

PART B*Children's Courts*

1. Children's Courts. One of the most important recommendations of the Indian Jails Committee was that special Children's Courts should be opened on the lines of those existing in other countries. The State Government agreed that the creation of Children's Courts was distinctly desirable; but they were of opinion that the number of children accused of offences in any one station of the Punjab was not sufficient to justify the appointment of a special Magistrate to deal with children cases only.

2. Selection of Magistrate to try children cases. Trial to be held at a different place. Government has accordingly decided that each judicial Magistrate should be left to select one of the Magistrates subordinate to him, before whom all cases concerning children should be brought. The trial of Children should be held, if possible, at a different place from the Court in which cases are generally heard. If this is impossible these cases should be heard at a different time from other cases. In the case of outlying subdivisions and tehsils, children will normally be brought before the Magistrate having jurisdiction in the place, who will hear their cases in same way as the Magistrate selected at headquarters.

3. Simple language of trial. The language used at the trial of youthful offender should be as simple as possible, and legal phraseology should be reduced to the bare necessities.

4. Outsiders should not be allowed at the trial. If case has to be heard in the Magistrate Court room (no other place being available); then the room should be cleared of all outsiders, only those actually concerned with the particular case being admitted.