

A Study on the Impact of Capital Punishment on Violent Crime Rates and its Public Perception in India

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Abstract: *This empirical study explores the impact of capital punishment on violent crime rates and public perception in India, where the debate surrounding its deterrent effect remains contentious. The **aim** of the research is to assess whether expanded implementation of capital punishment could contribute to a reduction in violent crimes such as murder, rape, and terrorism, **objective** is to evaluate societal attitudes towards this ultimate form of punishment. **The methodology** used is a mixed-methods approach, including a sample size of 206. The study incorporates quantitative analysis of national crime statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) over the past two decades, alongside qualitative data collected through structured surveys and interviews with law enforcement officials, legal experts, and a representative sample of the general public. The **findings** suggest that there is no consistent empirical evidence to support the claim that capital punishment significantly deters violent crime when compared to life imprisonment; however, public sentiment heavily favors harsher penalties for heinous crimes, indicating a strong emotional and moral endorsement of the death penalty. Moreover, regional variations in both crime trends and perceptions highlight the complex interplay between socio-political factors and legal outcomes. The study **concludes** that while capital punishment remains symbolically potent and publicly supported, its practical efficacy as a crime deterrent is limited. Therefore, policy reforms should focus on improving the speed and certainty of justice delivery rather than expanding the scope of the death penalty, emphasizing a more holistic approach to criminal justice and public safety in India.*

Keywords: Capital punishment, policy reforms, death penalty, life imprisonment, regional variations

