

## **Case-studies of women inmates in the prisons of Jammu and Kashmir**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The case study is a very popular form of qualitative analysis and involves a careful and complete observation of a social unit, be that unit a person, a family, an institution, a cultural group or even the entire community. It is a method of study in depth rather than breadth. The case study places more emphasis on the full analysis of a limited number of events or conditions and their interrelations. The present paper is an attempt to get insight into the lives of the women inmates of J&K prisons by using case study method.

**Key Words :** Jail, J&K, Women Inmates, Prison

### **INTRODUCTION**

Case study is essentially an intensive investigation of the particular unit under consideration. The object of the case study method is to locate the factors that account for the behaviour pattern of the given unit as an integrated totality. A case study is a research method that relies on a single case rather than a population census or a representative sample. Jammu and Kashmir State is divided into three divisions such as Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. These three divisions are further divided into twenty two districts. There are ten districts in Jammu region, ten districts in Kashmir region and two districts in Ladakh region. The present study will be carried out in the Jails of J&K. In J&K there are total fourteen jails *i.e.* two Central, ten District and two Sub-Jails. The two Central Jails are located both in Srinagar and Jammu districts having one each and the ten District Jails are located in Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch, Baramulla, Leh and Kupwara, Anantnag and Kishtwar. The two Sub-Jails are located in Hiranagar and Reasi. But women inmates are lodged only in Central Jails and District Jails and not in Sub Jails as shown in the Table 1. Data from the table shows that there are total 102 women inmates lodged in two Central and five District Jails of J&K. Thus the present study will be carried out in the jails of J&K. where women inmates are lodged. During the field work the case profiles of all the women inmates were studied and few cases differing in nature were purposively selected for detailed understanding. The case studies are based on the narrations of the inmates as

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<b>Table 1 : Number of Women Inmates Lodged in Various Jails of J&amp;K 2013</b>			
Sr. No.	Central and District Jails	Women inmates	Total inmates (Males and females both)
1.	Central Jail Jammu, Kote Bhalwal	8	350
2.	Central Jail Srinagar	15	491
3.	District Jail Jammu, Ambphalla	21	483
4.	District Jail Kathua	1	111
5.	District Jail Udhampur	23	221
6.	District Jail Rajouri	11	104
7.	District Jail Poonch	15	98
8.	District Jail Baramulla	8	137
	Total	102	1995

Source: The Director General of Police (Prisons), J&K, Jammu.

well as the details gathered from the case profiles. These case- studies are helpful in getting in depth knowledge of inmates own lives and how they feel inside four walls and how they cope with the environment inside jails etc. As per the legal rules, the details of the inmates have not been shared.

#### **Research design, sources, sampling method and method of data collection:**

The research design used for the present study was both exploratory and explanatory. The field study follows following steps:

– To gather general information about the women inmates in the prison, all 102 reported cases had been studied as case by case in the state of J&K. From case files, general information collected like nature of crime, socio-economic background of inmates etc.

– Case files were collected in two phases, first from January- March 2013 and again in July- October 2013 because second time some new women inmates were lodged in the jails.

– Case study method was followed to gather primary information from the sample respondents and from all 100 cases, 20 women inmates were selected by using the criteria's like age, marital status, education, nature of crime, nature of custody and central jails. Among twenty different cases, six cases are discussed in this paper.

<b>Table 2 : Six cases selected for case- studies are as follows</b>			
Sr. No. and Case No.	Type of Prison	Nature of custody	Type of Offence
1. Case 19	District Jail Jammu	Under-trial	302/201/34 RPC
2. Case 9	District Jail Jammu	Convict	302/149/498-A RPC
3. Case 35	District Jail Udhampur	Under-trial	302/120-B/201RPC, 4/25A Act
4. Case 50	District Jail Udhampur	Under-trial	380 RPC
5. Case 64	District Jail Rajouri	Judicial Remand	8/21/22 NDPS
6. Case 2	Central Jail Srinagar	Convict	302/34 RPC

**Case-19:**

She is an under trial and first offender in District Jail Jammu, was accused in the murder case of her husband in 2012. Her act is group oriented and she was arrested with a male partner who was her neighbor. Her neighbor was a shopkeeper who had taken one of the shops of her husband on rent and often visited their place. She shared that she got married to a man whom she loved. Her husband was businessman and often went to other places for business concerns. In February, 2012, her husband went to somewhere for business. He left 5 O'clock in the morning and at 11 O'clock she got the message that her husband's dead body was found near his vehicle. Her in-laws rushed at the accidental place and found the dead body of her husband. She stated that she herself reported the matter to the police because she didn't believe that it was an accidental case. But her in-laws told the police that she and her neighbor were the main culprits of murdering their son. Her in-laws complained of the illicit relationship between she that led to the murder. She stayed in the local police station for some days and then was sent to the jail on March 2012. Now she is on trial and her case is pending before the court. She goes for hearing. She expressed that everything is provided in the jail like food, clothing, medicines etc. but she wanted to be released as soon as possible because she is worried for her daughter's future. Her family members including her father, mother, brother and sister came to meet her and they also help her financially. She expressed that female warders are very cooperative and she shared her problems with the women inmates inside the jail. She trusts God and believes that she would be released very soon.

**Case-9:**

She is a convict in District Jail Jammu; was accused in a murder case of her brother's wife in 1998. Her criminal act is group oriented. She stated that the incident took place in June 1998 after she was arrested, got bail and the case was closed. But as she got married, the case re-opened again. She was arrested again and was lodged in District Jail Jammu. After long trial, in 2005, she is sentenced with life imprisonment. She explained that her brother's wife wrongly implicated her in the case. According to her, she burnt herself and when she has taken to the hospital, she stated before the police that she kill her by putting her on fire. For the last eight and half years she is in Jail. Everyone from the family comes to meet her like her children, husband and father-in law etc. She was happy meeting her family especially the children. Her children are grown up and she realizes that she has missed an important part of her life. She again filed a case and she is applying for pre-release. Now she is waiting for her release at the earliest. It is analyzed that she became very helpless inside the jail; no doubt conditions and treatment are better inside jails but living without family especially without children is like a curse for a woman.

**Case-35:**

She is an under trial of District Jail Udhampur is a first offender and was arrested in 2011. She was arrested in the murder case of her friend (female) who was also her neighbor. The crime she committed was a group oriented act since she was accompanied by her friend's husband in committing the crime. She shared that in March 2011, she along with her

friend came to Jammu for pilgrimage. Both stayed in a Hotel. In the evening she went outside the hotel for shopping and when she came back she didn't find her friend in the hotel's room. She asked many people including hotel staff about her friend but she failed to find her and then she went back to her place. But after some time she and her friend's husband arrested as the dead body of her deceased friend was found. The body was found in a very bad condition. She explained that her friend was not mentally stable and she didn't know what happened to her. She was arrested by the police on 2011 and stayed in the police station for some days. Then she was shifted to the District Jail Udhampur on and now she is on trial. From her family her husband came to meet her twice a month. She explained that everything is provided in the Jail and she teaches other women inmates and their children inside the prison. She also teaches morning prayers and exercises to the inmates. She stated that she is awaiting her release and want to be released as soon as possible.

**Case-50:**

She is an under trial and first offender in District Jail Udhampur was accused of theft. She committed a group oriented crime and she was accompanied by her husband. She shared that in 2012 she got married to a man whom of her own village whom she loved. After marriage both planned a visit to Jammu Pilgrimage. During their travel in 2013, they met a couple visiting the same place. The couple requested her husband and to take care of their bag for some time. When they returned back, they checked their bag and found their money missing for which they blamed her and her husband. They reported the matter to the police. Police found the missing cash with her husband. She accepts that her husband is the main culprit and he had stolen the money but she was innocent. Police arrested both of them and they lodged in the police station for some days and then shifted to the District Jail Udhampur.

**Case-64:**

She is on Judicial Remand in District Jail Rajouri was accused of Drug trafficking (NDPS) in 2013. Her act is group-oriented and her husband accompanied her in committing the wrong. In August 2013, police came to their shop and started searching as they had information that her husband is a drug supplier. On search, illegal banned capsules were found from shop and police arrested both husband and wife. She remained in police station for some days and was then lodged in district jail Rajouri in 2013. She claimed that she is innocent and didn't know anything about the drugs which was found in their shop. All family members came to meet her. She told that the conditions and treatment in the jail is good but she is tensed about her children as they are living with their grandparents. She also wanted to be release as soon as possible.

**Case-2:**

She is a convict and first offender in Central Jail Srinagar was accused in the murder case of her neighbor (male) in 2005. She was lodged in Central Jail Jammu and remained under-trial for seven years. In 2012 she was convicted with life imprisonment and was then shifted to another jail. She shared that her neighbor (victim) was killed by someone else but

as her relations with her neighbors were not good, she was dragged in the murder case. She has been rejected by her husband and his family as they don't come to meet her. However, her mother, brother and sister come to meet her frequently. She feels alone as she has no children and is always worried about her life after release.

**Conclusion:**

From the above case studies it is analyzed that many inmates didn't share they are depressed but they feel that the manner is prolonged for years together. All women inmates whether they are under trials, convicts and or on judicial remand interpreted their stories in such manner that none of them accepted that they had committed the crime. All women inmates are satisfied with the living conditions inside the jails and want to release as soon as possible.

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