

**FEMALE CRIMINALS  
A SOCIO-CRIMINOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF PAKISTAN**

*Muhammad Abdullah Avais  
Dr Aijaz Ali Wassan*

**ABSTRACT**

*This study comprises on interviews of 133 convicted female criminals in prisons of Sindh (Karachi, Hyderabad and Larkana) and Punjab (Lahore and Multan) provinces of Pakistan. This research surveys the socio-economic background and factors that influenced the inmates to commit crimes. The mixed method approach (qualitative and quantitative) was applied for this exploratory study. More than half of the prisoners (72.9%) belong to rural regions. It was found that 54.1% female criminals were illiterate, while 52.6% respondents were in the age group of 21-30 years when they committed a crime. The majority of female criminals (42.9%) had 6,000 to 10,000 per month family income. 37.7% respondents tried to commit suicide due to multiple reasons like mismatched marriage before entrance in the department of correction. 32.3% respondents were physically abused in their childhood. 81.2% female criminals were married and 48.2% were victims of domestic violence. 96% respondents were married between 11-20 years of age. 34.2% respondents had unpleasant relations with their husbands. 26.3% respondents have five or more children. 48.2% respondents were survivors of domestic violence. 48.1% respondents were sentenced in murder cases, the victims of 60.9% respondents were their husbands and 56.3% criminals used poison in homicide. 33.1% respondents committed crime due to financial problems. 60.9% respondents were likely to commit a crime alone and 36% respondents were helped by their male friends in homicide cases. 47.4% criminals were the first child of their respective families, according to their birth order.*

---

**Keywords:** Female Criminals, Socio-demographic, Homicide, Criminal Act, Sindh, Punjab, and Pakistan.

**INTRODUCTION**

Pakistan came into existence in 1947. It has nearly 182.1 million populations, speaking some 6 different regional languages (Pakistan Population, 2016). Geographically, Pakistan has deserts, mountains, coastal deltas and some of the highest peaks in the world. In Pakistani traditional society, women have role of a foundation stone for a family as well the society. In Pakistan, a woman is specially known as protector of

social norms, culture, customs, and traditions. Due to high cost of living, inflation, poverty, early child marriages, large families, political instabilities and urbanization, women are participating in income generating activities. Pakistan is an economically developing country and there has been very little research conducted on female criminals. The main reason for the lack of interest is, as compared to male counterpart, that Pakistani women are not visible in crime records due to low participation. Therefore, female criminals are considered as fewer problems for society (Unnithan, 2016). Although, involvement of women in crimes is very small but it is enough for social scientists to pay attention. Female criminality is rising not only in developing, but also in developed countries as crimes against women are at rise (Ackermann, 2016). In Pakistan it is still unrevealed that why these women commit crimes and what are the economic as well as social factors behind their cruelty. Subramaniam (2006) argues that causation of crimes on the basis of economic and social factors varies among different groups of women based on class, religion, rural and urban subdivision, family income and education. Although, beyond these factors, there is very little understanding about women population in Pakistani prisons. The present study attempts to find out the socio-economic factors behind criminal acts of women in Sindh and Punjab provinces.

#### **THEORIES - CAUSES OF FEMALE CRIMINALITY**

Early theories are focused on individual characteristics of offenders like physiological or psychological instead of socio-economic or political issues (Kumar & Jaishankar, 2013). First attempt to understand the causes of female criminality was presented in the book "The Female Offender" and offenders were categorized in 1. Atavism: Antisocial behaviour due to biological issue, 2. Born Female Criminals: Female offenders with criminal qualities of man and the worst qualities of women (Lombroso & Ferrero, 1920). It was studied that Lombroso's results cannot be generalized but the social conditions of criminals play an important role to develop criminal intention (Adam, 1914). In 1950, a book *The Criminality of Women* was published by Otto Pollak, in which he interpreted that due to non-obeying the prescribed roles of women, they became act masculine and it leads to criminal behaviour like males (Feinman & Feinman, 1986).

#### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Majority of women offenders are victim of prior physical or sexual abuse (Convery, 2009). Women offenders belong to marginalized

segment of society. They are poor and have little formal education along with poor job skills (Chaseney, 2007). Richie (1996) states that low social status, abuse from parent's home to marital life, culturally defined gender roles, anger, and frustration may lead a woman to achieve their target by illegal means. Barzano (2013) concludes that criminal acts of women may be connected to prior domestic violence, abuse or economic hardships. Warraich & Farooq (2015) reveal that social disputes, social deprivation, peer group pressure and family culture are considered as the most important factors behind criminal acts of females in Pakistan. Cherukuri, Britton, & Subramaniam (2009) say that limited economic opportunities and marginalization are directly linked with the criminality of women around the world. In spite of various factors as breakdown of the family, familial/personal frustration, poverty, ignorance, poor education, delayed marriages, class conflicts, and many other factors push women into criminality (Avais, 2017). Such factors bring outcomes in crimes like robbery, homicide, snatching, drug-related crimes, infanticide, prostitution and suicide (Liddell & Martinovic, 2013). Zadeh & Ahmad (2012) argued that majority of Pakistani female inmates are from low socio-economic segments of society. Illiteracy with low technical skills are pushing factors which force women to involve in illegal activities for easy earning (Celik, 2008). The female offenders are different from the male offenders due to difference in age group and opportunities to enhance educational or vocational skills to look after their families; therefore, when they face obstacles to meet their goals, they are involved in illegal activities (Rossegger *et.al.*, 2009). Women in Pakistan always have struggled to balance their domestic and social lives. Sometimes, their close relatives deceive them and make them a criminal (Ali & Shah, 2011). A study on 167 female criminals analyzed that among 88% homicide cases, the victims were known by each other (Hirschinger *et.al.*, 2003). It is a uniform fact that in majority of female-perpetrated homicide cases, their victims were known to them and said cases took place in domestic settings (Kruttschnitt & Gartner, 2008). The literature on female criminality suggests that women involved in homicide to get rid of domestic violence or in self-defence (Garcia, Soria, & Hurwitz, 2007).

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

These research questions were formulated for the research:

- From which socio-economic background these women belong to?
- Are criminal women educated or illiterate?
- Who are the victims in homicidal cases?

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To identify socio-economic factors and conditions of offenders and its relationship with types of crime.
- To find out relationships between crime and age of the offenders.
- To examine relationships between crime and marital status.
- To document links between crime and education of offenders.

**HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY**

- The offences of females are possibly related with socio-economic background of the offenders.
- The offences of female inmates are related with the age of the offenders.
- Natures of crimes of female offenders are related with the marital status of the offenders.
- The offences of female offenders are related with educational level of the offenders.

**LOCALE OF THE STUDY**

The study of incarcerated female criminals has been conducted in Sindh and Punjab provinces of Pakistan. All convicted female prisoners (Karachi, Hyderabad, Larkana, Lahore and Multan) were selected through convenience sampling method for the study.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**Data Collection:** Interviews have been conducted from the summer of 2014 to 2016 over a period of two years. All convicted female criminals (100%), 133 of 133, comprising of 09 criminals who were imprisoned for capital punishment, 97 women imprisoned for life (25 years), 2 for two, 1 for three, 1 for four, 5 for five, 3 for six, 7 for seven, 4 for ten, 1 for fourteen, 1 for thirty-five and 2 for hundred years, have been interviewed in women's prisons/jails of Sindh (Karachi, Hyderabad and Larkana) and Punjab (Lahore and Multan) provinces of Pakistan. All the criminal women were personally interviewed and their data have been compared with an official police record to check the authenticity of information. Furthermore, personal interviews were felt necessary due to the risk of a false charge of women by police. All the respondents were briefed regarding aims and objectives of the study. Prior to interviews verbal consent and willingness of the respondents were gained.

**Inclusion and Exclusion Criterion:** Innocent Pakistani girls those were residing with their convicted mothers and foreigner female inmates are not part of study. Only Pakistani national convicted women were interviewed.

**DATA ANALYSIS**

The study is focused on the causes and motives behind criminal acts of female criminals. The study is basically exploratory. Mixed method data collection technique is applied through structured questionnaire and in-depth interviews.

**RESULTS**

**TABLE-1**  
**PROFILE OF PRISONS AND RESPONDENTS**

NAME OF PRISONS AND NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS			
Convicted Women <i>N</i> = 133			
		N	%
Province	Name of Prison		
Sindh	Karachi	19	14.3
	Hyderabad	8	6.0
	Larkana	1	0.8
Punjab	Lahore	52	39.1
	Multan	53	39.8

Source: Primary Data

Table I shows the breakup of respondents along with the name of prisons. It is indicating that 39.8% respondents belonged to Women Prison Multan, 39.1% Lahore, 14.3% Karachi, 6% Hyderabad, and 0.8% Women Prison Larkana.

**WHO ARE BEHIND THE BARS?**

It is not surprising that the majority of female inmates belonged to the marginalized groups of communities. The socio-demographic profile of all convicted female criminals in the study area is given in table II. According to data, 52.6% respondents fall in the 21-30 years' age group, 12.8% in 11-20, 20.3% in 31-40, 12.8% in 41-50 and 1.5% respondents in the age group 51-60 years (mean: 28.76 years and  $SD \pm 8.80$ ). 81.2% respondents were married, 14.3% unmarried and 4.5% were widow at the time of commission of crime. 54.1% female criminals were illiterate, 2.3% had religious, 7.5% graduate, 11.3% higher secondary, 15% secondary and 9% had primary education. 97.7% respondents were Muslim and remaining 2.3% were Non- Muslim. 52.6% respondents were housewives; 15.8% respondents were commercial domestic workers (Maid). 0.8% canteen store owner in girls' school, 16.5% agriculture

work, 3% factory worker, 0.8% NGO employee, 3.8% student, 1.5% beautician, 0.8% teacher and 4.5% belonged to tailoring profession before commission of crime. Family monthly income of 42.9% respondents was between 6,000 – 10,000 rupees per month (60 to 100 \$/ month), 38.3% had 11,000- 15,000, 6% had 16,000 to 20,000, 3.8% had 21,000 and above and 9% had 1000-5,000 rupees per month family income.

**TABLE-2**  
**PROFILE OF FEMALE CRIMINALS IN PRISONS**

<i>Convicted Female Criminals (N = 133)</i>			
		N	%
<b>Age at Commission of Crime (mean: 28.76 years and SD <math>\pm</math> 8.80)</b>			
	1 (11-20)	17	12.8
	2 (21-30)	70	52.6
	3 (31-40)	27	20.3
	4 (41-50)	17	12.8
	5 (51-60)	2	1.5
<b>Marital Status</b>			
	Single	19	14.3
	Married	108	81.2
	Widow	6	4.5
<b>Education</b>			
	Primary	12	9.0
	Secondary School	20	15.0
	Higher Secondary School	15	11.3
	Graduate	10	7.5
	Masters	1	0.8
	Religious Education	3	2.3
	Illiterate	72	54.1
<b>Religion</b>			
	Muslim	130	97.7
	Non-Muslim	3	2.3
<b>Occupation</b>			
	House wife	70	52.6
	Agriculture Work	22	16.5
	Tailoring	6	4.5
	Student	5	3.8

	NGO Employee	1	0.8
	Factory Worker	4	3.0
	Commercial Domestic Work (Maid)	21	15.8
	Beautician	2	1.5
	Teaching	1	0.8
	Canteen owner in girls school	1	0.8
<b>Monthly Family Income (Parents)</b>			
	1000 to 5,000	12	9.0
	6,000 to 10,000	57	42.9
	11,000 to 15,000	51	38.3
	16,000 to 20,000	8	6.0
	21,000 to above	5	3.8
<b>Cultural Background</b>			
	Urban	36	27.1
	Rural	97	72.9
<b>Suicide Attempts</b>			
	Yes	43	32.3
	No	90	67.7
<b>Violence in childhood</b>			
	No	80	60.2
	Physical	43	32.3
	Sexual	10	7.5
<b>Financial Problems in childhood</b>			
	No	25	18.8
	Yes	108	81.2
<b>Home Status</b>			
	Own	78	58.6
	Rented	55	41.4
<b>Family Type of Respondents before Marriage</b>			
	Nuclear	40	30.1
	Joint	93	69.9
<b>Family Members of Respondents (Before Marriage)</b>			
	Less than 5	14	10.5
	6 to 10	81	60.9
	more than 11	38	28.6
<b>Mother Tongue of Respondents</b>			
	Urdu	9	6.8

	Sindhi	6	4.5
	Punjabi	68	51.1
	Balochi	4	3.0
	Pashto	19	14.3
	Saraiki	27	20.3

Source: Primary Data

72.9% respondents belonged to rural and 27.1% to urban regions. 32.3% respondents tried to commit suicide in their life before entrance in the department of correction. 60.2% respondents did not face violence in their childhood while 32.3% respondents faced physical and 7.5% were survivals of sexual violence in their childhood. Physical exploitation in childhood increase the risk of involvement in heinous crimes and develop feelings of revenge in the later stages of life (Malinosky, Rummell & Hansen, 1993). 81.2% respondents shared that they faced financial problems in their childhood, whereas 18.8 described that they did not face financial problems in their childhood. 41.4% respondents lived in rented houses and 58.6% in their own houses before proven guilty. 69.9% respondents were from joint and 30.1 from nuclear family system. 60.9% respondents had 6-10, 28.6%, more than 11 and 10.5% had less than 5 family members. As compared to children from small families, the children of large families were identified as more violent (Loeber, 1982). 51.1% respondents were Punjabi speaking, 20.3% Saraiki, 14.3% Pashto, 6.8% Urdu, 4.5% Sindhi and 3% Balochi. The above profile portrays the real background of female criminals in Sindh and Punjab provinces. The majority of women criminals belong to low-income profile and are illiterate (Das, 2013).

#### PRISONERS REPLIED ON A QUESTION “WHO COME TO THE PRISON”

“Poor people, those people who have not enough income to run kitchen or not have contacts with police. Here come those who have already fought to save their lives. Sometimes the poor women were trapped because they (police) want to fulfill their desires. Police arrest only the poor women without bothering to know the master mind of crime”.

Another woman said: “I have been here for the last 7 years. I saw many poor women in the prison. Only poor women come here. I am not sure whether they were guilty or not but they were poor. Does rich women not commit crime? But only poor people reach here. So these prisons, police and laws are only for the poor folk. If you are poor,



illiterate, have many children with low income, then police will come for you very easily. But if you are rich, have resources then you cannot be jailed”.

If we carefully study the narratives of women, we can find that both women were blaming the police that “Police arrest poor women”, clearly indicates the bitter experience of these prisoners with police. It appears that police demand bribe, when these women cannot fulfill their demands, they are arrested.

**TABLE-3**  
**PROFILE OF MARRIED CRIMINALS**

<i>Convicted Married Women (N = 114)</i>			
		N	%
<b>Respondents Age at time of Marriage (mean: 17.68 years and SD <math>\pm</math> 2.82)</b>			
	1 (11-20)	96	84.2
	2 (21-30)	18	15.8
<b>Husbands' Age at time of Marriage (mean: 28.99 years and SD <math>\pm</math> 6.17)</b>			
	1 (11-20)	8	7.0
	2 (21-30)	69	60.5
	3 (31-40)	31	27.2
	4 (41-50)	6	5.3
<b>Number of Children of Respondents</b>			
	1	14	12.3
	2	28	24.6
	3	22	19.3
	4	8	7.0
	5 or more	30	26.3
	No Children	12	10.5
<b>Relations with Husband</b>			
	Friendly	23	20.2
	Just Regular	52	45.6
	Unpleasant	39	34.2
<b>Violence in Martial Life</b>			
	Physical	55	48.2
	No	59	51.8

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 shows the profile of married respondents. It is indicating that 84.2% among 114 respondents were married between 11-20 years and 15.8% between 21-30 years' age group. The mean age at the time of marriage was 17.68,  $SD \pm 2.82$ . Whereas the age of husbands of 60.5% respondents at the time of marriage was 21-30, 27.2%'s age 31-40, 7%'s age 11-20 and 5.3%'s age was  $\geq 41-50$  years. The mean age of husbands at time of marriage was 28.99,  $SD \pm 6.17$ . 26.3% respondents have five or more children, 24.6% two, 19.3% three, 12.3% one, 10.5% no children and 7% have four children. 34.2% respondents had unpleasant, 45.6% just regular and 20.2% friendly relations with their husbands. 48.2% respondents beard physical violence in their marital life and 51.8% shared that they had not been victims of domestic violence. Most Pakistani married women of rural areas or slums of urban areas experience domestic violence during their marital life. In traditional communities, family members ignore such tortures and encourage abusive women to continue their marriage bond, therefore domestic violence is normal in some parts of society (Greenberg, 2002).

#### FOR WHICH CRIMES ARE THE WOMEN SERVING?

**TABLE-4**  
**OFFENCES OF CONVICTED WOMEN IN PRISONS**

Convicted Women ( $N = 133$ )			
		N	%
Offences			
	Murder	64	48.1
	Drug crimes	38	28.6
	Kidnapping for Ransom	19	14.3
	Kidnapping for Prostitution	2	1.5
	Robbery	5	3.8
	Human Trafficking	1	0.8
	Weapon Trafficking	2	1.5
	Bounce Cheque	2	1.5

**Source:** Primary Data

Table IV indicates the criminal acts of female inmates. It is indicating that 48.1% women were imprisoned due to charge of murder, 28.6% drug-related crimes, 14.3% kidnapping for ransom, 1.5% kidnapping for prostitution, 3.8% robbery, 0.8% human trafficking, 1.5% weapon trafficking, 1.5% bounce cheque.

**WHO WAS THE VICTIM OF HOMICIDE?**

**TABLE-5**  
**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS IN HOMICIDE**  
**CASES**

<i>Victims of Homicide (N=64)</i>			
		N	%
<b>Victims</b>			
	Husband	39	60.9
	Brother in Law (Brother of Husband)	2	3.1
	Friend (Boy)	3	4.7
	Unknown	2	3.1
	Relative (Male)	3	4.7
	Father	3	4.7
	Owner of House where respondent was working	3	4.7
	Friend of Husband	2	3.1
	Neighbor (Male)	2	3.1
	Cousin (Male) from Mother Side	1	1.6
	Brother in Law of My Sister	1	1.6
	Brother of watchman in my school	1	1.6
	Son of my owner	1	1.6
	Son of My Daughter (child)	1	1.6

**Source:** Primary Data

The relationship between victims of homicides and respondents is showing in table V. It is indicating that high proportion of victims of homicide was husbands i.e. 60.9%. 3.1% victims were brothers in law, 4.7% boyfriends, 3.1% unknown, 4.7% relatives (male), 4.7% fathers, 4.7% owners of house where respondents were working, 3.1% friends of husbands, 3.1% neighbors (male), 1.6% male maternal cousins, 1.6% brothers in law, 1.6% brothers of watchman in respondent's school, 1.6% sons of owner where respondent was working and 1.6% were grandsons.

**TABLE-6**  
**MOTIVES BEHIND WRONGDOINGS OF RESPONDENTS**

<i>Convicted Women N = 133</i>			
		N	%
<b>Motives</b>			
	To get married (for love)	23	17.3
	With honour purposes	14	10.5
	Due to a land dispute	3	2.3
	Due to financial problems	44	33.1
	Poverty	28	21.1
	Domestic violence	16	12.0

	To counter blackmailing	2	1.5
	Family Business	2	1.5
	Victim was cheating me	1	0.8

Source: Primary Data

The table 6 indicates the motives behind offences of female criminals. It is indicating that 33.1% respondents were forced to commit for financial problems, 21.1% for poverty, 12% to get rid of domestic violence, 10.5% for honour purpose, 17.3% for marriage, 2.3% for land dispute, 1.5% to counter blackmailing, .8% for cheating of victim and 1.5% were involved in criminal act because they belonged to criminal families.

#### A RESPONDENT CONFESSED THAT “WHY DID SHE KILL?”

“I belonged to a very poor family. I initiated labour work when I was 9 years old. I worked in different houses as servant. But, in last house where I was working from more than 2 years, the son of my owner who was studying in the UK, tried to rape me. My aim was not to kill him. I wanted to save my honour . I tried to push him back and show him knife only to spare him from what he intends. I wanted to leave the place. But he pushed me and jumped on me. There was knife in my hand. When he jumped, the sharp side of knife was upside. He fell on knife. He died being unintentionally stabbed. Police charged that I was trying to theft in house, when son of owner approached to me, I killed him. This is my story”.

Another respondent said: “I did not steal big things. My husband was drug addict. He used to beat me daily if I did not pay him money for liquor. I have three children. If my husband took money, my children had not anything to eat. I had not any other option. So I started stealing small things like chains, little cash up to worth 5,000 rupees etc. Otherwise how I could care for my children?”

**TABLE-7**  
**WEAPON FOR HOMICIDE**

<i>Homicide Offenders (N = 64)</i>			
		N	%
<b>Weapon</b>			
	Poison	36	56.3
	Knife	4	6.3
	Suffocation	2	3.1
	Axe	1	1.6
	Firearm	21	32.8

Source: Primary Data

Table 7 indicates the means for homicide used by women killers. It is indicating that 56.3% female killers used poison, 32.8% firearm, 6.3% knife, 3.1% suffocation and 1.6 used an axe to kill their victims. “My husband was very cruel to me. He beat me daily. My family was not supporting me. Even my marriage was done for some 20,000 rupees (200\$), virtually, I was sold. Therefore, my husband had rights on my body and he wanted to pay back his full money with the interest. He tried to sell me for some money (Prostitution). I refused and as usual, he pushed my head into wall. I have one daughter. When he said that he would sell my daughter? I could not control over me. When he slept, I killed him with his pistol”.

**TABLE-8**  
**HELPED BY PERSON TO COMMIT HOMICIDE**

Convicted Women ( <i>N</i> = 64)			
		N	%
Help in Commission of Crime			
	Alone	39	60.9
	With Someone	25	39.1
Who Helped			
	Husband	4	16.0
	Friend of Husband	4	16.0
	Sister	2	8.0
	Brother in Law (Husbands Brother)	3	12.0
	Brother	1	4.0
	Friend (Male)	9	36.0
	Sister's Husband	1	4.0
	Cousin (Father Side)	1	4.0

**Source:** Primary Data

Table 8 indicates the people who helped the female inmates in homicide and is indicating that 60.9% respondents were alone at the time of commission of crime (Murder). While remaining 39.1% were helped out 16% by husbands, 16% by friends of husbands, 8% by sisters, 12% by brothers in law, 4% by brothers, 36% by male friends, 4% by husbands of sister and 4% by paternal cousins.

A respondent shared that: “I belong to a very poor family. My color is not fair. We were cousins and our marriage was arranged by our parents. I was in love with my neighbor boy. The same condition was with my husband. He liked beautiful girls and I was average. But due to family pressure we were married. Although my family was aware of my affair, I decided to be loyal to my husband. Unfortunately, someone told my husband about my pre-marital affair. My husband became very cruel

to me. He started beating me and laughing at me. He used to say that I am blackish and only blind can love me. My husband had relations with many other girls. It hurts me a lot. One day my lover came to my home in my husband's absence. Unfortunately, my husband came back early. When he saw my friend at home, he went mad and tried to beat me. But, my friend pushed him on floor with my help. We tied him up on bed. After this; we both were worried. Then we decide to kill my husband. My lover killed my husband with knife. According to plan, I made a noise that some people killed my husband and ran away. But, I could not satisfy the police and they caught me. I could not face their pressure and I told all truth to police. Now I am here in front of you and waiting to complete my sentence (Life imprisonment) and my lover is sentenced to death”.

**TABLE-9**  
**BIRTH ORDER OF RESPONDENTS**

Convicted Women ( $N = 133$ )			
		N	%
Birth Order			
	1 <sup>st</sup>	63	47.4
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	30	22.6
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	15	11.3
	4 <sup>th</sup>	8	6.0
	5 <sup>th</sup>	7	5.3
	6 <sup>th</sup>	5	3.8
	7 <sup>th</sup>	4	3.0
	8 <sup>th</sup>	1	0.8

Source: Primary Data

Table 9 indicates the birth order of respondents and is indicating that 47.4% respondent were 1st, 22.6% 2nd, 11.3% 3rd, 6% 4th, 5.3% 5th, 3.8% 6th, 3% 7th and 0.8% respondents were 8th child according to their birth order.

**TABLE-10**  
**HYPOTHESIS TESTING**

Chi-Square Test for Association		
Convicted Women Prisoners ( $N = 133$ )		
		p-Value
Offences		
	Socio-Economic Conditions	0.016
	Age of Offenders	0.049
	Marital Status	0.012
	Education Level of Offenders	0.000

Source: Primary Data

Table 9 shows the results of Chi-square test for hypothesis testing at 5% significance level. The table indicates that there is significant association (p-value 0.016) between socio-economic condition of respondents and criminal acts of offenders. Furthermore, it describes the significant association (p-value 0.049) between age of respondents and their offences. Marital status of respondents and their wrong doings have (p-value 0.012). The education level of respondents and their criminal wrongdoings have (p-value <0.001). All the observed p-values are less than  $p < 0.05$ . Therefore, all hypotheses have been approved.

## DISCUSSION

The demographic observation of this study showed that the convicted women offenders did belong to less educated and marginalized classes of society in Pakistan. 81.2% respondents were married and 52.6% were housewives. The result of ongoing research is contrary to the results of different studies which believed that married women have fewer tendencies towards criminality as compared to unmarried women (Sarpong *et.al.*, 2015; Flotta, Nicotera, Pileggi, & Angelillo, 2011). 72.9% offenders belong to rural regions, 41.1 respondents had not their own homes before entrance in department of correction. 69.9% respondents belonged to joint family system and 60.9% respondents had 6 to 10 family members. Das (2013) propounded that majority of female offenders belong to poor families with less earning resources and from joint family system. In a study, it was concluded that usually women offenders belong to socially and economically deprived sections of society. Therefore, they are unemployed, young with low level of education and have dependent children (Ali & Shah, 2011). 84.2% respondents were married between 11-20 years of age group. 48.1% respondents were apprehended in murder. 48.2% respondents were faced physical abuse in their marital life. 60.9% committed homicide alone and the majority of victims with their husband (60.9%). Most victims of homicides by female culprits are closed to them (Renzetti & Goodstein, 2000), whereas in very small number of cases women killed others. Usually, women attempt homicide attack on their husbands after long physical, emotional abuse. They did it in a hope of ending abuse. 56.3% respondents used poison in homicide cases because guns are not easily available to middle class families of Pakistan. 31.6% respondents indulge in criminal act due to financial crisis. 60.9% respondents were alone during commission of crime and 36% respondents were helped by their male friends to commit crimes in homicidal cases. 47.4% respondents were first child of their families. The merciful condition of the women

which they live in that cannot be changed until the society admits the women as equal citizens and government take actions to improve girls'/women literacy rate and create employment opportunities for women in both public and private sectors. This exploratory study unveiled different causes of criminal acts of women in prisons of Punjab and Sindh provinces. Different information regarding family structure, education, violence in childhood, marital life, causes of crimes help in commission of crime and victim of crimes are present in such the study.

## CONCLUSION

Notwithstanding female criminality has a long history; it seems new social phenomena in Pakistan and seems a serious threat to Pakistani traditional and religious society as well familial system. The stories of female criminals in Pakistan are similar to other criminal women around the world. They are married, uneducated or less educated with less income generating capacities and had a history of violence in their childhood as well as in marital life. The study reveals that participation of women in criminal activities is not by choice but, due to different hidden intentions. Income-generating skills, education, access to employment, trainings/awareness towards entrepreneurship skills, soft loans for self-employment and strict policies regarding domestic violence can help as counteractive measure to reduce female criminality in Pakistan. Similarly, different vocational training programs can be helpful for criminal women to channelize their life after their release.

## REFERENCES

- Pakistan Population (2016). Worldometers. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/pakistan-population>.
- Unnithan, N. P. (2016). Crime as an identity. *The Social Science Journal*, 53(1), 1-6.
- Ackermann, M. (2016). Women in detention in Africa: A review of the literature. *Agenda*, 1-12.
- Subramaniam, M. (2006). *The power of women's organizing: Gender, caste, and class in India*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.
- Kumar, M. K., & Jaishankar, K. (2013). Female criminality in India: Causes and preventive measures. *Scientific Committee of Reviewers*, 89.
- Adam, H. L. (1914). *Women and Crime*. London: T. Warner.
- Feinman, C., & Feinman, C. (1986). *Women in law enforcement. Women in the Criminal Justice System*, New York: Praeger.



- Convery, U. (2009). Addressing offending by women: a literature review. Research and statistical Series: Report No.21. Northern Ireland: Statistical and Research Branch, Criminal Justice, Northern Ireland.
- Chesney-Lind, M. (2007). 'Beyond bad girls: feminist perspectives on female offending'. In Summer, C. *The Blackwell Companion to Criminology*, 255-267. Victoria: Blackwell Publishing.
- Richie, B. (1996). *Compelled to crime: The gender entrapment of battered black women*: Psychology Press.
- Barzano, P. (2013). *The Bangkok Rules: An International Response to the Needs of Women Offenders*, United Nations Asia and Far East Institute, *Resource Material Series* No.90.
- Warraich, I. A., & Farooq, M. (2015). Socio-Cultural Determinants of Female Criminality in Pakistan: A study of Punjab. *Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences* (PJSS), 35(2), 875-890.
- Cherukuri, S., Britton, D. M., & Subramaniam, M. (2009). Between life and death women in an Indian state prison. *Feminist Criminology*, 4(3), 252-274.
- Avais, M. A. (2017). *A socio-criminological Study of Female inmates in Sindh and Punjab* (Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Sindh, Jamshoro).
- Liddell, M., & Martinovic, M. (2013). Women's Offending: Trends, Issues and Theoretical Explanations. *International Journal of Social Inquiry*, 6(1), 127-142.
- Zadeh, Z., & Ahmad, K. (2012). Mental health issues of women prisoners in Karachi Pakistan. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science* 2012; 2(14): 310, 318.
- Celik, H. (2008). *A sociological analysis of women criminals in the Denizli open prison*. (Unpublished Master of Science Thesis), Middle East Technical University, Ankara.
- Rossegger, A., Wetli, N., Urbaniok, F., Elbert, T., Cortoni, F., & Endrass, J. (2009). Women convicted for violent offenses: Adverse childhood experiences, low level of education and poor mental health. *BMC Psychiatry*, 9(1), 1.
- Ali, A., & Shah, N. A. (2011). Women Prisoners in Pakistan: Changing Practices to Enforce Laws & Rights. Kuwait Chapter of Arabian *Journal of Business and Management Review*, 1(4), 57-63.
- Hirschinger, N. B., Grisso, J. A., Wallace, D. B., McCollum, K. F., Schwarz, D. F., Sammel, M. D., . . . Anderson, E. (2003). A Case-Control Study of Female-to-Female Nonintimate Violence in an Urban Area. *American Journal of Public Health*, 93(7), 1098-1103.

- Kruttschnitt, C., & Gartner, R. (2008). Female violent offenders: Moral panics or more serious offenders? *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, 41(1), 9-35.
- Garcia, L., Soria, C., & Hurwitz, E. L. (2007). Homicides and intimate partner violence: A literature review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 8(4), 370-383.
- Lombroso, C., & Ferrero, G. (1920). *The female offender* (Vol. 1): T. Fisher Unwin.
- Malinosky-Rummell, R., & Hansen, D. J. (1993). Long-term consequences of childhood physical abuse. *Psychological Bulletin*, 114(1), 68.
- Loeber, R. (1982). The stability of antisocial and delinquent child behaviour: A Review. *Child Development*, 1431-1446.
- Das, S. (2013). *Women Prisoners in Odisha: A Socio-Cultural Study* (Doctoral dissertation, National Institute of Technology Rourkela).
- Greenberg, J. G. (2002). Criminalizing dowry deaths: The Indian experience. *American University Journal of Gender, Social Policy and the Law*, 11, 801-846.
- Sarpong, A., Otupiri, E., Yeboah-Awudzi, K., Osei-Yeboah, J., Berchie, G., & Ephraim, R. (2015). An Assessment of Female Prisoners' Perception of the Accessibility of quality Healthcare: A Survey in the Kumasi Central Prisons, Ghana. *Annals of Medical and Health Sciences Research*, 5(3), 179-184.
- Nobile, C. G., Flotta, D., Nicotera, G., Pileggi, C., & Angelillo, I. F. (2011). Self-reported health status and access to health services in a sample of prisoners in Italy. *BMC Public Health*, 11(1), 529.
- Renzetti, C. M., & Goodstein, L. (2000). *Women, crime, and criminal justice: Original feminist readings*: Roxbury.
-