

CHAPTER V
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS,
CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

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CHAPTER V

FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Introduction

This chapter deals with the resultant findings of data presented in the previous chapter and attempts to capture the essence of the study. This chapter also consist details on the implication of the present study and social work intervention.

5.1. FINDINGS Related To Objective I

- Majority of the women under trials in Coimbatore prison belong to 20 -30 years of age.
- More than half of the respondents (53.2%) are illiterates depicting that illiterates are mostly involved in the commitment of crime
- Majority of the respondents (92.8%) belongs to Hindu religion and the very least 1.8% was Christians.
- Nearly half of the respondents 45.9 % were residing in the rural areas before their marriage and almost the same percentage continued to live even after marriage. Hence not much difference in the place of residence before and after marriage.
- Nearly 3/4th of the respondents belong to nuclear family and the rest 38.7 per cent of the respondents belong to joint family.
- A little more than 3/4th of the respondents 78.4 per cent of the respondents were married, followed by widows, unmarried and divorced. Poverty, unemployment, desire to lead a luxurious life, ill treatment by husband and relatives, emotional reasons are some of the causes for committing crime.
- Majority 92.8 % of the respondents got married in temples. The type of marriage of more than half of the respondents is arranged marriage (66.7%)
- Majority of the respondents (78.4%) have no visitors to see them in the prison, and the rest have a mixture of visitors including husband (5.4%), daughter, parents and mother (1.8% each), and son (0.9%).

- Majority of the respondents as well as their husband this was their first marriage
- Higher proportions of the respondents know that their husband does not indulge themselves in illegal relationships but 14.4 per cent of the respondents responded that their husbands have illegal relationship.
- 3/4th of the respondents are susceptible towards ill treatment in their lives, being women it seems they are more vulnerable to ill treatments around them and it varies from torture (both in home and workplace), fight, disparity in wages, in decent treatment, heavy work load and dowry related issues. They attribute that the hatred or indifference with the husband was the major reason for the ill treatment followed by money related issues, dowry problems, illegal relationship etc.
- Women were engaged in a diverse classification of occupation before sentencing like agricultural field, textile organisations, working in handloom department, teachers, tailors, lay workers and only less than 1/5th were housewives.
- 17.12% belong to schedule caste, 5.41% are from schedule tribes, 66.67% are from backward community and 9.01% are from most backward community.
- The place of crime includes one's own house, railway station, bus terminus etc.
- Majority of the respondents (83.80%) responded that they felt they will be accepted by the society as that of others but they are of the view that their social status is not affected because of the crime they have committed and nearly half of the respondents disagreed with respect to bringing up of their children is a problem.

Findings Related To Objective II

- The women those who are between the age group of 20 – 40 years commit all sorts of crime, in specific they are more prone to theft / pickpocket that is followed by illicit liquor trafficking but the same percentage of the respondents indulge themselves in murder in the higher age group viz; 31-40 years.
- Housewives are committing higher rate of crimes i.e nearly half of the respondents (46), in specific to that house wives with 36.96% are involved in

theft or pickpocket, followed by prostitution and murder, illicit liquor, fight with others and the least scores were obtained by the type of crimes such as kidnapping and other crimes which are not included in the list.

- The earning members were involved in handloom for their income. 89.47% of the respondents revealed that they are house wives but are involved in supplementing family income through odd jobs and only a very meager percentage of housewives were found to be dependent. Some women were working in textile companies and do some other works for their earnings.
- The members of the nuclear family are more involved in the commitment of crime when compared to joint family i.e more than half 68 respondents were from nuclear family and 43 respondents were from joint families.
- There is a significant association between the place of crime and the reasons for committing the crime of the respondents similarly between ill treatment of the respondents and the crime committed by the respondents

Findings Related To Objective III

- The crime committed by the women leads to different consequences including the attitude of the society, difference in the behavior of their children and overall consequences including different things the women has to face due to her involvement in the crime.
- The analysis results shows that there is no significant difference between age, education, religion, type of family, type of marriage, illegal relationship of the respondent and their husband and ill treatment of the respondents with the level of overall consequences of the crime
- There is no significant difference between the level of social consequences of the crime with age group, religion, illegal relationship of the respondents and their husband whereas, there is a significant difference between education, ill treatment of the respondents, type of family, type of marriage with the consequences they do face in the society

- The consequences that are faced by the victim herself only because of the crime committed by her is called as victim consequences. There is no significant difference between age, religion, type of family, type of marriage, illegal relationship of the respondents and their husband, ill treatment of the respondents with the level of victim consequences of the crime but there is a significant difference between the education level of the respondents and the level of victim consequences of the crime
- The consequences faced by the children of the victim because of the crime committed by their mother are termed as children consequences. There is no significant difference between age, religion, the illegal relationship of the respondents and their husband, type of family, ill treatment of the respondents and the level of children consequences of the crime and there is a significant difference between the type of marriage, education level of the respondents and the level of children consequences of the crime
- The victim consequences is positively and not significantly related with social consequences ($r=0.445$, $P<0.05$ sig) of the respondents. The findings indicate that higher the levels of victim consequences, higher the level of social consequences among the respondents. Thus victim consequence level is not significantly related to the level of social consequences.
- The correlation analysis was used to identify the relationship between different levels of consequences and it was found that the social consequences, children consequences and victim consequences are positively related to each other based on the findings it is clear that victim consequences has no significant relationship with that of the social consequences.

Findings Related To Objective IV

- There is a significant association between the prison life and future plan of the respondents.
- There is no significant association between the type of marriage and future plan of the respondents.

- There is a significant association between the prison life and the type of help expected from the government by the respondents.
- There is a significant difference between religion and level of acceptance in the respondents family
- There is a significant difference between age group of the respondents and level of acceptance in the respondents family
- There is no significant difference between the role of respondents in their family and level of acceptance in the respondents family.

5.2. RECOMMENDATIONS – Related to Objective V

No fundamental change in favour of women is possible unless massive change in the attitude of men is brought about. Men have control over legal, administrative and financial systems and thereby deprive a vast number of women the right to own land, inherit property, establish credit enter professions or business.

Women must take part in decision making, beginning from their own families, and take initiative to reach all levels. Participation of women in panchayats, legislative assemblies, and Parliament are mandatory. When women are isolated their voice will not be heard. As group their voice will be noticeable and heard.

Female poverty can be reduced by creating income generation opportunities through micro finance, acquiring income generation skills, education, training, information on the development programmes introduced by the Government on poverty alleviation, marketing potential and by recognizing women's economic potentiality and capabilities.

Restoring self esteem - Women under trials develop an inferiority complex when they are arrested and are made to stay in the prison even for a day. Proper counseling should be given to them and make them regain their self confidence. Proper care should be taken that at no stage the counselor takes a self righteous attitude which will make the under trials take a defensive attitude; on the contrary they should be given a chance to and freedom make a better choice.

Most of the women inmates are from poor strata of society. An analysis of the crime profile of women prisoners in Tamil Nadu reveals that of the 172 convicted inmates 127 are involved in murder cases which are mostly crimes of passion and not premeditated. Of the 800 inmates who are women under trials nearly 50 percent are involved in illicit liquor and drug offences. It has to be ensured that on release they are not placed in vulnerable positions with a high risk reverting back to crime. Social acceptance and domination by the spouse forcing a hapless woman to deviance are two major challenges to correctional administration (R.Nataraj, Director General of Police/ Director Fire and Rescue Services, Tamil Nadu, Open Page The Hindu, September 13,2009).

Relating to Sex Workers – 10.8% were arrested for prostitution i.e. Sex Workers.

The case studies, Tamarai, Padmini, and Lakshmi reveal that women do not undertake sex work willingly. They are pushed to the state by their male companion or due to the failure of their parents to shoulder the responsibility of the family.

Placement of a social worker at a police station in a red-light area can help in the rescue and rehabilitation of women and girls in prostitution and can lead to an increased focus on rescue operations in the area. Commercial sex workers are in a disturbed state of mind after the rescue. On being taken to the Protective Home or any the institutions, they find the lack of freedom in the institution difficult to live with and the conditions depressing. Some of them turn violent, or hurl verbal abuses at the authorities concerned. At the time of the rescue operation, the police often tell them that they would be taken to their native places within a few days. After being admitted to the shelter home they realise that repatriation may take a few months. Sometimes their property is still with their brothel keepers. A Social Worker placed at the police station can deal with these issues and act as link between the shelter home authorities and the police.

The responsibilities of the Social Workers are

1. To counsel the rescued victims regarding their future options, shelter, health care, training, etc.
2. To inform the victims about their legal rights.
3. To arrange for their safe custody and travel to their native place by liaisoning with the institutional authorities and police.
4. To arrange for the recovery of property and rescue of women / girls/ children.
5. To give information to the police about resources/institutions, towards the rehabilitation of such persons.
6. To increase the focus of the police on rescue and rehabilitation.(Social Work Intervention at Police Stations. Page 17&18- 2012 Publishers Prayas)

Health hazards a sex worker may have to face because of their profession should be clearly explained to them, if possible with visuals. The attitude of the sex workers should be changed before the rehabilitation is introduced.

Condom promotion is not the solution. Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan 's diagnosis of India's battle with AIDS so far is that its citizen's moral fibre will have to be strengthened if the disease has to be brought under control. In an interview to the New York Times, the Health Minister had said that the thrust of the AIDS campaign should not be only on the use of condoms as it sends the wrong message that "you can have any kind of illicit sexual relationship, but as long as you're using a condom, it's fine "He added that the national campaign should also promote integrity of sexual relationship between husband and wife - a part of Indian culture."(Divya Rajagopal, The Economic Times, 25th June,2014).

Income Generation

Alternative source of income earning should developed. Self -help groups, Grammeen bank finance support, can be promoted. Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) , GUJARAT can be introduced at the rural as well as urban level for low income group women.

SEWA believes that poverty is the worst form of violence. Among the poor women suffer the most; they are not recognized as worker in spite of putting long hours of work and getting low wages. Micro Credit a poverty alleviation tool is not enough to pull a poor household out of poverty.

SEWA's complete livelihood package has the following elements.

- to build collective strength and bargaining power
- Credit and other financial services(insurance, pension and others) that lead to asset building
- Productivity improvement services-for capacity building
- Market linkages and services.
- Human development services-health, nutrition, education and others.

If poverty has to be addressed the active role of women in the economy should be recognised. (Reema Nanavathy. Sang Saeng 2008, page 15,Asia -Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding, Publisher: Kang Dai-Geun)

Attitudinal change

There is a tendency to mix the terms sex and gender. Sex is a biological factor which is concerned with reproduction and perpetuation of human kind. On the other hand gender is a social and cultural construct grown ever since human beings exist. Patriarchal system instead of maturing the well being of those who come under their care as human beings has misused the power resulting in the gender inequality, discrimination and exploitation. The mindset of those who are enjoying power should be changed. No society can develop unless nearly half of its population comprising of women is disadvantaged.

Education

53.2% under trials are illiterates according to the findings.

India's constitution guarantees free primary school education for both boys and girls up to age 14. The literacy rate in Tamil Nadu is 86.8% for Men and 73.9% for Women.

Regular monitoring is needed to check dropout rate in schools to cut down illiteracy. Right for education should be implemented sincerely.

Functional literacy should be implemented so that these women can read news papers, open bank accounts, read the bus destination, write applications which will make them participate in the function of a citizen.

POVERTY

25% of under trials accept that they indulged in crime due to poverty and 18% were unemployed.

Nobel Peace Laureate, Mohammed Yunus realized that poverty was often caused by the poor not having access to the fruits of their own labour. Many skilled workers find that any value added or surpluses their work has generated are swallowed by the middlemen who lend them money for raw materials. Yunus felt compelled to change this. He realized that if persons had accessibility to credit they would find their way out of property. Yunus started by lending money to basket weavers and this activity expanded to become Grameen Bank. In his extraordinary fight to give credit to poor women without collateral, he faced opposition from men who did not want their wives to get loans.

He encouraged and promoted self employment schemes. This micro finance and self employment schemes will be appropriate for the women under trials released from the prison. In Nilgris an NGO, Freedom Firm gives training in making jewellery to sex workers who want to come out of sex trade. After the training period these women make the jewellery in their residence and supply to the NGO who undertake marketing on their behalf. More number of NGO s can involved in promoting self employment projects and help with micro finance and also help in marketing their products till they become self reliant.

Caste discrimination

17.12% under trials belong to schedule caste, 5.41% to schedule tribes.

Caste The term Dalit is derived from the root 'dal' which means to split, break, or crack. It refers to outcasts and untouchables as the victims of the caste based social division of Indian society.

In thousands of villages across the country, many men belonging to the dominant castes believe that rape of women of castes lower to them is an inherited and inheritable right.

Even today in the so- called unclean jobs, SCs are overrepresented. In fact reverse reservation takes place in which some low paid jobs - the jobs of sweepers for instance- are almost exclusively reserved in practices for SCs or Most Backward classes. A study conducted by IIM Ahemedabad in 2006 found that graduates belonging to SC /ST category earned significantly lower wages than those in general category.

Brinda Karat- Endless Wait for Justice, (The Hindu June 6, 2014). In the findings 22 % of women under trials belong to SC/ST communities.

Undertrials

In July 2012 the available capacity in Indian jails was 3,43,169 but the occupancy rate went beyond 112.2 percent. A high percentage of them are undertrials for whom justice is delayed and in some cases denied. In spite of changing times Act 45 of 1860 and Prison act of 1894 are still in place. Consequently the ambiguities of the colonial system itself has weighed down the justice system. The official' thinking is the same. A truly general humanistic approach is missing. In 2005, the proposal to amend Section 436A of the Criminal Procedure Code to free undertrials who had served 50 percent of

the term they had been charged with has not been implemented. When would India abandon the colonial model and learn to treat its prisoners with dignity? (Professor Mushirul Hasan, When Stone Walls Cry. The Hindu July 13, 2014)

Criminal Justice Delivery System

Chief Justice of India R.M.Lodha in his Independence Day speech mentioned, "The criminal justice delivery system had failed so much so that the process itself had become a punishment. It offers nothing more than pain, suffering, human rights exploitation and deprivation of liberty especially the most vulnerable of the society. "He added a curious and tragic paradox is that our prisons house more under trial prisoners than convicts. In almost all central prisons more than 50 percent are under trial prisoners and in district prisons more than 72 percent are under trial prisoners. The process itself has become a punishment. Preferably, we should set a goal that no trial exceeds three years and no appeal from a trial should take over a year."He asked whose fault was that men and women languish in jail without dignity and freedom awaiting trial." He recommended that tools of technology are provided to the police, the prosecution and judicial officers for quick delivery of criminal justice. (Krishnadas Rajagopal, The Hindu, page 10, August 16, 2014)

In a landmark judgment in Upadhaya Vs State of Andhra pradesh case gender specific issues of women have been dealt with in detail and minimum standard laid for the care of the mother and the child. In pursuance of this women inmates are allowed to keep their children up to six years of age. Pregnant women in prison have to be given proper prenatal and post natal care.

Women prisoners blame their husbands or male companions for forcing them to indulge in criminal activities. An analysis of crime profile of women prisoners in Tamil Nadu reveals that out of 172 convicted inmates 127 are involved in murder cases which are mostly crimes of passion and not premeditated. Out of 800 inmates who are under trials nearly 50 percent are involved in illicit liquor and drug offences..

It has to be ensured that on release the woman prisoner is not placed in vulnerable positions in high risk of reverting back to crime. Social acceptance and domination by the spouse forcing a hapless woman to deviance are two major challenges to correctional

administration. (N.Nataraj, Director General of Police /Director, Fire and Rescue Services, Tamil Nadu. The Hindu, September 13,2009. It is essential that a follow up assistant should be given to the released under trials to get resettled in life.

Public -Private Partnership in Prison Management

There is a paradigm shift in understanding of crime causation whereby the individual alone is no more held responsible for his/her lawbreaking behaviour. It has led to the development of criminology that focuses on psychological, social, economic and political factors are responsible for deviant behavior in human beings.

a) The right to free legal services is an essential ingredient of reasonable, fair and just procedure implicit in the right to personal liberty.

The right to life for prisoners includes the right to live with human dignity including adequate nutrition, clothing shelter, facilities for reading, writing and expressing oneself in diverse forms.

Implementing Prison Reforms

The first initiative towards reforming the prison system in the country was made with the setting up of Indian Jails Committee in 1919. After Independence the All India Jail Manual Committee was set up in 1957 to standardize the practices and facilities offered to prisoners. The 'model prison manual' was published by the central government in 1970. The recommendations given by the Mulla Committee (Report of the All India Committee - 1980-83). Included public-private interface, with special emphasis on involvement of community participation and role of N.G.O.in correction. The report spells out creation of community based programmes and the involvement of the community with institutional aftercare and rehabilitation of the offenders. It calls for the involvement of the services of experts from the field of education, medicine, psychiatry, law, social work and journalism in framing and running the correctional policy at functional and advisory levels (Vol.1 Chapter xxi of the report)

The National Expert Committee on Women Prisoners,1987 was supportive of the public- private interface in prison and correctional administration. It recommended an active reaching out to the prisoner effectively, deal with the anxieties of the inmates

particularly women undertrials with respect to their families and children; to liason between the prisoner and her family. It is necessary to have trained social workers whose specific duties would be to work towards social integration of the prisoners. Such social workers could also arrange activities for under trial inmates\

Role of NGO s and social workers

a) Counseling and guidance- The under trials in prison can be divided into three categories.

First category come from the lower socio economic strata, with poor family support do not have access to legal aid. The social worker can provide legal guidance, emotional support and act as a link between the person and outside world.

The second category could be a mix of those who have history of crime behind them and could be termed as 'situational criminals' .Counseling could involve doing a joint review of past life experiences, identification of skills, realization of reasons why family relationships have broken down, workout a post -release plan and providing an assurance of support after release if necessary.

The third category consists of those who have moved up the crime ladder and may be committed to it. Counseling could be effective only if the person has a strong desire to get out of crime, which should be amply demonstrated by his behaviour changes and involvement in positive activities inside the prison.(Initiating Work in Prison Settings ;Prayas-Social Work in Criminal Justice. Pages 12&13)

Guidelines for counseling

The under trials are human beings, perhaps innocent or guilty till proved in the court. There should not be self-righteous attitude on the part of the counselor. They do not need sympathy but understanding. They should be given full attention while they narrate their problems. Mostly they are willing to be reformed. They have to be motivated and inspired through persistence and perseverance.

Social Justice

Social justice is the practice in which all people are treated equally and every one in the country has the same opportunity.

Social justice means

- Women have the decision making power about their education, marriage, finance, career and motherhood.
- Women have equal pay with men for doing equal work.
- Members of “lower castes” also have equal opportunities.
- Boys and girls are not forced to work but rather sent to school are fed well and time to play with their friends.
- Individuals are not arrested without good reason and if they are arrested they are given the time and resources to defend themselves properly in an attempt to prove their innocence.
- All citizens are able to participate in their political system, speak their minds, demonstrate peacefully and express their opinions.
- Social justice is when everyone in the country is treated fairly, given respect and protected by law. (Human Rights-Praksh talwar page 43 to 50 – Published by Isha books 2006).

Relating to Sex workers

Different countries at different times have adopted different approaches to confront the problem of prostitution. Netherlands and the State of Victoria in Australia have tried the approach of legalizing prostitution. This brought out the fact that there is a greater connection between crime and sex work than before. the second consequence of legalization has been an increase in demand for prostitution. the number of brothels doubled in eight years since prostitution was legalized. In New Zealand prostitution spread uncontrollably in the residential areas after it was decriminalized.

The best approach according to The Economist is Sweden's approach in 1998. The Swedish government declared prostitution as a form of 'male violence' and changed policies. Men who buy sex were charged with committing criminal offence. Public were made more aware of trafficking and the Swedish government finances women to come out of sex work. Prostitution has noticeably declined in Sweden. N.Vittal, Guest Column Sunday Express, December 2002.

Even today in the so- called unclean jobs, SCs are overrepresented. In fact reverse reservation takes place in which some low paid jobs - the jobs of sweepers for instance- are almost exclusively reserved in practices for SCs or Most Backward classes. A study conducted by IIM Ahmadabad in 2006 found that graduates belonging to SC /ST category earned significantly lower wages than those in general category.

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Humane approach

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Women undertrials

Women prisoners blame their husbands or male companions for forcing them to indulge in criminal activities. An analysis of crime profile of women prisoners in Tamil Nadu reveals that out of 172 convicted inmates 127 are involved in murder cases which are mostly crimes of passion and not premeditated. Out of 800 inmates who are under trials nearly 50 percent are involved in illicit liquor and drug offences..

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- a) The right to free legal services is an essential ingredient of reasonable, fair and just procedure implicit in the right to personal liberty.

The right to life for prisoners includes the right to live with human dignity including adequate nutrition, clothing shelter, facilities for reading, writing and expressing oneself in diverse forms.

All India Jail manual

The first initiative towards reforming the prison system in the country was made with the setting up of Indian Jails Committee in 1919. After Independence the All India Jail Manual Committee was set up in 1957 to standardize the practices and facilities offered to prisoners. The 'model prison manual' was published by the central government in 1970. The recommendations given by the Mulla Committee (Report of the All India Committee - 1980-83). Included public-private interface, with special emphasis on involvement of community participation and role of N.G.O.in correction. The report spells out creation of community based programmes and the involvement of the community with institutional aftercare and rehabilitation of the offenders. It calls for the involvement of the services of experts from the field of education, medicine, psychiatry, law, social work and journalism in framing and running the correctional policy at functional and advisory levels (Vol.1 Chapter xxi of the report).

The National Expert Committee on Women Prisoners, 1987 was supportive of the public- private interface in prison and correctional administration. It recommended an active reaching out to the prisoner effectively, deal with the anxieties of the inmates particularly women under trials with respect to their families and children; to liaison between the prisoner and her family. It is necessary to have trained social workers whose

specific duties would be to work towards social integration of the prisoners. Such social workers could also arrange activities for under trial inmates.

This national problem needs a multi-dimensional approach involving the community, police and administration- from district level to local panchayats. Panchayats can maintain a register on girls going out to work and also keep in touch with the families as sometimes they willingly sell their daughters. Anganwadi workers who have easy access to families at grass root level can be of great assistance.

Awareness camps can provide information on the dangers that await young girls going to cities to work and how they could avoid falling into traps. In West Bengal police have opened toll free lines to take complaints of missing persons or other queries. There is also a website which has a list of missing girls.

5.3. CONCLUSION

The overwhelming majority of prison population are under trials. They will stay there for many days and months waiting for their trial to begin. Many accused persons languish in jail despite being granted bail because their surety amounts are too high. As a result prisons are overpopulated by 250 percent.

A study of the women languishing in prison will show how our criminal justice system is. Many have killed their husbands as a result of 'battered women syndrome' where the husband came home drunk and beat his wife and children day after day. How many women languish in prisons today on charge of murder in failed attempts to commit suicide where the babies in their arms perished and they survived? How many Dalits perish in the jail resisting atrocities? Colin Gonsalves (2008).

There was a time when the principle 'bail not jail' guided the prison administration in this country. Now it is the opposite- jail not bail. The original principle was based on an understanding that the vast majority of those incarcerated came disproportionately from the poor particularly Dalits.

If the criminal justice system was slanted against the poor and the doing of justice in a substantial sense was nigh impossible, to lessen the discrimination accused persons were not be put behind bars unless it could be shown that he or she could abscond or otherwise interfere with the administration of justice.

Prosecuted Women and sex workers in the Central Prison is the subject of this study. It is generally accepted that when any person either male or female violates the law or indulges in illegal activities arrest takes place and till the case is tried in the court the arrested person is confined in the prison as an under trial.

The first category, 'Prosecuted Women' are arrested due to the crime committed, where as 'sex workers' are earning a living by the services rendered. Even through sex work is not normally correct there is no consistency in the way this is being treated by law. As long as 'Red light' areas as in Bombay and Calcutta are permitted, there will be demand and supply.

Sex workers

In certain villages like Natpura which is 70 km east of Lucknow, prostitution has been the tradition for 400 years. The villagers say that they have politically influential customers who do not want sex trade to stop. The girls and women are helpless. They cannot hope of having their own livelihood even though they have education.

Several women do not want to give up this trade as they earn more money than they would in any other trade. Women of Natpura are not married and no woman is married into this village. Men force their sisters and mothers into this trade. (Raksha Kumar, The Hindu, 24 March 2013).

According to "Action Research on Trafficking in Women and Children in India" a report prepared by the Institute of Social Sciences for the National Human Rights Commission (2002-2003) the girls are sold and resold with prices ranging from Rs700/- to Rs1,00,000/-. Young girls are more in demand.

The report places Andhra Pradesh at the top followed by Karnataka and West Bengal in terms of abduction and sexual exploitation of children. Trafficking is a complicated issue and needs a holistic approach to curtail it. Feminization of poverty has affected the line between what is right and what is wrong by the women who are engaged in this trade for survival.

Purpose of the Study

The main aim of the study undertaken was to gain knowledge about the prosecuted women and sex workers undertrial in Coimbatore Central Prison through appropriate procedures. The data collected through interview schedule, personal interviews and case studies provided evidence for constitution of knowledge on the socio economic status of the women undertrials.

The location of the research was the women's enclosure in the Central Prison Coimbatore. The period of study from 1st Nov 2010 to Oct. 31st 2011 and it was done with the information collected from the women undertrials. The women undertrials were informed about the purpose for which the research study had been undertaken which made their cooperation easy and their contribution valuable.

The topic chosen is a unique one in the sense it is not normally easy to gain access to meet the women undertrials confined in the prison. The Researcher who was greatly influenced by the great visionary poet Subramania Bharathiar has been involved in the empowerment programme for rural, and slum dwellers especially women.

Leadership training, skill development in rural industries like pottery, banana fibre work, areca nut plates making, coir bag making for tea industry, as well income generation skills like book binding and notebook making, industrial glove making trade etc to supplement their income. They were made aware of their legal rights and also encouraged to take part in Panchayat election.

During her visit to the Central Prison where the women undertrials are kept she recollected how the rural women suffered due to illiteracy, alcoholic husbands who were mostly casual labourers and settled down wherever they found jobs and deserted their families. This motivated her to undertake the research work to establish the reasons for which women resort to criminal activities.

The researcher was also concerned about plight of these women when they were released in case they are found innocent, or after serving their term in the prison if found guilty. She also realised that if found innocent or guilty their stay in the prison is a stigma in their lives. The society is not ready to accept these women and getting a job is difficult as no one is willing to trust them.

The plight of the women undertrials is an unfamiliar problem about whom the outside world had little knowledge. The research was undertaken to study the socio economic condition of the prosecuted women and sex workers undertrial which had reduced these women indulge in illegal and criminal activities which had resulted being arrested and brought to prison.

The study helped the researcher identify the areas which have been hindering and blocking the natural growth of the personality of women and changing them into criminals or sex workers for survival or to support their families. In spite of changes in the social role of women throughout the ages and cultures women's status still largely depends on the biological factor that she is the bearer of children whose care is her responsibility.

Deprivation of social and economic opportunities to women has suppressed their capabilities and deprived them of their fair share in the fruits of development, aggravated the disparities stunting the constitutional provision of equality and equity.

Three steps were undertaken in this research work-

- a) A study of related and pertinent books, articles and reports.
- b) Questionnaires were used to get information about their economic and social background. Interviews with the undertrials gave in depth knowledge about their condition and background.
- c) Eventhough comprehensive survey method was used through personal interviews and questionnaires, it was not enough to analyse adequately the complex fabric of social organisation. Case study method was also used to supplement and also to endorse the information gathered through survey method. The names of the case studies were changed, to conceal their identity.

This startling data emphasised the need for making further study on the 'Prosecuted Women and Sex Workers under trial in the Central Prison Coimbatore'.

Universe and Sample

Data was collected from 1st November 2010 to 31st October 2011. The population during the particular period of investigation was 111 women undertrials, and the Research has been completed.

In 1501 Michael Angelo began to sculpt the famous statue of David now housed in Academia Gallery in Florence, Italy. A mammoth piece of marble that had confounded two previous sculptors became his palette. Three years later, a timeless masterpiece emerged from this visionary artist who claimed that the figure he created already existed within the block of marble. He simply removed the excess so that the figure could be released. literacy is the warp and weft of development in society. However we cannot underestimate the capacity of rural women.

Rural women though uneducated is alert, intelligent, hardworking, even economically dependent on her husband. She works, she earns and sometimes she works more than her husband though she may get paid less. Society doesnot realise the value of her work or her efforts to keep the family united or her unseen, unknown efforts in the task of nation building. She is a valuable human resource but she doesnot get her due either in the form of respect or recognition.

Women are human beings with aspirations, expectations and hope for a happy and contented life with their families. They have the capacity, stamina, will power, and discipline to achieve this if their choice relating to their education, profession or occupation, choice of husband is supported by their families. When their choice is not respected their full potentiality is not given a chance to materialise.

It is necessary for women to be aware of their rights and improve their self esteem. This can be achieved in a two pronged approach. First of all the blocks imposed by the community and society hindering the progress of women should be removed. This will enable women who have been all along suffocated by social customs, discrimination, low self esteem and suppression, breathe a new life and blossom into a new creation. The Researcher who is also an international level artist used her talent to sensitize the community through her art work.

IT IS MY LIFE



-Collage by Sucila Grace

In addition to this knowledge on social awareness, legal rights, functional literacy, skill development leading to income generation, money management, effective decision making and economic independence will empower them to face the challenges in the world and community in a positive manner. On the basis of the analysis done the following facts were evident.

Women's' economic condition is an inseparable part of the social justice and be considered as increase in women's choices and opportunities for their economic independence. Women's choice include among others better food, shelter and clothing, access to income and employment opportunities, education and health. Poverty of women in the rural tribal and slum areas of our country reflects their lack of participation in the economic, political and sociocultural spheres of the society. Poverty alleviation therefore is not only economic but also sociopolitical.

The reality.

- a) The male dominated patriarchal system has suppressed the women damaging their rights, rightful wages, nutrition, access to health care, education and rightful share in the property.
- b) Women have been dehumanised and reduced to the status of beggars for survival deprived of their social rights, economic rights and political rights.
- c) Every society is social organisation- a system by which the necessary for its continuing existence are distributed among its members. Division of labour forms the basis for social stratification, which in its simplest form assigns roles according to physical distinction of sex. Age and kinship.
- d) Women undertrials undergo emotional stress due to separation from their families especially growing children. They develop a fatalistic attitude towards their being confined in the prison.
- e) Mostly they blame their husbands or their male companions who had forced them to resort to criminal activities ending in imprisonment.
- f) In West Bengal sex workers demand the repeal of Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956. Renting out premises for sex work is considered as a punishable offence. They also claim that there are 6000 male sex workers in Calcutta.

- h) In thousands of villages across the country, many men belonging to the dominant castes believe that atrocities against women of castes lower to them is an inherited and an inheritable right. Even today the so called unclean jobs, SC s are overrepresented. The historical inequalities created by caste structures have been strengthened by the present capitalist society to intensify the exploitation of the "untouchables" for profit. (Brinda Karat - Endless Wait for Justice, The Hindu, June 6, 2014) .

5.4. SUGGESTIONS

Establishment of family and marriage counseling centers with professional counsellors at various levels to avoid prostitution, illegal relationship with sex workers, or being unfaithful ones wife. Mostly prostitution thrives due to family problem and sexual dissatisfaction.

Pornography and blue film should be given severe punishment for such productions.

- a) Further research can be done our correlation between child abuse and sex work.
- b) Rape victims and sex work.
- c) Alcoholism and demand for sex workers by men.
- d) Alcoholism for the women's criminality
- e) Women are blaming men for their criminal activities. A study to be undertaken in what ways women are responsible for the criminal activities of men.
- f) How many under trials were found to be guilty. Was any compensation given by the police for the wrong arrest.