



WOMEN AND CRIME

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INTRODUCTION:

It was believed till a few decades ago that crime is indisputably a male phenomenon and the world of crime is only a man's world. The subject of male criminality was totally neglected. No attention was paid on women's crime. Considering of gender in regard to crime have been considered to be largely ignored and pushed aside in criminological and sociological study, until recent years, to the extent of female deviance having been marginalized (1995). In the past fifty years of sociological research into crime and sex differences were understood and quite often mentioned within works, such as Merton's theory of anomie, however, they were not critically discussed, and often any mention of female delinquency was only as comparative to males, to explain male behavior's, or through defining the girl as taking on the role of a boy, namely, conducting their behavior and appearance as that of a 'tomboy' and by rejecting the female role. Ganga Violence In The Post Industrial Era, adopting stereotypical masculine traits.

DEFINITIONS OF CRIME:

- 1) As per law Crime may be defined as ' any form of conduct which is declared to be socially harmful in a state and as such forbidden by law under pain of punishment'(Bhattacharyya, 1992)
- 2) Crime has also been defined in no-legal or social terms. **Mowrer (1959)** has defined it as "an anti social act"
- 3) **Thorsten Sellin (1970)** has described it as "violation of conduct norms of the normative groups".

- 4) **Hall Jerome (1947)** has defined crime as “legally forbidden and intentional action, which has a harmful impact on social interests, which has a criminal intent, and which has legally prescribed punishment for it.”

REVIEWS:

A few studies conducted in different part of India. Like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Bangaluru, Haryana, New Delhi and Maharashtra also. There is some scholar who undertook the study on female criminality from Sociological point of view. R,K.Sharma, Rani Bilmoria, Mishra and Gautam, Eswar Shariff and Sekar, Sanyal and Agrawal, and Neera Kuckreja Sohony.

Some observations were found on the basis of above studies which are as follows:

- 1) Family maladjustment or role conflict in family.
- 2) Social and psychological factors in female crime.
- 3) Crime in terms of unhealthy maritaland family relations.
- 4) Defective family environment, faulty discipline by parents, broken homes, parental rejection etc. as causes of deviant behaviour.
- 5) Female criminality is largely due to homes and crisis of changing social values.
- 6) Female criminals had a feeling of insecurity and also a feeling of low self – esteem.

Female were convicted for very serious crimes like murder, bride burning, drug, trafficking, dacoity, motivate to suicide and some mild and petty offences like immoral trafficking, theft and vagrancy

THEORIES ABOUT FEMALE CRIMINALITY:

Various the rise about crime have been propounded from time to time but only a few among them have dealt with female criminality. We will review the old theories about female crime like those of Kingsly Davis and Otto Pollak.

Kingsly Davis (1937) presented a function a list interpretation of one specific type of crime by women, neamly, prostitution. He argued that commercial prostitution a rises as a black market in sex. It a rises in

circumstances where demand for sexual novelty cannot be supplied within the framework of marriage and / or where some males are cut off from access to sex partners because they are unmarried, ugly or deformed.

Otto Pollak (1950) claimed that women engage in hidden crimes like abortions, murdered by poisoning, offences against children etc. because of their greater skill at deceit and cunning behavior acquired through sexual socialization. Besides the surreptitious and cunning nature of women acquired through differential socialization process, Pollak also suggested that biological factors including lesser physical strength, as well as psychological concomitance of menstruation, pregnancy, etc. enter into the etiology of female crime.

FEMALE THEORIES ABOUT FEMALE OFFENDING:

Adler (1975) proposed that the emancipation of women during the 1970s increased economic opportunities for women and allowed women to be as crime-prone as men. While “women have demanded equal opportunity in the fields of legitimate endeavors, a similar number of determined women have forced their way into the world of major crime such as white-collar crime, murder, and robbery”. She suggested that as women are climbing up the corporate business ladder, they are making use of their vocational liberation to pursue careers in white-collar crime. But feminism has made female crime more visible through increased reporting, policing and the sentencing of female offenders and, even then, the statistical base is small in comparison to men. Carlen (1985) argues that Adler’s new female criminal is cast as the ‘biological female’ who is essentially masculine.

NEW THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE:

The factors endogenous or exogenous to family create provocations, temptation, strains and stresses in a woman’s life. These provocations or stresses produce a desire or a need to deviate from social and / or legal norms. The personality structure or the socio-psychological characteristics like temperament, attitudes, frustration, deprivations or dominant underlying needs prevent some women from this deviation but fail to do so in other cases. Thus, both personality

system and pressures of environment in which women functions contribute to women's criminality.

RELEVANCE OF FEMALE CRIME IN MAHARASHTRA:

The crime report for 2014 released by National Crime Records Bureau (N.C.R.B.) places Maharashtra second and third among all states and Union Territories for number of women arrested for attempt to murder and culpable homicide not amounting to murder, respectively.

The report said that maximum number of crimes were committed by women in the 30-45 age group, followed by those between 18 and 30 years. The charges covered to murder, attempt to rape, kidnapping and abduction, dacoity with murder robbery, burglary, theft, cheating, grievous hurt, dowry death, cruelty by husband and relatives, importation of girls, causing death by negligence, offences promoting enmity between different groups, extortion, rash driving or road rage.

"Genders are coming closer and just as there are unisex clothes, crime too is gender-neutral," said psychiatrist Dr. Harish Shetty, adding that in this context, "Maharashtra has been a failed state for the last decade and will need a lot of political will to wrest back its old glory".

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

The importance of female criminality was studied under various dimensions, like social, cultural and economic etc. The former was operationalized broadly in terms of the respective environments of the family of orientation and the family of procreation. The concept of environment was specifically broken down to cover socialization processes, inter-personal relations with siblings etc. Similarly, the role of the family of procreation was examined in terms of husband-wife relationship, daughter-in-law /mother-in-law relationships, relationship between daughter-in-law and other members.

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Objectives of the study:

- 1) To study the nature of crime of women prisoners.
- 2) To study the relationship of women prisoners to Victim.
- 3) To find out the reasons for offences.
- 4) To study the life of women prisoner.
- 5) To give appropriate suggestions.

UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY:

The universe of the study consisted of all the female offenders in the barrack of the Kalamba central prison, Kolhapur. The target group was undertaken from said jail. The researcher decided to interview all women criminals living in the jail.

RESEARCH DESIGN:

The present study is based on descriptive research design. The study has been conducted in the Kalamba central prison, in Kolhapur city only.

SAMPLING METHOD:

As in the present study the female offender in Kalamba Central Prison are the units of study all the female member from the prison record are considered. From the record we could get the information about thirty five inmates. All the thirty five female inmates are considering in the present study. So, the method of sampling can be mentioned as Purposive Random Sampling Method.

SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTION:

The researcher has used both primary and secondary sources for data collection for the research study.

Primary source:

The researcher developed interview schedule by covering appropriate and relevant questions. Face to face interview was conducted with female criminals. She also did observation and discussion during interview with the respondents.

Secondary source:

The secondary was collected through various sources like, jail office records, reference books, journals, magazines and web sides.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY:

The present study is essentially a descriptive to understanding the socio-cultural and economic dynamics of crime. The study attempts to find out the socio-economic background of the female criminals, their motivating factors and circumstances, cultural and rural-urban background. At geographical level, the study is confined to the Kalamba central prison, Kolhapur.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA:

With the help of code book and master sheet collect raw data was put in the form of table. Further analysis and interpretation was made with the help of computer techniques.

Table 1: Nature of Crime

| Sr. No. | Nature of crime | Frequency | Percentage |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Kidnap | 01 | 03% |
| 2 | Murder | 30 | 86% |
| 3 | Cheating | 02 | 06% |
| 4 | Rowdy | 01 | 03% |
| 5 | Steal | 01 | 02% |
| | Total | 35 | 100% |

Nature of Crime:

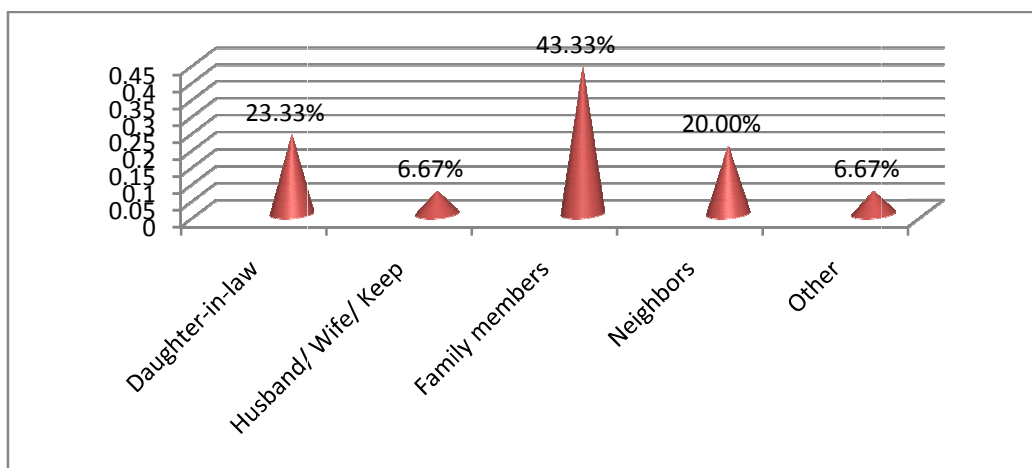
The above table shows that 3% of respondents nature of offence is kidnap, 86% of respondents nature of offence is murder, 6% of respondents nature is cheating, 3%of respondents nature is rowdy and 2% of respondents nature is steal.

With above information it can be say all most all the respondents committed various offences. Out of them majority of female offenders' nature of offence is murder and it is very serious offence.

Table 2: Offender relations with Victims

| Sr. No. | Offenders relationship with Victims | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | Daughter-in-law | 07 | 23.33% |
| 2 | Husband/ Wife/ Keep | 02 | 06.67% |
| 3 | Family members | 13 | 43.33% |
| 4 | Neighbors | 06 | 20.00% |
| 5 | Other | 02 | 06.67% |
| | Total | 30 | 100% |

Offender relations with Victims

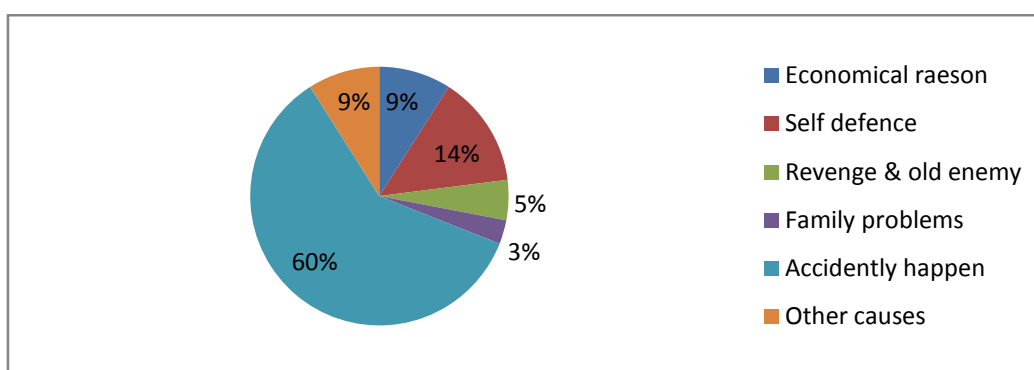


The above table explains about the relationship between offenders and died person. Out of total respondents 23 per % of respondents said that the relationship with died person was daughter- in-law, 6.67 % of respondents said that the relationship was husband/ wife/keep, 43.33 of respondents said the relationship was with family members, 20% of respondents said that the died persons were neighbors and 6.67% of respondents said the relationship was other.

With above analysis it is interpreted that most of the respondents said that they are murdered person within a family. It means it because of illicit relation of husband, biting the wife, murder of 2 and half years girls' child in the mentally disturbed, because of illicit relationship, six members' murders in the family, murder because of agricultural land and killing of self and other children.

Table 3: Reasons for offence

| Sr. No. | Reasons for offence | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | Economical reason | 03 | 09% |
| 2 | Self-defense | 05 | 14% |
| 3 | Revenge & old enemy | 02 | 05% |
| 4 | Family problems | 01 | 03% |
| 5 | Accidently happen | 21 | 60% |
| 6 | Other causes | 03 | 09% |
| | Total | 35 | 100% |

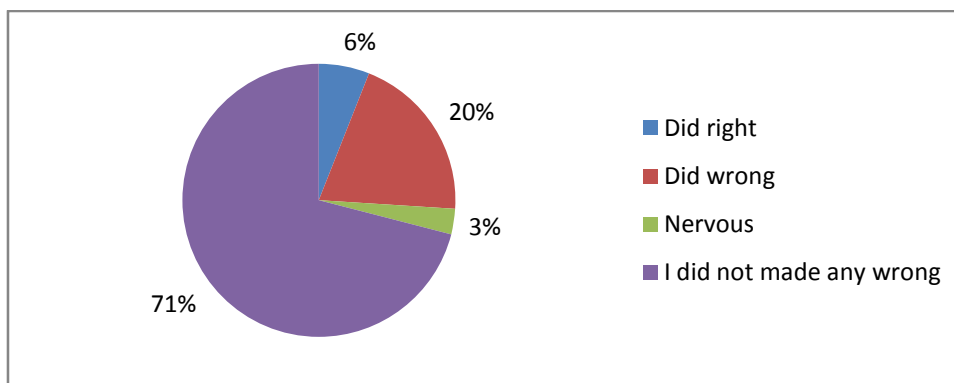
Reasons for offence

The above table indicates that 9% of respondents said they committed offence because of economical problem, 14% of respondents said for self-defense, 5% of respondents said because of revenge & old enemy, 3% of respondents said for family problem, 60% of respondents said offence happen accidently and 9% of the respondents said because of other causes.

It is clear that majority i.e. 60% of respondents made offence accidently. It is because of aggressive nature of behavior. Because such type of people never controls their emotions in a specific conditions.

Table 4: Feeling after offence.

| Sr. No. | Feeling after offence | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | Did right | 02 | 06% |
| 2 | Did wrong | 07 | 20% |
| 3 | Nervous | 01 | 03% |
| 4 | I did not made any wrong | 25 | 71% |
| | Total | 35 | 100% |

Feeling after offence.

The above table shows that 6% of respondents opinion that whatever they did that is right, 20% of respondents said whatever they did that was wrong, 3% of respondents felt nervous after offence and 71% of respondents said they did made any wrong thing.

From above table it can be understand that majority i.e. 71% of female offend respondents opinion that they are not made any wrong thing. Whatever they made that was absolutely right and we are not worrying. It means before offence they prepared mentally.

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS:

The present study covers a variety of aspects related to female criminality. However as the study deals with a limited sample size, the findings should be accepted with some caution. Certain conclusions can be draw based on the findings of the present study about the nature and trend of female criminality.

FINDINGS:

1. With above information it can be say all most all the respondents committed various offences. Out of them majority of female offenders' nature of offence is murder and it is very serious offence.

2. With above data analysis it can be predicted that most of the female offenders have not that much close relationship but 23% of respondents' relationship was as daughter-in-law.

3. It is clear that majority i.e. 60% of respondents made offence accidentally. It is because of aggressive behavior. Because such type of individuals never control their emotions in a specific conditions.

4. Majority i.e. 71% of female respondents opinion that they had not done any wrong thing. Whatever they made that was absolutely right and they are not worrying. It means before offence they prepared mentally.

SUGGESTIONS:

In the present study the researcher has made following suggestions on the basis of findings drawn from the interpretation of each tables. These suggestions are given as follows.

- 1) It is found that most of the female offenders are illiterate due to their socio-cultural and economic background. If government made certain policies regarding criminals literacy that would be help them to mould themselves and to others also.
- 2) From this study it is clear that majority of respondent are from joint family it is very essential for proper growth and development family members. But in the present context joint family and nuclear families are molded with modern technology.
- 3) Majority of female respondents' offence is murder and it is shocking one. So there is need for appointing professional social worker in every central prison for counseling the criminals.
- 4) More than 70% of respondents made the offence within the family members only. Hence, the government has to take initiative to develop the counseling centers in the colony or lanes in the society and inform the members to approach them whenever the problem arises in the family.
- 5) Majority of female offenders said that they committed the mistakes accidentally. It means psychologically they are disturbed. So, they should be assisted to change their mentality as per mental disturbances and make them normal.

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