

A Study on the White - Collar Crimes: Methods of Detection, Prevention and Prosecution with Reference to Chennai

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Abstract: *White-collar crimes, such as corporate fraud, cybercrime, and money laundering, have become increasingly sophisticated and challenging to address in urban environments. These non-violent crimes, often perpetrated within corporate and professional settings, inflict significant economic and social harm. The **aim** of this research is to identify the current gaps and challenges in addressing white-collar crimes, particularly focusing on inefficiencies in detection methods, limitations in prevention strategies, and difficulties encountered during prosecution. To achieve this, the basic **objective** of the study seeks to examine the prevalent types of white-collar crimes to understand their frequency and impact; assess the role of technological tools such as data analytics, artificial intelligence, and blockchain in detecting and preventing these crimes; and investigate the challenges faced by enforcement agencies, including resource constraints. An **empirical study** was conducted using **convenience sampling**, involving **210 respondents in and around Chennai**. The **findings** reveal that while awareness of white-collar crime is rising, there is a significant lack of specialized training and resources dedicated to investigation and prosecution. Detection methods are often reactive rather than proactive, relying heavily on whistleblowers or external complaints. Prevention strategies are inadequate due to weak internal controls and limited organizational emphasis on ethical compliance. Moreover, the legal framework and judicial processes are perceived as slow and less stringent, which diminishes deterrence. The **conclusion** emphasizes the need for integrated approaches combining stronger regulatory oversight, improved investigative expertise, and more rigorous prosecution standards. Addressing white-collar crime effectively necessitates not only legislative and procedural reforms but also a fundamental shift in organizational and societal attitude toward fraud.*

Keywords: Corporate fraud, Economic offenses, Crime detection, Embezzlement

