



A Study About Public Perception on Youth Conflict in India

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ABSTRACT-

This paper focuses on public perception of youth conflict in India, examining how young people's involvement in armed hostilities is influenced by the trade of small arms and light weapons. The lack of opportunities in their particular communities always pushes them towards violent conflicts and acts of terrorism. Youth violence, targeting young people aged 10-24, involves the intentional use of physical force or power to threaten or harm others and can encompass actions like fighting, bullying, weapon threats, and gang-related violence. The main objectives of this research are to analyse effective ways of preventing youth from engaging in violence, identify risk factors affecting them, assess government efforts to address the issue, and explore strategies to prevent youth from being involved in conflicts. Behaviours encompass emotional outbursts, they also start using substance abuse, and they are also involved in violent or aggressive conduct, and more severe crimes. The research utilises an empirical approach, collecting data through a questionnaire from a sample size of 200 using convenience sampling methods. The data was sourced from various public outlets, articles, and research papers. The findings suggest a neutral opinion among people regarding youth's responsibility for most crimes, and they attribute the major reasons for youth committing crimes to Lack of Education and Money, No Parental Guidance, and Dropping out of School. Moreover, they believe counselling is the most effective method to prevent youth from engaging in conflicts.

Keywords: Youth, Crime, Education, Money, Guidance, Counselling

INTRODUCTION :

Youth conflict refers to the disagreements, tensions, or disputes that arise among young individuals or involving young people. These conflicts can stem from various factors, including differences in opinions, values, beliefs, or interests. More than 400 million individuals between 15 to 29 years old live in fragile and conflict-affected areas, leading to experiences of violence, exploitation, limited access to education, and struggles for survival. They might also arise from competition, social or cultural issues, or misunderstandings. Youth conflict is a natural part of the developmental process, as young people form their identities and assert their independence. Effective communication, conflict resolution skills, and understanding each other's perspectives are crucial in managing and resolving youth conflicts constructively. It's essential to provide support and guidance to young individuals to help them navigate through conflicts in a healthy and productive manner. These experiences can manifest in various behaviours, ranging from emotional outbursts to serious crimes. However, caring individuals, such as parents and family members, can play a crucial role in helping children learn to cope with emotions without resorting to violence. The Parliament of India passed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which includes provisions for children in conflict with the law and those in need of care and protection. The Act defines petty, serious, and heinous crimes by children based on the maximum punishment they attract under existing laws. Additionally, the Indian Constitution has special provisions, such as Article 21(a) which mandates free and compulsory education for particularly childrens who all are between six to fourteen years old, and Article 45, which emphasises early childhood care and education for children below six years of age. The Indian Legal System has established separate provisions in the best interest of its young citizens, including amendments to existing laws and the enactment of new ones. For instance, the Reformatory Schools Act was introduced in India in 1897, and later, Juvenile courts were established through Acts like the Madras Children Act 1920, Bengal Children Act 1922, and Bombay Children Act 1924, followed by many other Children Acts. Additionally, the Compulsory Education Act, 2009, now known as the Right to Education Act, made free and compulsory education a justiciable right under Article 21a, ensuring access to education for children who all are aged between 6 to 14 years.

Several factors can contribute to young people becoming involved in conflicts:

- **Socioeconomic factors:** Poverty, lack of education, and limited economic opportunities can lead some young people to see conflict as a means to gain power, resources, or a sense of purpose.
- **Ideological beliefs:** Some young individuals may be drawn to extremist ideologies that promote violence as a means to achieve their goals.
- **Peer pressure and social dynamics:** Young people may be influenced by their peers, seeking acceptance or belonging in groups that engage in conflict.

- **Lack of trust in authorities:** A history of distrust or disillusionment with government institutions and authorities may push young people towards seeking alternative ways to address grievances.
- **Trauma and personal experiences:** Exposure to violence or traumatic events can desensitise young individuals to conflict and make them more likely to engage in violent behaviour.
- **Recruitment tactics:** Extremist groups often use sophisticated recruitment strategies, including online platforms, to attract vulnerable young individuals into their ranks.
- **Nationalism and identity:** Some conflicts are fueled by nationalist sentiments, and young people may become involved due to a strong attachment to their ethnic, religious, or cultural identity. Addressing these underlying factors requires a multi-faceted approach involving education, economic opportunities, community engagement, and efforts to build trust in institutions, ultimately working towards a more inclusive and peaceful society.

Preventing young people from getting involved in conflicts requires a combination of proactive measures and supportive initiatives. Here are some strategies:

- **Education and awareness:** Providing quality education that promotes critical thinking, tolerance, and conflict resolution skills can empower young people to make informed choices and resist extremist ideologies.
- **Economic opportunities:** Creating job prospects, vocational training, and entrepreneurship programs can give young individuals a sense of purpose and hope for a better future, reducing the appeal of engaging in conflicts for economic gains.
- **Youth engagement and empowerment:** Involving young people in decision-making processes and community activities helps them feel valued and connected, reducing feelings of marginalisation and the desire to seek conflict as a means of making a difference.
- **Mental health support:** Addressing trauma and providing mental health resources can help young individuals cope with difficult experiences and reduce the likelihood of resorting to violence.
- **Strengthening institutions:** Working to build trust in government and community institutions can discourage young people from seeking alternative ways to address grievances.
- **Addressing root causes:** Identifying and addressing the root causes of conflicts, such as political exclusion, discrimination, or resource scarcity, can help prevent their escalation and draw young people away from violent paths. By implementing these strategies in a coordinated manner, societies can create an environment that supports young people's well-being and encourages them to pursue peaceful and constructive avenues for personal growth and societal change. **The Aim is to find the best way to prevent the youth from committing violence.**

OBJECTIVE:

- To analyse the best way to prevent the youth from committing violence.
- To find out some risk factors that affect youth .
- To discuss whether the government is taking steps to prevent the issues among youth.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

In this paper, a distinctive data-set is utilised to examine the housing attitudes and expectations of young people in Hong Kong ([Iwamoto et al. 2023](#)). Elevating the housing issue to a political priority is widely recognized as crucial for preserving social cohesion. Nonetheless, conflicting political imperatives and economic interests are causing divergent approaches to the matter ([Babbott and Serlachius 2023](#)). This paper highlights the authors' encounters with informal and formal policing, community and State control, emphasising the necessity of comprehending the enduring effects of the Conflict while formulating policies and practices that influence their lives ([Daiute 2006](#)). Over the past decade, there has been significant growth in the utilisation of mediation and conflict resolution skills for youth in diverse settings, as highlighted in this paper ([Westerveld et al. 2023](#)). Instead of taking a predominantly passive stance, youth actively engage in problem-solving as adults attempt to address their issues ([Devlin et al. 2023](#)). Youth mediation programs have the potential to empower young individuals, encouraging their active participation in resolving the conflicts they encounter ([Davis 1990](#)). This paper explores mediation's fundamental definition, strengths, and limitations. It identifies key features of youth mediation programs in various states and discusses critical issues concerning youth development and mediation ([Prata 2006](#)). The paper discusses the application of mediation techniques in different systems, such as family, school, neighbourhood, and the juvenile justice system ([Reilly and McKean 2023](#)). Despite the progress claimed since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, this article highlights the actual experiences of children and young people as they navigate the aftermath of the Conflict in Northern Ireland ([Nilsson 2013](#)). This article examines a pivotal period in the devolution of justice and policing. Drawing on primary research by the authors, it establishes essential rights-compliant principles crucial to youth justice reform ([Bähr and Taylor 2023](#)). The intricate connections between Angola's war dynamics, structure, and its political, economic, and social frameworks make them inseparable. ([Puckett et al. 2023](#)). In this paper, the focus is on investigating the significance of occult beliefs in the efforts of youth militias from the Ijaw ethnic group in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta

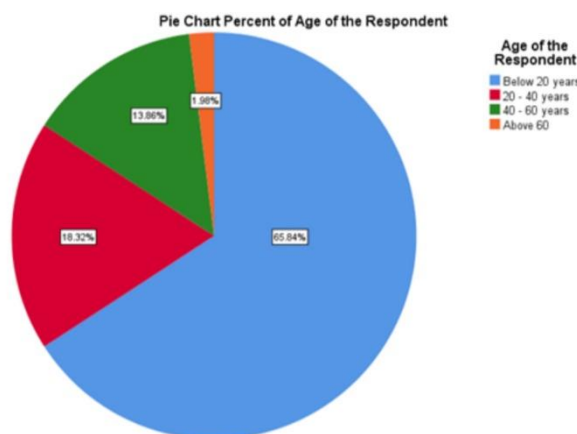
region as they resist perceived socio-economic marginalisation (Liu et al. 2023). In the region, the conflict reflects a cultural transformation driven by the uncertain oil environment and prevailing narratives of social injustice. Consequently, the youth militias have reimagined the Egbesu deity, traditionally associated with justice, endowing it with invincibility and a role in their struggle against the government and oil companies. (Grych et al. 2001). The relationship between development and conflict tends to be seen as teleological. One perspective advocates strongly for development as a prerequisite for peace and security (Andresen et al. 2010). Looking at it from a different perspective, peace is often viewed as a precursor to development. However, studies on African conflicts indicate that a significant proportion of those involved in such conflicts are unemployed or underprivileged youth with limited income opportunities (Davis 1990). The United Nations report highlighted the devastating impact of armed conflicts on children, revealing a disturbing disregard for taboos and a concerning disregard for the precious lives of over two million children lost in conflicts over the past two decades (Majumdar 2019). Following the Second World War, international law recognized the necessity of safeguarding children, prompted by the wartime experiences that underscored the importance of creating a legal framework to protect civilian populations, including children. (Oppenheim and Goldsmith 2011). Children are afforded the same protection as individuals who are not involved in hostilities under Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Convention (Nilsson 2013). This study aimed to investigate how youth perceptions of interparental conflict (IPC) spill over into ineffective parenting and problem behaviours among 542 European-American (EA) and 150 African-American (AA) youth (Eisenberg et al. 2009). The study's results showed a positive association between IPC and youth problem behaviours in both European-American and African-American samples (Mao, Ren, and Yang 2023). Among European-American families, lower levels of parental monitoring were found to link IPC with youth externalising problem behaviours. (Asmussen et al. 2023). In this paper, the author noted that maternal acceptance, higher levels of parent-youth conflict, and internalising problem behaviours were associated with increased levels of maternal psychological control and parent-youth relationship (Freeman 2006) conflict.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

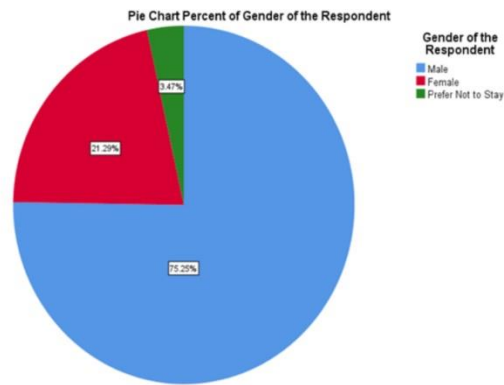
The research method I have followed is empirical research. Data from a questionnaire has been gathered with a sample size of 200. Convenience sampling methods are adopted in this study to collect the data. The sample was collected from the public of Poonamallee Bus Stand. The data was sourced from various public outlets, soulful books, articles, and research papers. The independent variables used here are age, gender, and the dependent variables. What do you think are the major reasons that cause youth to become involved in conflict? The study uses graphs, tables, and chi-Square for meaningful analysis.

ANALYSIS :

AGE



GENDER



OCCUPATION

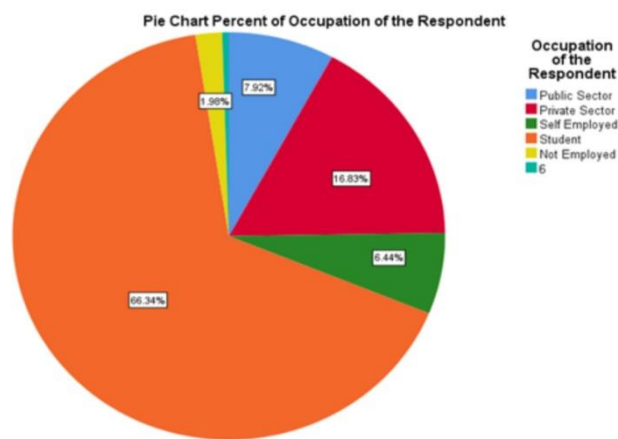
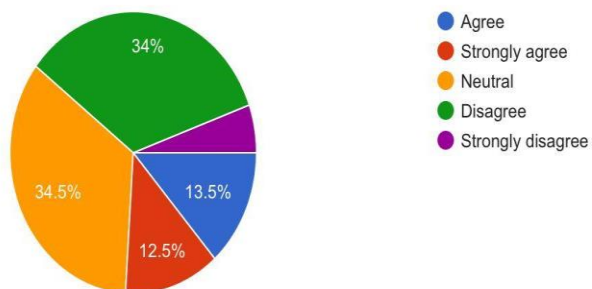


FIG:1

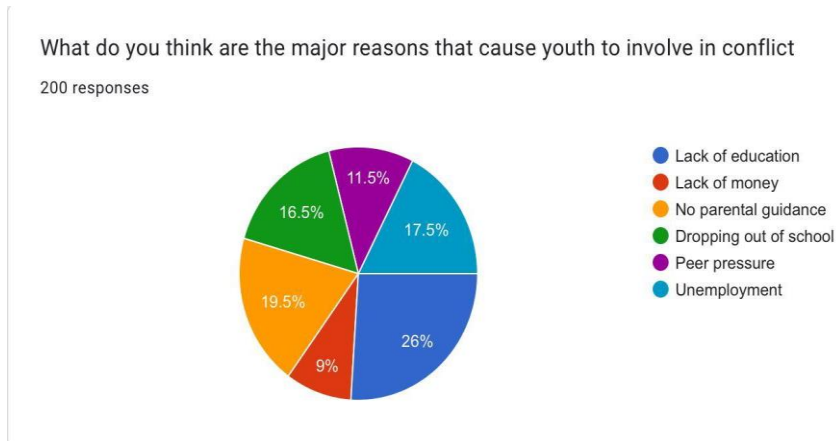
Do you agree that young people are responsible for most, or all the disturbances and the conflict committed in your society ?

200 responses



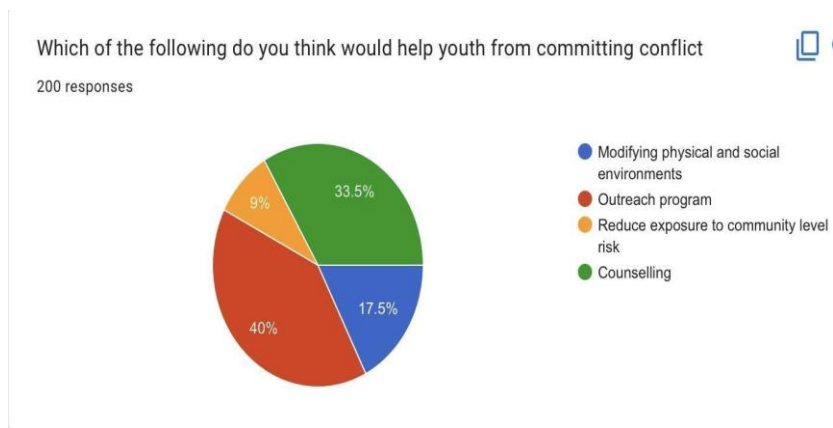
LEGEND: From the graph, it is observed that you agree that young people are responsible for most , or all the distribution and the conflict committed in your society.

FIG:2



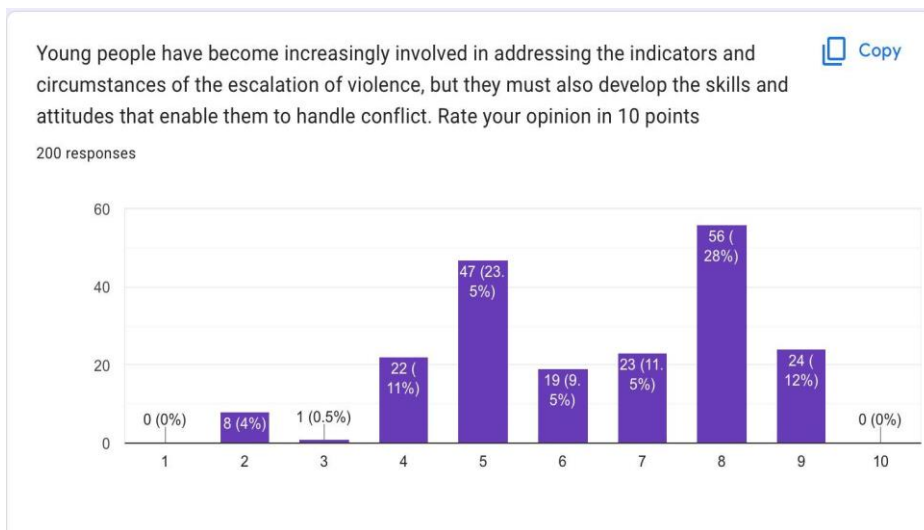
LEGEND: From the graph, it is observed that what do you think are the major reasons that cause youth to become involved in conflict.

FIG:3



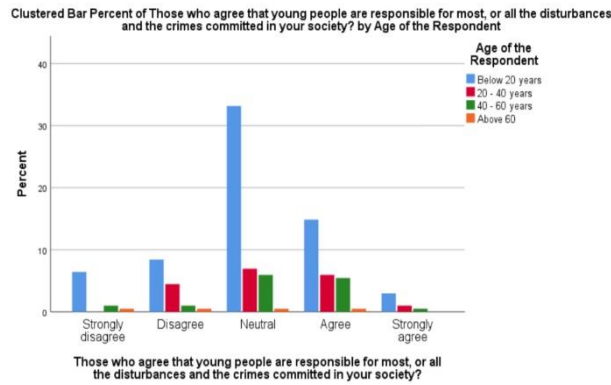
LEGEND: From the graph, it is observed that which of the following do you think would help youth from committed conflict.

FIG:4



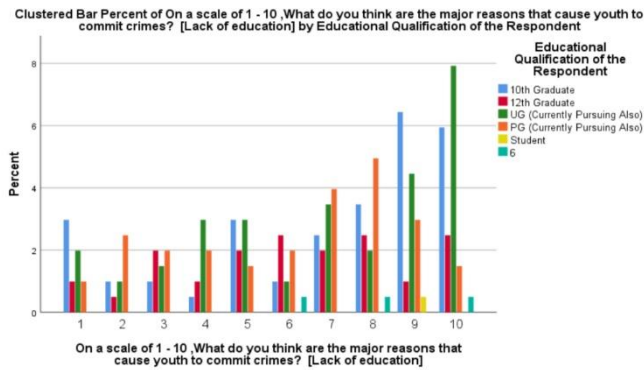
LEGEND: From the graph, it is observed that young people have become increasingly involved in addressing the indicators and circumstances of the escalation of violence, but they must also develop the skill and attitude that enables them to handle conflict . Rate your opinion in 10 points .

FIG:5



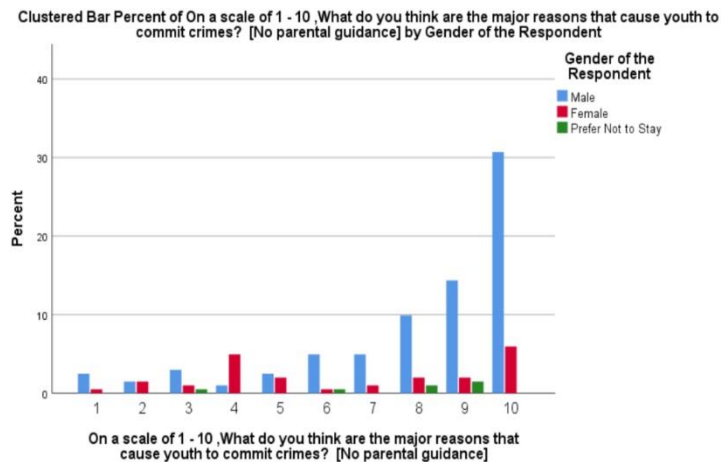
LEGEND: Figure 5 shows the number of people who agree that young people are responsible for most, or all the disturbances and the crimes committed in your society according to the age of the respondents.

FIG:6



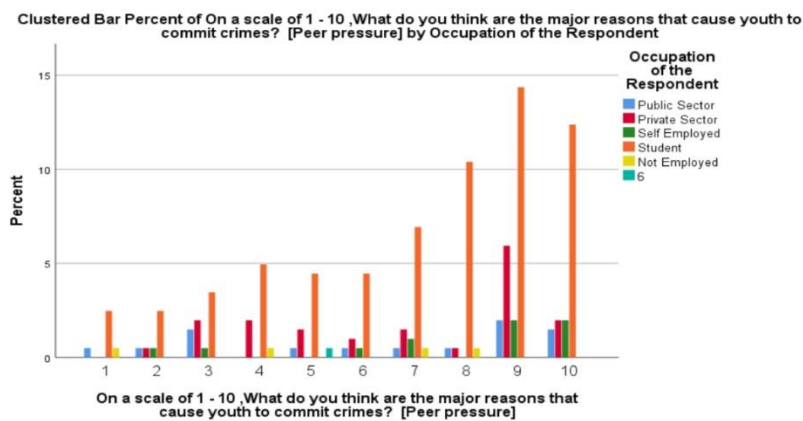
LEGEND: Figure 6 shows the number of people who think that, On a scale of 1 - 10 that Lack of Education is one of the major reasons that youth commit crime according to the Educational Qualification of Respondents.

FIG:7



LEGEND: This fig shows the number of people who think that, On a scale of 1 - 10 that No Parental Guidance is one of the major reasons that youth commit crime according to the Gender of Respondents.

FIG:8



LEGEND: Figure 8 shows the number of people who think that, On a scale of 1 - 10, that Peer Pressure is one of the major reasons that youth commit crime according to the Occupation of Respondents.

RESULT:

FIG:1, it is observed that 34% of the people disagree with young people responsible for the most, or the disturbance and the conflict committed in your society, 34.5% of the people answered neutral and 13.5% of the respondents agreed with the question. **FIG:2**, it is observed that 26% of the people think that the major reason that cause youth to involve in conflict due to lack of education, 17.5% of the people think the major reason that cause youth to involve in conflict due to unemployment, 19.6% of the people think the major reason that cause youth to involve in conflict are No parental guidance, 16.5% of the people think the major reason that cause youth to involve in conflict due to dropping out of school, 11.5% of the people think it is due to peer pressure. **FIG:3**, it is observed that 40% of the people think outreach program would help youth from committing conflict, 33.5% of the people think that counselling would help youth from committing conflict, 17.5% of the people think modifying physical and social environments would help youth from committing conflict, 9% of the people think that reduce exposure to community level risk would help youth from committing conflict. **FIG:4**, It is observed that 28% of the people rated 8 points for 10 points, 19% of the people rated 6 points for 10 points, 19.5% of the people. **FIG 5** Figure 4 shows the number of people who agree that young people are responsible for most, or all the disturbances and the crimes committed in your society according to the age of the respondents and almost everyone has a neutral opinion. **FIG 6** Figure 11 shows the number of people who think that, On a scale of 1 - 10 that Other reasons are one of the major reasons that youth commit crime according to the Educational Qualification of Respondents and not everyone accepts that there are other factors that have an impact on youth committing crime. **FIG 7** Figure 7 shows the number of people who think that, On a scale of 1 - 10, that No Parental Guidance is one of the major reasons that youth commit crime according to the Gender of Respondents and everyone irrespective of their gender accept that fact. **FIG 8** shows the number of people who think that, On a scale of 1 - 10 that Peer Pressure is one of the major reasons that youth commit crime according to the Occupation of Respondents and everyone irrespective of their occupation accepts the fact.

DISCUSSION:

FIG1 it is understood that the maximum number of respondents disagree with the question whereas the minimum number of respondents strongly agree with the question. **FIG 2** shows the number of people who agree that young people are responsible for most, or all the disturbances and the crimes committed in your society and all people have a neutral opinion that young people are responsible as not everybody who are criminals are young people but rather veteran criminals. **FIG 3** shows the number of ways people think would help youth from committing crimes according to the age of respondents and almost all respondents agree that counselling is the best way to stop young people from committing crimes as young people listen to their elders and will understand their consequences if spoken to in a calm and composed manner. **FIG 4**, shows the number of people who think that, On a scale of 1 - 10 that Lack of Education is one of the major reasons that youth commit crime according to the Educational Qualification of Respondents and almost everyone agrees that lack of education is a major reason for these crimes as Education teaches a person what is wrong and what is right and makes them respectable in the eyes of society. **FIG 5** shows the number of people who agree that young people are responsible for most, or all the disturbances and the crimes committed in your society according to the age of the respondents and almost everyone has a neutral opinion as young people know that most people of their age aren't criminals and are people who work hard and strive for a better future. **FIG 6** shows the number of people who think that, On a scale of 1 - 10 that Other reasons are one of the major reasons that youth commit crime according to the Educational Qualification of Respondents and not everyone accepts that there are other factors that have an impact on youth committing crime as children have no other reasons to commit crimes rather

than to earn money. **FIG 7** shows the number of people who think that, On a scale of 1 - 10 that No Parental Guidance is one of the major reasons that youth commit crime according to the Gender of Respondents and everyone irrespective of their gender accept the fact and the Males accept it more as it is the duty of the Father to teach the son what is wrong and what is right in a moral way. **FIG 8** shows the number of people who think that, On a scale of 1 - 10 that Peer Pressure is one of the major reasons that youth commit crime according to the Occupation of Respondents and everyone irrespective of their occupation accepts the fact as those who work know that to be known among a group they must do something that the group wants and hence they tend to do something legally wrong most of the time to earn their trust

LIMITATIONS:

The limitation of my research is the sample frame. The major drawback is lack of education. Their restrictive area of sample size was also a major drawback and most of the people are unaware of the impacts.

SUGGESTION:

Conflict has been a major hindrance in society . It began with stealing, then murdering, then it became a serious crime . In my research most of the people feel that Lack of Education and lack of Money, No Parental Guidance and Dropping out of School are the major reasons for youth committing conflict and they feel Counselling and outreach programs are the best way to stop the youth from committing conflict. And parents, family members, and others who care for children can help them control emotions without using violence.

CONCLUSION:

It has found that the people have a neutral opinion that young people are responsible for most of the crimes that happened. To prevent the involvement of young people in conflicts, it is essential to address various contributing factors such as socioeconomic challenges, political marginalisation, extremist ideologies, peer influences, distrust in authorities, traumatic experiences, recruitment tactics, and the impact of nationalism and identity. This requires a comprehensive approach encompassing education, economic empowerment, community engagement, and building trust in institutions, all aimed at fostering a more inclusive and peaceful society. The majority of people perceive that the main reasons for youth committing crimes are Lack of Education and Money, No Parental Guidance, and Dropping out of School. They also believe that Counselling is the most effective approach to prevent youth crime. As for the impacts of conflict, both groups of respondents agree that depression/stress, frustrations, crime, and financial instability are the most significant effects, while social disintegration, attitudinal changes, and destruction of infrastructure were not considered as relatively significant. Additionally, there was minimal variation between the responses of policy makers and youth.

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