

Short Note
Gender and Crime. (10)

Introduction

There is a relationship in between crime and gender. The extent of crime varies with gender of a criminal. Due to various factors, women are less likely to be a criminal than their male counterparts. In this regard, a number of theories and perspectives have revealed their findings on gender and crime. Hence, gender and crime are inter-related with each other.

Gender and Crime.

Females commit considerably less crime than males in

nearly every category of crime.
(Blanchette and Brown, 2019)

It shows that it is important to understand crime according to gender of the offender.

Status of crime on basis of gender.

Criminologists argue that women commit less-violent crimes than of males.

"Men commit violent crimes more than three times as often as women." (US Department of Justice)

In addition, the proportion of male offenders is more than of female offenders.

"The gender composition of global crimes is 84 percent male." (Heiskanen and Lietonen, 2016)

In Pakistan, women prisoners make 1.6% of the total prisoner population.

However, women criminality has surged recently in the world.

Facts behind Gender-based Criminality

1- Biological theories examining gender differences in crime.

Lombroso and Ferrero (1895) stated that biology tends to prevent women from becoming criminals.

It means women criminals lack their normal biological features.

"A small group of female offenders lacked typical female traits." (Cesare Lombroso in his book, "The Female Offender").

2. Chivalry Thesis about gender in Crime

There is a perspective called Chivalry Thesis given by Graham and Bowling.

According to them, the female's criminality is under-reported. Research-based self-reports revealed that gender differences in crime are not as great as the differences in statistics are.

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3. Role of Cognitive differences in gender-based crime

According to psychologists male and females differ in cognitive abilities. Such differences have role in low female criminality.

"Empathy for others may help shield girls from anti-social acts" — Seegel

4. Marxist view of gender in crime

According to Marxist views, women are more likely to indulge in criminal acts due to economic backwardness.

Economic exploitation of females play role in this sense.

5- Feminism and Female Criminality.

In the 1970s Liberal Feminist theory found a relationship between women's social status and criminality.

According to theory, the lower crime rate for women could be explained by their second-class economic and social position.

Conclusion.

Gender plays an important role in criminality. There are various factors contributing to differences in crime rate on basis of gender. Viewing crime through the lens of gender will help in understanding and controlling crime.