FEMALE CRIMINALITY

by

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GLOBAL ACADEMY

Preface

Research and studies on female criminality began in relatively recent times in the field of criminology. This book is written to examine the information in the field of female criminality in more detail and to examine the relationship between criminology and female criminality. In addition, the book provides a general overview of female criminality in the world and Türkiye within the framework of the information provided to us by group studies in penal institutions, various research, and official statistics.

Female criminality is examined in terms of gender and crime, feminist criminology theories, and other studies in the field.

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In 2009, she graduated from Baskent University Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Social Work. In 2011, she started to work as a research assistant at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Social Work at Ankara University. In 2012, she completed her master's degree in Ankara University Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Social Work, and in 2017, she completed her Ph.D. in the same department.

In 2016, she started working as a research assistant at Kırıkkale University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Social Work. In 2018, she was appointed Assistant Professor in the same department. In 2019, her book "Women Who Kill Men" was published. She has studied women, female criminality, working in groups in prison, and problem-solving. She has various book chapters, book studies, and psychodrama studies. In 2021, she was appointed as an Associate Professor. In addition to her various academic studies, she is also the head of the department.

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INTRODUCTION

The process of socialization begins at birth and continues throughout an individual's life, starting in the family and later in school and friendship groups. During this time, the individual acquires the norms, customs, traditions, and laws of society, as outlined (İçli, 2007). Through cooperation and the allocation of specific tasks within the division of labor, individuals have created a social existence. Social structures, constructed through conventions, serve as the foundation for the protection of fundamental human rights. This product of collective thought illustrates the value of collective effort. In life, individuals must be mindful of authority, while at the same time abiding by established rules (Akgün, 2012). When individuals fail to conform to societal norms, deviance occurs. However, when this deviance is a breach of the law, it becomes a criminal offense.

Crime is a phenomenon of deviant behavior that can be traced back to the earliest human beings (Akgün, 2020: p. 75). It manifests in various forms. People go through important life stages such as infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age. Individuals may be confronted with problems such as poor family relationships, roblems with anger management and so on. Such problems increase the likelihood of becoming involved in crime.

Crime studies have focused on the relationship between criminal activity and factors such as age, gender, marital status, educational attainment, occupation, and socio-economic status (İçli, 2013: p.17). Women do indeed commit crimes, but their crime rate is lower than that of men. Women are still a small minority of the total incarcerated population (Wormer, 2010: p.3). Women and crime are two irritating words (İçli, 2013: p.9). Even if the rates are lower, it is still a reality. All the theories of crime are attempts to explain why people commit crimes. The reason why men commit high rates of crime doesn't matter to women; criminologists are generally interested in men's guilt. In addition, women have often been the subject of criminological research only in terms of their biological sex. Nevertheless, female criminality is visible, although not as much as male criminality. It is debated whether the reason for the large difference between male and female criminality is that men break the law more than women or that women are very good at hiding their crimes (Abbott and Wallace, 1997: 280). Another related view is that

women are more prone to solve their problems through diplomatic methods, while men are more primitive than women (Bozkurt, 2006: p.188). Feminist criminology has also brought the issue of female offending to the fore. Women are no longer just a number in statistics. Feminist criminologists argue that women can also commit crimes and that they can commit the same crimes as men. The fact that the issue of women's criminality has begun to be examined has led to a discussion of why women commit crimes and solutions to these crimes. This is why it is so important to conduct studies on the criminal behavior of women.

This book aims to contribute to the academic studies on women's criminality, especially to examine the phenomenon of women's criminality in Turkey in more detail. This book is about gender and crime, Theories of female criminality, Feminist criminolog. The reasons why women commit crimes, The different types of crime committed by women, Female criminality in the world, Female criminality in Turkey, Characteristics of the female offender, Problems of female offenders in the prison system, Group work with female offenders, Working with female offenders in psychodrama and Female serial killers.

Sex and Crime

The incidence of recorded crime is strongly linked to sex and age. So are the rates of self-reported crime and of victim- or observer-recorded offenses. All the data strongly points towards young and young adult men as the primary offenders. Sex crime ratios (referring to the proportion of male and female offenders) differ depending on the type of crime, but in England and Wales, over 80% of serious convictions in recent years involved male defendants. Shoplifting, frequently assumed to be a 'typically' female crime, sees more male convictions in Britain. However, the most significant disparities arise in more severe offenses, such as rates of theft and recidivism. Generally, women commit less severe crimes less often (Heidensohn, 1989: p.86). This is because certain crimes necessitate more physical strength and bravery, and when gender stereotypes are introduced, it becomes clear that men commit more crimes than women. Therefore, when examining crime statistics by gender, two categories can be distinguished: male criminality and female criminality. It is worth noting that the importance of female criminality extends to all forms of criminal behavior (Akgün, 2012). When we look at the sex and

crime topic, it is seen that most of the criminology studies are interested in male criminals. Criminologists largely disregarded women's criminality until the 1970s.Traditional theories either completely ignored women or were stretched and manipulated to attempt to explain female criminality (Merlo & Pollock, 2006). Feminism is crucial to an understanding of the criminal justice system's response to women and gender-specific issues (Mallicoat, 2019: p. 2). In particular, the path taken by women into the criminal justice system is often different from that of men. To highlight this, the field of feminist criminology has been developed by several pioneering researchers. Chesney-Lind and Pasko (2013) presented the core principles of feminist criminology, which include: (1) Criminology researchers often overlook the histories of addiction, mental illness, and victimization that are offenders; (2) most theories of crime focus on male identities and therefore fail to recognize them and therefore fail to recognize the 'relations of dominance, power, and inequality between men and women between men and women; and (3) treatment services for women involved in the criminal justice system rarely take into account the specific needs of the population, including addiction, mental illness, and histories of victimization. As such, the aim of feminist criminology is both an understanding of the factors that affect women who are involved with the justice system and an evaluation of the services available to them (Wilfong & Plaza, 2021). In addition to this, two of the most significant contributions of feminist criminology since the 1970s have been the documentation of (1) the significant amount of violence perpetrated by men and boys against women and girls; and (2) how girls' and women's victimization and trauma, often at the hands of abusive men, are risk factors for their subsequent offending or being labeled as 'offenders' (Belknap, 2010).

With the information mentioned above, several feminist criminologists have studied interventions that address the problems of addiction, mental health, and victimization often experienced by justice-involved women. This is important given the link between these issues and the population (Wilfong & Plaza, 2021). Feminist criminology has also researched women's pathways to crime. A study conducted by Salisbury and Van Voorhis (2009) investigated 313 women placed under community supervision and discovered that those with a history of illicit drug use, anxiety, and depression were more likely to return to prison. The study's findings revealed a significant correlation between these factors and recidivism among the participants

(Salisbury & Van Voorhis, 2009).

Why Women Do Less Commit Crime

Several factors contribute to women committing fewer crimes compared to men. One reason is that women generally have stronger social bonds and support systems, which can deter criminal behavior. Additionally, women often prioritize fulfilling societal roles such as being caregivers and maintaining relationships, which can prevent them from engaging in criminal activities. Hormonal differences between men and women may also play a role in influencing behavior and aggression levels. Mainly, considering women and crime, two fundamental factors come to light: sexual value and childcare responsibilities. As such criminologists believe that women are less likely to commit crimes. Additionally, they attempted to explain the issues of gender and crime through several factors (İçli, 2013: p.25). Below, information on why women commit fewer offenses than men is given.

Patriarchal System

When the first people lived on earth, men and women worked together. They did all the hunting and food gathering. After they settled down and child mortality increased, women started to work inside the home. After the world wars, most men died, and women had to work outside the home. However, a significant proportion of the female population still stayed at home to take care of children, cook, etc., and began to live under the domination of their fathers or husbands. This way of life led to the concept of the patriarchal system.

Patriarchy originally meant the role of the father or "patriarch". In its origins, it was used specifically to describe male dominance in the family, with all their servants under this male domination. Nowadays it is increasingly used to refer to male dominance the form of relationship in which a man dominates a woman, to characterize the system by which women are subordinated. Patriarchy, in its broader definition, means the increasing male domination over women in society in general and the institutionalized and demonstrated male domination over women and children in the family. This means that "men hold power in important institutions of society" and that "women are denied

access to such power" (Sultana & Altay, 2019). Because of the patriarchal system, women spend most of their time at home. This is because their fathers or husbands restrict them from going out. This situation led women to commit less crime.

Women's Dependency on Man

Women are still dependent on men in most societies. This situation prevents women from committing crimes. In addition, since women are responsible for childcare and housework, their lives outside are restricted and they cannot carry out many criminal behaviors (İçli, 2013: p.25). Women often spend their lives caring for children, cooking, cleaning, and having limited social circles. Even if the woman works, the cycle she is in does not change much. In this case, he works during the day, and after returning home, he spends his time on household chores such as cooking, taking care of children, and cleaning. In such a vicious circle, women do not turn to crime.

Sexual/Physical Attraction and Femininity

Society places a considerable emphasis on the sexual and physical attractiveness of women. Therefore, many women strive to meet these expectations, which unfortunately puts them at a higher risk of becoming victims of crime rather than perpetrators of it.

Along with physical and sexual attractiveness, there are certain roles that societies set for women. The perception of women that arises from roles defined by attributes such as affection, sensuality, delicacy, and kindness, does not align with the criminal subculture. Furthermore, societal expectations of women as mothers and wives do not condone deviant behavior and crime. Women who exhibit such behaviors are often labeled with derogatory terms such as 'witch', 'prostitute', and 'kleptomaniac' (İçli, 2013: p. 26).

Moral Concerns and Social Control

Women are more dependent on their social environment and their families due to the structure they are in. In addition, moral concerns and social pressure are stronger for women. In addition, if women have children, the thought of being separated from their children prevents them from turning to crime. On the other hand, men tend to commit crimes more than women due to reasons such as ambition, getting good positions, jealousy, and an inability to control their anger.

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In addition to the above information, women are exposed to more social control mechanisms in society than men. This situation originates in the women's nuclear family and continues after marriage. In some societies, these controls include restrictions such as women not being able to go out without a man, having to get permission from their husbands, fathers, or brothers to travel somewhere, and not being able to make independent decisions. This scenario results in the environment taking control, especially in closed and tightly structured societies where family members have limited access or visibility. In such social settings, women's involvement in crime usually occurs when their husbands or fathers commit an offense.

Physical Strength, Aggression, and Propensity for Crime

Women are usually physically weaker than men. In addition, aggressive behaviors and anger control behaviors are more common in men. When men are unable to control their anger, they often resort to aggression. As a result of this situation, a crime may occur. However, the environment in which women live prevents them from turning to crime. Because in this environment where women are present, no environment encourages crime. In contrast, sometimes women can become aggressive when they feel helpless and hopeless, and when their lives are in danger. In this case, women often behave as homicides.

Societal Expectations and Gender Roles

Societal expectations and gender roles can have a significant impact on women's involvement in criminal activities. These expectations and roles often dictate what is considered acceptable behavior for women, and can limit their opportunities for education, employment, and social mobility. This can push some women towards criminal activities as a means of survival or to gain independence. Additionally, traditional gender roles may also lead to women being involved in certain types of criminal activities, such as prostitution or drug trafficking, as these are often seen as more "acceptable" for women in some societies.

The research conducted by Sakallı-Uğurlu, Türkoğlu, & Kuzlak (2018) shows that women were mainly described as emotional, easily offended, gossipy, and sensitive; they were also described as faithful, self-sacrificing, warm, intelligent, ambitious, compassionate, considerate, hardworking, attractive, and fragile. On the other hand, men were mainly described as strong, selfish, and jealous; they were

also described as emotional, ambitious, angry, rude, childish, rational, hardworking, intelligent, honest, brave, and protective. When asked about gender roles, it was observed that they symbolize motherhood, elegance, and sexuality for women.

Feminist Criminology

Criminological theories have rarely been concerned with the analysis of female criminality. Typically, criminologists have either been content to subsume discussion of women offenders under general theories they have implicitly assumed the female dealt with in discussing the male, or they have dealt with them exceptionally briefly in the way that other marginal or special categories are treated. The reason offered for this overwhelming lack of interest is that within the population of known offenders, female offenders constitute a statistically much smaller proportion than male offenders (Smart, 2008: p.5). In addition to this, criminology literature produced for men used in explaining female criminality has a male-dominated perspective, which means that the results cannot be generalized to women and that women should be examined not only as a biological factor in the analysis (Dolu, 2011: p.447).

In the traditional framework, the studies of researchers working on women and crime consisted of findings that were prejudiced and considered women as secondary in line with the patriarchal mindset. However, after the emergence of feminism, a new perspective on women's criminality was put forward. According to Kathleen Daly and Meda Chesney Lind, Feminist theories provide information on how to affect crime justice with gender relationships and explain how women commit crimes that are specific to men, such as manslaughter, in terms of gender roles in society (İçli, 2007: p.136). In this sense, individual approaches explain criminality. It is seen that theories such as biological theories and sociological theories mostly holistically deal with criminality without discriminating between men and women. Therefore, there are not many theories that directly explain the causes of female criminality (Akgün, 2020: p.80).

The subject of women's criminality is one of the areas of interest in feminist theories (Canay, 2004). Although there are several feminist theories such as Liberal, radical, Marxist, and Socialist, they can't exactly expain female crime. In the 1970s, feminist criminology, which emerged as a product of the second-wave feminist movements, began to address the issue of female criminality as a separate topic (Chesney

Lind, 2006). With feminist criminology, people who work with criminology began to work on women and crime topics. In addition, theories explaining female criminality must explain not only why women engage in less crime than men but also why their participation in some crime categories has increased in the last several decades (Merlo & Pollock, 2006).

Feminist criminology enlightened the demographic and characteristic features of homicidal women from the 1980s to the mid-1990s (Whiteley, 2012). Recent studies in the last few decades have also sought to understand the critical events in the lives of criminals and to explain the little-known reasons that lead them to crime (Liles, 2015). Depending on the problems, solutions are tried to be found. Considering that it is important to identify the situations that cause these problems in solving problems, the importance of feminist criminology cannot be denied in this regard (Akgün, 2020: p.81).

The ideals of the primary education system can be discussed from the perspective of both the classroom teacher and the primary school student. An ideal primary education system should be designed to provide students with the necessary tools to achieve success. This includes access to quality teaching, resources and technology, as well as opportunities to develop the skills needed to succeed. The system should also provide a safe and positive environment in which effective learning can take place. In addition, the primary education system should support the development of core values such as respect, responsibility and integrity and encourage students to explore their interests and passions.

An ideal primary education system should be comprehensive and tailored to the individual needs of each student. It includes a wide range of subjects, from language arts and math to science and technology. It should promote respect for cultural diversity and encourage students to explore their personal interests. It should also utilise a variety of learning styles and methods, such as hands-on activities, lectures and discussions, and project-based learning. The primary education system has the function of preparing students to become independent learners and lifelong learners by teaching them critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration skills.

In addition, the ideal primary education system should be egalitarian and provide equal opportunities for all students, regardless of their background, abilities or interests. It should also be flexible, allowing students to move at their own pace and benefit from different learning experiences. Finally, it should emphasise the importance of both academic and social-emotional learning so that students can develop the

skills necessary to succeed in their future endeavours. When these elements are fulfilled, the primary education system is able to equip students with the skills and knowledge that are essential to succeeding in the modern world and becoming productive members of society.

Feminist Theories of Crime

Feminism, gender, and female criminality have gained prominence in academic studies of law, social science, and criminology. This awareness is a significant milestone in the effort to reduce discrimination against women in the criminal justice field. Nonetheless, women remain less visible than men in several sub-dimensions of crime (Koçak, 2021).

Since women are unable to effectively express themselves about the events they have encountered, they often face oppression and discrimination. Furthermore, not enough attention is given to women's culpability and the underlying factors that result in women committing crimes.

The below, it is trying to explain women and criminality theories.

Biological Theories

When we look at the biological theories among the approaches explaining female delinquency, it is seen that these theories mostly explain male delinquency. This is because men's biological structures are thought to be more prone to aggression and crime. Analyses of women criminals were very rare before the 1960s. They may therefore have to be studied in arbitrary isolation since they bear little relation to one another. The main schools of criminological thought have little or nothing to say about women offenders, and so they must be presented negatively or not at all (Heidensohn, 1996: p.111).

Cesare Lombroso and William Ferrero were prominent figures in exploring the characteristics of female offenders. In their book "Women Criminals", the author describes the biological characteristics of women who commit crimes, including a significant pterygoid apophasis, cranial depressions, a particularly heavy lower jaw, plagiocephaly, the soldering of the atlas to the occipital bone, a significant nasal spine, deep frontal sinuses, the absence of sutures, and the simplicity of sutures and worm bones (Lombrosso & Ferrero, 1898: p. 28).

Lombrosso and Ferrore recognized biological factors influencing both male and female offenders but considered female biology in explaining female offending, disregarding male biology in male offending. For this study, they only interviewed subjects who committed sexual offenses in prisons. This situation caused them to be criticized for working with a limited number of subjects (Heidensohn, 1996: p.112).

Below is Figure 1 in which women's aggression from behavioral and neurobiological perspectives (Denson, O'Dean, & Blake, 2018).
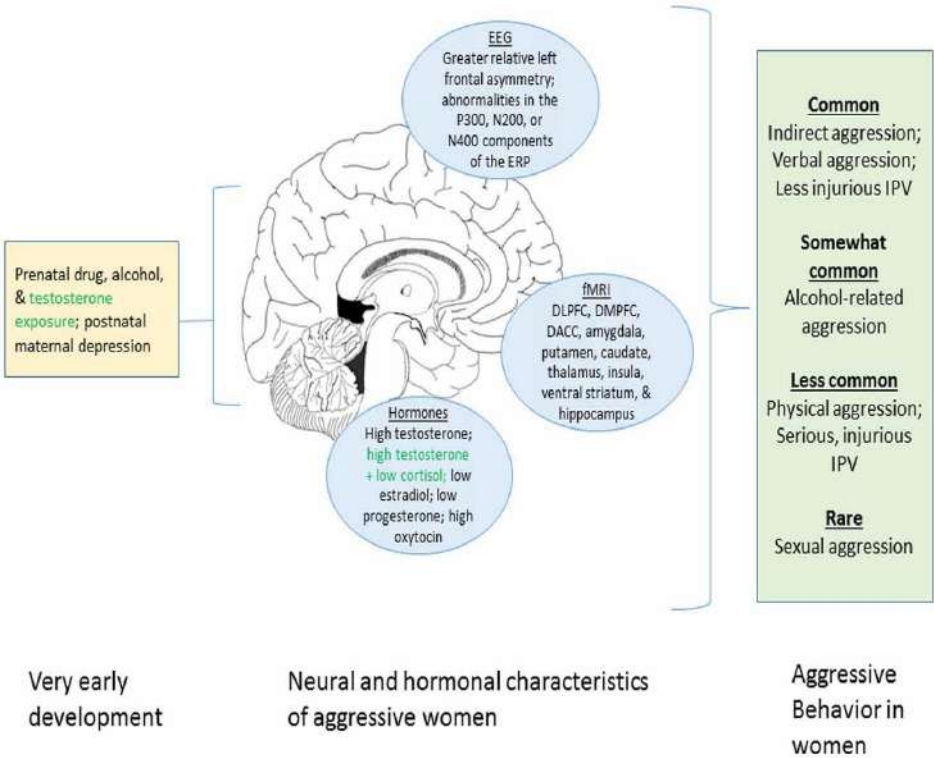

Figure 1. Women's Aggression from Behavioral and Neurobiological Perspectives

Source: Denson, O'Dean, & Blake (2018)

Graphical summary of the present review of factors associated with aggression in women. The left portion displays prenatal and early developmental influences known to affect aggression. The center portion shows neural and hormonal processes associated with aggression in women. The right box indicates the different forms of aggression that women engage in and their relative frequencies. Green text indicates uncertainty regarding the robustness of the relationship with aggression in women. We note that this figure summarizes the current review only and that many additional factors do not appear here (e.g., genetic influences, neurotransmitter systems, societal factors). DLPFC, dorsolateral prefrontal cortex; DMPFC, dorsomedial prefrontal cortex; DACC, dorsal anterior cingulate cortex.

Most studies examining the brain and hormonal mechanisms of aggression focused exclusively on men, failed to consider gender differences, analyzed the results in a post hoc fashion, and/or utilized small sample sizes. As a result, it is challenging to draw firm conclusions regarding the impact of the processes discussed here on female aggression. In contrast, the behavioral data highlight that women tend to display mainly indirect aggression, inmate partner violence with equal frequency but less severity than men, and seldom engage in sexual aggression (Denson, O'Dean, & Blake, 2018).

Psychological Theories

The theory's proponents propose that some women are born "abnormal," implying that they possess certain innate negative traits. In contrast, the proponents believe that there is a second category of "good" women, who have the characteristics needed to live a normal life (Moghe & Khanna, 2019). The view of women who commit crimes is different from the view of men who commit crimes. The role given to women in the social structure also greatly impacts this situation. For this reason, when a woman commits a crime, the reaction of society is different from that of a man (İçli, 2013: p.25). For example, when a man kills his wife, society usually honors him, but in contrast, when a woman kills her husband, society usually ostracizes her because they think about how a woman killed her husband. This is seen as against the rules of society.

Psychological theories that examine the personality traits of individuals do not overlook sociological, biological, cultural, and environmental factors in the study of crime. Nonetheless, such factors are considered within the internal structures of individuals (Kaner, 1992).

Although women's tendency to commit crimes is not seen as typical by society, they may commit crimes like those committed by men, albeit less frequently. However, since male and female psychology differs, it is necessary to examine the psychological determinants that lead women to commit offenses (Korucu, 2017).

One psychological approach is postnatal depression. According to this theory, women who kill their children do so because they are in a period of postnatal depression. Women may experience postnatal depression because of hormonal and chemical changes during pregnancy and after childbirth. Many women go through a depression called the baby blues. It is reported that some women develop this psychological condition and that it can lead to psychosis, with women losing touch with reality and engaging in harmful behavior or killing their children without knowing

what they are doing (Ogle & Jacobs, 2002; Hatters Friedman & Resnick, 2015).

During the postnatal period, a mother may face heightened responsibilities after the arrival of a new family member. If the mother has previously experienced depression in this period and lacks support, there is a risk that she may perceive her child as the cause of her psychological problems and harm the child. The harm inflicted may differ based on the mother's psychological state. Sometimes a mother may perpetrate violence on her baby. At times, she may even cause the death of her child. Especially in extramarital relationships, if the mother is young and the father of the baby has not accepted parenthood, she can become profoundly depressed. In such situations, she may either kill only the child or succumb to herself and the child to death (Akgün, 2019: p. 43).

In the study conducted by Bennet, Ogloff, & Thomas (2012) with women who committed manslaughter offenses, 11 of 55 women were found to have psychotic disorders, and 9 of them were diagnosed with schizophrenia before entering prison. In addition, it was found that psychosis was 20,77 and schizophrenia was 43,17 more common in women who committed homicide offenses compared to others.

Sociological Theories

Violence Subculture Theory

Violent subculture theory is the most common sociological theory

explaining homicide and the impact of violence on behavior (Wallace, 1986). The subculture of violence shares the values and attitudes of the family culture. To understand that people adopt violent behavior as a subculture, it is necessary to look at the values and attitudes in that subculture. Accordingly, if the tendency towards violent behavior is high in a subculture's norms, attitudes, and values, members of that subculture show more violence than others (Ball Rokeach, 1973). In addition to this, it can be said that violence is higher, and rules are harsher in segments that are more loyal to values and traditions. The fact that violence against women and femicides is higher in regions such as Eastern Anatolia and Southeastern Anatolia, where the people are divided into tribes and governed by traditions, can be given as an example of this situation (Akgün, 2019:39).

Gentlemen's Theory

The theory of gentlemen suggests that law enforcement agencies and the legal system are more sensitive to female offenders. It challenges the notion that women who engage in criminal activities go underreported and that men are more prone to crime than women (Şimşek, 2018). In addition, since some of the offenses committed by women are resolved through various peaceful solutions before, they are brought to court, they are mostly not reflected in the statistics. Therefore, it can be said that female criminality is higher than the statistics (Dönmezer, 1994). When examining the early criminological studies of crime, it is evident that women were often overlooked as perpetrators. The notion that women are unable to commit crimes in the same way as men and the reliance on gender ratios in statistics to support this view was prevalent.

Control Theory

The control theory perspective suggests that every person has bad and good qualities only because of the social environment, social values, and norms around them. This theory states that conformity is caused by control and therefore lack of control causes deviance (Korucu, 2017). Hirschi (1969) focuses on four ways in which society has control over people: attachment to conventions, commitment to conventional institutions such as work, school, etc., participation in these same activities, and belief in conventional norms of behavior. It should lead to conformity.

Learning Theory

Learning theories suggest that crime is a learned behavior. Sutherland stresses this point and introduces the "Differential Association" theory, which provides two explanations for criminal activity: situational and genetic or historical. Sutherland further developed the theory of criminal behavior based on the latter explanation. Based on the former, Sutherland devised the Situational Theory of Criminal Behaviour that posits the acquisition of criminal behavior through communication with other individuals, particularly in small, close groups where tactics for committing crimes are being learned. The theory posits that an individual is at risk of engaging in criminal behavior if they affiliate themselves more with groups and ideas that promote criminal activities rather than those opposing such actions. Ruth Morris was the first to employ the concept of differential association specifically to elucidate female conformity.

The theory underscores the significance of communication in explaining female criminal behavior, rather than relying on biological or psychological rationales (Moghe & Khanna, 2019).

Theories of Gender

Battered Woman Syndrome

Battered women are also referred to as having battered women's syndrome because they are not only physically harmed but also emotionally harmed. This syndrome is caused by prolonged exposure to violence in family life, resulting in the mental state of women being harmed beyond physical harm (Ogle & Maider Katkın, 1995). Homicide by the offender who inflicted the violence is often the result of Battered Woman Syndrome. In criminal law, the act of killing a partner after being subjected to violence by them is referred to as intimate partner homicide (Küçükdemir, 2015). Lenore Walker first developed the battering cycle model in 1979, which was later refined in 1984 (Ogle & Jacobs, 2002). Walker's research on battered women in the early 1970s found that these women were often impoverished, lacked education, lacked jobs to support themselves and their children, and were disenfranchised in society (Walker, 2000).

According to Walker's studies (2009: p.42), he mentioned that Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Battered Women Syndrome same as three of the six symptoms are the same. These symptoms are given
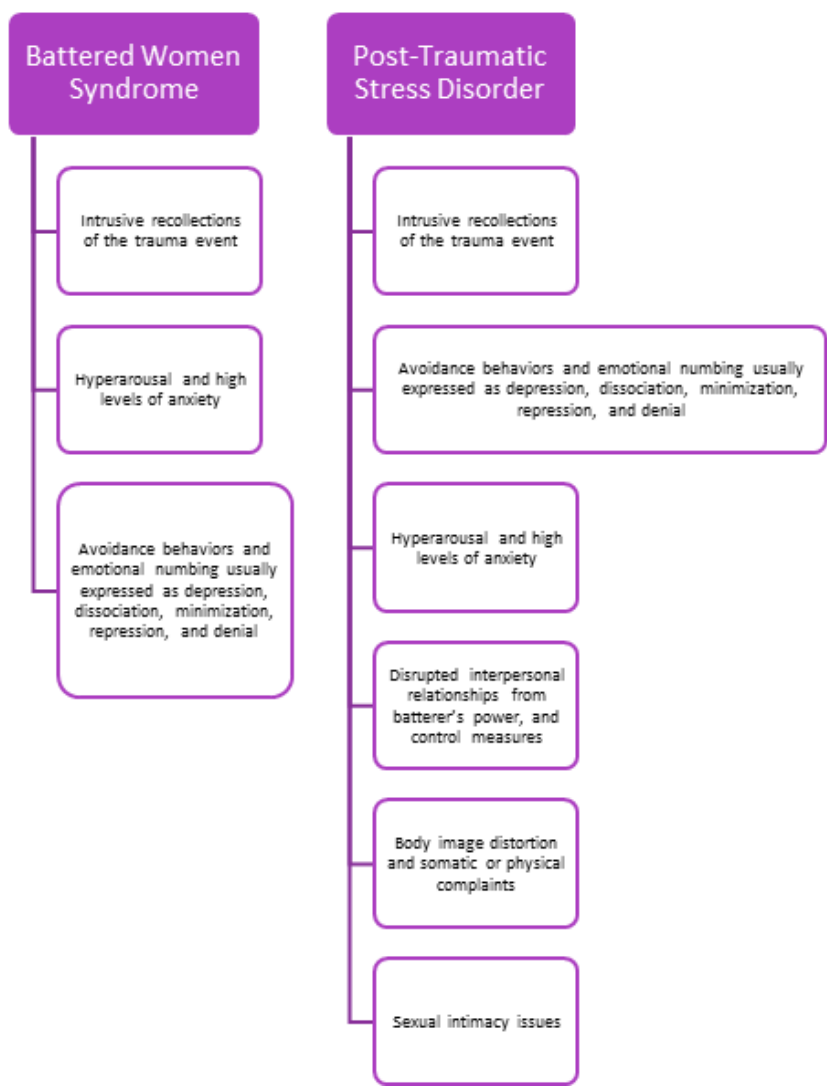
below.

F igure 2. Compare the Battered Women Syndrome and Post-Traumatic Disorder
Source: Walker (2009: p.42)

When we compare Battered women syndrome and post-traumatic disorder, we see that intensive recollections of the trauma event,

Hyperarousal, high levels of anxiety and Avoidance behaviors, and emotional numbing are usually expressed as depression, dissociation, minimization, repression and denial, which are the same in both BWS and PTSD. This means that both BWS and PTSD have mostly the same reactions after traumatic events.

Self-Defence Model

Studies conducted in 1990s Literature show that women use violence against the people who harass them. experiences of harassment (Shaw & Dubois, 1995). This model therefore suggests that women commit manslaughter in self-defense (Browne, 1987; Merlo & Pollok, 2006). This model originated with Browne in 1987. According to this perspective, women commit homicide primarily to defend themselves against the violence they encounter in their marriages (Merlo & Pollok, 2006). Akgün's (2012) study corroborates this stance, revealing that a considerable number of women experienced abuse from their spouses. Nevertheless, some of them also mentioned that they killed their husbands to prevent their deaths. Another point of view is that one of the factors that causes women to turn to crime is the systematic violence against women and the fear for their children and themselves (Johnson & Hotton, 2003). It has been observed that women commit offenses, such as manslaughter and wounding, primarily as a means of "self-protection". These types of crimes are usually a spontaneous response from women who have experienced mistreatment or physical abuse and are not premeditated (İçli et al., 1995).

In a study conducted by Nazlıdır (2010), 36 of the 100 women who participated in the study were convicted of manslaughter and three of attempted manslaughter. In the study, it was found that women were exposed to physical and verbal violence more than men. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of manslaughters and attempted manslaughter offenses concerning the increase in violence against women. This increase suggests the idea that women use violence to defend themselves and to get rid of a situation in which they are helpless (Akgün, 2012). In addition to this the inadequate functioning of systems that protect women may also lead women to commit manslaughter.

Gendered Pathway

Because crime is often considered to be primarily a male activity,

most criminological studies focus on how and why men commit crimes (Salisbury and Van Voorhis, 2009). However, with the increase in female criminality and the emergence of feminist criminology, research has also begun to investigate why women commit crimes. One approach that explains female criminality based on gender is the pathway approach. This approach aims to understand the relationship between the life stories of young girls and women, their experiences during childhood and adulthood, and their criminal behavior by focusing on them (Belknap, 2014; p.101). In addition, special attention is given to various biological, psychological, and social realities from the perspective of female experiences, ensuring that these factors are treated as key factors for describing female inmates (Salisbury and Van Voorhis, 2009).

The second-class status of women, in which they are positioned because they are women, has a significant impact on their lives. Substance abuse, physical and sexual abuse, oppressive relationships with men, and lack of economic independence shape their first experiences and may lead to their imprisonment. In addition, racism, sexist attitudes, low economic opportunities, and the devaluation of women's status (Owen, 1998; p:40-41) pacify women and limit their roles. As a result of this situation, the incidents experienced by women may lead them to crime (Akgün, 2019: p.53).

Daly's (1992) inspiring study investigated the reasons that lead women to crime, because she researched whether there is a relationship between the victimization of women in childhood and criminal behavior in adulthood and the effect of economic status on women's crime. She examined the life stories and past experiences of women and revealed five different categories that lead them to crime.

These are:
a) Women Who are Harmed and Women Who Harm
They were abused or neglected as children and labeled as problem children. These women are the ones who are violent when they drink alcohol and harm their surroundings, may be addicted to substances, may have psychological problems, and cannot cope with their current situation.
b) Battered Women
These are women who are married to a man who inflicted violence on them or who have just ended such a relationship.
c) Sex Workers

These women have fled their homes to get rid of their oppressive or abusive midwives and have found the only source of income to make them homeless or because they are substance addicts. As a result of this situation, women are victimized both by male customers and their partners. In addition to this, they are women who have been involved in petty fights, theft, and drug trafficking, and have a rough criminal history.

d) Substance-Related Women

Women who have become addicted to drugs because of their boyfriends, or who have become addicted to drugs in any way, or who have sold drugs.

e) Lack of Economic Situation

Due to insufficient economic opportunities or ambition are women who have committed offenses with their motives.

As a result, it can be said that, with minor exceptions, women's living conditions and their roles in the patriarchal society push women to commit crimes (Owen, 1998: p:41).

Pathways to Women's Crime

There are many reasons why women do not commit crimes as much as men. The first of these is undoubtedly that women cannot commit crimes due to their nature as mothers and wives, that crime is seen as male behavior, and that women's criminality is ignored due to the concern that family structures will be disrupted (İçli, 2013, p.8; İlbars, 2007). In addition to this situation, in some societies, crimes committed by women are not referred to the courts by the social organs to make peace (Dönmezer, 1994: p.125). Another reason for the invisibility of women's criminality is that the behaviors of women accepted in society and the behaviors of men accepted in society and the behaviors that society attributes to women are different from those of men (İçli & Öğün, 2000). In the context of gender roles, especially in patriarchal societies, women are assigned more roles related to childcare and household chores, while men are assigned more roles that require them to work outside, to be involved in society, and to work and deal with work. Therefore, it is thought that women are less inclined to crime when the protective attitude given to women by the family and the environment from childhood and the roles of mother and wife are added (Aygün, 2012: p.14; İçli & Öğün, 1988; Cansumar, Asırdızarer, Aycan, Balcıoğlu, & Batuk, 1997). On the other hand,

women also commit crimes, albeit to a lesser extent than men. The following are some of the reasons why women are more at risk of crime.

Dependence on Substances

Individuals may commit crimes; under the influence of the substances they use (Alpay, Karamustafaoğlu, & Kükürt, 1995). The fact that the individual is under the influence of the substance may distort the individual's perception of reality and the individual may be a party to the offence. In Mann's (1996: 54) study on this subject, 36.2% of women were found to have consumed alcohol before committing a crime and 58.3% of their victims were under the influence of alcohol.

Twenty-one per cent of women with psychosis convicted of manslaughter in Copenhagen over the past 25 years were found to be intoxicated at the time of the killing, according to a study by Gottlieb, Gabrielsen & Kramp (1987). Furthermore, 73.7% of women convicted of homicide were found to have used addictive substances in Özbek's (2011) study.

Individuals, Environments, and the Complexities of Female Offenders

While families shape us, our surroundings also paint crucial strokes on our character. Exposure to violence, criminal circles, or even normalized aggression can desensitize individuals, particularly women, making them more susceptible to violent acts themselves. This concept finds support in Cansumar et al.'s (1997) study, where "weakening of women in family and society" emerged as the primary driver of female crime among 200 inmates. The cycle of violence can become tragically amplified, potentially leading a woman subjected to violence at home or in her community to direct that violence outwards.

However, attributing female homicide solely to negative environmental factors presents an incomplete picture. Beyond the detrimental influences, consider the absence of positive influences – the lack of social support networks, the isolation enforced by controlling partners Akgün (2012), or the desperation fueled by financial insecurity. Women who kill their husbands fearing financial ruin after a separation, or those driven by the lure of financial gain (Brookman, 2005), demonstrate the complex interplay of factors

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beyond mere exposure to violence.

To truly understand the nuances of female homicide, we must move beyond simplistic cause-and-effect explanations. Here are some crucial aspects to consider:

• Individual agency: While environments play a role, dismissing individual agency risks overlooking self-defense situations, mental health struggles, or instances where cultural pressures compel violence.

• Beyond "weakening": Exploring broader societal issues like gender-based violence, economic inequalities, and power dynamics provides a richer context.

• Types of homicide: Differentiating between intimate partner homicides, self-defense killings, and those driven by mental illness reveals diverse motivations and contexts.

• Institutional roles: Analyzing how legal systems, social services, and cultural norms influence or prevent violence against women is crucial.

• Victim profiles: Understanding the demographics and vulnerabilities of women most at risk, including marginalized groups or those facing specific forms of oppression, can inform targeted interventions.

By acknowledging the intricate interplay of individual vulnerabilities, environmental pressures, and broader societal issues, we can move beyond simplistic explanations of female homicide. This understanding paves the way for more effective preventative measures, stronger support systems, and ultimately, a safer world for all.

Types of Crimes Committed by Women

In initial studies of female criminality, witchcraft, child abortion, and sex work were seen as crimes committed by women. Further research demonstrated that women can also be guilty of crimes typically committed by men. The below tries to type of crimes committed by women.

Homicide

When examining the global rates of women who are convicted of homicide, it is evident that women commit homicide less frequently than men. In the below female homicide rate in the world.

Annual number of homicides¹ where the victim was female, per 100,000 women.

No data 0 1 2 5 10 20
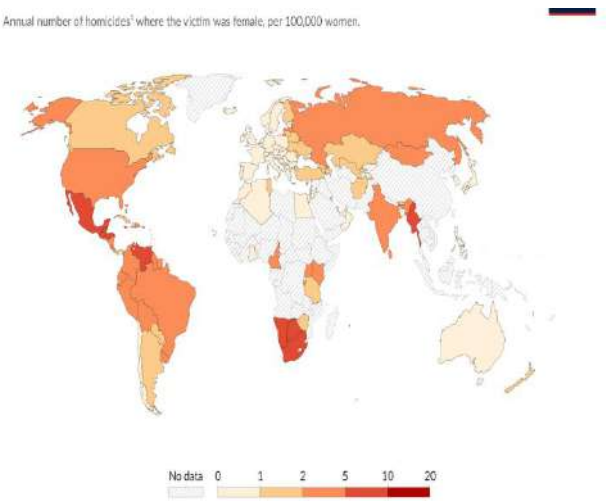
Graph 1. Female Homicide Rate 2021
Source: url-1

When looking at the chart it is seen that most female homicide rates are in America. In addition, it is going on World, Oceania, Asia, and Europe.

It is a fact that women also commit homicide, although not as much as men. It is therefore important why and how women commit homicide. The processes of the women after murdering their imprisonment are illustrated below.

After The Homicide Process

After committing manslaughter, women either surrender or are arrested. Following arrest, they are transferred to the police station and remanded in custody. To ensure their well-being during detention, a lawyer, either of their choosing or appointed by the Bar Association, takes their statement. The interviews conducted by the Homicide Bureau revealed that women who kill men tend to confess their crimes

later than men. When analyzing the women's connections with their environment, it becomes apparent that they remain quiet, have limited communication with their neighbors, and don't draw much attention from others. Once their statements have been gathered, the women proceed to court. Before their court appearance, both the public prosecutor and the woman's statement are recorded. Before their court appearance, both the public prosecutor and the woman's statement are recorded. Following the woman's trial, the first court hearing takes place four months after the woman's arrest. During the court proceedings, the sentence is determined based on the nature of the offense committed. If there is any provocation involved, the sentence is reduced by one-quarter. However, if the provocation is serious, the sentence is halved (Akgün, 2019: p.54).

Causes Leading Women to Commit Homicide

New research suggests that homicide is not only male, as women are more likely to commit acts of violence that require physical force (Akgün, 2012). This trend suggests changes in women's circumstances that may lead to criminal behaviour.

Studies suggest that various factors, including recent sexual abuse, substance abuse, mental illness, negative family and childhood history, and menopausal status, can contribute to female involvement in criminal behaviour (Akgün, 2012: p. 14). Additionally, studies have shown that men can play a role in women's commission of violent crimes (İçli, 2013: p.25). It has been observed that women may commit homicide to protect themselves or their children from sexual abuse or assault. Psychological, psychopathological, social, and developmental factors may be involved in homicide, either individually or collectively, according to Botelho and Gonçalves (2016).

The act of taking someone's life is a difficult decision to make, and there are various reasons why women might do so. It is important to note that the reasons for committing homicide are complex and multifaceted.

Traumatic Experiences in Childhood

Tragically, studies have linked adverse childhood experiences like abuse, particularly when inflicted by relatives, to an increased risk of involvement in violence later in life, including for some of the women participating in the research." (Whiteley 2012; Liles 2015) that these

women have a history of childhood sexual abuse by an acquaintance. Marginalised women face patriarchal pressures and impositions from childhood, which hinder their ability to benefit from educational opportunities, according to Akgün's (2019) study. Saruç's (2013) study also found that 42 percent of the women interviewed had traumatic childhood experiences, and 20 percent had experienced sexual abuse. Caulfield's (2012) study aimed to collect the biographies of 43 female prisoners. The study found that 14% of the women were sexually abused and 9.3% were physically abused during their childhood. Additionally, most of the women in the study had a traumatic experience in adulthood. Protheus and Botha's (2006) study reported that 10 of the women interviewed had witnessed violence in their families. It is important to note that 18 of the female prisoners in the study had been abused by family members. According to Benda's (2005) study, 70% of the female prisoners who participated in the study were sexually abused during childhood, and 67% were physically abused. Widom (2000: p. 29) argues that negative and traumatic childhood experiences can have a lasting impact on an individual's future. Specifically, neglect and abuse during childhood can lead to criminal behaviour in women later in life. This study demonstrates that women who experienced neglect and abuse during childhood are 2.4 times more likely to commit violent crimes than women who did not experience such trauma.

Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence is a type of harm that causes psychological and physical damage to individuals (Mavili Aktaş, 2007). Gender roles are attributed to women, not because of their gender, but because of the gender roles attributed to them by society (Buz, 2009). Men frequently resort to violence to preserve patriarchy, which grants them status advantages. Men reinforce patriarchy and perpetuate it through learning, transmitting it to future generations (Hooks, 2012: p.9, 27).

Most women imprisoned for homicide had been subjected to violence by their husbands and before marriage by their fathers (Aygün, 2012:13; Pretorius and Botha, 2006; İçli, 1994). The study conducted by İçli et al. (1995) supports this claim; 45 percent of female inmates experienced violence during their childhood. These women attempted to flee their childhood homes to violence, yet their husbands subjected them to violence immediately upon marriage (Nazlıdır, 2010).

Although women can endure violence, research has shown that when their children are subjected to it, women often display maternal

courage to protect their offspring. Women cited necessary self-defense and protection of their children as reasons for murder (Çelik, 2008). Women who commit both self-harm and subject their children to violence eventually gain the strength to end their abusive relationships by killing their husbands. Studies indicate that women may display greater tolerance towards violence inflicted upon themselves, compared to the violence directed at their children. However, the ability to endure such violence is decreased when children are targeted as well.

Examining the lives of women who kill their husbands suggests That, in addition to the violence, women are also exposed to their husbands' deviant behavior. Women became even more victimized when they were forced by their husbands to have extramarital affairs for financial gain (Bahadır, 2014: p. 35; Barış, 2015).

Reflecting on the Patriarchy of Marrying and Killing

Patriarchal impositions can have a significant impact on women's lives, depriving them of basic rights. Women's lives, depriving them of their basic human rights. These impositions may lead some women to escape from unfavourable situations, such as violence and harassment at home, and seek refuge with other men. Additionally, some women are forced into early marriages, often by their relatives. Burcu, Yıldırım, and Sanıyaman (2015) highlight this issue, and Saruç's (2014) study also demonstrates that women are sometimes forced to marry individuals they do not know before reaching adulthood. In forced marriages, men in the family often hold significant sway over decision-making. Burcu et al.'s (2015) study on underage marriage found that fathers, brothers and uncles often exert pressure on women and make decisions about whom they will marry. This patriarchal ideology denies women the right to choose their life partners. Non-consensual marriages do not bring peace to women. Women who experience problems in their marriages and want to return to the family home are often met with resistance, and in some cases are even forced to give up their children.

According to Nicolaides et al.'s (2003) study, 67% of women convicted of murder reported being physically or sexually abused by the individuals they killed. The study by Gürtuna (2009) also suggests that female inmates experienced physical or verbal abuse during their childhood or marriage and that these experiences influenced their later crimes. Bloom (2003) found that a history of abuse, mental health and substance abuse problems, economic and social problems,

homelessness, and relationship problems are the pathways that lead women to crime. It is important to note that this study presents a subjective evaluation of the factors that contribute to female criminality.

Murder on The Grounds of Rape, Honor, or Jealousy

Bester (2008) identifies three factors that lead women to commit homicide: the sexual abuse of themselves, the sexual abuse of their children, and the extra-marital affairs of their husbands. Akgün's (2012) study documents a 23-year-old woman who was convicted of killing her rapist after he threatened her to remain silent about the incident. Women have also committed homicide on the grounds of honour and jealousy. Saruç's (2014) research shows that women commit homicide mainly because of violence, sexual assault or a violation of their honour. Additionally, women have been recorded as committing murder in response to their husbands' molestation or sexual abuse of their children, or due to jealousy of their husbands' actions (Çelik, 2008). Women have also been found to commit murder when their children are molested or raped by someone other than their husbands. According to Cansumar et al. (1997), honour and jealousy are the main motives for female homicide. When questioned by judges about the reasons for committing homicide, women initially claim that they, rather than their children, were attacked, in order to keep their children out of the criminal activity. However, in subsequent interviews, they typically reveal the true reason for the crime.

Are Women Who Commit the Offense of Manslaughter Guilty or Victims?

Women's freedom is limited in terms of their living conditions in patriarchal societies. Their perceived freedom is constrained by the limits set by their fathers or husbands, which prevents them from divorcing after experiencing problems in marriage and going their own way. Women's freedom is limited by the restrictions of fathers and husbands. Women's ability to achieve independence is often opposed by their families, husbands, relatives, and the wider society in which they live. Some women are unable to obtain a divorce due to fear of their community's reaction or their insufficient financial means to support themselves. When women do report violence to the authorities, male-dominated attitudes sometimes result in their complaints being dismissed, they may be reunited with their husbands

and sent home, or they may be told that domestic violence is not a priority and that perpetrators will not face consequences. This can increase men's propensity for violence, as short-term detentions and sentences are sometimes the only punishment imposed. Finally, the woman's husband, lover, or unwanted fiancé is killed by her father.

Occasionally, women try to escape from their attackers and kill them in return. If the woman chooses to murder her tormentor, she will inevitably succumb to his violence and submit to his tyranny for the rest of her days. However, the question remains: should she persevere and endure his abuse, or should she resort to violence, commit murder, and serve her sentence in prison, leaving her children behind?

According to the Turkish Penal Code, the intentional killing of a person is explicitly prohibited and severely punished. punished. The relevant provisions are contained in Articles 81 to 83 of the TPC. A person found guilty of this offense is subject to life imprisonment (TPC, 2004: p. 8987). When considering mitigating circumstances, it is possible for a person who has committed an offense to receive a reduced sentence or aggravated imprisonment under the Turkish Penal Code. For example, if a woman recently killed her abuser, this may be considered when determining her sentence.

Except for a few rare judgments, individuals found guilty of murder are sentenced to imprisonment. However, in cases where the killing involved extreme brutality or premeditation, offenders may be sentenced to aggravated imprisonment.

The severity of punishment for an offense is primarily determined by the law. The penal code reflects the consequences of the crime, while social sciences such as psychology and sociology examine the underlying reasons for criminal behavior. These disciplines provide insights from psychological and sociological perspectives.

Areas of work include social justice, addressing the challenges faced by vulnerable people such as those living in poverty, people with addictions, the elderly, and children at risk. Technical terminology is explained When it is first used. Language is formal, objective, and free from emotional or figurative language. Writing conventions are followed to ensure a clear and logical structure with causal links between statements. The text is grammatically correct and follows spelling and formatting guidelines. Additionally, the social work profession aims to promote social welfare and contribute to policy development. This is achieved through an approach that considers the individual within their environment in cases involving individuals who

have committed criminal acts. The focus of social work lies on both the individual and their environment.

From this perspective, the question of whether women who kill men are criminals or victims contradicts the criminal law. Furthermore, viewing women who commit such crimes as murderers, monsters, or criminals, is inconceivable for a profession seeking to ensure human rights and social justice.

The social work field certainly takes a firm stance against the act of intentionally taking another person's life, regardless of the circumstances. However, when examining the factors that contribute to a woman committing the crime of manslaughter, it becomes clear that a woman who has experienced repeated incidents of violence, poverty, harassment, or rape throughout her life can be considered a perpetrator under the law, even though she may have only acted in self-defense. It is therefore important to recognize the victimization that has led to such actions, in addition to the legal implications to truly comprehend such difficult situations. During the author's interviews with women incarcerated for killing their husbands, instances of violence and brutality were reported. Some of the women confessed to having been compelled to murder their partner in self-defense, stating "If I had not killed him, he would have killed me". In contrast, other women disclosed having killed their rapist due to an inability to endure any more rape. Nonetheless, a comparison of the imprisoned women who committed infanticide to those who murdered a male reveal that their lives shared corresponding features.

Social work focuses on the victimization of women. It addresses not only the criminal aspects resulting from patriarchal cycles but also the various components and processes of victimization. Empowering and supporting women who come to prison as complainants is a priority. This helps them to solve their problems. Here, women learn to take ownership of their lives and have agency through individual interviews, group work, vocational courses, and work opportunities, particularly in larger prisons.

The Another Type of Crimes

If we look at crimes committed by women other than homicide, we see that women are more likely to be involved in drug-related or theft-related crimes. The graph below shows the types of offenses committed by women in 2022 in the USA.
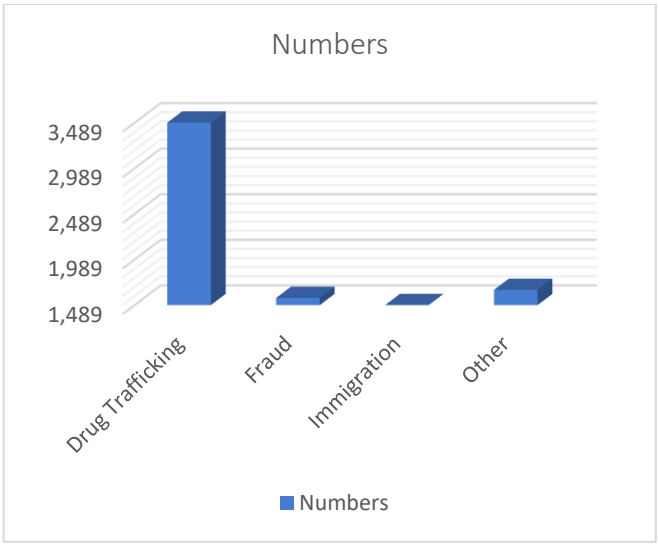
Graph 2. Most Common Guidelines for Female Offenders
Source: Url-2

Upon analysis of the graph, it is evident that drug trafficking and other criminal offenses are the primary crimes committed by female offenders.

The graph below shows the types of offenses committed by women in 2021 in Türkiye.
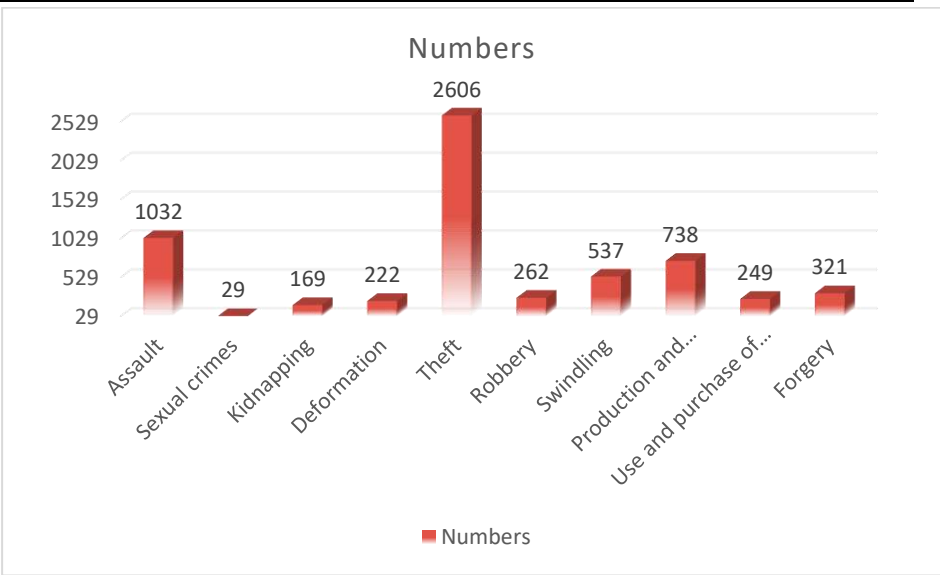
Graph 3. Number of Female Offenders Crime Type
Source: Url-3

Upon analysis of the graph, it is evident that theft and assault crimes are prevalent among female perpetrators in Turkey. When examining the offenses committed by female offenders in Turkey, it becomes apparent that theft is a common offense among women. Objective evaluation reveals that women tend to engage in theft. While some women commit this offense out of necessity, others see it as a form of employment. During prison interviews, several women stated, "This is our profession. Our offspring will take up the same occupation after growing up."

Female Criminality in The World

When analyzing female criminality rates, it is apparent that men commit more crimes than women. However, a correlation has been found between economic development, industrialization, and an increase in female criminality rates (Chernoff & Simon, 2000). Most recent research on women's imprisonment shows a dramatic increase in women's imprisonment rates since the 1970s. Men's incarceration rate in 2008 was roughly eight times that of 1970, but the rate for women had soared twenty-fold during the same period (Belknap,

2010). Women are among the fastest-growing subgroups of the U.S. criminal justice population (Chesney-Lind & Pasko, 2013). When examining female offending on a global scale, the Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute reveals that 13 women are apprehended every minute and 78 women are apprehended every hour, leading to a total of 683,280 reported annual arrests.

Additionally, research suggests that one out of every three female offenders in the United States is imprisoned for sexual offenses. Following the United States, the UK, Germany, and Japan have the highest rates of female criminalization. Since the turn of the millennium, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of women who have been found guilty and sentenced. This pattern is also observable in the UK criminal justice system. According to data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the number of women who were found guilty was 91,612 by the end of the 2000s and increased to 900,000 a decade afterward (Chawla, 2004). In addition, this fact, between the years 1980 and 2017 the number of women in prison increased by over 750%, and around 225,000 U.S. women are currently incarcerated (Bronson & Carson, 2019). According to Walmsley's (2017) report, over 714 million females were sentenced in 2017. Since the turn of the millennium, there has been a significant rise in the number of female convicts compared to their male counterparts. The number of women and girls in prison has increased by 50% while the number of male convicts has only increased by 20%. Based on the criminality rates of women in the report, it is observed that China has 107,131 convicted women, followed by Russia with 48,478 and Brazil with 44,700. (Walmsley, 2017).

Below is a chart of female offenders assessed in England and Wales in 2019.
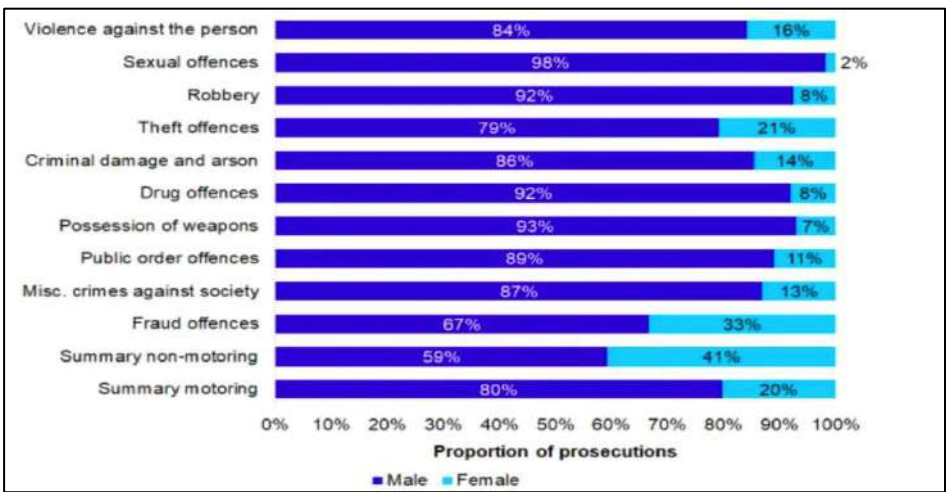
Graph 4. Female Offenders Rate in England and Wales in 2019
Source: Url-4

Looking at the graph, all the categories of female offending are lower than those of male offending. If we look at the rate of female offending, we can see that most of the female offending is summary non-motoring crime, followed by fraud. Furthermore, the rate of violence against the person is not so low.

Below is a graph Twice as many women were arrested for property crimes as for violent crimes in the US from 1980 to 2011.
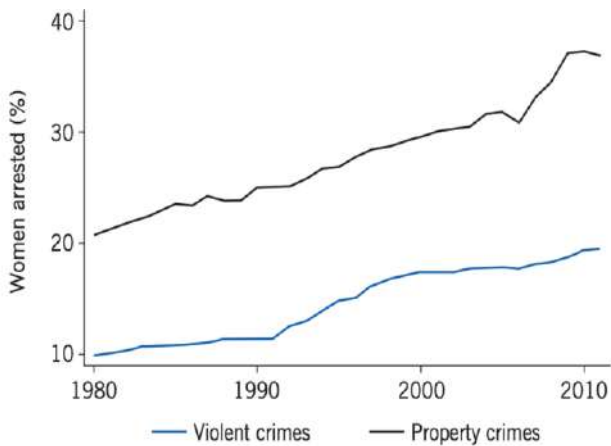
Graph 5. Twice as many women were arrested for property crimes as for violent crimes in the US from 1980 to 2011
Source: Url-5

When the graph above is analyzed, it is seen that female criminality in the United States of America has increased over the years. Especially the number of women committing violent crimes increased more between 1980-2010. Over time, however, the proportion of women arrested for property crimes has increased more slowly (by 77% since 1980) than the proportion arrested for violent crimes (by 96%).

Female Criminality in Türkiye

If we compare the rates of female criminality, we see that the rates of female criminality are lower than the rates of male criminality in Turkey, as in the world.

Table 1. Prison Population as of December 31st by Sex, 2011-2020

Years	Total	Male	Female
2011	128 253	123 648	4 605
2012	136 638	131 732	4 906
2013	144 098	138 906	5 192
2014	158 690	152 902	5 788
2015	177 262	170 754	6 508
2016	200 727	192 354	8 373
2017	232 340	222 444	9 896
2018	264 842	254 426	10 416
2019	291 546	280 114	11 432
2020	266 831	256 231	10 600

When looking at Table 1 we see that the number of female criminality rates increased from 2011 to 2020.

The following table shows the demographic characteristics of female offenders.

Table 2. Female Offender's Age and Crime Types

		2-14	15-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Type of Crime									
Total	10 518	74	258	2 443	3 645	2 576	1 114	334	73
Homicide	164	1	2	44	56	38	18	3	2
Assault	1 032	-	11	191	388	285	114	38	5
Sexual crimes	29	1	4	6	7	7	4	-	-
Kidnapping	169	-	8	39	59	34	21	8	-
Defamation	222	-	-	41	67	71	32	9	2
Theft	2 606	49	138	889	824	447	183	66	10
Robbery	262	9	22	85	80	44	17	3	2
Swindling	537	-	2	105	186	149	71	23	1
Production and commerce of drugs	708	9	24	168	238	158	79	29	3
Use and purchase of drugs	249	-	19	110	87	28	5	-	-
Forgery	321	1	5	63	107	92	45	8	-
Bad treatment	61	-	-	11	32	12	3	3	-
Embezzlement	23	-	-	1	5	10	6	1	-
Bribery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smuggling	93	-	-	7	27	22	26	8	3
Traffic crimes	195	-	-	21	91	70	13	-	-
Forestry crimes	22	-	-	1	6	6	5	3	1
Crimes related with firearms and knifes	85	-	-	27	35	17	2	3	1
	663	-	-	35	168	258	145	44	12
Opposition to the Military	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Threat	315	1	1	55	106	96	42	11	3
Damage to property	116	-	2	36	35	27	10	1	5
Prevention of performance	125	-	1	39	51	28	3	3	-
Contrary to the measures for family protection	132	-	2	21	54	30	15	7	3
Other crimes	2 383	3	17	448	935	643	255	63	19
Unknown	6	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	1

Source: Prison Statistics, 2021

When looking at the table above, women in the 35-44 age group commit the highest number of offenses and that they commit the highest number of thefts.

The following table shows the marital status and types of crimes for female offenders.

Table 3. Marital Status and Types of Crimes for Female Offenders From 2020 to 2019

Type of crime	2020					2019				
	Never Married	Married	Widowd	Divorce	Unknown	Never Maried	Married	Widowd	Divorce	Unknown
Total	**2 508**	**4 785**	**438**	**2 757**	**30**	**2 774**	**5 176**	**534**	**2 808**	**53**
Homicide	39	64	22	38	1	52	96	34	53	-
Assault	148	464	45	373	2	120	441	55	336	1
Sexual crimes	11	9	-	9	-	6	19	8	9	-
Kidnapping	30	87	14	38	-	14	68	8	28	-
Defamation	39	81	12	90	-	53	89	16	85	-
Theft	792	1 301	79	424	10	883	1 324	102	390	13
Robbery	76	108	7	71	-	104	128	9	86	-
Swindling	98	194	30	214	1	82	156	29	144	2
Production and commerce of drugs	181	340	50	137	-	234	486	60	181	7
Use and purchase of drugs	100	69	4	76	-	132	70	3	69	-
Forgery	71	149	12	87	2	70	123	14	121	3
Bad treatment	8	38	7	8	-	8	33	-	13	-
Embezzlement	5	11	-	7	-	-	5	-	5	-
Smuggling	12	55	8	13	5	-	1	-	1	-
Traffic crimes	62	26	5	102	-	34	107	9	49	14
Forestry crimes	1	13	5	3	-	37	34	2	62	-

Type of crime										
Crimes related with firearms and knifes	17	29	3	36	-	1	17	5	5	-
Opposition to the Bankruptcy and Enforcement Law	88	344	31	199	1	91	436	37	210	-
Threat	42	132	14	127	-	66	152	16	168	-
Damage to property	39	33	5	39	-	29	50	3	29	-
Prevention of performance	39	48	2	36	-	37	51	10	54	-
Other crimes	574	1 127	80	594	8	28	58	5	43	-
Unknown	1	4	1	-	-	672	1 208	104	628	12

Source: Prison Statistics, 2020-2019.

When we examine the table, when we look at the marital status of female convicts, it is seen that they are mostly married. accordingly, it is seen that women who were married in 2020 were 4785 and women who were married in 2019 were 5176.

The following table shows the education status and types of crimes for female offenders.

Table 4. Education Status and Types of Crimes for Female Offenders

Type of crime	Total	Illiterate	Literate but not graduated from a school	Primary School	Primary education	Junior high school	High school	Higher education	Unknown
Total	10 518	367	893	1 796	1 324	2 412	2 241	1 361	124
Homicide	164	1	4	29	10	35	51	28	6
Assault	1 032	28	54	196	171	276	232	68	7
Sexual crimes	29	-	5	9	3	6	3	2	1
Kidnapping	169	9	5	39	27	32	47	9	1
Defamation	222	3	12	34	32	55	65	21	-
Theft	2 606	180	456	479	372	663	357	76	23
Robbery	262	7	35	45	18	75	66	13	3

Swindling	537	6	19	69	81	109	168	83	2
Production and commerce of drugs	708	27	89	165	77	174	124	22	30
Use and purchase of drugs	249	2	18	22	33	126	41	4	3
Forgery	321	3	7	40	25	69	109	61	7
Bad treatment	61	7	5	18	12	8	7	1	3
Embezzlement	23	-	-	3	-	2	7	11	-
Bribery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smuggling	93	5	6	19	15	16	14	10	8
Traffic crimes	195	-	2	22	11	52	71	37	-
Forestry crimes	22	2	-	15	1	-	1	3	-
firearms and knifes	85	2	2	9	22	27	18	5	-
Enforcement Law	663	6	14	110	94	122	216	101	-
Criminal Law	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hreat	315	9	12	54	47	87	74	32	-
Damage to property	116	7	7	20	14	38	26	3	1
Prevention of performance	125	5	7	23	17	34	26	12	1
Contrary to the measures for family protection	132	2	3	24	10	26	45	22	-
Other crimes	2 383	56	130	350	231	379	472	737	28
Unknown	6	-	1	2	1	1	1	-	-

Source: Prison statistic, 2020

Profiles of Female Offending

Based on the existing literature on female offending behavior, a typical female offender profile can be established. Generally, women are in poverty and lack education and work skills. In addition, they are young, single, and single parents of young children (Chesney & Posko, 2004; Akgün, 2019). Furthermore, most female offenders have had a difficult childhood marked by physical and sexual violence. This

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maltreatment continued into adulthood in the form of rape and physical assault (Belknap, 2007; Akgün, 2019; Akgün, 2012).

Especially, some of the female prisoners were exposed to violence by their fathers before getting married and by their husbands after getting married. A study conducted by İçli, Öğün, and Özcan (1995) found that the rate of exposure to violence in childhood among convicted women was 45 percent (İçli, Öğün, & Özcan, 1995). If we look at the intra-family relations in the families of offenders, it can be said that there are deficiencies and negative effects in intra-family communication and interaction. Attitudes and behaviors that push the individual towards crime and violence are presented as normal in the individual's family and environment. Therefore, growing up in such an environment leads to the learning and maintenance of negative and wrong attitudes and behaviors, difficulties in controlling one's anger, and committing crimes more easily (Nazlıdır, 2010).

When we look at the 2023 United States Commission Report, the characteristics of female offenders in 2022 are as follows:

1.   41.5% of female offenders were Hispanic, 33.8% were White, 18.2% were Black, and 6.5% were other races.

2.   Among female drug trafficking offenders, 41.5% were Hispanic, followed by White (39.1%), Black (14.0%), and other races (5.4%).

3.   Among female fraud offenders, 42.8% were White, followed by Black (31.3%), Hispanic (19.8%), and other races (6.1%).

4.   Among female immigration offenders, 83.0% were Hispanic, followed by White (9.0%), Other races (4.1%), and Black (3.9%).

5.   Their average age was 38 years.

6.   86.5% were United States citizens.

7.   64.3% had little or no prior criminal history.

8.   8.2% of female offenders were sentenced for an offense involving weapons, compared to 13.3% of male offenders.

Women in Prison

One of the types of punishment imposed on individuals is deprivation of liberty which is imprisonment. The main purpose of imprisonment is not only the deprivation of liberty for women but also their

rehabilitation. Female prisoners encounter various challenges in jail due to their past adverse circumstances, as well as because they are confined and without a critical support network, such as their family. In addition, women face more problems than men when they commit a crime and go to prison, whether for murder or other offenses. Caring for their children and being separated from them is one of the most difficult situations for women. Facing such a difficult situation (especially if it is the woman's first time in prison) and not being able to cope with the problems is a very difficult process for women. In this process, women resort to different ways to cope with their problems. Aggression, outbursts of anger, inability to solve problems, and fighting are among the solutions women find for the problems they cannot solve in prison. Women need certain skills and training to solve these problems in prison and to be rehabilitated. Women need education not only in prison but also when they go out because it is a more difficult process for them to integrate into society when they get out because of their gender and the fact that they are ex-convicts. The better-equipped women are in prison, the more self-confident they are after education, the stronger they will be when they go out, and the better they can cope with the problems they face (Akgün, 2018).

The following section examines the problems faced by women in prison.

Problems with Their Children in Prison

Female prisoners encounter numerous challenges in prisons, particularly because of their gender. Whether the children accompany the mothers or reside with relatives outside of the facility, mothers continue to confront difficulties. These challenges include issues associated with rearing children, especially for incarcerated mothers (Akgün, 2021; p.258).

Women face numerous challenges when staying with their children in prison, including limited access to care and education services for their children, restricted movement and privacy, and increased exposure to violence and abuse. These issues highlight the need for increased support and resources for incarcerated mothers and their children to ensure that their human rights, welfare, and well-being are protected. Moreover, when women fight with each other, children can be harmed.

Isolation in Prison

Incarceration brings with it many problems in the life of the individual. The most important of these problems is the isolation of the individual in prison. Although they are together with other prisoners, the number of people they see is limited. In addition, being separated from their children, having a limited number of activities in prison, and being away from their loved ones cause women in prison to face various adjustment problems. In addition, being isolated in prison leads to physical and mental health issues for female inmates. Moreover, the struggle to handle the challenges they encounter in prison and the impact of the crime committed result in a range of mental disorders during their time in prison.

Economic Problems in Prison

One of the most important problems faced by women convicts is that they have no or very little economic income. Women convicts cannot get what they want here due to economic insufficiencies.

If female prisoners lack external income, they face challenges in sustaining themselves. Despite receiving three meals daily, women require money to purchase personal necessities and hygiene and leaning items. If there are no external sources to supply funds, some resort to working in the prison, others work for fellow inmates, and some survive through assistance from the prison administration and aid.

Lake of Social Support

Social support means a person who has been supported by family, friends, or a loved one. Social support is an indicator of mental and physical health. For example, people with more social support feel healthier (Zakowski, Sandra, Casey, Nancy, & Kimberly, 2003). Social support includes the concepts of interest and emotional closeness. Social support includes a supportive approach and financial assistance in problem-solving, the sharing of solutions, and the provision of stress relief. For this reason, social support is often defined as 'mechanisms that protect people from the negative effects of anxiety in interpersonal relationships' (Berterö, 2000). Social support in prison can be defined as the physical and psychological help that is provided to the offender by friends, family, and the institution, both inside and outside the prison (İçağasıoğlu Çoban &

Akgün, 2011).

Women have a lot of problems in prison, such as financial problems, problems with their children, etc. So, it is very important to have a social support system, especially in prison. A woman with social support can deal with her problems in prison. Otherwise, if she does not have any social support outside the prison, she might have a problem—for example, emotional problems, a lack of economic condition, and problems with children. There is an article on this topic. İçağsıoğlu Çoban and Akgün (2011)'s studies found that a comparison of the social support that female prisoners receive from family, friends, and private individuals shows that the level of social support from family is higher than it is from other social support groups. The fact that a significant percentage of female prisoners reported that their families were sad and supported them in their attitudes toward their imprisonment is an indication that female prisoners receive support from their families. Social support from family is followed by social support from friends and significant others.

Group Working with Female Offenders

After women offenders have been admitted to prison, various rehabilitation activities are carried out with them. One of these activities is group work carried out by social workers. Group work is one of the most useful ways of effectively reaching more than one person in a social work intervention. Group work, which involves working with small groups of people to achieve the desired changes in the individual and the environment is the process of helping to solve problems. The main purpose of group work is to influence the individual and this influence is a change desired by the social worker (Kongar, 2007). Group work is a social, behavioral, and emotional goal of adjustment to the group process. Participants in group work usually have emotional, interactional, or behavioral problems (Zastrow, 2009). Groups are organized around the topics that are most relevant to the individual. This maximizes the benefit of the group for the members. Looking at the themes of group work in prisons, the most common themes are substance abuse, relationship issues, anger management, abuse, coping with stigma, and planning for release. For women prisoners, group work is also carried out on issues relating to their children (Wright, 2005).

Group-oriented social work practice is a method formed by bringing together individuals with the same interest, purpose, and/or need with

the aim of creating the desired change in individuals by using the power of group interaction, increasing their functionality, and strengthening them by gaining experience and knowledge (İçağasıoğlu Çoban & Bulut, 2016).

Groups are classified as education groups, task groups, problem-solving and decision-making groups, focus groups, self-help and mutual aid groups, treatment groups, sensitivity and encounter training development groups, improvement groups, and socialization groups (Zastrow, 2009: p.3). The aim of educational groups, one of the group types, is to provide members with information about themselves and society. Educational groups are held in psychiatric clinics, treatment centers, schools, counseling centers, and prisons (Mavili Aktaş, 2001: p.44).

Because prisons are closed institutions, the activities to be carried out inside the prison are limited, communication with the outside is restricted and the problems that convicts bring with them to the prison make, social service personnel face various problems. In solving these problems, individual interviews and group work are used as professional intervention methods. However, group work is a more effective intervention method than individual interviews since dealing with people one-on-one causes a loss of time and labor.

Group work is of great importance in the rehabilitation of convicts in prison. Especially in crimes such as manslaughter and wounding, group work on anger control is very important. Apart from this, group work can be carried out with female convicts who have a short period before their release, and group work can be carried out with substance-addicted convicts on getting rid of substance addiction. In addition to this, group work such as 0-6-year-old mothers and child education with female convicts who have their children with them are examples of group work carried out in prison.

Group work generally consists of 6-14 people on average. The group process continues for 6-8 weeks on average. Regular participation of the members in the group process is very effective in getting the maximum benefit from the group. Members who do not participate in the group regularly and do not have enough interaction in the group process cannot benefit from the group process. For this reason, members should attend the group regularly, do the assigned homework, and try to participate in the process (Akgün, 2020b: p.383).

Each group's work has a different climate due to characteristics such as the applicant group and the place where the work is carried out. Prisons are also closed institutions in terms of their climate and structure. For this reason, as in every institution, experts may encounter various obstacles in group work in prisons. These difficulties arise from both the environment and the client group.

The first of the difficulties of conducting group work in prison is ensuring the participation of the members in the session. First, it is very important to bring the convicts together. It is sometimes difficult to convince the convicts that they have no enmity with each other, that they do not conflict with their other activities, and that they can develop themselves in a work such as group work. Apart from that, finding a common time for convicts and trying to convince those who do not participate in the work to participate in the work is a very difficult process.

The second difficulty of conducting group work in prison is that some of the convicts with long sentences work in various workshops in the penal execution institution to provide additional income for themselves due to their long sentences. Therefore, working convicts can't participate in courses for their personal development.

The third difficulty of conducting group work in prison is that when the convicts tell the correctional officer that they do not want to participate in the work, the leader who will conduct the work cannot intervene in the situation. This situation affects the quality of the work and the continuity of the members.

The fourth difficulty of doing group work in prison is that the convicts want to be in the ward at a certain time to meet their needs such as letters, canteen, and hot water, and since almost every member comes from a different ward, it was very difficult to arrange a time that is suitable for everyone.

The last one of the difficulties of conducting group work in prison is the fact that whether the letters of the convicts come or not, whether they have visitors or the negativities they experience in the ward disrupt the functioning of the group process and prevent the members from benefiting from the group work. For this reason, experts should be able to manage the process well.

When the author was doing group work with female offenders, she struggled to find the common time of female offenders because they had different days of visiting, canteen times, hot water, and letter

times so it was difficult to get together female offenders at the same time. In addition to this, some women argued with each other so they couldn't be together. An important problem with the group work process is when a woman working in jail hasn't attended another activity because of the work hours so when the author was doing group work women who were working couldn't attend group work.

Below is an example of a group activity designed to improve the problem-solving skills of female prisoners in the prison system, conducted by Akgün (2018).

Problem-Solving Skills of Female Prisoners in The Prison

Group Sessions

Session 1

The first session aims to introduce the group members to each other and to agree on the group rules. The group leader first introduced herself to the group and then explained the reason for carrying out this study. During the group process, the purpose of the group and the purpose of the members joining the group were discussed. After the members got to know each other, the group rules were discussed. At the end of the group process, it was observed that the group members were satisfied with the process of the session and were curious about the work to be done.

Session 2

The aim of this session is: to recognize emotions. This session aims to introduce new members to the group, followed by a warm-up exercise. The members were instructed to stand up and present themselves on a large street (Voltan Acar, 2012). Then they were asked to think that they did not recognize anyone. They were asked to think and walk around. Then they were asked to imagine that they saw someone they recognized on the street, and they were asked to walk. After this activity, they were given shares. The members were asked how they felt. In general, members said that they felt empty and lonely when they did not know anyone. They also said that they were happy when they met someone they knew. After this study, the members were asked what comes to mind when they think of emotions and what

emotions can be. and discussions were held on this topic. Then the members were asked about their awareness of emotions. Some questions were asked to develop the group. Finally, the group process was concluded with a group summary.

Session 3

The purpose of this session is to discuss the concepts of communication and effective communication. First, a warm-up game was played. This game aimed to identify the members' trust in the group and the group members. The members formed a circle and one member stood in the middle, closed her eyes, and left it to the members. The member who came to her side tried to push him to the other side although the members were uncomfortable at first. It could be seen that they were having a lot of fun and were happy together. After the warm-up game, the members were asked what effective communication is. Then they were asked how to discuss a way to be followed. Then two members talked in turn about communication, chairs were placed, and they were asked to sit and talk. Then they were asked how they felt. The group leader that the purpose of this study was to show that it is difficult to communicate if you do not look at each other and said that body language and gestures are also very important when speaking. Verbal and non-verbal messages were then discussed with the members. They were then asked to share their positive and negative feelings with the people in their wards and to ensure that their communication with those with whom they have little contact is at least good morning, good morning and good evening, good evening, good evening. Finally, a group summary was made, and the session was closed.

Session 4

This session aims to define the problem situation. In this session, the members were first asked about the definition of the problem and talked about it. Then they were asked to describe a problem they encountered in their daily lives. One member said that she lived on the bottom floor of the ward and the people on the top floor were making a lot of noise. She said that she told them to be quiet, but the others said, "Is this an old-age home?" and slammed the doors and banged on the wall. She was told that this would not solve the problems. She was also told that if the problems were not solved, it would lead to bigger problems. Then another member said she wanted to give an example. She said that she did not like ironing clothes that she had a laundry

room in her house and that she put the clothes there after washing them. She said that because she did not like ironing, one day when she went to pick up the clothes she was going to wear when she went out, the others fell on the floor, but she did not pick them up. Then, because she left the door open, the cat came in and defecated on all the clothes, so she had to wash them three times. She was told that this was a very good example, but that some problems do not lead to such simple consequences but can lead to worse consequences. Another member said that if she had seen a psychologist years ago, she would not be in prison now if she had not thought she did not need it.

Then, to determine the person's attitude toward the problems encountered, an obstacle-in-one-step game was played. The group members tried to walk around a certain area. When they could not go any further, they stopped. Some members said that they did not understand anything about this. They asked members how this would help them, which was said to be a summary of the way forward. When asked how they felt when they were blocked, one member said he had changed it. He was told that this was the main idea of the study. Facing the obstacles instead of giving up in the face of them, telling them that they must struggle and, that they can't do it, should not leave them behind. The session was concluded with a summary of the group.

Session 5

In this group session, members were first asked to stand up and become trees or winds to understand empathy. Then they were given different commands and told that the winds were blowing slowly, mediumly, and fast. When the wind slowed down, the members were asked to change places. When the game was over, the members were asked what they thought, how they thought about their trees when they were the wind, and how they thought about their wind when they were the trees. Then the members were asked what the purpose of this study might be. The members said that it is necessary to resist and stand firm in the face of difficulties. The leader said that this is a correct point of view, but the main purpose of this study is to empathize.

Finally, the problem-solving steps form was distributed to the members, and it was discussed what steps they should take to solve their problems. The session was then closed with a group summary.

Session 6

The aim of this session was the conclusion of the group process. Firstly, members were asked to relax and close their eyes. Then the members were asked to think of a memory that they could not get rid of, that was constantly on their mind, and to throw it into the fire under their feet. Then the ready person was asked to open their eyes. At the end of the exercise, there was a question-and-answer session with the members about their feelings. One of the members said that she had been subjected to violence by her husband's father and that she could not forget this and that she threw these thoughts into the fire in this study and felt relieved. Other members said that they felt relieved when they threw the problems, they could not get rid of into the fire.

Meanwhile, it was learned that one member had been dismissed. As the member was saying goodbye to the other group members and leaving the group, she said "Teacher, they should not put women in prison", which caused sadness among the members. It was observed that other group members were distracted after the member left the group. One member said, "It will be good for her. We are not jealous, but we are also sad". After these speeches, the group process continued.

Finally, the members' thoughts and their gains from the group process were discussed. One of the members said: "My participation in the group work saved me from a big problem. Another member said that he had attracted the attention of the guards and other teachers and that they had said that there was a lot of change in her, that she was more cheerful and that she complained less. Finally, the members were given certificates of participation, and the group process was concluded.

After the end of the group session, the group leader determined that the group work improved the social problem-solving skills of female offenders.

Anger Management Group Work with Female Offenders

It is very important to deal with anger issues in prison, as people who kill or injure others lack anger management. There is an anger management group work process which the author made in the below.

Session 1

The first session aimed for the group members to get to know each other and determine the group rules. Due to the conditions of the prison, the late participation of some members in the group session hurt the process. At the beginning of the group session, three of the members left the group, which caused some disappointment in the leader, but it was observed that there was a relaxation in the group members with the departure of people from the group. During the group process, the purpose of the group, the purpose of the members joining the group, and group rules were discussed. After the leader told the group about himself or herself and the purpose of the group, the group members took turns to tell their ages, whether they had children, whether they had worked before going to prison, how long they had been in prison for, and how long their sentences were. The reasons for going to prison were not asked so that the members would not be uneasy with each other. While the group process was going on, one of the members said, "I only came here not to offend you; I don't think I will change." She was told that she would be interviewed again at the end of the group. Contrary to the negative atmosphere at the beginning of the group, at the end, it was observed that the members were happy and curious about the work to be done.

Session 2

This session aimed to enable the new members and the group members to get acquainted, to express that anger is a natural emotion, and to realize what the sources of anger are. New members and other members were introduced to each other. Then a warm-up game was conducted with the members. This warm-up game aimed to make the members relax and give themselves more easily to the group processes. Members were asked to close their eyes and feel themselves relaxing from their feet to their arms. Then they were told to imagine themselves in greenery, that there was a hill in front of them, and that they could go up that hill alone or with someone else. Then they were asked to see a view of the hill and enjoy this view for a while. Then they were told to go down the hill and whoever was ready could open their eyes. They were asked what they saw on the hill and whether there was anyone with them. It was observed that a few of the members had difficulty 3closing their eyes. Some of the members said that they thought they were alone. Two of the members were seen crying. As a result of this study, the leader decided that it was necessary to be more careful with the work done in prison.

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Then the topic of anger was introduced. Members were asked questions about anger and anger as an emotion was discussed. At the end of the group work, members were asked in which situations. A list of anger-inducing events was distributed, and they were asked to bring it to the next week. Finally, they were told that they could keep a diary, write their thoughts about the group, and bring them to the leader.

Session 3

In this session, it was aimed to talk about expressing appropriate and inappropriate emotions in case of anger and controlling the feeling of anger.

First, a warm-up game was performed. This game was carried out to determine whether the members trusted the group or not. The members formed a circle, and one member went to the center, closed his/her eyes, and left herself to the members.

The member who came to his side tried to push her to the other side. Although the members were uneasy at first, it was observed that they had a lot of fun and were happy. The members were told that this study was a trust study and that it revealed how much they trusted the members of this group. In general, it was observed that they left themselves to their groupmates. Some members thought that they were heavy and said that they did not release themselves so that other members would not be harmed. The leader told the members that they should be comfortable in this group, that they can talk about what they want to talk about, and that they should not hesitate, and the participants were told.

After the warm-up game, the forms of those who brought a list of events that initiated anger were taken from the members. the evaluation was made. As a result of the study, it was found that members were more likely to be insulted and they get angry when they are harassed. Following this study, members were asked when they get angry the most and what three things make them angry in a day. Conversations were held in line with the answers received from the members.

Finally, they were asked to think about an incident that they were angry about and could not solve. Two chairs were placed opposite each other for the role-play. A role plays about a participant being subjected to violence by her father-in-law was performed. At the end of the study, it was observed that the member relaxed. Finally, papers

were distributed to the members under the name of coping strategies with anger, which included various methods to use when they were angry. After that, the group session ended.

Session 4

In this session, it was aimed to discuss ways of expressing anger and controlling the feeling of anger. First, members were asked whether they had read the strategies for coping with anger distributed the previous week and whether they had used them in a situation where they were angry. Members generally that they used them and that they were successful. After this, the members were asked to express their anger inwardly, in aggressive behavior, which are ways of expressing anger, with the members.

After that, the members were asked what the situation would be like for them if they could control their anger by thinking about the reasons why they went to prison. The members stated that if they could control their anger, they would not be in prison now. One member said, "If I go out now, I have no regular job and no family. My mother will take care of me for 5 months. Then I was out again. What am I going to do? I'm disorganized. I am wrong, but I didn't deserve so much punishment." She expressed her feelings in this way. Finally, the group process was finalized by summarizing the group.

Session 5

This session aims to talk about how members hide their anger when they are angry. This session starts with a warm-up game called "Ghost in the Room" to prepare the members for the group process. One member becomes a ghost, and the other members try to guess if there is a ghost behind her. Then, the members were asked in which situations they hid their anger, and the opinions of the members were taken. After the speeches, the members were asked to read a story about concealment was read. It was observed that the members were impressed by the story. Then the members were asked what parents do when they are angry and how they teach their children when they are angry with the behavior of their parents. In the conversations, members were asked about the mistakes made by their parents and whether their communication with their children was better.

Session 6

The aim of session 6 is to discuss whether our anger is in control of us or whether we are in control of our anger. Members were asked

whether our anger controls us or whether we control our anger. This was discussed debated and agreed upon. At the end of the group, a group summary was made, and the session was closed.

Session 7

In this session, the topics of communication and empathy to control anger will be discussed. The members were first asked what empathy is. Then the members were asked to understand empathy better. A warm-up game was played for the members. The members were asked to stand up and close their eyes. They were told to feel themselves as a tree or wind. Then the members opened their eyes and felt themselves like a tree or a wind. The members who are trees and the members who are wind start to act on the instructions of the leader. Then the members who were trees became the wind, and the members who became the wind became trees. At the end of the study, the members were asked what they felt. They were asked whether they felt like trees or wind. The members said that they felt they said.

Following this study, members were asked: "What is communication? The members gave some information on the topic of communication. The two members who had not seen each other for a long time then sat in a chair with their backs to each other.

The two members, who had not seen each other for a while, were to do a portrayal of two friends. When the members' backs were turned to each other, they could not talk at all; they found it difficult. Then the members turned to face each other and were asked to speak only in this way. In this case, it was observed that the members embraced each other and communicated better. The last members were asked to write down what they thought about each other. The session was closed with a group summary. The session was closed.

Session 8

The purpose of the last session is the conclusion of the group session, the evaluation of the members, and the determination of the members' gains from the group. In the last session, the members were first given a member's chair for mutual evaluation. The other members then mentioned the positive aspects of these members.

In the previous session, the papers were distributed, and members were asked to evaluate each other. After this exercise, the members were asked to close their eyes. They were told that there was a sea in the middle. They should have kept in mind that they were fishing in

the sea. Then they were asked to think of the sea as a group project and the fish as a group project. to think of it as their gain and to think of how they were when they came here and what they took with them at the end of the group.

One member said that she had solved a problem that he had not been able to solve for many years, that she no longer thought about it, and that she felt very good. She said to the leader, "If someone else had been in your place, maybe we would have I already knew a lot when I came here. "Your speeches and what you said made a very good impression on me. Another member said: "I work with people I couldn't communicate with before. Now I can talk to people when there's a problem. I can also talk to people when I'm angry. I can count from 1 to 10, 10 to 20, and 20 to 30. I have forgotten. You've done other things in the last week to forget negative memories. Try not to think about it, you said. I've had that thought twice in the last week. So, I read a book.

Another member said ''I said let's have a cup of tea. The thought passed quickly. These may be small things for you, but they're big things for me''. Another member said, "I have learned to say no to people.

The last member said ''I used to stop eating and drinking when I was angry or upset. Now I see how I was hungry and expressed the benefit of the group work for her.

Finally, questionnaire forms and group evaluation letters were received from the members. The members were thanked for their participation in the group work, certificates of participation were given, and the session ended.

Psychodrama with Female Offenders

Professional staff members may have a different point of view when working with female prisoners due to their professional background. In this context, social workers are among the professional staff members who work with female prisoners. In this way, social workers apply intervention methods such as individual counseling and group therapy to female offenders. One of the important intervention methods for female offenders is psychodrama. Below is a visual representation of some of the aspects that social work and psychodrama have in common.
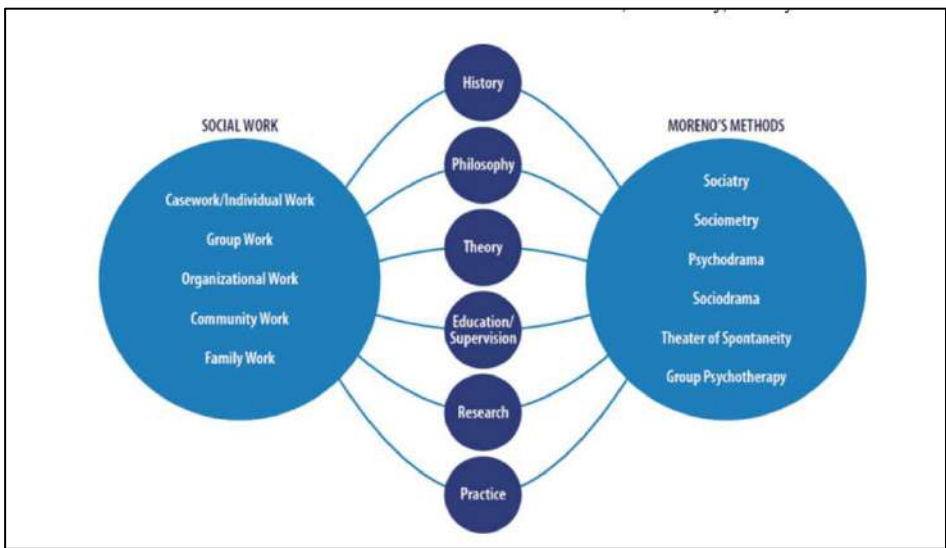
Figure 3. Intersecting Aspects of Social Work and Moreno's Methods

Source: Giacomucci (2021: p.42)

If we analyze the graph, we can see that there are many similarities between social work and psychodrama. When we look at psychodrama, it is part of a tripartite method consisting of group therapy, sociometry, and psychodrama. Its creator is Dr. Jacob Levi Moreno (Vuçinas & Akgün, 2023: p.3). Psychodrama is commonly understood as an experiential technique that integrates elements of psychotherapy and role play to externalize both intrapersonal and interpersonal issues. While primarily recognized as a form of psychotherapy, psychodrama is also extensively utilized beyond clinical contexts (Giacomucci, 2021: p.36).

In other words, Psychodrama is a psychological treatment/development approach developed by making use of dramatization, or spontaneous theater. The aim of this practice is for individuals to achieve catharsis (emotional release), gain insight, and thus tend towards healthier behaviors (Dökmen, 1995, p.4). In addition, psychodrama is the individual's role-playing of the problem that is the source of sadness and anxiety in front of a group, as it is in real life. Thus, giving the individual the opportunity to do this; is an effective therapy method in terms of revealing his/her feelings and

reactions and raising awareness about his/her problems (Kepçeoğlu, 1997, p.206).

Psychodrama is a group psychotherapeutic process in which participants' spontaneous behavior and dramatic improvisation in practical sessions reflect (diagnose) their subjectively significant psychological problems and help them to release negative experiences through psychodramatic action. It activates positive thinking and increases resilience in dealing with complex life situations discussed in the group. A major advantage of the psychodrama method is that psychological problems are primarily experienced and thus lose their relevance with their negative impact on the client's behaviors (Pylypenko et all., 2023).

Psychodramatic definitions of acting out encompass various behaviors (Kellerman, 1984).

• Living out, enacting through motor means,

• Abreaction (which ventilates feelings),

• Re-enactment or re-living of a past happening, pre-enactment or pre-living of a future happening 'as if' it were occurring in the here and now.

• Another behavior includes the expression of an inner reality in the external world.

• Nonverbal communication is the spontaneous use of "action language" in which all manifest actions, or "doings," are included in the psychodrama stage.

Psychodrama groups can tackle challenges in various domains. Using experiences facilitates the simultaneous reconnection between the cognitive, emotional, and physiological aspects of an individual's experience. Moreover, they create authentic experiences of safety, trust, self-efficacy, fulfillment, and self-worth (Carbonell & Pateleno Barehmi, 1999).

In addition to these explanations, psychodrama helps people who are victims of trauma. The aim of using psychodrama in the treatment of traumatized individuals is to enable them to safely re-enact their traumatic experiences within the context of the psychodrama scene and to support their psychological healing process from these traumatic events.

Therapeutic aspects of psychodrama in traumatized persons are given in the following table (Kellermann, 2013: p.6).
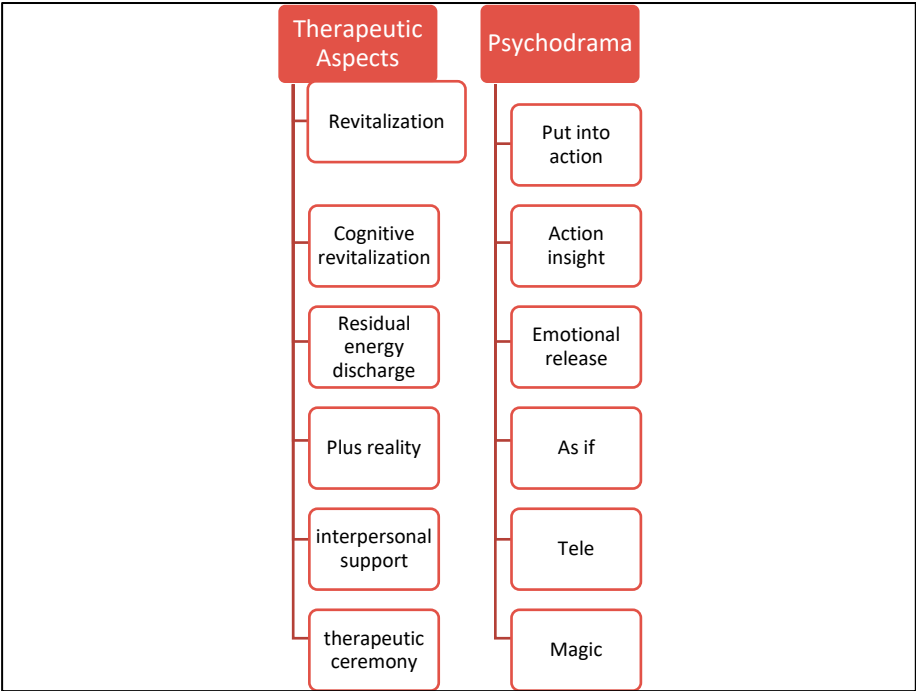
Graph 5. Therapeutic aspects of psychodrama versus Traumatized Person

Source: Kellermann (2013: p.6).

As you can see from the table, psychodrama helps people who've suffered traumatic experiences to see their traumas on stage and to find solutions to their problems by re-enacting.

This is why, psychodrama can be so useful for female offenders. Psychodrama is a combination of emotional release and a cognitive-behavioral approach, whereby the cognitive-behavioral approach in prisoners emphasizes the importance of changing criminal attitudes, thoughts, and actions, while at the same time stressing the need to adhere to personal values and act responsibly (Bairn, Allam, Eames, Dunford, & Hunt, 1999).

When the literature is examined, there are not many articles on psychodrama and offenders, especially female offenders. When the studies are examined, it is seen that psychodrama and sexual offenders are generally discussed. Article summaries about psychodrama and

offenders are given below.

Brain et al. (1999) conducted a twenty-session psychodrama study with sexual offenders. Nine offenders who completed the treatment period had statistically higher levels of victim empathy and significantly less victim empathy after treatment global distortions about child sexuality. Therefore, the hypothesis that treatment will increase victim empathy is accepted (Bairn, Allam, Eames, Dunford, & Hunt, 1999).

Women Serial Killer

One of the types of crime is serial killing. This type of crime is not widespread worldwide. Approximately 1% of men in the USA commit this crime. Although men are more likely to commit this type of crime, women can also be perpetrators.

Despite the claims of Egger (1985) and Rule (Reynolds, 1990), there is clear evidence that some women are serial killers. These are defined as women who have killed more than three victims in at least 30 days. One type of serial killer, the "visionary" serial killer, kills in response to internal visions that compel her to kill. In contrast to the visionary type, the "comfort" serial killer is motivated to kill for material reasons rather than for psychological gain. Perhaps the least understood and least represented of all female serial killers is the "hedonistic" type. The hedonistic killer makes a critical connection between lethal violence and personal, sexual gratification. Murder becomes pleasurable for the killer. Serial killers who are "power seekers" crave dominance over the lives of others. Individuals increase their self-esteem by exercising the power of life and death over others. Some women also kill when they are under the influence of a charismatic leader. Although some research suggests that many women kill for financial gain, other more intrinsic and complex explanations that address sociopathy and psychopathology should be explored (Holmes, Hickey, & Holmes, 1991).

A comparison of 73 female serial killers in the United States with 270 male serial killers confirmed the hypothesis that females are much less often motivated by hedonistic or sexual aims. However, the women tended to be of similar age as the men and to kill as many victims as possible. Their victims were more often family members, and the killing was less brutal. The women less often turned themselves into the police or were turned in by others, and they were caught more often because of a police investigation (White & Lester, 2012).

Women Criminality and Social Work

Social work is a profession based on the principle of human rights and social justice, supporting social change, aiming to solve problems in human relations, empowering and emancipation for the development of people's well-being, and intervening in the interaction points of people with their environment by making use of theories on human behavior and social systems (IFSW, 2011). In addition, social work is a game changer. Social workers work in communities with people finding positive ways forward in the challenges they face in their lives. They help people build the kind of environments in which they want to live, through co-determination, co-production, and social responsibility. Economic health cannot be achieved without social health (Url-4).

Social work is closely linked to the concepts of development, human beings, society, and change throughout history. It emerged to address the problems that arise from the development and change of society. The field of social sciences has produced various branches to tackle these issues, including social work. Social work aims to help individuals adapt to the changing and developing social structure and order. At the macro level, social service is both economic and social, and it aims to distribute cultural opportunities fairly among people. Furthermore, it involves the use of scientific and technological developments for the benefit of humanity, as well as the preparation of policies, plans, and projects to ensure that people can benefit from these opportunities for social service. Social work at the micro level involves providing appropriate service programs and projects to people and groups living in different settlements, conditions, and regions with different social structures (Cilga, 2004). Social work is considered both an art and a science and is aimed at improving people's quality of life. It is one of the humanitarian service professions (Akgün, 2012).

Forensic social work is the name given to social work at the point where social work practice intersects with the legal system (Robbins, Vaughan-Eden, & Maschi, 2014). It is a profession working in the field of human service that supports the psychosocial needs of detainees and convicts in juvenile courts, family courts, and prisons and ensures that the person survives the judicial system with the least damage.

Forensic social workers, like other social workers, often deal with the

stresses and tragedies of life. In the juvenile and criminal justice systems, they may work as correctional officers and correctional counselors in prisons, with juvenile offenders, in programs for sexual offenders, and victim assistance programs. As indicated in the other chapters of this volume, Forensic social work also relates to legal issues in traditional social work settings, such as child welfare. Restorative justice principles can be applied in all areas of social work, not just in the disciplinary arena, to resolve conflicts caused by wrongdoing (Van Wormer, Roberts, & Springer, 2008: p. 368).

Forensic social work usually studies female criminality. Especially after incarceration, social workers do some intervention with female offenders. Social work provides support to convicts not only during their time in prison but also after a female's release. During their incarceration, social workers identify the negative behaviors that led to their imprisonment and assist them in making positive changes. They also prepare convicts for life after prison. This is especially important for women convicts, as they often face additional challenges upon release. Women often work in unqualified and precarious jobs, particularly in the labor market. It can be especially challenging for women who have been released from prison to find employment (Akgün, 2012).

Conclusion

The history of studies on women's criminality is relatively recent. Early criminology studies mostly included women in gender tables in statistics. However, feminist criminology revealed that women do commit crimes, albeit not as frequently as men. Subsequent studies have focused on the reasons behind women's criminal behaviour.

The rise in research on female delinquency is crucial for identifying the causes and solutions of crime. The number of studies on female criminality in Türkiye is extremely limited, although there are many studies on the subject abroad. It is crucial to conduct academic research in the social sciences, including social work and sociology, to understand the causes of female criminality and to implement effective interventions.

Social work group studies in prison are particularly important, especially in the field of social work. Such studies can be useful for female convicts to analyse the problems they experience in prison and prepare for the post-prison period. Such studies can be useful for

female convicts to analyse the problems they experience in prison and prepare for the post-prison period. Such studies can be useful for female convicts to analyse the problems they experience in prison and prepare for the post-prison period. Additionally, psychodrama can help individuals to view their problems objectively, evaluate themselves, and find solutions. Therefore, while psychodrama studies have not yet been conducted in prisons and probation institutions in our country, it is believed that psychodrama could have a significant impact on inmates in these facilities.

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