

EXISTENTIAL CONDITIONS OF WOMEN CRIMINALS IN HIMACAHAL PRADESH**SURAJ KUMARI****Assistant Professor (Sociology)****UILS, Chaura Maidan, Shimla-4****INTRODUCTION**

This paper deal with the existential conditions of the women criminals included in the study. The analysis revolves around socio-economic conditions in which the women have lived since their childhood and in which they have been living at the time of their involvement in crime. The existential conditions, in general, refer to the environment in which a person has lived and brought up or grown up. The assessment of the said conditions focuses on the material and non-material environment, the demographic and socio-economic conditions. The rationale of examining existential conditions of an individual is that most often these conditions are found directly and indirectly related with the crime committed by them.

The variables included in the analysis for ascertaining the existential conditions besides the age, sex, caste, religion, marital-status, occupation, education, and economic status of the women criminals also analyze socio-economic dimensions of their family of orientation and procreation. Cavan (1962) has asserted that criminal activity begins in childhood, reaches full flower in late adolescence and declines with age. Apart from age, factors like poverty, lack of education may also create the problem of family adjustment, forcing a few women to take to deviant behavior (Ahuja, 1969). Thus, the socio-economic status of individual is often considered as the most powerful sociological variable in crime. Consequently, the education, income and occupation of the individual and the relatives also influence the personality traits. Education is considered as an important variable not only for widening the mental horizon of an individual but it also helps to formulate rational and logical attitude toward different situations and problems. Illiteracy, low education or early withdrawal from school minimizes the scope of developing balanced approach towards life.

Income and occupation are the most important variables for determining the socio-economic status of the individual. Occupation reveals the probable income of the individual. Inadequate sources of income may lead to deprivation in food, clothes and basic amenities of life which may in turn compel the individual to take drastic steps for affording these facilities. Thus poverty is often considered as one of the most contributing factor behind monetary crimes at the same time affluence may also elevate the lust for leading luxurious life causing deviation from social norms. Ahuja is also in support of this view and considered that low income is an important contributory factor to family tensions and a combination of unsatisfactory social relationships, and poverty is conducive to criminal behavior.

Marriage grants social status and lay out certain characteristics of obligations which are expected to be pursued by the individual. Thus the marital status of the respondents beside family members is included in the realm of present study.

Mackay, 1913(Quoted by Sutherland, 1965) studied the impact of environment over child's behavior and concluded that child's behavior is much determined by the environment in which he/she lives. In an unfavorable environment the child is likely to come into contact with criminals who inculcate criminal tendencies.

The family of orientation plays vital and pivotal role in the life of any female as she grows up there and learns the way of social interactions within the sphere of her family. The seeds of culture, custom, ethics, values and etiquettes are placed in the mind of female child, in the family of orientation. Here the female child remains in strict control of her father and brothers. Pollock (1950) argued that since girls are strictly confined in their homes and are placed under firmness, discipline and morality, they extremely fear to indulge in any illegal act. Moreover, they are also worried about the reaction of their family members and of society towards their criminal behavior. Thus the symptoms of deviant behavior remain dormant during this time period of her life and probably become active in all dimensions after her marriage. She becomes the centre of family and plays imperative role in different characters of wife, mother, daughter-in-law and mother-in-law. The criminality of women according to Pollock (1950) represents a masked behavior. It means that a woman hides her criminal tendencies behind the role she plays---that of a nurse, domestic servant, wife, mother, sister or a paramour. Moreover, these roles often help in deceiving the public about her inner feelings. Also the society since it holds great value regarding the concept of a mother or a wife tends to have a sympathetic attitude towards the offences committed by women. Even the press does not highlight women criminals, mainly because the reports are strongly prevented from reaching either the police or press by the family members or relatives who seem to confront extreme embarrassment in exposing it. In the family of procreation, she has to face new environment where the family custom, routines, moral values, ethics and habits of the family members may be different from her family of orientation. Thus in the family of procreation the probability of exposing deviant behavior becomes strong. Ahuja (1969) observed that the interpersonal relations in the family after marriage create adjustment problems for women and sometimes force them to indulge in deviant behavior. The same hypothesis is supported by Ghosh (1986) in whose study all women criminals were married and had been confronting unfavorable attitude of the husband and in-laws towards them which concluded that marital mal-adjustment in the family of procreation can be taken to be a contributory factor of female criminality.

Methodology

Methodology is the narration, explanation and justification of the methods. It refers to the philosophy on which researches is based. This serves as basis for research and is used for interviewing data and reaching conclusions. It is an approach to understanding the phenomena and is a procedure of empirical investigation. It is a plan and procedure for carrying out of the research. It refers to the techniques and the strategies for obtaining valued information. The following is included in it:

Nature of Study and Research Design

The present study is exploratory and explanatory in nature. An exploratory is the one in which the phenomenon occurs and reoccurs in a society at large but its population, universe, location, causes and conditions are not definitive and defined but require intensive investigations with the help of snow-ball techniques. The researcher visited all the jails and adopted such techniques of conducting interviews paying special emphasis on receiving the qualitative as well as quantitative information from the respondents. This involves personal interviews with the subject of study, recording of personal, family and community history of the individual through the reconstruction of past. The use of such techniques made intensively by sociologists and social anthropologist. To ascertain the social-economic status, main variables like age, sex, cast, religion, education, income occupation of the respondent besides members of family of orientation and procreation is also taken into consideration.

Sources of Data

The data for the present study is collected from two sources: primary and secondary. These sources involve census handbooks, report of different jails and existing relevant literature. Besides being empirical, the study also tends to carry on field work i.e. interviewing respondents on snow ball techniques. In other words study depends on primary data. In this way the study involves both primary and secondary sources of data collection.

Study Area, Universe & Sample of the Study

The study is conducted in Himachal Pradesh, a hilly state of the Indian Republic, situated between 30° 22' 40" to 33° 12' 40" north altitudes and 75° 47' 55" to 79° 04' 20" east longitudes. The State of Himachal Pradesh is mountainous and its attitudes range from 350 meters to 6975 meters above the mean sea level. It is surrounded by Jammu and Kashmir in north, Tibet on north/north east, Uttaranchal in the east/ south east, Haryana in south and Punjab in south-west. Himachal Pradesh

came into being as a centrally administered union territory on April 15, 1948 by the integration on 30 east while princely hill States.

In its present form, Himachal Pradesh consists of 12 districts namely Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kullu, Kinnaur, Kangra, Lahaul Spiti, Mandi, Shimla, Solan, Sirmour and Unna geographically covering area of 55,673 square kms. As per the 2001 census, the total population of the state is 60.78 lakh persons (30.88 lakh males and 29.90 lakh females). The sex ratio is 968 females per thousand males. The density of population is 109 persons per sq. km. And literacy rate is 77.13 percent (86.20 percent for males and 68.08 percent for females).

Universe of the Study

Himachal Pradesh, located in the north western Himalayas, known as Dev Bhoomi (Abode of Gods), symbolize peace, order and harmony between man, nature and universe. This tiny State has twelve jails situated in the all districts except Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti. This State has two central jails one at Kanda in the Shimla district and the other is in the Nahan which is the head quarter of Sirmour district. The other district jails are Dharamshala, in Kangra district and Chamba district. The sub jails are at Mandi, Kullu, Unna, Solan, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Bustal Jail Mandi and Sub jail Kaithu in Shimla.

Sample of the Study

The sample of the study consists of all women inmates incarcerated in the various jails in ten districts of Himachal Pradesh. The data is obtained from 2009 to 2010 as of the records of different jails. With regard to sample of study, there were total sixty women offenders and all of them are taken as the sample of the study.

Data Collection

Though both primary and secondary sources are used for the collection of relevant information but the researcher placed major emphasis on the primary sources involving above mentioned techniques of field experiences. The secondary source on the other hand consisted of available relevant literature like books, journals, reports and other co-related materials.

Data Analysis

The data thus collected through interviews and participant observation was analyzed. The data analysis renders the data simple, apparent, comprehensible, concise and logical. First of all code design was prepared for each and every response to questions. The answers with similar view point and understanding unity were grouped under one category. The data collected was coded and all

the qualitative information was transformed into quantitative data. The entire data was processed in accordance with the need of each objectives of the study. The numerical information thus derived was tabulated, and frequency and percentage of various categories calculated. After which data was presented in frequency and tables interpreted analytically.

Objective of the study

The main objective of this paper is two-fold, primarily to determine the existential conditions of the respondents since their childhood.

Secondarily, to understand the influence of these conditions over the personality traits of the respondent which might have provoked her to act in deviant manner in the consequence of which she committed crime.

Ghosh (1986) considered an individual's age is an important factor in crime as younger persons are more prone to criminal behavior than those in the later years of life. This is substantiated by the fact that the majority of people arrested are in the age under thirty-five and most out of them are in the range of eighteen to twenty-five years.

Table: 1 Age-Wise Distribution of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 20	-	-
20-25	01	01.66
26-30	09	15.00
31-35	04	06.66
36-40	08	13.33
41-45	12	20.00
46-50	03	05.00
51-55	05	08.34
56-60	09	15.00
61-65	03	05.00
66-70	02	03.33
71-75	02	13.34
76-80	01	01.67
More than 80	01	01.67
Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

Table 1 provides information about the age- wise distribution of the respondents included in the sample. It shows that highest number of the respondents i.e. twelve (20 per cent) falls in the age group of 41 to 45 Years, followed by those in 26 to 30 years with nine (15per cent) respondents and similar number in the 56 to 60 years of age group. The data exposes uneven distribution which indicates eight (13 per cent) respondents 36 to 40 years followed by age group 51 to 55 with five

(8.34 per cent) respondents and four (6.66 per cent) respondents in the age group of 31 to 35 years. The rest of the respondents, fall in higher age groups with least representation. The age-wise distribution does not indicate any specific pattern. However, the only discernible factor is that with increase in age after 60 years the criminal tendencies tend to decrease.

Table 2: Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Married and having spouse alive	49	81.67
Unmarried	01	01.67
Widows	10	16.66
Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

The marital status-wise distribution of the respondents (Table 2) depicts forty nine i.e. 81.67 per cent respondents are married and having their spouses alive, only one i.e. 1.67 per cent unmarried and ten i.e. 16.66 per cent widows. The data indicate that except for one, all the respondents have been and living with their spouse's family and also taking full responsibility of the members of their families at their own level, before their arrest.

Table 3: Caste- wise Distribution of the Respondents

Caste	Frequency	Percentage
Brahmin	14	23.33
Rajput	25	41.67
Scheduled Caste	18	30.00
Others	03	05.00
Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

The information about the caste (Table 3) indicates that majority of the respondents i.e. twenty five belong to Rajput caste an amalgamation of various sub castes, followed by the Scheduled Casts with 30 percent respondents and fourteen i.e. 23.33per cent belonging to Brahmin caste. Only three i.e. 5 per cent respondents belong to Gurjar caste, by and large a nomadic tribe among Hindu and Muslim religions. The data suggest that crime is spread among all castes in varying intensity and no particular caste can be singled out as criminal case. The variation in number is perhaps due to varying population of each caste.

Table 4: Religion- wise Distribution of the Respondents

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Hindu	52	86.67
Muslim	07	11.67
Sikh	01	01.66
Total	60	100.00

The distribution of respondents in accordance with their religion (Table 4) reveals they belong to religious communities, namely Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh. The majority (86.67 per cent) belong to Hindu religion followed by Muslims and Sikhs with 11.67 per cent and 1.66 per cent respondents respectively. In Himachal Pradesh 93 per cent population is Hindu and the largest number of criminals i.e. 86.67 per cent also comes from this religion.

Table 5: Education of the Respondents

Education	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	28	46.66
Less than 8 th	22	26.67
8-10 th	08	13.33
11-12 th	01	01.67
More than 10+2	01	01.67
Total	60	100.00

The educational qualification forms an important indicator of socio- economic background of the respondents. The data regarding the educational qualification reveal large number of respondents (46.66 per cent) in illiterate category. Among the literate the data indicate (Table 5) that 26.67 per cent in less than middle passed category, 13.33 per cent and 1.67 per cent with middle to high school and plus one to plus two category. Only one respondent had been pursuing the degree of engineering before her involvement in crime. The data reveals that both illiterate as well as educated are vulnerable to commit criminal act.

Table 6: Occupation with Status of the Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
House wives	40	66.67
Political worker	01	01.67
Business	10	16.66
Private Services	07	11.66
Others	02	03.34
Total	60	100.00

The occupation wise distribution of the respondents classifies them in five categories, namely house wives, politics, business, private services and others categories. The majority of the respondents are house wives (66.67 per cent). Among rest of the respondents 16.66 per cent are engaged in business, 11.66 per cent in private services and 3.34 per cent in other occupations. One of them has been in politics. The two respondents i.e. 3.34 percent falling in others categories were allegedly charged with immoral trafficking of women. Only one respondent i.e. 1.67 percent was engaged in political activities.

Table 7: Personal income of the Respondents

Income (in Rs. per month)	Frequency	Percentage
Nil	31	51.67
Less than 1,000	10	16.66
1,000-1,500	09	15.00
1,600-2,000	05	08.33
2,100-2,500	02	03.33
2,600-3,000	01	01.67
3,100-3,500	01	01.67
More than 3,500	01	01.67
Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

The personal income of the respondents, which they stated as their own income, indicates that majority of them (51.67 percent) have no income per month. The remaining 16.66 percent earn an income less than Rs.1, 000 per month, 15 per cent earn between Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500, 8.33 per cent between Rs. 1,600 to 2,000 and only 3.33 per cent are placed in the income category Rs. 2,100 to 2,500 per month. Only three respondents earn between Rs. 2,600 to more than Rs.3, 500 per month. It is thus quite visible that large numbers of women do not have any income of their own and are dependent on the income of their spouses or family members.

Table 8: Income wise-Distribution of Spouse

Income(in Rs. per month)	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 1,000	04	08.16
1,000-1,500	05	10.21
1,600-2,000	05	10.21
2,100-2,500	03	06.12
2,600-3000	04	08.16
3,100-3,500	04	08.16
3,600-4,000	02	04.08
4,100-4,500	03	06.12

4,600-5,000	05	10.21
5,100-5,500	02	04.08
5,600-6,000	01	02.04
6,100-6,500	03	06.12
6,600-7,000	04	08.16
More than 7,000	04	08.16
Total	49	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

Income of the spouse can be seen as the determinant factor as well as indicator of the standard of living and economic status of the respondents. The general descriptions of income as evident from data (Table 8) reveal that 8.16 percent spouses earn less than Rs. 1,000 per month whereas 10.21 percent are placed in the income category of Rs. 1,000 to 1,500 and Rs. 1,600 to 2,000 respectively. Among others 6.12 percent earn between Rs. 2,100 to 2,500 and 8.16 percent each earn between Rs.2, 600 to 3,000 and Rs.3, 100 to 3,500 respectively. The others fall in the income between Rs. 3,600 to 4,000, Rs.4, 100 to 4,500, Rs.4, 600 to 5,000 and Rs.5, 100 to 5,500 constituting 04.08 percent, 06.12 per cent, 10.21 percent and 04.08 percent respectively. Only 2.04 percent have income between Rs.5, 600 to 6,000 whereas 6.12 percent and the remaining 8.16 percent each earn between Rs. 6,100 to 6,500, Rs.6, 600 to 7, 000 and more than Rs. 7, 000 respectively. The data thus reveals that most of the spouses have low income, suggesting thereby low socio- economic status of the respondents.

Table 9: Structure of Respondent's Family of Orientation

Relationships	Frequency	Percentage
Father	34	08.67
Mother	33	08.42
Brother	48	12.24
Sister	41	10.45
Grand father	16	04.08
Grand mother	13	03.31
Uncle	38	09.68
Aunt	26	06.63
Cousin	34	08.66
Niece	27	06.87
Nephew	24	06.12
Sister in law	32	08.15
Grandson/son in laws	20	05.10
Grand daughter	06	01.52
Total	392	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

The structure of respondent's families in which they were brought-up comprised of primary and secondary relationships. The general description of structure, as evident from data (Table 9) indicate 26 and 27 respondent did not have their father and mother respectively, an indication of emotional deprivation. Only 8.67 per cent and 8.42 per cent of them have their living father and mother respectively. Among other primary relations 12.24 per cent respondents have a brother and 10.45 per cent have one or more sisters. Among the secondary relations 4.08 percent have their grand fathers alive and 3.31 per cent having grandmothers. Among others 9.68 per cent respondents had their uncles and 6.63 per cent aunts having in the family of orientation. Among 8.66 per cent relatives out of total relatives of all the siblings thirty four respondents had their cousins comprising nineteen males and seventeen females. The next generation relations living in respondents households included 6.87 percent nieces, and 1.52 per cent granddaughters. The data thus discern that most of the respondents were brought up in joint and extended families and more of them also lived in nuclear families.

Table 10: Sex- wise Distribution of the Members of Family

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	206	52.55
Female	186	47.44
Total	392	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

Sex-wise distribution of the members of family {Table 10} reveals that more than half of the members (52.55 per cent) are male and remaining 47.44 per cent are female. The disparity in sex ratio perhaps stands for the variation in the existing sex ratio of the population. As per the census of 2001 there are 48.50 per cent female in the population of Himachal Pradesh (970 female per1000 male).

Table 11: Age- wise Distribution of the Members of Family

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 20	45	11.48
21-30	78	19.89
31-40	89	22.70
41-50	62	15.82
51-60	67	17.09
61-70	42	10.72
More than 70	09	02.29
Total	392	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

The data {Table11} on age of the members of respondent's family depicts age structure of the household. In the structure of the relations, 22.70 per cent are in 31 to 40 years age group, 19.89 per cent in 21 to 30 years, 17.09 per cent in 51 to 60 years, and 15.82 per cent are in the 41 to 50 years. Apart from them 11.48 per cent are in less than 20 years of age. 10.72 per cent in the 61 to 70 years and only 2.29 per cent are in more than 70 years of age. While the number of younger and those in the highest age groups is smaller, the overall data distribution suggests more or less balanced distribution of relationships in different age groups.

Table 12: Marital Status- wise Distribution of the Members of Family

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	257	65.56
Unmarried	093	23.72
Widow	042	10.72
Total	392	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

With regard to the marital status of the household members (Table 12) 65.56 per cent are married, 23.72 per cent unmarried and as many as 10.72 per cent are widows.

Table 13: Education- wise Distribution of the Members of Family

Education	Frequency	Percentage
Nil	85	21.68
Less than 5th	78	19.89
5 th -10 th	99	25.26
11 th -12 th	62	15.81
13 th -15 th	26	06.63
More than 15th	14	03.58
Holding tech degree/diploma	28	07.14
Total	392	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

The data {Table 13} regarding educational qualification as well as professional qualification reveal 21.68 per cent of the family members never joined any school, therefore remained totally illiterate. However, one-fourth of the family members have acquired education from 5th to 10th standard only, followed by those with less than 5th standard and 11th to 12th class. There are 03.58 percent members only who have acquired Post Graduate degree and 7.14 per cent have technical degree or diploma.

Table 14: Occupation wise- Distribution of the Members of Family

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Agriculturists/farmers	140	35.71
Housewives	152	38.77
Service Govt. employee	005	01.28
Service Private Company	032	08.17
Business/shopkeeper	027	06.88
Students	036	09.18
Total	392	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

The (Table 14) depicts information regarding occupational pursuits of family members. Majority of them (38.77 per cent) work as house wives and agriculturists/ farmers (35.71per cent). Among others 6.88 per cent were in business/managing shops, 8.17 per cent working in some private company in private sector, 09.18 per cent students and only 1.28 per cent worked in the public sector.

Table 15: Total Annual Income of the Members of Family

Total Income	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 10,000	181	46.17
11,000-15,000	058	14.79
16,000-20,000	042	10.71
21,000-25,000	032	08.17
26,000-30,000	028	07.15
31,000-35,000	022	05.61
36,000 -40,000	017	04.33
41,000-45,000	005	01.27
46,000 -50,000	003	00.77
More than 50,000	004	01.02
Total	392	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

The data (Table 15)) depicts annual income of the members of family. Majority of the members (46.17per cent) earn less than Rs.10, 000 per annum whereas 14.79 percent and 10.71 per cent earn between Rs.11, 000 to 15,000 and Rs.16, 000 to 20,000 respectively. The others have income between Rs. 21,000 to 25,000, Rs. 26,000 to 30,000, Rs. 31,000 to 35,000, Rs.36, 000 to 40,000 and Rs. 41,000 to 45,000 constituting 8.17 per cent, 7.15 per cent, 5.61 per cent, 4.33 per cent and 1.27

per cent respectively. Only three members (0.77 per cent) earn Rs. 46,000 to 50,000 and four members (1.02 per cent) earn more than Rs.50, 000. The data thus determine that majority of the members earn low income, suggesting thereby low socio-economic status.

Table 16: Structure of Respondent's Family of Procreation

Relative	Frequency	Percentage
Father-in law	18	05.62
Mother-in law	12	03.75
Brother-in law	31	09.58
Sister-in law	24	07.05
Husband	48	15.00
Son	43	13.43
Daughter	41	12.71
Niece	25	07.81
Nephew	34	10.62
Daughter-in law	26	08.22
Grand son	11	03.33
Grand daughter	07	02.78
Total	320	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

The structure of respondent's family of procreation (Table 16) indicates that 12 respondents did not have their husbands as one of them was unmarried and remaining were widows respectively. The death of husband indicates towards emotional deprivation. Among total family members 5.62 per cent and 3.75 per cent are fathers-in-law and mothers-in-law respectively. Among others 9.58 per cent and 7.05 per cent are brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. Majority of the members i.e. 15 per cent, 13.43 per cent and 12.71 per cent are husband, son and daughter respectively. The remaining 7.81 per cent, 10.62 per cent, 8.22 per cent, 3.33 per cent and 2.78 per cent members are nieces, nephews, daughters-in-law, grandsons and granddaughters respectively. The data thus discern that most of the respondents lived in nuclear families after their marriage.

Table 17: Sex -wise Distribution of the Members of Family

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	188	58.75
Female	132	41.25
Total	320	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

Sex-wise distribution of the members of family (Table 18)) reveals that 58.75 per cent members are male whereas 41.25 per cent are female. The disparity in sex ratio of the members of family is perhaps due to the variation in the existing sex ratio of the population.

Table 18: Age- wise Distribution of the Members of Family

Age	frequency	Percentage
Less than 20	39	12.18
21-30	59	18.43
31-40	73	22.22
41-50	61	19.07
51-60	48	15.00
61-70	27	08.44
More than 70	13	04.06
Total	320	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

The age- wise distribution of the members of family depict that 12.18 per cent members are below twenty years of age, showing smaller number of younger whereas 18.43 per cent and 22.22 percent members are in the years 21 to 30 and 31 to 40 respectively. After the age of 40 years there is gradual decrease in the frequency, revealing the smaller number of members in the higher age groups. Thus 19.07 percent, 15.00 per cent and 8.44 per cent members are in the years 41 to 50, 51 to 60 and 61 to 70 respectively. Only 4.06 per cent members are in more than 70 years of age. While the number of younger and those in the highest age groups is smaller, the overall data distribution suggests more or less balanced distribution of relationships.

Table 19: Education- wise Distribution of the Members of Family

Education	Frequency	Percentage
Nil	044	10.61
Less than 10 th	207	64.67
10 th -12 th	059	18.32
13 th -14 th	003	00.09
Holding degree/diploma	017	05.31
Total	320	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

The general description of education- wise distribution as evident from data {Table 19} indicates that the majority of the members of family are not educated more than 10+2 standard, out of whom 10.61 percent are illiterate whereas 64.67 percent left the school before passing matriculation

examination and 18.32 per cent studied in the classes from 10th to 12th. Among others only .09 per cent educated up to 13th and 14th standard of classes and only 5.31 per cent members are the holders of degree or diploma. The data thus discern that most of the members of the family were illiterate or less educated.

Table 20: Occupation- wise Distribution of the Members of Family

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Govt. employees	003	00.93
Shopkeepers	031	09.68
Students	048	15.00
private company's employee	038	11.88
House wives	116	36.25
Agriculturists	084	26.25
Total	320	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

Occupation-wise distribution of the members of family {Table 20} reveals that majority of the members (36.25 per cent) work as house wives and 26.25 per cent as agriculturists/ farmers. Among others 9.68 per cent were in business/managing shops, 11.88 per cent in some private company in private sector and only 00.93 per cent worked in the public sector.

Table 21: Total Annual Income of the Members of Family

Total Income	Frequency	Percentage
Nil	053	16.56
Less than 20,000	121	37.81
21,000 to 30,000	076	23.75
31,000 to 40,000	038	11.87
41,000 to 50,000	024	07.05
51,000 to 60,000	---	----
61,000 to 70,000	---	----
71,000 to 80,000	----	----
81,000 to 90,000	005	01.05
91,000 to 1,00,000	---	----
More than 1,00,000	003	00.93
Total	320	100.00

Source: Field Study-2011

The data {Table 21} depicts total annual income of the members of family. 16.56 percent members do not have any income. Mainly they are students, house wives and the old ones. Majority of the

members (37.81 per cent) earn less than Rs. 20,000 and 23.75 per cent earn between Rs. 21,000 to 30,000. The others fall in the income between Rs. 31,000 to 40,000 and Rs. 41,000 to 50,000 constituting 11.87 per cent, 7.05 per cent respectively. No member of the family is earning between Rs. 51,000 to 80,000 and 1.05 per cent are earning between Rs. 81,000 to 90,000. Only three members (0.93 per cent) earn more than Rs.1, 00,000 annually. The data thus suggest that majority of the members earn low income, suggesting thereby low socio-economic status.

CONCLUSION

To sum up the foregoing descriptive analysis and discussion of the existential conditions of women criminals this may be stated that majority of the respondents are young, middle-aged women indicating vulnerability to the deviant behavior in such age groups and also with increase in age the criminal tendencies tend to decrease. Marital status of the respondents reveals that all of them were married except one maid. The husbands of forty nine were alive and remaining ten were widows. None of them was divorced or deserted by their husbands. All the respondents showed deviant behavior in their family of procreation except one, who being unmarried was living in her family of orientation. The cast categorization reveals that majority of the respondents belong to higher castes like Brahmin and Rajput whereas minority are scheduled castes and others. Most women except for very few cases belong to Hindu religion and this absolute majority of the respondents might be attributed to the religion wise distribution of the population in Himachal Pradesh.

The education profile of the respondents reveals that only one respondent had passed 10+2 examination and was pursuing the degree of Engineering. Less than half of the respondents are illiterate and others have lower educational standards. Education being the indicate or of probable occupation of the person almost two-third of the respondents i.e. 40 were housewives, confined to household chores and agricultural operations. Consequently majority of the respondents had no income per month. Seventeen earned money through private commercial activities and only one respondent's income exceeded Rs.3, 500 per month. Income-wise distribution of the respondents discloses that absolute majority does not have income of their own and was depended on the income of their spouse or family members. Income of spouses reveals that forty two spouses had been earning less than Rs.5, 000 per month. This factor indicates that majority of the offenders lived in deplorable economic conditions and faced many difficult and crucial situations which arise by way of poverty. Thus economical deprivations might be considered as one of the most accountable factor for their deviant behavior.

The structure of family of orientation depicts that majority of the respondents have their male siblings mainly brothers however 26 and 27 respondents did not have their father and mother respectively, an indication of emotional deprivation. Majority among these family members are illiterate or less educated. Mostly they are engaged in agricultural activities and consequently fall in below poverty line income group. Some of them run small scale business confined to petty shop keeping generally. Thus majority of the members fall in low socio-economic group.

The structure of family of procreation reveals that majority of the respondents have husbands alive however 48 and 42 respondents did not have mother-in-law and father-in-law respectively suggesting thereby excess autonomy in conducting the domestic and other affairs in the household. The education profile of the members reveals that most of the members were illiterate and less educated. None of the respondent's relatives in the family of procreation was studied more than 14th class of education. Regarding income of the members, although three member's income exceeded one lakh rupees annually showing relatively higher amount of money yet most of the members have low income, suggesting thereby low socio-economic status. Comparative analyses of the family of orientation and procreation reveal that existing socio-economic conditions more or less were identical in both the families.

Lastly, we can conclude that poor educational as well as pitiable income background might be the most accountable factor for which none of the respondent could face the force of adverse circumstances, the dormant seeds of deviance exposed, tendency of deviant behavior became dominant, the impulse of which they could not resist and involved in the alleged crime.

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