

## **Profile of Women Offenders in Jammu and Kashmir**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Previously, Women has been the underpinning stone of a family specifically and society in general. In India, a woman is seen as a protector of societal norms, traditional customs, moral ethics and domestic cohesiveness. However, it is miserable to see that Women's accomplishment is also receiving prolonged criminality socially, culturally, economically and politically. Prison population has increased by almost 20 per cent in the last 15 years. In 2015, more than 10.35 million people were imprisoned throughout the world, either as pre-trial convicts or having been sentenced. Female delinquency in India is at rise along with the surge in crime against woman. The problem has touched to an alarming level which has compelled all the socially responsible organizations to focus on root cause of Women turning to criminal doings in larger numbers. It is in this context the study will focus on socio economic status of Women prisoners. The reviewed literature indicates that the women in penitentiary are not much educated. About ninety per cent of women offenders had left school education at the age of 16 and under 16. Several studies found that urban areas have more female offenders than rural areas. This is clear that maladjustment in Interpersonal relationship within the family is one of the most important causes of criminality amongst women. The study will help the societal activists to find out the main causes for females to commit crimes and help them to formulate remedial measures.

**Key Words :** Women prisoners, Incarceration, Scio- economic status

### **INTRODUCTION**

All human beings are entitled to essential rights. Prisoners are living in most terrible environment and their rights are being violated everywhere in the world, but they are in more dishonourable situation in less developed countries (Anwar and Shah, 2017). Prison population has increased by almost 20 per cent in the last 15 years. In 2015, more than 10.35 million people were imprisoned throughout the world, either as pre-trial convicts or having been sentenced (Miloni and Geitona, 2017). Expansion in the recent past has led to clash, violence, tumult and discriminations. Unintentional and unconcerned hunts of improvement have caused turmoil and problems in the society. Much of the crime in the nation can be recognized to the issues and problems thrown up by the implications of progress lacks of the welfares and fruits of development pursuits generally led to inequalities resulting

in the delinquency and unrestness. In the wake of development, westernization and expansion, Indian society has been passing through exciting and essential changes both in the organizations, socio-economic and traditional spheres which not only shaped a different physical situation and a new form of monetary organization but also affected the social order, harmony, social conduct and thought customarily Women, whose character was mainly restricted to the domestic area has now changed to industriously employment sector. Women is found to be enthusiastically contributing in area sphere of professional life along with the male counterparts. Women contribution in fiscal activities, political insulations and a social scope has increased to the greater extent. However, because of family inefficiency, marital conflict, high aspiration level and frustration due to no accomplishment, stress and failure in coping process and alteration Women are found to getting involved in illegal

events more in number in the present day society. Conventionally, the Indian Women has been the base pillar of the family and society in general. She generates life, cherishes it, guards and supports it. In her task as mother, she plays an important role in the improvement of the nation. In many countries, in all regions, the female prison inhabitant has greater than before dramatically over the last ten years. Already, in eleven nation's Women embrace more than one in ten convicts (National Commission for Women, 2008).

#### **Profile of women prisoners (worldwide):**

Worldwide, more than 500,000 females are apprehended in prison institutions, either as sentenced prisoners or pre-trial detainees (Bergh *et al.*, 2011). They constitute a small proportion of the total prison population; in about 80 per cent of prison systems worldwide, the proportion of women varies between 2 per cent and 9 per cent with a median of 4.3 per cent in 2006 (Walmsley, 2006). Women who enter prison usually come from marginalized and disadvantaged backgrounds and are often characterized by histories of violence, physical and sexual abuse. Disadvantaged ethnic minorities, foreign nationals and indigenous people constitute a larger proportion of the female prison population relative to their proportion within the general community, often due to the specific problems these vulnerable groups face in society. Women prisoners are a small minority of the total prison population but there has been a noticeable rise in women's imprisonment in recent years. In some countries the rate of this increase has been higher than that of male prisoners. The small numbers of imprisoned women mean that there are fewer prisons for them, resulting in women often being imprisoned further away from their homes. This causes difficulties for the woman in maintaining her family ties and is especially a problem if she has dependent children (Bergh *et al.*, 2011). Incarceration populace has amplified nearly 20 per cent in the last 15 years. In 2015, more than 10.35 million populace were incarcerated throughout the world. Woman felony in India is at rise along with the surge in crime against woman. The problem has touched to an alarming level which has compelled all the socially responsible organizations to focus on root cause of Women turning to criminal doings in larger numbers. It is in this context the study will study socio-economic status of Women prisoners, who has been in inmates for at least two.

#### **Socio-economic status of women prisoners:**

In the last few years' professional notice in female delinquency has substantially augmented. Various studies have been undertaken on female criminality. Highlighting the educational status of women in prison, Loucks (2004) claimed that the women in penitentiary are not much educated. About ninety per cent of women offenders had left school education at the age of 16 and under 16. The parallel kind of study directed by Henderson (2001) revealed that only fourteen per cent of female offenders had remained in school beyond the age of sixteen years, and sixty one per cent women prisoners left school with no qualification. According to Klein (1973) the female crime is the consequence of somatic or psychosomatic characteristics of characters, with slight or no recognition being given to the importance of social-structural factors. Rani (1983) reveals that somewhat more than fifty per cent female delinquents belonged to backward classes. It is also found that circumstance, that the contributing reason of delinquency among females is financial restraint. Mishra and Gautam (1982) revealed that the female criminality increases as the level of education decreases and vice versa. Prasad (1982) also maintained that illiteracy was an important factor of women criminality. His study also showed that areas of conflicts in women's life had been unhappy marital life, addiction of the husband to alcohol, drugs, gambling etc., his lack of interest in family matters and love to his wife, sexual incompatibility, discordant relationship with in laws and members in the family, family's low income and excessive expenditure etc. Sohoni (1989) from her sample of 120 women criminals found that 60 per cent of the sample came from the age group of 22 to 41 years, while those below 22 years and above 41 years accounted for 20 per cent each; 93.33 per cent were married and the sample include more persons of depressed or backward caste. The association of crime with urban living was also found. Sanchez and Johnson (1987) Most women in the criminal justice system are poor, uneducated, and unskilled, and they are disproportionately women of colour. Many come from impoverished urban environments and were raised by single mothers or in foster homes. Women are more likely than men to have committed crimes to obtain money to purchase drugs. Although it is widely assumed that female addicts typically engage in prostitution as a way to support a drug habit, it is more common for these addicts to engage in property crimes. Windschuttle (1981) found that women who live in restrictive, more anonymous urban

environments, who are more independent of the male protectors but more dependent on the labour market and thus more subject to the vagaries of the industrial economy, are more likely to turn to crime. According to her finding, women's crime was greater in the urban areas than rural areas. Women's crime also accounted for a much higher proportion of the total crime in the city than in the countryside. Eliason et al 2004 underlined that Inmates in U.S. jails and prisons are much more likely to be poor women and found this is also true of incarcerated populations around the world.

### Conclusion:

In conclusion it can be said that women prisoners are not much educated. Most of them had left school education at the age of 16. It is found that most of female inmates belong in the age group of 22-41 years. Nevertheless it is also seen that women's offence was greater in the urban areas than rural areas. Furthermore, it is also revealed that female delinquents belonged to backward classes with low economic background and this is true of incarcerated population around the world.

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