



Bridging Justice And Health: The Impact Of Criminal Case Delays On Prisoners' Well-Being.

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Abstract

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, replaces the colonial-era Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, with the objective of addressing inefficiencies in the criminal justice system. This paper examines the limitations of Cr.PC in addressing delays and prison healthcare, while analyzing how BNSS introduces systemic reforms to mitigate overcrowding and ensure timely medical intervention for inmates. By introducing stricter timelines for investigations, mandatory case reviews, and digitalized legal procedures, BNSS aims to ensure faster delivery in criminal justice system. The delay in the criminal justice system has a profound impact on the health and well-being of prisoners, particularly under-trial detainees. Through a socio-legal analysis, the researcher evaluates how prolonged trials contribute to physical and mental health deterioration, exacerbated by overcrowding, lack of medical facilities, and procedural inefficiencies. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, introduces key reforms, including speedy trial provisions, bail reforms, and mandatory healthcare measures, to address these challenges. However, the effectiveness of these provisions depends on their proper implementation. By analyzing existing policies and proposing strategic interventions, this study highlights the urgent need for a justice system that safeguards not only legal rights but also the fundamental health needs of prisoners. It argues that ensuring timely justice is essential not just for legal fairness but also for protecting prisoners' dignity, health, and human rights. Furthermore, the study highlights the role of technology-driven legal management in enhancing transparency and accountability, which can lead to improved healthcare services within prisons. This paper critically examines the gaps in Cr.PC, 1973 concerning judicial delays and prison healthcare, while analyzing the potential of BNSS, 2023 in addressing these systemic issues. The study explores the correlation between prolonged incarceration, deteriorating health

conditions, and the need for expedited judicial processes. Through an analysis of the BNSS and its impact on the efficiency of the justice system, this study advocates for a holistic approach that integrates legal, administrative, and healthcare improvements within correctional facilities.

Key words: Human rights, Judicial delays, Prisoners' wellbeing, Access to justice.

Introduction

The relationship between justice and health is deeply intertwined, especially in the context of prisoners who are entirely dependent on the state for both legal recourse and medical care. Justice and health are two important human rights, but they are often treated separately. This gap is especially visible in prisons, where delays in the legal system severely affect prisoners' mental and physical well-being. The purpose of the criminal justice system is to ensure fair trials, but in reality, many prisoners spend years in jail waiting for their cases to be resolved. Some even stay in prison longer than their actual punishment would have been. This raises serious concerns about both fairness and health risks for those behind bars. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948¹, recognizes that "everyone has the right to a fair and public hearing" (Article 10) and that "everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being" (Article 25). However, prolong incarceration due to judicial delays create a direct conflict between these two fundamental rights and causing serious harm to prisoners' physical and mental health. Legal scholars and human rights activists have long argued that "justice delayed is justice denied," a principle associated with William E. Gladstone² and later reaffirmed by various rulings of the Supreme Court of India. Procedural delays in the criminal justice system not only compromise the integrity of legal proceedings but also constitute a form of "institutional violence" against incarcerated individuals, as conceptualized by Foucault (1977) in his work 'Discipline and Punish'. Long periods of incarceration without trial causes extreme stress, anxiety, and depression among the prisoners which can lead to severe mental health conditions, including suicidal tendencies. Delayed justice keeps prisoners away from their families for extended periods and loss of social support. This not only affects their emotional well-being but also weakens their chances of successful reintegration into society after release³. This systemic backlog "acts as a silent punishment, where prisoners suffer the consequences of incarceration without formal conviction"⁴. Health experts have also highlighted the disproportionate health risks faced by prisoners due to judicial delays. The World Health Organization⁵ states that "prison health is public health", emphasizing that delayed justice contributes to worsening healthcare conditions inside prisons, leading to malnutrition, lack of mental health support, and increased vulnerability to communicable diseases like tuberculosis and HIV. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2021) further warns that "delays in the justice system contribute to

¹ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948) available at <https://www.un.org> accessed on dated 23th march, 2025 at about 1 pm

² Available at <https://sheridanworldwide.com> accessed on dated 23/3/2025 at about 9 pm

³ K.N.C. Pillai, Delay in Criminal Justice Administration-A study through case file, vol.49, No.4 (October-December 2007) pp.525-528 (4 pages), also available at <https://www.jstor.org/stable/43952090>

⁴ Anup surendranath, Justice Delayed and Denied : A Study on Undertrial Prisoners in India 45 Indian J. Crim.L.123 (2022)

⁵ World Health Organization (World Health Statistics 2022). Health in Prisons: A WHO Guide to the Essentials in Prison Health. Geneva, available at <https://www.who.int> accessed on dated 24th march 2025 at about 1 pm.

chronic overcrowding, which increases the risk of disease transmission and deteriorates prison hygiene conditions”⁶. The Supreme Court of India, in *Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar* (1979)⁷, emphasized the right to a speedy trial as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, yet systemic inefficiencies continue to prolong trial processes, affecting prisoner-being. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2023⁸, remarks over 76% of India's prison population consists of undertrials, many of whom await trial for years. Some even stay in prison longer than their actual punishment would have been. In this context, the *Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita* (BNSS), 2023, seeks to address these challenges by introducing legal provisions aimed at expediting trials, improving bail provisions, and ensuring better healthcare access for prisoners. It aligns with the judiciary's repeated insistence on "speedy trial as an essential component of justice" clearly illustrated by Supreme court in *A.R. Antulay v. R.S. Nayak*, 1992).⁹ This paper critically examines how delays in the criminal justice system directly impact prisoners' well-being and how BNSS attempts to bridge this gap by reforming judicial procedures and promoting prison healthcare.

Objectives of study

This study examines the multidimensional effects of judicial delays, with a particular focus on the healthcare challenges faced by inmates in jail. The article also evaluates the potential of BNSS 2023 to mitigate these issues by streamlining trial processes and enhancing legal aid and healthcare provisions for prisoners. Rather than posing discrete research questions, the study focuses on the dual objective of understanding how delays affect health outcomes and exploring how legal reforms can bridge the gap between justice and healthcare for prisoners.

Methodology

This research paper is based on a doctrinal research methodology, focusing on legal provisions and judicial interpretations related to delays in the criminal justice system and their impact on prisoners' well-being. It relies on primary sources such as the Indian Constitution, the *Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita* (BNSS), and court judgments, along with secondary sources like books, journal articles, and government reports. The study analyzes laws and judicial decisions to understand the legal framework and its effectiveness in addressing justice delays.

The Impact of Delay in the Criminal Justice System on Prisoners' Well-being

Concept of prisoners' wellbeing

The well-being of prisoners is a crucial aspect of the correctional system which includes physical, mental, and social health of inmates while in custody. Prisoners should always be treated with dignity and respect,

⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). (2021). *Global Study on Prison Health and Mental Well-being*. Vienna: UNODC, available also at <https://www.unodc.org> accessed on dated 24th march , 2025

⁷ *Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar*, (1979). AIR 1979 SC 1369

⁸ World Health Organization(world health statics 2022). *Health in Prisons: A WHO Guide to the Essentials in Prison Health*. Geneva, available at <https://www.who.int> accessed on dated 25th march 2025 at about 1 pm.

⁹ *A.R. Antulay v. R.S. Nayak*, AIR 1992 SC 1701

recognizing their worth as human beings. There should be no discrimination based on race, color, sex, language, religion, political views, social background, or any other status. Access to proper medical care, clean living conditions, and mental health support is essential to protect their dignity and rights. Many prisoners face stress, anxiety, and depression, worsened by overcrowding, long court delays, and lack of rehabilitation programs. Providing counselling and therapy can help address these issues. Ensuring safety from violence and abuse inside prisons is also crucial. Education, vocational training, and reintegration programs can reduce repeat offenses and help prisoners return to society. These kind of activities not only improves prisoners chances of leading a productive life after release but also significantly reduces recidivism. Furthermore, access to legal aid and fair judicial processes strengthens their confidence in the justice system and ensures their rights are upheld.

Judicial delay affects on prisoners' well-being

Judicial delays have a multidimensional impact on prisoners, affecting their mental health, physical well-being, and social reintegration. The prolonged uncertainty associated with undertrial detention creates an environment of legal limbo, where prisoners are neither convicted nor acquitted, yet continue to suffer the harsh realities of incarceration.

I . Mental Health Consequences

One of the most serious and immediate effects of delayed trials is the severe impact on the mental health of prisoners. When individuals are held in pre trial detention for long periods without a clear understanding of when their case will be resolved, they experience extreme psychological distress. According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2022), prolonged uncertainty and isolation in prison can lead to conditions such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The mental burden of waiting indefinitely for a trial, not knowing whether they will be found guilty or released, creates constant fear and emotional exhaustion. Studies have shown that the risk of suicide among undertrial prisoners is significantly higher compared to those who have already been convicted. The National Institute of Mental Health (2023) ¹⁰highlights that convicted prisoners, despite their sentences, at least have certainty about their fate and can gradually adjust to their reality. In contrast, undertrial prisoners live in a state of continuous suspense, not knowing if they will be found guilty or innocent, or how long they will have to remain in prison. This uncertainty is a major factor contributing to hopelessness and suicidal tendencies .

In the landmark case *Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons v. State of Assam* ¹¹, the Supreme Court of India recognized the severe deficiencies in mental healthcare services within Indian prisons. The Court underscored that such inadequacies amount to a violation of the fundamental right to life and personal liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. Stressing the importance of humane treatment, the Court asserted that even individuals accused of the most serious offenses are entitled to dignity, which inherently includes access to proper mental health support. Despite this judicial pronouncement, the ground reality remains grim.

¹⁰ Available at <https://nimhans.co.in> accessed on dated 25th march,2025 at about 8pm

¹¹ Re *Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons v. State of Assam*(2016) 3 SCC 700 2

Prolonged judicial delays often leave undertrial prisoners in a state of uncertainty, exacerbating their sense of despair, frustration, and psychological distress. Without adequate institutional mechanisms to address mental health concerns, prisoners are left to navigate extreme emotional and psychological burdens on their own, further deteriorating their well-being.

II. Physical Health Deprivation

The healthcare system in Indian prisons is highly inadequate, reflecting similar challenges encountered by correctional facilities across the globe. This issue is further aggravated by delays in the judicial process, resulting in severe overcrowding within prisons. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB, 2023)¹², Indian prisons are operating at over 130% of their official capacity, with most inmates being undertrial prisoners who are yet to be convicted. The overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in prisons pose a major threat to the health and well-being of inmates. Overcrowding creates serious health risks, making it easier for infectious diseases like tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and skin infections to spread. Poor sanitation, lack of proper ventilation, and limited healthcare services further worsen these conditions, turning prisons into unhealthy and dangerous places to live. Limited access to medical care, poor hygiene, and inadequate nutrition further increase the risk of illness among prisoners. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2021)¹³ has highlighted that such conditions not only violate basic human rights but also create a public health concern, as diseases can spread beyond prison walls. Without proper medical attention, inmates suffering from infectious diseases may not receive timely treatment, leading to severe health complications and even death. To address these challenges, there is an urgent need for prison reforms, including hygiene standard processes to reduce overcrowding.

The Justice Mulla Committee Report (1983)¹⁴ on prison reforms pointed out that Indian prisons are primarily built for confinement rather than rehabilitation or care, leading to severe neglect of prisoners' health and hygiene. Unfortunately, this issue remains unresolved even today, as many undertrial prisoners struggle to receive timely medical treatment. One major challenge they face is the delay in securing court permissions required for hospitalization. Since any serious medical intervention often requires judicial approval, bureaucratic procedures cause unnecessary delays, preventing prisoners from accessing urgent healthcare. As a result, many inmates suffer from worsening health conditions due to the slow and inefficient system.

III. Socio-domestic instability

Judicial delays not only impact prisoners but also devastate their families. Long-term imprisonment deeply affects a prisoner's social and personal life. It weakens family bonds, leading to separation from spouses and children, and makes it hard to reconnect with society. Many prisoners lose social skills, face stigma, and struggle to find jobs or housing after release. They often suffer from anxiety, depression, and

¹² Times of India, available also at <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com> accessed on dated 26th march 2025, at about 8pm

¹³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). (2021). Global Study on Prison Health and Mental Well-being. Vienna:UNODC, available also at <https://www.unodc.org>

¹⁴ P.S. Dawa, Towars Prison Reforms vol. 27.No.2 MARGINALISED summer 2000 pp.155-162 8 pages , available also at <https://www.jstor.org/stable/23005498> accessed on dated 26th march ,2025 at about 11 pm

poor health due to prison conditions. The lack of freedom and personal growth opportunities can leave them feeling lost and disconnected. Reintegration into society becomes difficult, as they have spent years in a controlled environment, making it hard to adjust to normal life again.

In *A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras* (1950)¹⁵, the Supreme Court emphasized that liberty is a fundamental right that cannot be denied without a just and fair procedure. However, judicial delays often violate this principle by keeping prisoners behind bars for prolonged periods without trial, forcing them into a cycle of poverty, alienation, and legal uncertainty (Bar Council of India, 2023). A striking example in the case highlighted by Bombay high court where an undertrial spent over a decade in prison without conviction, only to be acquitted due to a lack of evidence. Such cases underscore the urgent need for systemic reforms to prevent wrongful and prolonged detentions.¹⁶

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023: Role of BNSS in Addressing Judicial Delays and Prisoners' rights

The Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1973, has long been the cornerstone of India's criminal justice system, governing the procedural aspects of investigation, trial, and sentencing. However, over the years, its inefficiencies have contributed significantly to delays in the judicial process, leading to prolonged incarceration of undertrial prisoners. These delays have had a cascading effect, particularly on prison conditions and inmate healthcare. The newly introduced Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, seeks to modernize criminal procedure by introducing stricter timelines, digital processes, and improved prison healthcare mandates. This section examines the limitations of Cr.PC, the reforms these changes introduce in BNSS, and how to address delays in justice delivery while improving healthcare access for prisoners.

Shortcomings of Criminal Procedure Code 1973 and major reforms under BNNS,2023

Despite being a well-established legal framework, CrPC has been widely criticized for its procedural delays, particularly affecting undertrial prisoners. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB, 2023), more than 75% of India's prison population consists of undertrial prisoners, many of whom remain incarcerated due to delays in investigation, charge sheet filing, and trial completion. This backlog results in overcrowding, placing an immense burden on prison infrastructure, including healthcare facilities. By addressing judicial delays, BNSS has a direct impact on improving prison conditions and healthcare standards. The new legal framework aims to reduce the undertrial population, ensuring that prisons are not overburdened and that medical resources are not stretched beyond capacity. Some of the key impacts of BNSS on prison healthcare include:

Expedited Trial Mechanism

One of the most significant reforms under BNSS is the introduction of strict timelines for case disposal. Provisions such as Section 187, which mandates time-bound investigations, and Section 479, which

¹⁵ *A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras*, AIR27,1950 SCR 88.

¹⁶ Times of India, available at <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com> accessed on dated 27th march 2025 at about 9am.

encourages the use of technology in legal proceedings, are designed to address systemic delays. This provision aligns with the Supreme Court's ruling in *A.R. Antulay v. R.S. Nayak* (1992)¹⁷, where the court held that "speedy trial is not merely an expedient but an intrinsic part of justice."

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, includes Sections 478 to 496, which outline provisions related to bail and bond. To reduce overcrowding in jails, several key changes have been introduced:

- i. *Time-Bound Plea Bargaining and Relief for First-Time Offenders*: Section 290 makes plea bargaining a time-bound process, allowing an accused to apply within 30 days of charge framing and Section 293 allows first-time offenders with no prior convictions to receive a reduced sentence of one-fourth or one-sixth of the prescribed punisher
- ii. Section 479 sets a maximum detention period for undertrial prisoners. A first-time offender must be released on bond if they have spent one-third of the maximum sentence in detention. The Superintendent of Jail is responsible for applying for such releases in court.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, under Section 479, underscores the necessity of providing relief to undertrial prisoners, a crucial step in addressing the issue of prolonged incarceration. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued directives to state prison authorities, ensuring the effective implementation of this provision to mitigate the adverse effects of overcrowding. While this section primarily focuses on legal relief, its implications extend beyond procedural efficiency, as reducing the number of undertrial prisoners directly contributes to improved prison health conditions. Overcrowded prisons pose significant public health challenges, including inadequate medical care, the spread of communicable diseases, and compromised mental well-being. Thus, the enforcement of Section 479 of BNSS plays a pivotal role in fostering a healthier prison environment. These reforms aim to prevent overcrowding in prisons and ensure that undertrials do not suffer due to systemic inefficiencies.

In 2013, *Re-Inhuman Conditions in Prisons 1382 v. state of Assam*¹⁸, the Supreme Court of India initiated a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on its own (suo motu) after receiving a letter from former Chief Justice of India R.C. Lahoti. The letter highlighted serious concerns about prison conditions nationwide, including overcrowding, unnatural deaths of inmates, and a shortage of trained prison staff. Exercising its supervisory jurisdiction, the Court has since monitored the implementation of various measures to improve prison conditions and protect prisoners' rights. To facilitate this process, the Supreme Court, using its powers under Article 32 and Article 142 of the Constitution, appointed Senior Advocate Gaurav Agrawal as Amicus Curiae. His role is to assist in identifying key issues and ensuring compliance with the Court's directives. A major legal development in this matter has been the introduction of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, which replaced the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and came into effect on July 1, 2024. Notably, Section 479 of BNSS has replaced Section 436A of the previous law,

¹⁷ *A.R. Antulay v. R.S. Nayak*, AIR 1992 SC 1701

¹⁸ *Re inhuman conditions in 1382 vs state of Assam Writ petition civil no 406 of 2013*

introducing more relaxed provisions for the release of undertrial prisoners, particularly first-time offenders.

Recognizing the impact of Section 479 on reducing prison overcrowding, the Supreme Court stressed that the law should be applied to all eligible undertrials, regardless of when they were arrested. This provision benefits two key groups:

1. Undertrial prisoners who have completed half of their potential maximum sentence.
2. First-time offenders who have completed one-third of their potential maximum sentence.

The Court directed prison authorities to review cases without delay and to complete the process for all eligible prisoners within three months. A monitoring system has been put in place, requiring jail officials to report progress to higher authorities. The Court's stance reflects an urgent commitment to justice and human rights, ensuring that legally eligible individuals are not unjustly held in prison.

Strengthening Prison Healthcare under BNSS 2023

BNSS, 2023, acknowledges the critical shortcomings in prison healthcare and introduces specific provisions to address these systemic issues. It mandates regular health assessments and enhancement of medical facilities within correctional institutions, aiming to receive adequate healthcare in accordance with fundamental human rights principles. However, the effectiveness of these provisions remains a significant concern. Despite these legislative directives, prisons across India continue to grapple with severe shortages of medical personnel, administrative inefficiencies in the timely delivery of prison services, and hinder medical services. Without proper monitoring mechanisms, increased funding, and administrative commitment, the intended benefits of BNSS, 2023, may remain largely theoretical rather than resulting in meaningful change for the incarcerated population. Recognizing the pressing need for prison healthcare reforms, BNSS 2023 includes:

- Safeguarding Prisoners' Rights:* Section 485 of BNSS, 2023 reinforces the fundamental rights of prisoners, ensuring humane treatment, access to legal aid, and basic necessities, including healthcare services. The provision mandates that prison authorities take proactive measures to uphold the dignity of inmates by providing essential medical care and mental health support. In light of international human rights standards, this section aligns with the principles outlined in the Nelson Mandela Rules, which emphasize the necessity of adequate healthcare for incarcerated individuals.
- Special Considerations for Women and Vulnerable Inmates:* Section 491 of BNSS, 2023 recognizing the unique challenges faced by women, elderly prisoners, and individuals with disabilities, Section 491 of the BNSS establishes specialized provisions tailored to their needs. The section mandates gender-responsive prison infrastructure, maternity care for pregnant inmates, and accessible healthcare services for prisoners with disabilities. These measures seek to create an inclusive and rehabilitative framework within correctional institutions, ensuring that vulnerable groups receive the necessary medical and psychological support. Furthermore, the provision aligns with global best practices that advocate for the protection of women prisoners, as outlined in the Bangkok Rules.

iii. *Medical Interventions and Preventive Healthcare:* Section 495 of BNSS, 2023 provides the healthcare provision within prison systems often remains an overlooked aspect of correctional administration. Section 495 of the BNSS addresses this gap by mandating periodic medical examinations for inmates, facilitating early detection and intervention for communicable and chronic diseases. The provision also emphasizes the establishment of in-house medical units equipped with essential healthcare infrastructure, thereby reducing dependency on external medical facilities. This legislative framework aims to integrate preventive and curative healthcare services within the prison system, ensuring that inmates receive continuous medical supervision and mental health support. This aligns with the WHO's principle that "prison health is a matter of public health" (WHO, 2022), reinforcing the need for a more humane and health-focused approach to incarceration.

Complementing the legislative framework of the BNSS 2023, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has undertaken extensive prison reform measures to modernize correctional administration. Amendments to the Model Prison Manual, 2016, alongside the introduction of the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023, underscore a shift towards a rehabilitative approach to incarceration. These reforms emphasize the need for improved prison infrastructure, the integration of healthcare services, and the implementation of rehabilitation programs aimed at facilitating prisoners' reintegration into society. By prioritizing prisoner welfare, these policy interventions seek to transform correctional institutions into centres of rehabilitation rather than the mere punitive spaces.

Conclusion

The intersection of criminal justice and healthcare within prison systems remains a complex and pressing issue, particularly in the context of procedural delays that significantly impact the well-being of incarcerated individuals. This study has examined the detrimental effects of judicial delays on prisoners, emphasizing the interplay between prolonged incarceration, inadequate medical care, and systemic inefficiencies. The findings underscore the urgent need for reforms that not only expedite legal proceedings but also prioritize the health rights of those in custody. The research highlights that judicial delays contribute significantly to the deterioration of both physical and mental health among prisoners. Prolonged incarceration, often in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, exacerbates existing health conditions while also increasing the risk of new illnesses. Undertrial prisoners, who constitute a substantial portion of the incarcerated population, are particularly vulnerable, as they endure extended periods of uncertainty without access to adequate legal representation or timely medical care. The absence of systematic healthcare interventions within prisons not only violates fundamental human rights but also underscores the urgent need for a coordinated response that integrates legal and healthcare frameworks to ensure the well-being of prisoners. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) offers a crucial opportunity to reform the criminal justice system by introducing measures to speed up trials, strengthen legal aid, and improve healthcare services for prisoners. However, the effectiveness of these reforms depends on proper implementation, adequate funding, and continuous oversight. Simply enacting legal provisions is not enough; they must be translated into real improvements within prison systems. Ensuring

that prisoners receive timely justice and essential healthcare requires the combined efforts of policymakers, judicial authorities, and healthcare professionals, working together to create a fairer and more humane system. As India works on improving its criminal justice system, it is important to include better healthcare for prisoners. Delayed trials do not just affect legal outcomes; they also harm prisoners' health and overall fairness in society. A good justice system should ensure that prisoners receive fair and timely trials while also receiving proper medical care. Future research should focus on how legal and healthcare systems can work together to improve prison conditions..By bridging the gap between justice and health, India can build a more humane and equitable criminal justice system that upholds the dignity and rights of all individuals.

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