



The Most Common Crimes in College Premises and Ways of their Prevention

Mr. Farhan Sheikh¹, Mr. Bhavesh Mali², Ms. Chanchal Gokhale³, Dr. Ashutosh Tripathi⁴

^{1,2} Student, Department of Forensic Science, Institute of Sciences, SAGE University Indore, M.P.

³ Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic Science, Institute of Sciences, SAGE University Indore, M.P.

⁴ Head of Department (HOD), Institute of Sciences, SAGE University Indore, M.P.

Abstract

Campus crimes are those crimes which usually takes place in the college campuses as during colleges so many students are part of these crimes due to their adolescence age and their mental mind-set. These crimes include Rape, Ragging, Theft, Abuse, Drug addiction and underage drinking. All these crimes occur due to attractiveness of youth towards this unusual attraction and also due to the peer pressure by their classmates and seniors. So, we can say that the campus crimes usually occurs in a college campus due to three reasons that are, through pressure by classmates, due to their seniors and due to their own mind-set and attraction towards such unusual things.

Keywords: Campus crime, Drug addiction, Ragging, Rape, Theft, Underage drinking.

INTRODUCTION –

College crimes include all acts of breaking laws or rules governed by both college authorities and law enforcement authorities.[1] The most rampant crimes committed by college students are theft, underage drinking and drug abuse. Other extreme crimes committed within the campuses are murder, burglary, robbery, vehicle theft, and sexual assaults.[2] While colleges and universities take active measures to protect students and maintain a safe campus, crime still happens. When large groups of people gather in one location, criminal activity can occur.[3]

Take the steps to help protect you from further harm and find support. **If Possible, Get to a Safe Place:** If possible, get to a well-lit, populated area to prevent further escalation. Remain there until help arrives.[4] **Call 911 and Follow Instructions:** Call 911 immediately. The 911 dispatcher will talk you through a course of action until police or emergency personnel arrive. **Contact a Trusted Friend or Family Member:** Call a supportive friend or family member that can come to your aid or provide a safe space for you.[5] **Consult Legal Counsel:** Call an attorney to discuss your legal options. **Contact Your Bank:** If a thief stole your bank account info or credit cards, call the bank and report it as soon as possible to prevent fraudulent use. **Request a Housing Change:** If the perpetrator knows where you live, request a housing change.[6]

The crime occurred in campus such as theft, smoking and abuse, ragging etc. are termed as campus crimes. The types of Campus Crimes are **Theft and burglary** - Laptops and smartphones are especially targeted by thieves. Unlike murder crimes, the motives behind these crimes vary. Their intentions differ from one college to another and from one student to another. It is believed that students' family backgrounds and ethnic backgrounds are to be blamed for the increased in theft and burglary related crimes. **Abuse** – Talking to someone in a rude or improper way and insulting that person by saying him/her bad words. Types of abuse include: physical, sexual, psychological, verbal, emotional and mental.[7] **Ragging** – It means causing, inducing, compelling or forcing a student, whether by way of practical joke or otherwise, to do any act which detracts from human dignity or violates person or exposes him/her to ridicule from doing any lawful act. Ragging is the term used for the so-called “initiation ritual” practiced in higher education institutions in the Indian subcontinent, including India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **Rape** – Rape is a form of sexual violence and a serious crime. Rape happens when someone didn't want to have sex or didn't give their consent for sex to happen.[8] **Drug Addiction** – The high rates of drug abuse among college students can be attributed to a number of factors, including stress, course load, curiosity and peer pressure. One of the most common reasons people engage in drug and alcohol abuse is because of societal pressures. They feel they have to do what their friends are doing or risk losing those friends. Students, especially those who are new to campus, want to fit in and feel at home.[9] **Underage Drinking** - Alcohol is easily the most used and abused drug among college students. Alcohol use is often thought of as a normal part of the college experience, and some students may feel that using alcohol is safer and more socially acceptable than doing drugs.[10]

MATERIAL AND METHODOLOGY

The major requirements for this survey regarding the crime taking place in campus premises are; survey questionnaire, pen/pencil, paper, college students, etc.

Questionnaire Preparation – Firstly we have to prepare a questionnaire for college students on the topic “most common crimes on college campuses and ways of preventing them”. **Questions added in Questionnaire** –

- A. Are you addicted to any type of drug or smoking item?
- B. Have you ever suffered from any type of crime, such as, ragging, rape, abuse, etc.?
- C. If yes, When, How and Why?
- D. Was it in your hand to get rid of that crime?
- E. What steps you have taken to handle the situation?
- F. If you have not taken any steps for handling the situation then why you have not taken the steps? (Mention the reason)
- G. How you got addicted to the drugs, alcohol and smoke items?
- H. Have you tried to get rid of all those items?
- I. Was it possible for you to control on yourself?
- J. What would you help the upcoming generation to get rid of such things?

Approach to students – With the questionnaire we went to the students of different institutes of our college and we have asked them to fill the form correctly with their consent. **Collection of Sheets** – After completion of these answers by the students, after 10 minutes, we have collected the sheets and now these are to be used for further analysis.

OBSERVATION

1. Are you addicted to any type of drug or smoking item?

Out of 85 answers, 30 students were addicted towards the drugs and smoking items and rest 55 were not addicted towards any of the drug or smoking items.

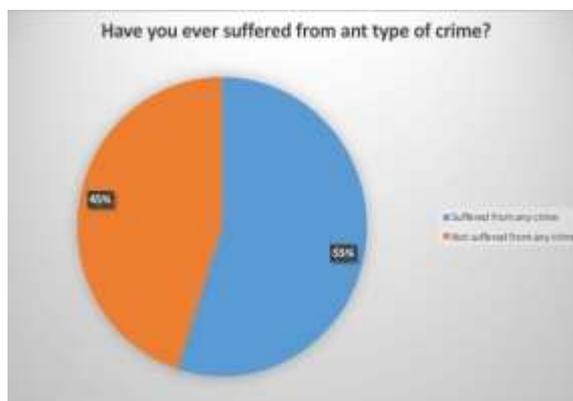


Figure 1 Pie chart graph of students addicted to smoking items and drugs

2. Have you ever suffered from any type of crime, such as, ragging, rape, abuse, etc.?

Out of 85 answers, 40 students were not suffered from any type of campus crimes, but the rest of the 44 students were somehow suffered from the campus crimes.

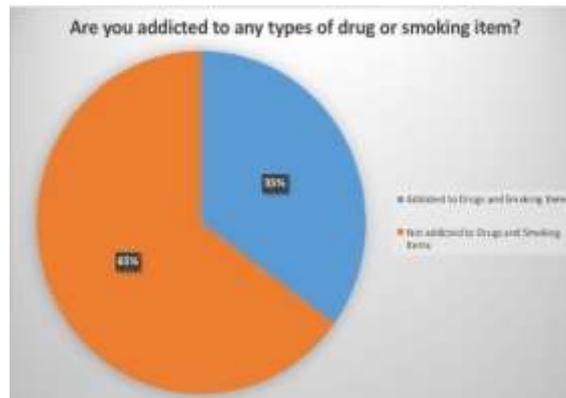


Figure 2 Pie chart graph of students suffered from crime at campus

3. If yes, When, How and Why?

Most of the students were abused in the campus by their seniors which were a part of their ragging and only 1 student was suffered from the theft of his mobile.

4. Was it in your hand to get rid of that crime?

All the students except 15 students have told that it was possible for them and it was in their hand to get rid of this crime through some measures through complaining.

5. What steps you have taken to handle the situation?

But it was rather another fact that no one has complaint for the crime except 5 students about the crime due to fear from the seniors and due to their negative mindset regarding the respect of themselves and seniors in the campus. It was also due to their reputation in front of classmates and others.

6. If you have not taken any steps for handling the situation then why you have not taken the steps? (Mention the reason)

1. For the reputation among their batch mates and classmates.
2. Fear from the seniors.
3. Respect for themselves and seniors.

7. How you got addicted to the drugs, alcohol and smoke items?

Out of total 85 students, 55 students were addicted from the drug, alcohol and smoke items and rest were not addicted from such unusual items. It was due to pressure on them by their friends and seniors.

8. Have you tried to get rid of all those items?

Yes, every one of them has tried to get rid of all those items, such as, drugs, alcohols and smoke items.

9. Was it possible for you to control on yourself?

Yes, it was possible for all of them through their consent to control over such activities.

10. What would you help the upcoming generation to get rid of such things?

1. A good friend circle.
2. To not to get influenced by others.
3. Through living in positive environment.
4. Spreading awareness of ill effects of such things.
5. Parental control
6. Motivation
7. Complaints to officials.

RESULT AND CONCLUSION

From the above answers collected from college students we can easily say that all these crimes occur due to attractiveness of youth towards this unusual attraction and also due to the peer pressure by their classmates and seniors.

To get rid of these common crimes occurred in college we have to take some measures that are; Raise complaints against all these crimes. Don't hesitate to tell your faculty or higher authorities about that crime, Make a good friend circle to avoid bad habits, such as, drinking, smoking or alcohol addiction, Don't get easily influenced by any of your classmate or senior about any type of bad habits and Spread awareness on your college campus about the ill effects of such things.

REFERENCES

1. Sloan, John J., III. 1994. The correlates of campus crime: An analysis of reported crimes on college and university campuses. *Journal of Criminal Justice* 22.1: 51–61.
2. Fox, James A., and Daryl A. Hellman. 1985. Location and other correlates of campus crime. *Journal of Criminal Justice* 13.5: 429–444.
3. Volkwein, J. Fredericks, Bruce P. Szelest, and Alan J. Lizotte. 1995. The relationship of campus crime to campus and student characteristics. *Research in Higher Education* 36.6: 647–670.
4. Weiss, Karen G., and Lisa M. Dilks. 2016. Intoxication and crime risk: Contextualizing the effects of “party” routines on recurrent physical and sexual attacks among college students. *Criminal Justice Review* 41.2: 173–189.
5. McPheters, Lee R. 1978. Econometric analysis of factors influencing crime on the campus. *Journal of Criminal Justice* 6.1: 47–52.
6. Durkin, Keith F., Timothy W. Wolfe, and Gregory A. Clark. 2005. College students and binge drinking: An evaluation of social learning theory. *Sociological Spectrum* 25.3: 255–272.
7. Reyns, Bradford W., Billy Henson, and Bonnie S. Fisher. 2013. Being pursued online: Applying cyber lifestyle–routine activities theory to cyberstalking victimization. *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 38.11: 1149–1169.
8. Baum, Katrina, and Patsy Klaus. 2005. The violent victimization of college students, 1995–2002. NCJ 206836. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.
9. Jordan, Carol E., Jessica L. Combs, and Gregory T. Smith. 2014. An exploration of sexual victimization and academic performance among college women. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse* 15.3: 191–200.
10. Hurst, James N. 2020. Stability in unstable places: Property crime in a campus environment. *Crime Prevention and Community Safety* 22.2:110–133.