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POLITICAL PATRONAGE: DRUG TRAFFICKING AND JUVENILE GANG VIOLENCE: AN ANALYSIS ON KHILGAON AND SHAHJAHANPUR AREA DHAKA SOUTH

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the relationship between juvenile gang culture, drug trafficking, and political patronage in the Khilgaon area of Dhaka South City Corporation, with particular focus on how informal political structures influence youth involvement in criminal activities. The research adopts a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative survey data and qualitative in-depth interviews collected from 100 respondents, including teenagers, families, local traders, workers, and political actors. The findings reveal that rapid urbanization, socio-economic inequality, weak recreational opportunities, and family instability contribute significantly to the rise of juvenile gangs. More importantly, the study highlights a strong nexus between local political patronage and gang activities, where juvenile groups are often used for extortion, drug distribution, and political mobilization in exchange for protection and financial

benefits. The analysis further shows that drug trafficking networks are deeply embedded within these patron-client relationships, weakening the rule of law and increasing public insecurity. The study concludes that juvenile gang violence in urban Dhaka is not merely a social problem but a structurally embedded phenomenon reinforced by political and economic incentives. Strengthening institutional governance, community engagement, and youth development programs is essential to reduce the cycle of gang involvement and criminalization of urban youth.

Keywords: Juvenile gangs; Political patronage; Drug trafficking; Urban crime; Dhaka; Youth violence; Informal politics; Khilgaon; Organized crime; Bangladesh

INTRODUCTION

The relationship between power and crime is symbiotic because it is mutually beneficial. Power and crime go hand in hand and that is why they are symbiotic (Willis, 2015). Dhaka, like many major cities, has experienced rapid urbanization, which has also led to economic success, but has also created a myriad of socio-political issues (Banks et al., 2011). One of the most pressing concerns is the increase of juvenile delinquency and organized drug trafficking which are now under the protection of the political patronage (International Crisis Group, 2015). At present, 'juvenile gangs' or organized bands of youngsters have emerged as one of the prominent social issues in several cities and communities across the nation (Amin, 2022). The influence of juvenile gangs is creating an adverse effect on society in different ways: like crime and insecurity; juvenile gangs are indulging themselves in criminal activities such as homicide, robbery, and addiction to drugs. In some instances, these people commit brutal murders over petty matters (Hossain & Islam, 2021). Besides, the interference in education institutions and through roads like; there are constant rallies organized in front of educational institutions to ridicule girls studying there, which results in fear and panic among common citizens. Moreover, the parents' fears including due to the rise of juvenile gang culture, parents are now excessively worried about the security and future prospects of their offspring. In several instances, the absence of recreational facilities or sports activities is making these adolescents resort to this lifestyle. Social deterioration: Gang culture has escalated the crime rate among the younger generation and disrupted the natural order of society. This study shows that there is a deep connection between local and large-scale politics behind the development of juvenile gangs including the tools of partisanship like; sometimes political 'big brothers' use these juveniles as shields to expand their influence or partisanship. Juveniles are going astray while following these so-called big brothers. Due to power politics and the culture of impunity, these juvenile criminals often get a reprieve, which makes them more reckless. Besides, greed for social status and recognition: Juveniles often feel powerful when they are in political shelter and get involved in politics in the hope of getting some kind of 'fake' status or recognition in society. Currently, there is a phenomenon of engaging in politics since the school age of these juveniles, which results in their gang culture rather than studying. These juvenile gangs are increasingly getting involved in drug dealing.

This study is concerned with the particular context of Khilgaon, which is an important residential and commercial area, with emphasis on how the "BoroBhai" (Big Brother) culture creates the cycle of violence and addiction which poses a danger to the very ethos of the community. In its essence, political patronage in the neighborhoods of Dhaka is a sort of quid pro quo between the political leaders and the neighborhood "Mastans" (enforcers) for their muscle power, booth-jamming, or crowd-gathering at the political rallies. This has turned into a perilous tool in Khilgaon. Political protection of local gangs gives them a safe haven to flourish and de facto protects the drug syndicates. Over the past few years the "Kishore Gang" (juvenile gang) culture has changed from petty neighborhood squabbles to organized criminal activity. These are the young (usually between 14 to 22 years) who are the main foot soldiers for political agitation and drug distribution. These gangs exist at their best in Khilgaon, where the railway lines are but a stone's throw away, the slums are thick and Sipahibagh, and the middle class housing blocks are growing. The financial heart of these gangs is through the sale of drugs, especially Yaba and "Ice" (Crystal Meth). The Khilgaon area is also a strategic transit area because of its connectivity. But the trade is, more often than not, not a single gang crime. Often, it has to do with the wheels of political influence, with a part of the illegal earnings being used to pay for local political activities, thus creating an unhealthy relationship of dependence. Erosion of the rule of law is the central issue this research wants to tackle. If police are not willing to take action against a gang leader due to their political party or affiliation, the community does not trust the justice system. This study aims to answer the following question(s): How does the political support inspire youth gangs in Khilgaon? What is the direct linkage between political "Big Brother" and the local drug supply chain? What are the social and economic effects on the people of Khilgaon on the aspects of safety and moral development in the youth? This research tries to offer a localized perspective on the national crisis of the Khilgaon area by analyzing it and explaining that the source of crime is the faults of the overall structure of the society that can make the crime appear as a political movement.

OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

This study focuses on juvenile gangs and the role played by politics in their operations. Based on this, the objectives of this study include the following:

Primary Objectives:

- 1) Analyze the impacts that juvenile gangs or youth-related organized crime groups have on society.
- 2) Describe the features of patronage politics at both lower and higher levels that affect youth and promote criminal activities.
- 3) Evaluate the connection between lower-level drug dealing and increased crime among youth.

Secondary Objectives:

- 1) Study the effects of unproductive recreational activities and informal relationships on youth crime.
- 2) Highlight the significance of cooperation between parents, schools, and the police in avoiding juvenile gangs.

3) Analyze the impact of politically motivated activities and a culture of impunity on youth crimes.

RATIONALE OF THE RESEARCH

The rationale of this study is considered mainly from the following aspects: teen violence is becoming common in our society, and it is causing the public vast amounts of fear related to the safety of their community. The number of teenagers who become violent over a simple issue demonstrates the effect that this group culture has on the moral base of our society. The study has shown that the so-called 'elder brothers' at the local level use teenagers as shields to maintain their dominance. Due to power politics and a culture of impunity, these criminals often remain beyond the reach of the law, which makes them more reckless. Identifying this negative link is essential to making the society free from corruption. Although news about juvenile gangs has been published in the media, there is a lack of basic research on the political and administrative causes behind it in Bangladesh. This research tries to make it possible to scientifically analyze this untouched aspect. Teenagers are often misguided due to lack of healthy entertainment and wrong guidance. One of the goals of this research is to find ways to bring them back from this dark path and return them to a healthy and normal life.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Mahtab et al. (2025) examines how family issues and political favors contribute to the development of juvenile gangs in Dhaka. The paper reveals that family instability, neglect and political patronage promote the adolescents to join gangs. Gangs operate within the political umbrella and adolescents are drawn into the gangs because of the appeal of identity and power. Nevertheless, there is a lack of discussion in this study on the structural analysis of drug trafficking.

Atkinson-Sheppard (2016) scrutinizes the contributions of children and young people to the street gangs and organized crime in Dhaka. The study demonstrates that local gangs (known as goons) employ adolescents in the distribution of illegal drugs, the transport of weapons, the extraction of money and the provision of politically motivated violent acts. This demonstrates an apparent direct connection between the juvenile and political and criminal networks. The research, however, fails to bring to the fore the recent developments in the trends of juvenile gangs.

Lewis and Hossain (2022) analyses the patronage-based power system of the local politics in Bangladesh. It demonstrates that, at the local level, power is controlled by political parties through informal forces and groups. This framework is a supportive one in the formation of juvenile gangs and criminal networks. But the special discussion of juvenile crime or drug trafficking is absent.

Jackman (2019) argues the correlation between the gang culture and political violence in urban Bangladesh. It observes that by participating in political parties, gangs and goons form power and influence. Consequently, crime, violence and drug trafficking slowly become a part and parcel of the political system. The contribution of juveniles is however not particularly discussed in detail here.

Hossain et al. (2023) identify the aspects of juvenile gang culture. According to the findings of the research, peer pressure, social inequalities, unemployment and the possibility of easy money are

significant factors in luring the juveniles into gang activities and drug dealing. But the question of political favor is touched upon only to a certain degree here.

This paper is an analysis of gangs, drugs and political links in urban slums. It shows that local ‘goons’ are associated with political leaders and the administration and operate drug trafficking and violence. These groups are engaged in crime among teenagers. Nevertheless, this paper does not explicitly examine the contemporary incarnation of the juvenile gang culture. (Goons, drugs and gang violence in urban slums of Bangladesh, 2011).

Kuttig (2019) inspects how student politics, violence and patronage relate to each other. The article reveals that the political parties use violent groups to gain more power and over time, these groups become intertwined with the juvenile gang culture. But here the issue of drug trafficking is not directly addressed.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Though rooted in Almond and Verba’s Civic Culture Theory, this analysis turns toward youth involved in gangs. Stability in democracy often depends on shared norms like mutual trust, active involvement, respect for differences, along with adherence to rules. Yet findings here reveal a pattern- these particular young people do not hold such beliefs. Instead, their attitudes run counter to what the theory describes. Out here, young people come of age surrounded by skewed priorities - where influence often overshadows justice. This absence of shared civic values? It quietly shapes patterns of youth misconduct. Later came Lucian W. Pye’s ideas about political culture, shaping how this research unfolded. Power patterns in any given society take form through deep-rooted cultural norms, he argued. Across Bangladesh, such dynamics appear in a system built on personal loyalties rather than official structures. Authority flows along private connections instead of legal frameworks here. Because of this setup, young street groups become quietly absorbed into politics by influential figures. Crime gains stability when these youths serve hidden agendas behind public offices. Later on, James S. Coleman’s idea about Social Capital gains importance in this context. Trust among people, along with connections between them, usually supports good actions in communities. Still, findings here reveal something different - harmful ties appear inside juvenile gangs, where peers push one another toward illegal acts. Because of political favoritism, these links grow stronger, making things like drug trade easier to carry out. Notably, James C. Scott’s model of patron-client ties fits well when examining how politics rewards loyalty through favors. Power flows one way: those above offer security and resources - here, to young gang affiliates - who give allegiance and vote back. Evidence here suggests youth commit offenses like selling drugs or using force while shielded by influential figures, trusting they won’t face court penalties.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The current study included both quantitative and qualitative data. Because the majority of the

independent variables are stated numerically. On the other hand, the study's key dependent variable (such as juvenile gang culture and political patronage type) is essentially a qualitative issue expressed through qualitative data. The current study mostly obtained data from primary sources. This data was acquired directly from the research area (Shahjahanpur and Khilgaon) via a questionnaire survey, an in-depth interview and case study also. However, secondary source information was also employed from a variety of books, research journals, and national and local newspapers and periodicals covering the relevant subject. The area of the study are located at Shahjahanpur and Khilgaon (Dhaka-8 parliamentary constituencies) were chosen from Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Zones 2 and 3. The Motijheel, Sabujbagh, Rampura, and Balu rivers surround Khilgaon Thana. Shahjahanpur, Khilgaon (partial), Motijheel, Shahbagh, Ramna, and Paltan are all part of the Dhaka-8 constituency. This area's lanes and streets are known for juvenile gang hangouts and activities. According to the 2022 census, the total population of Khilgaon and Shahjahanpur is approximately 5 lakh. A considerable number of teenagers live here; approximately 6-7% of the overall population in Khilgaon police station is youngsters (aged 5 and under), indicating the study's primary target population. The sample comprised of 100 respondents, including teenagers, families, businesspeople, workers, and local political actors associated with juvenile gang culture and political patronage. Purposive and snowball sampling techniques were used and information-rich participants were selected. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and qualitative data were analyzed using thematic analysis.

DATA PROCESSING AND REPRESENTATION

Age (years)	Tolerant (%)	Non-respondent/ Don't know (%)	Intolerant (%)	Total
15-17	2	5	8	15
18-24	4	6	15	25
25-50	2	10	24	36
50+	3	0	21	24
Total	11	21	68	100

To study the intolerance and criminality that has emerged among teens owing to the effect of political patronage in the Khilgaon and Shahjahanpur area, a model of how the answers to each question included in the questionnaire have been processed and presented as a question (independent variable): How old are you? Question (dependent variable): Do you believe it is simple to spread the dominance of drug trafficking and juvenile gangs if you have a political "big brother" or patron? Share your thoughts/experiences on this matter. (Respondents are divided into three categories: tolerant/non-respondent or don't know/intolerant).

The table shows how respondents' attitudes toward juvenile gangs and drug addiction vary by age. It is

shown that 68% of all respondents are intolerant, 21% are undecided/don't know, and only 11% are tolerant, indicating a strong unfavorable social view on this issue. In the age study, the 25–50 year-old group had the most intolerant sentiments (24%). This suggests that the middle-aged population is more conscious of the social and family consequences of juvenile gangs and drug addiction, and they regard it as a severe societal problem. However, the non-response rate in the same group is also very high (10%), implying that in some circumstances individuals are unwilling to adopt a firm stance- possibly due to a conflict between social reality and personal experience. The over-50 age group has a significant percentage of intolerance (21%), while the non-response rate is nil. This indicates that older respondents have a definite and negative view about the subject. Based on their extensive social experience and principles, they believe juvenile gangs and drug addiction are detrimental and undesirable to society. In contrast, the 18-24 age group- the most socially active youth group - has a considerable proportion of intolerance (15%) but relatively high rates of tolerance (4%) and indifference (6%). This suggests that respondents in this age range hold ambiguous attitudes. On the one hand, they are aware of the negative aspects of the problem, but in some cases, they adopt a tolerant or neutral stance due to social impact, peer influence, and practical experience. Finally, in the 15-17 age range, the rate of intolerance (8%), indifference (5%), and tolerance (2%) suggest that they have not yet formed a firm view on the subject. Their limited experience, lack of social awareness, and proclivity to be influenced may explain their conflicted viewpoint. Overall, the table reveals that as people get older, their opinions toward juvenile gangs and drug addiction grow more entrenched, with significantly higher levels of ambivalence and ambiguity among young people and teenagers. This finding is significant for policymakers because it suggests that prevention activities should focus on raising awareness and implementing behavioral treatments with a younger age group. Intolerance increases with advancing age.

- Young adults exhibit ambivalence (tolerance and awareness)
- While middle-aged adults are more uncertain.
- Senior citizens take a strong unfavorable stance

REAL LIFE CASE SUMMARY

Traders are frequently targeted by juvenile gang members. Mosaddeq Ahmed, a Malibagh resident, was robbed by juvenile gang members around 11:30 p.m. on his way home, resulting in a Tk 20,000 pecuniary loss. It is also learned of another instance in which a trader was lynched with a machete after snatching money from a shop's cash box at 2 a.m. in the Khilgaon region. It is gathered from the locals that drug-related homicides are common in the area. In 2025, a food vendor named Nazrul Islam was beaten to death in the Khilgaon Sipahibagh neighborhood. According to Anis, an auto rickshaw driver, he was unable to get the gang member out of the garage owing to the non-payment of the bribe, and as a result, he suffered greatly. According to an anonymous coaching teacher in the Khilgaon neighborhood, the gang humiliated the youth for failing to provide Eid salami, and his tutoring center was destroyed. The Bandage Gang killed a 16-year-old youngster in the Mugda Manda neighborhood of the capital on

the pretense of not providing salami. The murdered youth's name is Hasan Mia. Following this incident, the Motijheel Division of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Detective Branch Khilgaon Zonal Team detained seven Bandage Gang members. On the 31st, members of a juvenile delinquent gang demanded a ransom of 2,000 taka from photocopy shop owner Ibrahim and when he failed to pay, they were severely assaulted. Even after paying the money received at the government booth during Eid-ul-Adha at the Shahjahanpur cattle market, members of the juvenile gang attempted to collect the money outside the gate, causing many to be harassed. We also gathered from various locals that, despite the police ban, members of the juvenile gang wanted a set amount of money to summon fasting individuals for Sehri as Musahhir, and if anyone refused, they intimidated them and behaved inappropriately. According to an anonymous student, on their way home from college, a juvenile gang member and a drug dealer attempted to give them electric shocks from the back of a rickshaw. Furthermore, a housewife named Roksana Begum said that she was pressured for extortion in order to obtain a TCB smart card, which she believes was done under the direction of a political leader. In response to a fruit dealer named Nazmul, in 2024, a juvenile gang leader living in a political leader's shelter assaulted and injured a member of the law enforcement agency over a minor issue. Rakib acquired that a classmate had been beaten up on the school grounds by members of a juvenile gang over a minor incident. After school, the grounds of Motijheel Government Boys' High School turn into a drug dealer's lair, and as a result, some kids take to narcotics. Based on eyewitnesses, kids from local schools and colleges buy and sell narcotics in the abandoned area next to Bangladesh Railway Hospital, then consume them there. A considerable portion of the floating population in Bagicha, near Khilgaon Railgate, is actively involved in the drug trade, distributing drugs to the surrounding area. According to Shankar De, a photo studio owner, there is a large-scale drug trade in Shanti Bagh No. 17, the majority of which is carried out through familial lines. We acquired from a clerk named Kayes that the drug trade has been going on in the Shahjahanpur Railway Colony since before 2000, and that there have been several murders related to it. For example, consider the legendary Korban murder. As reported by a university student named Araf, the drug trafficking begins openly at Malibagh rail gate after 6 p.m., and in many cases, it takes place in front of police. A female employee, who did not want to be identified, told us that she was ridiculed and tormented from behind by young gang members. We discovered from a law enforcement source who did not want to be identified that violence between juvenile gangs and drug traffickers is common in the region near HarbhangaMor, with the goal of establishing supremacy, which irritates and angers the people. We discovered from the staff of a coffee shop in Taltala that many young gang leaders refuse to pay after drinking coffee and threaten to beat them up if they ask for money. In addition, when we asked numerous passers-by, they stated their unwillingness to respond due to fear, even a police officer. This demonstrates that many people in society live in fear of juvenile gangs and drug dealers.

RESULTS

- Drug dealers currently conduct their business through juvenile gang members or minor children. Even during police raids, juvenile gang members warn drug dealers of the raid ahead of time, making it impossible to apprehend drug traffickers or drugs.
- Furthermore, due to the domination of drug dealers, many occurrences such as killings take place in the region.
- Minor children who later become juvenile gang members buy and sell drugs, and their families are also involved in this activity, which eventually leads to a family-based drug enterprise supported by family members.
- During on-the-spot police patrols, it is nearly hard to arrest the key culprits. This is due to a lack of police equipment, which prevents them from conducting effective raids.
- When a juvenile gang member is detained by the police, the drug dealers and the accused's family members often crowd the police station and cause disturbance, forcing the officers to release them on bond.
- Also, a group of powerful persons in the region buys drugs from such young gang members, so even if someone is captured, they can quickly get out under their umbrella.
- People involved in drug trafficking and juvenile gangs also gamble, both online and offline, using the proceeds from their businesses. Considering several online sites such as 1xBET. They also gamble with the money they extort, as well as rob and steal from nearby small traders and auto rickshaw drivers.
- Furthermore, powerful local leaders recruit juvenile gang members to advance their political and economic goals. While collecting data from locals and businessmen in several districts of the city, it is discovered that there have been instances of local leaders extorting money from government officials and stopping work by using force through juvenile gang members when they do not receive payment.
- Currently, juvenile gang members torment girls with stun guns or tasers.
- Although drug traffickers are not directly involved in eve-teasing, they do indirectly help and support juvenile gang members, and there is a give-and-take relationship between them.
- Women in drug dealers' families have been documented engaging in antisocial actions such as buying and selling drugs. For example, during police raids, female members of drug dealers' families attempt to incite the situation by engaging in different obscene actions, making it difficult to apprehend the major culprits.
- It is discovered the evidence of juvenile gang members' involvement in numerous acts of violence in educational institutions. The reason for this is that students form friendly relationships with juvenile gangs out of a desire to demonstrate control through manpower, which eventually leads to horrible

crimes. Students join juvenile gangs and take part in various political activities (meetings, processions, strikes, rallies). On the other hand, students seek assistance from juvenile gangs in response to numerous school problems.

- Juvenile gang members have been known to use domestic weapons to frighten others. Furthermore, due to the prevalence of drug sellers in several parks throughout the capital, local inhabitants are unable to walk freely. It is found in our research that pedestrians cannot travel safely between midnight and 6 a.m., particularly during Fajr prayers, when worshipers are victims of violent actions such as kidnapping or robbery.
- Despite the anti-social activities of juvenile gangs and drug gang members, many communities do not register cases, owing to fear and distrust of the police. For example, the police's unwillingness to pursue prosecutions and their attitude toward reconciliation by dismissing these instances as unimportant is obvious.
- As a result of the single-handed violence of some drug dealers and juvenile gangs without political patronage, we have found evidence of extortion of up to 2000-3000 taka per month from traders in many areas, most of whom do business on the sidewalks. For example, a notorious top terrorist takes 2000-3000 taka per month from the sidewalk hawkers of Malibagh.
- The rise of juvenile gangs has resulted in familial instability and social upheaval. For example, when a teenager joins a gang, he stops listening to his parents, family conflicts escalate, the relationship with his parents deteriorates, mental tension rises among family members, and many suffer from humiliation and sadness. However, in our research, we discovered that in many cases, their parents attempt to further their own interests by worshiping the spirit of gang members and the fear they instill in society.
- Gangs and narcotics produce far bigger and more obvious harm to society because they increase crime, theft, conflicts, and other problems. Furthermore, as a result of all of these events, people experience anxiety and insecurity, particularly at night and in remote areas.
- During the two Eids, they collect money from various coaching centers under the guise of "Eid Salami," which functions as a form of extortion. Similarly, during Eid-ul-Adha, clashes have been reported over cattle market leasing, where competing trader groups, allegedly supported by juvenile gang members, attempted to seize control of the Shahjahanpur cattle market, leading to violent confrontations between the rival groups.
- The City Corporation, as the government property, occupies the roads and sidewalks under its control and rents them to various hawkers on a daily (100-200 taka) or monthly (2000-3000 taka) basis, and the sidewalk traders also refuse to allow other traders to do business in their area and use juvenile gang members to intimidate them.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To address the growing nexus between juvenile gangs, drug trafficking, and political patronage in Khilgaon and Shahjahanpur, a coordinated and institutional response is essential. First, strict legal action must be taken against political patronage that shelters gang leaders and drug traffickers, ensuring accountability regardless of political affiliation. Law enforcement agencies should strengthen intelligence-based policing, improve surveillance in crime-prone areas, and ensure impartial enforcement of the law to restore public trust. At the social level, community-based youth development programs, recreational facilities, sports, and cultural activities should be expanded to prevent adolescents from being drawn into gang culture. Schools, parents, local communities, and police must work together to identify at-risk youth and provide counseling, mentorship, and educational support. In addition, anti-drug awareness campaigns and rehabilitation programs should be strengthened to reduce youth involvement in narcotics. Finally, urban governance reforms, employment opportunities for disadvantaged youth, and stronger community participation are necessary to break the cycle of violence, drug dependency, and political criminalization. Without addressing the structural roots of patronage politics and social exclusion, juvenile gang violence will continue to threaten social stability and public security in urban Bangladesh.

CONCLUSION

Dhaka's rapid growth has not only raised incomes - but had real negative consequences. More and more young people are experiencing legal issues, becoming involved in drug trade activities. Politicians provide cover and protection behind many of these operations. In some areas of the city, the wealth is increasing, and illegal networks are growing with the backing of the local residents. This study focuses on Khilgaon and Shahjahanpur, which is a dense urban area where living and work are collocated. It examines how such images contribute to patterns related to aggression and substance abuse through the lens of the idea of "BoroBhai. Informal authority can provide temporary stability, but can also perpetuate harm in the long run. Sometimes these leaders take the place of formal systems, thus leaving people dependent. When there is a breakdown of trust in institutions, loyalty turns to dominant individuals. This change over time is a cause for recurring instability. As the illegal economies grow stronger, the well-being of the community suffers. Protection becomes a means of exploitation rather than protection. Alternatives are weak due to the high degree of centralization of power. As cycles repeat, residents cannot escape. In Dhaka's neighborhoods politics and crime go hand in hand. Leaders assist tough guys and lend them money and protection from the police. In exchange for this, these hardy men assist the leaders with the aggravation or by attracting the crowds. This has become out of control in Khilgaon and Shahjahanpur. If gangs are being protected by leaders, then so are drug dealers. Recently, groups of people or "Kishore Gangs" went beyond creating minor issues to committing serious crimes. These young people, aged 14 to 22 are often used by politicians and drug

dealers. Khilgaon and Shahjahanpur is the area where these gangs can operate as it is near the railway and many slums and new houses. Selling drugs, like Yaba and Ice is what makes these gangs money. Khilgaon and Shahjahanpur is a place where drugs are sold due to its accessibility. It is not just about the gangs, however, but also the politicians who aid them. Part of the proceeds of the drugs is spent on developing a bad cycle of servicing politicians. The primary issue that we're attempting to address is the lack of enforcement of the law. People lose trust in the system when the police don't take action against gang leaders who are in politics.

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