

FEMALE CRIME IN FAR EAST OF RUSSIA

Oksana Ilchenko, Associate Prof.

Far Eastern Federal University, Vladivostok, Russia

Abstract

Most national and international research in the area of violent crime directed at the study of men. However, crime committed by women, is recognized as a serious criminological and social problem in Russia. Usually women are associated with a special volume in the society; they gave great influence to family and children. That is why female crime (especially violent) remains a matter of surprise, suspicion and is considered as abnormal behavior.

In this paper, based on empirical research we want to show some tendencies of female crime. Official statistic of the Federal Penal Service was analyzed and also we use the results of empirical study conducted in the penal colony of Vladivostok. The survey had place in March 2013. Total 212 women from 18 to 64 years old were attended.

Keywords: Female crime, Violent, Russian Far East

Introduction

Crimes committed by women leads to disorganization of the socio- psychological climate in society. As Ballinger pointed, women commit far fewer crimes than men, but breaking the law, women are not only committing a crime, but also violate social norms and attitudes regarding the role of women and the expected behavior (Ballinger, 2000). Female criminality is growing not only in Russia but also in other countries, like Canada, the USA, and the UK. For example, according to official sources in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2008), the level of serious violent crime committed by women increased from 25 to 46 since 1986. The same statistics data come from the UK, where the number of women convicted of murder and other violent crimes increased (Slack, 2009).

Dynamics of female crime

Nowadays scientist speaks about “crime surprise” in Russia: according to statistic the level of crime is decrease. In Russia, unregistered crime is widespread. As a result of criminological research, it has been established that latent crime exceeds registered crime many times over.

Table 1. Dynamics of most common registered and actual crimes conducted by women in Russian Federation (Inshakov, 2011)

	Coefficient latency in 2009 year.	Increase in the number of official registered crimes in 2009 r.compare to 2002 year, %	Increase in the number of actual crimes in 2009 r.compare to in 2009 to 2002 year , %
The murder of a newborn baby by mother	2,0	-39,7	-3,8
infliction of bodily harm	13,1	146,2	14,8
Beating	12,5	207,7	16,7
Torture	2,5	76,7	23,0
Grievous bodily harm	8,5*	26,4	26,5
Affront	14,0	168,3	29,9

Dereliction of duty on the education of the minor	11,0	112,8	25,0
Theft	10,1	28,2	-1,6
Fraudulence	7,4	172,1	21,7
Drug-related crime	6,0	129,4*	25,0*

The data show high rates of latent crimes in the structure of female crime. Especially it considers such types of crime like abuse, intentional infliction of bodily harm, assault, dereliction of duty on the education of the minor, as well as crime committed against property like theft, fraud.

At the same time the number of women in prisons has increased. According to official data the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia in 2001 prisons for adult contained 7.7 thousand women. By 2010, this figure grew up to 11.2 thousand. Since 2005 to 2010, the proportion of women who have received actual incarceration increased from 28.3 to 35.5%. Obviously that prison sentences for men and women do not have a significant gap, as it was earlier.

Far East is one of most criminalized area in Russia. As for female crime, in Primorsky region (colony K-10) in 2000 there was 898 women, 2001 - 896, 2002 - 671, 2003 – 690, 2004 – 699, 2005 - 834, 2006 – 1176, 2007 - 1002, 2008 – 1491, 2009 – 1648, 2010 – 1355, 2011 – 1288 (fig 1).

Figure 1. Women in prison in Primorsky region f Russia.



Data makes clear that the number of women in prison increase. It happened because more women were arrested for sale, distribution and possession of drugs, with an increase to 72%. For comparison, at the same time the number of women serving sentences for murder and grievous bodily harm during increased by 30%

Demographical characteristics

In Russia, crimes committed by adults are registered from the age of sixteen; for certain serious crimes, from the age of fourteen. The percentage of teenage girls among all crime committed by minors (14–17 years) has increased slightly in recent years (Gilinskiy, 2014). In 2004, it was 7.9%; in 2005, 8.6%; in 2006, 9.3%; in 2007, 9.7%; in 2008, 10.3%; in 2009, 10.9%; in 2010, 11.0%; in 2011, 11.8%. (Zabriansky, 2013) According to certain sources, the “peak” (maximum) of female crime is between 35 and 40 years old.

In our research we found that ages of women in prison are: up to 30 years - 39.5%, from 30 to 40 years - 51.9% and more than 50 years - 8.5%. So, traditionally, the dominant group among women offenders is women over 30 years old. However, there is a trend to younger ages. Another trend is that teenage girls are committing not only "traditional" crime for this age, such as theft, fraud, but they are increasingly involved in serious crimes against the life.

In Primorsky region only 3.9% woman in prison have a higher education, 2.6% have no education, and other have school and special education. It is a surprise, because in Russia we have trend that shows increasing criminal activity among women with high education.

In Primorsky region most women in prison were not married and do not have a stable family relationship (79%). This data are the same as in Russia whole.

Crime

Most of the women in prison committed violent crime (40.7%) and crimes related to drugs (41.1%). A growth in the percentage of women who committed crimes connected with drugs between 1990 and 1995 (11–12%) and 2000 and 2005 (17%), with a small decrease in 2006–2007 (15–16%) (Gilinskiy, 2013).

About 18.2% of women committed economic crimes. There is a large percentage of women among those who committed appropriation and embezzlement (42–43% on average from 1995 to 2007).

Analyze of official statistics in the Russian Federation in the field of economic crime, especially in the area of illegal transactions and fraud with housing, revealed the growth of this type of crime is 2 times in the past 10 years. In the Russian Far East the number of fraudulent attacks increased more than 4 times from 2004 to 2010 years.

There is an increasing number of reports about women who head criminal organizations in Russia engaged in bank fraud, drug trafficking and murder (Gilinskiy, 2014).

Among all the perpetrators of the murder, women accounted for 12-13%. Overall, violent crime women are more likely than men to commit on the basis of domestic conflict, family problems, intimate experiences. Thus, the results of our studies shows that about 2/3 of the crimes committed women against life and health, are related to the family. They are usually preceded by prolonged conflict relationship, and as a provoking moment man (partner) often acted immoral or illegal behavior, who are constantly drunk, beat their wives and children. According to studies of women prisoners, more than a third of them killed her husband (spouse), about 20% - children of their own women.

However, not always violent behavior of women relations is a situational defensive. Increasingly, women are active participants, and sometimes they initiate acute conflict confrontation, so just case determines who becomes a victim and who is the perpetrator. In our study, about one third of women initiated the attack, and in 15% cases only women committed violence against a partner. In the commission of the crime women are mostly used edged weapon, a third of cases - various household items (pan, iron, etc.)

There is a trend of growing a torture. Its share in the structure of female criminality has increased from 0.1% in 1997 to 0.2% in 2012. The number of females among the identified perpetrators of this crime has increased over the period from 5% to 7%, which indicates an increase of level of aggression and violence. Recently there has also been an increase in the number of women who have committed "non-traditional" crimes: murder for hooliganism (especially for juvenile offenders) and misappropriation of another's property. Also here are new types of criminal violence used by women: highlight professional murder, acts of terrorism, hostage-taking, etc.

The murder of a newborn baby by mother is common in countryside (unlike other types of kills). Typically, such acts are committed by young women who have no family,

sufficient material status. In some cases, there is the figure of a man, with the influence to her or with the acquiescence. Usually he is intimate partner. There is an anomalous trend of contemporary female crime. It is intensive growing of attacks against children. Growing child murder committed not only to newborns, but even more often to older children, including adolescence. Basically murder of a child is accomplished of attacking, poisoning, suffocation, drowning, dropping from a height and other ways.

Factors

Empirical studies as well as data Federal Penal Service of Russia allowed us to identify the main factors that affect the female crime in the Primorsky region. These include:

1. Migration. A more detailed study socio-demographic status of women offenders indicates an increase in the number of crimes committed by women workers residing in the Primorye region.

2. Alcoholism and drug addiction. According to our research, about two-thirds of the offenders at the time of commission of the act were alcohol or drugs addicted, which leads to the conclusion about the impact of alcohol abuse and drug addiction to the escalating violence and crime.

3. Psychological characteristics of women: Borderline, sadistic and explosive personality disorder and behaviors in a family conflict in particular against the background of the adoption of alcoholic beverages, the deformation of morality and legal culture, legal nihilism, the desire of women to meet their needs at the expense of the interests of other persons.

4. Socio-economic conditions: the gap between the size of the property and income of various groups of the population; gender differences in employment and earnings. Unemployment is a dangerous phenomenon in many ways. Lack of earnings does not satisfy the basic human needs of food, clothing, etc. However, the material status is not the only problem faced by the unemployed. Loss of a job is stress. According to research the share of unemployment among female offenders is 58.7%. Among women who have committed crimes drag related crime the proportion is even higher (78.9%) (Demina,2010).

Conclusion

Women crime is a serious problem for several reasons. First, female crime leads to deterioration of the already unfavorable socio- demographic situation in the country by reducing the birth rate among women. Second, is the socio- psychological climate in society. Usually women can have a positive impact on men, keeping them from committing crimes and misbehavior. Moreover, women still have a central role in the education of the younger generation, are a kind of value- and a moral compass for them.

Another problem - is a matter of re-socialization of women prisoners. After the arrest of the woman, her family is stigmatized, it hurts children especially. This imposition requires additional intensive rehabilitation in order to motivate people to change their behavior. Modern criminal tendency toward increased penalties, increased prison terms and the number of prisoners is in the wrong direction. Prisoners were motivated by the possibility of parole at the appropriate cooperation and behavior change. As emphasized by Braman (2004, P. 224): “The question ... is not merely how to punish and deter offenders, but how to encourage and strengthen the bonds that make families possible, give life to community, and ultimately determine the character of our society as a whole”.

References:

Ballinger 2000. Dead woman walking; executed women in England and Wales 1900-1955, 2000.

Gilinskiy Y.I. Criminology: theory, history, empirical data, social control. 2014.

Demina K.A. Some socio-economic determinants of female crime (criminological analysis on the materials of the federal and regional levels) // Bulletin of Tomsk State University, 2010.

Zabriansky G.I. The Criminology of Minors. Moscow, 2013.

Inshakov S.M. (ed), The Theoretical Bases of Researching and Analyzing Latent Crime, Moscow, 2011.