CHAPTER - VI

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS
AND SUGGESTIONS
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Findings, Conclusions and Suggestions

Present chapter is divided into two parts. Part I deals with women offenders and Part II with the police personnel and their behaviour towards women offenders.

On the basis of deep analysis and interpretation of the facts and the observations of the researcher, the following conclusions have been drawn regarding women offenders.

Part I

Women Offenders

Personal Profile

At the micro level majority of the women offenders (52.5%) are in the age group of 41 – 50 years whereas at the macro level majority of the women offenders (40%) are in the age group of 31 – 40 years. Signifying that at the micro level elderly women are more exposed to commit an offence whereas at the macro level young women are prone to commit crimes. This has been testified statistically as well as by the case studies prepared for this purpose [Table - I(a) and Table - I(b)].
As far as the marital status of the women offenders is concerned it has been found that at the micro and macro level majority of the women offenders are married but at the macro level their number is relatively higher (82.5%) than the women offenders at the micro level (67.5%). Indicating an association between marriage and female deviance irrespective of the environment under which the crime might have been committed. This has been testified statistically as well as by the case studies prepared for this purpose [Table – 1(a) and Table – 1(b)].

As far as religion is concerned majority of the women offenders at the micro (87.5%) and macro (92.5%) level are from the Hindu community. Among them, majority of the women offenders are from the higher castes at the micro (75%) as well as macro (87.5%) level. Thus, the higher caste Hindus are more prone to commit crimes than the lower caste Hindus. This has been testified statistically as well as by the case studies prepared for this purpose [Table – 2(a) and Table – 2(b)].

At the micro level majority of the women offenders (55%) are drawn from rural areas and come from the wage earning classes. Whereas, at the macro level majority of the women offenders (92.5%)
are drawn from urban areas and belong to business family. Thus it shows that in the rural areas poor are likely to commit crimes whereas, in urban areas economically well to do commit crimes. This has been testified statistically as well as by the case studies prepared for this purpose [Table – 3(a) and Table – 3(b)].

87.5% of the women offenders at the micro level are illiterate and out of this 70% of the women offenders have been charged for dowry deaths. Whereas, 87.5% of the women offenders at the macro level are literate and out of this, 60% of the women offenders are charged for dowry deaths. Thus, illiterates at the micro level are likely to commit more crimes and at the macro level the literates are likely to commit more crimes. This has been testified statistically as well as by the case studies prepared for this purpose [Table 4(a) and Table – 4(b)].

**EFFECT**

**ON SELF**

All the women offenders at the micro as well as macro level have similar response regarding the effect of arrest on them. All of them experienced loss of reputation and dignity, loss of family,
home and belongings, loss of freedom and lack of control over own affairs.

**ON FAMILY/RELATIVES**

At the micro (85%) as well as macro (87.5%) levels majority of the women offenders gave negative response in connection to their acceptance by the family members after release. This has been testified statistically as well as by the case studies prepared for this purpose *Table – 13(a) and Table – 13(b)*.

**FAMILY OF ORIENTATION**

At the micro level 77.5% of the women offenders reported of having discord and conflict within the family. Presence of discord is mainly due to poverty or being burdened by the birth of girl child. But at the macro level 55% of the women offenders reported of having comfortable and peaceful home environment without any economic dependency on others. This has been testified statistically as well as by the case studies prepared for this purpose *Table – 14(a) and Table – 14(b)*.

At the micro level the average size of the family is 6 – 9 members and are having poor living conditions. They come from the lower income group. At the macro level the average size of the family is 2 – 5 members and are having good living conditions. They come
from the upper middle class. This has been testified statistically as well as by the case studies prepared for this purpose [Table – 15(a) and Table – 15(b)].

**FAMILY OF PROCREATION**

At both the levels (micro and macro) majority of the women offenders are found belonging to joint families and the rest to nuclear families. This has been testified statistically as well as by the case studies prepared for this purpose [Table – 17(a) and Table – 17(b)].

At both the levels almost 60% of the women offenders reported of having less than cordial relationship with their in-laws. This has been testified statistically as well as by the case studies prepared for this purpose [Table – 18(a) and Table – 18(b)].

At the micro level 46.2% of the women offenders are found to have monthly income ranging from Rs. 2500-5000. Average size of the family is found to be large (6-9 members) in a majority of cases. At the macro level 51.5% of the women offenders are found to have monthly income ranging from Rs. 15000-25000. Average size of the family is found to be small (2 - 5 members) in a majority of cases. This has been testified statistically as well as by the case studies
prepared for this purpose [Table - 19(a) and Table - 19(b)]. At the macro level it is observed that all the members of the joint family did not live together in the same house. They have separate household but all the family members are in contact with one another and exchanged their stay in each other’s house. The elderly members make decisions that are to be followed by all the members living in different households. Thus at the macro level inspite of the small size, families are not independent and of the nuclear type. They are of the extended joint family type.

**DIFFERENCES**

**MICRO**

**AGE**

Majority of the women offenders are in the age group of 41-50 years.

**DOMICILE**

Majority of the women offenders are drawn from rural areas.

**OCCUPATION**

Majority of the women offenders belong to the daily wage earning class.

**MACRO**

Majority of the women offenders are in the age group of 31-40 years.

Majority of the women offenders are drawn from urban areas.

Majority of the women offenders belong to business class.
**LITERACY**

Majority of the women offenders are illiterate.

Majority of the women offenders are literate.

**FAMILY OF ORIENTATION:-**

**NATURE OF RELATIONSHIP**

Majority of the women offenders report presence of discord within the family.

Majority of the women offenders report peaceful home environment.

**LIVING CONDITION & SIZE OF THE FAMILY**

Majority of the women offenders are drawn from large family size having poor living conditions.

Majority of the women offenders are drawn from small family size having good living conditions.

**FAMILY OF PROCREATION:-**

**INCOME & SIZE OF THE FAMILY**

Majority of the women offenders are concentrated in the monthly income group of Rs. 2500 – 5000 having a large family size to support.

Majority of the women offenders are concentrated in the monthly income group of Rs. 15000 – 25000 having a small family size to support.

**SIMILARITIES**

Majority of the women offenders at the micro and macro levels are married.

Majority of the women offenders at the micro and macro levels belong to the Hindu community and are from the upper castes.
Majority of the women offenders at the micro and macro levels belong to joint family.

Majority of the women offenders at the micro and macro levels share non-cordial relationship with their in-laws.

All the women offenders at the micro and macro levels experience loss of dignity and miss their family after arrest.

Majority of the women offenders at the micro and macro levels expect non-acceptance by their family members after release.

**CONCLUSIONS**

It is observed that at the micro level, besides dowry deaths, women are involved in offences such as kidnapping, attempt to murder and offence against public tranquility [*Table-4(a)*]. These offences are less violent, individual oriented, first time offence and possess greater chances of implication. Since majority of the women at the micro level are illiterate, ignorant and less exposed to the outside world, they stand a higher chance of being implicated by male members of the family or society. As far as the dowry deaths are concerned, these are the outcome of economic insecurity, ignorance of *Dowry Prohibition Laws*, lack of adjustment on the part of young girls and change in the role of family. Thus, deviance among women
residing in the rural areas is primarily the result of their ignorance, vulnerable living conditions, economic insecurity and lack of rationality. All of these have resulted due to illiteracy. At the macro level, besides, dowry deaths, women are involved in offences such as murder, prostitution, and drug trafficking [Table-4(h)]. These offences require planning, training and are group orientation. Majority of the women at the macro level are educated and exposed to the outside world. So factors like illiteracy, ignorance and lack of exposure did not contribute towards female deviance. It can thus be attributed that at the macro level educational institutions provide formal degrees but have shirked the responsibility of inculcating values and morals. Lack of proper education is a potent cause of moral depravity. Schools no longer aspire to train children to become worthy citizens. Properly trained mind in the correct values of life can combat the situational urge that so often leads to deviance.

Moreover, at the macro level the social pressures of urbanization are great and have introduced compelling ethics of success. Increasing self-interest, a sense of urban anomie and erosion of values because of fast paced changes has a lot to do with increasing female deviance in urban areas. Anonymity and desire to climb the
social ladder in the new surrounding makes them ignore the basic inhibitions and the cultural constraints. Morality and fidelity has different meaning in the changed context. Fear of recognition and identification, which may otherwise act as a deterrent in familiar surrounding, is not there and many women indulge in activities that do not conform to acceptable norms of behaviour in the community.

As far as economic condition is concerned majority of the women offenders at the macro level report of having smaller sized family and are economically well off. They experienced no discomfort in life. This indicated that unlike micro level, economic insufficiency is not the reason for female deviance at the macro level. At the macro level people have shed the idea of simple living and high thinking. Rapid changes due to social pressures of urbanization have resulted in a moral and psychological atmosphere that is highly crimogenic. Urban people want more out of life. Urban parents spend lavishly on children. But they normally deny them the care and the time that they need and also the discipline that has to be inculcated in early years of the life. There is no control of parents over children nor do the parents do any effective monitoring over their behaviour or habits. Lack of religion and substitution of religious beliefs and spirituality by
‘rationalism’ also contribute towards deviance. Where intellect is the determinant of man’s fate, where man has lost faith in the Supreme Being, where man believes only in material existence, where man desire for power and money at any cost and has forgotten the inner soul, social disorganization is bound to result.

Regarding the environment of family of orientation, it is observed that at the micro level majority of the women offenders describe their home environment as bad i.e. they did not get peace and comfort [Table-14(a)]. Presence of discord is mainly due to economic insufficiency or being burdened by the birth of a girl child. Parental indifference and inconsistency coupled with a feeling of powerlessness, rejection by parents and encouragement of violent behaviour by authority figures within the family resulted in expressing frustrations either upon themselves or against others, both during childhood and later when frustrated as adults. Such an environment contributes towards involvement of women offenders in cases of dowry deaths. Discrimination against girls starts the moment a girl child is born and continues to be maintained and reinforced through the process of differential socialization throughout her life. At the macro level more than fifty percent of the women offenders have a
comfortable and peaceful home environment [Table-14(b)]. This indicates that the nature of home environment is not the sole reason for female deviance. In heterogeneous surrounding factors such as lack of proper moral education, lack of religious teaching, change in social values and compelling ethics of success contribute towards female deviance.

Analysis of the role of family of procreation in regard to female deviance highlights the fact that majority of the women offenders at the micro as well as macro level belong to joint families [Table 17(a) and Table 17(b)]. It also reveals that most of them have tense home atmosphere and often quarrel with each other [Table 18(a) and Table 18(b)]. However, of all the relationships mother-in-law and daughter-in-law are the source of conflict in majority of the cases. This indicates that the family of procreation contributes towards female deviance at the micro as well as macro level. Sacramental marriages and close family ties seem to be weakening at the micro as well as macro level. Joint family that provided emotional safety and exercised informal control over its members is no longer in existence. It practiced tolerance and concern for others. It absorbed the weak in itself. There was no sense of alienation. All this has
changed because the joint family has broken-down and the traditional moral constraints, increasing acquisitiveness and disregard for women have been eroded. There are responsibilities and socio-cultural expectations attached to married women. When these cannot be fulfilled within the framework of right means, women are bound to enter the world of deviance. Marital maladjustment is common in heterogeneous as well as homogeneous surroundings.

Greater number of cases of dowry death at the micro and macro level indicates subordinate status of women at both the levels. Husband and in-laws can get away easily after maltreating her because she is easily replaceable. There are enough desperate parents willing to marry their daughters to just about any man available. Parents are always too eager to get their daughters married lest they remain a burden on the family for the rest of their lives. Greed is another reason for dowry deaths, it is immaterial how much dowry was given or how rich is the husband’s family.

Majority of the women offenders at the macro level believe the criminal justice system to be slow and tempered with political influence. They express unwillingness when asked to comment on the jail authorities. At the micro level majority of the
women offenders are ignorant about the working of the criminal justice system. They are too scared to hear or to comment on the treatment extended by the jail authorities. Majority of them attempted to brush off the question. Regarding police personnel, majority of the women offenders at the micro and macro levels are of the opinion that the treatment of the police is dependent upon the economic and educational level of the offenders. Higher the economic and educational status better is the treatment extended [Tables-20(a), 20(b), 21(a) and 21(b)]. The chi-square test also shows a significant relationship between the two variables.

Thus the first hypothesis that the factors leading to female deviance in a small place having homogeneous surrounding will be different to those leading to female deviance in a heterogeneous surrounding is tested. It is observed that at the micro level economic insufficiency and illiteracy are the potent factors contributing to female deviance. Whereas, at the macro level it is largely due to social pressures of urbanization, compelling ethics of success, demonstration of money power and melting of traditional values. All this has resulted in the creation of moral and psychological atmosphere that is favourable to deviance. This, however, does not imply that women at
the micro level are not exposed to such changes but there is a varied difference in the level of exposure.

The second hypothesis, that the economic level, educational level and the role of family will affect the nature of offence committed by women, stands only partially confirmed. Women offenders at the micro level are not accused of offences such as murder, drug trafficking and prostitution. However, it is observed that majority of the women offenders at the micro as well as macro levels are accused of bride burning.

**SUGGESTIONS**

On analyzing the findings of the present study one can conveniently say that the phenomenon of female criminality, as it exists today, cannot be dealt with till we are able to bring about positive changes in existing system and in our socio-cultural practices.

We need to start a social action movement in order to persuade common men to change social values and cultural ethos that are responsible for the increase in crime by the women against the women.

Parents should involve the girls in the selection of their life partners.
Energies and potentialities of the women should be channeled by providing them opportunities for advancement. They should also be taught that there is no difference between a male child and a girl child so that they can give up the desire to have a male child at any cost.

As far as the dowry death cases are concerned, law to a certain extent should hold the parents of the bride also responsible for her death. Initially, when the in-laws begin harassing their daughter for bringing fewer dowries, it is the responsibility of the parents to report to the police of the harassment. If the parents fail to do so and nagging leads to death the parents and the in-laws stand equally responsible for the death. The general excuse that the parents give is that they were not aware of the nagging and the demand for more dowries. But this ignorance arises only when the parents believe that once their daughter is married, she is no longer their responsibility and consequently become indifferent to what ever is happening to her. If the parents care about their daughter and are concerned about her well-being they would definitely be in a position to help her in the hour of need. If the situation demands that the daughter should be brought back to the parental home they should do so and
accommodate her in the family as one of its members even after marriage. When the parents fail to behave in the mentioned way, law should make them do so. This would also prevent the misuse of Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

Mostly, people are ignorant about legal rights and duties. Some times unconsciously they indulge in crime. Thus, it is suggested that legal literacy campaigns at grassroots level must be organised so as to make the people aware and alert.

Judiciary must ensure speedy disposal of cases and justice needs to be less expensive. It is found during the study that trial sometimes is unusually delayed and sometimes the women even have to be in jail for duration that is more than what their offence actually requires.

There should be provision of wages for the work women offenders do in the jail. Part of the amount can be used by the jail authorities to meet their stay requirements. Rest should be deposited in the bank so that it may build up a sizeable amount that can be used after her release.

The disposal rate of cases is very low. There is need to increase the number of courts. The working days of the courts should
also be increased. Frequent strikes by the lawyers should be discouraged. Better ways to probe crimes have to be devised since investigations are manipulated at every stage. This area of criminal investigation demands special attention.

Efforts have been made for the creation of ‘women cell’ in the prison whereby women prisoners are separated from the male counterparts. But unfortunately, they have not been alienated from the male staff members of the prison, since ‘women cell’ are manned by male staffs. It is thereby, suggested that women offenders should be handled by women police and women prison staff.

Imprisonment of woman is dysfunctional in two major ways. Firstly, it brings about social disgrace and makes her rehabilitation difficult, forcing her towards further deviance. Secondly, it either leads to emotional deprivation of children or forces the women to bring young children to prison. These children are so ill-treated and neglected that they suffer from serious problems. Since most of the women offenders are victims of changing social-cultural values, illiteracy, economic insufficiency and pressures of urbanization, they do not need or deserve to be imprisoned. Two methods are used for correcting women offenders. Imprisonment and
release on probation. Since, most of the women offenders are not a threat to social solidarity; the use of the method of imprisonment should be minimised. All women offenders do not need or deserve to be imprisoned. Depending upon the cause of deviance suitable alternatives to imprisonment should be adopted.

**Part - II**

**POLICE**

On the basis of analysis and interpretation of responses following conclusions have been drawn regarding the police personnel and their behaviour towards the women offenders.

**LITERACY**

Comparison of the respondents at the micro and macro level indicate that the police personnel at the macro level are more highly qualified as compared to those at the micro level *(Table – 6).*

**MOTIVATION FOR JOINING THE SERVICE:**

At the micro level majority of the respondents joined the police service for the sake of employment. Whereas, at the macro level majority of the respondents joined this service in order to enjoy superior status in the society *(Table – 7).*
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF THE OFFENDERS:

Police behaviour towards women offenders at the micro level is independent of their educational background [Table - 20(a)]. Whereas at the macro level, it is influenced by the educational level of the women offenders [Table - 20(b)]. The chi-square test also confirms this finding.

MONTHLY INCOME OF THE OFFENDERS:

At the micro as well as macro level positive relation between the income of the women offenders and mode of police behaviour is observed and found that there is significant relationship between these two variables [Table - 21(a) and Table - 21(b)]. The chi-square test also confirms this finding.

INVESTIGATION:

At the micro level women offenders experienced the police investigation to be either forced or manipulative, irrespective of their socio-economic status [Table - 23(a)]. The aim is to implicate rather than to investigate. At the macro level, in the high and middle socio-economic status the police investigation is more manipulative and less forced in nature. Whereas, in the low socio-economic status the police investigation is more coercive and less manipulative in nature [Table - 23(b)]. The chi-square test also confirms this finding.
At the micro as well as macro level, the police projected a discriminatory behaviour towards the women offenders at the time of arrest, depending upon their socio-economic status [Table - 24(a) and Table - 24(b)]. The chi-square test also confirms this finding.

**COURT TRIAL:**

At the micro as well as macro level the role of the police in the process of trial is biased towards the poor and the weak. It encouraged implication of the poor and escape of the influential [Table 25(a) and Table 25(b)]. The chi-square test also shows a significant relationship between the two variables.

**RANK:**

At the micro as well as macro level the non-consideration and insult towards women offenders reduces with increasing rank and officialdom of the police personnel [Table - 26(a) and Table - 26(b)]. The chi-square test also shows a significant relationship between the two variables.
## Differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Micro</th>
<th>Macro</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Literacy:</strong></td>
<td>Majority of the police personnel are Graduates.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Motivation:</strong></td>
<td>They joined the service for the sake of employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Educational Level of the Offenders:</strong></td>
<td>Behaviour of the police personnel towards women offenders are independent of their educational background.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nature of Investigation:</strong></td>
<td>It is either forced or manipulative, irrespective of the socio-economic status of the women offenders.</td>
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SIMILARITIES

Positive relation exists between the family income of the women offenders and the mode of police behaviour towards them at the micro as well as macro level.

Police aggressiveness at the time of arrest is inversely proportionate to the socio-economic status of the women offenders at the micro as well as macro level.

The role of the police personnel in the process of trial is biased towards the poor and the vulnerable at the micro as well as macro level.

The ill treatment of the women offenders decreases with increasing rank of the police personnel at the micro as well as macro level.

CONCLUSIONS:

Economic level of the police personnel is according to their level of official placement. Police personnel occupying similar official position have approximately similar economic position irrespective of the surrounding where they are employed.

There has been very little training input for the investigating officers in small town areas to diagnose the Sociology of
crime. Police in the small town areas have outmoded methods of investigation and lack of knowledge of law.

The police are more likely to suspect a lower class person rather than an upper class person. The police rarely care to put its best in solving a case where the poor are involved. For there is no fear of effective reaction.

Police investigations involving members of lower income group are tempered because of political influences. The stronger sections pull wires to implicate the poor and the weak.

The indifferent attitude of the police in many cases is firstly because of the fact that majority of the subordinate police personnel look upon the police career as an ordinary career and had opted it for the sake of employment. The top officials expected to have a dignified professional career through police service and their motivation for joining the police force is for the sake of enjoying superior and distinct status in the society. The responsibility of controlling crime and maintaining social order is realised by the very few.

In a modern society, bureaucracy is an essential characteristic. It assumes new dimensions of policy implementation
due to political, administrative and other factors. These factors restrict the impartial discharge of duties by the cops’ inspite of their willingness to do so. This creates a feeling of utter helplessness. The morale of the cops collapses and they become silent spectators.

Group solidarity is strong and police personnel get the support of their colleagues and superior officers in times of crises. This makes them consider themselves separate from the community and restricts their effort to co-operate with and serve the people.

Police sincerely feel that women have greatly been affected by shifting social values leading to break up of families. The tradition of seeking fulfillment in sacrifice and self-denial is nowhere to be found. This has caused great loss to the family in particular and to the community in general.

**SUGGESTIONS:**

The system of accountability and imparting punishment for proved brutality must be introduced.

The system of seeking police personnel for protection by politicians and bureaucrats needs a radical change.
The training pattern of police needs to be revised to add more humane values and during their training they should be properly sensitised over the sensitive issues related to women.

A greater number of women police investigating officers, specialized in the art of investigating crimes committed by women and against women should be appointed.

The political interference in police work must be eliminated. A high level committee should be formed in every state to monitor all transfers. This will help in reducing politically motivated transfers of police personnel.

Police constables perform the major part of the police work and they are the first to come in contact with the people. The poor quality of recruits and the inhuman condition in which they have to live and work are reflected in their unhelpful and uninspiring work attitude. Thus, there is a need to upgrade the ill-paid, ill-qualified and ill-equipped constables to a respectable and effective position.

The police job besides being hazardous involves outdoor assignments. The total pay packet should be worked out after including all sorts of allowances, concessions and other facilities to which the policemen are presently entitled. Facility of professional
insurance must be provided to every policeman to cover the risk of life in the discharge of his public duty.

Creation of specialized agency, independent of the police, to handle, investigate and make recommendations on citizen complaints will bring about police accountability and will succeed in ‘policing the police’.