

## **“Causes of Crime by Women”**

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### **ABSTRACT**

**In the context of development and social change, the concept of women's crime is a new phenomenon in both developed and third world countries, including India. Crime among women is a result of various socio-economic, cultural and environmental factors resulting from rapid industrialization, westernization and urbanization. Currently, due to its increasing speed, it has attracted the attention of psychologists, sociologists and criminologists both in the international and national arenas. It not only dealt a powerful blow to our social and cultural heritage but also affected the social fabric of Indian society. Against this backdrop, this article focuses on the various reasons for women's crime in India and its implications for our society. Using different theoretical models, the authors analyzed the various factors that make women vulnerable to crime. Finally, some important and relevant suggestions were made to prevent and control the growing trend.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Although crimes by women are increasing day by day, this is one of the main problems and a matter of concern as well. As we know that women are considered to be an integral part of the society and the cornerstone and every woman of the society has the right to live a safe and fear-free life. Along with this, it is also necessary for every woman to be educated so that she can differentiate between good and bad and can differentiate between right and wrong. But there are still some people in our society who have not been able to rise above their mentality due to their old customs and traditions and object to women's education .due to lack of education, they are not able to differentiate between right and wrong and often step on the wrong path. It is true that in our society, most of the crimes are committed by men. The number of women is less in this or we can say that women commit fewer crimes than men. Especially violent crimes. The family system in India has been patriarchal since the beginning. It is a matter of concern that in the last few years, the rate of crime by women in our country is increasing at an alarming rate. Women are committing new types of crimes and most of their crimes remain hidden, which becomes more difficult to detect because often they commit crimes before committing them. is adopting new policies. The main reason for increasing crimes by women is our society and family.Poverty, education, social and family environment which force women to commit crimes, which has a bad effect on their mentality. Many times they are harassed mentally and physically by family members, on the other hand, some such evils and incidents of the society dominate their mentality, from which they are often unable to recover. The increasing crime in the society every day and the bad treatment done with them, discrimination due to which various types of crimes are involved such as murder, robbery, child and drug trafficking, prostitution, suicide, theft, abortion, black market etc. Along with this, they often have to face problems such as dowry related domestic violence, torture, harassment, exploitation.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the ratio of women committing crimes is increasing day by day.

### **Feminist Criminology**

Feminist criminology goes beyond traditional approaches by centering gendered experiences in the study of crime. It examines female offenders, female victims, responses to female offenders, and the unique needs of female prisoners. The methodology considers differences in male and female pathways to crime, the types of crimes committed, victimization, and punishments faced It also focuses on a variety of agendas such as female offenders, female victims, responses to female offenders, and the special needs of female prisoners.

### **Women Crimes in India**

As stated in the beginning, the social environment also plays a huge role in making women criminals in India. Here it is more related to the patriarchal society.

“According to psychologist Anchal Bhagat”, women criminals have lost faith in the social system.

They face deprivation instead of constitutional rights and privileges. In most parts of India, discrimination within the society exists from birth to the last breath, Bhagat, in her work, mentioned“onesuch very famous example about victim-turned-victim Phoolan Devi”. Her story as a victim begins with the law failing to give her justice. Phoolan Devi, denied

justice, became a notorious bandit queen who later became a politician. However, in her short struggle-filled life she made a lot of enemies and was murdered. Giving such an example, Bhagat concluded that compelling factors like economic independence, recognition in society and the desire to earn a respectable place in society probably force women like Phoolan Devi to take extreme steps like taking the law into their own hands.

“Bajpai says” that as women are increasingly joining the mainstream of society, their share in crime is also increasing, as is evident from the data available in India and elsewhere. He cites a very fascinating statement which is, "Rights are first demanded, then ordered and later snatched". In this battle for rights, whether to obtain them or to protect them, conflict is inevitable which results in incidents of crime.

According to Patnaik and Mishra female criminality is the result of diverse socio-economic-cultural and environmental factors resulting from rapid industrialization, westernization and urbanization. However, the current increasing rate of female crime has attracted the attention of psychologists, sociologists and criminologists on the international and national scene. Thus, it has not only given a severe blow to our social and cultural heritage but has also affected the social structure of Indian society. Although the legal status of women is equal to that of men, but they are by no means socially and economically equal. A multi-pronged approach is needed to address crime against women

### **Psychological Viewpoint**

Women who are passive and not satisfied with their traditional roles as mother and wife are maladjusted. Maladjusted women refuse or fail to internalize the values associated with the role in society. Delinquent women display emotional instability, insecurity, rejection or frustration. They may have faced harsh living conditions, disappointments in love and a lot of unfortunate experiences, which generally made it difficult for them to cope with the realities of life. Women, on average, have more stress than men, Women with lower social status, on average, experience more stress than women with higher social status.

Women tend to "repress" their emotions until it eventually erupts into lethal violence. Women experiencing extremes of stress are more likely than men to explode in outright uncontrolled violence. Situations that cause constant stress and isolation become intertwined. Poor coping skills and an over-controlled personality lead to violence.

### **Sociological Viewpoint**

It emphasizes how social factors turn a woman into a criminal. Women in India face inequality at every stage of life despite so much development and awareness. Equality for women is not practiced as stated in the Constitution of India. Due to inequality, women lose most of the opportunities in life, which affects their financial independence and thus lowers their economic status. Women in Indian society are always expected to understand the world around them and adjust accordingly. This unequal position of women in society due to social oppression and economic dependence on men and the state needs to be addressed. In most ways, crimes committed by women are considered the ultimate external expression of internal medical imbalance or social instability.

### **Suggestions**

It is said that prevention is better than cure and in case of crime, prevention, that too in a vast and diverse country like India, is a big task. In India, prevention among women is an even bigger challenge as it is difficult to easily identify vulnerable areas and people especially women. Illiterate women should be given general awareness about the role of women in society, their rights and laws for them. Legal awareness about illegal activities should be provided by social service/adult education units and to keep themselves away from illegal activities. Sex education plays a vital role in which women get involved in crime due to lack of awareness about sex-rackets and prostitution. And also information should be given about strict laws against being a part of such crimes. Constructive social action movement is important to spread awareness. It is necessary to deal strictly in domestic violence cases to avoid future crimes and laws against dowry should be properly implemented'

### **CONCLUSION**

Many cases in India show that women were labelled as 'criminals' not because they had 'criminal tendencies' but because their male family members were so labelled. Thus it is clear that most of the thefts committed by women are not the result of psychological or social deviations but due to familial and economic compulsions. In most of the crimes for which women are arrested, they play a secondary/supporting role. Hence, they should not be considered the sole culprits of these crimes.

The women criminals who are serving jail term due to the crime committed by them or with the support of other partners/accomplices should be given a chance to mend their ways or reform their ways so that when they come out of jail after completing their sentence. They should be women having no criminal qualities, well informed and more aware

so that they can stay away from crimes and other criminals. Most of the women are deprived of their freedom and commit crimes to break the chains of cruel traditions.

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