SUMMARY AND SUGGESTIONS
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Until recently the study of women criminals has been a neglected field of research though the phenomenon of crime is an ancient one. Low incidence of crime, fewer number of women criminals, low arrest rates and lack of interest on women and, male dominated research population have contributed much to this negligence. However, the incidence of crime is increasing. The tempo of urbanization and industrialization has altered the situation concerning female crime. The increasing trend among women criminality in the recent years and the interest on women and their development triggered the researchers to devote much attention on this complex phenomenon. The study on women criminals from varying perspectives made a conclusion that women criminals are conventional individuals or are mentally ill or are feeble minded or are like children.

The present study is intended to explore the women criminals from the social work perspectives. From the social work perspective, understanding of female criminals is vital for designing of policies and programmes related to them. More over social work in correction is a new development that
stands in conformity with the present day philosophy of penal reformation which stress upon the treatment and rehabilitation of imprisoned women. Social workers in cooperation with the prison staff may help in setting right the prisoners in keeping them to lead a law abiding and socially purposeful life after release.

There has been a tendency to conceptualize crime in general terms which many a time lead to confusion in understanding. In the present study the respondents were classified into possible types on the basis of nature of crime and nature of sentence with a view to make an elaborate understanding.

Emphasis was given to the contributory role of the socio-cultural antecedents of the respondents. Moreover, details of family of orientation, family of procreation, details of husbands and marriage particulars are studied to have an indepth knowledge. The details of crime committed and the causes were also analysed indepth. The consequences of crime and its aftermath effect on individual, children, family and society at large as felt and/or experienced by the respondents were measured on a five point scale. The facilities available in the prison, the satisfaction level
of the respondents on these facilities, impact of prison life, future plan after release and the respondents' suggestions for improvement in the present prison conditions are dealt with in detail so as to suggest a suitable prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes.

PERSONAL PROFILE

The majority of respondents (70.40%) belonged to the age group of below 40 years with a range of 18 to 80 years. The mean age is 36.24 with a standard deviation of 12.05 and thus implying young and middle aged women's involvement in criminal activities. A considerable proportion (21.60%) of respondents belonged to the age group of above 45 years with the mean age of 54.93 shows that not only the young and middle but also the old aged women's involvement in crimes.

Educational status of the respondents revealed that majority of 66.40 per cent were illiterates. However, a notable feature in the present study is that 33.60 per cent of the women were literates with either primary (8.80%) or middle (12.80%) or high school (8.00%) or higher secondary and above (4.00%) with a mean year of schooling as 2.03 years. Thus, a major proportion of two thirds of illiterates apparently reiterates the need for urgent and compulsory education for women.
According to the distribution of respondents by marital status, fifty per cent of the respondents belonged to the married category while one third are widows, one tenth were separated and the remaining 4.00 per cent were unmarried. The respondents by caste showed that nearly fifty per cent of them belonged to the backward caste (48.00%) and little above one fourth (26.40%) of them belonged to most backward caste. The scheduled caste comprises little less than one fourth (23.20%) of the sample. The distribution of the respondents by caste shows the high involvement of backward caste in crime.

When the religion of the respondents were taken into consideration the vast majority of 81.60 per cent belonged to Hindu religion. There were also respondents from christian (12.00%) and muslim (6.40%) religions.

The occupational status of the sample showed that 39.20 per cent were occupied as agricultural coolie/manual worker. One sixth (16.00%) were agriculturists while a little more than one tenth (12.80%) were involved in trade, business or services. One out of ten (11.20%) were engaged in traditional occupations. However, nine respondents quoted illegal activities as their 'profession' while the remaining accounted for irregular employment and unemployment.
The income of the respondents revealed that nearly half of them (48.80%) earned a monthly income of Rs. 251-500. One sixth (16.80%) earned below Rs. 250 while one fifth (20.80%) earned between Rs. 501 and 750. The remaining earn more than Rs. 750. The computed mean income is Rs. 534.56 with the range of Rs. 60 to Rs. 3,000 with a standard deviation of Rs. 434.80, which inferred that majority of them were employed in lower paid occupations.

The residence of the respondents before and after marriage are taken into consideration, in order to know whether any linkages found between the domicile and crime. It was found that majority of 74.40 per cent of the respondents were from rural areas and the remaining one third of them belonged to urban areas. When the residence before marriage was taken into consideration more or less same trend has been observed even after marriage.

PERSONAL PROFILE AND NATURE OF CRIME

For better understanding the personal profile was compared with the nature of crime committed by the respondents. For the purpose of the study the respondents were classified under five sets of types of crime. They are, 1. crimes relating to murder and non murder, 2. crimes
involving victim and no victim, 3. crime against person, crime against property & other, and immorality, 4. short term prisoners and long term prisoners and 5. convicts and undertrials.

For the purpose of comparative analysis the personal profile of the respondents were categorised as follows. Since the age is one of the crucial factor and distributed widely between 18 to 80, the age groups were kept as it is for comparing it with nature of crime. The educational status has been categorised into illiterates and literates. The marital status has been categorised into married and 'others' - the 'others' comprises of unmarried, widow and separated. The religion has been categorised into Hindu and non Hindu. The caste has been categorised into low caste and high caste. The low caste comprises of scheduled caste and most backward caste and the high caste includes backward caste and forward caste. Since the income level is widely distributed it was kept as it is.

1. AGE

Higher proportion of respondents who were above 45 years found a prominent place in crimes relating to murder, crimes involving victim, convicts and long termers. It is
also found that when the age increases the proportion of respondents decreases as far as immorality is concerned. There is a relation in distribution between the age and the crime against person and crime against property and immorality. When the age increases the proportion of respondents in long term category increases while the age decreases the proportion of respondents in the short term category increases. This implies the involvement of middle aged and old aged persons in the serious crimes are more.

2. EDUCATION

There is no difference between the distribution of respondents by their educational background and crimes relating to murder and non murder, crimes involving victim and no victim, crime against person, crime against property and immorality.

3. MARITAL STATUS

Majority of the married category respondents (60.31%) belonged to non murder category while 'others' category respondents belonged fifty percentage each in murder category. There is no difference of distribution between respondents marital status and crimes involving victim and no victim.
There is more or less equal percentage of distribution found between both married and 'others' categories of respondents as far as the crime against person, crime against property and immorality is concerned. It is also found that the proportion of married respondents under the short term category is more and there is no difference in distribution between the long termers and short termers as far as the 'others' category is concerned.

4. CASTE AND RELIGION

It is concluded that the proportion of low caste respondents (58.06%) was high in crimes relating to non murder than murder (41.94%). Both low caste and high caste respondents were distributed more or less equally in crimes involving victim and no victim. There is not much difference found between low caste and high caste respondents as far as the crime against person, crime against property and immorality. It is also inferred that involvement of 'high caste' people in criminal activities is on the increase. Both low caste and high caste represented equally among long termers and short termers. The respondents were distributed equally in both crimes involving victim and no victim irrespective of their religion. Moreover there is no
significant difference in distribution of respondents by religion as far as the crime against person, crime against property and immorality and, convicts and undertrials are concerned.

5. MONTHLY INCOME

It is concluded that the respondents belonging to the higher income level commit murder related crimes than the non murder related crimes and vice versa. There is no significant difference found between the distribution of the respondents as far as crimes involving victim and no victim. In other words, the respondents were more or less equally distributed in crimes involving victim and no victim irrespective of their income level. Major proportion of the respondents (48.40%) were distributed in the income category of Rs. 251 - 500 irrespective of whether involved in crime against person, crime against property and immorality. More or less same ratio of convicts and undertrials (as in the study sample is 3 : 1) is observed in all the income categories except in upto Rs. 250 category. It is also observed that both short termers and long termers were more or less equally distributed in all the income categories except in Rs. 501 - 750 and above Rs. 750 categories. In the Rs. 501 - 750 category, major proportion belonged to short
termers and the trend is reversed in the next income category of Rs. 750 and above, thus conforming, that the high level of income of the respondents is associated with serious offences.

6. RESIDENCE - Before and After marriage

The rural respondents tend to commit crimes relating to murder than crimes relating to non murder while the urban respondents tend to commit crimes relating to non murder than the crimes relating to murder both either before or after marriage are concerned. In the urban area higher proportion of respondents were observed in crimes involving no victim than victim involving crimes. It is also found that the respondents with urban background were distributed triple times higher in crimes involving no victim than in crimes involving victim category. The respondents were more or less equally distributed in both crimes involving victim and no victim irrespective of their rural-urban background when the residence before or after marriage is concerned.

In crimes against person, crimes against property and immorality the rural respondents were higher than the urban respondents. The rural respondents dominated in crimes against person while urban respondents dominated in crimes against property and immorality both before and after marriage.
It is concluded that the same ratio (as in the study sample 3 : 1) for convicts and undertrials prevails with regard to the domicile of respondents either before or after marriage. There is no significant difference in distribution found between the rural respondents and their term of imprisonment while a notable difference was found between the urban respondents and their term of imprisonment. The urban respondents constitute a high proportion in short term imprisonment, thus, implies that their involvement in crimes relating to property, immorality, drug etc., for which the punishment period is also relatively shorter. Both long termers and short termers were distributed more or less equally between rural and urban when their residence after marriage is taken into consideration.

FAMILY OF ORIENTATION

Majority of the respondents belong to the family size of 5 and more children, indicating overcrowding in their families. In this study it is also observed that majority of sixty per cent of respondents had lived in family of patterned and overcrowding type. The respondents from single parent home constitute one third of the total. The above findings suggest that these respondents were brought up in a family
situation where uncongenial situation prevailed which hindered their fullest development to some extent.

With regard to the type of the family most of the respondents belonged to nuclear type. It is also observed that nearly fifty per cent of the respondents were brought up by single parents and relatives; which might have a considerable influence on the socialization of the individual.

In more than fifty per cent of the respondents' family either one or more members were educated. A considerable proportion of respondents' families' mean educational score is one in the sense that these families have no literates.

PARENTAL TREATMENT AND RESIDENTIAL DESCRIPTION

It was observed that in 50 per cent of the respondents' family both male and female children were treated equally. When the preferential treatment, if any, shown by the parents were reported, more than fifty per cent of the respondents' family showed to the male than the females in the area of love, care, security, education, employment, marriage and property.
More than 50 percent of the respondents are from overpopulated families. A vast majority of respondents were brought up in a narrow, congested and less spacious house environment. Moreover, majority of 76.8 per cent of respondents were brought up in poor economic condition. It is important to note that there were 11.2 per cent of respondents who exposed to criminal risk during their childhood days. It is reported that 34.4 per cent of the respondents' parents or guardian were conflicting and quarrelsome in nature. This might have contributed in one way or the other in ineffective socialization of the respondents.

SIBLING POSITION

Almost an overwhelming majority of 94.60 per cent of the respondents were born with one or more siblings. Three out of ten (28.80%) were first born while one fifth (21.60%) were second born to their parents. About one third (32.00%) were middle born and one out of ten (11.20%) were the last born in their family. From the above findings it is inferred that there is no relationship between sibling position and criminal behaviour.

Majority of the respondents were employed in low paid occupation and irregular employment. As reported by the
respondents, among those who were employed 22.83 per cent had to shift their occupation due to salary, illtreatment and unsatisfactory work environment. But there were only two respondents, who reported that their employers' illtreatment was also one of the contributory causes for their criminal behaviour.

DETAILS OF GUARDIAN

It is found that the guardians of major of respondents (77.78%) were illiterates and were engaged in manual, irregular occupation or unemployed. This might had considerable bearing on the respondents.

FAMILY OF PROCREATION

Majority of the respondents belonged to the family size of 2 to 4 members. There were sixty six per cent of the respondents whose family members were educated.

When the educational level of the family members is crossed with nature of crime it was observed that the involvement of persons in crime from educated family is on the increase. It is also observed that there was no relationship between the type of crime committed and the educational level of the family.
Vast majority of 70.83 per cent of the respondents were enjoying the status of first wife while the remaining 29.17 per cent were either second wife or concubine. The difference is high between the respondents and husbands who married for second and third time. It was inferred that marrying more than once or frequent marriages are attributed with maladjustments, misunderstanding and conflicts among the partners.

When the marital age difference between the respondents and husbands was calculated it showed a difference from 10 to 13 years. More over, majority of the respondents (70.83%) who married before they attained 18 years, imply that these women were not physically and mentally matured enough to cope with the expectations of the family of procreation.

More than one fourth (26.40%) of the respondents and little less than fifty per cent (46.67%) of the husbands had illegal relationship with other persons. It is interesting to note that there were 18 spouses who had illegal relationships outside their wedlock.

There were 55 per cent of respondents who had conflict with their husbands. The respondents also faced illtreatment from husbands (50.83%), parents-in-law (23.33%), other in-laws (15.83%) and other relatives of husbands (14.17%). The
various forms of illtreatment includes attempt to murder, beating, scolding, house arrest, not allowing to meet the husband, starving, quarrelling etc..

DETAILS OF HUSBANDS

Among those employed skilled and technical service were the occupations for 50 per cent of the respondents' husbands. More than one third of the respondents' husbands (36.49%) were engaged in low paid occupations like agricultural coolie and other physical manual work.

The mean monthly income of the respondents' husbands is Rs. 746.80 with a standard deviation of Rs. 1274.78 and it ranged from Rs. 200 to Rs. 10,000. The habits and behaviour of the husbands showed that six out of ten (61.67%) were alcoholics and three out of ten (29.17%) were drug addicts. A little less than half (46.67%) had illegal relationships and about one third (35.83%) were indulging in criminal activities. Among those who indulge in criminal activities only 31.67 per cent had criminal record. It was also observed that 14.17 per cent of the husbands were imprisoned for their criminal activities at the time of the study.
CHILDHOOD CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR

It is found that one fifth of the respondents' childhood friends and one third of the relatives had criminal record. A meager percentage (2.40%) of the respondents involved in criminal activity along with their parent/guardian, among whom two were trained for the purpose.

CRIME COMMITTED

Nearly fifty per cent of the respondents had committed crimes relating to murder and, more or less equal proportion of the respondents were involved in crimes relating to non murder.

It was found that equal halves of the total respondents either accepted or did not accept their crime. One third (35.20%) of the respondents felt that they were falsely implicated in the case either by their neighbours (29.55%) or by police (22.73%) or by others.

The district wise distribution showed that the respondents were widely distributed in almost all the districts of Tamil Nadu. A considerable proportion of respondents were from Madurai (22.40%) district.
Half of the respondents committed the crime on or before two years and the rest prior to three or more years. More than half (56.00%) of the respondents had committed crime when they were below the age of 30 years and the rest of them were middle and old aged offenders.

Among those who committed crimes relating to murder, 67.39 per cent of the respondents played main role in executing the criminal act. This implied that they were more aggressive and have toughness as par with male in committing crime. Exactly 50 per cent of the respondents had done the crime all alone and the remaining half had committed crime with the help of associates. Majority of the respondents accomplices (86.95%) were relatives or family members as far as crimes relating to murder is concerned.

Four out of ten (40.00%) were imprisoned for murder. A little less than one fifth (19.20%) of them were involved in illicit distillation and one sixth (16.00%) of them were imprisoned for immorality. Respondents also indulged in drug related crimes (11.20%), theft (4.00%) and quarrelling (2.40%).

Among the causes reported by the respondents, economical causes found a predominant place. It includes unemployment (51), low income (48), poverty (47) and property
dispute (9). The personal causes were listed by the respondents as to lead a luxurious life (48), to make more money (42), emotional reason (17), self defence (9), for survival (4) and conflict with daughter. Both illegitimacy and illtreatment have also played a crucial role in motivating the respondents to involve in criminal activities. It is also noted that many a time the respondents reported either single cause or more than one causes. The mean cause is worked out as 3.21.

DETAILS OF MURDERERS

Among the 56 respondents who involved in crimes relating to murder, 50 were murderers. Among them two committed triple murder, one committed double murder and other two were involved in dowry murders. The rest of six respondents involved in attempted murder (3), accomplice in murder (2) and one attempted for self immolation.

It is found that the victims were close relatives and persons known to them. However a notable proportion (18.18%) of the victims were outsiders and persons unknown to the respondents. Majority of the murder and murder related crimes were done alone (58.93%). There were 73.21 per cent of the respondents who played the main role in executing the crime.
This explains their increasing prominent role and aggressiveness and toughness as equaled with men in committing crimes. Most of the accomplice involved were close relatives and persons well known to them. Considerable proportion of the respondents (47.27%) used sharp edged weapons for committing murder crimes and murder related crimes.

DETAILS OF NON-MURDERERS

The respondents who committed crimes relating to non murder category comprise 55.20 per cent in the study sample. The crimes were illicit distillation (34.78%), immorality (28.99%), drug related crimes (20.28%), theft related crimes (07.25%), and other crimes (08.70%).

Respondents who committed crimes related to illicit distillation were observed as highest frequent offenders than other crimes. Among these respondents a major proportion had committed crimes more than 26 times.

A vast majority of 73.91 per cent of respondents played the main role in executing the crime relating to non murder. Among those, the number of case which involves an accomplice accounted for 57.94 per cent. It is further observed that
most of the accomplices were husband (32.50%) relatives (25.00%) and friends and colleagues (27.5%).

One out of ten (10.4%) surrendered to the police. They surrendered due to reasons like conscience, fear of punishment, neighbours and relatives initiation and hoping for a reduction in punishment.

CONSEQUENCES ON INDIVIDUAL, CHILDREN, FAMILY AND SOCIETY

The consequences are broadly classified into four areas, viz., consequences on individual, children, family and society at large. In each area ten important factors were identified and listed in the schedule. These ten factors were measured using a Likert type five point scale. It is important to note that these identified factors do not necessarily have any impact directly on the respondents due to their criminal behaviour and aftermath effects. It is the question of how they felt and/or experienced in their life.

ON INDIVIDUAL

Majority of the respondents with a mean score ranged from 3.92 to 4.86 agreed that academic life, social status, personal life and individual freedom are affected due to their criminal behaviour and aftermath effects. Majority of
the respondents fully agreed that crime involves financial loss. Most of the respondents agreed fully that criminals feel depressed and detached from the family and society. It is concluded that the respondents' perceived consequences on the individual is high. The mean score ranged from 3.92 to 4.56 which implied that majority of the respondents felt and/or experienced the consequences of crime at the individual level.

ON CHILDREN

Most of the respondents have fully agreed that their criminal conduct and its effect on their children is adverse. They agreed that children's upbringing, education, morality and personality development is affected by parents criminal conduct. A vast majority of the respondents agreed that the children of the offender faced social harassment and exposure to criminal risk. By indulging in criminal activities, the offender lose control over the children and prove to be negative model to them. Major proportion of respondents fully agreed with the importance of the role of the mother in upbringing the children in family. The mean score rated by the respondents ranged from 3.82 to 4.68.
ON FAMILY

Most of the respondents have fully agreed that their siblings' future life, status of the family and neighbours' relationships have been affected by the criminal behaviour. They also fully agreed that their criminal behaviour results in the mental agony of parents or parents-in-law. They agreed that the family faces social harassment, economic loss and ultimately lead to disintegration of the family when one of its members is indulged in criminal activities. The marital life of both criminal and his or her partner have been adversely affected by the criminal activity. This contention has been supported by majority of the respondents. The family factors, which suffer a negative effect due to criminal behaviour of the members, have been rated with a mean score ranging from 3.82 to 4.62.

ON THE SOCIETY

It is found that respondents were of the opinion that the criminal behaviour of the member have considerable influence on the society. It is reported that due to criminal behaviour the social participation, religious participation and political participation have been lessened. The respondents were aware that criminal act have done much harm
to the community and the Government. Moreover, they also agreed that the criminal behaviour results in loss to the government. It is also seen that the respondents agreed that the criminals sow seed to a problematic society and ultimately the society gets polluted. It is interesting to note that most of the respondents did not agree to the contention that the criminal behaviour results in law and order problem.

From the overall findings of the consequences it is strange to note that though majority of the respondents agreed that the consequences on the individual level, on children, on family and society at large is significant and aware of the consequences on the social structure, some of them would like to indulge in crime in future, suggests that urgent remedial steps have to be taken to prevent these women from involving in crime any more.

PRISON LIFE

It was observed that the facilities provided in prison such as food, accommodation, bathing, clothing, medical recreation, educational vocational training, work incentives, grievance redressal and other facilities were not satisfactory. The mean score of satisfaction level ranges
from 1.22 to 2.34. It is understood from the mean scores that these facilities are grossly ineffective and can play only an ineffective role in rehabilitating the prisoners.

The distribution of the respondents by punishment period showed that about two fifths (38.40%) are imprisoned for more than 14 years, of which six were sentenced to life imprisonment. Above one tenth (12.80%) were sentenced for more than three months and less than a year. A notable proportion of one third (36.00%) were punished for less than three months.

More than half (53.60%) of the respondents reported that they were visited by either relatives or friends or both. However, one third (35.20%) reported that they had no visitors for them. Among those who have visitors, four out of ten (43.29%) had visitors either once in a month (22.39%) or fortnightly (20.90%). One third (32.84%) were visited either half yearly (17.91%) or once in a year (14.93%).

The impact of prison life on respondents showed that four out of ten (40.80%) felt that prison life helped them in one way or the other. Of those, majority of three fourths (74.51%) admitted that prison life changed their bad character and criminal attitude. One fifth (20.00%) felt no
help from prison life. Contradict to this one third (36.84%) opined prison life as punishment oriented than rehabilitating and 21.40 per cent reported that prison life is harmful.

Poor quality and quantity of food, dress and cosmetics top among the problems faced by the prisoners. Lack of privacy was reported by 96 respondents while improper care was quoted by 102 respondents. Want of recreation and communication facilities was reiterated by 95 respondents.

An array of suggestion were given by the respondents. Improvement in quality and quantity on items such as food, dress, cosmetics, etc., were stressed by 112 respondents. Vocational training, educational programmes, guidance centers and marginal incentives were felt necessary and important by 98 respondents while 108 have requested for improvement in accommodation facilities. Provision and/or improvement in medical facility was suggested by 76 respondents while treatment, redressal and care was reiterated in form of suggestion by 120 respondents.
FUTURE PLAN

It is found that one third of the respondents each proposed to stay with their parents and husbands after release. Though 50 per cent of the respondents in our study sample had lived with their husbands before coming to the prison, a considerable proportion have proposed to live with their parents. This indicates the prevalence of conflicts and maladjustments in their married life.

Majority of the respondents would like to be employed in menial and casual labour. Nearly one fourth of the respondents wanted to start self employment activities such as petty shop, vegetable shop, fruit stall and other small business activities. A major proportion who would like to engage in low paid occupation implied the ineffectiveness of the vocational training available to them in prison. There were one tenth of the respondents who wanted to continue their criminal professions. This implied that the prison life has no impact on changing and rehabilitating the prisoners.

Acceptance of family and society

There were 56 per cent of respondents who felt that their family would accept them after release. In the same way there were only 21.60 per cent who felt that the society
would accept them after release. A considerable proportion (40.00%) and three fourths (75.20%) felt that the family and society would not accept them after release. When the perceived acceptance of the family and society by the respondents is compared with the nature of crime, it is observed that most of the respondents who committed crime relating to murder, involving victim and crime against person felt that they would be accepted by their family than the society. It is also understood from the responses that the crime relating murder, involving victim and against person are done most of the time for the benefit of the family.

The respondents under crimes relating to non murder, involving no victim, crime against property, immorality, drug related crimes etc., have perceived themselves as miscreants in the family and society and so the respondents involved in these types of crimes, in many cases, perceived that they would not be accepted by the family and society.

As far as the acceptance of the society is concerned the respondents were of the opinion that whether the crime relating to murder or non murder, crimes involving victim or no victim and crime against person and property and immorality, it makes no difference to the society.
ASSURANCE GIVEN

There were 38.40 per cent of the respondents who assured that they would not indulge in crime in future while 15.20 per cent reported that they would indulge. It is strange to note that there were 22.40 per cent who could not give assurance whether they would indulge in crime or not.

When the assurance given by the respondents is compared with the nature of the crime committed, it was observed that those who committed crimes relating to murder, crimes involving victim, crime against person were higher than the other type of offenders. The majority of respondents who committed crimes involving no victim, relating to non murder, against property and immorality have reported that they would either indulge in crime or doubtful in giving assurance.

SUGGESTION FOR IMPROVEMENT

The following suggestions are drawn in order to prevent people from indulging in crime and to give better treatment and rehabilitation for those who already entered into the criminal system. The suggestions are classified under two headings as suggestions for prevention and suggestions for effective welfare and rehabilitative programmes.
I. PREVENTION

In planning up the programme for the prevention of crime it should first be borne in mind that human nature is complex and programmes must be in accordance with. Many are of the opinion that crime prevention is the task of the police and justice system alone. Insofar as crime is a social phenomenon crime prevention is the responsibility of every part of the society (The President’s Commission Report, 1967, p.1). Prevention of crime is not only the responsibility of the police and the criminal justice system but also the general public. Hence the co-operation of the public in crime prevention programme must be incorporated.

The Sociological approach which calls for the establishment of pre-delinquent contacts with a view to spot out criminal tendencies and prevent their growth on one hand and elimination of the factors favourable to crime on the other must be given due emphasis.

The various methods such as educating the public through mass media, community programmes, participation of youth and children in communication and education programmes like small group discussions and critical incidence programmes must be employed. The role of the voluntary organisations could be of immense use in prevention of crime.
The school children could be the largest target groups where the criminal tendencies can be spot out on the national level. The children can be educated from the school level onwards. For those who do not go to school non formal educational institutions and voluntary organisations could be used for the purpose.

Those who need the services of the criminal justice system frequently require something other than the legal or law enforcement remedies (Treger, et. al. 1974). As developed in United States by Treger and others (1974) a Police Social Work team model could be established at the district level to provide social assessment, 24 hours crisis intervention, treatment and referral services to clients and consultative services to police could be started. The team can also receive consultative services from legal and psychiatric whenever needed.

The main purpose of the project established in United States was to demonstrate that speedy social assessment and early intervention to initiate treatment immediately by diverting some non-violent misdemeanants and others to a more appropriate social resource of the community or to a social worker in the police department. The project found that
police-social work co-operation enhanced the function of both professions. Social workers in a police department provided immediate and early services at critical times. Hence, such a team model in Indian settings no doubt prove to be successful in providing social assessment, crisis intervention, treatment, referral services, short-term and long-term individual counselling, marital counselling, family and group therapy and group services to the clients who may be referred by the police and also who approach voluntarily.

II. SUGGESTIONS FOR WELFARE AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES

The welfare services must be started when a women criminal enter into the prison system and complete when she again gets settled into the society. She should be treated as an individual and as part of the society with a view to improve her personality and behaviour. It is an urgent need to recognise women prisoners as a distinct social group. For successful welfare and rehabilitative programmes, the following suggestions are given.

The quality and quantity of food provided are very poor as reported by the respondents. Most of them were not satisfied with the food and accommodation. It is one of the important suggestions footforth by majority of the
respondents. The food commodities provided to the prisoners can be improved in its quality and quantity periodically by improving the menu. The problem of accommodation in the form of overcrowding can be tackled by providing adequate number of cells.

The correctional medical and mental health services can play a constructive part in the rehabilitation of the prisoners right from the moment the prisoner is admitted in a penintentiary. The person may come inside with feelings of guilt and fear, resentment, self pity, relief and remorse and helplessness. It is here that medical and psychiatric services are very much in need. To provide such facilities hospitals with well equipped facilities are of crucial need. The medical officer should be available for that purpose with all necessary para-medical staff who may be available at time during day and night. Health services should be provided in taking into consideration the inmates' biological, medical psychological and emotional problems. Expectant mothers and children should be given adequate care. For the expectant mothers pre-natal and post-natal care, nutritious food and medical check up are necessary. For the children creche and nursery schools must form part of the welfare services.
Together with the medical treatment psychiatric services such as individual therapy, group therapy, therapy of maturity, therapy of research and therapy of conditional fear be adequately available to the women criminals. When these services are provided, in long run these facilities facilitate rehabilitation process much easier. As Ansari (1982) pointed out, a person on admission in a prison is an emotionally disturbed being, he/she is a bundle of nerves and worries. He/she becomes neurotic and labours under the notions of persecution and hallucinations. As a result, she develops split personalities. The behaviour of the custodial staff adds to the frustration of the inmates and many a time they react in a natural but unfavourable manner to the fears, anxieties and frustrations of the hostile prisoners under the name of controlling and guiding them. Almost all the prisoners need counselling and hence psychiatric social workers shall be posted in all women prisons. Apart from counselling, referral services like educational programmes, vocational training, work therapy and recreational programmes are also made available.

The need for education is everywhere appreciable. Various studies conducted in prisons revealed that most of the prisoners are illiterates. The present study also
supports the findings of the earlier studies. Hence providing educational programmes including adult education is very much essential. The educational services fulfill the twin objectives - on the part of the prisoner improving the educational standard and on the part of the prison officials correctional work is much easier if the prisoners are literates. By educational programmes the semi-literate can have an opportunity to continue their studies. To wit, those who finished schooling can go for higher studies. Educational programmes shall consist of library, workshop, gymnasium, moral education classes and religious education.

Most of the prison departments have their own industry set up in the prison to make use of the prison labour. In most of the places the traditional trades such as cloth weaving, tape weaving, durrie weaving, niwar weaving, wool carding, carpet weaving, carpentry, blacksmithy, knitting, soap making, etc., are available. In few prisons power loom and polyester industry are also set up. For the prisoners fixed wages are given for their labour as an incentive. These industries were started with a short term objective that they learn and earn money and make use of their labour potential and with a long run objective of making the prisoners self sufficient in such a way that these trades should be useful to earn their bread after release.
A separate training for them in prison must be developed keeping in mind the social and economic role of women in the society.

Training should be imparted only after identifying the training needs of women prisoners. The traditional methods of training like bidi making, niwar making, durrie making etc., should be replaced by modern and latest occupations which would fetch an employment after release.

Before giving guidance and training, assessment of their socio-economic background, educational qualification and capacities should be done systematically. To bring out a healthy psychological development among the individual prisoners training in their choice and payment of adequate remuneration for the work done is important. Training programmes need to be organised with the help of experts and implemented by trained supervisory persons. From the present study it is found that there is no vocational training in Madurai Women prison. Added to this there is no provision for utilising the prison labour. Idleness is reported as one of the greatest problems of Madurai prisoners. Hence provisions shall be made both for vocational training and prison labour.
Recreational services are more necessary for the prisoners as their life is confined to four walls with a routine work. Added to this living away from the family and community give them the feeling of depression. In order to have a free mind, recreational facilities should be provided. Along with radio and television, musical programmes, cultural programmes and film shows should also be arranged periodically. Various sports and games materials shall also be made available to exhibit their talents.

Social case work is one of the important methods in social work. It has a distinguished role to play in the prison. It is a fruitful method for treating the individual prisoner. By case work method the individual finds the problem area and also tries to find out solution for that problem along with the cooperation of the case worker. The case worker starts his work by establishing rapport and slowly winning the confidence of the individual in such a way that the person may identify his own problem area. The case work programme should be started immediately when a person enters the prison.

The ultimate aim of setting up of prison and providing them the welfare and rehabilitative services are to make the prisoner behave in a socially acceptable manner and settle
again in the society as a normal being. Hence the prisoner should not be isolated from the community once for all. Often arrangements are to be made to facilitate the contacts of family members, relatives and friends, allowing them to attend family and social functions etc. Open air prison instead of making them live within four walls is a bold step in this regard. Week end programmes can be organised periodically so as to make the family members and husbands meet the imprisoned women occasionally. Such programmes may form part of the pre-release preparation for their re-socialization and re-integration into the society. These programmes make the prisoner to have a feeling of being with the community. The prison life in any way should not cut off her links with the community.

After the release, the prisoners are to be settled in the society socially, economically and emotionally. Follow up programmes play a crucial role in this regard. It is rather very difficult to change the attitude of the community towards the prisoners. Educating both the community and the released persons make the after care services more effective. The help of the voluntary agencies and private institutions may very well be sought in this regard.
After release, these women should be looked after adequately and considerable help should be extended so that they will not indulge in crime in future. In after care programmes not only their economic needs but also social and psychological needs must be given due consideration. Government sponsored counselling centers to help the women in coping with their inter-personal problems may be set up at different places.

Follow up study of such released prisoners should be made to assess the impact of rehabilitative programmes so as to identify the problem areas and to make improvements in the programmes. The ultimate aim of rehabilitative programmes are to make the women criminals to be accepted by the husband, family and society where they originally belong. This could be possible by changing the attitude of the husband, family and society by way of educating them and creating an awareness.