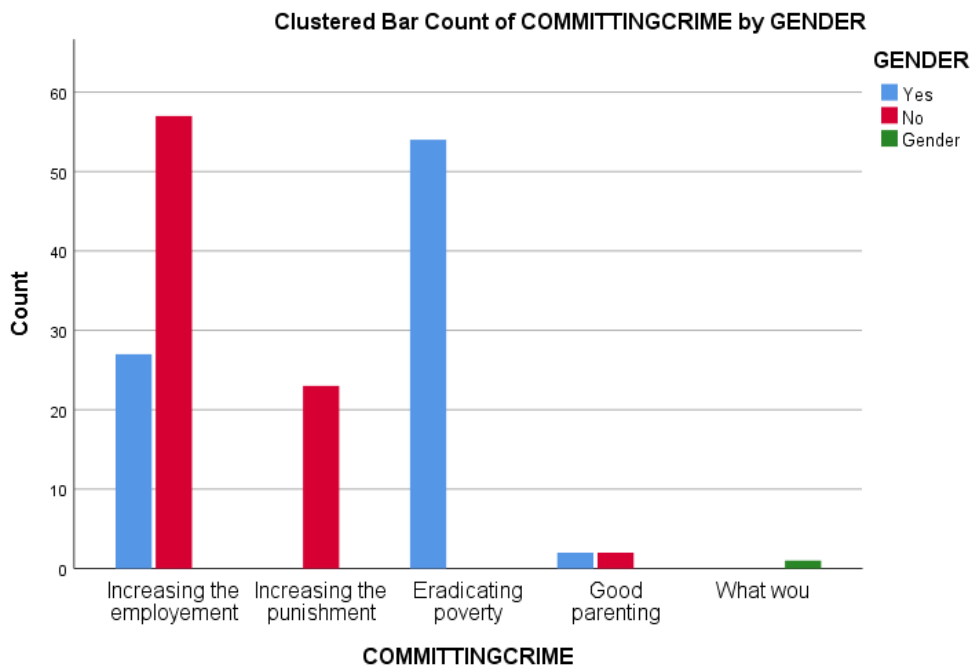
Legend: the above graph represents gender and major reason for crimes according to responses

FIGURE:7



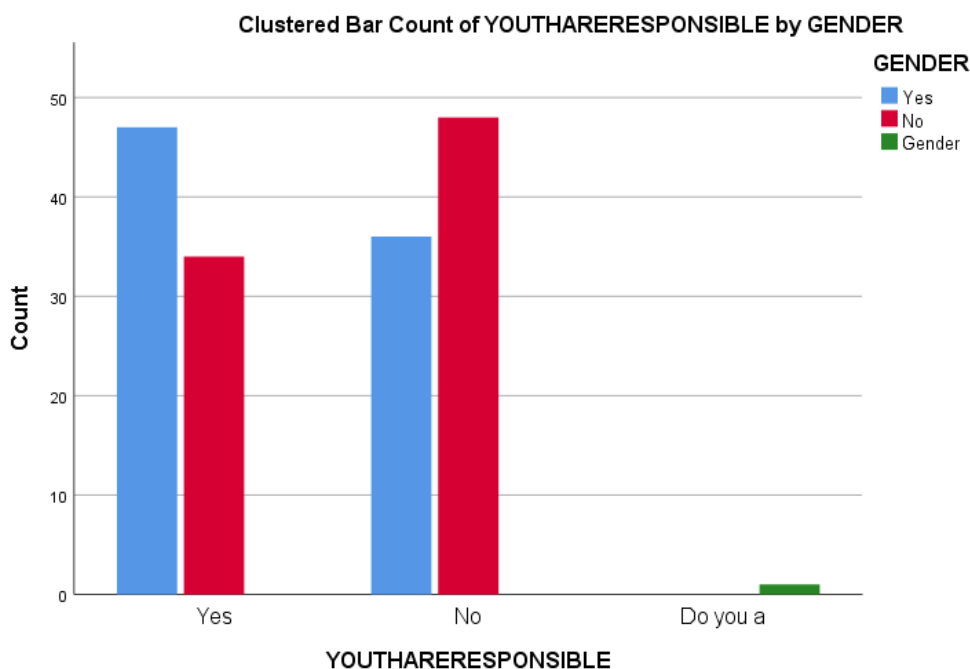
Legend: the above graph represents age and of youth are responsible for crime according to responses

FIGURE:8



Legend: the above graph represents gender and reason behind committing crime according to responses

FIGURE:9



Legend: the above graph represents gender and of youth are responsible for crime according to responses

V. DISCUSSION

At present there are large numbers of people in the society who are demanding that juveniles in the age group of 16 to 18 years should be treated as adult as far as their conviction in heinous crimes such as rape, gang rape, murder, dacoity etc. is concerned. The reason is that in several of the recent incidents as described above, it has been found that the juveniles of 16-18 age group are involved in serious crimes and they are doing such criminal acts with full knowledge and maturity. The maturity level of children has not remain the same as 10-20 years ago, a child gets mental maturity early in present socio-cultural environment due to the influence of Internet and Social Media. Therefore, to have a deterrent effect it is important that such offenders in the age group of 16 to 18 should be punished as adults so that victims' could also get their justice. Also, this view says that it is not only the responsibility of the child that he/she has committed such heinous crimes but it is also the responsibility of the society that why society has not been able to provide a proper and healthy childhood to the child and why such types of discriminations and deprivations, both social and economic, were there that the child was forced to commit crimes; also, why the State failed to provide care and protection to its children and let them drift towards criminal activities.

VI. LIMITATIONS

For this inquiry about results confronted is numerous of them cannot spend time to fill the overview. Due to COVID period the information is collected through online mode. So a few of them react to the overview whereas others fairly overlook it. The study is done by the understudies and the encompassing circle inside the specific zone such as Chennai. The result came that Corruption will lead to residential dark cash. This result is nearly rectified.

VII. CONCLUSION

Juvenile Delinquency and the problems related to it have been faced by all societies, all over the world, however, in the developing world the problems are all the more formidable. The process of development has brought in its wake a socio-cultural upheaval affecting the age-old traditional ways of life in the congenial rural milieu. Juveniles are

adversely affected by changing conditions. At the same time, the traditional social control system that served as a preventive check against any antisocial activity is gradually giving way. Consequently, the problem of juvenile deviance and antisocial propensities is rearing its ugly head – a situation that needs to be checked. Separate rules must be made according to a kind of crime. Such as in case of thefts, smuggling or any small level of crime, guilty should be pushed in Rehabilitation Centre for its grooming while serious assaults like brutal rape must be handled differently. An exception could also be made especially for this crime that they'll be punished the same as adults because tis' height of crime cannot be ignored.

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