Kidnapping And Abduction In Tamil Nadu: An Analysis Of Tamil Nadu State Crime Records Bureau

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Abstract: Kidnapping and abduction, defined as the illegal act of forcibly capturing or restraining a person against their will through deception, coercion, or physical force, are serious offenses subject to harsh penalties under legal jurisdictions worldwide. This study examines the prevalence, patterns, and motives behind kidnapping and abduction crimes in Tamil Nadu using data from the Tamil Nadu State Crime Records Bureau (2021). Employing a review approach with primary and secondary data sources, the study identifies trends in district-wise distribution and underlying motives. The findings reveal that Cuddalore recorded the highest incidence (83 cases), followed by Salem City (79) and Chennai (71). Predominant motives include coercion of women into marriage (506 cases), while the least frequent motive was kidnapping for begging (1 case). The study underscores the importance of addressing societal norms and power imbalances to reduce gender-based crimes and achieve sustainable development goals such as gender equality.

*Keywords***:** Kidnapping, Abduction, Tamil Nadu State Crime Records Bureau, Sustainable Development Goals, Indian Penal Code

I. INTRODUCTION:

Kidnapping and abduction involve the unlawful seizing or restraint of individuals without their consent, often through coercion or deceit. While the terms are frequently used interchangeably, their legal definitions vary across jurisdictions. Kidnapping typically entails unlawful detention for purposes such as ransom, harm, or control, whereas abduction often refers to taking individuals from legal guardianship without intent to harm. Both crimes are severely penalized, with penalties proportional to motive, victim injury, and duration of unlawful detention.

This study evaluates the Tamil Nadu State Crime Records Bureau (TN-SCRB) data to analyze the composition, patterns, and underlying motives of kidnapping and abduction cases in 2021. Relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) include Sections 360 to 369, which detail offenses ranging from abduction for forced marriage (Section 366) to the exploitation of minors for begging (Section 363-A). In 2021, Tamil Nadu recorded 821 kidnapping and abduction cases, a 7.8% increase from the previous year. This research highlights district-wise trends, victim demographics, and motives behind these crimes

II. OBJECTIVES:

1.   To examine district-wise variations in kidnapping and abduction cases in Tamil Nadu.

2.   To explore factors contributing to the prevalence of these crimes.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study employs a quantitative research design and a review approach. Primary data is sourced from TN-SCRB (2021), while secondary data includes resources from Jstor, Scopus, and other scholarly databases. Data analysis focuses on district-wise distributions, victim demographics, and motives. The study is limited to Tamil Nadu districts reporting the highest prevalence of kidnapping and abduction.

IV. FINDINGS:

The analysis of kidnapping and abduction in Tamil Nadu, based on the Tamil Nadu State Crime Records Bureau (2021), highlights alarming trends and disparities in these crimes. With 821 cases reported - a 7.8% increase from 2020—the districts of Cuddalore (83), Salem City (79), and Chennai (71) account for the highest incidences, while Dharmapuri and Ramanathapuram report the lowest. Predominant motives include coercion of women into marriage (506 cases), followed by general kidnapping (142) and ransom demands (47), with minimal cases linked to begging or murder. The demographic analysis reveals that women (81.2%) and individuals aged 18–30 years are the most targeted, with children also significantly affected. Legal responses show varied arrest and conviction rates, with Chennai leading in both metrics. Societal factors like gender biases and power imbalances, alongside deep-rooted cultural norms, emerge as critical contributors to these crimes. Addressing these underlying issues is essential for achieving gender equality, reducing inequalities, and fostering strong legal frameworks, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals.

V. DISCUSSION:

The study reveals a concerning increase in kidnapping and abduction cases in Tamil Nadu, particularly involving women and children. Societal norms, gender biases, and imbalanced power relations contribute significantly to these crimes. Forced marriage emerges as the predominant motive, reflecting deep-rooted gender inequalities. Districts such as Cuddalore, Salem, and Chennai require targeted interventions to address underlying causes and improve legal outcomes.

Sustainable Development Goals

This research aligns with three key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

1.   Gender Equality: Addressing gender-based abductions and forced marriages.

2.   Reduced Inequalities: Mitigating power imbalances and societal biases.

3.   Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: Strengthening legal frameworks and conviction rates.

VI. CONCLUSION:

While Tamil Nadu has seen an overall decline in crime rates, kidnapping and abduction—particularly of women and children—have increased by 7.3% since 2020. The findings emphasize the need for gender-sensitive policies and robust law enforcement to curb these crimes. Forced marriage, deemed kidnapping, and elopements are the leading motives, highlighting the necessity for societal and legal reforms. By addressing these challenges, Tamil Nadu can make significant progress toward achieving SDGs and fostering a safer environment for vulnerable populations.

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