

Socio-Cultural Issues of Women Prisoners at District Jail Jhang Pakistan

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Abstract

This study investigated reasons 12 women had for committing crimes. We documented experiences of these women after being imprisoned, and their perceptions of administration at District Jail Jhang. All participants went through in-depth interviews developed to achieve these endpoints and included specific questions about their demographics and their life experiences, criminal history, psychosocial and economic struggles. A thematic analysis revealed, these women suffered from lower socio-cultural status in their families, were largely illiterate, and lived in poor economic conditions. The authors believe these factors may be responsible for criminal behavior in this group. In addition, the study also unveiled these women were influenced by strong hate, anger, greed, and love, which may have led to a criminal life. The paper provides an overall thematic picture of imprisoned female criminals in Pakistan; and discusses possibilities that may help her to disengage from a life of crime. Many ideas presented in this paper may open up a discussion for jail administrators and law enforcing agencies that would help women prisoners of Pakistan.

Keywords: Socio-Cultural Factors, Female Prisoners, Criminal Behaviors, Effects of Imprisonment, Perception towards Jail

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Crime refers to breaking social and state rules, regulation and law and is a social phenomenon that is complex in modern times. It is a major social problem for human societies and it has increased massively in the present world. Female crime likewise has risen all over the world and it is more evident in underdeveloped countries (Abbas &Manzoor, 2015).

It was believed for many decades that the world of crime is mainly a men's world because crime is predominately a men's domain. But in today's world females are also indulged in risky and illegal jobs like crime. But women are not directly

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associated to commit serious offenses; the psychological and social factors influence them in criminal activities (Schwartz, 2006).

Women Crime in Pakistan

Criminal acts committed by women is somehow a new phenomenon in many cultures and societies of developing world, but female prison population increased rapidly in last ten years (Ali & Shah, 2011). The phenomenon got less attention because initially women criminals get less in contact with law-and-order agencies as compared to males that is why it is hard to track detailed statistics about women criminality in Pakistan. Even literature does not highlight statistics much because most of the research focused on reasons and etiology of women crime (Warraich & Farooq, 2015). One of the researches indicating data about women criminals is by Auolakh (1986) who stated that in 1980 the study of criminal justice was conducted and there were only 70 women criminals in entire Pakistan. In 1990, according to some of the official police records the number had increased to 125 female criminals in the province of Punjab only. According to the World Prison Brief (2018), women prisoners constitute 1.8% of the total prison population in Pakistan. In Sindh, there were 191 women prisoners out of a total of 20,069 in November 2018. In 2020 this number reached to 727 in Punjab (HRC, 2020) whereas in Sindh the number remained 205, 166 in KPK, 20 in Baluchistan and only 3 in GB (Plight of Women in Pakistan's Prisons Report, 2020).

So far as nature of crime is concerned a survey showed women were convicted in drug trafficking more than men (29 % vs. 19%) and also involved in property related frauds. The men were usually involved in murders than women (30% vs. 20%, Brown et al., 2005). The women criminals are mostly convicted in the murders of their husbands and relatives (Weizmann- Henelius et al., 2003).

Many are searches are conducted globally in regard to female criminality but the present situation demands more attention to trace the social circumstances which are possible for their criminal behaviors (Arrigo & Griffin, 2004).

Reasons for Crime in Women

Women criminality is enrooted in social, religious, environmental, economic and family factors in Pakistan (Warraich & Farooq, 2015). Pakistan has a patriarchal society and they don't have clear agenda that why women should be marginalized and restricted to have basic fundamental rights and economic exposure opportunities. In the rural areas of Pakistan the practices like marriage with the Quran (holy book of

Muslims), Watta-satta, Karo-Kari, Wani and Sawara are common. These practices are just to satisfy the ego of their male family members and for their benefit. It is a country where everyday dozens of cases of rape and murders are reported in the name of honor. The patriarchal society punishes women by shaving of the head or eyebrows, through acid attacks, sexual abuse and by mutilation of nose and ears; these are common punishments (Butt, 2020).

Women are still under the clutches of the patriarchal system. The economic control and man as breadwinner have marginalized the women to contribute financially but in today's world women want equal rights and want to talk equally with men. Our social environment also contributes a lot to women's criminal involvement. Sometimes women adopt the wrong pathways to get success. It seems like women have lost trust in social justice and the social system. They face discrimination in every sphere of life, even in education and contribution of every work which she did equally to man isn't sufficient to give her appreciation (Bajpai & Bajpai, 2000). Many researchers claimed cultural factors, socio-economic condition (poverty and economic dependence) and low education level as main reasons contributing to female crime along with patriarchy (Abbas & Manzoor, 2015; Zafar et al. 2013) but some of the reasons are similar to male crime reasons e.g. capital, authority and compensation (Kruttschnitt & Carbone-Lopez, 2006). Furthermore, deception and fake marriage are reasons that provoke women-type crimes (Steffensmeier & Schwartz, 2004).

In developing countries like Pakistan, due to socio-cultural values women are mostly confined in the four walls of house and men are the bread winners. The social and economic inferior status of women leads to helplessness or sometimes it grabbed them in criminal world (Khan et al., 2015).

There may be several factors of women involvement in the crime, but patriarchy is important factor; women are subordinate and dependent on their male fellows; who easily drag them and emotionally exploit them. Our security agencies like police and other armed forces do not check or search women when she's traveling or moving one place to the other because of social norms. Their male fellows used them to supply drugs. Involve them in trafficking and kidnapping of children and girls. Pakistani courts have soft attitudes towards women they get easy bail from the court (Zafar et al., 2013).

Ali and Shah (2011) also discussed another major factor which is urbanization. It increases of population (migration), poverty starvation,

industrialization, cultural changes and crisis, unemployment, reduction in social norms and increased anxiety which can be a reason for women involvement in crimes.

Warraich and Farooq (2015) explained that family and family culture are the main contributors to women's criminal activity, as families are the first actors in socialization. Women are criminalized due to patriarchal social and cultural patterns because they are not financially empowered. Due to all these factors, women showed aggression. Pakistan is a family-centric society, which define the role of women just as caregivers and marginalized them in the four walls of the home especially in under privileged families and rural areas.

In Pakistani society, women face the deprivation of basic rights, desires, burdens, family pressure, and lack of education turns women into criminals as expressions that liberate explosions. Education can play a vital role in women's socialization and character formation. The scenario for Pakistani women is alarming. But it depends on the social class of women as well as on their physical well-being. Women's status is improving somewhat in central metropolitan areas and their social mobility is somehow unrestricted, with the upper-class segment of modern society where higher studies and well-paid jobs exist (Saeed et al., 2018).

Mainly crimes are committed because of lack of economic resources, illiteracy, broken marriages, and betrayal by the partner. Early marriages, girlfriend swaps, and frustration accumulated due to peer pressure are other related causes of crime. The research also shows that the criminal process is largely comparable. Most of the attackers show aggression and frustration by killing which are somehow related to them. For the eradication of any problem, it is important to find out the root cause, because it is the only way to end the problem from the roots (Islam et al., 2019).

Yaseen (2017) believed the changing role of women in the capitalist system has led women and property crimes. Women's crime is changing over time through the influence of industry, technology, telecommunications, transportation, and the media. The role of women in the family needs to be strengthened to eradicate women's crimes in Pakistan.

Ali and Shah (2011) stated that Pakistani women have always fight for their rights to maintain their social and family life, sometimes even their blood relations deceive them and lead to acting like a criminal.

The financial hardships and burden to fulfill the necessities of the family they chose child kidnapping, drug trafficking, robbery, and prostitution as a way to earn money. In the third world, the rights of women in Pakistan are restricted and their

universal status is very low. Even after being released, the survival of criminal women becomes difficult in jail. They need psychologist for dealing with depression. There is also an urgent need to improve the education and economic standards of Pakistani women (Khalid & Khan, 2013).

Women Prisoners

Das (2013) elaborated that international organizations has truly recognized the prisoners' rights but in developing countries like India women prisoners face poor treatment. The situation is same in Pakistan. According to Women Aid Trust it is estimated that there are 2000 women who are confined in the jails. There is confusion and conflict in the number of total prisoners but (WAT) estimated that there 81 prisoners where women cells are 55. They are mismanaged and crowded. Women prisoners are not allowed to keep money with them, and they can't keep children above the age of six. Moreover, there are serious concerns about physical and mental health of women prisoners specially the ones living with their children (Ali & Shah, 2011). Further jails have dilapidated facilities, educational and medical facilities are scarce, environment is unhygienic and even diet is not up to the mark (Khan, 2010).

Das (2013) also described that, female prisoners believe that without strong financial resources, you can't get a good lawyer to fight for them. Again, poor economic conditions and family burdens do not allow them to fight for longer periods. Most of the prisoners mentioned that society would not accept them as before. They have lost their social status and are cut off from their families. They have lost their identity.

Two theories served as theoretical framework for this study: gender perspective and Marxists theory. In gender perspective, the socialization and cultural differences between male and female are those factors which can't be neglected because men commit more crime in more violent patterns. Female criminality is ignored by justice and authoritative institutions because the needs of female offenders are different as compared to male offenders and authorities are unwilling to take any actions for the betterment of legal procedures and jail advancement. According to the gender approach, the socialization of men and women is different. Females are controlled and watched by the social system. Women's discrimination has its historical roots and women are always supervised under the men's hold (Rezetti & Goodstien, 2001).

Marxist's believed that capitalism is the cause of crimes. Crime happens as a result of unequal distribution of power, the exploitation of the rights of the working

class by the ruling class. He argued that the economic system of capitalism itself causes crimes which leads to an increase in the wealth for the elite and increases poverty for the working class. He further described the crime as a function of social fraud under the conditions of the British working class in 1844 and was obsessed with the process by which workers that lost fraud in a capitalist society led to crimes (Siegel, 2015).

Significance of the Study

The basic aim of this study is to identify factors that lead women to commit crimes and provide an in-depth qualitative analysis of their experiences that would highlight and align with these factors. We expected urbanization, socio-cultural factors like patriarchy and economic factors would compel women to become criminals. In addition, the study explored experiences during imprisonment and the treatment they got from prison administration along with psychological problems and unmet needs of prisoner women.

Method

Research Design

The qualitative methodology has been adopted to gather information from respondents about their life experiences and their socioeconomic status before imprisonment and to identify psychological problems after imprisonment.

Sample

A convenient sample of 36 women prisoners at District Jail Jhang was initially selected, 24 women declined consent and did not want to be part of the study; this left us with 12 women of that eight were imprisoned for their crimes and four were sentenced to death. The demographic and criminal information about the participants is shown in Table 1.

No	Alias	Age	Location	Occupation	Education	Marital Status	Crime	Accessory
1	RA	45	Rural	Rag picker	Illiterate	Married	Drugs Selling	
2	AS	32	Urban	Maid	Illiterate	Divorced	Drugs Selling	
3	NA	45	Urban	Housewife	Illiterate	Widow	Murder of husband	Male cousin

4	MA	18	Urban	Student	Matric	Single	Murder of father	Mother and Uncle
5	SB	28	Urban	Housewife	Primary	Married	Drug selling	Boyfriend
6	NO	35	Rural	Housewife	Illiterate	Widow	Murder of husband	Husband's nephew
7	AN	40	Urban	Housewife	Illiterate	Widow	Murder of husband	Cousin
8	IR	42	Rural	Housewife	Illiterate	Widow	Murder of Boyfriend	Friend
9	SH	21	Urban	Housewife	Matric	Married	Murder of father	
10	SU	19	Rural	Farming	Illiterate	Single	Murder of father	
11	SA	30	Rural	Housewife	Illiterate	Married	Drug selling	Husband
12	FA	32	Urban	Beautician	Matric	Widow	Murder of husband & mother-in-law	Boyfriend

Mean = 32.5

Table 1 shows that majority of women belonged to rural areas with fewer from the urban areas of Jhang. Majority (66%) of them was illiterate and was housewives (83%). A majority (75%) of them belonged to an age group of 31-50 years with 50% having males as accessories to their crime. A majority (83.3%) of women were accused (or convicted) of murdering their husbands, fathers and boyfriend, two were involved with drug trafficking.

Tool for Data Collection

A semi-structured, open-ended interview protocol was designed to gather information in lieu of existing literature and objectives of current research. The questions were subdivided in five sections and these sections were related to reasons of crime, life experiences of prisoner women, their perception about jail environment, perception about jail administration and their life in jail focusing psychological health as well. Along with basic questions, sub questions and probing questions were also posed to the participants as per individual requirement.

Procedure

After approval from the university, department and District Jail, Jhang face-to-face interviews were conducted after verbal informed consent from the participants.

They were assured that their information will be kept confidential and anonymous. The interview session with each participant lasted for about 30 to 45 minutes at the district jail in a room where there were no distractions. Interviews were transcribed read many times to ensure clarity, and after reading the transcripts many times, and if ambiguities persisted the participants were contacted again to clarifications. Initial codes were generated after the reads and re-reads and sub-themes were extracted using thematic analysis.

Analysis

The data were closely examined and organized after the transcription (Creswell et al., 2007). After reading the transcriptions carefully, the initial codes were generated and the search for sub-themes was started. Thematic analysis was used for analysis. Thematic analysis is a process being used for identifying patterns in data. It is a basic method which facilitates use of other methods as well and is easy to use in terms of not being tied to any epistemology or theoretical perspective.

For current research Braun and Clarke's (2006) 6-steps technique was used. Both semantic and latent themes were extracted and bottom up thematic analysis was used for naming the themes (Maguire & Delahunt, 2017). The results are presented in the form of tables. The main theme, sub-theme, and initial themes were extracted from the raw data obtained from interviews.

Results

The results extracted from data are given below. Table 2 below is about reasons extracted from the transcripts of participants depicting criminal behavior. The first major theme is named as Socio-cultural factors behind crime.

Table 2			
<i>Reasons for Criminal Behavior in Women</i>			
Initial Code	Sub-theme	Main Theme	
Selling drugs to meet the financial needs.	Poverty	Socio-cultural factors behind crimes involvement	
No proper houses for a living.			
We sell scrap but the earning is very low.			
The husband was ill unable to do work.			
Financial issues to meet needs.			
Not satisfied with husband's income.			

No other option to raise my son except drug trafficking.	
Villagers are poor & involved in drugs.	
Financial resources are controlled by the husband.	Patriarchy
Need of male family members for legal procedures.	
Male co-accused.	
I married him (husband) because it was my father's decision.	
Father was against of girl's education	
Liberty restricted by father or husband.	
Can't deny male family members even drug trafficking is a crime.	
Financial dependency on father.	
Son preferences.	
Early marriages	Lack of marital compatibility
Extramarital affair with co-accused	
Age gap	
Sexual disparity because of age gap	
20 years of an age gap with husband	
Extramarital affair with husband's nephew	
I was not aware of my husband's 1 st marriage	
No mental compatibility with husband.	
Physical and sexual violence by husband	Power control relations
Character assassination by husband & in-laws	
liberty controlled by the husband	
Abusive & doubtful husband.	
Liberty controlled by male family members.	
He refused to marry me.	Deceived by boyfriend
He was not ready to take my responsibility.	
He defamed my reputation.	
He wanted to hold my children's property.	
I left my husband for him.	
He (boyfriend) physically tortured me and took all of my money.	
I did not marry him (co-accused) because of fear to lose my children.	Social barriers for girls
A woman cannot demand divorce because it will defame her reputation.	

Society does not accept a love marriage by a girl.

My family did not accept my court marriage.

Families involved in drug selling.

Areas are defamed for drug trafficking.

Need of men for survival.

Criminal

Background

Social stigma

Major Theme #1: Socio-cultural factors behind crime

The table above reflects first major theme and 7 sub themes extracted from all interviews. The first sub-theme is Poverty. Poverty is a motivating factor of women's involvement in crimes. Economic crises and the illness of husbands are also contributing factors to female criminality. One woman prisoner RA stated,

ہم کباڈ کا کام کرتے ہیں۔ کچرہ کنڈی سے گتہ چن کر بچوں کا پیٹ پالتے ہیں کسی نے پولیس کو اطلاع دی اور چرس پائے جانے کا مقدمہ ہے مجھ پر۔ زندگی میں پریشانیاں ہی دیکھی ہیں۔

The other female prisoner AS said,

ہمارے بچے ہی ہماری جائیدادیں ہیں۔ جیسے بھی کر کہ بچوں کے پیٹ پالے ہیں لوگ برے حالات میں ساتھ نہیں دیتے مجبوری کا فائدہ اٹھاتے ہیں۔

Many of the respondents reported the abusive and doubtful behavior of husband. In Pakistan relationships are the primary means through which males family members control women and power over them. The woman prisoner NA reported,

میرے شوہر کی یہ سوچ تھی کہ جب عورت 40 سال کی ہو جاتی ہے وہ مکمل عورت بن جاتی ہے جس کی وجہ سے وہ مجھ پر شک کرتے تھے اور مار پیٹ کرتے تھے۔

The Next Sub-Theme is Patriarchy.

The women prisoners described many reasons which were indications of their unhappy married life and all the threads they described embedded in patriarchy NA reported,

ہم نے زندگی گزارا ہے جی نہیں ہے۔ میرا شوہر جیسا تھا سب کو پتا ہے میرے بچوں نے آج تک فیصل آباد نہیں دیکھا۔ کہیں جانے نہیں دیتا تھا ہر وقت گھر میں قید رکھتا تھا۔

A girl prisoner MA stated,

جب میں پانچویں جماعت میں تھی میرے والد مجھے آگے پڑھانا نہیں چاہتے تھے ان کی سوچ تھی کہ لڑکیوں کو گھر پر رہنا چاہیے۔

In a country like Pakistan where women are fully dependent on male family members for their decisions, they face inequality and exploitation in almost all spheres of life. The majority of the female prisoners had males co-accused with them who not

only provoked them for the crime but also assisted them. The woman prisoner NA reported,

محسن موقع پر موجود تھا وہ دیکھتا رہا کہ میرا شوہر زندہ ہے یا نہیں۔

The other prisoner SB stated,

میں اور اکمل گاڑی میں سفر کر رہے تھے جس وقت پولیس کو ہماری گاڑی سے چرس برآمد

ہوئی۔

The woman prisoner AS said,

انسان کو کسی کی باتوں میں نہیں آنا چاہیے کاش میں اظہر کی باتوں میں آکر اپنا گھر خراب نا کرتی اور نا ہی آج یہاں ہوتی۔

The Next Sub-Theme is the Lack of Marital Compatibility.

Because of age gap, early marriages, forced marriages and not having mental compatibility leads women to discomfort and as a result, they show frustration by committing crimes. Many of the respondents reported such issues. The one woman NO stated,

میں 15 سال کی تھی جب میری شادی ہوئی۔ میرے شوہر عمر میں مجھ سے کافی بڑے تھے۔ میری نند کا بیٹا ہمارے ساتھ رہتا تھا وہ اور میں ہم عمر تھے۔ لیکن اگر میں اس سے شادی کرتی تو میرے سسرال والے مجھ سے بچے چھین لیتے۔

The other woman prisoner AN reported,

میں 14 سال کی تھی جب میری شادی ہوئی میرے ماں باپ نے اپنی مرضی سے میری شادی کی لیکن 24 سال کی عمر میں مینے پسند کی شادی کی جس کو کسی نے قبول نہیں کیا۔

The Next Sub-theme is Power control relations.

Many of respondents reported physical and sexual violence by husband. The woman prisoner AN stated,

شوہر نشہ کرتا تھا۔ گھر آ کر مار پیٹ کرتا تھا میں نے بیوی کی حیثیت سے کبھی شوہر کی حق تلفی نہیں کی لیکن وہ پھر بھی مجھ پر تشدد کرتا تھا۔

The Next Sub-Theme is Deception by Boyfriends.

Two of the respondents also unveiled the fact that they were deceived by boyfriends. The one woman IR stated,

میرے شوہر کے فوت ہونے کے بعد میرا تعلق بنا لیکن اس نے کبھی مجھے شادی کی پیشکش نہیں کی اور نا ہی میری کوئی ذمہ داری لی۔ وہ میرے بچوں کی جائیداد پر قبضہ کرنا چاہتا تھا اس نے مجھے بہت پریشان کیا کہ زمین اس کے حوالے کر دوں۔

The other respondent AS stated,

میں جو بھی کماتی اظہر کو دیتی تھی۔ اس نے مجھ سے پلاٹ کے پیسے لئے اور جب میں نے پلاٹ اپنے نام کروانے کا مطالبہ کیا تو اس کے گھر والوں نے مجھ پر تشدد کیا اور اتنا مارا یہاں تک کہ میرا بچہ پیٹ میں ہی مر گیا۔

The Next Sub-Theme is the Lack of Marital Compatibility.

Because of age gap, early marriages, forced marriages, and not having mental compatibility leads women to discomfort and as a result, they commit crimes. Many of the respondents reported such issues. The one-woman prisoner NO stated,

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The other woman prisoner AN reported,

میں 14 سال کی تھی جب میری شادی ہوئی میرے ماں باپ نے اپنی مرضی سے میری شادی کی لیکن 24 سال کی عمر میں مینے پسند کی شادی کی جس کو کسی نے قبول نہیں کیا۔

The Next Sub-Theme is Social Stigmas associate with Women.

Some of the prisoners argued that a woman's survival is difficult without the support of a man. Their social norms do not allow them to make decisions on their own. They followed men's footprints and accepted their decisions with whom they'll marry, whether she will continue her studies or not. One women prisoner AS stated,

زندگی میں یہی سمجھ آیا ہے کہ عورت کو مرد کے سہارے کی ضرورت ہوتی ہے۔ جن کے پیچھے ان کے مرد کیس لڑتے ہیں وہ یہاں سے چلی جاتیں ہیں۔

The second woman prisoner SH said

میں نے ماں باپ کے خلاف جا کر کورٹ میرج کی جس کو میری فیملی نے کبھی قبول نہیں کیا۔ والد کی وفات کے بعد امی نے میرے شوہر پر میرے اغواہ اور والد کے قتل کا جھوٹا مقدمہ کر دیا اور مجھ پر دباؤ ڈالا کہ میں شوہر کے خلاف جاؤں۔ جب میں نے بات نہیں مانی تو مجھ پر قتل کا الزام لگا کر پکڑوا دیا۔

The Next Sub-Theme is Property Disputes.

Most of the participants reported property issues with relatives which are the reasons for domestic problems. Blood relations are the murderer's for the greed of property. The prisoner SU said,

ہم سات بہنیں ہیں ہمارا کوئی بھائی نہیں ہے۔ میرے چاچو لوگوں نے ہمارے باپ کا قتل کیا اور الزام ہم پر لگا دیا تا کہ وہ ہماری زمین پر قبضہ کر سکیں

The Other Next Sub-Theme is Criminal Background.

The rural area Thethiaan of Chiniot is defamed because of drug selling and trafficking. The woman prisoner SA stated,

9c میں ضمانت آسانی سے ہوجاتی ہے۔ ہمارے گاؤں کے بہت سارے لوگ پکڑے گئے لیکن چھوٹ گئے۔ میرے شوہر میرا کیس لڑ رہے ہیں جلد ہی میری ضمانت ہو جائے گی۔

Next Table 3 indicates the 2nd major theme impact of imprisonment on mental health of participants and its sub themes.

<i>Imprisonment on Mental Health</i>				
Initial Code	Sub-Theme	Main Theme		
Not taking any medicine	Good mental condition	Impact of imprisonment		
No suicidal thoughts				
No sleeping disorders				
Emotionally strong	Sadness			
I cried a lot for my children.				
I feel like I'm in hell.				
I'm alive but I feel I'm in a grave.				
I pray for others to not come to Jail.	Depression			
It makes me sad when I think about my children & home.				
Emotionally weak.				
Excessive crying.				
Suicidal thoughts.				
Hypersonic				
Reciting verses of the Quran when I feel stress.			Coping Strategies	
I watch TV and clean my lockup cell to make myself busy.				
I keep patience because of my children.				
I cry for my daughter but I have hope with Allah.				
I spend my time with other prisoners when feeling stress				
I cook meals to make myself busy.				
I read Quran when I feel stress.				
I watch TV.				
I keep myself busy with embroidery & sewing.				
I pray five times a day for my inner peace.				

The above table depicts 4 sub themes which were extracted from interviews and they were grouped together as major theme on impact of imprisonment on mental health.

The Major theme #2: Impact of imprisonment on mental health /well-being

The first sub theme for this major theme was the Mental Condition of Women Prisoners.

Women are at more risk for having mental issues due to imprisonment because of their emotional attachment to family and children. Whether the punishment is longer or shorter but it can create issues of sadness and depression for prisoners.

One participant RU said,

تنہائی کی پریشانی ہے ادھر بہت مشکل وقت گزرتا ہے۔

The Majority of the female offenders were concerned about the family and children. They missed them. The other woman prisoner NA said,

جب بچوں کا خیال آتا ہے بہت پریشانی ہوتی ہے ان کو یاد کر کے روتی ہوں۔

The next Sub-Theme is Coping Strategies adopted by prisoners.

Eleven of the prisoners claimed that they obtain good mental condition because of their religious coping strategies. They claimed that they recite verses of the Quran, offer prayers and do prayers. A woman prisoner NA stated,

جب بھی ذہن پر دباؤ پڑتا ہے اللہ کی عبادت کرتی ہوں۔

The other prisoner MA stated,

ذہنی پریشانی سے بچنے کیلئے میں پیئٹنگ کرتی ہوں اور جیل کے کاموں میں وارڈن کی مدد

کرتی ہوں۔

There were other coping strategies as well for example keeping themselves busy, watching TV shows and talk to other prisoners when feeling stress.

After that the last table 4 indicates perception towards jail and jail administration.

Initial theme	Sub-theme	Main theme
Cooperative administration	Jail atmosphere	Perception towards Jail and Jail Administration
Peaceful environment		
Time planner by Jail management.		
Visits of Jail Superintendents and Judges.		
Equally treated every prisoner.	Facilities provided by Jail administration	
Availability of ambulance in an emergency.		
Vocational training i.e. (sewing & embroidery) & Paid work.		
Free medicines		
Good quality of food & food availability three times a day		
New clothes were given by the Judges & the Jail superintendents.		

Prisoners can consult a doctors and psychologist in privacy.	
Need Government support for hiring good lawyers.	Additional demands women prisoners are looking forward

The above table 4 depicts The Major theme # 3: Perception of women prisoners towards Jail and Jail Administration. There were 3 sub themes under this heading first was jail atmosphere and prisoners commented about administration behavior and Jail facilities as well.

All prisoners were satisfied with the jail staff and hygiene facilities. One respondent AS reported,

میرے پیچھے کوئی نہیں آتا جیل سپرنٹنڈنٹ اور جج صاحب جب دورے پر آئے تو انہوں نے مجھے کپڑے دلوائے تھے۔

Another participant MA claimed,

اگر رات میں کسی کی طبیعت خراب ہو جائے تو ایمبولینس کی سہولت موجود ہے جیل کے اندر ہی ہسپتال ہے جہاں 24 گھنٹے مفت طبی امداد فراہم کی جاتی ہے۔

The prisoners are also talked about employment opportunities for Women Prisoners which is also considered a facility.

There is a provision for the teacher to give vocational training to women prisoners i.e. sewing and embroidery. Many prisoners do not have any support outside of the jail. They can earn through this employment opportunity. One respondent IR said,

سلائی کڑھائی سکھانے کیلئے ٹیچر آتی ہیں۔ وہ آرڈر لیتی ہیں اور کام کے حساب سے اجرت ملتی ہے۔

The other respondent FA said,

مجھے اڈے کا کام آتا ہے میں نے کافی جوڑے بنائے ہیں۔ اور 10 ہزار تک اجرت بنائی ہے۔

So far as food is concerned, another participant FA claimed,

ایک ہفتے میں تین دن چکن بنتی ہے، تین دن سبزی اور ایک دن دال ہوتی ہے کھانا باہر سے آتا ہے اور جو خود پکانا ہو پکا سکتے ہیں۔

All women prisoners agreed on a major theme that socio-cultural issues are the reasons behind female criminality. Further, they reported that imprisonment has adverse effects on the prisoner's personal and social life. Sometimes prisoners feel depression and anxiety due to imprisonment but the prisoners were satisfied with the health care facilities that were available in Jail.

Discussion

Jhang is a backward city of Pakistan, and the majority of the prisoners belong to rural areas of city. Most of the women prisoners were illiterate and reported poor economic conditions, domestic violence, and financial dependency on male family members. This finding is supported by the study conducted by Islam et al. (2018) that mainly people commit crimes because of their low socio-economic status.

The majority of the women were convicted of the murder of their husbands and also, they have males co-accused with them. It is evidence of women's low position in society. The study of Warraich and Farooq (2015) also supported this finding that women are criminalized due to patriarchal social and cultural patterns because they are not financially empowered. The sociological theory and feminist theory by De Beauvoir (1953) also said that the male domination in the social structure, women are considered as goods like land or money. The women prisoners reported domestic issues, lack of marital compatibility, extramarital affairs, power control relations, deception by boyfriend as the factors of women's criminal involvement. This finding is also consistent with the study conducted by Obi et al., (2014) which revealed that the cultural patterns are not favorable for women.

The women who were engaged in drug selling and trafficking had a criminal background. They reported that their families are also involved in drug-related crimes. They also revealed that they were arrested several times by police. But they were fearless because of the family support which they had. This finding is verified by the study of Khalid and Khan (2013) who found that women who are involved in drug trafficking, smuggling, and robbery are addicted to criminal activities because they have the support of family. Most of the prisoners mentioned that without the financial resources we cannot hire a good lawyer to fight our cases. They want help from the government to fight for them. This finding is verified by the study conducted by Das (2013) which described that female prisoners believe that without strong financial resources, you can't get a good lawyer to fight for them.

Some of the prisoners also reported that property disputes with family forced women to commit serious offenses as Ali and Shah (2011) described that Pakistani women have always fight for their inherited rights, sometimes even their blood relations deceive them and lead them to act as criminal. The interaction with the jail administration also revealed that most of the women are involved in crimes due to socio-economic problems. Few of the women are professional criminals and involved

in white color crimes. The males are directly or indirectly involved in the female's crime.

So far as the impact of imprisonment on mental health is concerned depression and other mental health issues are a routine phenomenon (Schnittker, Massoglia & Uggen, 2012) so the female prisoners of our study do have issues and reported the episodes of crying and depression and loneliness made it even worse, but they have adopted some coping strategies which help them maintain mental equilibrium. Many Pakistani researchers indicated severe mental health issues in inmates (e.g., Gul, 2018; Shahid et al., 2014) but this was not the case in Jhang Jail. One probable reason of it is that most studies worked with male prisoners and second reason is embedded in foreign research. Research reports that jail atmosphere and facilities over there like non overcrowded jail can also be a positive indicator in maintaining mental health as research suggests overcrowded jails increase depression and hostility (Edgemon & Clay-Warner, 2018). Access to watching television is also related to lower level of inmate hostility because boredom increases depression (Cunningham et al., 2016) so we may conclude that presence of TV and access to it might help keeping inmates sane.

The participants were satisfied with jail administration and jail atmosphere and atmosphere was also good when observed. It appeared that District Jail Jhang as up to the mark cleanliness and gardens inside the jail make it an attractive place. The discipline maintained by the jail administration was appreciable. The women's prison was not overcrowded. Also, the availability of PCO in Jail is a new advancement; prisoners can talk to their families on phone calls. Jail authorities are lenient enough towards mother's prisoners; they can meet their children for twenty minutes every week. Families can also meet prisoners under the supervision of jail staff. The Jail Superintendent believed that prisoners are for information not for incarceration. Therefore, District Jail Jhang has focused on illiterate prisoners and gives them vocational training to change their criminal hands into skillful hands.

Conclusion

This study is the evidence of Marx's theory (1859) which stated that patriarchy, the unequal distribution of power, and poverty are the main factors of women's involvement in crimes. Most of the women of current study were uneducated, belong to poor rural areas and have a strong belief that their problems are written in their fate because they have groomed in a particular manner. Despite

thinking rationally and identify their problems they have strongly believed that their survival is only possible with the support of men. They are emotionally weak and have left everything on fate or God. They are waiting for miracles and keep sitting silently to get help from the heavens. There is a need for the counseling of prisoners so they can spend the rest of life in a better way. It is suggested that individual, household, institutional level awareness and work is needed for eliminating the violent crime among women.

Limitations of the study

- Interviews were conducted in the Punjabi and Saraiki language, although transcribed word to word, though; its translation may change the extent of meaning.
- There was a prohibition of the use of electronic devices like audio recorders and cameras etc., so it might be possible to have mistakes in transcribing the interviews.
- Female prisoners were reluctant and shy to share the crime.

Future suggestions

Based on findings, the following are the suggestion:

- To improve the conditions of women in society government should ensure the implementation of the laws regarding women empowerment.
- Through the media, awareness should be created among the society about the consequences of committing crimes and the adverse effect of imprisonment on prisoners as well as their families.
- The government should allocate the maximum funds for educational and vocational training for women.

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