Women are normally considered as the bases of a happy and prosperous life. However, the world in which women live has undergone many important changes. Their involvement in crime has shown a marked increase. The Criminal Procedure Code confers specific powers i.e. power for the detection of crime, collection of evidence, determination of the guilt or innocence of the suspected person, power to make arrest, search, etc on the members of the police force who are enrolled as police officers. In the processes of detection, interrogation and investigation, women offenders and the police personnel develop various dimensions of interactive patterns.

Keeping this in mind, the present study has been carried out to investigate comparatively the impact of homogeneous (small town/micro level) and heterogeneous (metropolis/macro level) surroundings on the type and nature of crime committed by the women, cause of such type of female behaviour, attitude of women offenders towards police personnel and vice-versa.

The present work consists of six chapters that provide information about the theoretical perspective on female criminality
and role of the police, design of the work conducted, profile of the women offenders and behaviour of the police towards women offenders. A separate chapter on selected case studies provides an interesting account of the behaviour patterns of the women offenders. The last chapter, as usual, presents short summary of the findings and makes some important suggestions.

The rationale of present study emerges from the present situation of female criminality, the researches conducted on this issue in the past, the changing role of the police and the changing police-public relationship. The study differs from earlier studies as it attempts to compare the impact of homogeneous (small town) and heterogeneous (metropolitan) culture on the cause and nature of female criminality, role of police and the behaviour of the police towards women offenders.

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