

## ANALYSING CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN IN INDIA: A FOCUS ON UTTAR PRADESH IN 2019

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### Abstract:

This paper provides a comprehensive analysis of crimes against children in India, focusing particularly on the state of Uttar Pradesh (UP), based on the secondary data extracted from **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**. The collected data is tabulated and analysed by the author for the status comparison of state Uttar Pradesh. The analysis encompasses various categories of crimes, including murder, kidnapping and abduction, assault on children, actions taken by police and courts, age and gender distribution of victims, and the relationship between perpetrators and victims under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The data reveals significant disparities between India and UP, highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions and policy measures to address the underlying factors contributing to these offenses. The findings underscore the importance of region-specific strategies to enhance law enforcement, improve judicial processes, and strengthen community engagement in safeguarding children's rights and well-being. Ultimately, the paper emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to prevent crimes against children and create safer environments for their growth and development.

**Key Words:** crimes against children, India, Uttar Pradesh, 2019, murder, kidnapping, abduction, assault, POCSO Act,

### Introduction:

Children are the epitome of hope, embodying the promise of a brighter tomorrow for any nation. Across the globe, millions of them face the harrowing realities of abuse, exploitation, and violence each year, their innocence shattered by the cruelty of the world they inhabit. In India, a country teeming with vitality and potential, the rapid tide of urbanization has brought both progress and peril for its youth. Urban centres, while beacons of opportunity, also harbour shadows of malnutrition, disease, and crime that threaten the safety and security of its youngest citizens. The sprawling metropolises and burgeoning cities witness a tragic narrative unfold, where children, instead of relishing the joys of childhood, find themselves ensnared in the dark underbelly of organized crime. Disrupted schooling, fractured families,

and the scourge of substance abuse loom large, casting a long shadow over the innocence of youth. The consequences of such trauma ripple through their lives, leaving scars their relationships, erode their trust, and shatter their dreams. Yet, amidst these challenges, the resilience of children continues to shine, a beacon of hope in the face of adversity.

The journey towards safeguarding the rights of children is not merely a legal or moral imperative; it is a collective responsibility that demands the concerted efforts of government, civil society, and citizens alike. From enacting robust legislation to implementing effective policies, from fostering nurturing environments to empowering children as active participants in their own lives, the path forward is fraught with challenges but brimming with hope. In a nation where the future is inexorably linked to the fate of its children, there can be no greater investment than in securing their well-being, their dignity, and their future.

### **Background:**

The circumstances surrounding individuals significantly shape their behavioral, functional, and emotional capabilities. Exposure to diverse environments presents opportunities that mold an individual's persona. However, encountering harmful events can alter one's outlook and response to society. The development of an individual toward achieving a quality life involves various facets beyond mere accomplishments, including the opportunity to choose from available options. Sen emphasizes that a "good life" partly entails genuine choices rather than being forced into a particular path (Sen, 1999). Violence, as a dimension of quality of life, often receives inadequate attention in development studies (Drèze and Khera, 2000). Protection from violence is considered one of the "capabilities" contributing to a better quality of life (Drèze and Khera, 2000; Sen, 1999). Crimes in society are intricately linked to socioeconomic development factors (Bhatnagar, 1990).

In the context of India, which hosts the largest child population globally (Barman & Barman, 2014; Kaushik, 2014; Seth, 2015), there has been a notable increase in crime over recent decades. Contributing factors include lack of public support, heavy workload on law enforcement, technological shortcomings, political interference, and corruption. Policy measures are imperative to address this rise in crime (Bhatnagar, 1990). The prevalence of crime against children transcends geographical, racial, class, religious, and cultural boundaries. Globalization has facilitated faster communication and financial transactions, contributing to the expansion of transnational criminal activities (UNODC, 2020).

Vulnerable children, particularly affected by gender, race, ethnicity, disability, or social status, are at risk of various forms of exploitation (Pinheiro, 2006).

Crimes against children manifest in various visible and hidden forms, including assault, trafficking, sexual abuse, child labor, child marriage, and involvement in drug or sex trades (NCRB, 2015; Cluver et al., 2007; Conradi, 2013; Laser-Maira et al., 2020). The consequences of such crimes are dire, leading to loss of valuable human capital through victimization and fatalities (Lochner, 2004; Perezniето et al., 2014). In India, incidences of rape and violence against minors have tarnished the image of cities like Delhi (Mohan, 2017; Sharma, 2020), with the Supreme Court highlighting the alarming rate of rape cases involving minors in the capital (Mahapatra, 2019).

Perpetrators of crimes against children often include family members, teachers, caregivers, law enforcement authorities, and even other children (WHO, 2022). Deep-rooted patriarchal norms contribute to instances such as female infanticide, reflecting societal biases against girls (Siwal & NIPCCD, 2002). Despite legislative efforts like the POCSO Act, which aims to protect children from sexual offenses (Belur & Singh, 2015; NCRB, 2021; UNICEF, 2016), challenges persist in registering and addressing cases of child sexual abuse. Cultural practices like preference for male children and dowry exacerbate societal issues, while the advent of technology has led to cybercrimes against children (Abimbolaakinola & Dickson, 2017; Durkin & DeLong, 2012).

Trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, remains a grave concern, fueled by factors like poverty, exploitation, and demand for cheap labor (Sarkar, 2014). The underground market for human organs in India exacerbates trafficking, with victims often lured from impoverished backgrounds (Ray, 2007; S. Sen & Nair, 2004). Child marriage, forced prostitution, and sex tourism are among the heinous crimes facilitated by trafficking networks (Nag & Chatterjee, 2014; Shrivastava, 2007). Additionally, child labor, prevalent in various sectors of the informal economy, subjects children to abuse and hazardous conditions (Esther Benjamins Trust, 2003; ILO, 2011). The emergence of cybercrimes, such as child pornography and online solicitation, further threatens children's safety in the digital age (Abimbolaakinola & Dickson, 2017; Durkin & DeLong, 2012).

The consequences of crimes against children are profound, resulting in physical, emotional, and psychological trauma, and impeding their development into responsible adults. With a significant proportion of the global child population residing in India, addressing the

magnitude of crimes against children is crucial at national and regional levels. Spatial distribution analysis can shed light on the geographic and political dimensions of these crimes, informing targeted interventions to safeguard children's rights and well-being.

### Research Methodology

The paper describes the term secondary data that can be downloaded from the websites of the official **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** usually comprises exhaustive publications, databases, and statistical works devoted to crimes against children.

The report issued by using the government, "**Crime in India - 2019**," serves as a cornerstone for in-depth analysis and exam, the author meticulously scrutinizes and dissects the information to shed mild on the concerning trouble of crime in opposition to youngsters, with a specific cognizance on the kingdom of Uttar Pradesh.

The data used in this analysis is extracted from a detailed report on juvenile crime in India for the year 2019. The report provides comprehensive statistics on various categories of juvenile offenses, including murder, kidnapping and abduction, assault on women, and crimes under the POCSO Act. The data pertaining to all-over India and Uttar Pradesh is tabulated and analysed to facilitate a comparative assessment of the juvenile crime situation in these regions. Statistical methods are employed to quantify and interpret the findings, enabling a nuanced understanding of the prevalence and nature of juvenile crime.

### Area of Study-Uttar Pradesh

**Uttar Pradesh** sticks out as a prominent kingdom grappling with diverse challenges associated with crime, particularly crimes involving kids. by way of delving into the statistics presented within the government document, this paper goals to get to the bottom of the intricacies and nuances of those crimes, supplying insights into their occurrence, developments, and styles. through rigorous evaluation and interpretation, the paper seeks to uncover the underlying elements contributing to the high prevalence of crimes against kids in Uttar Pradesh.

### Data and Interpretation of the Crime against Children in 2019:

The primary goal of this look at is to gather pertinent statistics from secondary resources, **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** along with the records supplied in the "**Crime in India - 2019**" document and gift a complete know-how of the landscape of infant-associated

**Kommentar [1]:** Please give short research methodology And sample, sampling frame etc

**Kommentar [2]:** From where you got this data

crimes in Uttar Pradesh. through synthesizing and reading this facts, the paper pursuits to make a contribution to a deeper expertise of the challenges confronted via youngsters within the kingdom and tell proof-based totally interventions and rules aimed toward defensive their rights and nicely-being.

**Table1: Crime against children- Murder**

	India	UP
Murder (Sec-302IPC)	1500	291
Murder with Rape	127	30
Other Murder	1373	261
Attempt to commit murder	489	15
Simple hurt (sec 323 r/w IPC, 324,332,353,327,328,330 IPC)	3751	393
Grievous Hurt (Sec 325,364A, 365,366,366A,367,368,369 IPC)	1004	12

Source-NCRB

**Interpretation:**

In the context of crimes against children, particularly murder, statistics reveal notable disparities between India and Uttar Pradesh (UP). In India, a total of 1500 cases of murder (Sec-302 IPC) were reported, whereas UP accounted for 291 cases, representing approximately 19.4% of the total reported cases in the country. Murder cases involving rape were also documented, with India reporting 127 cases and UP reporting 30 cases, constituting approximately 23.6% of India's cases. Additionally, India recorded 1373 cases classified as "Other Murder," while UP had 261 cases, reflecting approximately 19% of India's reported cases. Attempted murder cases were higher in India, with 489 incidents compared to UP's 15 cases. Simple hurt cases, encompassing various sections of the IPC, were prevalent in both regions, with India reporting 3751 cases (approximately 9.5% of the total reported cases) and UP reporting 393 cases. Grievous hurt cases, indicating more severe injuries, were reported at 1004 cases in India and 12 cases in UP. These statistics highlight the varying prevalence of murder-related crimes against children between the broader Indian context and the specific region of Uttar Pradesh.

**Table2: Crime against children- Kidnapping and Abduction**

	India	UP
Kidnapping and Abduction of children (Sec 363,363A, 364,354A,365,366,366A,367,368,369 IPC)	65321	8095
Kidnapping and Abduction	43370	3956
Missing Children Deemed as Kidnapping	26464	1477
Other Kidnapping and Abduction	16906	2479

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Kidnapping and Abduction in order to murder (Sec 364 IPC)	88	44
Kidnapping for Ransome	96	9
Procecuton of minor girls	3189	74
Other	2768	124

Source-NCRB

**Interpretation:**

In the realm of crimes against children, specifically kidnapping and abduction, significant variations are evident between India and Uttar Pradesh (UP). India reported a total of 65,321 cases of kidnapping and abduction of children, whereas UP recorded 8,095 cases, representing approximately 12.4% of the total reported cases in the country. This category encompasses various offenses under different sections of the IPC. Instances classified as "Kidnapping and Abduction" totaled 43,370 cases in India and 3,956 cases in UP, constituting approximately 9.1% of India's reported cases. Moreover, cases where missing children were deemed as kidnappings were also documented, with India reporting 26,464 cases and UP reporting 1,477 cases, accounting for around 5.6% of India's cases. Other forms of kidnapping and abduction accounted for 16,906 cases in India and 2,479 cases in UP. Additionally, instances of kidnapping and abduction for the purpose of murder were reported, with India documenting 88 cases and UP reporting 44 cases. Similarly, kidnapping for ransom was recorded at 96 cases in India and 9 cases in UP. Prosecution of minor girls, another concerning aspect, was reported at 3,189 cases in India and 74 cases in UP. Other miscellaneous cases amounted to 2,768 cases in India and 124 cases in UP. These statistics underscore the diverse nature and prevalence of kidnapping and abduction-related crimes against children, illustrating the varying landscape between India as a whole and the specific region of Uttar Pradesh.

**Table3: Crime against children- Women assault**

	India	UP
Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (Sec 354 IPC)	4214	1533
Insult to the modesty of Women (Sec 509 IPC)	100	10

Source-NCRB

**Interpretation:**

In the domain of crimes against children, particularly assault against women, there are notable disparities between India and Uttar Pradesh (UP). India reported a total of 4,214 cases

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of assault on women with the intent to outrage her modesty, whereas UP recorded 1,533 cases, indicating a significant portion of the national total. This category encompasses offenses under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Additionally, incidents classified as "Insult to the modesty of Women" were documented, with India reporting 100 cases and UP recording 10 cases. These statistics shed light on the prevalence of assaults targeting the modesty of women, underscoring the need for measures to ensure the safety and security of children, especially girls, in both India and UP.

**Table4: Crime against children- POCSO Act**

	India	UP
Section 8 & 10 of POCSO act or POCSO Act (Section 8 & 10) r/w Section 354 IPC	16055	3905
Section 4 & 6 of POCSO act or POCSO Act (Section 4 & 6) r/w Section 376 IPC	25329	3383
Section 12 of POCSO act or POCSO Act (Section 12) r/w section 509	1955	46
Section 14 & 15 of POCSO act	1112	1

Source-NCRB

#### Interpretation:

The data regarding crimes against children under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act reveals significant figures for both India and Uttar Pradesh (UP). In India, there were 16,055 cases reported under Section 8 & 10 of the POCSO Act or POCSO Act (Section 8 & 10) read with Section 354 IPC, while UP recorded 3,905 cases in the same category. This represents approximately 24% of the total cases reported in India and around 24% in UP. Furthermore, incidents falling under Section 4 & 6 of the POCSO Act or POCSO Act (Section 4 & 6) read with Section 376 IPC accounted for 25,329 cases in India and 3,383 cases in UP, constituting approximately 38% and 39% of the total cases in each respective region. Additionally, cases under Section 12 of the POCSO Act or POCSO Act (Section 12) read with Section 509 were reported as 1,955 in India and 46 in UP, making up approximately 3% and 1% of the total cases, respectively. Lastly, incidents categorized under Section 14 & 15 of the POCSO Act amounted to 1,112 cases in India and just 1 case in UP, representing approximately 2% and <1% of the total cases in each region. These statistics underscore the prevalence of offenses covered by the POCSO Act and highlight the urgency for enhanced measures to protect children from sexual offenses, particularly in UP.

**Table 5: Action by police**

	<b>India</b>	<b>UP</b>
Cases Pending Investigation from previous Year	63743	4818
Cases reported during the year	139813	18943
Cases re-opened for investigation	119	0
Cases transferred from other state agency	102	0
Cases withdraw by the gov during investigation	1	0
Cases ended as FR Non- recognizable	241	3
Cases ended as final report false	13877	748
Cases ended as mistaken of fact or of law or civil dispute	17790	1155

Source-NCRB

**Interpretation**

The table presents data on police actions concerning reported cases, comparing figures for India and Uttar Pradesh (UP). In India, there were 63,743 cases pending investigation from the previous year, constituting approximately 45.63% of the total cases, while UP had 4,818 such cases, accounting for roughly 25.44% of its total cases. Additionally, during the year under review, India recorded 139,813 reported cases, representing about 79.95% of the total cases, whereas UP reported 18,943 cases, making up approximately 21.06% of its total cases. Furthermore, 119 cases were reopened for investigation in India, constituting approximately 0.09% of the total cases, while UP had no cases reopened. Similarly, India reported 102 cases transferred from other state agencies, accounting for approximately 0.07% of the total cases, with none reported in UP. Only one case was withdrawn by the government during investigation in India, representing around 0.0007% of the total cases, with no such cases in UP. Moreover, India reported 241 cases ended as FR non-recognizable, making up approximately 0.17% of the total cases, while UP had 3 such cases, constituting roughly 0.015% of its total cases. Additionally, 13,877 cases in India and 748 cases in UP ended as final reports marked as false, accounting for approximately 9.94% and 3.94% of their respective total cases. Finally, 17,790 cases in India and 1,155 cases in UP ended due to mistaken facts, mistaken law, or civil disputes, representing approximately 12.69% and 6.10% of their respective total cases. These figures shed light on the status and outcomes of reported cases and indicate variations in police actions between India and UP.



**Table 5: Action by court**

	<b>India</b>	<b>UP</b>
Cases pending trial from the previous year	280903	50444
Cases sent for trial during the year	85422	13725
Total cases for trial	366325	64169
Cases abated by court	115	0
Cases with drawn from prosecution	13	0
Cases compromised	1291	5
Cases disposed off by plea bargaining	156	90
Cases quashed	141	7
Cases disposed off without trail	1716	6
Cases convicted out of cases from previous year	9288	2187
Cases convicted out of cases during the year	2003	478
Cases discharged	2411	363
Cases acquitted	19504	1324
Cases in which trail is completed	33206	4352
Cases disposed off by court	34922	4454
Cases pending trails at the end of the year	331403	59715
Conviction rate	34	61.2
Pendency percentages	90.5	93.1

Source-NCRB

**Interpretations:**

The table illustrates the actions taken by the court regarding reported cases, comparing statistics for India and Uttar Pradesh (UP). In India, there were 280,903 cases pending trial from the previous year, representing approximately 76.56% of the total cases, while UP had 50,444 such cases, accounting for roughly 78.67% of its total cases. Additionally, during the year, India sent 85,422 cases for trial, constituting approximately 23.32% of the total cases, whereas UP sent 13,725 cases, making up approximately 21.39% of its total cases. The total cases for trial in India amounted to 366,325, representing about 99.88% of the total cases, while in UP, there were 64,169 cases, accounting for approximately 100% of its total cases.

The court abated 115 cases in India and none in UP, accounting for roughly 0.03% and 0% of their respective total cases. Furthermore, 13 cases were withdrawn from prosecution in India and none in UP, constituting approximately 0% and 0% of their respective total cases. Additionally, 1,291 cases were compromised in India and 5 in UP, representing approximately 0.35% and 0.008% of their respective total cases. Moreover, 156 cases were

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disposed of by plea bargaining in India and 90 in UP, making up approximately 0.04% and 0.14% of their respective total cases. Additionally, 141 cases were quashed in India and 7 in UP, accounting for roughly 0.04% and 0.01% of their respective total cases.

Furthermore, 1,716 cases were disposed of without trial in India and 6 in UP, representing approximately 0.47% and 0.009% of their respective total cases. Out of the cases from the previous year, India convicted 9,288 cases, constituting approximately 2.53% of its total cases, while UP convicted 2,187 cases, making up roughly 3.42% of its total cases. Additionally, out of the cases during the year, India convicted 2,003 cases and UP convicted 478 cases, representing approximately 0.55% and 0.75% of their respective total cases. Moreover, 2,411 cases were discharged in India and 363 in UP, accounting for approximately 0.66% and 0.57% of their respective total cases.

Additionally, 19,504 cases were acquitted in India and 1,324 in UP, representing approximately 5.32% and 2.07% of their respective total cases. Cases in which the trial was completed amounted to 33,206 in India and 4,352 in UP, making up approximately 9.06% and 6.79% of their respective total cases. Furthermore, cases disposed of by the court totaled 34,922 in India and 4,454 in UP, constituting approximately 9.53% and 6.95% of their respective total cases. Finally, there were 331,403 cases pending trial at the end of the year in India and 59,715 in UP, accounting for roughly 90.47% and 93.11% of their respective total cases. The conviction rate was 34% in India and 61.2% in UP. These statistics provide insights into the judicial processes and outcomes of reported cases, highlighting disparities between India and UP.

**Table 6: Action by court**

	India		UP	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Person Arrested</b>	115463	3929	20790	429
<b>Person Chargesheet</b>	1111047	3687	20555	383
<b>Person convicted</b>	14635	242	4065	55
<b>Person discharged</b>	3180	72	512	1
<b>Person acquitted</b>	24747	696	1898	99

Source-NCRB

**Interpretation:**

Actions taken by the court in terms of gender, comparing data for India and Uttar Pradesh (UP). In India, a total of 115,463 males and 3,929 females were arrested, while in UP, 20,790 males and 429 females were arrested. Moving on to chargesheets, in India, 1,111,047 males and 3,687 females were chargesheeted, whereas in UP, 20,555 males and 383 females faced chargesheets. Regarding convictions, 14,635 males and 242 females were convicted in India, while in UP, 4,065 males and 55 females were convicted.

The data on discharges show that 3,180 males and 72 females were discharged in India, whereas in UP, 512 males and 1 female were discharged. Similarly, in terms of acquittals, 24,747 males and 696 females were acquitted in India, while in UP, 1,898 males and 99 females were acquitted. These statistics shed light on the gender distribution of various legal actions, indicating notable differences between India and UP in terms of arrests, chargesheets, convictions, discharges, and acquittals for both males and females.

**Table 7: Age of victims of POCSO**

	India		UP	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Below 6</b>	23	648	5	119
<b>6-12 years</b>	106	2401	44	496
<b>12-16 years</b>	89	8818	31	1075
<b>16-18 years</b>	32	13212	2	1611

Source-NCRB

**Interpretations:**

Data on the age distribution of victims, categorized by gender and compared between India and Uttar Pradesh (UP). In India, among male victims, 23 were below 6 years old, 106 were aged 6-12 years, 89 were aged 12-16 years, and 32 were aged 16-18 years. For female victims in India, 648 were below 6 years old, 2401 were aged 6-12 years, 8818 were aged 12-16 years, and 13,212 were aged 16-18 years.

In UP, among male victims, 5 were below 6 years old, 44 were aged 6-12 years, 31 were aged 12-16 years, and 2 were aged 16-18 years. For female victims in UP, 119 were below 6 years old, 496 were aged 6-12 years, 1075 were aged 12-16 years, and 1611 were aged 16-18 years.

These figures highlight the age distribution of victims across different age groups and genders, providing insights into the prevalence of crimes against children in various age brackets in both India and UP.

**Table 8: Relation to victims of POCSO**

	India	UP
Known	23552	2531
Family	2043	247
Family friend/ Neighbourhood	12272	1716
Friend/online friend/Pretext of marriages	9237	568
Unknown	1478	813

Source-NCRB

#### Interpretations:

The table presents data on the relationship between perpetrators and victims in cases filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in India and Uttar Pradesh (UP). In India, out of the total cases reported, 23,552 cases involved perpetrators known to the victims, accounting for approximately 60.85% of the cases. Among these known perpetrators, 2,043 cases specifically involved family members, constituting around 8.68% of the known cases. Additionally, 12,272 cases involved perpetrators who were family friends or neighbors, representing approximately 32.86% of known cases. Furthermore, 9,237 cases involved perpetrators who were friends, online friends, or lured victims under the pretext of marriages, making up about 24.49% of known cases. Finally, 1,478 cases involved unknown perpetrators, accounting for roughly 3.82% of known cases.

In Uttar Pradesh, 2,531 cases involved known perpetrators, comprising approximately 63.64% of the total cases under the POCSO Act. Among these known perpetrators, 247 cases specifically involved family members, representing around 9.75% of known cases. Additionally, 1,716 cases involved family friends or neighbors, constituting approximately 67.77% of known cases. Furthermore, 568 cases involved perpetrators who were friends, online friends, or lured victims under the pretext of marriages, making up about 22.43% of known cases. Finally, 813 cases involved unknown perpetrators, accounting for roughly 32.08% of known cases.

These statistics provide insights into the relationships between victims and perpetrators in cases filed under the POCSO Act, highlighting the prevalence of offenses committed by

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individuals known to the victims, including family members, acquaintances, and online contacts.

### Conclusion:

In conclusion, the comprehensive analysis of crime against children in India, with a specific focus on Uttar Pradesh (UP), offers critical insights into the multifaceted nature of these offenses and the corresponding legal responses. The data presented across various categories, including murder, kidnapping and abduction, assault on women, actions by both police and courts, age and gender distribution of victims, and the relationship between perpetrators and victims under the POCSO Act, illuminates the complex dynamics surrounding child safety and protection.

The stark variations between India and UP underscore the need for region-specific interventions and targeted policy measures to address the underlying factors contributing to crimes against children. While India grapples with significant numbers across all categories, UP faces its unique challenges, necessitating tailored strategies to enhance law enforcement, improve judicial processes, and strengthen community engagement.

Moreover, the data highlights the urgent need for proactive measures to prevent crimes against children, ensure swift and effective investigations, and facilitate access to justice for victims. Enhancing public awareness, promoting gender-sensitive education, and fostering partnerships between law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, and communities are crucial steps towards creating safer environments for children to thrive.

Ultimately, addressing crimes against children requires a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach that prioritizes the rights, well-being, and protection of every child. By leveraging data-driven insights and collaborative efforts, policymakers, stakeholders, and communities can work together to safeguard the future of our children and build a society where every child can live free from violence and exploitation.

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