

Causative Factors of Deviant Activities Among Women

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Abstract

In the present paper, attempts have been made to focus on the Causative Factors of Deviant activities among women in Assam, a part of the North East. It gives an idea about the difference between crime and the deviant activities. This paper reviews some of the theories associate with the deviant behaviour. Data collected from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shows that other than the men, women are also day by day involving themselves towards various deviant activities. It also tries to recognize the social environment that contributes to the women to act in deviant way. Further, the article tries to enlighten people regarding the various measures to reduce the deviant activities among women. Deviant behaviour refers to a behaviour that does not conform to social norms and values. It is to deviate from the norms of a particular people in the community or society. This deviant behavioural pattern is common in almost all the groups of women folk. Ranging from the early teens up to the middle aged, this behaviour has been prevalent in every walk of life. In early teens, the girls are prone to activities of hatred and malice, even sometimes for trivial causes, that lead to violence. Long term depression and apathy in the family and peer pressure may also lead to some unacceptable behaviour of the youths. This tendency is again reflected in their adulthood when they enter in the family life. Disputes among families, dowry, illicit affairs etc. are the basic reasons behind the change of behaviour among the female sex. The middle aged and the matured women are the victims of this behavioural change due to disputes of financial matters and greedy possessions. Hence, the deviant behaviour is a common example among female gender and has become a grave issue in this complex modern world.

Key words: Causative Factors, Deviant behaviour, Deviant activities, Women.

Introduction:

To live in a human society peacefully, we have to abide by some rules and norms. By following the rules and regulations, a peaceful situation prevails. Human life which is the best creation of God, with the process of socialisation our society has changed to a great extent with the drastic change caused by the technology. But, it is seen that there are certain kind of people in the society who don't follow the rules and norms of the society and indulge themselves in some unethical activities. Thus imbalance takes place in the society with their illegal activities. They disobey the rules and

norms. These activities are called deviant activities and those persons are simply known as the deviant person or deviants.

It was always presumed that only male folk are indulged in deviant activities but in the present situation, it is observed that people are very much inclined to materialism and becoming selfish in this complex society. To fulfil their needs/greed they indulged in deviant activities.

In present scenario, we observed that woman folk are engaged in deviant activities due to various reasons. Out of jealousy, they even don't hesitate to commit murder. In many incidents, they work as "abettor". There are so many incidents which we can cite here. For example, dowry death, prostitution, drug paddler, honey trapping etc. In some instances, the woman is not directly involved in the crime but associated with the act of crime acting as an abettor. Here we may refer that all deviants are not criminals but all criminals are the deviant persons. In present scenario, crimes against women are widely discussed about crime against women but crime committed by the woman are less discussed. This matter has not yet been taken up seriously but it's an alarming and serious issue also.

In our society, woman are compared with the mother goddess. They often considered as the creator of the future society. Without them continuation of the future society is not possible. Women are the centre of the family like the planets move round the sun; the family revolves around the women/ mother.

Fathers or male folk are the facilitators/ provider of the family but females play significant role in keeping the family in bindings. The love and affection, maintenance of the unity is the main inherent qualities of the women.

Then why do we come to know from daily newspapers or other media about different kinds of incidents happen where such kind hearted innocent/ motherly women indulged themselves towards deviant activities or crimes!!!

Under what circumstances the woman act in a deviant manner??

The term 'deviant', frequently repeated in this study has been used variously by different authors. A deviant differs considerably from the average. Deviant behaviour or deviant attitude remains discordant with the prevailing patterns or the model (Kluckhohn, 1954) takes deviance in a different way. Deviance is used with other terms like 'variant' and 'dominant'. The 'variant patterns' of culture are dispersions within 'permissive' range, whereas the 'deviant pattern' lie within 'prohibited range' and are punishable offence. The use of the term 'deviance' refers to 'maladjustment' (Blackham, 1968). He says, "A child is may be considered maladjusted when he is so thwarted in satisfaction of his needs for safety, affection, acceptance and self esteem that he is unable intellectually to function efficiently, cannot adapt to reasonable requirements of social regulation and convention, or is so plagued with inner conflicts, anxiety and guilt that he is made to perceive reality clearly or meet the ordinary demands of the environment in which he meets lives". Sawrey and Telford (1975) put deviancy on a broader dimension. Deviancy is a universal phenomenon. It is "being significantly different from ones cultural and / or statistical norms "practically every one of us is and /or feels deviant at one time or another."

Objectives of the study

1. To identify the types of deviant activities which are frequently visible among women
2. To identify the causative factors Deviant behaviour of women
3. To focus on input/ influence of deviant activities on family
4. To suggest some remedial measures to prevent women from indulging deviant activities

Significance of the study:

The breakdown of traditional and supportivesystem of family pattern and social organization are due to the rapid pace of industrialization, urbanisation and globalization particularly in the present day society women intend themselves towards to various deviant activities. Most of the women due to various reasons are seen misled and spoiling their lives by involvingthemselves in a variety of anti-social activities and behaviour such as truancy, staying out late, stealing, challenging attitude, smoking, drug addict, honey trapping, extra marital affairs etc. As we know that women are the backbone of the society, their deviant activities have a great negative impact on the whole society.

Therefore, it is an alarming issue which need to be studied to find various aspects of causative factors of deviant activities among women.

Review of related studies:

A review of related literature gives the researcher an understanding of the previous works done by the earlier researchers.

Swargiary, J(2000) in his study on Female offenders in Assam referred the observation/ opinion made by Leonard, Eileen B. (1982) that before the turn of the late 19th and early 20th century some research were conducted combining social and biological factors in explaining female crime. Accordinf to Luke Owen Pike (1876), women are less inclined towards criminality due to lack of strength has lost its importance in crime due to the development of weapons. He concluded that growing independence among women could increase female offenders in society.

He further referred Simon, Rita (1975) who discusses the statistical picture of women's crime over several decades. She compiles data on the extent of female crime, the number of women involved in various types of crime and their treatment by courts and prison officials regarding conviction sentences and parole. She also includes data on the status of women in the labour force, marriage and fertility, income and education. Simon contends that certain types of female crimes, particularly white collar crimes are likely to increase in the future, due to largely to expanding occupational opportunities for women. Their involvement in violence should however, decrease since the frustration that leads to female violence, will likely be alleviated by their widening educational and occupational opportunities. Simon has provided excellent groundwork for further analysis within the area of women and crime, although her own discussion of the etiology of female crime is limited to a superficial review of the literature. She mentions that the women's movement has probably had an important impact not only on female crime but in altering the treatment of women within the criminal justice system

Jaspal (1977) in a study of personality of criminals at different age levels found a trend of decline with age of criminals at different age levels found a trend of decline with age of the personality variables and intelligence (with a slight increase in the 31-40 years age group), thereby concluding that crime rate declines with age, as the high scores on the personality variables of P.N and E/I are positively correlated with crime.

Mohan and Jaspal (1982) found age emerging a significant factor in crime, their study showed that manifest anxiety, E/I and declined with age in prisoners.

Sanock (1969) in Poland using the short form of MPI on 84 polish prisoners and 337 polish controls matched for age, education and social class. Criminals were found to be significantly more extraverted and non significantly more neurotic.

Francis (1970) observed that the violent criminals are more extraverted as compared to those with criminal offences against sex and robbery.

Burgess (1972) who pointed out that Eysenck's theory implies that criminals and normal would differ on a combinations of N and E, not necessarily on one or the other in separation, he was able to show that even in studied which failed to show significance for one or the other variable the combination did show highly significance differences.

Nettler (1974) concluded that one of the most striking and persistent "conditions" associated with criminality is being young.

Milli P. M. K. and Cherian Neethu Susan in their paper on Female Criminality in India: Prevalence, Causes and Preventive Measures found that Bajpai and Bajpai (2000), stated that as women are increasingly joining the mainstream of society, their share in crime as is reflected by the available data in India and elsewhere is also on the rise. They mention a very catchy statement which is, "The rights are first demanded, then commanded and later snatched". In this fight for rights, either to obtain or defend them, clash is unavoidable which result in incidence of crime. Social scientists and social protection planners have not paid much notice to recognize and unearth diverse trends and quality of the offences committed by women in spite of the rapid rate of the participation of females in crime. Thus their work is an endeavour to recognize the psychology and sociology of the circumstances in which females commit crimes either intentionally or negligently.

As Pattanaik and Mishra (2001) stated that inspecting the framework of development and social change, the perception of female criminality is a current phenomenon both in developed and Third World countries including India. According to them, female criminality is a result of diverse socio-economic-cultural and environmental factors resultant of rapid industrialization, westernization and urbanization. However, the current increasing rate in the crime committed by female has drawn the attention of psychologists, sociologists and criminologists both at the international and national scene. Thus, it has not only given a strong blow to our social and cultural heritage but also affected the social structure of Indian society.

Hartjen (1997) has clearly mentioned that in spite of sharing a legal status equal to that of males, females in India are by no means socially and economically equal, nor do they display official and self-reported crime rates anywhere near those of men and boys. It is commonly found around the world that a distinct gender gap exists in the male and female ratio of criminals arrested for crimes committed. In India, the overall male and female ratio is around However, in other third world countries, this ratio is about four times greater than the economically developed countries. This implies that the developed societies have fewer gaps in male and female ratio in crime committed. According to him the self-report data narrows this gender gap considerably. But, the remarkable thing about the criminality of women and girls in India is that there is so little of it and the reason being the lack of basic data, explaining female crime in India remains a task yet to be undertaken. However, there is explanation to believe that theoretical concepts of etiology developed in Western criminology may apply to India also. As such, the relatively infinitesimal offense rates for Indian females may reflect how their suppressed social position, in effect, hinder their ability to initiate or engage in criminal conduct as such. He made suggestions for future research on virtually all dimensions of female crime and justice made.

Pattanaik Jisu Ketan and Mishra Nagendra Narayan in their paper Social change and female criminality in India referred the observation made by Freud (1931) which states that women who turn to crime do so as a form of rebellion against their natural feminine roles and because they are maladjusted to their biological limitations. But liberation model on the other hand argues that

'liberation' is responsible for involving women in criminal activities. It has brought about two things. Firstly, competitive instincts, women are now more assertive, more aggressive and more masculine. Secondly, it has opened up structural opportunities for women to offend. At the same time, Simon (1975) states that the women's movements influenced female crime in two ways.

Research question:

1. What are the prominent contributing factors of deviant activities
2. Why do females indulge themselves in deviant activities.

Methodology :

The methodology is generally a guidance for solving a problem with special component such phase, tasks, methods, rules, employed by a discipline. In this study, the investigator will use Descriptive Survey Method.

Sampling:

As the volume of the population of deviants is uncertain and most of the deviant activities are not reported, it is difficult to determine the volume of the population. Therefore, in the present study purposive sampling plan has been applied. Therefore, the criminals in the central jail, Guwahati and the observation Homes are to be taken as sample for the study. The sample will consist of 30 women folks.

Tools:

In this present study, the researcher will use a self made interview schedule and non participant observation as tools for the study.

Data analysis and interpretation:

Summary of major findings

By applying the descriptive statistics such as percentage of analysis, the major findings of the present study may be mentioned as below.

1. The various factors of deviant activities the investigator found are:
 - a. Situational factor
 - b. Economic factor
 - c. Easy money
 - d. Jealousy both personal as well as professional
 - e. Fame
 - f. Luxurious life
 - g. Pre planned crime/deviant activities
 - h. Co partner pressure

The mentioned above factors meet the objective No. 1 and 2

2. The various input/ influence of deviant activities on family may be listed as
 - a. Breakdown of the family
 - b. Emotional degradation of the off springs
 - c. Anxiety

d. Social alienation

The abovementioned influences meet the objective No.3

3. Various corrective measures or remedial measures to prevent women from indulging deviant activities may be mentioning as to prevent women by awaring themselves about their rights, duties and values. Counselling may be used as another measures in this regard. Government as well as the Non Government organisations may aware the women folk about their rights and other proper aspects which are benefitted to them. Women should be taught about the various legal aspects which are a great support to them. They should be provided with good quality education. Employment generation from the part of the government is one of the main important function. In many occasion it is seen that women are easily become prey in their work place which may be intentional or may not be. Several cases are not reported but it is an alarming reason for which women intent themselves to deviant activities. Thus these measures meet the objective no. 4 of the study.

Conclusion:

The increasing trends in female crimes can also be attributed to the changing role in terms of active and dynamic participation in the social life such as playing leading roles in education, politics, other professions etc. deviant activities among female is a serious problem not only because of social disruption but also because it often cause great damage to the society. To understand the deviant activities among woman, it is important to study the pattern and background of the female folk who behaves such. The investigator studied the background of the deviant woman intensively and found that most of deviant activities carried by women may be situational as well as emotional.

To conclude, it is indubitable that many of the common human situation leading to crime will always be with us what require our attention is the thorny problem of identifying such situations as appear to play a major role in crime's etymology so that rotational policies could be adopted. It can show the effects of different socio-economic, cultural and educational variables on the course of development of criminal careers and the extent to which different aspects of them are transmitted from one generation to the next. So there is a great need to do further studies on this issue.

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