



LAW OBEDIENCE AND BEHAVIOR REGARDING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AMONG YOUTH

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Abstract: This research study delves into the intricate relationship between law obedience and behavior of youth within the context of criminal justice system. In an era marked by evolving societal norms and an increasing focus on correctional administration, understanding the behaviors of individuals regarding law is of paramount significance. Public behavior is that reaction of individual or group, in setting or space that are accessible or visible to general public, which subject to societal norms, laws and expectations and it can vary significantly based on cultural, social and situational factors.

The main objectives of this research is to empirically examine whether youth consider criminal justice system a success or failure in India, National Education Policy change the perspective about criminal justice system, aware of the laws, obedient to law and dependence of perception about criminal justice system on crime rate. The research utilizes a mixed method design, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative, aiming to gather data from a diverse sample of youth. The implications of this research are far -reaching, with the potential to inform the difference between the theory and practice of criminal justice system. Understanding the relationship between law obedience and behavior of youth is vital for the promotion of a just and equitable society where the legal system effectively engages with its youngest participation.

Key words: Criminal Justice System, Law obedience, Human Behavior, Youth, Difference, Practical Life, Theoretical Life, NEP.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of law obedience, particularly within the realm of the criminal justice system, holds paramount importance in understanding societal adherence to legal norms and the behaviors exhibited by the youth. Law obedience signifies not just compliance with statutes and regulations but encompasses the broader spectrum of societal acceptance, respect for legal authority, and adherence to the ethical underpinnings of the law. Among the youth, this adherence is both a reflection of societal values and a critical developmental stage where attitudes towards authority and legal principles are shaped.

This research aims to probe deeply into the multifaceted aspects of law obedience among young individuals and its implications within the criminal justice system. It seeks to elucidate the factors that influence obedience to the law, examining the intricate interplay between socio-cultural influences, individual perceptions of justice, and the effectiveness of legal frameworks. Understanding the complexities of law obedience among

youths becomes pivotal in comprehending their interactions with legal authorities, the choices they make, and the outcomes within the justice system.

Criminal justice system is a complex system that plays a vital role in maintaining law and order within a society. It encompasses a wide range of the system of laws, law enforcement agencies and associated personnel together to investigate, adjudicate and sanction individuals who are alleged to have committed criminal offences against citizen or state.

Criminal justice system is an instrument of social control, whose main goal is deterrence, punishment, rehabilitation and restoration, it mainly has three pillars:

A. Law enforcement (Police)

Their role is investigating crime, apprehending suspects and maintaining public safety.

B. Judiciary (Court)

Their role is to interpret and apply the law, determine guilt or innocence and administer appropriate punishment or remedies based on evidence presented.

C. Correctional administration (Prison)

Once a person is convicted, correctional institutes, such as Prison or Probation, manage and rehabilitate offenders.

The evolving landscape of law obedience among the youth necessitates a nuanced approach to studying its dynamics. Through empirical research, critical analysis, and potentially qualitative methodologies, this study seeks to unravel the layers that contribute to or challenge law obedience within the context of the criminal justice system. Insights derived from this exploration can aid in the formulation of strategies and interventions aimed at fostering a more compliant, engaged, and equitable relationship between the youth and the legal framework.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Chamelin C. Neil, Introduction to criminal justice, 1975, page no. 5, The Criminal Justice Administration exists because society has deemed it appropriate to enforce the standards of human conduct so necessary to protecting individuals and the community.
2. Sanjay Malik, Justice Through Inherent Powers of the Court, CrLJ, Vol. 36, No. 1, Jan-March (2000), P. 22,
"Quando Lex Aliquid Alicue Concedit Concedere Videtur Id Sine Quo Res-ipsa Esse Non Protest."
When law gives a person anything it gives him that without which it cannot exist. Whenever anything is required to be done by law and it is found impossible to do that things unless something not authorized in express terms, be also done than that something else will be supplied by necessary intendment.
3. India's Criminal Justice System: Reforming Institutions for Delivering Justice - www.visionias.in,
Criminal Justice System is an integral part of the democratic setup, therefore it is imperative that comprehensive steps are taken to make the system more effective. It is thus the responsibility of legislators and all the stakeholders to embark on the task of strengthening the system with a holistic and meticulous approach so as to reinforce faith of all concerned in the system.

Rationale

The rationale behind this research stems from the crucial need to comprehend the intricate dynamics between law obedience and the behavior of youth within the context of the criminal justice system. In an era characterized by shifting societal norms and an increased emphasis on correctional administration, there exists a paramount importance in understanding how individuals, especially the youth, perceive and adhere to laws.

OBJECTIVES

1. To determine the level of awareness of laws among youth and their obedience to these laws.
2. To explore how perception of the criminal justice system is influenced by the prevailing crime rate.
3. To assess whether youth in India perceive the criminal justice system as successful or unsuccessful.

HYPOTHESIS

1. The higher awareness of laws correlates with greater law obedience among youth.
2. The shifts in the crime rate will influence how youth perceive the efficacy of the criminal justice system.
3. The significant portion of youth perceive the current criminal justice system in India as ineffective or flawed.

RESEARCH DESIGN

- **Research Site**

This study delves into the dynamics of law obedience and behavioral patterns within the criminal justice system among youth in Madhya Pradesh, India. The region's unique socio-cultural landscape and legal framework provide a compelling context for understanding the intersection of youth behavior and the legal system.

- **Research Tools**

A sample of 120 respondents were taken from age group 15 to 30 years who are the students of undergraduate and postgraduate.

- **Methodology**

For the collection of data, research questionnaire method was used in which close ended questionnaire was prepared to explore the objectives.

- **Sampling Method**

Utilizing the quota purposive sampling method, this research aims to select and analyze specific segments of the youth population. By employing predetermined quotas based on key demographic characteristics, this approach allows for a nuanced understanding of diverse perspectives and experiences among the youth involved in the legal framework.

- **Data Collection**

Close-ended questionnaires often employ quantitative research methods. These methods include surveys with structured questions where respondents choose from predefined options or use rating scales to express their opinions. The data collected is usually numerical and can be analyzed statistically.

DATA ANALYSIS

Table No - 01: Familiar with the Criminal Justice System.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Yes	104	86.7
No	16	13.3
Total	120	100

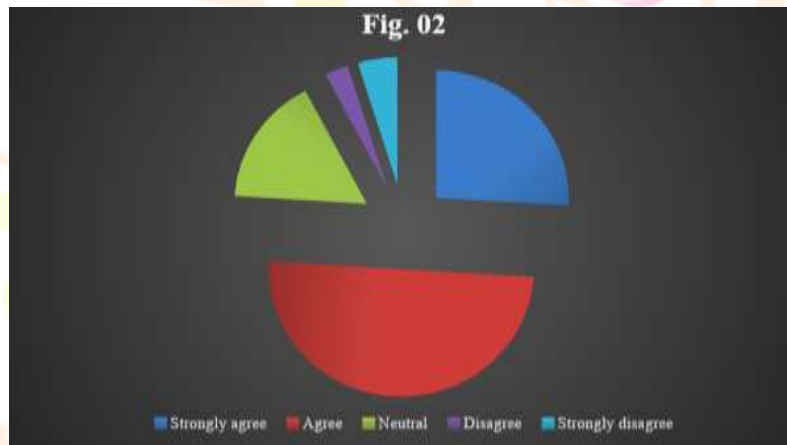
Table 1 illustrates that a substantial majority, 86.7%, of the participants are aware of the criminal justice system, indicating a fundamental understanding among the youth. However, it is noteworthy that 13.3% of the participants are not familiar with the term, suggesting a gap in awareness that may have implications for their behavior within the legal framework.



Table No - 02: Work of Criminal Justice System will affect the society.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	27	26
Agree	52	50
Neutral	17	16.3
Disagree	3	2.9
Strongly disagree	5	4.8
Total	104	100

Table 2 illustrates that 50.0% of the participants agree that the work of the criminal justice system significantly affects society. This indicates a substantial proportion of youth acknowledging the system's influence on the broader community. Conversely, only 2.9% disagree, suggesting a relatively small minority holds a contrasting view.

**Table No - 03: Criminal Justice System in my locality is fair.**

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	3	2.9
Agree	33	31.7
Neutral	36	34.6
Disagree	28	26.9
Strongly disagree	4	3.8
Total	104	100

Table 3 reveals that 2.9% of the participants strongly agree that the criminal justice system is fair in their locality, indicating a small but noteworthy segment with a positive perception. Conversely, a substantial 3.8% strongly disagree, suggesting a significant proportion holds a critical view of the fairness of the system. Notably, 34.6% prefer not to answer, reflecting a considerable number of participants who may be hesitant or uncertain about expressing their opinion on this matter.

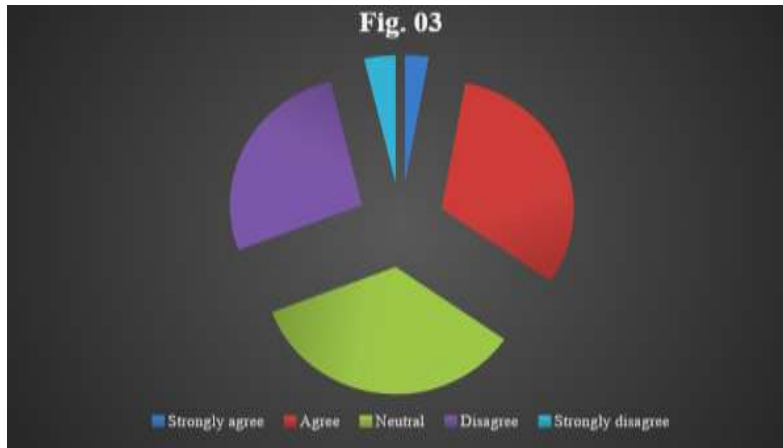


Table No - 04: The Criminal Justice System can better engage with youth to prevent crime and promote lawful behavior.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	33	31.7
Agree	55	52.9
Neutral	14	13.5
Disagree	2	1.9
Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	104	100

Table 4 highlights that a substantial 52.9% of the participants agree that the criminal justice system can better engage with youth to prevent crime and promote lawful behavior. Remarkably, no participants strongly disagree, and only 1.9% express disagreement, suggesting a general consensus among the majority regarding the positive potential of the criminal justice system in youth engagement.

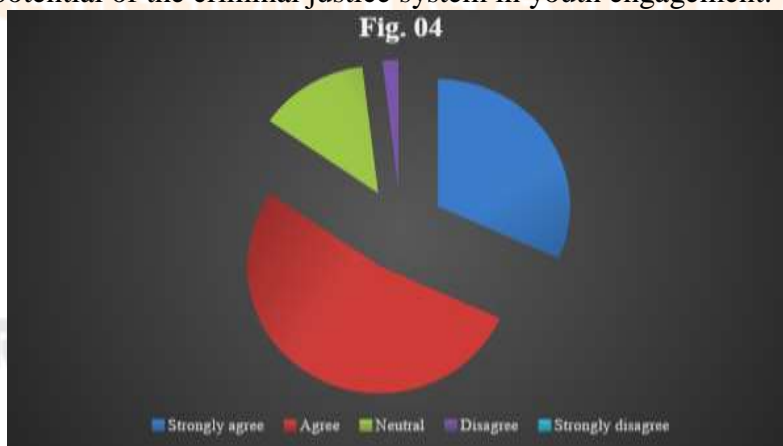


Table No - 05: Addressing underlined societal issues can reduce youth involvement in criminal activities.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	34	32.7
Agree	55	52.9
Neutral	10	9.6
Disagree	4	3.8
Strongly disagree	1	1
Total	104	100

Table 5 indicates that a significant 52.9% of participants agree that addressing underlying societal issues, such as poverty, education inequality, and mental health, can effectively reduce youth involvement in criminal activities. Only 1.0% of participants strongly disagree, suggesting a limited minority holds a contrary opinion regarding the impact of addressing these societal issues.

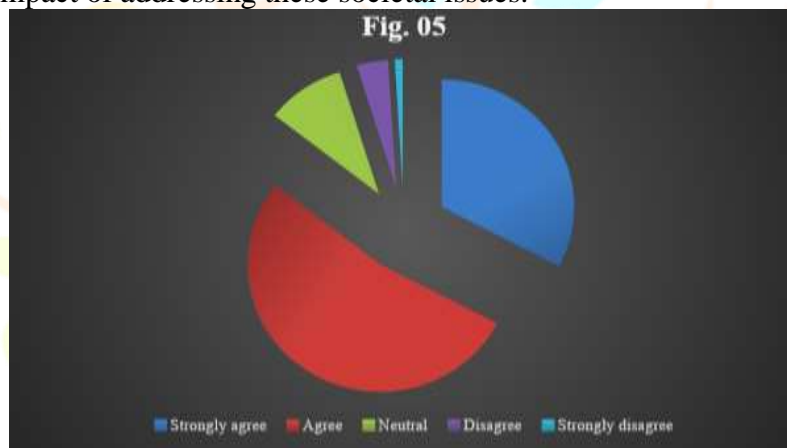


Table No - 06: Personal experience with Criminal Justice System.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Yes	58	55.8
No	46	44.2
Total	104	100

Table 6 illustrates that 55.8% of the participants have had personal experiences with the criminal justice system, suggesting a considerable portion of the youth demographic has directly interacted with the legal framework. Conversely, 44.2% of participants have not had personal experiences, indicating a significant proportion with no direct involvement in the criminal justice system.

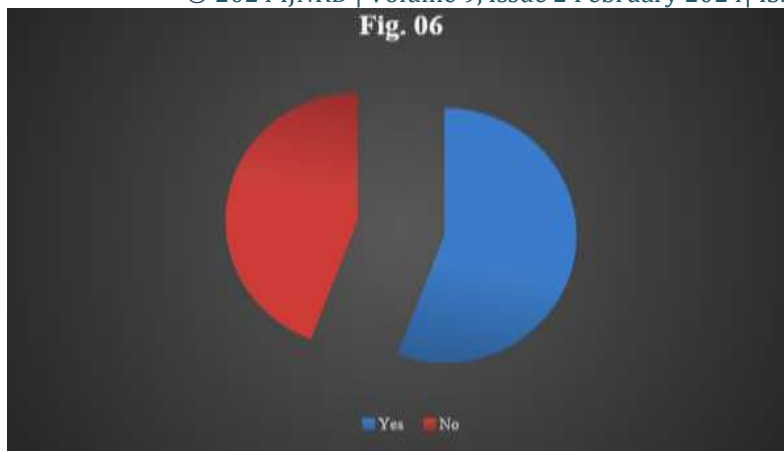


Table No - 07: The punishment given by Criminal Justice System is effective in preventing crime.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	4	3.8
Agree	46	44.2
Neutral	36	34.6
Disagree	14	13.5
Strongly disagree	4	3.8
Total	104	100

Table 7 indicates that 44.2% of participants agree that the punishment given by the criminal justice system is effective in preventing crime. On the other hand, 13.5% disagree with the effectiveness of these punitive measures. Notably, 34.6% of participants prefer not to answer, suggesting a significant number of individuals may be uncertain or hesitant to express their views on this matter.

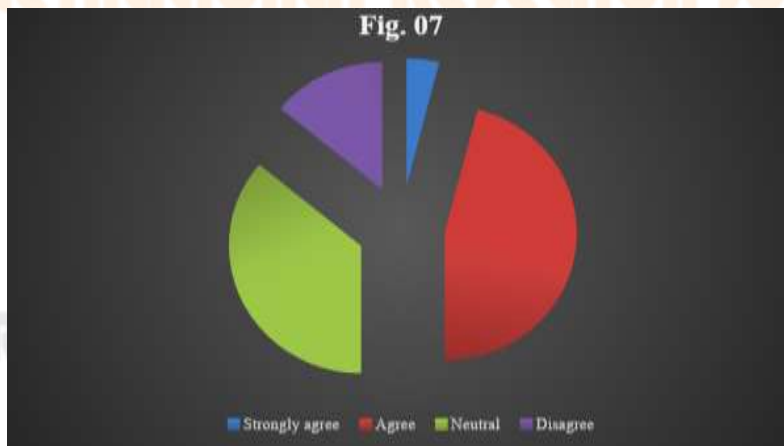
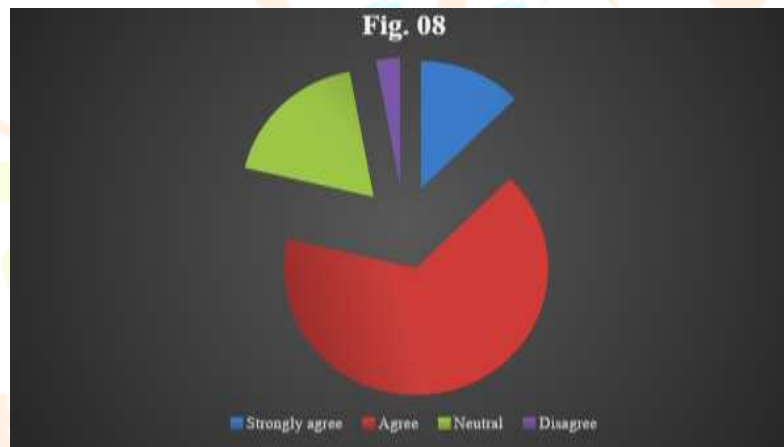


Table No - 08: Societal views on obeying the law impact young people's behavior.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	13	12.5
Agree	68	65.4
Neutral	19	18.3
Disagree	3	2.9
Strongly disagree	1	1
Total	104	100

Table 8 illustrates that a significant 65.4% of participants agree that societal views on obeying the law impact young people's behavior. In contrast, only 1% strongly disagree with this notion, suggesting a near-consensus among the majority regarding the influence of societal perspectives on law obedience among young people.

**Table No - 09: Education and Awareness about the legal system are important for young individuals.**

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	57	54.8
Agree	44	42.3
Neutral	3	2.9
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	104	100

Table 9 illustrates that a substantial 54.8% of participants strongly agree that education and awareness about the legal system are important for young individuals. Remarkably, no participants express disagreement, emphasizing the unanimity on the perceived importance of legal education. Additionally, 2.9% of participants

prefer not to answer, suggesting a small portion may be hesitant or uncertain about expressing their views on this matter.

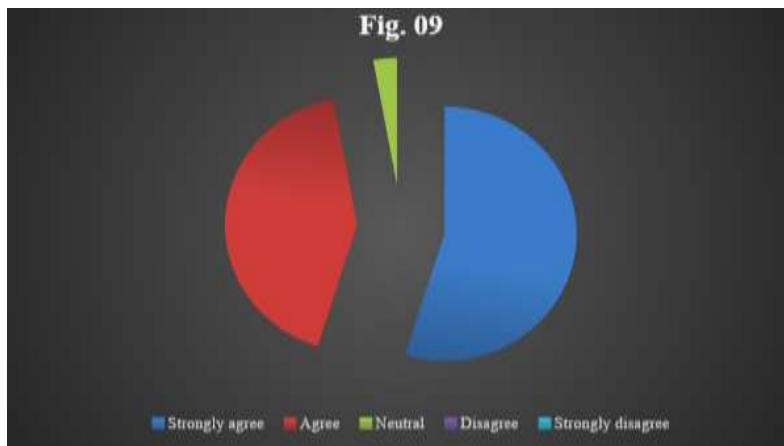


Table No - 10: The implementation of National Education Policy is helpful in controlling crime.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	12	11.5
Agree	53	51
Neutral	32	30.8
Disagree	6	5.8
Strongly disagree	1	1
Total	104	100

Table 10 illustrates that 51.0% of participants agree that the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) is helpful in controlling crime, suggesting a moderate but significant portion of the public believes in the positive impact of educational policies. Only 1% of participants strongly disagree, indicating a minimal proportion holds a contrary opinion.

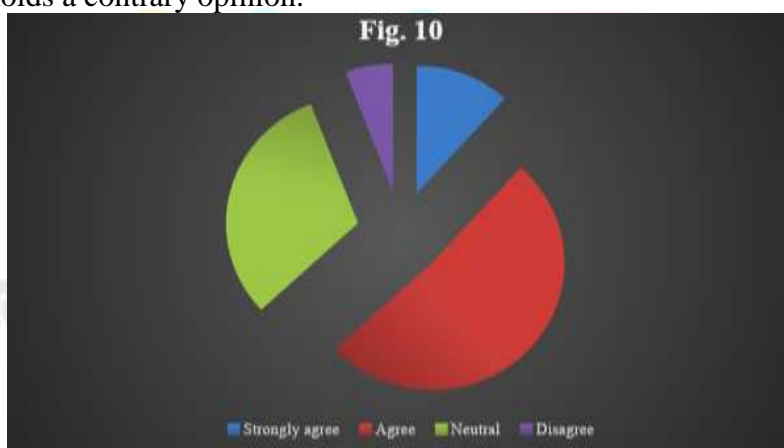
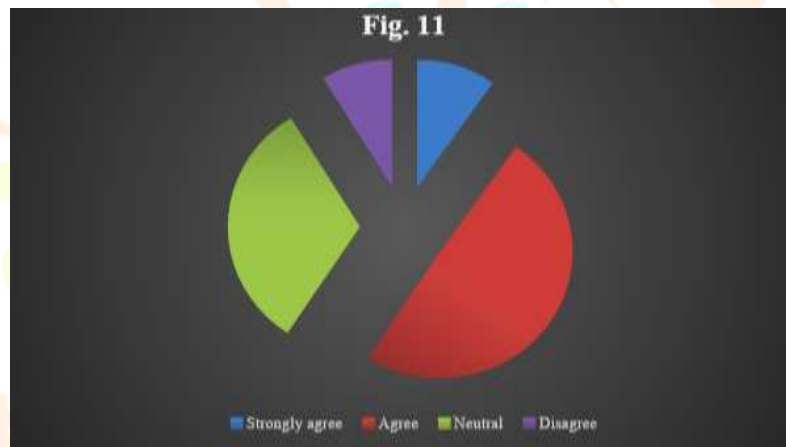


Table No - 11: The National Education Policy is really a success in our surroundings.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	10	9.6
Agree	51	49
Neutral	33	31.7
Disagree	9	8.7
Strongly disagree	1	1
Total	104	100

Table 11 illustrates that 49.0% of participants agree that the National Education Policy (NEP) is a success in their surroundings, indicating a substantial portion of the public perceives positive outcomes from the educational policy. Only 1.0% of participants strongly disagree, suggesting a minimal proportion holds a contrary opinion regarding the success of NEP in their local context.

**Table No - 12: Some factors influence decision to either follow or break the law.**

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	5	4.8
Agree	46	44.2
Neutral	40	38.5
Disagree	12	11.5
Strongly disagree	1	1
Total	104	100

Table 12 illustrates that 44.2% of participants agree that some factors influence their decision to either follow or break the law, indicating a substantial portion of the public acknowledges the presence of influencing factors. Only 1.0% of participants strongly disagree, suggesting a minimal proportion holds the view that factors do not play a significant role in law obedience decisions.

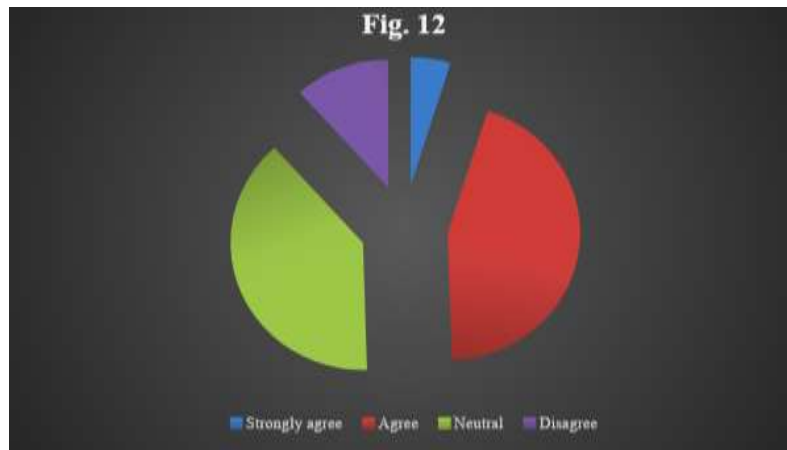


Table No - 13: The large number of pending cases reflects the failure of Criminal Justice System.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	27	26
Agree	51	49
Neutral	19	18.3
Disagree	4	3.8
Strongly disagree	3	2.9
Total	104	100

Table 13 illustrates that 49.0% of participants agree that a large number of pending cases reflects the failure of the criminal justice system, indicating a substantial portion of the public associates pending cases with system inefficiency. Only 2.9% of participants strongly disagree, suggesting a limited proportion holds the view that pending cases do not necessarily indicate system failure.

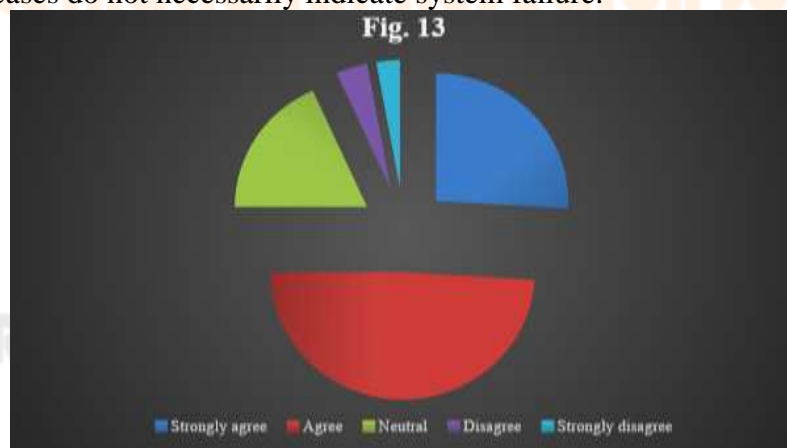
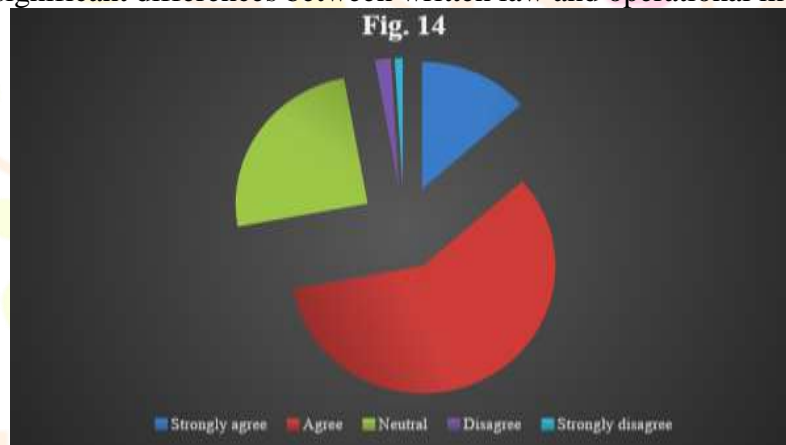


Table No - 14: There is a difference between written law and modus operandi of Criminal Justice System.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	14	13.5
Agree	61	58.7
Neutral	26	25
Disagree	2	1.9
Strongly disagree	1	1
Total	104	100

Table 14 illustrates that 58.7% of participants agree that there is a difference between written law and the modus operandi of the criminal justice system, indicating a substantial portion of the public perceives potential disparities. Only 1.0% of participants strongly disagree, suggesting a minimal proportion holds the view that there are no significant differences between written law and operational methods.

**Table No - 15: The law enforcement agencies molds the laws according to the gender and the age of the victim.**

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	11	10.6
Agree	55	52.9
Neutral	32	30.7
Disagree	6	5.8
Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	104	100

Table 15 illustrates that 52.9% of participants agree that law enforcement agencies mold the law according to the gender and age of the victim, indicating a significant portion of the public perceives potential biases. Only 5.8% of participants disagree, with no participants strongly disagreeing, suggesting a limited proportion holds the view that law enforcement agencies do not significantly influence legal outcomes based on these factors.

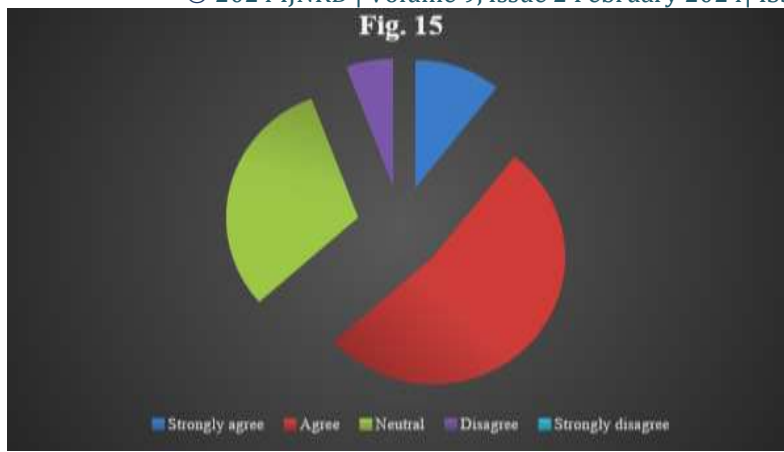


Table No - 16: The culprit is easily proven innocent.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	12	11.5
Agree	53	51
Neutral	31	29.8
Disagree	8	7.7
Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	104	100

Table 16 illustrates that 51.0% of participants agree that proving innocence for a culprit is easily done, indicating a significant portion of the public perceives challenges in establishing guilt. Conversely, 7.7% of participants disagree, with no participants strongly disagreeing. Additionally, 29.8% prefer not to answer, suggesting a notable portion may be uncertain or hesitant to express their views on this matter.

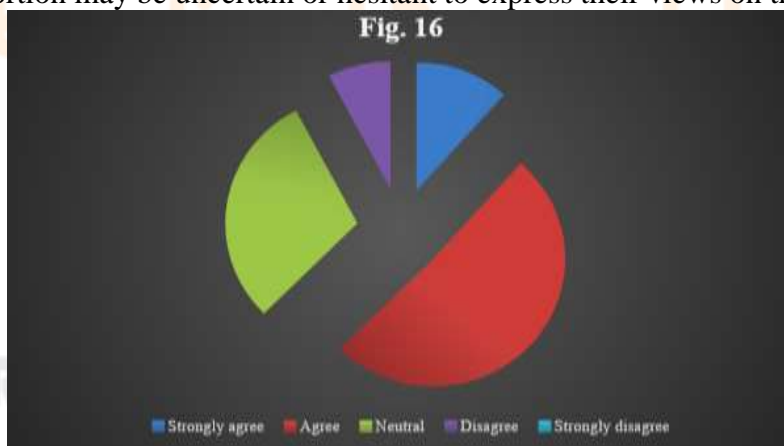


Table No - 17: The Criminal Justice System can be bought with money.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	22	21.2
Agree	53	51
Neutral	21	20.2
Disagree	8	7.7
Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	104	100

Table 17 illustrates that 51.0% of participants agree that the criminal justice system can be influenced by money, indicating a significant portion of the public perceives potential issues related to the influence of wealth. Conversely, 7.7% of participants disagree, with no participants strongly disagreeing.

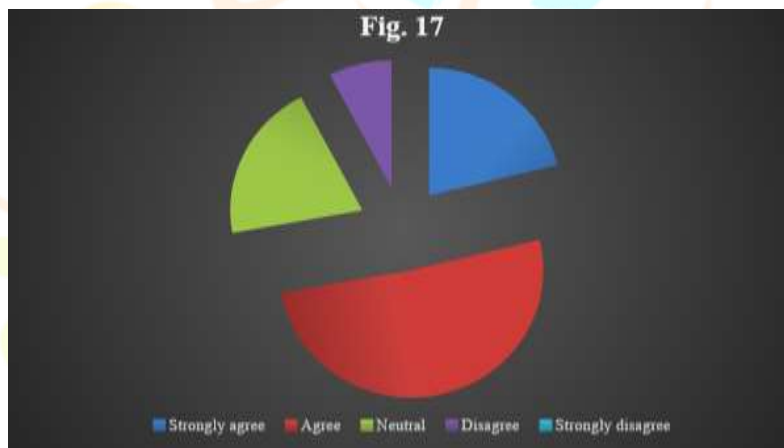


Table No - 18: Failure of execution of facilities provided by Criminal Justice System leads to wastage of public money.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	18	17.3
Agree	54	51.9
Neutral	24	23.1
Disagree	7	6.7
Strongly disagree	1	1
Total	104	100

Table 18 illustrates that 51.9% of participants agree that the failure of execution of facilities provided by the criminal justice system leads to the wastage of public money, indicating a substantial portion of the public perceives potential inefficiencies. Only 1.0% of participants strongly disagree.

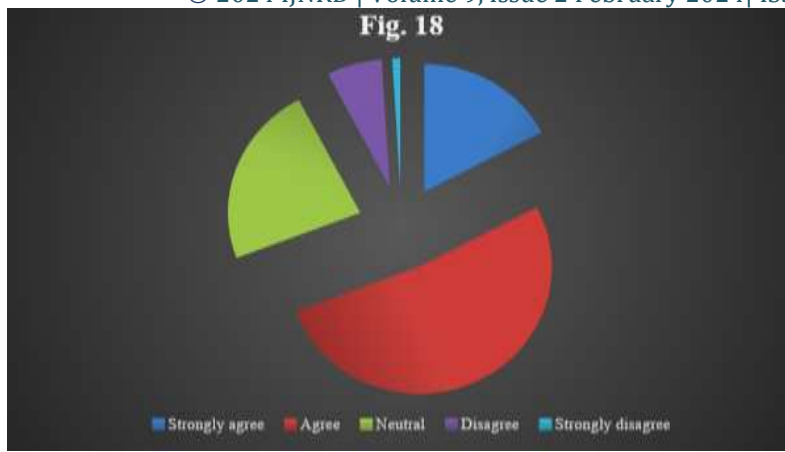


Table No - 19: Want to change the Criminal Justice System to better serve young individuals.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	35	33.7
Agree	64	61.5
Neutral	5	4.8
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	104	100

Table 19 illustrates that 61.5% of participants agree that they want to change the criminal justice system to better serve young individuals, indicating a strong desire for reform among the majority. Importantly, no participants expressed disagreement or strong disagreement, suggesting a unanimous consensus in favor of change.

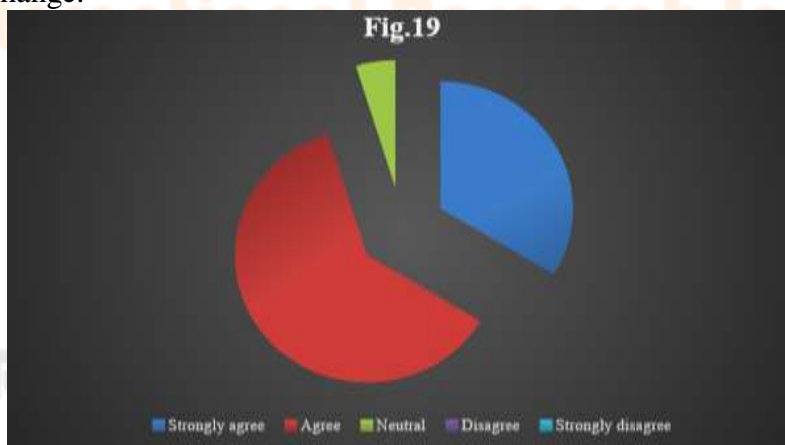
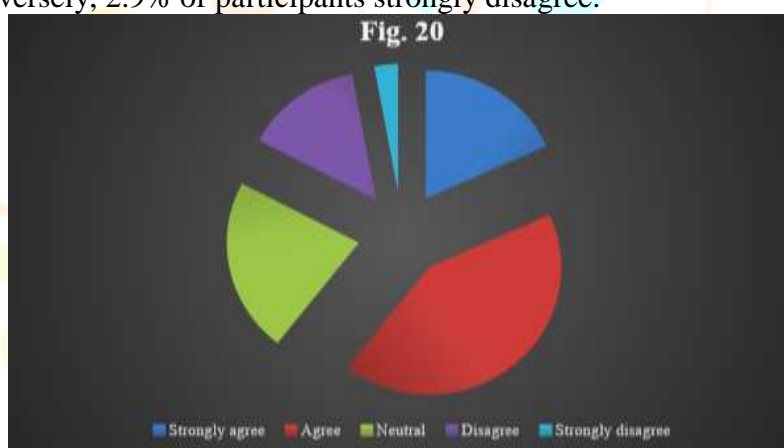


Table No - 20: The laws should be based on culture, tradition and environment of India.

Particular	Frequency	Frequency Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	19	18.3
Agree	44	42.3
Neutral	23	22.1
Disagree	15	14.4
Strongly disagree	3	2.9
Total	104	100

Table 20 illustrates that 42.3% of participants agree that laws should be based on the culture, tradition, and environment of India, indicating a notable portion of the public supports incorporating these factors into legal frameworks. Conversely, 2.9% of participants strongly disagree.



OUTCOMES

The outcomes reflect a nuanced landscape of public perceptions, ranging from positive outlooks on educational policies and desired reforms to concerns about fairness, effectiveness, and potential biases within the criminal justice system. And they also underscore the importance of targeted awareness campaigns to enhance understanding and compliance among the youth. Additionally, policymakers should be attentive to the influence of crime rates on public perception, adjusting strategies to address concerns and maintain public trust in the criminal justice system.

As societal norms evolve, understanding how the youth perceive and adhere to laws becomes crucial. The objectives were to gauge awareness levels of laws among youth, explore the influence of crime rates on their perception of the criminal justice system, and assess their overall perception of the system's success.

KEY FINDINGS

1. Awareness and Obedience:

The data suggests a positive correlation between awareness and law obedience among youth. The high level of awareness (86.7%) appears to contribute to a more informed and compliant youth population.

2. Perception and Crime Rate:

As anticipated, there is a notable impact of prevailing crime rates on the perception of the criminal justice system. Youth responses, particularly in Table 2, highlight the sensitivity of their views to changes in the crime rate, shaping their perception of the system's efficacy.

3. Perception of System's Success:

The hypothesis aligns with the findings, as a substantial portion (49%) perceives the success of the National Education Policy (NEP) in their surroundings, while concerns regarding fairness (Table 3) and pending cases (Table 13) indicate reservations about the overall effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

HYPOTHESIS VALIDATION

The findings support the formulated hypotheses and offer a foundation for informed policymaking aimed at fostering a more effective and trusted criminal justice system tailored to the needs and perceptions of the youth in India.

1. Higher Awareness Correlates with Greater Law Obedience:

The research data supports the hypothesis that higher awareness correlates with greater law obedience among youth. A significant portion of the youth who are aware of the criminal justice system also demonstrates a propensity for law compliance.

2. Shifts in Crime Rate Influence Perception:

The findings validate the hypothesis that shifts in the crime rate influence how youth perceive the efficacy of the criminal justice system. Table 2 emphasizes the nuanced relationship between crime rates and public perception.

3. Youth Perception of System's Ineffectiveness:

The third hypothesis is substantiated by the research, as highlighted in Tables 3 and 13. A considerable percentage of youth expresses concerns about the fairness and efficiency of the criminal justice system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

According to this study, Table 13 reveals that the large number of pending cases reflects the failure of criminal justice system, supported with 49%. And table reveals that criminal justice system in locality is fair was not supported with 26.9%. Hence there is a need to improve the criminal justice system, also the judiciary have to pay attention on pending cases because an estimation shows that 75.8% of prisoners are under trail and only 23.3% of total are convicted since 2021.

Table 16 reveals that the culprit is easily proven innocent, this shows the incompetency of enforcement agencies that they are not able to manage appropriate evidences, therefore need to work over the loopholes. Policymakers should consider these findings for informed decision-making and reforms aimed at enhancing transparency, fairness, and effectiveness within the legal system, particularly for the youth demographic.

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