PREFACE

Imprisonment of a person who is leading a family life let loose a lot of problems to the individual, dependents and other relatives. By becoming an inmate of the guarded settlement the individual’s freedom, aspirations and action patterns even are controlled. The dependent spouse, parents and children are deprived of economic, social and emotional security which they had been enjoying. The spouse’s rights for conjugal pleasures are frustrated. The imprisonment also tell upon the closer and distant relatives of the person imprisoned by way of becoming target of social disrespect and even rejection. In short, the event generates disorganisation / reorganisation in the life patterns of the individual, spouse and other members of the family.

The human problems created by the activation of criminal justice system had been remaining unattended to by jurists and social scientists as they were considered as the inevitable consequences of the wrong doings of the persons concerned. This retributive mentality of society is gradually giving way to the philosophy of the societal responsibility of salvaging the deviant and their unfortunate dependents from the crisis situation. As a result of this changing perspectives few scholars have made certain efforts to fathom the human side of this system of punishment. This researcher is also attempting to contribute to this philosophy what ever mite she is capable of. She is investigating into the consequences of imprisonment
of a married person to the personal marital and familial life of the confined and suggesting measures to mitigate the misery of this mode of punishment.

This dissertation is prepared in ten chapters. The first chapter introduces the problem. The second analyzes the related literature on the topic and creates the conceptual framework of the study. The third chapter discusses the methodology followed in the research. The fourth chapter portrays the whereabouts the prison system in Kerala where the empirical investigation for the study was carried out. The fifth to eighth chapters contain the core analyses carried out. They respectively analyse the socio-cultural antecedents of the criminals, impact of imprisonment on the personal life of the convicts, the nature and extent of disorganisation / reorganisation created in the marital life of the confined persons and the impact of imprisonment on their familial life. The next chapter (9th chapter) analyzes five representative cases of imprisoned persons. The narrative method is aimed at revealing the traumatic episodes involved in the incidents of crime, punishment and their after effects. The final chapter is a consolidation of the results of the analyses and their interpretations.

It is hoped that this humble attempt of the researcher will contribute, though in a small way, to the concerned area of knowledge.

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