

Thesis: Personality of female offender from criminological perspective

Criminality is a social pathology phenomenon that accompanies the society and has always been and always will exist in it. We will not destroy crime, although in the past so many scientists were trying to do so. In any case, it is absolutely necessary to study crime, trying to understand the causes of its formation and exert maximum efforts to avoid its enormous growth. Global research and statistics unfortunately confirm that crime occurrence is globally increasing, while there is also a change in the pattern of crime committed. Social development and social change are necessarily reflected on character of committed crimes. For this reason, must criminology as the particular scientific field, pay attention as much as possible to the phenomenon of the personality of offender.

This doctoral thesis is focused on the problem of female criminality, which was in the past neglected the most; now, it is becoming attracting attention of the researchers, particularly with regard to the expected increase in female delinquency. It is therefore a very topical and perspective issue. Theme of women's criminality is interesting from the point of view of psychology and sociology of crime analysis. We can conclude that female delinquency is significantly lower than male criminality, and varies with the structure and intensity of offenses committed.

In the first part of this work, which partly follows up on my diploma thesis devoted to female delinquency, I present selected criminological theories dealing with criminal active females and I also quote some of the controversial thoughts of foreign criminologists that seek primarily to an entirely new approach to the phenomenon of female delinquency. To this part I would like to state that although science of the criminology is for more than a century trying to explain the causes of crime, it cannot be said that it had been achieved major successes. It was established many of the criminological schools which have crated many of the theories of crime. Although the conceptions are bringing some distinctive interpretations of the causes of crime, suggest different ways of its prevention and control, none of them are universally valid and applicable. I believe that the phenomenon of crime, causes of its formation, structure and dynamics must explain by the combination of different influences.

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The following chapter is devoted to the typologies of female offenders. Given that the Czech Republic suffers from lack of own research that would create the basis for a meaningful typology of female offenders, we rely on foreign studies, which constructed the typologies that had worked for example in the development of various treatment programs applicable to prisoners. In regard of that I would like to point to the weak fields, which needs to be filled in by the professional scientific community.

Another section is devoted to the statistical data on the state, structure and dynamics of female criminality in the Czech Republic. Despite the gradual increase in the number of delinquent women appear not to be alarming, we need to look at the social influences that are causing this increase. It certainly will reach some changes in the volume and nature of female offenders in the connection with the adoption of the new Criminal Code. Because I began to prepare his thesis when the new Criminal Code was effective only for a while in any case, the changes associated with its adoption could not be reflected in my research, so I come out this thesis at the concept of the old Criminal Code, including the use of jargon, but this should not be a major problem in criminological oriented thesis.

In the empirical part of the doctoral thesis I am trying to illuminate the personality of the women offenders, which is what interests me the most about the phenomenon of crime. I always wondered who are the female offenders, what are their characteristics, what led them to commit a crime, whether they feel sorry for the acts committed, how far they are aware of the consequences of their actions. And especially, whether they differ from non-delinquent individuals, and if so, how.

The biggest benefit for me, of course, was narrative interviews with the prisoners. Since I have already conducted similar research in the last year, I was able to prepare myself for many things in advance. From last year's experience, I already knew that criminal active women were not recognized as offenders clearly at first glance or listen. In some cases I felt that there is no difference between me, as non criminal active person, and them. Often it seemed to me that the criminal offense is a question of coincidences, opportunities, social situations or other external influences. But, in fact, what they differ from not criminal population is the combination of personality traits, including intelligence and their close social environment.

The aim of this work was to verify the theoretical conclusions with the empirical research. Most of the hypotheses were confirmed; the research confirmed the general validity of criminological propositions relating to the female offenders, in particular facts concerning their social situations, education and social pathologies associated with drug addiction and alcoholism.

The knowledge that I gained in the research, goes in its scope far beyond this work, which only confirms my view of the need of for more and broader criminological probes into problems of feminine crime.

Key words:

Female offender, female criminality, criminological research