

## Crime by Youth: Easy Money Spurs to Chain Snatchers

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### Abstract

Youth offenders are finding chain snatching lucrative than ever before because of quick returns. Now even the time of the day does not matter to offenders, when it comes to chain snatching. A single stolen gold chain could fetch anywhere between Rs. 5,000 to 50,000. Chain snatchers have fixed 'agents' in the market who buy the stolen gold from them for a good sum. This paper addresses the different techniques and reasons for chain snatching. The study involved 325 cases of chain snatching which were reported in print media in five years. The data was analysed by using content analysis method. The result shows that the mainly motorbike riders youth were the offenders of chain snatching. Preventive measures and effective solutions to social problems are easy to find where the root causes of such problems are established.

### Introduction

Nostalgia is a powerful cultural and nowhere is it more on display than in the public (adult) condemnation of the behaviour of young people. Whether it be the consequences of 'persistence', the influence of celebrity culture, an insolent attitude towards authority, the 'decline' in parental discipline, too much pocket money, or the so-called 'crisis' of childhood, children and adolescents today are said to pose more of a threat to the social order than at any time in the past (Goldson & Muncie: 2006). Youth involvement in crime is a perennial issue of interest for the media, government and researchers. Youth make up nearly a third of India. The much anticipated advantage of having an enormous population of youths seems within India's grasp. And yet the system is pressing them down. An unconscionable number of adolescents are working when they should be studying. In rural areas, a staggeringly high number of youths are working as agricultural labourers. The number of adolescents (10 to 19 years old) in India is over 25 crore while youth, defined by the census as people between 15 and 24 number 23 crore. The total young population between 10 and 24 years is nearly 36.5 crore – more than 30% of population (The Times of India: 3 November, 2014).

The youth, in a rising nation like ours, plays a strong role in bringing reforms to restructure the nation. They protest and demand what is best for the nation. However, lately, in order to earn quick bucks and the need to fulfil their dreams and desires at the earliest, young people have resorted to unlawful means to achieve them. It is important to know that over the last five years heinous crimes like sexual offence and murder are committed by the youth are increased in our country. But do rising crimes figures give the entire picture? Many points out the official data is not nuanced, so often cases reported as sexual offence by minors are consensual love affairs or even instances of exploring sex ([www.youthkiawazz.com](http://www.youthkiawazz.com)).

The behaviour of the youth today has been affected by a number of factors. Some of these are : expansion of education, increasing unemployment, reservation policy of the government ignoring

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merit of the section of the youth, lack of adequate attention and guidance of the parents, tremendous and not very wholesome influence of the mass media, the newly acquired affluence of some young people, failure of educational institutions imparting value oriented education, questionable influence of the peer group at an immediate stage between leaving the protection of the family with its distinctive patterns of behaviour, and entering the increasingly impersonal and competitive wider society (Ahuja 1996).

There are various approaches to understanding youthful offending. In the first place, one can look at offending as a symptom of some kind of underlying problem. This problem could be biological or psychological, or it could be social (e.g., a symptom of inadequacy in child rearing or impact of poverty). Second, one can see youthful offending as a symptom of an inadequate crime control system (e.g., inadequate number of police, inadequate severity of punishment or inadequate forms of social control in the community). Third, one could look at youthful offending as being a natural consequence of growing up (Anthony D., Carla, C., 2004).

### **Involvement of Youth in Crime**

The most common crime committed by youths is shop theft. Youths are also involved in violent crimes such as murder, rioting, extortion unlawful assembly and others are robbery, kidnapping, abduction and rape. Besides committing offences like shoplifting, extortion, etc, youths can also become involved in gangs. This can lead to serious and tragic consequences, such as becoming victims of rival gang clashes. Most problem youths come from homes lacking in parental guidance and are usually under-achievers in schools and with low self-esteem. ([www.ncpc.gov.sg](http://www.ncpc.gov.sg)).

### **Tools and Techniques for Snatching**

Police is perturbed with the increasing number of chain snatching incidents. The snatchers are in a habit of using speedy bikes, so chasing them on ordinary bike is not helping the cops particularly in the narrow lanes and by-lanes- the escape routes mostly preferred by the criminals. These bikes fitted with latest gizmos and gadgets have better speed and fuel efficiency. Police teams riding old bikes cannot compete with the new age bikes and thus the snatchers banking on the 150-175cc high speed bikes vanish within seconds. Snatchers are targeting morning walkers and women. Mainly they are striking between 7.30pm and 4.30pm using fake number plates on their bikes to avoid being tracked (The Times of India: 8 June, 2010).

### **Chain Snatchers Ready to Hit Hard, If Resisted**

Chain snatchers are increasingly resorting to violence while committing a crime. Earlier, the chain snatchers, used to shy away from attacking the victims, rather taking them by surprise and fleeing from the spot in a jiffy. Now, if the victim raises alarm or resists the chain snatchers, they don't think twice before assaulting the chain owner (The Times of India: 11 August, 2010). Chain snatchers are not only adopting modern ways to commit a crime, but they are also roping in amateurs into the big bad world of crime (The Times of India: 22 May, 2009).

### **Non-Government-Organization**

Stree Shakti Groups launch awareness campaign against chain snatching incidents. The campaign aims at creating awareness among women on preventive measures and sensitising the police on the need to show some pro-activeness in not only arresting the culprits but taking necessary preventive measures to prevent such crimes. Meanwhile, the city police also decided to take up massive awareness drive, install more CCTV cameras in different part of the city and ready striking parties at shortest notice of the chain snatching incident or other crime ([www.in.newshub.org](http://www.in.newshub.org)).

### **Definition of 'Youth'**

The UN, for statistical consistency across regions, defines 'youth', as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to other definitions by Member States. All UN statistics on youth are based on this definition, as illustrated by the annual yearbooks of statistics published by the United Nations system on demography, education, employment and health. For activities at the national level, for example when implementing a local community youth programme, "youth" may be understood in a more flexible manner. UNESCO will then adopt the definition of "youth" as used by a particular Member State. It can be based for instance on the definition given in the African Youth Charter where "youth" means "every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years" ([www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)).

### **Snatch Theft**

Snatch theft is a criminal act, common in Southeast Asia and South America, of forcefully stealing from a pedestrian's person while employing rob-and-run tactics. It is typical for two thieves to work together and ride a moped to make theft and escape easier. A person steers the vehicle while another does the act of theft itself. However, some snatch thieves work alone or do not use a motorcycle to rob. A growing problem in Malaysia, some instances of snatch theft have caused fatalities, when the person holding onto the handbag has been dragged by the motorbike or through subsequent acts of violence. This, combined with the apparent lack of police control over crime, has prompted outrage among its citizens enough to take justice into their own hands in apprehending thieves. In Argentina this form of robbery increased by 118% between the years 2008 and 2009,<sup>1</sup> possibly because motorbikes have become a lot cheaper and more accessible to the public. In this country the perpetrators are called "motochorros", which is a neologism originated from the words "moto" (motorcycle) and "chorro" (vulgar term for thief [www.en: Wikipedia/wiki/snatch\\_theft](http://www.en:Wikipedia/wiki/snatch_theft)).

### **Chain Snatching**

Crime against women, including rape, molestation and chain snatching, have risen sharply in the metropolis in 2013-14, while conviction rate of serious offences fell to an abysmal low of eight percent slowed a report compiled by an NGO ([www. mid-day.com/snatch/chain-snatching](http://www.mid-day.com/snatch/chain-snatching)). Increase in the number of crime of chain snatching has become a problem, especially for the women across the country. The skyrocketing gold prices, is one of the reasons for the spurt in crime. The price of gold has shot up tremendously in the past couple years therefore, it has become more lucrative. Easy modus operandi makes it a simple crime to commit. Chain snatching doesn't require skills. All it requires is a bike and two able hands. Also the criminals wear helmets which make it difficult to identify them. A majority of them use stolen bikes, so even the bike number is not useful in most cases ([www.dnaindia.com](http://www.dnaindia.com)).

### **Chain Snatching Rate in Big Cities**

In Delhi, one can call it the inefficiency of the Delhi police or the impact of "liberal registration" of cases, but the capital recorded more as compared to the last year in snatching 1,901 (2014), 1,476 (2013) ([www.indiatoday.com](http://www.indiatoday.com)). Mumbai police statics show that chain snatching cases jump from 800 in 2012 to 1,891 in 2013 ([www.dnaindia.com](http://www.dnaindia.com)). In Kolkata, cases of snatching have gone up, currently on an average two three snatching are reported across the city every week. It is also, dip in number of vehicle theft and murder cases even petty crimes like pick-pocketing and chain snatching increased in 2013([www.thehindu.com](http://www.thehindu.com)). Dip in crime rate in Chennai, claims cop, chain snatching incidents had come down with 295 incidents reported so far while the Chennai city recorded 381 and 429 incidents in 2013 and 2012, respectively. The crime rate was being brought down with the help of beat policing and sector policing. Number of beat patrols was being increased to deter criminals. ([www.newindiaexpress.com](http://www.newindiaexpress.com)).In Ahmadabad, between Jan. And Nov. 2013, the number of chain

snatching crimes was 320. However in 2014 period it got reduced to 135 among which 70% crimes were solved by Ahmadabad police ([www.vishwagujrat.com](http://www.vishwagujrat.com)). The Hyderabad commissionerate areas recorded 578 cases in 2009 and property worth over Rs. 42 lakh was lost. In 2010, the cases increased to 714 and 826 cases were reported last year. In 2012, already 89 cases have been reported ([www.thehindu.com/news/Hyderabad](http://www.thehindu.com/news/Hyderabad)).

## **Literature Review**

Youth criminal, a person who is between 16 -25 years, i.e., one who is in his late adolescence and early adulthood, and one who has still a dependency status, has been regarded as youth. Various observations indicate that most of them are in crime because of poverty, which drove them into criminal acts for survival (Prior & Paris; 2005). Some boys indicate that they had run from home to beg for survival in the streets because they lacked basic needs. In those streets they latter committed crimes to survive, they were involved in petty offences. The opinion of Write and Younts (2009) that the delinquency rates increases with a decrease in social class. Some youth get into crime due to peer pressure and rebellion against parental authority (Maseko; 2009). Erickson (2001), observed that drugs also leads the crime. Ojo (2012) lists broken and low educate attainment as some of the causes of delinquency. West and Farmington (1973) propose that like low family income, large family size is a characteristic feature of offenders first convicted at as an early age. Eckersley and Dear (2002) conclude that other than break up of families, individualism and rapid technological development are factors that cause crime among the youth. Goldson, B. & Muncie, J. (2006), the decline in parental discipline, too much pocket money, or the so called crisis of childhood, adolescents today are said to pose more of a threat to the social order than at any time in the past.

## **Theoretical Explanation of Crime Commission**

### *Beccaria's Classical theory*

The classical school postulated that people could choose between good and evil alternatives. The explanation of crime included the notion that that human being was essentially hedonistic, desiring a maximum of pleasure and avoidance of pain. A person committed crime because pleasure anticipated from the criminal act was greater than the subsequent pain that might be expected (Yablonsky, L.: 1990).

### *Taylor's Radical Criminology*

No act is naturally immoral or criminal; definitions of crime are socially determined, reflecting current social values. Crime is therefore seen as socially determined. Criminal law is designed to suit the purposes of the wealthy and powerful. Those without money result to crime in order to enjoy the luxuries of the wealthy. The wealthy also commit crime in order to gain further wealth. However because the legal system favours the wealthy they are less likely to be arrested and punished ([www.homepage.ntlworld.com](http://www.homepage.ntlworld.com)).

### *Felson's Rational choice Theory*

Felson pointed out that individuals vary greatly in their behaviour from one situation to another and that criminality might flow from temptation, bad company, idleness, or provocation (Marcus, F: 1994).

### *Hirschi's control theory*

Hirschi assumes that everyone finds at least some deviance tempting. Imagining condemnation from family or friends is sufficient to deter most people from temptation; concerns about how transgressions will affect their careers will give others pause. By contrast, individuals who have little to lose from deviance are most likely to become rule-breakers. Hirsch argued that through successful socialization, a bond forms between individuals and the social groups, but when that bond is weakened or broken, deviance and crime may result (Hirsch, T.: 1969).

### *Sutherland's Differential Association Theory*

Sutherland stated that criminality is learned through a process of differential association with others who communicate criminal values and who advocate the communication of crimes (Sutherland, E.: 1939).

### *Cohen Subcultural Theory*

Subcultural explanation of crime posits the existence of group values supportive of criminal behaviour. Albert Cohen 1918, coined the term reaction formation to encompass the rejection of middle class values by status seeking lower class youths who find they are not permitted access approved opportunities for success. Walter Miller described the focal concerns of subcultural participants in terms of trouble, toughness, excitement, smartness, and fate. Richard Cloward and Lloyd Ohlin proposed the existence of an illegitimate opportunity structure that permitted delinquent youths to achieve in ways which were outside of legitimate avenues to success (Schmaller, F.:1993).

## **Objectives**

Crimes by the youth, especially chain snatching, have been perceived as a burning problem. This problem is not only affecting the women but also the whole society. Keeping this point in view, the present study was undertaken with the following objectives:

- 1 To identify the different reasons for the chain snatching by the youth.
- 2 To explore the different techniques used by the youth for committing crime.
- 3 To know that what type of punishment was awarded to the offenders.

## **Research Methodology**

The present study was carried out on 325 victims of chain snatching both male and female. Victims age ranging from 18 to above 80 years and have been residing in Kanpur, Bhopal, and Sagar city. In this research work the newspaper reports (Hindustan Times M.P. Edition, Bhopal, 2010-2014, The Times of India, U.P. Edition, Kanpur, 2010-2014, and Dainik- Bhasker M.P. Edition, Sagar, 2010-2014) have been the source of data. The news items relating to the crime of chain snatching have been collected systematically and their content were analyzed and presented. Total 325 cases were found reported in print media, in the period of five years. The secondary data were taken in this study and presented in a tabular form. Thus the method of content analyses has been used to know the facts of the cases. In the print media report, researcher found information on victim's gender, victim's age, scene of crime, crime commission time, number of victims, number of offenders, reasons of crime, and way of chain snatching, punishment for crime.

### Finding of the Study

TABLE 1: VICTIM'S GENDER

VICTIM'S GENDER	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
MALE	8	2.46
FEMALE	317	97.53
TOTAL	325	100.00

Table 1, shows that 97.53% of victims were female and only 2.46% male were found victims of chain snatchers. In India, mostly females are use ornaments especially, gold chain. It is custom and tradition that married ladies wear MANGAL-SUTRA or gold chain, even unmarried girls also use chain as a tradition or fashion. Male also wear gold chain but when we compare the number is very less than female.

TABLE 2: VICTIM'S AGE

VICTIM'S AGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
18-29	26	08.00
30-39	43	13.23
40-49	36	11.07
50-59	40	12.30
60-69	35	10.76
70-79	10	03.07
80 and above	04	01.23
N.M.	131	40.30
TOTAL	325	100.00

In Table 2, Victim's age shows that from 18 to more than 80 years aged victims were targeted by the chain snatchers. Highest number of victims belongs to age group between 30-39 years. 3.07% cases belong to 70 - 79 years of victims. Only 1.23% cases were pertaining the age 80 and above years. The Age group shows that from 18 years to all age group were the victims of chain snatching.

TABLE 3: ACCOMPANIED PERSONS WITH VICTIMS

ACCOMPANIED	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
ALONE	289	88.92
ACCOMPANIED	36	11.07
TOTAL	325	100.00

During the chain snatching (Table 3) 88.92% victims were alone at the crime scene. Only 11.07% were accompanied with their family members like husband, daughter, son, and daughter-in-law. Some were accompanied with their friends, relatives etc. Result shows that most of the victims were alone during the crime commission.

TABLE 4: SCENE OF CRIME

SCENE OF CRIME	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
INDOOR	07	2.15
OUTDOOR	318	97.84
TOTAL	325	100.00

Table 4 indicates that 97.84% snatching was committed at out of the door whereas only 2.15% were committed inside the door. In outdoor crime, 5 cases were found of where victims were sitting inside the train and in 1 case victim was in the bus when the chain snatching was occurred.

TABLE 5: VEHICLE USED BY OFFENDERS

VEHICLE USED BY OFFENDERS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
WITHOUT BIKE	43	13.23
MOTORBIKE	282	86.76
TOTAL	325	100.00

In Table 5, 86.76% offenders were found committed crime with the help of motorcycle and some motorbikes were found without number or fake number. Only 13.23% offenders were without vehicle. Pillion riders had played an important role for snatching the victim's chain.

TABLE 6: VEHICLE USED BY VICTIMS

VEHICLE USED BY VICTIMS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
WITHOUT VEHICLE	291	89.53
VEHICLE	34	10.46
TOTAL	325	100.00

Table 6 shows that 89.53% victims were without vehicle during the chain snatching and were going temple or going to market or were strolling outside the home at evening time or gone for the morning walk. Only 10.46% victims were either driving the vehicle or pillion riders of scooty or motorbike.

TABLE 7: NUMBER OF OFFENDERS IN EACH CASE

NUMBER OF OFFENDERS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
ONE	33	10.15
TWO	282	86.76
THREE	10	3.07
TOTAL	325	100.00

Table 7 indicates that, in most of the (86.76%) cases, two offenders were involved in chain snatching. In 10.15% cases, there was one offender involved for the crime. Only 3.07% cases, where three offenders were involved in each case. None of the case was found where more than three offenders were involved for the chain snatching.

TABLE 8: RESISTING CRIME

RESISTING CRIME	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
YES	225	69.23
N.M.	100	30.76
TOTAL	325	100.00

Table 8 reveals that 69.23% victim were resisted the crime of chain snatching. In 30.76% cases were not mentioned about the crime resisting.

#### *RESISTING CRIME*

1. Woman tried and even managed to get hold of the looter but succeeding in fleeing.
2. Making her fall down, causing injuries they forcibly snatched chain.
3. Woman was attacked with the butt of country made pistol and critically injured.
4. Old lady raised the alarm, motorcycle slipped, both miscreants fell down and caught by people.
5. When victim tried to resist, she lost control and fell off the motorcycle. She suffered injuries on head.
6. Passerby chased the offender and he was caught.
7. Youths snatched the chain; victim chased the accused that left the pistol. Victim caught hold snatcher. Victim sustained injuries and bruised, accused flee away.
8. Woman raises alarm, chain-snatcher held.

#### *TECHNIQUES USED FOR CHAIN SNATCHING*

1. Simply snatched the chain.
2. Offender entered into house, snatched chain and mobile with the help of knife.
3. Miscreants drugged and take off gold chain.
4. Woman was taking stroll, was accosted by youth, and suddenly snatched her chain.
5. An unidentified person, who claims to clean her water tank, snatched her chain.
6. Making her fall down, causing injuries they forcibly snatched chain.
7. Woman was attacked with the butt of country made pistol and snatched the chain.



8. Two youth come and stopped motorcycle and ask for address meanwhile one snatched the chain.
9. Youths had thrown chilli powder in victim's eyes and escaped with chain.
10. Bike-borne robbers waylaid him. One of them put a knife on neck and snatched his bag and gold chain.
11. An ordinary shaving blade sharpened so fine it could cut through a gold chain in a single, sharp nick.

TABLE 9: INJURED DURING SNATCHING

INJURED	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Yes	42	12.92
No/N.M.	283	87.07
Total	325	100.00

Table 9 reveals that 12.92% women were injured during chain snatching. In many cases victims were injured with the butt of a country made pistol and the offenders were decamped with their gold chains. In one case victim was reportedly shot dead by a chain snatcher on resisting his attempt to loot her gold chain.

Table 10: CHAIN SNATHERS WETRE ARRESTED BETWEEN THE YEARS 2010 – 2014

ABOUT THE CHAIN SNATCHERS	
Number of cases of arrest	Fifty one
Number of persons arrested	One hundred fifty-five – 147 males and 08 females offenders
Age of youth offenders	Between 19 to 35 years (one was 60 year old)
Recovered things from offenders	Gold chains, money, knives, sharp blades, country made revolver and pistol, mobile phones, motorcycles, live cartridges, country made bombs, English liquor

Table 10, shows that 51 cases of arrest was found reported in the news papers, between years 2010 – 2014. Total 155 offenders were arrested by the police or the support of common men. The offenders were the age between 19 – 35 years. Different things were recovered from the offenders these were: gold chains, knives, country made revolver, pistol, bombs, live cartridges, money, and motorcycles. The snatchers were arrested in different manner and their crime commissions were due to many reasons.

#### *LAW AND ORDER (PUNISHMENT)*

51 cases of arrest have been found during the years 2010-2014. In some cases offenders were found punished “A Delhi court has sentenced two youths to three years in jail for snatching a woman’s gold chain and injuring her, observing that they didn’t observe leniency due to gravity of offence (www.munsif.tv)”. “Upper court judge declared judgement against two accused to 7-7 year of labour punishment and 2-2 thousand Rs. Fines under Indian Penal Code for chain snatching from woman” (Dainik Bhasker:14 March, 2014).

## Discussion

In this research work, result shows that 97.53% female were the victims of chain snatching crime, whereas 2.46% males were the victims of same crime. Case 1, “35 years old was robbed near public school. He was returning from a residence of relatives at late night. Two youngsters snatched his gold ring, chain and cell phone and escaped” (Hindustan Times: 11 February, 2013). Case 2, “A 40 year old man was injured as he opposed two motorcycle-borne miscreants, bid to snatch gold chain, silver rings and cash from him in morning. He sustained injuries in his right hand and was rushed to a nearby hospital” (The Times of India: 10 Nov. 2014). Nearly 37% cases were the age from 30 to 59 years old. Even 15% cases of elderly women were the victims of chain snatchings by the youths. Case 3, “Two unidentified bikers snatched a gold chain from the neck of 70-year old woman at afternoon” (Hindustan Times: 18 March, 2013). In 87% cases two offenders were found involved in chain snatching. First offender always rides the motorcycle and pillion riders mostly snatched the chain.

Chain snatchers have been found increasingly resorting to violence while committing a crime. Case, 4 “36 year old man was killed in full public view while trying to thwart chain snatching at Kanpur. He was shot dead by two unidentified motorcycle-borne chain snatchers who later decamped with gold chain of lady” (The Times of India: 3 May, 2013). Earlier, the chain snatchers used to shy away from attacking the victims. Now, if the victim raises an alarm or resists the chain snatchers, they don't think twice before assaulting the victim. Case 5, “Man Was returning home after dropping her daughter, one of the youth whipped out a firearm another youth gripped and snatched gold chain and other valuables” (The Times of India: 27 August 2012). Case 6, “Two unidentified assailants on a motor cycle shot at and injured a man in Evening when he tried to stop them from snatching a gold chain of his wife” (The Times of India: 21 August, 2010). The riders mostly keep their faces covered. Cops have also instructed to keep a tab on the motorcycle riders who keep their faces covered. In most of the cases pillion riders snatched the chain. Case 7, “Two unidentified motorcycle borne miscreants snatched a gold chain from a married woman. At about 6:30 p.m., the miscreants came from behind and the youth riding pillion snatched the chain” (Hindustan Times: 8 March, 2012). Thus snatchers banking on the 150 -175 cc high speed bikes vanish within seconds. They strike between 7.30PM and 4.30 PM use fake number plates to avoid being tracked. The chain snatchers frequently change their clothes to avoid being caught. The number plates on the front and back of their vehicles differ. If someone keeps track of the number, the miscreants quickly change than, and escape.

Most of the chain snatchers are from outskirts and bordering district and they normally target women commuting alone on desolate stretches. Near parks and health centres are also seeing the same kind of crime. Case 8, “The road was in a bad condition, the victim's husband slowed down the motorcycle, when the accused found an opportunity and escaped on foot after snatching the gold chain” (Hindustan Times: 24 February, 2012). They also take advantage of thin police presence early in the morning. According to police, their modus operandi is very interesting yet simple as they target women in upscale colonies wearing jewellery and or on foot ([www.yespunjab.com](http://www.yespunjab.com)). It was also learnt that most of the places where the offenders strike are poorly lit and policed. Heavy workload and using these mobile parties to provide security for VIP movement, processions and other works, is decreasing the presence of the police on interior lanes. In several cases, the offenders use stolen vehicles by fixing fictitious number plates. Most of the chain disposed of in the sarrafa bazaar. Robbed jewellery melted and given new forms within the hours. While the crooks look for easy money, the jewellers purchase the looted gold at premium rate. In many cases police have claimed arresting a gang of robbers that were involving in several cases of chain snatching. In many cases offenders were involved for chain snatching for many reasons Case 9, “Two students were arrested by the police for chain snatching. Both hail from affluent families and claimed that they had committed crime for fun” (The Times of India: 30 July 2011). It was also found that fire arms or knives were used only on male victims by the offenders. Case 10, “One of the youth whipped out a fire arm another youth grabbed man and snatched gold chain and other valuables” (The Times of India: 27 August, 2012).

Even the police team caught high tech gang that was behind several chain snatching cases. The three member gang used high speed bikes and online navigator services like Google maps for

their operations. They were also using forged registration number on his bikes for chain snatching ([www.timesofindia.com](http://www.timesofindia.com)). In one case<sup>11</sup>, “the lady has been awarded by 10,000 Rs. for her bravery. When a miscreant snatched the gold chain, she ran behind the snatcher nearly one kilometre and raised the alarm for incidence. Hearing the noise some people caught the snatcher and beat by hands and feet and given to the police (Danik Bhasker: 29 Nov.2014). This is a case (12) of rags to riches “A man in Tirrunelveli made his millions by robbing women who come decked up in gold at festivals in temples, mosques and churches across south India. His work tool is an ordinary shaving blade. His assets are now worth crores of rupees. The property alone is valued at Rs 5 crore and he has 250 sovereigns of gold” (The Times of India: 31 January, 2010). In this case (13), respectable MNC manager by day turned hard core chain snatcher at night. Ssikat Guin, an MBA worked as an operation analyst development manager in a top financial services firm. His partner in crime was Sounak Dutta a 20 year old engineering student of a city- based college together the duo was involved in more than a year ([www.indiatoday.intoday.in](http://www.indiatoday.intoday.in)).

### Conclusion

Cases of snatching have left the fairer sex scared. Women and girls are falling easy prey to criminals. Despite the police claims that they are not organised but if their well polished modus- operandi, which includes weather, time, action, and selection of areas, is any indication, the pillion riding gang of chain snatchers are very much organised. Offenders are findings chain snatching lucrative them before because of quick returns. Now even the time of the day does not matter to miscreants, when it comes chain snatching. Policies, attitudes and actions change with the wisdom acquired over the years. The criminal youths who are only in early and mid twenties of their life have a feeling that the best is yet to be. Opportunities have, therefore to be provided to them for social functioning. They have to remain active participants in family and community affairs. Without such participation, youth will lack a meaningful social place and may even withdraw from life which may prove to be detrimental to society.

Increasing cases of chain snatching have become a worry for the people. Police, however, feel that ostentatious display of jewellery attracts undue attention and can invite trouble. The gangs involved in chain snatching accost their target either on pretext of asking address or posing as policemen. The target is mostly serious citizen or women walking on the road at lonely stretches or during morning walks. With public cooperation cases of chain snatching can be curbed. We can learn from history that each successive historical age has ardently believed that an unprecedented “crisis” in youth behaviour is taking place. We are not unique; our fears do not differ significantly from those of our predecessors. Statistics are complex things to interpret. Rising youth crime statistics since the 1940s are the result of a whole series of factors and do not mean that youth are becoming more “immoral”. Our treatment of young offenders is in many ways harsher than it has been in the past. This has not been successful in reducing our fear of crime; if anything, it is compounding the problem and increasing mistrust between the generations ([www.historyextra.com](http://www.historyextra.com)).The curbing of chain snatching cases are found in the year 2014, where only five cases have been found reported in print media. It shows that decrease in crime rate. But in another side now women are alert for crime and even police surveillance is also helpful towards reducing crime of chain snatching. For Indian woman losing her scared thread (gold chain/mangalsutra) means her husband died and chain snatching will not only be monetary loss to her but it affects her mentally and it may lead to difference of opinion in her family and it would be fulfilled in the human society. This is a real dilemma of woman that wearing of gold chain and taking opportunity by the offender by snatching it.

### *REDUCING YOUTH CRIME*

Early intervention plays an important role in keeping minors from embarking on a life of crime. Swift and consistent punishment for offences can help reduce the incidence of crime. After serving their sentence, young offenders receive support aimed at preventing re-offending.

### *SWIFT JUSTICE FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS*

Young people who commit offences are dealt with as quickly as possible. This is in keeping with people's sense of justice.

#### *Preventing re-offending by minors*

The government is taking the following measures to prevent young offenders from re-offending:

#### *Personalised approach*

Every young person is different and deserves support that is specifically tailored to them. The offending Behaviour Programmes Accreditation Committee reviews the courses to determine whether they have actually had the desired effect.

#### *Training and Education programme*

When a young person is released from young offenders' institution, he or she needs to reintegrate into society by attending school or university, or finding a job. The training and education programmes provided at the end of the custodial period are intended to help them prepare for this.

#### *Proper support and Guidance*

Young offenders' institutions, the Child Protection Board, the youth Probation Service and municipalities work together in network and process-related consultative bodies. They arrange shelter, income, education and/or work for young offenders upon release ([www.gove.nl](http://www.gove.nl)).

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