

FEMALE CRIMINALITY: SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL DEFORMATION AND VICTIMOLOGICAL DETERMINANTS



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Abstract. This article analyzes the criminological and psychological characteristics of female criminality based on the factors of systemic victimization and social deformation. The author scientifically substantiates the role of chronic psychological pressure, domestic violence, and social insecurity in the involvement of women in criminal activities. A comparative analysis of the national crime landscape is conducted with the experience of foreign countries (Western and Scandinavian models). At the end of the study, innovative scientific proposals for the prevention of female crime, such as "individual victimological maps" and a "multidisciplinary approach," are put forward.

Keywords: female criminality, victimization, psychological deformation, battered woman syndrome, comparative criminology, social rehabilitation, prevention, white-collar crime.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada ayollar jinoyatchiligining kriminologik va psixologik xususiyatlari tizimli viktimizatsiya va ijtimoiy deformatsiya omillari asosida tahlil qilinadi. Muallif ayol kishining jinoyat yo'liga kirishida surunkali ruhiy bosim, oilaviy zo'ravonlik va ijtimoiy himoyasizlikning rolini ilmiy asoslab beradi. Maqolada milliy jinoyatchilik manzarasi xorijiy davlatlar (G'arb va Skandinaviya modellari) tajribasi bilan qiyosiy solishtiriladi. Tadqiqot yakunida ayollar jinoyatchiligining oldini olish bo'yicha «individual viktimologik kartalar» va «multidissiplinayondashuv» kabi innovatsion ilmiy takliflar ilgari surilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: ayollar jinoyatchiligi, viktimizatsiya, psixologik deformatsiya, kaltaklangan ayol sindromi, qiyosiy kriminologiya, ijtimoiy rehabilitatsiya, profilaktika.

Аннотация. В данной статье анализируются криминологические и психологические особенности женской преступности на основе факторов системной виктимизации и социальной деформации. Автор научно обосновывает роль хронического психологического давления, семейного насилия и социальной незащищенности в вовлечении женщин в преступную деятельность. Проводится сравнительный анализ национальной картины преступности с опытом зарубежных стран (Западная и Скандинавская модели). В завершение исследования выдвигаются инновационные научные предложения по профилактике женской преступности, такие как «индивидуальные виктимологические карты» и «мультидисциплинарный подход».

Ключевые слова: женская преступность, виктимизация, психологическая деформация, синдром избитой женщины, сравнительная криминология, социальная реабилитация, профилактика, преступность «белых воротничков».

The phenomenon of women has, throughout all stages of human civilization, been regarded not only as a source of biological reproduction but also as a fundamental pillar of social stability, moral continuity, and cultural development. From both scientific and socio-philosophical perspectives, women constitute the primary social actors responsible for shaping the demographic structure of society and influencing the psychological profile of future generations. Their role within the family and society is expressed through a system of interconnected social statuses and responsibilities.

First and foremost, a woman's family status is intrinsically linked to the institution of motherhood, which represents her highest social role. Within the family, women serve as educators, mediators who maintain psychological balance, and transmitters of moral values. In criminological and sociological scholarship, the role of women within the family is often viewed as a "guarantee of social security." The stronger a woman's position within a healthy family environment, the lower the level of destructive behavior and criminality within society.

Secondly, a woman's socio-legal status in the modern world is increasingly defined by her participation in intellectual labor, governance, science, and public administration. Today, women are not merely homemakers but active participants in the political, economic, and cultural life of society. Their mission includes promoting humanitarian values, ensuring social justice, and mitigating social conflicts. Empirical studies demonstrate that women's participation in governance contributes to the effective functioning of state and social institutions through the exercise of "soft power."

However, assuming such extensive social and moral responsibilities places significant psychological pressure upon women. The challenge of balancing multiple roles – including those of mother, spouse, professional, and citizen – may result in various forms of psychological deformation. At this point, the protection of women's rights, interests, and psychological well-being becomes a matter of strategic importance for the state.

Therefore, women should be studied not merely as individuals but as indicators of the moral and legal health of society. A woman's involvement in

criminal activity or psychological collapse should not be viewed solely as a personal tragedy but also as evidence of the deterioration of the social roles and institutional structures upon which social stability depends.

Female criminality represents one of the most complex and multidimensional areas of contemporary criminology and requires a specialized analytical approach. Throughout history, women have traditionally symbolized life, compassion, and stability. Consequently, criminal offenses committed by women are often perceived not only as violations of law but also as manifestations of moral and social disintegration. Nevertheless, in-depth criminological analysis demonstrates that women are not inherently predisposed to criminal behavior. Rather, socially dangerous actions committed by women are frequently rooted in prolonged psychological suffering, social injustice, and systemic victimization.

One of the primary factors contributing to the criminal deformation of female personality is the existence of a dysfunctional micro-social environment. Years of domestic violence, psychological abuse, and degradation of personal dignity often lead to the development of what may be described as a "chronic victim syndrome." Under such circumstances, women gradually lose their sense of control over their own lives and destinies, resulting in frustration, emotional detachment, and psychological exhaustion.

From a criminological perspective, this process may be characterized as latent victimization – a condition in which a woman effectively becomes a silent victim of family and social circumstances long before she commits a criminal act.

Psychological deterioration frequently serves as a trigger for criminal behavior. Women who live under conditions of constant fear and stress often begin to perceive the surrounding environment exclusively as a source of threat. Consequently, aggressive acts committed by such individuals are not necessarily offensive in nature but may instead constitute defensive reactions [1].

This phenomenon is reflected in the judicially recognized concept of the **Battered Woman Syndrome**, which demonstrates that women subjected to prolonged abuse may come to per-

ceive criminal conduct as the only available means of escaping systematic oppression. The eventual psychological “explosion” is therefore the culmination of years of accumulated pain, resentment, and helplessness.

Furthermore, socio-economic dependency plays a significant role in the determination of female criminality. Financial hardship and the inability to achieve social self-realization often result in social isolation, which, in turn, may alter moral perceptions and decision-making processes. Yet behind most economic motives lies a deeper psychological vulnerability. Women who receive adequate emotional and social support may withstand even severe socio-economic challenges without resorting to criminal conduct. Thus, the primary roots of criminality often lie in the corruption and deterioration of psychological well-being rather than in economic hardship alone.

An examination of the historical genesis of female criminality reveals that, during the earliest periods of human civilization, offenses committed by women were predominantly confined to the domestic and family sphere. In the legal traditions of Ancient Babylon and Rome, crimes committed by women were frequently interpreted as offenses against family honor and social order. During the Middle Ages, thousands of women across Europe became victims of systematic victimization, suffering persecution and punishment under accusations such as witchcraft and other religiously motivated charges [2].

Historical analysis demonstrates that female criminality has traditionally possessed a predominantly reactive character. In other words, women rarely became offenders independently or spontaneously. Rather, prolonged violations of their rights, degradation of their dignity, and conditions of extreme helplessness often compelled them to undertake drastic actions.

Historical records indicate that some women resorted to covert forms of criminal conduct, such as poisoning abusive husbands, as a means of escaping persistent oppression by physically stronger male aggressors. Such examples suggest that the roots of female criminality have long been associated with systemic psychological pressure and victimization.

Today, comparative analysis of national crime patterns and international experience provides an opportunity to formulate fundamental criminological conclusions regarding the determinants of female criminality. In this regard, two distinct patterns of transformation can be observed within Western and Eastern societies.

In the United States and many European countries, the process of women's social emancipation has been accompanied by the masculinization of certain forms of criminal behavior and an increase in women's participation in corporate and white-collar crime. This phenomenon is frequently explained through Freda Adler's Opportunity Theory, according to which women's growing socio-economic independence and increased access to positions of power have expanded their opportunities to engage in forms of criminal activity that were historically associated primarily with men. Within this framework, the female offender emerges as a conscious risk-taker who views criminal conduct as a means of exploiting social opportunities or achieving economic gain [3].

By contrast, in the national context of Uzbekistan and many similar societies, women often appear in the role of what may be termed a “compelled offender.” Here, criminal behavior frequently represents the final stage of prolonged social vulnerability and chronic victimization. As noted by criminologist Yuri M. Antonyan, female criminality often arises as a reaction to personal misfortunes, domestic violence, and psychological depression. In many cases, women become “silent victims” of family and social circumstances long before they engage in criminal conduct [4].

For this reason, the experience of the Scandinavian countries and their model of humanistic criminology is of particular relevance. The cornerstone of this approach lies not in punishment but in psychological rehabilitation and social reintegration. This model reflects Nils Christie's concept of the “limits of pain,” according to which society should not abandon female offenders but instead address the victimological determinants that contributed to their destructive behavior, including the consequences of domestic violence and prolonged social exclusion. In the context of Uzbekistan, the prevention of female criminality should not be

limited to administrative supervision and legal control. Following the Scandinavian example, specialized psychological rehabilitation centers and individualized correctional programs should become strategic components of national crime-prevention policy. Such measures would not only reduce criminality but also strengthen family institutions and contribute to the healthy development of future generations.

The prevention of female criminality differs from other forms of crime prevention due to its complexity and sensitivity. Several major scientific and practical challenges can be identified in this field.

First, a significant proportion of crimes committed by women are the ultimate consequence of long-term domestic violence and psychological abuse. However, social stereotypes such as the belief that “family problems should remain private” often prevent the victim's situation from attracting the attention of law-enforcement agencies. As a result, preventive measures are frequently initiated only after a criminal offense has been committed, whereas timely intervention during the victimization stage could have prevented criminal behavior altogether.

Second, female criminality is frequently associated with emotional crises and chronic depression. Current preventive measures often focus primarily on financial assistance or employment support. While these initiatives are important, they rarely address the underlying psychological trauma and destructive patterns of thinking that contribute to criminal behavior. The absence of systematic involvement by professional psychologists and victimologists significantly reduces the effectiveness of prevention efforts.

Third, women who have committed minor offenses or are considered at risk of offending often encounter negative social attitudes that contribute to their isolation. Many women hesitate to disclose experiences of abuse or personal difficulties due to fear of public condemnation and social shame. Such isolation may increase vulnerability to criminal influences and elevate the risk of recidivism.

Fourth, many economic offenses, including fraud and property-related crimes, arise from financial hardship and limited knowledge of financial decision-making. Existing prevention

programs often lack comprehensive mechanisms for promoting entrepreneurship, economic independence, and financial literacy among women. This deficiency remains a major obstacle to reducing economically motivated criminality.

Fifth, women returning from correctional institutions frequently face rejection by family members and social networks. Housing problems, barriers to employment, and psychological loneliness often create conditions that encourage reoffending. Although adaptation centers have proven effective in several foreign jurisdictions, their full implementation within national practice remains an ongoing challenge.

In order to address the identified challenges and enhance the effectiveness of female crime prevention, the following systemic measures proposed:

First, it is advisable to establish a system of Individual Victimological Records for monitoring the victimological status of women. Under this model, law-enforcement agencies and local community institutions would maintain an electronic database of women who have experienced violence or who find themselves in particularly difficult social circumstances [6].

Such records would contain not only information regarding an individual's social status but also assessments of psychological stability, previous experiences of victimization, and the likelihood of repeated abuse. This mechanism would facilitate the early identification of criminogenic risk factors and enable the implementation of timely, individualized preventive measures before criminal behavior emerges.

Second, preventive work with women should be based on a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach. Crime prevention must extend beyond merely explaining the legal consequences of unlawful conduct.

To this end, specialized Mobile Prevention Teams should be established, consisting of law-enforcement officers, psychologists, legal professionals, and social workers. Each specialist would perform a distinct function:

- Psychologists would address emotional trauma and psychological distress;
- Lawyers would protect women's legal and property rights;

- Social workers would facilitate employment opportunities and social integration;
- Law-enforcement officers would coordinate preventive and protective measures.

Such integrated intervention would ensure that both the causes and consequences of victimization are addressed simultaneously.

Third, the network of specialized Social Adaptation and Resocialization Centers for women released from correctional institutions should be expanded.

These centers should serve not merely as temporary shelters but also as educational and rehabilitation hubs where women can:

- acquire vocational skills;
- improve financial literacy;
- receive psychological counseling;
- participate in entrepreneurship training programs;
- strengthen social and family relationships.

Particular attention should be devoted to overcoming social isolation and restoring self-sufficiency. In addition, tax incentives and social preferences for employers who hire formerly incarcerated women could significantly reduce recidivism and facilitate successful reintegration into society.

Fourth, systematic educational initiatives should be introduced to improve women's digital legal literacy and victimological safety awareness.

In contemporary society, women increasingly become targets of online fraud, blackmail, cyber-harassment, and other forms of digital victimization. Such experiences may, in some cases, contribute to reactive criminal behavior.

Educational programs should therefore focus on:

- identifying criminogenic situations;
- recognizing risks associated with online communication;
- understanding legal mechanisms of protection;
- developing skills for resolving conflicts through lawful means.

Fifth, judicial and forensic practice should incorporate the mandatory evaluation of chronic victimization as part of psychological and psychiatric assessments in cases involving female offenders.

When adjudicating crimes committed by women, courts should thoroughly examine whether the

defendant has been subjected to prolonged psychological or physical abuse. Such circumstances should not merely be considered mitigating factors but should also serve as important evidence for understanding the underlying causes of criminal behavior.

This approach would contribute to a more individualized and equitable administration of justice.

As conclusion, the findings of this study demonstrate that combating female criminality cannot be achieved solely through the intensification of punitive measures. Effective prevention requires the development of a comprehensive system of victimological prevention, aimed at identifying and eliminating the social and psychological pressures that lead women toward criminal behavior.

A woman's psychological well-being constitutes a fundamental prerequisite for healthy families and a stable society. Consequently, when assessing criminal acts committed by women, legal authorities should take into account the history of psychological trauma, chronic victimization, and prolonged social pressure that may have influenced their conduct.

From criminological, psychological, and comparative legal perspectives, female criminality should not be viewed merely as a violation of legal norms. Rather, it serves as an important indicator of a society's moral, social, and institutional health.

The research confirms that women are not inherently predisposed to criminal behavior. In most cases, destructive conduct emerges from prolonged systemic victimization, chronic psychological stress, and social vulnerability. Therefore, strategies aimed at combating female criminality must be grounded in the principles of humanism, social justice, and rehabilitation.

Judicial and investigative practice should place greater emphasis on evaluating the "chain of suffering" that often precedes criminal behavior, while state policy should prioritize the development of effective mechanisms for the resocialization and reintegration of women who have served criminal sentences. Ultimately, protecting women means protecting families, and protecting families means safeguarding society as a whole.

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