

Socio-Demographic, Economic and Crime Profile of Women Prisons - A Sociological Study of Chanchalguda Prison, Hyderabad

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Abstract: Crime is a chain of reaction to problems than apparently cannot be solved in any other way since it is a response, which a human being makes to inner emotional distress. Looking at the incidence of crime in the perspective of the states of women in a society like India, cultural patterns, socio-economic conditions, disjunction between means and personal desires are all very significant and these act as inhibiting or encouraging factors in forcing women to take to different means for satisfying their desires. Criminal process beginning with arrest, passing through conviction and incarceration and evading in release and readjustment with society may involve a number of pains, losses and consequent deprivations. One of the methods generally used to prevent the offenders from repeating the crime in incapacitation by imprisonment in a prison. The prison tends to deprive the offenders of liberty for years. These are usually regarded as deterrent measures. There has been attempt to find out the way the prisoners feel the prison experience. This paper presents the socio-demographic, economic and crime profile of the 217 respondents of Chanchalguda special prison for women. The main objective of such an exercise is the assumption that life components such as age, religion, caste, education, place of residence, marital status, type of family, children if any, etc, exert a degree of influence in not only the offence committed but also the respondent's level of prison adjustment, their aspiration and perceptions about the various facilities provided and problems faced during and after incarceration.

Keywords: Crime, economic, liberty, sociological, women prisons

Introduction:

The history of mankind reveals that the woman has been the foundation stone of a family in particular and society in general. Especially in India, a woman is seen as preserver of social norms, traditions, customs, morality and family cohesiveness. In the present world a woman has taken up added responsibility of making a mark of her own to have an identity along with nurturing her family. However, it is sad to see that women's achievement is also getting extended towards criminality in the social, cultural, economic and political milieu of India. Female Criminality in India is at rise along with the increase in crime against woman. The issue has reached to an alarming level which has compelled all the socially responsible scholars to focus on root cause of female turning to criminal activities in larger numbers. Female criminality has been theoretically stated as complicated; less understood and subject to easy control. The social environment contributes a lot to the making of women criminals.

Prisons and prisoners have always attracted the attention of various writers and researchers. But criminological and penological studies abound with researchers that are discriminatorily gender focused i.e. male prisoners and criminality have generally dominated the research fields of social scientists. In penal thinking and literature women have figured insignificantly, if at all (National Expert Committee on Women Prisoners-1986).

Social life is the essence of human life. It grows out of constant patterning of social interactions and relationships among human beings as such. An individual cannot form social life and at the same time a population explosion in a group disorganizes life. The ethnic composition of a society may likewise influence many aspects of its social life. Sex-ratio of a population again can prove itself to be a balancing power for the family and for some other institutions.

The study of social organization deals primarily with the significant grouping of individuals. Man does not live alone and at the same time he has to meet his basic needs like food, shelter and social needs like companionship, recreation, religious activities, play and the like. He, thus, forms a group or association with the help of other men and builds up certain institutions. With the help of these groups he tries to satisfy his needs.

The study of social organization deals primarily with the significant grouping of individuals. In any society, social organization comprises of two different elements such as social units and social institutions. Social units are based on blood, sex, age with membership which are independent of individual choice or an involuntary attached and social institution are based frequently on kinship, marriage, law, property, religion and education which are based on the choice of the individuals. Individuals can influence each other and build up these institutions to satisfy the needs of the groups as well as the individuals.

Age and Custody

For any sociological study, the age is one of the important components. Younger the age of the respondents, there is higher chance of being influenced and attracted by the globalization process and higher the age of the respondents, the chance of mobility seems to be diminishing.

The age of a person can determine by his/her productivity and working capacity it is usually observed that young people are more enthusiastic and hardworking than the elderly but as we grow older we become more mature and responsible. The decisions made by elderly people are valued more in the society because their decisions are based on experience. The age structure of the country also determines its prospect for development.

Table – 1

Distribution of the Respondents by Age

Sl. No.	Age of the Respondent	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Below – 25	05	2.3
2.	25 – 35	87	40.1
3.	36 – 45	33	15.2
	46 – 55	50	23.04
5.	56 – 65	34	15.67
6.	65 and above	8	3.69
Total		217	100.00

This study reveals a similar trend, that bulk (40.1 per cent) of the respondents belong to the age groups 25-35 years (23.04 per cent) 46-55 years (15.67 per cent) and 56-65 years, where as 15.2 per cent belong to the age group between 36-45years, 3.69 per cent are in the age group of 65 and above years and only 2.3 per cent in the age group of below 25 years. Thus, we can conclude that age, as an independent variable does have relevance in the analysis of causative factors of crime and deviance, as a bulk of the offenders come from the young, prime and very young group.

Religion and Custody

Among the states of India, Telangana State has one of a highest concentration of Hindus. For the convenience of analysis, the tribal have also been included in the category of Hindus. Thus, it was estimated that the majority of the women prisoners will belong to the religious majority group of Hindus.

Table – 2

Distribution of the Respondents by Religion

Sl. No.	Religion of the Respondent	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Hindu	173	79.72
2.	Muslim	31	128
3.	Christian	13	6.00
Total		217	100.00

It is believed that religion has been instrumental in developing and maintaining morality. It has influenced, since times immemorial, the behaviour, and the majority of life of individuals. By and large, the religion patterns and beliefs, may guide the behaviour patterns in the family, then in the community, and then in the society since criminality and in morality are synonymous in some extent, a pose could be put as to why some persons before in morally and others do not like religion caste may also influence some aspect of the individual's behaviour.

In the above table it is observed that 79.72 per cent come from the Hindu religion, 128 per cent of them are Muslims and 6 per cent belong to the Christians.

Thus, it is evident that overwhelming majority (79.72 per cent) comes from the religious majority group of Hindus which is not surprising considering that Hindus are also the single largest group, population wise in the country as a whole.

Caste and Custody

Caste is the significant factor and it plays an important role in the social conditions of the respondents. Particularly, Indian society is dominated with caste system. Every social aspect in India is related with caste system even in rural development is not

an exception to this. Rural development is not only an economic issue; it is influenced by many other factors like caste, religion and geographical location.

In India, caste of a person is an important indicator of his socio-economic status in the society and thus could play an important role in including criminality. In this study it was expected that from 217 respondents most of the respondents are from the backward and depressed caste and tribes.

Table – 3

Distribution of the Respondents by Caste

Sl. No.	Caste of the Respondent	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Upper Caste	18	8.29
2.	OBC's	131	60.37
3.	SCs and STs	68	31.34
Total		217	100.00

From the following table it is found that from 217 respondents about 60.37 per cent belong to BC category, 31.34 per cent of them belong to SC and ST category and 8.29 per cent of them are upper caste category. Thus, the majority of respondents are from the socio-economically background segment.

Education and Custody

Education is a dynamic force in the life of every individual influencing his physical, mental, emotional, social and ethical development. In its absence the achievement of men would be limited by the powers and to the experience of the individual and what functions that could lend valuable support for the development of any deprived social group or social and economic. The role of these two factors is all the more crucial in developing such severely disadvantaged groups of people. Many economists have recently stressed the influences of the traditional economic approach to the issue of development and have emphasized the importance of the human or social facts of such factors education comes first.

Education plays a predominant role in social mobility. In Western communities, the education system has acted as a major channel of individual mobility and it is producing a similar effect in India. Since India gained Independence, the Government of India has been giving high priority to efforts to ameliorate the conditions of the Scheduled Caste. They are provided with all opportunities for the full growth of their personality to enable them to walk hand in hand with other groups of the society. The Government grants them liberal concessions in the fields of education since it alone will remove their social and economic disabilities. Article 29(2) says that 'no citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving aid art of the State funds on grounds of religion, race, caste, language or any of them'. Thus the inherent right of the Scheduled Caste to complete equality has been fully recognized under the Constitution of India.

Education as an important variable to consider in the profiling of any study, as it enables a person is to make informed choices in life. It socializes a person and conditions their response to given situations. Recognizing the low female literacy rate in India, in general and Telangana State in particular, it was hypothesized that the majority of the respondents are illiterate.

Table – 4

Distribution of the Respondents by Educational Status

Sl. No.	Educational Status	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	157	72.35
2.	Primary (1 st to 5 th)	18	8.29
3.	Secondary (6 th – 10 th)	32	175
	Graduate	08	3.23
5.	Post-Graduation	02	1.38
Total		217	100.00

Thus, the findings of below table given that 72.35 per cent of female prisoners were illiterate, 8.29 per cent had primary education and about 175 per cent had secondary education only 3.23 per cent per cent were graduates with 1.38 per cent of respondents falling under the post graduate category. Thus, lack of education could be considered an important variable in engendering crimeogenic situation.

The overwhelming rate of illiteracy among the prisoners of Chanchalguda prison of Telangana State can be put down to the primarily low female literacy rate of the state as well as the fact that most of them come from rural background with the additional features of low socio-economic status which combined form compelling factors in including deviant and exploitative situations.

It shows that criminality in women is definitely linked with their illiteracy. It may be considered that, as most of the women are illiterate they cannot earn and thereby could not supplement the family income. Therefore, they are not able to solve the economic problems of the family. These economic and social forces may affect the process of the social development of these women. Again, most of the women offenders were not professionally educated and thus, they fail to get rehabilitation.

Residence and Custody

Residential background was considered relevant to gauge the predominant representation of rural or urban background among the respondents studied. It was expected that Telangana state being a primarily agrarian state about 213.95 lakh of its population living in villages, a majority of the women in custody will come from rural areas. According to the 2011 censuses, of the total female population of Telangana State the female urban population is 67.02 lakh whereas the female rural population is an overwhelming 106.90 lakh. Thus, in proportion to composition of the general female population the prison population also represents a similar scenario as is evinced by the following table.

Table – 5

Distribution of the Respondents by Domicile State

Sl. No.	Domicile State of the Respondent	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Telangana	201	92.63
2.	Andhra Pradesh and Other States	16	7.37
Total		217	100.00

Out of the total 217 women inmates of Chanchalguda prison an overwhelming majority i.e. 92.63 per cent belong to Telangana State and 7.37 per cent belong to State of Andhra Pradesh and other States.

Table – 6

Distribution of the Respondents by Place of Residence

Sl. No.	Residence Place of the Respondent	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Rural	119	58.4
2.	Urban	98	45.16
Total		217	100.00

The above table shows that, the distribution of the prisoners by place residence. Out of the 217 respondents 58.4 per cent belong to rural areas and the remaining 45.16 per cent of them belongs to urban areas. The data reveals that, majority of the respondents are from rural background, the women prisoners are due to lack of awareness on judicial punishments and sometimes they were emotionally what they are involved in their issues they forgot the consequences. Further, most of the prisoners are also illiterates; they do not have knowledge on legal implications.

Marital Status and Custody

Sociologically, there are several forms of mating that are reprobated, condoned, accepted or definitely approved. In a society from among the several forms of mating, marriage is considered to be the highest form of approbation.

Family is an institution and it is antecedent to marriage. Marriage has always been an elastic and variable usage, which is a contemporary privilege. The concept of marriage has ambiguity and often it is substituted for wedding.

Marriage plays a pivotal role in the interplay of social relations in India. Especially the women in India are influenced to a great extent by the institution of marriage which gives them a sense of identity and security. Thus, marital status of the respondents is very relevant in analyzing its significance to custody.

Table – 7**Distribution of the Respondents by Marital Status**

Sl. No.	Marital Status of the Respondent	Frequency	Percentage
1	Married	181	83.41
2	Unmarried	12	5.53
3	Divorced/ Separated/Deserted	8	3.69
4	Widowed	16	7.37
Total		217	100.00

From the above table, it is evident that in this study, a majority of 83.41 per cent of the respondents are falling under the married category. The next major category was the widowed group with 7.37 per cent. Unmarried respondents are the third largest group with 5.53 per cent. Divorced/separated/deserted category adds the least size with 3.69 per cent of the respondents.

Women reflect the virtue of morality and non-violence. From the literature review it can be stated that, when women face personal crisis in their life and get abused they step into committing crime. They may be forced by their husband and family or sometimes it's their societal conditions which drag them into crime.

The economic conditions of the female prisoners are one of the important factors which play a crucial role. Literature review reflects that sometimes the lower economic condition of women forced them to commit crime. Due to low economic condition sometimes they get sexually abused. The data collected from the field reveals that around half of the prisoners are from lower economic conditions. Their annual income is less than Rs.5,000/-. Among these prisoners 61.29 per cent are imprisoned due to dowry related murder case. During our interaction they revealed that due to their lower economic condition they had forced their daughter-in-law to bring some more dowries, through that their son can start a business or they can buy some land for survival. The rest 38 per cent prisoners belong to this economic condition are imprisoned due to robbery, theft and drug related causes. Very few (14 per cent) prisoners are having annual income more than Rs. 10,000/-. This group has committed some crime which has nothing with economic requirement. They have done this crime either due to personal enmity or bribing activity.

Children If Any and Custody

Just as marriage plays a vital role in a women's status and identity in Indian society, child bearing capacity, number of children, presence of male child is equally relevant in understanding the respondent's status as a mother in society.

It is assumed that, since the majority of the respondents of the study are married then the number of respondents having children will also correspondingly be more.

Table – 8**Distribution of the Respondents by Children**

Sl. No.	Children of the Respondent	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	201	92.63
2	No	16	7.37
Total		217	100.00

From the above table, it is seen that 92.63 per cent of the respondents have children while 7.37 per cent didn't have any children. Those having children include not only those from married category, but also those who are widowed, divorced, separated or deserted.

However, those respondents who did not have children included all the unmarried respondents as also those are from the other three categories of married, widowed and divorced, separated and deserted.

Occupation

There is no doubt the fact that a number of crimes are being committed for economic reasons and economic condition of a person is dependent upon his/her occupational activity. In the present study, the influence of occupation on the offenders was significant. More than one third women offenders were dependent on labour for their sustenance. Thus, the majority of the prison inmates were belonging to the rural economy i.e. agriculture and manual labour. These sectors contribute insignificant in the family income and most of the families dependent on it are economically poor.

Table – 9**Distribution of the Respondents by their Occupation**

Sl. No.	Occupation of the Respondent	Frequency	Percentage
1	Agriculture	117	53.92
2	Business	20	9.22
3	Daily wage Labour	72	33.19
4	Any other	08	3.67
Total		217	100.00

The above table reveals that the women prisoner's occupation, out of 217 respondents 53.92 per cent of primary occupation is agriculture, 9.22 per cent of them are in business, about 33.19 per cent of the respondents are working as daily wage labourers and 3.67 per cent of them are working in different unorganized sectors.

The above data clearly shows that, majority of the women prisoners are working in agricultural sector. There economy is based on agriculture in rural areas and the prisoners are basically from rural background in the present study.

Family Monthly Income and Custody

According to earlier researches conducted on criminology, economic status of an individual plays a critical role in the causation of crime. Finances accord a certain living standard or lack of it which may make the individual more vulnerable to opportunities or circumstances causing crime. Thus, economic status of a person is very relevant in the consideration of crime and custody.

Table – 10**Distribution of the Respondents by Income**

Sl. No.	Income of the Respondent	Frequency	Percentage
1	Less than 5000	139	605
2	Rs.5000 to Rs.15000	76	35.02
3	Rs.15000 and above	02	0.93
Total		217	100.00

According to the above table shows the distribution of the respondents on the basis of families' monthly income reveals that a majority of the respondents i.e. 605 per cent come from the low-income category of less than Rs.5000 per month, the next large group of respondents totalling to 35.02 per cent are within the income category of Rs.5000-Rs.15000, while the lowest size of 0.93 per cent are from the income category of less than Rs.15000 and above per month.

Thus, it is seen that the majority of the women respondents are from the lower income range from less than Rs.5000 to a maximum of Rs.30000 per month which can be accounted to the predominantly rural, agrarian background with less opportunities for income compounded by high levels of illiteracy, joint family structure and rural poverty.

Type of Family and Custody

The type of family a respondent comes from was considered relevant as an indicator of her social profile in the context of trying to understand her sense of cohesion, belongingness, responsibility or otherwise. Thus, an attempt to trace out the respondent's family type was made in the present study to gauge any correlation if any between opportunity or motivation for crime and family type.

Family Structure and Accommodation

The structure of the family is in terms of its size, and living conditions play an important role in determining the behaviour of a person. Family accommodation affects the conditions of lodging, dwelling, amenities enjoyed, and also the sanitary conditions, which in turn, affects socialization, supervision and control of the members within the family. The situation in the family becomes more aggravated when the bigger sized families are housed in small, inadequate accommodation. The problem of adjustment is very much associated with the structure of family and its size.

Table – 11**Distribution of the Respondents by Type of Family**

Sl. No.	Family type of the Respondent	Frequency	Percentage
1	Joint Family	65	29.95
2	Nuclear Family	152	70.05
Total		217	100.00

The present study reflects that the majority of the prisoners are from nuclear family (70.05 per cent). The remaining 29.95 per cent of prisoners are from joint families. The discussion with these prisoners reveals that the conflicts over property sharing, economic crises, and dowry cases are the basic reasons for committing crime and their imprisonment. It is revealed from the study that majority women offenders were belonging to nuclear family where family control prevails.

Table – 12**Distribution of the Status of Prisoners**

Sl. No.	Status of the Prisoner	Frequency	Percentage
1	Convicted	118	53.8
2	Under trial	99	45.62
Total		217	100.00

Out of the total 217 Prisoners around 99 (45.62 per cent) prisoners are under trial. Those who are under trial most of them are in prison since 3 years. About 53.8 per cent of them are convicted. Our interaction with those prisoners reveals that most of them are not in a position to get a lawyer because of financial crises. Their economic condition has forced them to be in prison rather fighting for the justice. They have no other option but to depend on government lawyers for their justice. Though some of them feels that they are innocent they have no other way to prove themselves as innocent. Even our interaction with prison administration reveals that due to administrative procedures the process is taking long time.

Offence Distribution of the Respondents

The nature of the offence is a very important criterion to be studied in dealing with a prisoner profile. There are various categories of offences like major, minor, cognizable and non-cognizable, crime of violence, crimes against property, economic or white-collar crime etc. In India, all the offences are governed by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) which was enacted in 1860 and continues with some modifications to be the principal frame of reference for criminal law in the country. The Code of Criminal Procedure (C.C.Pr.) also first enacted in 1861 (re-enacted in 1989 and revised and issued as a new code in 1973) is the one that governs all procedures or proceedings in respect of a crime from the moment it is committed through its investigation and trial stages right up to its disposition.

Table – 13**Distribution of the Respondents by Committed Nature of Crime**

Sl. No.	Nature of Crime	Frequency	Percentage
1	IPC Section 302	133	61.29
2	IPC Section 498(A)	22	10.14
3	IPC Section 304	16	7.37
4	IPC Section 201	3	1.38
5	IPC Section 307	12	5.53
6	IPC Section 324	7	3.23
7	IPC Section 420	4	1.84
8	IPC Section 379	6	2.76
9	IPC Section 34	14	6.46
Total		217	100.00

The above table reveals that the distribution of the various crime sections under which maximum respondents was arrested. Further, it is also shows that a breakup of the number of respondents charged and those who are convicted and under various sections.

From amongst the 77 categories of IPC and LSL (Local and Special Laws) crime with which all 217 respondents from the study charged and convicted, only those sections have been mentioned which had a sizeable number of respondents.

Thus, it is seen from the study that IPC section 302 (Murder) has the highest frequency of respondents (133) out of which 99 respondents were undergoing trial and 118 were already convicted. The next significant Section is IPC 498(A) with 10.14 per cent (Cruelty by husband's relatives) followed by 7.37 per cent, next is followed by IPC Section 324 (3.23 per cent) Voluntarily Causing Hurt by dangerous weapons or means, IPC Section 379 (2.76 per cent) punishment for Theft, IPC Section 420 (1.84 per cent) cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property, the least per cent of respondents are under IPC Section 201 (1.38 per cent) Disappearance of evidence of offence, false information

Thus, to conclude, there is seen a preponderance of respondents arrested for violent crimes. On account of the rural and agrarian background of the majority of the respondents, there is very less opportunity for white-collar economic crimes, with most crimes originating within and around the family structure like death of near or far relatives due to property feuds, illicit relations, dowry deaths, self-defence, acts of extreme desperation, etc.

Admitted or Denial of Crime: Attitude towards Offence

A subjective question, the idea was to gauge the justifiability of the arrest and sentence from the prisoner's perspective and her sense of faith in the criminal judiciary process.

Table – 14

Distribution of the Respondents by Admitted or Denial of Crime – Attitude towards Offence

Sl. No.	Attitude towards Offence	Frequency	Percentage
1	Guilty of the Crime	19	8.76
2	Self Defence	198	91.24
Total		217	100.00

The above table shows that out of the 217 respondents from Chanchalguda prison, only 8.76 per cent admitted that they are feeling guilty which a majority of respondents, 91.24 per cent didn't feel they were guilty of the crime committed. Those who admitted to having committed the offence cited self-defence, act of extreme desperation, jealous, family circumstances and pressure from spouse to be primary reasons.

As per the vast majority of arrestees, even most of the convicted prisoners felt they were setup, framed, falsely implicated and thus their opinion and faith on the judicial process and the police is desman and scathing to say the least.

These findings are corroborated by the report of the National Expert Committee on women prisoners (1987) which states, the committee has come across more than a few cases of women who are convinced that they were more sinned against than sinning and who felt bitter and puzzled at being rounded up, framed, remained and sentenced for an offence of which they have little knowledge and no responsibility.

Legal Support-Application for Bail

Table – 15

Distribution of the Respondents whether Applied for Bail

Sl. No.	Status of Applied for Bail	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	86	39.63
2.	No	131	60.37
Total		217	100.00

Legal support, the undisputed right of every citizen, and a vital part of judiciary, starts with the arrestee's application for bail (in case of non bailable crimes) the data shows that the proportion of respondents who had applied for bail from study to be only 39.63 per cent, while 60.37 per cent who had not applied for bail which includes the non-bailable arrests. The latter being a small proportion of all crime heads in this study, the reasons for not availing bail were cited most frequently to be financial constraints, no one to arrange for it, not aware of such a possibility, a waste of time etc.

Length of Conviction

The following table reveals that, the distribution of the respondents by length of conviction for the present study.

Table – 16

Distribution of the Respondents by Length of Conviction

Sl. No.	Conviction Length of the Respondent	Frequency	Percentage
1	Below 1 year	05	2.30
2	1 year – 3 years	26	11.99
3	3 years – 5 years	21	9.68
4	5 years – 7 years	15	6.91
5	7 years – 9 years	08	3.69
6	9 year – 11 years	03	1.38
7	11 years – 13 years	03	1.38
8	13 years – 15 years	05	2.30
9	15 years and above	131	60.37
Total		217	100.00

The duration of conviction indicates that the seriousness of the offence committed. The table shows that the distribution of respondents on the basis of their conviction terms, hence this question was only asked to the convicted respondents of the study. Of the total, 131 respondents a majority i.e. 60.37 per cent were lifers with a sentence of 15 years and above. This can be attributed to the fact that the majority of crimes committed were violent crimes of murder and the like, thus bringing forth harsher sentences. The next largest respondent group i.e. 11.99 per cent was those with sentences from 1-3 years. The sentence period of 3-5 years i.e. 9.68 per cent and had the next highest number of respondents i.e. 6.91 per cent with 5-7 years. Respondents with sentences of 9 to 11 years and 11 to 13 years came next with 1.38 per cent each. The next highest is 3.69 per cent whose length of conviction is 7-9 years. The lowest percentage of respondents i.e. 2.30 fall into category of below 1 year, with sentences of 13 – 15 years.

Thus, it can be deduced that a majority of women have got long term sentence on the basis of offences they committed. If we take the sentence period 7 years and above as long term, then there are 60.37 per cent of convicts in this category and which could indicate an increasingly violent nature of crime committed by the women prisoners. This could also refute the theory of leniency in criminal judiciary process towards women offenders.

Time Already Spent in the Prison

The primary pointer of an efficient judicial process being speedy disposal of cases, faster release of under trail prisoners and quicker conviction rate, an effort was made to study the time of prisoners have already spent in prison, under trail and convicts both. It was hypothesized that majority of the short-term prisoners will be under trails who are the floating population of the prison, who are either unable to go out on bail or whose cases have not yet been dispensed with.

Table – 17

Distribution of the Respondents who already Spent in Prison

Sl. No.	Time/Years Already Spent in Prison	Frequency	Percentage
1	Below 1 year	160	73.73
2	1 year – 3 years	44	20.27
3	3 years – 5 years	05	2.31
4	5 years – 7 years	05	2.31
5	7 years – 9 years and Above	03	1.38
Total		217	100.00

The table shows that a majority of respondents, 73.73 per cent have been in prison for less than a year. 20.27 per cent respondents have been in jail for a period between 1-3 years. Thus, if we consider short term imprisonment to include the time frame of less than a year into 3 years, it is clear that, significant majority of respondents i.e. 73.73 per cent are floating are short term prisoners.

Conclusion:

The above analysis of the causative factors in female criminality by and large sheds light on the nature of compulsions and strains that confront Indian women in the contemporary era. Crime is a chain of reaction to problems than apparently cannot be solved in any other way since it is a response, which a human being makes to inner emotional distress. Looking at the incidence of crime in the perspective of the states of women in a society like India, cultural patterns, socio-economic conditions, disjunction between means and personal desires are all very significant and these act as inhibiting or encouraging factors in forcing women to take to different means for satisfying their desires.

Criminal process beginning with arrest, passing through conviction and incarceration and evading in release and readjustment with society may involve a number of pains, losses and consequent deprivations. One of the methods generally used to prevent the offenders from repeating the crime in incapacitation by imprisonment in a prison. The prison tends to deprive the offenders of liberty for years. These are usually regarded as deterrent measures. There has been attempt to find out the way the prisoners feel the prison experience. Much depends on how inmates view the various experiences which they have undergone, or are currently undergoing once a prisoner has been put in a prison, it leads initially to physical isolation which may result in other kinds of deprivations, their keenness to face the readily of imprisonment and consequent deprivations may lead to evolution of habit patterns that attenuate the anxiety caused by pains and losses.

Deprivation refers strictly to dispossession or loss of privileges, opportunities, and material goods. Inmates were asked to express their problems regarding physical conditions of the prison in which they were imprisoned. According to inmates view it was pointed out that the problems related to physical conditions of the prison, such as lack of space and over was not considered as critical by most of the prisoners. However, physical deprivations were caused due to improper, inefficient supply of essential facilities like water, electricity, sanitation etc. The individual may get conditioned to a particular level of physical amenities due to environmental reasons. Availability of these physical amenities at a particular level may not provide 177 equal satisfaction to all the members of a given society; consequently, the failing of deprivation of satisfaction may be more affected by the background or expectations of an individual, rather than the availability of those amenities.

It is surprising to note that the surveyed prison is overcrowded and no separate women ward found in the prison. Even adequate clothing is not available. Though light facility is available to inmates but fan facility is not available to them. To examine the nature of social deprivation of imprisonment, the data was collected regarding the opinions of the inmates of social atmosphere of the prison, they experienced after their incarceration. The major pain of imprisonment is the separation from children and the inevitable disruption of personal contacts with family members, apart from deprivation of liberty and deprivation of security. The foremost thought, which constantly haunts the minds of these prisoners, is about their future. They are extremely worried about where to go after their release from prison. They do not think that the family members will welcome them on their return. Due to social stigma and different attitude of family members, they find it difficult to go back to their homes and, therefore, remain perturbed about their future. The next felt problem by the inmates was that of maintenance and care of children. They were anxious about the treatment of their children by the in laws and other family members in their absence.

To summarize, analysis of data on socio-economic, demographic and crime profile of the respondents reveals that majority of the respondents from our study are primarily young, belong to the dominant religious group are from the backward class, illiterate with a rural background, married with children, economically from a low-income group and are mostly unemployed. Crime profile reveals that the majority of them to be under trails with a high incidence of violent crimes. An overwhelming majority feel their incarceration is unjustified while majority have not taken the legal resource of applying for bail. Length of conviction was mostly long term for the majority of the convicted respondents with length of time already spent in prison ranging from 15 years and above a majority of the respondents corresponding to the greater presence of under trails in the study.

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