

SEMESTER VI
PSYCHOLOGY OF CRIME – II
Unit I
CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

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INTRODUCTION

Right from the time of her birth or even before a girl could become victim of a crime or target of a crime. Just as the stages vary, nature of crimes vary too. Below are illustrations/tables that highlight important aspects of the issue. The 2012 National Crime Records Bureau report of India states a reported crime rate of 46 per 100,000, rape rate of 2 per 100,000, dowry homicide rate of 0.7 per 100,000 and the rate of domestic cruelty by husband or his relatives as 5.9 per 100,000. A 2014 study in the Lancet states, “Whereas an 8.5% prevalence of sexual violence in the country [India] is among the lowest in the world, it is estimated to affect 27.5 million women in India [given India’s large population]. Further, the 2006 survey found that 85% of women who suffered sexual violence, in or outside of marriage, never sought help, and only 1% report it to the police.”

Stage 1	Foeticide and infanticide	Where there is an economic or cultural preference for sons, the pregnancy diagnostic tools can lead to female foeticide
Stage2	School going age	Many Girls are not given the access to and completion of proper primary and secondary education as compared to boys and otherwise may also suffer from discrimination at the hands of parents and teachers in their upbringing.

Stage3	Adolescence	Many adolescent girls become victims of sexual abuse both on internet and otherwise, exploitation and violence, acid attacks, rape, early marriage, or even HIV/AIDS.
Stage 4	Marriage	Many women are tortured physically, economically and emotionally after their marriage by their husband and in-laws.
Stage 5	Motherhood	Women are sometimes not provided proper medical care and healthy food during and after her pregnancy .She is often compelled to abort a female foetus.
Stage6	Workplace	often women suffer from exploitation , unequal pay for equal work , lack of promotions despite merit and physical, economic and emotional abuse

All these stages woman quietly suffers or even if raises her voice it is silenced or suppressed she neither knows she has rights to fight these crimes and what remedies are available in law to protect herself.It is time women rise to protect themselves. In its first ever gender gap study covering 58 nations, the World Economic Forum has ranked India a lowly 53. The report titled ‘The Women’s Empowerment: Measuring the Global Gender Gap, published in 2005 measures the gap between women and men in five critical areas like economic participation, economic opportunity, political empowerment, access to education and access to reproductive health care. The report is based on United Nations Development Fund for Women’s findings on global patterns of inequality between men and women. The low ranking reflects the large disparity between men and women in all five areas of the index.

TYPES OF CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

1. Sexual Harassment at Workplace

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 was passed with the objective of providing protection to the women at workplace. Sexual harassment is when one person subjects another person to an unwelcome act of physical intimacy like grabbing, brushing, touching, pinching, eve teasing, makes an

unwelcome demand or request directly or by implication for sexual favours from another person, shows a person any sexually explicit visual material, in the form of pictures/cartoons/pin-ups/calendars/ screensaver version computers/any offensive written material / pornographic e-mails or any other form of unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, eve teasing, jokes likely to cause awkwardness or embarrassment, innuendos, sexist remarks. This statute superseded the Vishakha Guidelines for prevention of sexual harassment introduced by the Supreme Court of India. Every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee at each office or branch with 10 or more employees. The Act covers students in schools and colleges as well as patients in hospitals, employers and local authorities will have to set up grievance committees to investigate all complaints. Any aggrieved woman may file a complaint in writing to the internal committee/ Local Committee within 3 months from the date of incident or the date of the last incident in case of a series of incidents. The victim can also file a complaint with Police under Indian Penal Code 1860 under Sections 294,354, 354A, 509.

2. **Acid Attack**

Acid throwing, also called an acid attack is a form of violent assault defined as the act of throwing acid or a similarly corrosive substance onto the body of another with the intention to disfigure, maim, torture, or kill. Perpetrators of these attacks throw acid at their victims, usually at their faces, burning them, and damaging skin tissue, often exposing and sometimes dissolving the bones. The long term consequences of these attacks may include blindness, as well as permanent scarring of the face and body, along with far-reaching social, psychological, and economic difficulties. Section 326A and Section 326B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 provide the punishment for voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid and voluntary throwing or attempting to throw acid respectively. Section 100 of the Indian Penal Code allows the right of private defense to the extent of causing death if there is acid is thrown or there is an attempt of throwing acid.

3. **Rape**

Rape is one of the most heinous atrocities committed on a woman in our society .It is known to be the fourth most common crime against women in India. Rape takes place if a man has sexual intercourse i.e, penetrates his penis, to any extent, into the vagina, mouth, urethra or anus of a woman or makes her to do so with him or any other person; or inserts, to any extent, any object or a part of the body, not being the penis, into the vagina, the urethra or anus of a woman or makes her to do so with him or any other person; or manipulates any part of the

body of a woman so as to cause penetration into the vagina, urethra, anus or any part of body of such woman or makes her to do so with him or any other person; or applies his mouth to the vagina, anus, urethra of a woman or makes her to do so with him or any other person, under the circumstances falling under any of the following seven descriptions:

1. Against her will.
2. Without her consent.
3. With her consent, when her consent has been obtained by putting her or any person in whom she is interested, in fear of death or of hurt.
4. By getting her consent by pretending to be her husband.
5. When she does not understand the nature and consequences of what she has consented to because of unsoundness of mind or under the influence of alcohol.
6. With or without her consent, when she is under eighteen years of age.
7. When she is unable to communicate consent.

A rape victim can file an FIR in the local police station under following Sections of Indian Penal Code.

8. 376-Punishment for Rape
9. 376A-Punishment for causing death or resulting in persistent vegetative stage of victim.
10. 376B- Sexual Intercourse by Husband upon his wife during separation
11. 376C- Sexual Intercourse by Person in Authority
12. 376D-Gang Rape

4. **Obscenity and Pornography**

Pornography is printed or visual material containing the explicit description or display of sexual organs or activity, intended to stimulate sexual excitement or seems lewd from a responsible reader standpoint.. Pornography is the portrayal of sexual subject matter for the purpose of sexual arousal. Pornography may be presented in a variety of media, including books, magazines, postcards, photographs, sculpture, drawing, painting, animation, sound recording, film, video, and video games, websites. Increased use of information technology, such as Internet and communication devices has led to proliferation

of illegal websites containing obscene and pornographic materials. Obscenity and pornography have not been specifically defined under any Act in India but The Indian Penal Code, 1860, The Information Technology Act, 2000, The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, deal with obscenity and pornography and make publishing or transmission, sale of obscene and pornographic materials as punishable offences under various provisions.

1. Sections 292,293,294,354,354A, 354B, 354C, 509 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.
2. Sections 66E, 67,67A, 67B of the Information Technology Act, 2000
3. Section 6 of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986

5. **Domestic Violence**

Domestic Violence can be described as where one adult in a relationship misuses power in order to control another. It is the establishment of fear in a relationship through violence that includes other forms of abuse. The violence may involve physical abuse, sexual assault and threats. At times it can be more subtle, such as making someone feel worthless, not letting them have any money, or not allowing them to leave the home. An Application can be filed to the Magistrate under Section 12 of the Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Orders such as residence, protection, monetary relief, compensation order can be passed by the Magistrate. Complaint can also be filed under Section 498A for cruelty by husband or his relatives along with demand for dowry. The words “shared household” were considered by Supreme court in *SR Batra v TarunaBatra* AIR 2007 SC 1088, to mean house belonging to or taken on rent by husband or house which belongs to joint family of which husband is a member .If it is exclusive property of mother in law , it cannot be called a joint family property.A wife cannot claim and is not entitled to stay in her father in law’s house using the Domestic Violence Act- It was held by the Delhi Court in *Sudha Mishra v. Surya Chandra Mishra RFA 299/2014*.

6. **Cruelty/Dowry demand**

To curtail the growing incidents of dowry torture and dowry death , a new Section was incorporated into Indian Penal Code , that is, Section 498A .According to this Section, whoever being husband or relative of husband of a woman , subjects her to cruelty shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and fine. Cruelty herein means any wilful conduct that is likely to drive a woman to commit suicide or to cause grave injury or danger to her life, limb or health (whether physical or mental) of the woman or harassment to force her to meet any unlawful demand for any property or security or on

failure to meet the demand. Later, Section 198A was added to the Criminal Procedure Code in 1983. In 2005, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act was passed, which added to protect women from dowry harassment. Section 304B was added to the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (“IPC”), which made dowry death a specific offence punishable with a minimum sentence of imprisonment for 7 years and a maximum imprisonment for life. Further, under Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 a demand for Dowry is an offence wherein demand is made at the time of or even after marriage even where no cruelty is involved.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Mental illness

Psychiatric illness should be identified and treated promptly. Patients with active symptoms should be kept in a protected environment till substantial improvement takes place. Many patients may need life-long protection e.g. those suffering from mental retardation or chronic schizophrenia.

Women with severe mental illness need special attention. Public awareness needs to be created with respect to the following:

- Women need protection but those with mental illness need more care and protection.
- The real problem is not mental illness, but the negative attitude toward it.
- Many medical illnesses create more problems in marriage, than mental illnesses.
- There should no double standard? If a woman can continue the marriage after her husband develops a mental illness, so can the husband. Similarly, people should be made to understand that if it is right to marry a son or daughter with mental illness, then the reverse is also true. A daughter in-law with mental illness should also be accepted.
- Good family support greatly improves the prognosis.
- Many women with mental illness prove to be better marriage partners and daughter-in-laws than those without mental illness.
- If the husband's family accepts the woman with mental illness, the society will also follow

- Woman with mental illness should be accepted with her illness.
- Violence is not the solution. Mental illness in the victim (e.g. depression) or perpetrator (e.g. alcoholism or schizophrenia) should be promptly treated.

Restriction on use of alcohol

There should be prohibition of alcohol use in mass gatherings in institutions, public places like trains and buses. The number of alcohol outlets should be decreased. The age for purchasing alcohol may be raised to 30 years. Special checks on festive occasions are recommended with the help of breath analysers. Involuntary treatment of persons with alcohol dependence should be carried out.

Control on media

Sexual material should be censored. Good themes, which condemn violence and glorify rehabilitation of the victim, should be projected. Ban on pornography should be strictly implemented. The sites may be blocked.

Marriages

Marriage of boys and girls should preferably be in early 20s, as soon as feasible, so that sexual needs could be satisfied in a socially appropriate manner.

Strengthening the institution of marriage

Strong marital bond would act as a deterrent. The “Shiv-Parvati” model should be promoted for Hindus.

Law enforcement

Efficient and accountable law enforcement machinery at all levels (administration, government, police and judiciary) is needed.

Legislation

Change in mind set of the judiciary

This is the need of the day. Indira Jaising, Additional Solicitor General of India, aptly stated “It's time for India's courts to gaze inward and throw out deeply embedded patriarchal notions

that stop judgments from being fair to women. Sexism within the system has to go before it does more damage in the country.” A High Court judge in Orissa in his judgment once famously held “It was not possible for a man, acting alone, to rape a woman in good health.

Amendments in existing legislations

The Hindu Marriage Act (1955): Mental illness may be removed from conditions of Hindu marriage. Not informing about past illness of mental illness should not be a ground for nullity of marriage.

PWDVA, 2005 and DPA, 1961: Assessment for mental illness may be incorporated in the code civil procedure so that the mental illness is identified in the victim (woman) and/or perpetrator (male relative) and promptly treated. This way violence can be prevented.

New legislations

New legislation is needed to provide for granting “Interim Relief” (A big sum of money that is paid by the perpetrator) to a victim of severe sexual assault. The money may be utilized for rehabilitation of the victim. Rehabilitation of the victims of brutal sexual assaults should be the State's responsibility. The legislation should provide for enhanced punishment for violence perpetrated against women with mental illness.

Appropriate application of laws in the setting of mental illness

This is often very difficult, nevertheless very important. Judiciary handling such cases should desirably have both legal (LLB) as well as medical (MD Psychiatry/DPM) qualifications.

Code of conduct

Code of conduct at work place, school and home, with respect to interaction with persons of opposite sex should be outlined and implemented.

Gender sensitization

Gender sensitization by parents and teachers is needed regarding the sensitivities and boundaries of man-woman relationships.

Education and employment

Improvement in quality of education and employment opportunities for youth.

Recreation and talent

Recreational avenues and opportunities for talent development in young people.

Moral and religious values

Parents and teachers should strive to infuse good moral and religious values in children and serve as role models.

Population control

Last, but not the least, If we are sincere we will get the results. Let us all say “No” to violence against women.

FEMALE CRIMINALITY

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. The gravity of the challenge increases manifold when we go through the available data on crime from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). While women criminals are still a minority- they comprise only 6.3% (NCRB Crime report 2009) of the criminals convicted for crimes under IPC (Indian Penal Code). The Crime in India Reports reveal that the number of females arrested for criminals activities in 2003 were 1,51,675, and this shot up to 1,54,635 in 2007. Also, interestingly, the nature of crimes committed by them too, is gradually witnessing a sea change - from softer crimes like drug trafficking and prostitution to heinous

crimes as murder. 3439 women were arrested for murder in 2005; 3812 in 2007 and 4007 in 2009 that is an increase from 5.4% in 2005 to 6% in 2007 and 6.4% in 2009 (NCRB figures). Studying the available data, it is observed that along with the increase in total crime rate, crime committed by women is increasing. The total percentage of female criminals among the total criminals arrested for committing various crimes in 2001 has risen from 5.4% to 6.2% in 2011. Looking at the figures one would think that it is hardly 0.8% increase in a decade. However, going into details, it is observed that the nature and severity of crimes in which women are involved has undergone drastic change. Earlier there were lesser records of women involving in heinous crimes, however as time passed, women arrested for much harder and sophisticated crimes is at rise. There is a need to understand the pattern of female criminality and this article moves in this direction. This article deals with type of causes of female criminality emerging due to socioeconomic changes and provides recommendations to prevent women from becoming offenders. This article is divided in to two parts. The first part examines female criminality in India with statistical representation and the second part discusses on various causes of female criminality and it concludes with recommendations to prevent female criminality in India.

I. Female Criminality in India As stated in the beginning, in India also the social environment contributes a lot to the making of women criminals. Here, it has more to do with the patriarchal society. According to Psychologist Anchal Bhagat, the female offenders have lost faith in social system. Women's fate is sealed and they face deprivation instead of constitutional rights and privileges. Discrimination within society exists from birth till last breath in most parts in India. Bhagat, in her work, had mentioned one such very famous example about a victim turned victimizer, Phoolan Devi. Her story as a victimizer starts with law failing to give her justice. Phoolan Devi denied of justice had turned into notorious bandit queen who later became politician. However, in her short struggle-full life she had gained lot of enemies and she was murdered. Stating an example like this Bhagat concludes that the compelling factors such as want of economic independence, recognition in society and to earn a respectable position in the society is what probably forces women like Phoolan Devi to resort to extreme steps of taking law in their hands. She also emphasizes that the courts while deciding cases, must consider the causes and persuasive reasons which led a women to commit that particular crime.

Bajpai and Bajpai (2000), states 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 endeavor 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 20:1. 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. Statistical representation of Female Criminality in India (Government of India, 2011)

Causes based on biological viewpoint postulated by early criminologists were baseless and does not apply to women in India. The early researchers attributed female criminality to biological or sociological antecedents. Crime, as a behavioural or social problem, is complicated and not easily understood. Women are considered as turning crime as a perversion of feminine role whether their causes are biological, psychological, social or environmental. Caesar Lombroso's contribution is considered as the foundation of scientific study on female crime. He viewed, "female deviance as rooted in the biological make up or as inherent feature of the female species". He stated that female criminals are more terrible than the male criminals because cruelty by a female was much more 'refined' and diabolic than men. Lombroso thought women shared many qualities with children and they were morally deficient and their lack of intelligence was the reason of their relatively small participation in crime. Lombroso and Ferrero (1895) postulated a theory that was based on a belief that all individuals displaying anti-social behaviour were biological throwbacks. The born female criminal was considered to have the criminal qualities of men and the worst qualities of women. However, we feel that, Indian women are inclined to crime more because of social or economic deprivation than being biological throwbacks. Pollak elucidated the influence of hormonal changes over menstruation, pregnancy and menopausal stage. He stated that in the pregnancy and menopausal phase, the psychological characteristics such as emotional changes of moods, abnormal craving and impulses and temporary impairment of consciousness point in the direction of criminal causation. However, in the present age of information technology and impersonal relations, such basic theories seem to be unreasonable and unscientific and especially for India it is not applicable. All the biological theories depict crime as an inherent human trait which does not adequately describe the phenomenal variations in the nature of crime being committed these days, when crime has risen up to the status of career for many, involving highly advanced professional skills and typical scientific techniques.

Psychological Viewpoint

Women who are not passive and content with their traditional roles as mothers and wives are maladjusted. Maladjusted women refuse or fail to internalize the values associated with the role in the society. Women convict(s) display emotional instability, insecurity, rejection or frustration. They would have encountered harsh living conditions, disappointments in love and a large number of unfortunate experiences which generally made it difficult for them to face realities of life. Stress is higher for women on average than for men, primarily due to

blocked opportunities, and the conflicting message of motherhood versus work. Women with lower social status experience higher stress, on average, than women with higher social status. Women are afraid to express anger because it could alienate those around them. So they suppress anger and most women cope by changing anger to guilt, failure, and sadness. Women “bottle up” their feelings until it finally explodes in lethal violence. Women experiencing peaks of stress are more likely than men to explode with episodes of extreme uncontrolled violence. Situations that cause continuous stress and isolation combine with poor coping skills and the over-controlled personality to result in violence. Psychological viewpoint is applicable to Indian scenario as there are several crimes committed because of depression and frustration.

Sociological Viewpoint

A plethora of writings on sociological viewpoint emerged during the last few decades. This viewpoint stresses upon how social factors lead to a woman turning a criminal. Women in India, in spite of so much development and awareness face inequality in every phase of life. Equality for women is not practiced as it is stated in Constitution of India. Due to inequality, women miss most of the opportunities in life which in turn affect her financial independence and thus her economic status is lowered. Women in Indian society are always expected to understand and adjust according to the world around her. This unequal position of women in society due to social oppression and economic dependency on men and the state needs to be addressed. In most ways, crimes women commit are considered to be final outward manifestations of an inner medical imbalance or social instability. Based on Klein's (1973) works there are many cases recognized for the causes and increase of Female criminality in the world.

However, there are only few reasons that would be true in context of Indian society. According to Klein, the shared assumptions running through the works of all the authors who have postulated theories on the causes of female criminality include the proposition that female crime is the result of physiological or psychological characteristics of individuals, with little or no recognition being given to the importance of social-structural factors. Poisoning a child or an adult at home, sexual crimes, shoplifting and other thefts, abortions, etc. are easily hidden by them. However, these crimes are committed not only because of the physiological or psychological characteristics of a woman but is also could be the end result of her socio-economic conditions. Adler (1975), studied prostitution, drug addiction, and

juvenile law-breaking among females and she has credited these crimes to the liberation movement of women and women's assertiveness. According to her educated girls and women are keener to defy traditional restrictions and social roles. The lessening of manacles on women is further likely to increase female crime. However, in Indian context, more restraints are resulting in bigger crimes. Empirical studies conducted on female crime in India have by and large supported Klein's etiological explanation wherein as discussed earlier. Sharma (1963) summarized in his study that in India among Indian women, strained interpersonal relations with husband and other family members, husband's extra-family relations, deprivation and denial of basic needs of life (like affection, security, etc.) were the main causes of frustrations and ultimate crimes. Writers like Bilmoria (1987) and Kuckreja (1986) have also supported Sharma's theory of 'family maladjustment' and role conflict in family' as reasons for female criminality. In Indian context, certain cases where the murder victim was the respondent's own child, the murder was committed either because the child was illegitimate or the woman was afraid of social exclusion, or in a moment of extreme danger because of a dispute with the husband. Thus, in most of the cases, husband-wife relationship proved quite an important factor in the causation of murder. The other causes recognized were illicit relations of the offender with some man, illicit relations of the victim with some woman and conflict with husband and/or ill-treatment by husband, which in turn proves the validity of the hypothesis of family maladjustment as the main cause of female criminality. It is observed that not only in murders but also in other crimes, family plays an important factor. For example, in excise offences, when husband was arrested for illicit distillation, his wife too was arrested for helping the husband in illegal activities. In cases like these, the wife merely helped her husband in his economic pursuits because of her duty as a wife and not because of any desire to violate the social or legal norms. This is very common in Indian context. Many cases in India show that women were labelled 'criminals' not because they had 'criminalistic tendencies' but because their family male members were so labelled. Thus it is evident that most of the thefts committed by women are not the result of psychological or social aberrations but are due to family and economic compulsions. In most crimes in which women are arrested play secondary/supportive roles. They are, therefore, not to be treated as sole perpetrators of these crimes. Thus, the hypothesis regarding the role of family in female criminality is thus fully justified. The theory postulated by Simon (1975) and Adler (1977) which explained female crime in terms of the breakdown of prevailing patterns of 'sexual inequality' do not explain crime situation in India in spite of the fact that in our country too there are Women's Liberation Movements. However, in India, Liberation movement is

confined to only urban areas whereas large numbers of female criminals in our society come from the rural areas where women never talk of equal rights with men and there is no breakdown of sexual inequality. Also, it is clear in Indian context that it is not the physical and psychological factors which account for female crime but it is the non-harmony and instability in family relationships or disintegration of family life which mainly explain crime among women.

Recommendations Preventive Measures It is said that prevention is better than cure and having said that, in case of crime and prevention, that too in a vast and diverse country like India, is a humongous task. Crime prevention among females in India is even bigger challenge because it is difficult to recognize the vulnerable areas and people especially women, easily. General awareness of the role of woman in a society, her rights and laws for them should be briefed to the uneducated women. Legal awareness and awareness about illegal activities and to report or keep themselves away from illegal activities should be provided by social service/ adult education units. Sex education plays an important role wherein the women indulge in crime following lack of awareness regarding sex-rackets and flesh trade. And also need to be informed about the harsher laws against being a part of such crimes. Constructive social action movement to spread awareness is important. In order to reduce tensions in the family or society it is advisable for couples and families to undergo Pre-marital and post marital counselling. It is necessary to treat domestic violence cases harshly to avoid future crimes and laws against dowry must be implemented properly.

Corrective measures Female criminals who are serving their term in the prison due to crime committed by them or in collaboration with other companion / companions, should be given a chance to rectify or correct their ways so that when they finish their term and come out of the prison, they should be a lady with no criminal attributes, well informed and more aware, which would enable her to stay away from the crimes and other criminals. Most women are deprived of their liberty and do crimes to break off the chains of cruel traditions. Such women should be given enough support and help to be independent and do something worthwhile for herself, her family and her kids. In prisons, women are engaged in various activities like cooking, tailoring, gardening, painting, handicrafts etc. which is a positive initiative and helps a lot to improve their self-respect and confidence. Proper public awareness is also a need as a criminal returning to her society is not accepted and is taunted by everyone. This might result in her ending up committing other harsher crimes. People need to be made aware of the rights of a reformed criminal as they too have the right to continue with their life as before.

Rehabilitative and Supportive measures under rehabilitative and supportive measures, a female criminal should be given chance to fulfil her parental

responsibilities. Attention should be paid on providing female prisoner with proper medical aid and even on rehabilitation. In case a female offender suffers from a mental condition and she comes out of prison after serving her term, she would probably continue to commit crimes because the problem still subsists in her, and who knows it would have probably even become from bad to worse. Caretaking of children of imprisoned mothers should be done or they should be allowed to be in touch with their kids and relatives. Access to legal advice should be provided as most of the women come to prison for no mistake of their own.

As with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for treatment of prisoners (1955), in great variety of legal, social, economic and geographical conditions worldwide, it is evident that not all of the above mentioned measures can be equally applied in all places and at all times. The concerned authorities should, however, serve to motivate a constant effort to overcome practical difficulties in how the rules and measures are implemented, as it would lead to the common goal of improving outcomes for women prisoners, their children and their communities. The courts while deciding cases should look at the reasons and compelling factors which led a woman to commit that particular crime. As observed in most of the case studies done by other writers, our unbiased social system is one of the main reasons why women resort to crime as retribution to her suppression. Thus, there is no such particular theory to explain female criminality. And also to find a fool proof formula to tackle the increasing crime among women, a detailed study by criminologists could probably provide an answer to all unanswered questions.