

Leniency in Sentencing the Female Criminals: A Case Study of Central Jail, Lahore

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Abstract:

The causality of female criminality and sentencing is an interconnected phenomenon that is taken more lenient than sentencing male criminals. The current study has purposed to highlight the types of crimes committed by females and the extent of leniency in sentencing them to the legalized formal punishment. This qualitative research was conducted in the Central Jail Lahore by interviewing female criminals. The implication of Otto Pollak's theory of female criminality (1950) provided the theoretical foundation to conceptualize the study. According to theory, various motives and types of crimes were found in female criminality: poisoning, infanticide, aggravated assault, false accusation, sex offenses against children, and domestic theft. According to it, the study categorized female crimes and revealed the duration and type of sentences given to them accordingly or leniently. The implication of qualitative narrative analysis analyzed the data. The study will be produced to highlight the criminal laws on females and the gaps in sentencing females in case of brutal crimes.

Keywords: Leniency, Sentencing, Female Criminality, Otto Pollak Theory.

I. Introduction

Female criminality is a relatively new phenomenon in the different cultural patterns of the developing world with multi-dimensional social, economic, religious, regional, environmental and familial concerns. Less attention has been given to the issues of female criminals due to the fewer females coming into contact with law-and-order agencies as compared to males.

Female criminality is relatively new in various cultures of developing countries with familial, religious, economic and social dimensions. They are given less importance due to fewer crimes by the law-enforcing agencies and courts than men due to considering them the secondary population (Warraich & Farooq, 2015). The sentencing

of female criminals has been observed to be variant than that of male offenders (Baloch, 2012; & Garland, 2012). The females narrowed their activities circle to indulge in other violent actions because of the inequality of dealing with them in casual circumstances (Kinney et al., 2008). In Punjab, Pakistan, most female criminals belong to a low socio-economic background, leading them to commit crimes for survival. However, the study also showed that the male partners' dominancy and leading role could not be ignored for female criminality (Abbas & Manzoor, 2015).

Two types of females were found there while founding the circumstances of the female criminals. One was convicted, and the other was on trial. Those females reported being the victim of being trapped by their family members, relatives, and the authority figure at the workplace to indulge in the crime. Most of them were waiting to hear their cases in court and for the verdict (Khalid & Khan, 2013). The literature also showed that the family culture was responsible for the indulgence of females in criminal activities, especially in Punjab, due to the difference in family norms, customs and values associated with the patriarchal system (Warraich & Farooq, 2015).

Regarding the awareness of the law for female criminals, an old survey demonstrated that 90% of the females in prisons did not know the law under which they had been confined, and 60 did not get legal assistance (Jahangir, 1990). Moreover, by applying Islamic laws and rules 'Haddud Ordinance and Shria,' the female population in prison has increased since the 1980s (Lippman, McConville & Yerushalmi, 1988). Another report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Country Office Pakistan, 2011 reported that 24% of female prisoners indulged in drug-related crimes, 13% in kidnapping, 12% in official sex offenders and 7% in theft-related crimes of the total population (Khalid & Khan, 2013). In 2018, there were 1955 female prisoners in Pakistan. Among these females, 1225 were juveniles, and 33 were sentenced to death, but the actual death row inmates were less than 1%, which shows the leniency in punishing the females for their severe crimes. Moreover, these females were also unable to pay the private representation fee, which hindered their capability to advocate themselves due to their belonging to a low socio-economic background. Another reason for the low quality of representation of females in the judiciary system was the lack of professional training and management of lawyers because of excessive workload. The courts also delayed the hearing and reduced their death sentences to life imprisonment on appeal, but it happened after years of waiting (Rizvi, 2019).

A UN report on female criminality in Pakistan described that the extent of sentencing female criminals differs from the males, even under the same circumstances and situations. Women comprise a small proportion of prisoners worldwide, and most of their crimes are unreported. The prison system in Pakistan has been heritage by the British colonial past, established in the 1850s. The prison rules were also adopted back from the same regime, revised in 1978. The primary laws were associated with the administrative issues of prisons and treatment with them. It included the prison Act of 1894 (Act IX of 1894) that dealt with the punitive approach of imprisonment, including bars, handcuffs, whipping and extended periods of isolation confinement, and the reduction of dietary habits as punishment. The other laws were included as "The Prisoners' Act, 1900 (Act III of 1900); Good Conduct Prisoners Probationary Release Act, 1926 (Act X of 1926) and Prison Rules, 1978". Though the prison authorities do not

possibly implicate all these, these rules are considered the primary references for the elaboration of crime type and criminal dealing in legal force (UNODC, 2011).

In order to explain female criminality, the Chivalry theory demonstrates that it was found historically to report and sentence female criminals in a low ratio due to the lenient dealing with female offenders by the criminal justice system. According to Otto Pollak's theory of criminality of women (1950), women are more susceptible to violating the laws. However, universally, according to the economic standard, they are treated less destructively in nature. Their offense gets less importance than the males' in the judiciary system (Baanarjee, Islam & Khatun, 2015). Pollak's theory further elaborates that men have protective behavior towards females and are reluctant to arrest, charge, or prosecute and convict them under any circumstances. In his book *The Criminality of Women* (1950), he claimed that females commit crimes in the same ratio as men, but their crimes are easier to hide and reject. He further argued that the judiciary system is also biased due to preconceptions about females and cannot sentence females as harshly as men. His work is the empirical foundation to highlight the female criminality used in political debates by antifeminists and masculism to usurp their work. Furthermore, other researchers elaborated that the leniency in their sentences depends on the extent of violating the gender role expectations (Herzog & Oreg, 2008). The difference in dealing with male and female criminals has been further described by Dale Hoffman-Bustamante (1969) in five different factors; different role expectations of males and females, the sex difference in socialization patterns, the implication of social control, a structurally defined system of opportunities to commit a specific offense, various access or pressure towards criminally oriented subculture and future. The current study has been designed to examine the factors dealing with the leniency and extent of female crime punishment in the female prison in Pakistan.

II. Materials and Methods

It was a qualitative study based on the phenomenological approach to have deep insight into female criminality and dealing with administrative and judicial systems with them. The data was collected from the central jail in Lahore of seven female criminals of murder, drug dealers, kidnapping and robbery. Purposive sampling was used to collect the data from the representative respondents. The interview guide was used to collect the data and memorize the relevant question with the fluctuating sequence of questions asked to the respondents. Ethical considerations were considered to collect the data to protect the respondents' identity and confidentiality of provided information. The researchers noted down the answers and did not use any technological instrument to protect and respect the jail rules. For data analysis, narrative analysis was applied to the study as Fleetwood (2005) followed while checking the lawbreaking among female criminals. In narrative analysis, various steps have been followed to validate the results. These steps included the identification of the phenomenon, selection of the individuals from whom the researcher can learn about the phenomenon, collection of stories based on personal and social experiences, the retelling of the individual story (analyze the story by themes), collaboration with research participants storytellers in all phases of research, the narration of the story of participants on personal and social experiences and validation of the accuracy of the report. The validation of the results depended on the saturation of similar context and description of quotations with a similar index of respondents' words. The pictorial description of the narrative analysis is as follows:

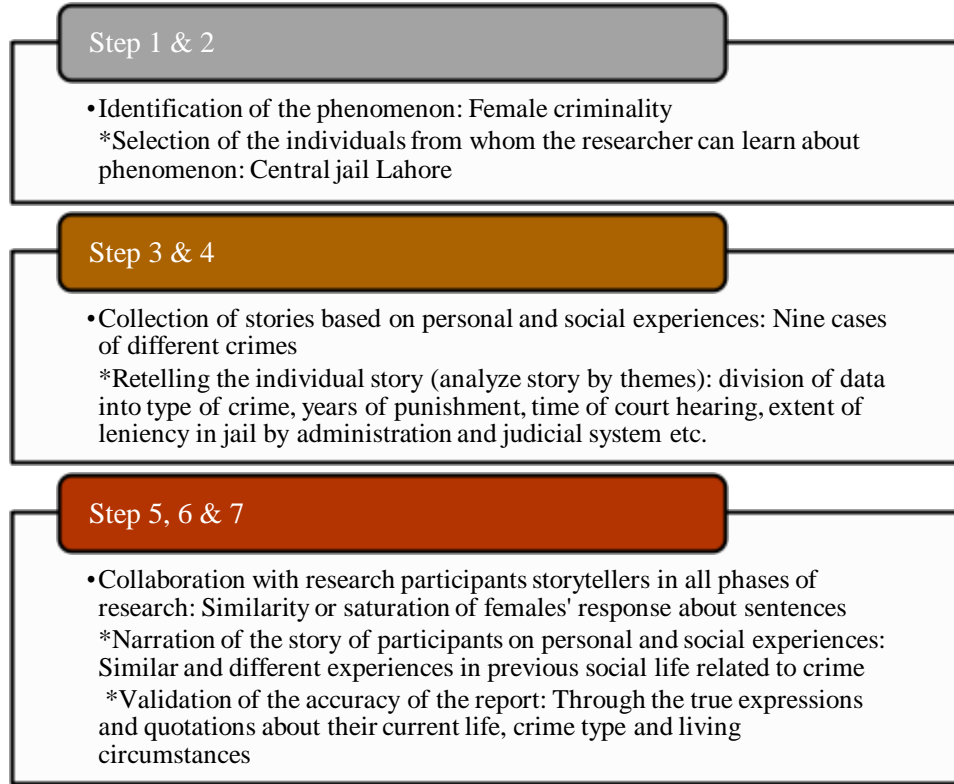


Figure 1: Steps of narrative analysis

As demonstrated in Figure 1, the following themes were developed to narrate the stories of the respondents based on their personal and social experiences: type of crime, way of indulgence in crime, time of court hearing, years of punishment, the extent of leniency in jail by the administration and judicial system, daily schedule of activities, relationships with other inmates, learnings and skills seeking, meetings with family and relatives.

III. Results

A. Demographic Information

Table 1: Demographic Information of Respondents

#	Age	Qualification	Marital Status	Children	Type of Crime	History Crime	Time Hearing	Y of Punish
C1	37	Uneducated	M	1 son	Drug dealer	No	1 Y, 5 M	9 Y
C2	26	Primary	M	1 son	Murder	No	10 M	25 Y
C3	38	Metric (Nurse)	M	4, 3 sons, 1 Dau	Murder of husband	No	3 Y	25 Y
C4	50	Uneducated	M	1 son	Robbery with murder	Yes	1 Y	Lifetime
C5	47	Uneducated	M	1 Dau	Murder of husband	No	1 Y, 8 M	Lifetime

C6	37	Uneducated	M	2 son	Kidnapping	No	8 M	25 Y
C7	30	Graduate	U	NA	Drug dealer	No	2 Y	8 Y

B. Case Studies of Female Criminals

Case study C1:

Q: How did you get involved in the crime?

Ans: After my husband's death, a lady from a neighbor trapped me and indulged me in selling drugs. After that, I became addicted to this business to look after my son, and it was my only earning source. My brothers live abroad but did not support me at all.

Q: How many years of the sentence have already passed?

Ans: 9 years of the sentence have already passed.

Q: Who comes to visit you in the jail?

Ans: In starting during punishment, my mother visited, but nobody came to see me for the last three years after her death.

Q: How are your relationships with other female criminals?

Ans: I have a good relationship with other inmates. One aunt and sister are also in jail for the same drug-dealing crime. So, my time was spent well among them. Overall, the relationship with other female criminals is good, but sometimes they physically hurt each other due to shifting working duties. At that time, the staff dealt with them strictly.

Q: How do the staff deal with you?

Ans: The behavior of the staff is perfect. They never give me a chance to complain about them, but despite it, I feel strange here because of the absence of a family environment.

Q: How do you spend your day?

Ans: I love to watch TV. I watch the play "Urtagul Ghazi" regularly at night.

Q: What skill did you learn here while living in the jail?

Ans: I learned stitching, hand embroidery and parlor skills. I also used to stitch my clothes.

Q: How do you get the necessary daily items of use?

Ans: The jail administration provides me with the necessities of life: shampoo, soap, oil, clothes and shoes.

Q: How is the meal in the jail?

Ans: The meal is good in the jail, and she can cook. I also sometimes eat through langar and sometimes like to cook by myself. I love to make chicken cutlets and nuggets.

Q: Do you ever faced physical or verbal abuse?

Ans: Not actually, but sometimes, when the other criminals fight with each other, I also get verbal abuse for the time being. But later, all settles down. The staff never abused me physically or verbally.

Q: How are the festivals and events celebrated in jail?

Ans: Celebrating all events is as regular as celebrating at home. Everyone now gets dressed and prepares well on Eid days and enjoys special meals provided by jail management.

Case study C2:

Q: How did you get involved in the crime?

Ans: I had never been indulged in any criminal activity ever before. I was a straightforward house lady. This punishment is a gift from my husband, who asked me for the favor to claim that his bother in law tried to rape me. This claim of mine brought

me here. My husband murdered my brother-in-law, and I was along with him, so I also got sentenced.

Q: How many years of the sentence have already passed?

Ans: Three years of the sentence have passed. I was sentenced to jail when my newborn was just two days old. Then I got a relaxation of six months as bail and spent time with my baby. After that, I went back to jail.

Q: Who comes to visit you in the jail?

Ans: My mother used to come to visit me. My father passed away, and my younger brother is only 16. Sometimes he also visits me once a month with my mother.

Q: How are your relationships with other female criminals?

Ans: I have company with two other inmate criminal ladies. Their habits are similar to mine, so I am comfortable with them. We cook and live together. I also have a good association with female criminals.

Q: How do the staff deal with you?

Ans: The behavior of the jail administration is excellent and cooperative with us. Whatever and whenever I request them to bring something, they coordinate. Due to their cooperative behavior, the jail does not seem like a jail.

Q: How do you spend your day?

Ans: Usually, I spend time assigned work by the jail administration. My most prominent duty has been preparing the meal for the other inmates. I also keep indulging in praying and fasting. I have promised Allah to keep me as fast as possible until I get released from jail.

Q: What skill did you learn here while living in the jail?

Ans: I learned makeup, hair styling, hair dyeing and cutting in jail. I love to practice all these experiences with the other inmates.

Q: How do you get the necessary daily items of use?

Ans: The jail administration provides me with daily accessories for usage, including soaps, shampoo, clothes and shoes. If I need something, I ask my mother to provide me with that.

Q: How is the meal in the jail?

Ans: The meal is good in jail. There is a schedule for providing every item in the meal, including meat, vegetables, cereals, rice, bread, milk, or tea. We are also independent of cooking if we want.

Q: Do you ever faced physical or verbal abuse?

Ans: No, I have never experienced verbal abuse in jail.

Q: How are the festivals and events celebrated in jail?

Ans: The events in the jail are celebrated with all their zeal and zest. I prepared thoroughly to attend the jail events and participate in other festivals and functions activities.

Case study C3:

Q: How did you get involved in the crime?

Ans: My husband was an army officer and was an alcoholic. He was corrupted by other females and had several sexual relations with females. I also used to bring other males and females home and never stopped, even I fought. So, I murdered him in anger one day.

Q: How many years of the sentence have already passed?

Ans: Eight years have passed since my punishment.

Q: Who comes to visit you in the jail?

Ans: My step-father and mother come to visit me every week. My children are living with my in-laws.

Q: How are your relationships with other female criminals?

Ans: I have good relations with other jail companions as I never violently or interrupted anyone's personal affairs. So, the companion females have no objection to me.

Q: How do the staff deal with you?

As I was working as a nurse and dealing with the administrative work, I have assigned the register work of attendance, checking, counting, writing and compiling the files daily. In such activities, my whole day spends. The behavior of staff and administration is very fair to me. I accomplish all of my assigned duties of register filing and compiling, so they are pleased with my activeness.

Q: How do you spend your day?

Ans: The day passes in gossip, labor work, cleaning, eating and resting. I never put intention that how my days are passing in jail. Otherwise, it would not be easy to live here.

Q: What skill did you learn here while living in the jail?

Ans: I learned computer skills, office work management and stitching in the jail.

Q: How do you get the necessary daily items of use?

Ans: The jail administration provides daily items of use. If I need something, my family members provide me with that.

Q: How is the meal in the jail?

Ans: Food is good and enough for an ordinary person to eat. I also love to cook, and the staff coordinates me to do so.

Q: Do you ever faced physical or verbal abuse?

Ans: No, never. All the females and staff members are splendid. Sometimes, a little bit of debate started but ended with jokes and a smile.

Q: How are the festivals and events celebrated in jail?

Ans: I belong to a Christian family. So, I am allowed to celebrate my religious festivals in jail. The staff provides me with cake, clothes and other necessities. I participate in the other religious festival of inmates as well.

Case study C4:

Q: How did you get involved in the crime?

Ans: I indulged in small robbery activities with my other family members. I was reported and arrested when I encountered a murder while robbing.

Q: How many years of the sentence have already passed?

Ans: I have been here for the last nineteen years.

Q: Who comes to visit you in the jail?

Ans: Once or twice a year, my husband comes to see me in jail.

Q: How are your relationships with other female criminals?

Ans: I have good relations with others. I never talked excessively with other ladies. Sometimes if other female criminals stole my things, I quarreled with them and became aggressive.

Q: How do the staff deal with you?

Ans: The officers are good. If I need something, they manage to provide me with it the same day. They never troubled me in any matter.

Q: How do you spend your day?

Ans: I prefer to spend time praying and reading the Holy Quran. I like to read books and take a nap during the day as well.

Q: What skill did you learn here while living in the jail?

Ans: I learned hand embroidery, stitching and making other crafts while living in the jail.

Q: How do you get the necessary daily items of use?

Ans: The administration provides all the items for daily use. Some other relative females who stayed in jail for a short time also provided me with their used items. In this way, my survival is good in the jail.

Q: How is the meal in the jail?

Ans: The meals are good here. We are free to eat whatever we cook in the jail or whatever we want to cook.

Q: Do you ever faced physical or verbal abuse?

Ans: The officers scold me if I do not perform my assigned duty on time. Otherwise, no verbal abuses would have been faced.

Q: How are the festivals and events celebrated in jail?

Ans: The festivals are celebrated with fun and love. Jashn-E-Eid-Milad-Nabi (SAW) is celebrated enthusiastically, and all the inmates recite Naats, Darood Pak with religious passion. We also celebrate national events of 23rd March and 14th August etc. Then we cook and eat together. We also shared the events of our past life.

Case study C5:

Q: How did you involve in the crime?

Ans: I had never committed a crime before. After marriage, my husband's friend became a friend of mine too. He claimed to love me and asked me to leave my husband. Due to his clever net of love, I became entangled in his love and fired my husband with his support.

Q: How many years of the sentence have already passed?

Ans: 4 years

Q: Who comes to visit you in the jail?

Ans: My Brother, sister-in-law, nieces and nephews visit me once or twice a year. My daughter was six months old when I came here. After that, my brother and sister-in-law are taking care of my daughter.

Q: How are your relationships with other female criminals?

Ans: In starting, the female inmate criminals were very dominant and used to fight with me physically. I was also a shallow tempered lady. But over time, it all settled, and we understood each other.

Q: How do the staff deal with you?

Ans: The behavior of the staff is perfect. If someone makes a mistake, the staff will punish her; otherwise, they are not crazy to punish someone without any reason.

Q: How do you spend your day?

Ans: I spend my day stitching clothes, weaving coats and caps, and making traditional hand fans.

Q: What skill did you learn here while living in the jail?

Ans: Hand skills, stitching, weaving and other handicrafts making.

Q: How do you get the necessary daily items of use?

Ans: The jail administration provides all the essential daily-use items. They also order the servant to make the shoes mend if ruptured or broken.

Q: How is the meal in the jail?

Ans: The food quality is also excellent and is provided thrice daily.

Q: Do you ever faced physical or verbal abuse?

Ans: Sometimes, when the assigned work is not completed, we become victims of verbal abuse by the other females. By the staff although, it happens very rarely.

Q: How do the festivals and events celebrated in jail?

Ans: We also celebrate festivals and religious occasions like other people. We make new clothes and enjoy ourselves on special days. The jail administration also provides a special meal than routine on the festival day.

Case study C6:

Q: How did you get involved in the crime?

Ans: I have never committed a crime. This sentence is also blamed on me. My sister-in-law's husband was jealous of me. He dropped his child at my house, and he reported kidnapping against me.

Q: How many years of the sentence have already passed?

Ans: I have spent three years of my life here.

Q: Who comes to visit you in the jail?

Ans: One of my sons was born here and is seven years old. He is under the custody of the child protection bureau of Pakistan.

Q: How are your relationships with other female criminals?

Ans: The relationships with companion female criminals are good. Sometimes, the differences also prevailed and had harsh debates among us, but we started to talk to each other again while living in the same place. We have a group of five females who live and cook together.

Q: How do the staff deal with you?

Ans: The jail officers are very cooperative and well-mannered. They trusted me greatly because I performed the assigned duty responsibly and carelessly. They assigned me to clean the jail and bathrooms. And I have always been active in performing my duty. If sometimes something wrong happens to the inmates, the jail administration first solves the issue with politeness. Then scold a little bit if the mistake repeats multiple times.

Q: How do you spend your day?

Ans: The daily labor of making hand fans, embroidery and other similar work. I also washed my clothes, cleaned my place and slept in the daytime. This is how I spend my whole day.

Q: What skill did you learn here while living in the jail?

Ans: I learned parlor skills and stitching here.

Q: How do you get the necessary daily items of use?

Ans: The jail management provides everything of necessity to us. We never bought anything.

Q: How is the meal in the jail?

Ans: The jail administration provides food, and its quality is outstanding.

Q: Do you ever faced physical or verbal abuse?

Ans: Never faced verbal or physical abuse. Sometimes harsh words were exchanged in case of conflict with other females during labor work, but I never got physically abused or fought with them.

Q: How do the festivals and events celebrated in jail?

Ans: The festivals are also celebrated well by the people out of jail.

Case study C7:

Q: How did you get involved in the crime?

Ans: I was coming to Pakistan for modeling. My colleagues asked me to take one of their luggage bags with me. I did not know that it contained drugs. So, I was arrested and sentenced.

Q: How many years of the sentence have already passed?

Ans: I have spent four years of my punishment here, eagerly waiting to be released and meet my family again.

Q: Who comes to visit you in the jail?

Ans: Nobody comes to visit me as I am a foreigner, and my parents and siblings are not in Pakistan.

Q: How are your relationships with other female criminals?

Ans: As a foreigner and I have a different language and culture, I have a separate cell. I usually do not intermingle with other jail mates, but with one another; a foreign lady loved me like a daughter, and she used to cook food for me as well/ whenever I interact with other ladies, I also have a good association with them. I never quarreled with anyone.

Q: How do the staff deal with you?

Ans: The staff is very cooperative and helpful here. All people love me and respect me.

Q: How do you spend your day?

Ans: I usually spend time reading books and making my register of daily routine in which I paste my pictures and other gossip of life. I sent this register to my family after one year. My parents and embassy provide me with the local magazine I love reading. I am very fond of walking and spend much of my spare time walking.

Q: What skill did you learn here while living in the jail?

Ans: I learned Urdu language and Pakistani culture here.

Q: How do you get the necessary daily items of use?

Ans: The jail provides all necessities. Some items of need are provided by the lawyer and embassy as well.

Q: How is the meal in the jail?

Ans: The meals are good here. The administration provides the meal I want as I have different eating habits. But with time, I have been habitual of Pakistani food.

Q: Do you ever faced physical or verbal abuse?

Ans: I never experienced verbal or physical abuse here. All the people are very loving to me.

Q: How do the festivals and events celebrated in jail?

Ans: The celebration of religious and cultural festivals is vivacious. Everyone celebrates her religious events. I also celebrate Christmas and Easter day. People are amicable and loving here. I love the Pakistani culture.

C. Narrative Analysis through Themes

Type of crime:

The data showed that most female criminals were involved in murder and drug dealing. Some of them also committed the crimes of kidnapping and robbery.

Way of indulgence in crime:

The data showed that indulgence in the crime was accidental or forceful—some females were involved in the crime due to their helpless condition of living and earning. The cases of murder elaborated that they murdered under severely stressed conditions

when they could not find any other way out of their persisting condition of helplessness. Some others blamed others under situational conditions and could not clarify themselves due to the unavailability of a true representative of their character clearance.

Time of court hearing:

The data also revealed that the time of hearing from the court took ten months to two years. During that time, the females were also in prison but dealt with leniency due to unproven crimes.

The extent of leniency by the judicial system:

It was found that most of the married female criminals had had children. Some left their newborn at home while appearing in court for the hearing. Some finally got the court decision of life imprisonment or a year of punishment but were released on bail for six months to one year to look after their newborn. After the baby grew up, they handed over their children to other family members and came to the jail to accomplish their sentence duration.

The extent of leniency in jail by the administration:

The jail management and staff were reported to be very cooperative and helpful. They all were respected being females and provided all the necessities of life. In case of any need for female criminals, the staff managed to provide them with the required item on the same day on a priority basis. The management was also very coordinative in celebrating the religious festivals and other national events with all zeal and zest. The majority were comfortable and felt relaxed living there, but some missed their families and wanted to return soon despite the jail's cooperative environment.

The daily schedule of activities:

The criminal justice system in Pakistan has been designed to keep criminals of a long time and lifetime imprisonment indulged in healthy and productive activities. They were assigned the labor of making handicrafts, sewing, stitching, weaving, makeup, cooking criminals' meals, cleaning, and maintaining discipline in the jail. In this way, the female criminals remain busy and involved, spending quality time learning to settle back themselves after release. Moreover, it was also found that those female criminals, who behaved nicely and peacefully in jail for a long time, were reconsidered to lessen their sentence duration to join their families and spend a normal life as soon as possible.

Relationships with other inmates:

The data showed that female criminals had good associations with their inmates. Some of them lived in groups and managed their cooking and living together. They all lived cooperatively. It rarely happened that they physically fought with one another. When stealing someone's goods, they exchanged harsh words, but later, they settled down because of living in the same place.

Learnings and skills seeking:

The jail environment for female criminals was found productive in learning the skills. They were all interested in learning handcraft-making skills, sewing, knitting, weaving and sewing. Some of them loved to read books and learn computer skills as well. Another exciting skill was related to makeup artist and parlors skills. They are preparing themselves to stable their lives after being released from jail.

Meetings with family and relatives:

It was found that most female criminals met their relatives and family members but once in a blue moon. Some of them were left alone after they committed the crime. Some could not meet their family members because they were staying overseas. So, the jail administration looks after these female criminals more carefully to not let them feel deprived and lonely.

IV. Discussion

The current study aimed to disclose the leniency in dealing with female criminals in the judiciary system and their living patterns in jail. The paper also discusses most of the crimes committed by the females recorded in jail during interviews. It was found that most females were involved in murdering their husbands due to cheating or involving with another man. The results were similar to the findings of Harden, Du, Spencer and Stith (2019) and Pedersen (2019). The other crime of their significant involvement was drug dealing with their other family members or due to unsupportive relatives after the death of their husbands. This finding was parallel to the findings of Thomson (2020), who also found that females were involved in drug-related violent activities. Another significant finding of the study described that these females were involved in the crime accidentally and unintentionally. It rarely happened that they chose to commit the crime by their will. At the same time, Wang (2021) described that the extent of female crime is increasing daily due to their willingness. The study also revealed that the court hearing sometimes takes to decide the punishment of female criminals and provides them bail with leniency. The findings parallel Weinsheimer, Woiwod, Coburn, Chong and Connolly (2017), which explored those female criminals dealt with more relaxation than male criminals. The jail environment puts an optimistic impression on the female criminals and lets them learn new activities to stabilize after release. But the findings of Ferraro et al. (2018) were in contrast to the current findings in which the female criminals were stressed and depressed in prison, which affected their mental health. Another study by Collica-Cox and Frust (2019) explored the productive environment of the jail to keep the prisoners involved in healthy activities. The present research further found the learning of new skills of female prisoners to empower them, similar to the findings of Baumgartner and Sandoval (2018). It was also revealed that the female criminals lived cooperatively with the other inmates and followed the rules and regulations implicated by the jail administration. The results were also similar to the findings of Baker, Abderhalden, Alward and Bedard (2019), in which the inmates obeyed the regulatory system of the jail to lessen their incarceration duration.

V. Limitation

The current study was limited to the central jail in Lahore and did not include any other female prison to check the leniency in sentencing them. The study was also limited to only checking the leniency among females while not comparing it to males. Further studies can address this issue in this regard.

A. Policy Implication

The study is produced to demonstrate the criminal types among females and check their criminal intent and the court decision by which they have sentenced the female criminals. The study is also helpful for policymakers and law implementers to go through the circumstances of female criminals in jail. It could also help obedient female

criminals to shorten their imprisonment duration by reviewing their optimistic behavior by the policymakers.

VI. Conclusion

The current study was designed to examine the leniency in sentencing the different females' crimes and the types of crime they committed through the case study of female prisons in Pakistan. Following the qualitative research, the case studies were collected from the most representative females of the jail using purposive sampling.

- The study concludes that female criminals get relaxation and leniency in sentences for their committed crimes.
- The jail management is also found more helpful than the traditional image of the harshness of staff because of the long-time stay of female criminals.
- The judicial system and law also deal with female criminals leniently because of the cultural and religious element of respect assigned to the word 'female.' So, Otto Pollak's theory of female criminality (1950) also proves accurate in this regard that females are not sentenced the way male criminals are punished.

A. Conflict of interest

The authors declared no conflict of interest in the study.

B. Ethical Approval

The study included human participants and female criminals. So, the authors got ethical approval from the jail administration to interview the respondents by considering their confidentiality.

C. Inform Consent

Inform consent was obtained from all participants by letting them know the nature of the study. The authors informed the participants verbally and in written form depending on their qualifications; literate or illiterate.

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