

Factors and Challenges of Mother Imprisonments in South and North Wollo Zones of Amhara Region: In the Case of Dessie and Woldia Zonal Correctional Center

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Abstract

This study was undertaken at Dessie and Woldia correctional centers aiming to examine factors and challenges of women inmates in south and North Wollo Zonal correction centers. So, sample of 60 women prisoners were derived from both centers for this cross sectional mixed research. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the quantitative data and the qualitative data was analyzed in thematic analysis techniques. Accordingly, the finding shows that family background (single or no parenthood), gender based violence, illiteracy, economic and social factors were identified as the cause for women offenders. While the most common types of crime committed by females are of socioeconomic in nature like stealing, vandalism, murder, creating disturbance, child neglect and children smuggling. Once women are imprisoned, they faced several challenges during imprisonment and after release from prison. For instance, sanitation problem, crime socialization of children, family disorganization, emotional distress, economic hardship, and social stigma are mainly challenged incarcerated mothers. In order to mitigate women criminality and reduce the prevalence of female prisoners, policy makers ought to come up with strategies like provision of guidance and counseling, empowerment on entrepreneurship, promote income generating activities, increased female literacy, and promote crime prevention outreach programmes.

Keywords: Women; Family; Incarceration; Correction centers and children

Introduction

Backgrounds of the study

Crime is the most serious problems in today's world. The rate and types of crime is increasing through time parallel to industrialization, globalization, and urbanization and immigration, which can be accepted as the result of industrialization and globalization [1]. However, the limits and measurements of deviated behavior are determined by the customs, traditions, rules of religion and laws, so that the response varies due to the nature of the particular deviated behavior. On the other hand, the level of being criminal and its frequency is also distinct by gender. A substantial body of research supports the notion that women offenders are different from men offenders in terms of their offenses, background characteristics, and gender-responsive needs. Most studies reveal that females constitute a small fraction of the total population of offenders globally even crimes which females commit are non-violent crimes [2]. For instance, the study conducted in United States indicated that male offenders account for approximately 83 percent of the justice-involved population while women offenders represent only 17 percent of all offenders [3].

However, women offenders has grown significantly in recent years. The UNODC [3] report indicated that globally, women represent between 2% and 10% of national prison populations but their numbers are increasing rapidly. In fact, throughout the world, women's imprisonment is growing at a disproportionately higher rate than men. Researchers identified different types of women offenders such as Harmed and harming women, Street women, Drug-connected women, Battered women, and other women who commit economic crimes, including fraud, theft, and embezzlement, as a result of economic motivations.

In Ethiopia, crime statistics of the federal police commission has revealed that the rate of women criminals are increasing fast which affected on the life of families, communities and the wellbeing of a country. By the three consecutive years about 195,608 crimes was

reported to the police. As a result the number of crime reported in 2010 increased by 6.5% 7.4% as compared to the year 2007/2008. South Wollo Zone has not exceptional case due to its similarity with most regions of our country. According to the annual report of south Wollo zone correctional administration office, the numbers of women prisoners and type of crime accused for are raised in hurried rate. Although the problem of women criminals is growing through time, many researchers are reluctant to investigate on women incarceration and related factors which incite women to commit misconduct activities. Thus, it justifies the need for more studies on female offenders and incarcerated females. Hence, this research focused its attention on the main factors that aggravates the amount of women criminals and its humiliation on families and the communities of women offenders.

Statement of the problem

Women are often imprisoned for economic, non-violent offences which linked to their financial situation or experience of violence. Poverty, persisting discriminatory laws, lack of enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights increases the likelihood of women being detained. For instance, women offenders often do not have the financial resources to pay for legal representation or alternatives to custodial sentences such as fines or to obtain bail [3]. In addition women and girls have also been imprisoned for running away from their homes, often to escape child and forced marriage, forced prostitution, or sexual or physical violence. A number of countries imprison women for obtaining abortions, including in cases of rape [3].

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A research study indicated the reason why women commit all forms of misconduct is related to the effects of demographic, social history, criminal career, and other risk factors. The relationship pathway which consists of women who come to be involved in the criminal justice system as a byproduct of their ongoing involvement in abusive and dysfunctional relationships which ultimately erodes a woman's self-efficacy and can then lead to continued victimization, depression, substance abuse, and involvement in criminal behavior [4].

Women criminality affects not only impacts on the individual woman being sentenced to prison, but also her families and the communities. The study conducted by Agboola [4] revealed that female inmates often experience daunting challenges upon their release from prison such as high rates of unemployment, stigma and discrimination, family breakdown and the psychological problems. There is high probability of women to be subjected to several forms of violence such as inhuman and degrading treatment during arrest, interrogation and in custody including stripped naked, threats of rape, touching, invasive body searches, insults and humiliations of a sexual nature or even rape (ibid).

Consequently, women face a number of challenges after release from prison are similar to that of men. However, women are more likely to suffer particular discrimination and stigma. Female crime has seriously affected the marriage and family stability and social development [5]. For example, they tend to be shunned by their husband and are often rejected by their families. Dixon [6] also imply that imprisonment negatively altered perceptions of women and reduced their social engagement with others. The impact of imprisonment can be extremely severe if the prisoner is the primary caregiver of the children or has a role that is still overwhelmingly held by mothers. Even a short period in prison may have damaging, long-term consequences for the children concerned [3].

Despite, many implicit and explicit problems of incarcerated women and girls, they have been ignored by both research and policy Ethiopia in general and North and south Wollo zone in particular. Many researchers are not focused to describe how these women view and experience their family relationships, barriers, and disruptions created by these multiple incarcerations is a problem that needs attention to plan for successful reintegration back into society. For addressing these shortcomings, this study advances the literature by identifying the reason and typology of female offenders that is not marred by many of the problems seen in earlier researches. Hence, this study ultimately aimed to the situational analysis of women criminality in South Wollo and North Wollo zones of Amhara region including: in the case of Dessie and Woldia Zonal Correctional centers. Specifically the study was addressed the following objectives.

1. Assess the trends of female criminality in south and North Wollo zones
2. Describe the factors which provoke women to enforce in criminal activities
3. Pinpoint the common types of crime women incarcerated for.
4. Assess the post-prison expectation and consequence prisoners and their family life.

Scope of the study

This research was delimited to assess the determinant factors of women incarceration, common type of women crimes and its negative effect on families and the communities of women offenders. By this

research women are called to those female inmates greater than 15 years old. Due to the age rank of the country, sometimes the researcher called girl to those what are found 15-18. Geographically, the study had bounded on South Wollo and North Wollo Zonal correction centers of Amhara region.

Limitation of the study

Some prisoners were suspicious of the data collectors for their confidential information so that they may hide important information which was vital to the study. They may not reveal all the hardships they face as prisoners for fear of victimization, some felt they have always participated in the interviews and nothing much comes out of it, this tended to affect the quality of the data collected.

Method of the Study

Description of study area

The study areas were south Wollo zone, zonal correction center found in Dessie town. Dessie is one of the antiques cities in the country which is over 100 years old. Geographically, the town is located 401 km away North East of Addis Ababa along the highway to Mekele. Dessie is the capital city of South Wollo Administrative Zone which is one of the zones in Amhara regional state in Ethiopia. The town is found in an altitude of 2,470 and 2,550 meter above sea level or (N 11° 8' 0" E 39° 38' 0"). The 2007 CSA report shows that the population of Dessie town was more than 151,174 consist of 48.23% male and 51.77%.

Another study area was North Wollo zone zonal correction center found in Woldia town. Woldia is the largest town in North Wollo zone of Amhara Regional state, 120 KM North of Dessie and 521 Km from Addis Abeba. The tow has almost similar topography to Dessie.

Research design

The study used cross sectional design with descriptive survey research as the data would be collected in one point of time from different observation units to examine the current situation of women offenders in the study area. It employed both quantitative and qualitative (mixed) approaches in nature.

Sample population and sampling techniques

The number of women prisoners were varies from day to day and month to month as when one get out of correction center, the other would join the center. At the time of data collection, the total populations of women prisoners were 98 of which 56 were from Dessie zonal correction center and the other 42 prisoners were from Woldia zonal correction center. To select the sample from the population, a number of strata's were arranged based on type of crime, total number of years for charge and those women prisoners who has been living with their innocent children in the prison. All women prisoners who live with their innocent children were included. With recommendation of detective police officer and key interview, the researchers decide to take maximum samples from each stratum's as the information and story declared was similar. So, 31 and 29 samples were selected from Dessie and Woldia correction center respectively and the total sample were 60 women prisoners.

Sources of data

Appropriate data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources of data were directly collected from women prisoners using questionnaires, key informant interview and observation. Secondary sources were obtained on available published

and unpublished documents and various reports from different organization particularly from South Wollo and North Wollo zonal correction centers and community policing. Moreover, a very critical and valuable data was obtained from police officers, detective officers and administrators of the correction centers.

Instruments of data collection

Questionnaires: Structured questionnaire were developed to collect the necessary information from women prisoners in Dessie and Woldia zonal correction centers. By taking in to account the number of samples, 60 questionnaires were organized in terms of the specific objectives of the study. After questionnaires were arranged, organized and translated to and from Amharic language, then it was distributed to respondents with the support of trained data collectors.

Key informant interview: In addition to the survey questions, the study employed 16 key informant interview to get more insight about the reason why women are going to incarceration, what are the main types of crime behaviors which are common on women and what are the challenges that females are encountered after the release from incarceration. To this end, detective police officers, police officers and administrators of the two zonal correction centers were interviewed.

Document analysis: As a secondary sources of data, data was collected from documents that found in the correctional center were analyzed to capture appropriate data about women prisoners.

Obtrusive observation: The data were gathered while the study subjects behaviors actions are directly observed and they know that they are being researched. To check status of women prisoners and their living rooms, food styles as well as the communities in the correctional center, the best data gathering methods selected was researcher's observation in the actual living condition rather than believing the report from the officials of the correction centers. Photo cameras and tape recorders were used with consultation of prison administrators

Method of data analysis

Different analyses procedures were employed in accordance with the nature of the variables involved and the required level of rigorousness. Hence, to analyze the quantitative data, a descriptive survey such as mean score, percentage and frequency were applied. Hence, Statistical package of social sciences (SPSS version 20) was used according to its necessities. The organized data were presented in different statistical tools such as tables, figures, percentages, graphs and charts. On the other hand, the qualitative data collected through key informant interview and observation were analyzed in thematic analysis techniques. Finally, through triangulation, the quantitative and qualitative data were analyzed in correspondence to one another.

Ethical considerations

Before the data gathering phase of the study commenced, an official permission letter obtained from Wollo University to conduct the study and the guidelines for qualitative and quantitative researches were adhered including avoidance of harm, confidentiality and voluntary participation. In addition respondents and interview participant of the study were requested for their willingness to participate on the study and informed that they can interrupt their involvement whenever they hastate during the data collection processes. Finally, the interviews session were conducted in secure spaces which can ensure the participants as they would not exposed to intentional harm.

Data Result and Discussion

Socio demographic variables

From Table 1 above, one can infer that 43.3 % of respondent are above the age of 30 followed by 36.7 % of age 19-30 years. The numbers of juvenile delinquents are below adult and old age. In addition, half of respondents follow orthodox Christian while only one respondent is from protestant faith.

From the Table 2 above, 66.7 % of respondent are divorced followed by 41.6 % of respondents are married while only 16.7% of them are widowed (includes those husbands is killed by their wife). Even though the majority of respondents are adult and old age, only two third of them has children while 35 % of respondents do not have child.

Figure 1 tells us that 38.3 % are primary education followed by 31.7 % illiterate. Very small number of respondents have completed college and above. Thus, 70 % of respondent is low education status which is implicated to have lower awareness to legal system and high chance of crime rate as far as lower education is one sources of vulnerability to commit crime.

From Figure 2 above, we speculated that 78.34 % (house wife covers 46.67 % and unemployed to ratio of 31.67 %) are economically dependent social group. Unemployment here can refer to those who are searching for job and students. Homemade (working as servant for pay at home basis) and those working at government office are 6.7 % each. Therefore, the largest proportion of housewife criminals tells the existent of unstable and violent families in the study area.

| No | Variable | Category | Frequency | Percentage |
|----|----------------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | Age of Respondents | Below 18 years | 12 | 20.0 |
| | | 19-30 years | 22 | 36.7 |
| | | Above 30 years | 26 | 43.3 |
| 2 | Religion Respondents | Orthodox | 30 | 50.0 |
| | | Muslim | 29 | 48.3 |
| | | Other | 1 | 1.7 |

Table 1: Age and religion of respondents. Bold value indicates the highest percent of religion respondents.

| | | Do you have children | | | | Subtotal |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|------------|
| | | No child | 1-2 children | 3-4 children | More than 4 children | |
| Marital-status of respondents | Single | 12 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 15 (25%) |
| | Married | 6 | 11 | 7 | 1 | 25 (41.6%) |
| | Divorced | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 10 (16.7%) |
| | widowed | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 10 (16.7%) |
| Sub total | | 21 (35%) | 18 | 17 | 4 | 60 |

Table 2: Marital status and number of children.

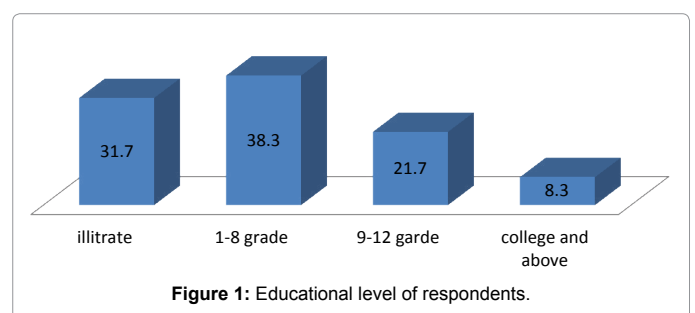


Figure 1: Educational level of respondents.

Trends of women criminality

From the time series Figure 3 above, it is very clear that the number of prisoners ranges from 41 in 2005 E.C. to 56 in 2009 E.C for the south Wollo zone where as the number of prisoners ranges from 38 in to 45 in 2008 E.C.

Factors for women criminality

Previous literature reported that most women in the criminal justice system are poor, undereducated, and unskilled. Many come from impoverished urban environments, were raised by single mothers, or were in foster-care placement. According to a study; disproportionately women of color, convicted of a drug or drug-related offense, Fragmented family histories, physical and/or sexual abuse as children and adults, significant substance abuse problems, multiple mental health problems and being unmarried mothers are identified the following characteristics of women offenders. The finding of this study also indicates that alcoholism, illiteracy, Juvenility, emotionality and other reasons like false witness were mentioned as the determinant factors that lead women to commit criminal acts.

The Figure 4 indicated that low education is an important factors for committing a crime covers 28 % while being young or juvenility are one factor for criminality(27 %). Committing a crime unintentionally

includes deep rooted violence from husbands, jealousy to their husband while he go for fornication, when other are beating too much they respond with high emotion and while trying to protect themselves they kill them. Other collective factors (30 %) contribute for their convictions are psychiatric problem, pseudo-eyewitness testimony, others use their authority and influence me and husbands are very addicted to alcohol are some of them.

As we can see from the above chart, illiteracy and juvenility have just equal proportion to initiate women for criminal behaviors. But still there are another several factors that should be causes of female offenders. Women criminality is the product of their ongoing involvement in abusive and dysfunctional relationships which ultimately erodes a woman's self-efficacy and can then lead to continued victimization, depression, substance abuse, and involvement in criminal behavior [4]. Most of women who acused fo being a murder are emanating from the countryside and the criminal action is directly or indirectly tied to gender based violence and land holding or other resources at the land that lead women criminals to stay at the center for very long period of time since they are violunce offenders.

One of the important factors for women offenders are the bad behavior of their husbands. a woman from Dessie correctional center reflected the case by the following quote.

I am 50 year old Muslim woman. I stays for the last 13 years in the correction center and I left 7 more years charged for killing my husband. I forced to kill my husband due to deep-rooted and his frequent abuses. He used to drink for years and come to home with drunken state. He threatened me number of times after drinking too much and told to kill me once upon a time. As promised once upon a time, he tried to kill me. During the struggle, he has a knife in his hand and shouting to kill me and emotionally and unintentionally I push him away and he died, but I didn't have the intention to kill him. I had two children, of which one died while the I am here detained in the correction center and the remaining is responsible for controlling our farm. (Interviewed on May 20, 2017)

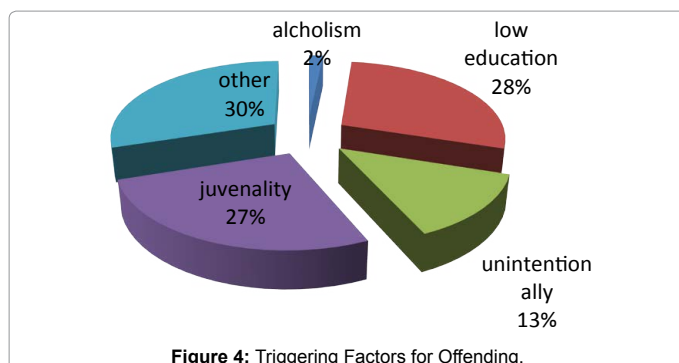
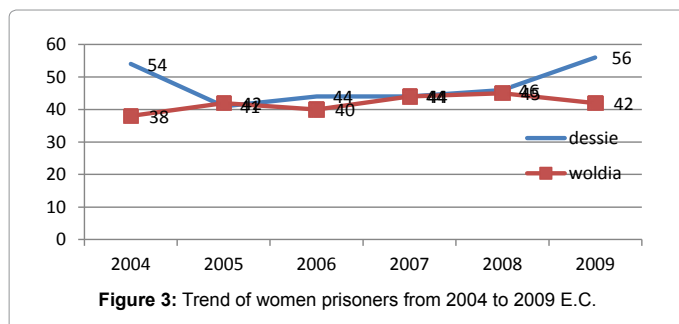
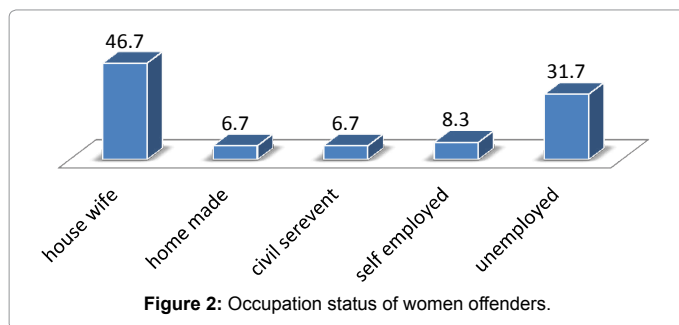
Another woman was replied the cause for killing other due to violence gender based violence:

I lost my father and mother when I was a child. I grew with the care of my uncle. I had been accused for beating a man who tried to rape me when I was watching water at a spring. Since, he immediately, before me, go to justice office so that both of us come up with (presented) at justice. Nonetheless, he released and I come to this center for 6 month correction. I leaved my home, my five children and my husband. I always think to my children all of them are kids.

On the other hand a competition to property, particularly land ownership, is the main factor to force people to involve in violent criminal activities. One of the informants stated her history of crime here:

I am 30 year old. I had been sentenced 19 year since I accused as I was collaborated my brother when he killed the son of my father(half brother) due to the competition land inheritance from our father. My brothers are moved to unknown place that is why he did not to be here. I do not fear to turn to the community after I finish the punishment since everybody knows to my cleanness. I detained by the pseudo eye witness of the victim families.

Women are also imprisoned for economic, non-violent offences which linked to their financial situation or experience of violence. Poverty, persisting discriminatory laws, lack of enjoyment of economic,



social and cultural rights increases the likelihood of women being detained [3].

From the Table 2 above, it is found that lower education is attributed to be offender and from Table 3 we can cross speculate those who have lower education commit 70% of crimes. This shows that education and crime are correlated negatively as educational level increase the chance of involvement in criminal activities reduced.

Unemployment: A study conducted by the John Howard Society of Kebede [7] shows that a high number of youth and adults admitted to correctional facilities are unemployed. Unemployment often creates a sense of dispute particularly amongst youth and can provoke angry expression including theft, substance and alcohol abuse, as well as child and family violence. Similarly, an interview with 18 and 19 years of aged prisoners at Dessie correctional center found to be guilty of stealing treasure of home where they are working as a servant. Two girls interviewed at Dessie correctional center explained the economic factors of crime that lead women incarceration.

First - while I go to my family due to father's seriously ill, home maid come to my a family home with police due to stealing 9000 birr even though she do not give me 7 months' salary of 600 birr per month(4200 birr). The home maid deceives me that if you confess, you will not be sentenced in front of police while I have stilled the money.

Second- I am 18 years old. I accused for stealing others cloth. I had no mothers and Father now since they died in my early childhood. I grew with my uncle when my age is come to be young my uncle forced me to engage her work (prostitution). And then, I move to Addis Abeba - Woldiya for seeking job. Recently I was working at one restaurant in Woldia as a waiter. The justice office of Woldia sentenced me 1 year and 4 months to be here. After I come to this center no one asked me to my wellbeing so that I fill sadness.

Health problem and substance abuse as a factor for women offenders: Prisoners do not represent a homogeneous segment of society. Many have lived at the margins of society, are poorly educated and come from socioeconomically disadvantaged groups. Women often have unhealthy lifestyles and addictions such as alcoholism, smoking and drug use, which contribute to engage in criminal activities and put them at risk of disease [8]. Some women prisoners at Dessie prison center reported that as they were seriously mentally ill and rehabilitated through the advice of social workers and senior prisoners.

Only quarter of respondent have some of health problem like depression, cancer, kidney problem, TB, hypertension and leishmaniasis. 75 percent of respondents have reported to be free of any mental and physical illness. Therefore, we can conclude that illness is not factor for any crime (Table 4).

From Table 5 above one can conclude that almost 100 % of respondents are addiction free. The best analysis for this is that most of

them are from rural community, homemaker, housewife and students. On the contrary, the common trend is that divorce is related to drug abuse, but on this particular research finding it is found that divorce and widowed which covers 50 percent of respondents are free of addiction.

Type of crimes of women criminals

The classification of the criminal behavior is made according to the degree to which they are carried out by career criminal. As distinguished from noncriminal career a criminal career involves organization of roles built around criminal activities. Such activities are; identification with crime, conception of a self as a criminal, extensive association with criminal activities and with other criminals and finally a progression in crime that involves the acquisition of more complex techniques and more frequent offenses. By considering the above activities, it is possible to list 4 types of crime.

I. Crime of violence: This crime could be defined as harm producing acts committed against people. This type of crime includes murder, aggravated assault, forcible rape, abduction, kidnapping, armed robbery and burglary. Since this all act crimes use force, they are categorized under crime of violence.

II. Crime against property (theft): It is defined as an act of obtaining the wealth of another person by illegal means. It was found that most prisoners who incarcerated due to stealing was those women who had been working as house maid workers

III. Crime against the public/corruption/: This type of crime consists of crime against the government and crime by the government. Attempt to protest, to express negative opinion against the status quo or existing government structure is considered as crime against the public government. The chart presented below indicated that corruption is, even if it covers relatively less proportion (7%) one of the significant factors for women imprisonment in Dessie and Woldya¹ center of correctional administration.

IV. Others: there are other types of criminal acts committed by women prisoners like drug abuse, failure to care children.

Amazingly, 47 % of women criminals charged for murder followed by stealing (23 %) and vandalism (18 %). Vandalism included any individual and or group based quarrel and bullying. Corruption and other types of crimes (burning office, breaking oaths and suspect of terrorism) covers 7 % and 5% respectively. According the information gathered from key informants Murder takes, especially with husbands, a higher proportion of female crime in the center (Figure 5).

Challenges of incarnated women at correctional center

Women need special treatment from prison administration due to their biological and social necessities. Nonetheless, the condition of correctional centers is not far enough to mitigate the need of inmates. incarcerated women stated that the physical appearance of living

¹Cumulative average.

| Educational level of respondents | Type of crime committed | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------|-------------|
| | Theft | Vandalism | Murder | Corruption | Others | Total |
| Illiterate | 3 | 6 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 19 (31.7 %) |
| 1-8 grade | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 23 (38.3%) |
| 9-12 grade | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 (21.6%) |
| College and above | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | (8.3 %) |
| Total | 4 (6.7%) | 11 (18%) | 8 (13.4%) | 4 (6.7%) | 3 (5%) | 60 (100%) |

Table 3: Educational level versus type of crime.

communities, food supplies, hygiene, bedding and clothing, accessibilities of water and electricity are the main problems that correctional centers faced.

The Table 6 indicates that more than half of respondents (51.7%) reported that as the got enough meal 45%, less than enough . hence, one can conclude that almost all women prisoners (97.7 %) are satisfied by the accesses of food at the correctional centers. By the same way, the provisions of water where (98.3 %) of inmates agree to have good provisions. On the reverse, half of them respond that they have been provided little or no cloths on for women inmate where quarter of them seems to be satisfied with cloth provisions. From this particular finding we can conclude that in South Wollo zone and Woldia, there is enough provisions of basic survival need i.e., the need for food and shelter, but provisions of cloths are at the medium level.

It is found from Table 7, there is good education accessibility of

| | Frequency | Percent |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|
| None | 45 | 75.0 |
| Depression | 7 | 11.7 |
| Physical problem | 7 | 11.7 |
| Other | 1 | 1.7 |
| Total | 60 | 100.0 |

Table 4: Drug use and health problems.

| Do you use any substance? | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Yes | 1 | 1.7 |
| No | 59 | 98.3 |
| Total | 60 | 100.0 |

Table 5: Addiction status of prisoners.

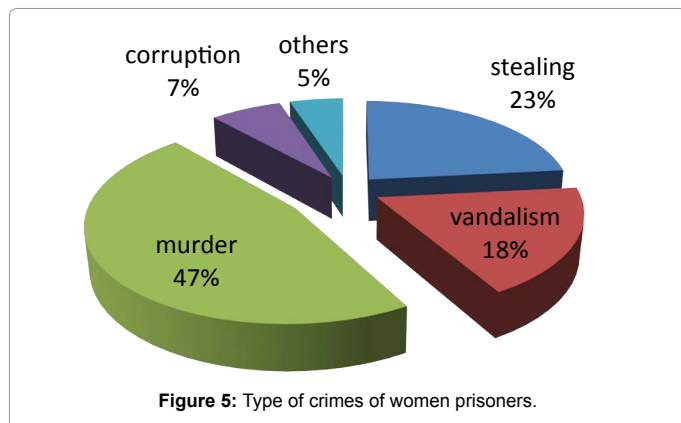


Figure 5: Type of crimes of women prisoners.

| Accessibility | Not provided | | Low | | Less than enough | | Enough | |
|---------------|--------------|------|-----------|------|------------------|------|-----------|------|
| | Frequency | % | Frequency | % | Frequency | % | Frequency | % |
| Food | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3.3 | 27 | 45.0 | 31 | 51.7 |
| Water | 1 | 1.7 | | | 17 | 28.3 | 42 | 70.0 |
| Cloths | 21 | 35.0 | 15 | 25.0 | 9 | 15.0 | 15 | 25.0 |

Table 6: Food and water accessibilities for women prisoners.

| Variables | Low | | Medium | | High | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----|-----------|------|-----------|------|
| | Frequency | % | Frequency | % | Frequency | % |
| Education accessibility | 2 | 3.3 | 25 | 41.7 | 33 | 55.0 |
| Vocational training | 3 | 5.0 | 20 | 33.3 | 37 | 61.7 |

Table 7: Accessibility of education and vocational training of women inmates.

education for prisoners from grade one to ninth and plan to open grade 10th for them coming year. 61.7 % of them reported to have high accessibility of vocational training programs such as tailor/sewing, cotton spinning and weaving and barber. Most of them get training different vocational professions. Some of them report to have job they have trained in them center when they will be of prison. The data gathered from key informants also indicated the situation of prison centers in education, vocational trainings, recreation centers and health related accessibilities.

1. Education and vocational trainings: As majority of women correctors are rural and uneducated, the correctional centers need to adopt environmental friendly tainings and deliver education. the study found that bothe of the correctional centers have minimnal vactional trainings to women inmates. However, there is a great difference in its oppotrunity to men and women. most women are restricted to work traditional cotton which affect their body due to long time sitting. others are engaged to dantel (tilf sira), barber(to men and women.)

2. Recreation centers: The structures of houses in correction centers are not allowed women to have refreshment. it was observed that both centers are male centers that women can not move easily and get refreshments. no open places have been seen out of living rooms of detained women.

3. Health related accessibilities: Many literatures shows female inmates are likely to have more serious health problems than men at prison. It is largely because of less access of nutrition, lack of access to medical care, and problematic lifestyles or biological factors. Nonetheless, inmates at Dessie center reported that there are good health facilities/provisions of the women inmates from the correction center for both the prisoners and their innocent children. Yet, correctional centers are still very limited to supply health accessibilities that only to those women having accompanied children are given little special food and soaps for hygiene. Both centers are characterized by low sanitation which leads women to be easily affected by epidemic diseases.

In net shell, both centers, even if they didn't satisfy inmates, tried to supply nutrition, education and vocational programs to the wellbeing of female criminals.

Effects of women criminality

Many women prisoners in Africa are not only victims of gender based violence before incarceration; given the poor level of security available in penal institutions, they are also victims of violence during incarceration [8]. The following graph shows multi-dimensional effects of women criminality due to being detained in prison centers.

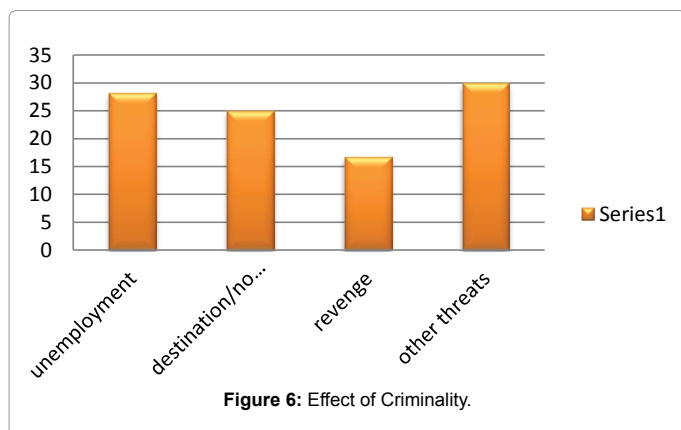


Figure 6: Effect of Criminality.

As we can speculate from Figure 6 above, 28.3 % of women prisoners expect unemployment while quarter of them fear that they will not return back as far as no one wants to live with them.

In line with this quantitative information, a 60 years old woman was presented as follows:

I am here at the correctional center for the last one year and five months. I came to this since my son killed a resource full person who takes the wife of my son. But I didn't see him and I have no any involvement in the action. However, the victim families gave false witness against me so that I have been sentenced to be arrested for 11 years. I have five children and no husband now. Two of them are accompanied with me and I have no knowledge for the rest three children where and how they are living. I have three "tima²d" (0.75 hectare) farming land which is serving nothing to my family rather to my brothers who do not care of my children. Hence, I appealed to own my land and the government have to care my children but no response I get until now.... I will not have a chance to live in my former living place after I release from the correctional center due to the treat that the victim families may revenge me and my children.

Despite to the problem, the study found that the local government overlooked to care for their family and resources even their land which is a fixed asset. Likewise, the correctional center have not any knowledge about female incarcerators family and resource, they have nothing any relation with the local community policings. They simply relieve after prisoners are being sentenced by the justice. Even the detainee will not return to their community after they released from the center. Due to this fact, female offenders are punishing double (in the center and at the community especially those females who was detained for killing a person).

Post-prison expectations after release

Twelve/12/ Women were interviewed in both correctional center and the findings indicate that, on leaving prison, most women experience disorientation; coping with the freedom thrust upon them would be difficult to adjust. All interviewed women talked about their doubt for dealing with stigmatization in the community, especially when trying to find work. Especially women incarcerated for theft talked about how they agonized whether or not to tell prospective employers of their prison record. On the other hand women imprisoned due to killing of others were expressed their fear of blood feud from the victim families and hesitated to find stable place for future destination. The survey result from respondents also shows that incarcerated women

²tima²d- traditional measurement of land estimated 0.25 hectare.

would face economic problem, family disorganization and failure of social networks.

We can infer from above

Almost half of respondents expect to have family disorganization (divorce for some, unable to manage children, family might not accept them and society might not accept in any committee and membership). Economic problem (25 %) which can be expressed in that unwillingness of employers (in café, restaurant, some other privately owned business and individual home as homemaker and distrust from loaner) is one of the challenges (Figure 7).

Moreover, discrimination and loss of social contact is expected as a threat during reintegration. From the open-ended question, it is found that stigma and discrimination, loss of economic sources, unable to have home to live, revenge from the families of murdered person, unable to bear children (might not find husband due to stigma), cannot find job, distrust from/ to any one, disrespect, unable to support each other, no worry to life, loss social relations and network, suspects to recommit/reoffend from the society, loss of properties during my stay in the prison, family disorganization and disintegration, psychological distress and disorder and the labeling act of theft, murderer, corrupt, child abort as threats during reintegration process.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Conclusion

The study found out that the major determinants of female criminality is social conditions such as poverty, alcoholic behavior of husbands, illiteracy, emotionality and other reasons like deep rooted violence from husbands, pseudo eye witness, while the common types of crime committed by females are of social economic in nature for instance stealing, vandalism, creating disturbance, murder, child neglect and others such as burning offices, suspect of terrorism as well as breaking promises. It also came out from the study that the perceived consequences of crime among females are financial hardship, loss of significant members of families, and social stigma.

Most of the respondents told that the accessibility of water and food which is provided by the correctional centers is satisfactory to both incarcerated women and their accompanied children. However, other services like provision of cloths is not satisfied the need of women prisoners. In net shell, women criminality impacts – multidimensional perceived effects in post-prison lives of women. Regarding to the post-prison expectations, women incarcerated for theft talked about how they agonized whether or not to tell prospective employers of their prison record. On the other hand women imprisoned due to killing of

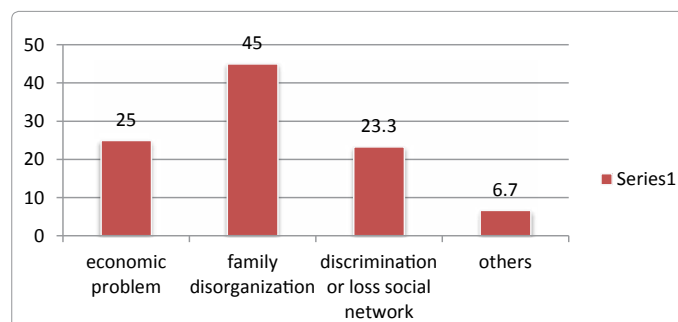


Figure 7: Post-prison expectations while they reintegrate with the society.

others were expressed their fear of blood feud from the victim families and hesitated to find stable place for future destination.

Recommendations

1. In order to mitigate women criminality and reduce the rise of female prisoners, policy makers ought to come up with strategies like provision of guidance and counseling, empowerment on entrepreneurship, provision of loans to start income generating activities;
2. the local government should focus to the need to increase female literacy
3. Women offenders should have legal consultation for their trial process
4. The local media should promote crime prevention outreach programmes.
5. The violent behavior of husband that causes for women criminality should be solved by comprehensive awareness creation programs
6. Cloths for children- should be covered by the center since incarcerated mothers have no money
7. Education and vocational training – should be improved (include higher education)
8. There should be reconciliation programs which would implemented by responsible social institutions so as to solve revenge and other bad behaviors of people
9. To this effect, there should be an integrated work among the concerned bodies like correctional centers (which will play the vital role), police administration offices, higher education institutions and other related governmental and non-governmental sectors.
10. To this effect, there should be an integrated work among the corectional center, the community policings and other concerned stak-

holders and conduct mentorship activities through group formation. It needs, therefore, the allocation of relativel better amount of budget for community mobilizations.

11. If the current women correctees are invited to share their experience to the uneducated people at public meetings how they and their families are facing worse life, others will fear incarceration and save themselfeve from the criminal action

12. Better to have continous awarnes creation programs in each communities like the health extension programs- which was effective to preven epidemic diseases.

Religious preachers ougt to be encouraged to teach the people at religious centers. If the people awared as criminal actions are sinn and hated by God, they would be restricted to involve to criminal activities.

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