

# The Structural Composition and Typology of Female Offenders

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study aims to analyze the structural composition and typological classification of female offenders by identifying patterns based on behavior, social background, and crime characteristics. **Method:** The research employs a qualitative approach, synthesizing theoretical frameworks and empirical studies from established criminological literature to develop a structured typology of female criminality. **Results:** The analysis reveals that female offenders can be systematically grouped into specific categories that reflect distinct socio-psychological and economic influences. These typologies provide valuable insights into the underlying factors driving women's involvement in criminal activity, highlighting both individual motivations and broader systemic issues. The study also identifies critical shortcomings in current criminal justice responses to female offenders, particularly in the areas of prevention and rehabilitation. **Novelty:** Unlike existing studies that often generalize offender profiles, this research emphasizes a gender-sensitive approach by integrating multiple dimensions – behavioral, social, and economic – into a cohesive typological framework. It proposes practical, evidence-based recommendations for improving policies and programs that address the unique needs of female offenders, thereby contributing to the refinement of criminological theory and justice system practices.

## INTRODUCTION

Since the early years of independence, the socio-legal protection of women in Uzbekistan has been elevated to the level of state policy. Special attention has been paid to increasing women's participation in society, enabling them to find their place in social life, and ensuring gender equality across all sectors. Achieving gender equality is indeed one of the key factors in sustainable development. The active involvement of women in economic, political, and social processes is a significant factor in the stable development of society [1].

It is worth emphasizing that, as a result of the great attention paid to women in our country and the conditions being created for them, the status of women in society has significantly improved today. The Republic of Uzbekistan was the first country in Central Asia to accede to the United Nations Convention "On the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women" (CEDAW). In January 2001, the Government of Uzbekistan submitted a report to the UN CEDAW Committee on the implementation of the Convention [2].

Based on the recommendations of this Committee, a National Action Plan was developed to ensure the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the

Protection of Women's Rights, and it was implemented with the involvement of relevant structures, including both governmental and non-governmental organizations [3].

Indeed, crime, as a socially dangerous phenomenon, has always caused damage to the moral, economic, and political foundations of society. Crimes committed by women, however, accelerate this destructive process even further.

This is because regardless of the role a woman plays in society, she is, first and foremost, a mother - the moral educator within the family. A woman's engagement in criminal activity reflects a deeper moral decline within society [4].

Crimes committed by women began attracting the attention of scholars starting from the 1970s. These studies went beyond merely identifying statistical patterns and characteristics of female offenders, and extended to exploring the various manifestations of their criminal behavior, as well as the specific features of the micro-social environment, including conditions in penal institutions.

The increasing criminal activity among women presents a number of distinct and serious challenges. While the traditional share of women's crimes in overall crime rates remains, the absolute number of such offenses continues to grow steadily [5].

Among the major alarming trends in the formation of modern female criminal behavior are the following: a sharp increase in the commission of serious crimes, the persistent severity of recidivist crimes, the juvenilization of criminality, a noticeable rise in the number of middle - aged and older female offenders, as well as the presence of persons with disabilities among convicted women.

Current trends in crimes committed by women indicate serious contradictions in defining their criminal-legal status. On the one hand, women are treated more favorably than men (such as exclusion from harsh punishments, and more lenient regimes in correctional institutions compared to men), while on the other hand, the indicators of crimes committed by women continue to show a stable growth rate year after year. The relative severity of recidivism among women does not differ from that of men [6].

Criminological studies reveal the following characteristics of convicted women: socio-demographic (age, education, social status, citizenship, ethnicity, financial condition, tendency toward alcohol and drug use); characteristics of social role - this describes the social danger posed by the female offender, including her behavior formed before committing the crime (such as prior convictions, unserved or unexpunged records), and her role in domestic crimes involving family members, spouses, parents, neighbors, and peers with whom she spends her free time; socio-psychological characteristics (relating to legal psychology, work, family and domestic relations, interpersonal interactions, and self-assessment). Studying the personality of female offenders is primarily important for crime prevention and necessary for identifying and eliminating the negative factors within convicted women.

## RESEARCH METHOD

In this context, when examining the personality of female offenders within the scope of Fergana region, among 940 women who committed crimes, 6.1 percent (58

individuals) were underage girls, 27.7 percent (261 individuals) were youth, and 67.2 percent (438 individuals) were women over the age of 30.

By occupation, 58 were school students, 2 were university students, 51 were involved in the preschool and school system, 21 were in the healthcare sector, 453 were self-employed, and the remaining 138 were engaged in other forms of employment.

An analysis of the marital status of these women revealed that 718 were married, 11 were living in religious marriages, 109 were unmarried, 7 were single mothers, 28 were widows, and 67 were divorced.

Out of the total, 884 were residents of the region, while 56 were women from other regions.

In terms of age distribution, 58 were minors, 261 were under the age of 30, and 432 were between 31 and 49 years old.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Result*

Given the relatively high proportion of female offenders aged 31 to 49, their social status was further analyzed: 75 were divorced, 7 were widows, 3 were single mothers, 337 were married, 4 were in religious marriages, and 10 were unmarried.

It should be especially noted that classifying offenders into categories is a method used in criminological research. It involves grouping individuals based on their inherent, inseparable attributes.

These attributes may include external, formal features such as the individual's socio-demographic characteristics (gender, age, education, occupation, and others), as well as criminological features (type of criminal act, nature of guilt, the individual's role in the crime, repeat offending, etc.).

Sometimes, other criteria are also used for classification and grouping, such as the place and time of the crime, the offender's psychological state, whether they were under the influence of intoxicants, and so on.

I. Ismoilov, Q.R. Abdurasulova, and I.Yu. Fozilova studied the personality of a criminal: examining the antisocial characteristics that prompt a person to commit a crime, the sources of those traits, the ways they are formed, their forms and mechanisms, and the factors influencing the commission of a crime. This enables the identification of the full and multifaceted legal foundations of criminality; it serves to clarify criminal behavior and, in particular, aids in the development of effective preventive measures against crime and recidivism, thereby playing an important role in crafting efficient preventive strategies [7].

F.K. Ryabikin proposes the following classification of traits: biophysiological, socio-demographic, psychological and moral-ethical, criminal-legal, and criminological. V.N. Orlov identifies five main categories of traits: 1) physical (biological) characteristics; 2) social characteristics (the individual's social status and position in society); 3) moral and ethical features; 4) psychological traits; 5) criminal-legal indicators.

Typology, while being a doctrine that classifies individuals into different types, simultaneously integrates similar patterns of criminal behavior into general models. In this process, particular attention is given to the most significant criminological or criminal-legal characteristics of an individual: the causes of the crime, the degree of the person's criminogenic nature or social danger, the depth, intensity, and direction of these factors [8].

C. Lombroso, in his work "The criminal woman and the prostitute", classified women guilty of committing crimes into several types: 1) Congenital female criminals; 2) Occasional female criminals; 3) Passionate female criminals. Lombroso also separately analyzed women who committed infanticide or suicide and classified prostitutes into two types: occasional and congenital.

### **Discussion**

If the typology of female offenders is based on the nature of the act committed, such classification becomes formal in nature [9].

According to Q.R. Abdurasulova's scientific research, based on the nature and motivation of women's criminality, women can generally be divided into the following criminal types:

- a. Violent type – typically includes women who commit hooligan acts, murder, inflict bodily harm, or commit infanticide, often in domestic settings. These individuals display disrespectful and negative attitudes toward life, health, and physical integrity of others.
- b. Greedy-violent type – individuals with anti-social views who are ready to achieve personal, primarily material interests by any means, including endangering lives. These offenders are characterized by a high degree of social danger.
- c. Mercenary type – motivated by economic needs, including family welfare. Although classified as greedy, these individuals act under perceived financial necessity.
- d. Negligent type – women who commit crimes due to carelessness, irresponsibility, and disregard for laws and rules. A significant portion of female offenders falls into this category.
- e. Dependent type – women who commit crimes due to addiction to drugs, alcohol, or psychological dependence on a partner.
- f. Based on the depth and persistence of criminogenic motivation, female offenders may be classified as follows: a) accidental offenders – women who commit crimes in exceptional situations that contradict their usual behavioral characteristics. b) situation - dependent offenders - influenced by unstable personal traits and life circumstances. c) unstable offenders - women who deviate from accepted behavioral norms but do not fully internalize such behavior. d) professional offenders - women who consciously and consistently use criminal activity to achieve their objectives [10].

M. Gitinova proposes the following typology of women who commit crimes against life and health:

- a. Defensive type - submissive, assertive, and vengeful. These women often act under perceived or real aggression, resulting in murder or serious bodily harm.
- b. Dependent type - marked by low self-esteem, lack of autonomy, and strong need for care and protection. Such women are often manipulated by men for criminal purposes. This type is frequently observed among juvenile offenders.
- c. Assertive type - women with strong personal convictions, who often seek to prove their autonomy or moral superiority. These women frequently become influential figures even during imprisonment and exhibit criminogenic stability.
- d. Resentful type - emotionally unstable from childhood, these women often commit crimes in adulthood without clear reasoning. The dominant motivation is revenge, often driven by a perceived need for justice or punishment of oppression.
- e. Accidental type - generally characterized positively before incarceration. However, factors such as alcohol abuse, casual relationships, and unemployment lead to criminal behavior. This type is also associated with a tendency toward suicide [11].

Modern female offenders display unique moral and psychological worldviews. Many demonstrate a mix of egocentrism and infantilism toward societal values. Notably, over 95% of female offenders possess sufficient legal awareness and consciously understand the illegality of their actions.

The health status of female offenders also holds criminological significance. Around 30% of incarcerated women suffer from various health conditions, including mental disorders, diabetes, chronic liver and kidney diseases, and gynecological illnesses [12].

In the scientific studies conducted by T.N. Volkova, the typology of female offenders has also been addressed. Based on her findings, it is possible to classify female criminals into specific types according to the following criteria: women offenders who demonstrate a negative disregard or contemptuous attitude towards the personality of others; women whose criminal behavior is driven by materialistic or mercenary interests; those who exhibit indifference towards social institutions; women with anarchistic tendencies characterized by lawlessness; and careless or negligent female offenders [13].

Furthermore, T.N. Volkova identified typologies of women who commit violent crimes, distinguishing the following categories: the defensive type (who commits crimes in self-defense), the dependent type (whose actions are influenced by dependency on others), the assertive type (who acts out of a desire to claim rights or entitlements), and the vindictive type (who acts out of a desire for revenge). Female offenders may also be categorized according to the stability of their criminal behavior: accidental offenders; situational offenders; negligent offenders; and persistent or highly persistent offenders [14].

The effectiveness of crime prevention efforts by law enforcement agencies at the individual level depends on the development of a typology of criminal personalities. Such a typology forms the foundation for predicting individual behavior and serves as a

methodological basis for applying differentiated and individualized preventive and legal intervention measures [15].

## CONCLUSION

**Fundamental Finding** : This study concludes that female offenders can be systematically categorized into five distinct types—violent personality, maliciously motivated violent, acquisitive, negligent, and dependent—based on the underlying motivations and behavioral traits associated with their criminal actions. **Implication** : These typologies offer critical insights for the development of targeted criminal justice interventions, including prevention strategies, gender-responsive rehabilitation programs, and policies aimed at reducing recidivism among women. **Limitation** : However, the classification presented may not fully capture the dynamic and evolving nature of female criminal behavior across different cultural and legal contexts, as it relies primarily on qualitative synthesis rather than longitudinal or cross-national data. **Future Research** : Subsequent studies should consider integrating comparative and empirical methodologies across diverse populations to refine these typologies and assess their applicability in varied socio-legal environments, thereby contributing to a more nuanced and inclusive understanding of female criminality.

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