Discussion on the Causes of Female Crime and Its Control and Prevention

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Abstract: Female crime is the important factor that influences family’s harmony and social stability. In recent years, the female crime rate has been a gradual increase, and its growth rate has exceeded that of male crime in the corresponding period. This not only relates with the weakly legal consciousness of a small number of women, but also relates with the families and the society. In order to effectively prevent and control female crime, China should do its efforts to enhance women's legal and moral education, combat domestic violence, perfect the legal system, improve the social security system, and strengthen the assistance and education to female prisoners.

Keywords: Female crime, Current situation, Domestic violence, Control and prevention

1 Introduction

Female crime, by definition, refers to the crimes committed by women. It corresponds with the male crime, and is a crime classification which is made from a gender perspective. The main purpose of this classification is to explore the causes of female crime and make positive prevention. In recent years, the absolute number and relative ratio of female crime has increased yearly which can not be ignored. And there is a trend towards younger age-crime and organized crime. Female crime has seriously affected the marriage and family stability and social development. In this context, it is particularly necessary to discuss the reasons for female crime and bring forward the corresponding control measures.

2 The Current Situation of Female Crime

Female crime is a main indicator to measure a community's moral standards. Because compared with male crime, the number and proportion of female crime is low, scholars and the judiciaries are not concerned about female crime in a long time. But in recent years, the rapid growth of female crime and the emergence of the new features had to be given extensive attention.

2.1 The rate of female crime is on gradual rise

The rate of female crime is gradual rise around the world. And it is particularly evident in developed countries. Germany's female crime rate is 24% of the total crime, and the rate in the U.S. is 30%. In China, the female crime rate also has increased rapidly. After the founding of New China, from the 1950s to the 1970s, the female crime has accounted for 2% of the total number of crime. After the 1980s, with the social transformation, the number of female crime has increased significantly. While the number of crime increases, the proportion of the female offenders has increased from 2% in the 1970s to 3% in the 1980s, to 5% in the 1990s, and to 18-20% now which almost equal to that of Germany and the United States.[1]

2.2 The types of female crime are complex

There are more types of crime for female crime, which include crimes against property, violent crime, arranging for or forcing or sheltering women to engage in prostitution, drug crime and the crime of human trafficking. The crimes against property include theft, fraud, and job occupation. The violent crimes include murder, intentional injury, robbery, and kidnapping. Among them, the crimes against property, the violent crimes and the sex crimes account for a large proportion. The crimes against
property account for 45% to 50% of the total female crime; the violent crimes account for about 20%; and the sex crimes and other crimes account for about 25% to 30%.[2] With a wide range of women's participation in social activities, the crimes by taking advantage of duty are also increasing.

2.3 The crime age is younger
At present, the crime rate of female crime increases every year. And the average age of female prisoners continues to decline. According to statistics, the average age of Chinese female prisoners is 24 years old in the 1960s; the average age dropped to 21 years old in the 1970s; and now, the average age is from 14 to 18 years old.[3] This feature of low crime age is most obvious in sexual crimes and drug crimes.

3 The Causes of Female Crime

3.1 The personal causes
Compared with male offenders, female offenders are on a low level of education. A lot of female offenders are illiterate or semi-literate. They haven’t social knowledge and experience, and their survival skills are poor. They lack analytical skills in dealing with problems, and they are not sensible to deal with things. When they are instigated or enticed by others, they are easy to be coerced or deceived, going astray, and beginning their life of crime. Because of the low level of education, their legal awareness is relatively weak. When they have been violated by unlawful infringements, they can not look at and solve the problems from a legal perspective, but take extreme and violent and lawless ways to solve the problems. For example, some women themselves are victims of domestic violence, but they do not know how to use the law to protect them. They fight violence with violence, and when they can not endure domestic violence, they will kill the perpetrators. And their will be perpetrators. In addition, psychological factors such as vanity, unrealistically compare, hedonism, narrow-minded, vindictive and so on also contributes to an important cause of female crime.

3.2 The family causes
3.2.1 Domestic violence
Domestic violence is one of the main reasons of female crime. Survey shows that 70% of women offenders have suffered domestic violence for a long time before they commit a crime.[4] The Causes of domestic violence include: 1st, in some families, because women do not work and have no source of income and has no place in the family, they often subject to her husband's beatings. 2nd, Husband has a macho idea that husband is superior to his wife and he beats his wife frequently. 3rd, the wife has the mentality of "not wash your dirty linen in public" and endures domestic violence repeatedly. 4th, the relief mechanism is not perfect. According to the survey, 23.6% of women sought help from her family or friends or the organizations, however, 15.6% of the people who were been sought for ignored their request or persuaded them not to make public.[5] This unrestricted domestic violence turned to be further intensified, and the wife turned toward the extreme revenge.

3.2.2 The imbalance of the family structure
The imbalance of the family structure means that the main structural component of the family is not complete which include the fault family and deformity family. These kinds of families are prone to family tensions, and lead to the occurrence of crimes. The fault families include grandfather- grandson families and the families which marriage is not a complete, such as divorce, widowhood, separation, imprisonment and so on. In the grandfather- grandson families, because of the lack of parental care and discipline, young people tend to form a twisted character. The breakdown of the marriage relationship is a serious psychological blow to women, and it will make psychological crisis. And if there is not a timely manner to ease the psychological crisis, some women will commit crimes. The deformity family mainly refers to unmarried cohabitation family, or the temporary family which made by extramarital love. This kind of family is lack of legal protection, and naturally lack of family stability. It is difficult to establish mutual trust because of the lack of responsibility between men and women. So violence affairs
and sex murder can easily be triggered.

3.2.3 The imperfection in family education
Family environment and family education is essential for healthy growth of youngsters. Proper family values and moral values can correctly guide the development of young people; enable them to move ahead in the right direction in life. Because of the incomplete family structure, such as parental separation, parental death, children are lack of normal family care, and they are easy to been received and cheated by bad guys. The abnormal family relations such as marital and emotional crisis also are likely to produce depression and tension to children. They are easy to develop a strong dissatisfaction to family and social, and then make an extreme move.

3.3 The social causes

3.3.1 The imperfect of legal system
First, the legislations are deficient. China's current laws are still significant deficient to combat domestic violence. Legal subject responsibility of the government is not clearly defined; the responsibilities and tasks of the ministry of public security and civil Affairs and other relevant functional departments are unclear. China hasn’t formed a long-term mechanism to prevent and combat domestic violence, particularly legal mechanisms. As the most important legislation to protect women's rights, the part of the penalty of the "Women's Rights Protection Act" is too unspecific. Many legal provisions do not have maneuverability. It makes the law become "dead law" which hasn’t effectiveness. Second, the law enforcement is ineffective. Although the "Constitution", the "Labor Law", the "Education Law" and other laws provide equal rights for citizens, women still get of a lot of discrimination and restrictions in employment, and the phenomenon that women's legal rights are violated still exists. Women's education level was significantly lower than men. Article 48 of the "Women's Rights Protection Act" states: when women's rights are violated, they have the right to request the relevant competent authorities to handle the affairs, and they can complain to the women's organizations. But the reality is that the relevant departments are to be evasive, or mistakenly believe that "even an upright official finds it hard to settle a family quarrel "", and ignore the behaviors that violate women's rights and interests.

3.3.2 The influence of unhealthy social phenomenon
With the economic development and social transformation, a variety of unhealthy trends and phenomenon, such as mistresses, extramarital affairs, illegal cohabitation, is on gradual increase. By the erosion of these unhealthy ways and customs, a part of the female can not maintain the correct values and world outlook when they are in the face of the temptation of money. Some highly educated women have gradually relaxed their requirements and go into the abyss of crime. And with the widening social gap between rich and poor, very few female has not a well-balanced mentality and love ease and hate work. This makes the female crime have considerable space.

3.3.3 The spread of junk culture
With the rapid development of society, all kinds of media have developed rapidly. But as well as they provide lots of convenience to people, they also bring a huge negative impact as well. At present, the social media especially the Internet has much junk cultures such as pornography, violence, and terror and murder. These junk cultures have a profound impact on part of female with the dependent psychology. Due to the low educational level and the poor cognitive ability of things, they are vulnerable to been suggested, and embark on the road of degeneration and crime.

4 The Prevention and Control Measures of Female Crime

4.1 The individual prevention and control measures of female crime
4.1.1 To strengthen the cultural knowledge and legal educations
Because some women have low levels of educations and qualities, they are lack of scientific analytical skills and discriminations. They easily get impulsive, even go to extremes. Therefore it is necessary to strengthen the cultural knowledge educations, especially in rural and remote areas. At the same time we
should strengthen legal educations. Through legal education, they can distinguish which behaviors are legal, which behaviors are illegal, which behaviors are protected by laws, which behaviors are prohibited by laws. They can distinguish the boundary between crime and non-crime, gradually develop legal consciousness, and know how to deal with all kinds of contradictions and disputes rely on laws, and learn to use the law to safeguard their legitimate rights and interests.

4.1.2 To strengthen women’s outlook of world, life and moral.
Based on the characteristics and the causes of female crime, and in order to reduce and prevent female crime, the whole society should pay attention to and strengthen the female moral education. The education center should be placed in the aspects of the female self-esteem, self-reliance, and self-improvement. These will enable them to make a clear distinction between right and wrong, and consciously resist the decadent ideas. They will know how to use reason to control their behaviors. And their forceful characters to combat undesirable tendency will been trained.

4.2 The family prevention and control measures of female crime
Family prevention refers to curb and reduce crime through family education function. The main task of family prevention is to prevent crimes among family members and criminal damage to family members.
These include: 1st, to combat domestic violence. We should establish the relevant agencies to deal with domestic violence. These agencies will provide services to women who are victims of domestic violence. The services include the identification of injury, the help of living, the psychological counseling, the legal advice, the skills training, the instituting of legal action and etc. 2nd, to guide their children’s education. As the child's legal guardian, the parents shall fulfill their duties of guardianship and obligations education to their children. We should also strengthen the right guidance of the family for their children. Many of their children’s behavior and the formation of characters are derived from the families. Because the parents’ educational methods are important to the growth of adolescent girls, the parents should take the proper methods to educate their children, especially the adolescent girls during the rebellious period.

4.3 The social prevention and control measures of female crime
Liszt, Germany famous criminal law expert, once said, "The best social policy is the best criminal policy." Criminal policies and social policies are closely linked, and some social policies themselves contain the contents of criminal policies. Through political means, economic means, cultural means and etc, the social prevention and control measures will establish a tight social prevention system. The social prevention and control measures are the crime prevention strategies that adopted by root. The implementations of specific measures have the following:
4.3.1 To perfect the legal system
1st, China should formulate the "anti-domestic violence law” to prevent domestic violence, protect the legitimate rights and interests of women, establish the women's status and protection, and by these women can be given due recognition and respect. 2nd, China should conscientiously implement the "Women's Rights Protection Act", the "Marriage Law" and other women's protection laws and regulations, and timely investigate the infringement of women's rights. 3rd, China should severely crack down on trafficking in women, forcing women into prostitution and other illegal and criminal acts to protect women’s legal rights and interests. 4th, the government should enlarge the propaganda of the sexual equality ideas and form a good system to make women be treated equally in all aspects.
4.3.2 To improve the social security mechanism
China should establish the female's social insurance system which will expand the coverage of the social security for the majority of women, especially for the laid-off women; develop an employment policy which tilts to women to expand women's employment opportunities. Governments at all levels should establish a special fund for women to eliminate the poverty of women, to help women achieve economic independence, to improve women's social status and to protect the legitimate rights and interests of women. China should improve the interests’ expression mechanism for women to establish broad and
adequate channels of interest articulation; increase the involvement of women's issues of the variety of mass media to make the whole society pay attention to women’s survival and development; improve the efficiency and ability of channels in expression of the women’s interest to guide women to actively use legal channels of interest articulation for interest expression and interest implementation.

4.3.3 To strengthen the support and education for female prisoners

To the women prisoners in the prisons, we should organize them to learn knowledge and skills so that they can overcome the psychology of giving themselves up as hopeless. And that will guide them to turn over a new leaf. To the women that released from prison, we should do follow-up surveys, appeal the society not to discriminate them, give them more care and help. If necessary, we should fix them up with jobs depending on the circumstances. In short, we must try to avoid them to a life of crime once again.

5 Conclusion

In summary, female crime should arouse our attention in today's society. Female crime rate is one of the landmarks to measure social moral standards. It has very important significance to study the reasons, the characteristics and the countermeasures of the female crime. We should use various means and multi-pronged approaches, and form the effective measures. By so doing we can we can we can reduce and inhibit female crime, and promote the healthy development of individual, family and society.

References