

ILLITERACY AND INCIDENCE OF CRIME AMONG WOMEN: CASES NARRATED FROM JAILS IN BALOCHISTAN

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Abstract

This study is based on 'Need Assessment Survey of Women in Jail' sponsored by Ministry Women Development, Social Welfare, and Special Education, Government of Pakistan. The study was carried out in four jails of Balochistan namely Quetta, Gaddani, Dera Murad Jamali and Mastung jails. The women were imprisoned for their involvement in crimes like zina under Hadood Ordinance, drug trafficking, murder and child trafficking. More than 90% of the prisoners involved in crime were found to be illiterate. The cultural taboos hinder the education of the female and she does not become aware about her responsibilities and rights. They all pleaded that their ignorance had brought them to the present situation. They had either been trapped by people because they did not have any sense of self-assessment and situation analysis or because they could not calculate and estimate that they are being dragged into adverse situation. Some level of education in all these prisoners could have changed the situation.

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