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## FEMALE CRIMINALITY

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### ABSTRACT

*Female crime is a complex and diverse topic that has gotten a lot of attention in recent years. Historically, crime has been associated with men, and study on criminal behavior has mostly concentrated on men. Recognizing the distinct features and experiences of female criminals, on the other hand, is critical for a full knowledge of crime and effective criminal justice treatments.*

*The purpose of this abstract is to provide an overview of the important themes and elements related to female criminality. It begins by analyzing the historical and sociocultural context of female criminality, emphasizing altering societal perspectives and changing roles of women over time.*

*The abstract also delves into the many criminological hypotheses that attempt to explain female criminal behavior. It emphasizes the importance of gender-specific theories, such as the pathways theory and the feminist viewpoint, in comprehending the motivations and routes that lead to female criminality. These theories emphasize the significance of looking into gender-specific risk factors such as victimization, trauma, substance misuse, and socioeconomic adversity.*

*Overall, the purpose of this abstract is to add to the expanding body of knowledge on female criminality by exposing the intricacies surrounding the subject. Understanding the characteristics that contribute to female criminal behavior is critical for designing targeted and effective preventive, intervention, and rehabilitation methods. Society may move towards a more equitable and just criminal justice system by recognizing and addressing the distinctive needs and experiences of female offenders.*

**KEYWORDS:** FEMALE, CRIMES, ASSAULT, CRIMINAL, OFFENSE, PREVENTION

### INTRODUCTION TO FEMALE CRIMINALITY:

The Oxford Dictionary of Law defines crime as being: "An act (or sometimes a failure to act) that is deemed by statute or by the common law to be a public wrong and is therefore punishable by the state in criminal proceedings."

Female criminality is a subfield of criminology that focuses on the participation of women in criminal behavior. Historically, the study of criminology has focused mostly on male criminals, with female criminality receiving far

less attention. However, there has been a rising acknowledgement in recent years of the need of studying female criminality as a distinct and major phenomenon.

Learning about female criminality is critical for devising successful measures to prevent, intervene, and rehabilitate female offenders. Researchers and policymakers can work towards a more complete and fair strategy to tackling female criminal behaviour by recognising the sociocultural background, investigating criminological theories, identifying

risk factors, and embracing intersectionality. This understanding can help to create a criminal justice system that is attentive to the needs and experiences of female offenders, thereby fostering rehabilitation and minimizing recidivism.

### NATURE OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY WOMEN

Females can engage in a wide range of criminal acts, yet the number and character of crimes committed by females may differ from those done by males. While it is crucial to avoid broad generalizations, the following are some examples of crimes in which women have been implicated:

- Property crimes
- Drug offence
- Violation and assaults
- Prostitution and human trafficking
- White collar crimes
- Offences driven by circumstances

Property crimes: Property crimes done by women encompass a variety of offences involving the unauthorized acquisition or destruction of another person's property. While property crimes are typically associated with men, women can also be involved in these types of offences. Here are some examples of women committing property crimes:

- Theft
- Fraud
- Embezzlement
- Forgery
- Arson

It is crucial to highlight that the causes and conditions that lead to women committing property crimes can differ substantially. Some women may commit property crimes because of financial difficulties, substance addiction disorders or persuaded by their surrounding or affiliations, understanding the underlying variables that contribute to female property crime involvement is critical for establishing preventative methods as well as providing adequate assistance and intervention.

Drug offences: women can be involved in the variety of drug offences as users or as members of drug distribution networks. While male offenders are more usually connected with drug offences, women's involvement in drug related crimes cannot be underestimated. here are some drug offences committed by women

- Drug possession
- Drug trafficking
- Drug manufacturing
- Drug smuggling
- Drug related financial offences

It is critical to recognize that the participation of women in drug offences can be affected by a variety of reasons, including economic conditions, addiction disorders ,coersion or connections with criminal networks. addressing the underlying causes of female drug offences necessities multifaceted measures including prevention, education ,access to substance misuse treatment and assistance with rehabilitation as well as reintegration into society.

Violation and assault: while men are more usually identified with violent and assaultive activities, women can also be involved in such offences.it is crucial to highlight that the nature and frequency of violent offences perpetrated by women may differ from those committed by men. Here are some examples of offences and assaults that women can commit :

- Domestic violence
- Aggravated assault
- Assault with the intention to cause harm
- Sexual abuse
- Harassment and stalking

It is critical to address violence and assault done by individuals of all genders .education, awareness, and the promotion of healthy relationships, as well as assistance and resources for both victims and perpetrators of violence, should be the emphasis of prevention efforts .it is also vital to recognize that ,while the overall prevalence of violent offences committed by women is lower than of men

,tackling these issues thoroughly helps to promote safer communities for all.

### PROSTITUTION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

While it is the true that most people participating in prostitution and human trafficking are women and girls who have been victimized and exploited, it is equally true that women can [ley a variety of roles in these activities. Women can get involved in prostitution and human trafficking in the following ways.

- Prostitutes
- Brothel operators
- Traffickers
- Facilitators

It is critical to approach prostitution and human trafficking from the victim centered perspective, recognizing the vulnerability and exploitation that many women confront in these situation. Efforts to address these challenges should center on providing victims with help and resources, putting in place strong legal frameworks and tackling the primary causes of prostitution and human trafficking such as poverty, gender inequality and a lack of social support networks

It is vital to stress that women's participation in such activities should not overshadow the large number of women who are victimized and coerced towards prostitution and human trafficking.

**WHITE COLLAR CRIMES:** white collar crimes which are non-violent offences perpetrated in professional or corporate contexts for financial gains ,can involve women in a variety of ways .while white collar crimes has typically been associated with men ,women have also been engaged in these types of offences .here are some examples of women committing white collar crimes :

- Embezzlement
- Fraud
- Identity theft
- Insider trading

- Money laundering
- Corporate crimes

It is critical to recognize that the reasons and conditions underlying white collar crimes perpetrated by women can differ. Financial pressures, professional ambitions, personal situation or association with unethical commercial practices can all impact their participation .white collar crimes prevention and resolution necessities strong legal frameworks ,corporate openness, ethical business practices and effective enforcement systems that hold individuals responsible, regardless of gender.

### CRIMES COMMITED BY CIRCUMSTANCES:

women may commit offences because of unique events or elements that influence their action. these situations may contribute to their criminal behavior. here are some examples of offences that women may be involved because of their circumstances

- Self-defenses
- Coercion and manipulation
- Desperation and survival
- Substance abuse and addiction
- Mental health issues
- Influences of relationships

It is critical to understand that ,while some conditions may contribute to criminal behavior among women, this does not explain or excuse the crimes committed .to address these situation ,a broad approach is required , Including intervention such as social support services access to mental health care ,rehabilitation programs ,economic empowerment efforts and legal protections for the victims of coercion and exploitation .society can better help women and limit their participation in criminal behavior by dealing with the underlying causes that contributes to offences driven by circumstances .

### FACTORS AFFECTING FEMALE CRIMINALITIES:

- Gender equality and social justice
- Challenging stereotypes and bias

- Identification of gender specific risk factors
- Tailored interventions and rehabilitation
- Prevention and early intervention
- Systematic change and policy development
- Trauma informed approaches

Gender equality and social justice: When considering gender equality and social justice in the context of female criminality, it is essential to address the specific challenges and considerations that arise. Points to consider:

- Avoiding gender bias
- Addressing root causes
- Rehabilitation and reintegration
- Victim centered approach
- Intersectionality
- Promoting alternative to incarceration

We can work towards a more equitable and rehabilitative system that addresses the root causes of offences, promotes rehabilitation, and supports the overall well-being of women involved in the criminal justice system by incorporating gender equality and social justice principles into the criminal justice system's approach to female criminality.

### **PUNISHMENTS AVAILABLE FOR FEMALE CRIMINALITY**

The punishments for female criminality are largely decided by the legal framework of the jurisdiction in issue. The legal system seeks to hold individuals liable for their criminal activities while also maintaining social order. It is crucial to note that the spectrum of punishments may differ among jurisdictions and rely on the level of seriousness of the offense committed. The following represent some common punishments for female criminality:

1. Fines
2. Probation
3. Community service
4. Suspended sentence
5. Imprisonment
6. Rehabilitation programs

**Fine :** Fines are monetary fines that are given as punishment for specific offences .The amount of the fine is usually determined by the kind and seriousness of the offence committed .Fines are used as a form of punishment ,but they can also be used to recompense victims or to cover judicial and administrative costs .

**Probation :** Rather than serving time in prison, a sentenced individual is placed under the supervision of the community .during probation, the violator must follow certain restriction ,including reporting to a probation officer on a regular basis ,retaining employment ,and abstaining from engaging in additional criminal behavior .Failure to follow probation restrictions may result in stricter penalties ,including imprisonment

**Community Services :** As a alternative for incarceration offenders may be required to perform a certain number of community service. Community service involves engaging in unpaid work for the benefit of a community, such as cleaning public places, assisting in a charitable organizations or participating in rehabilitation programs.

**Suspended Service:** A suspended sentence is a sentence with conditions in which the court assigns a penalty but postpones it execution. The penalty may be avoided if the perpetrator meets particular requirements, such as good behavior or participation in therapeutic programs. If the terms are broken, the suspended sentence may be engaged, resulting in imprisonment or another kind of punishment.

**Imprisonment:** It is a form of deprivation of liberty in which the criminal is imprisoned to a prison for a set of period of time. The length of incarceration is determined by the gravity of the offence, the legal system, and the judge or jury's discretion .women's prison or in separate parts within mixed gender facilities.

**Rehabilitation programs:** female offenders may be eligible rehabilitation programs as a part of

their sentence or in combination with additional methods of sentencing in specific situations. To promote the offender's integration into society of re-offending, these programs may target substance abuse, mental health concerns, anger management, vocational training or learning prospects. It is critical to emphasize that the goal of punishment is to deter future criminal behavior, protect society and provide possibilities for rehabilitation and reformation. The exact punishments that exist for female criminality will correspond to legal standards while also respecting the individuals involved right and dignity.

### Prevention of female criminalities

Female criminality prevention entails addressing underlying risk factors and developing supportive circumstances that empower women and minimize their likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior. Here are some important measures to reducing female criminality:

- ◇ Early intervention and education
- ◇ Addressing victimization
- ◇ Economic empowerment
- ◇ Gender responsive justice system
- ◇ Building strong support networks
- ◇ Substance abuse treatment
- ◇ Gender responsive policies and programs
- ◇ Empowering girls and women

**Early Intervention and Education:** Early intervention programs for at-risk girls and young women can assist in identifying and addressing risk factors before they become severe. Giving girls and young women access to quality education, mentoring programs, and opportunities to acquire skills can empower them, increasing their resilience and decreasing their likelihood of engaging in criminal activity.

**Addressing Victimization and Trauma:** Addressing female victimization and trauma is critical in avoiding female criminality. Support services, counselling, and trauma-informed

care should be prioritized in order to assist individuals to heal from past traumas and lessen the possibility of turning to criminal behavior as a coping technique.

**Economic Empowerment:** Promoting economic empowerment for women can help to reduce female criminality. Providing women with possibilities for work, entrepreneurial activity, vocational training, and knowledge of finance can provide realistic alternatives to participating in criminal activity for financial gain.

**Gender-Responsive Justice System:** The criminal justice system should embrace gender-responsive measures that recognize female offenders' specific needs and experiences. This includes gender-sensitive practices training for law enforcement, judges, and correctional personnel, access to specific gender rehabilitation programs, and tackling systemic prejudices within the system.

**Building Strong Support Networks:** For women, building strong support networks, such as family support, community organizations, and social agencies, may offer additional safeguards against criminal behavior. In times of need, these networks can provide direction, mentorship, and support, minimizing the risk of isolation from society and vulnerabilities.

**Substance Abuse Treatment:** Given the link between substance abuse and female criminality, successful prevention measures should incorporate gender-responsive substance abuse treatment programs that are easily accessible. Addressing underlying addiction disorders can lessen the possibility of women resorting to criminal activity to fund their drug addictions.

**Gender-Responsive Policies and Programs:** Creating gender-responsive policies and programs that consider women's unique needs and situations can be successful in reducing female criminality. Access to healthcare, emotional wellness services, housing aid, and social support programs that address the

fundamental causes of female crime are all part of this.

Empowering Girls and Women: Educating, mentoring, and supporting strong role models can help create self-esteem, endurance, and a feeling of belonging in girls and women. Society may create an atmosphere where women are less likely to get involved in criminal behavior by eliminating gender inequities and empowering women.

### Conclusion:

To summarise, female criminality is a complex issue driven by a variety of factors such as socioeconomic status, trauma, compulsion, and gender inequity. It is critical to address the underlying causes of female criminality and provide rehabilitative programmes that take into account women's specific needs. In the context of female criminality, a victim-centered approach, the eradication of gender prejudices, and the promotion of alternatives to incarceration are critical in fostering gender equality and social justice. We can work towards lowering recidivism, assisting with reintegration, and promoting a more equal and just society for all by doing so.

To effectively address female criminality, it is critical to address the underlying reasons and provide rehabilitative measures. This includes trauma-informed care, which recognises and addresses the underlying trauma that women have suffered, allowing them to heal and reintegrate into society. Educational and vocational programmes can give women with the skills and opportunity they need to pursue authorised sources of income, minimising their dependency on illegal enterprises. A victim-centered approach recognises that some female criminals may have been victims of abuse, exploitation, or compulsion. We can interrupt the cycle of victimisation and minimise the chance of reoffending by offering support services and resources to both the offender and the victim.

Gender prejudices in the criminal justice system must be eliminated. This includes ensuring that female offenders are treated fairly and have equal access to justice, as well as combating prejudices that may impact sentencing and rehabilitation practises. Community-based programmes, restorative justice practises, and diversionary measures, as alternatives to incarceration, can provide more effective and compassionate responses to female criminality.

To summarise, addressing female criminality necessitates an awareness of the various variables that contribute to it, as well as the implementation of treatments that focus on rehabilitation, empowerment, and gender inequity. We may work towards a more equitable and just society for all by promoting gender equality and social justice in the context of female criminality by using a victim-centered and inclusive approach.

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