THE MAIN SOCIAL RISK FACTORS IN THE FEMININ DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR

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Abstract

The feminine criminality is a social phenomenon of defining importance in trying to draw the portrait of contemporary human society. What is the basic mechanism of this dimension of human behavior remains a continuing challenge for criminology researchers and beyond. The feminine offenses segment dresses a form of atypical aggressivity. This is the main reason who determine the identification, analization and explanation of the factors that influence and shapes the behavior of the woman, bringing it to the form of criminal behavior.

The contradiction between femininity and criminality is outlined as an intrigue of gender stereotypes, which the researcher can not bypass. That is why patterns, items, everything on the background of social change are considered. The social change comes, in turn, with challenges both from the domestic area and from the outside of the family.

In this paper we will review the main social nature factors that trigger the deviant behavior leading this to delinquency and even determining its identification with forms of delinquency. Women's evolution in time, in terms of age and social modernization, results in changes in the feminine attitude, the typical female actions, woman's personality as a mother, married couple, daughter, girlfriend, etc.

The purpose of this study is to present risk factors with criminogen potential on women's behavior in society.

Behavioral deviance, as a result of the multitude of bio-psychological, econ- omic, socio-cultural, political, natural factors, turns into violence, and violence tends to become an increasingly strong component of female temper. Last but not least, it is observed that the femininity itself, under the pressure of social factors, takes on new forms, dominated by aggressiveness.

Keywords: *feminine criminality, gender stereotypes, criminogen potential, social risk factors, feminine behavior.*

1. Introduction

In order to the prevent and combat the criminal phenomenon, it is necessary to identify, analyze and explain the factors that determine or facilitate the engagement in a deviant behavior.

„The research of the criminogenic factors is done from a etiological perspective - static - and from a dynamic point of view - the passing to the act.

From a dynamic point of view, the factors that lead to a crime are materialized at the level of human activity, in the act of will that stimulate the personality, the skills, the temperament, as well as the character (the ensemble of attributes that constantly manifests in the conduct of the individual) [1]. "

The etiology of crime addresses the criminal phenomenon as a whole, individualises the factors that led to the commission of crimes and through a purely analytical methodology, offers the possibility of general knowledge of these criminogenic factors. In the genesis of crime, we distinguish the following types of factors:

– **individual (biopsychological) - refers to the individual as a biopsychological unit;**

– **social - economic, cultural, political - refers to the individual's social environment;**

– **natural (physical) - cosmoteluric g eographic - refers to the natural (physical) environment of the individual.**

These factors do not act independently or according to a particular pattern depending on the type of offense, author, victim, etc.

The relationship between the different categories of factors and the preponderance of one or the other will vary from case to case, from individual to individual, giving the researcher the most complex combinations and effects.

We will focus in this article on the social factors of criminogenic risk, as a result of contemporary social changes.

2. Content

2.1. The socio-economic evolution and its influence on crime

It is well known that the economic evolution and economic cycles have an effect both on crime, regarding its structure and volume, also on the functioning of the criminal system. The transformations from the structures of economies framework in the modern age have determined long-term events and processes such as urbanization, increased of state authority, etc.

As far as socio-economic changes after the war are concerned, they have been at the basis of both the rise in living standards and the long-term negative effects such as the emergence of migration, the aggravated poverty under the old and new forms that led in our day to the

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[1] Roşca Al., 1995, *Psihologie Generală*, Ed. Didactică şi Pedagogică, Bucureşti, p. 504.

impossibility of maintaining the subsistence level for as many families, managing to drastically "weaken" the average socio-economic category, another time a factor of stability.

The deepening of disparities between social categories led to the creation of a strong sense of estrangement and insecurity of individuals. An expanding political economy creates new jobs, confidence in individuals' own forces, as well as an increase in living standards.

Recession means among other things unemployment, falling living standards, tension by the social groups level. Lack of jobs is a determining factor of the increase of delinquency: people who do not work, having enough time and being at the limit of subsistence, benefiting of motivation, do not hesitate to break the law.

Factors of economic and social progress determine besides positive effects and negative effects. Among them, industrialization and urbanization have determined to the creation of a strong status of anomie, which has inevitably led to deviant manifestations, disorientation at the individual level as well as to the deficiencies of social integration. All of this has been a ramp for the launch of many criminal careers.

2.2. The role of cultural diversity

Certain cultural factors have a predominant role in socializing individuals. The negative socialization through them determinated to deviant behaviors leading to increased crime.

The socialization is the main process by which individuals assimilate the norms, values, and behavioral rules specific to a particular social group to which they belong or represent the process of interiorizing the ethical-normative and cultural model in the consciousness and conduct of each member of a society.

2.2.1. The gender

Gender is the socializing factor that contributes decisively to the formation of normal, desirable behavior, which underpin at the gender problematize. There is a need for discussion about gender socialization in extenso, given that we are talking, throughout this paper, about women's aggressiveness, a feature somewhat borrowed from the masculine area. An mismatch of gender role with associated behavior leads, in particular, to gender research in female delinquency analysis.

The gender socialization, an integral part of the general socialization process, through which is internalizes and transmits gender norms, according to space-time, determines the issuance of positive or negative sanctions raported to the realization of conformity.

„The socialization, including gender, takes place in a set of situations that are related to each other (situations of moral socialization, cognitive learning, imagination, psychological communication, etc.), in which are built, shared, interiorized and are permanently transmitted the gender messages[2].“

The agents of socialization are divided into: direct - parents, or indirect - school, media, hobbies, etc. They have the highest weight in the differentiated socialization of girls / women and boys / men, a process that is achieved by specific methods and mechanisms. From the youngest ages, it make the differentiation is made by choosing certain toys for girls as compared with those for boys, specific feminine or masculine apparel, in order to continue in time, with the differentiated sex-based practice of extracurricular activities etc.

By identifying with direct socializers, children acquire behavioral affective models.

Gender messages transmitted through school textbooks also become indirect socialization sources, such thate, for example,the lack of strong and successful female models in the textbooks incites discreetly the model of the woman who just "do is" and the man who "do what[3]."

Gender socialization is a procesual phenomenon that carries its own mechanisms, generating the most prominent effects at the societal level. In conditions of stereotypy and beyond, it is a determining factor in gender discrimination and segregation. The identity appears to us as a reference system in the process of placing the individual in relation to himself and to others.

Self-esteem is the foundation for gender identity. Regarding the culture of domination, we can say that it attacks self-esteem, in favor of the power to dominate the other.

Through complex socialization processes and gender self-socialization, individuals acquire to himself (learn and interiorized himself) their gender identity (this concept was introduced by psychoanalyst Robert Stoller in 1964).

The gender identity is a social construction, an effect of gender socialization (Simone de Beauvoir: "We are not born, but become women").

Promoting stereotypes and gender prejudices, the gender socialization is closely linked to the phenomenon of self-creating prophecies.

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[2] Grunberg L., 2002, *(R)evoluții în sociologia feministă*, Ed. Polirom, Iași, p. 329.
[3] *Ibidem*, p. 330.

Juliet Mitchell, in "Women. The Longest Revolution "(1966) addresses the socialization from the perspective of social structure, as one of the defining factors of the feminist movement.

Nancy Chodorow or Dorothy Dinnerstein believes that in most contemporary societies, the womens are the main socializers, and they put their mark on the personality of the child, depending by conformity at gender role.

Role designates the expectations of others as to how the individual fulfills himself his or not duties in relation to his or her status. Being the dynamic element of status, the role represents the standards accepted by a relative group to the behavior patterns, attitudes and values expected from individuals who occupy specific positions in these groups.

Social roles in general and gender roles in particular are modeled by and reflect the structural characteristics of society and culture. These widely shared expectations create social pressures so people feel the need to comply their.

The behaviors associated with female/male status are named by sociologist gender roles. Considering that in the stereotypical representations betwen man and woman the major difference lies in aggression, like forms and manifestations, within sociobiology it has been suggested the idea there is a genetic basis for specific behaviors of a sex role.

At the same time, the contribution of social and cultural factors in the differentiated man-woman behaviors was demonstrated. Therefore, the biologically difference of sex (anatomic, physiological, hormonal) in the plan of differences male-female is followed by difference of gender (the socio-cultural categorization of male and female, with all its representations).

"The sex-gender difference was theorized by the feminists of the second wave, the genre having the meaning of the difference built and interpreted socially and culturally between the two distinct social categories: *men* and *women*. These differences also have a normative character, in the sense that those who do not conformize to the gender role are seen as deviant from birth or socialized inadequate. So the sex operates with the biological distinction and the gender with the socio-cultural one[4]."

"The sense of self associated with the cultural definitions of masculinity and femininity, gender identity is especially a subjective experience, being the psychological interiorization of

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[4] Dragomir O., Miroiu M., 2002, *Lexicon feminist*, Ed. Polirom, Iași , p. 156.

feminine / masculine traits and the result of a complex process of interaction between oneself and others[5]."

The conformism contained of traditional gender roles, beyond the advantages highlighted of functionalism, has negative effects on individuals.

Many research has shown, for example, that there is a greater number of depressions among female housewives than those who have a job, or the male mortality higer compare with than feminine, related of the social pressure specific to male public roles.

In sociology, gender roles have been approached from different perspectives:

– functionalist, with emphasis on the complementarity of gender roles (expressive vs. instrumental roles) so as to maintain the balance and stability of the social organism taked like totality;

– social - conflictualism, in the prolongation of Marxist theories, with emphasis on the conflict between roles and the importance of the economic factor in explaining gender inequalities;

– symbolic interactionism with an emphasis on microscopic aspects of gender roles analysis, on interactions between people trough which it is negotiated and created the reality;

– feminist, within which: (1) gender plays a central role; (2) gender relations are considered problematic, being linked to inequality, contradiction and constraint; (3) gender relations are neither natural not to unchanged, but are produced of the socio-cultural and historical factors. Of course,also within the feminist theories, we can distinguish liberal, socialist, marxist, radical, multicultural variants, approaching the theme of gender roles.

Gender stereotypes present themselves as organized systems of beliefs and consensual opinions, directly related to the characteristics of women and men and alike with the stereotypical qualities of masculinity and femininity.

Male/female physical and mental characteristics associated with social actors are both descriptive in the sense that they show how women and men are in reality, but also prescriptive, promoting the ideal models to which male/female behavior relates.

Gender stereotypes are part of a system of values and attitudes about gender. This system is based on social expectations regarding attitudes to gender roles, their violations, also the gender identity.

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[5] *Ibidem,* p. 192.

The transmission of socio-cultural expectations depends on the interrelation in which been the direct and indirect socializers: parents, extended family where appropriate, media, school, entourage, etc.

Sandra Bem (1993), considers that gender is the factor that determines during childhood the formation of an opticaly in terms of observing, interpreting and acquiring the behavior of the close ones, a stage who preceding another, namely the elaboration of its own "gender scheme" means of the own value system to which the vision of women, men, girls, boys is to be reported.

The dissimilarity between the sex role and the gender role leads to the idea of homosexual behavior, both in the case for men and for women.

The analysis of status and power concepts inevitably implies the analysis of gender stereotypes: from those who occupy higher positions in the social hierarchy expect specific male features, while from those with a lower status are believed to have female stereotype features. Those who do not conform to the gender roles of stereotypes expected from their sex are socially punished in various forms.

2.2.2. The etiological role of the family

Another social factor in the study of the etiology of delinquency is the family, involved in the majority proportion in the socialization process, which imparts to the child the value standard, as well as educating in the sense of acceptance or rejection of social values.

The delinquent behavior of the child has been studied among others of the point of view in terms of the relationship between the family atmosphere and delinquency. Thus, it was concluded that lack of affection, default couple relationship, inadequate supervision from parental part, lack of interest in the problems faced by the child, mother's inability to cope with conflicts, father's deviant behavior – alcohol, lacking at home, beatings, attending dubious entourage, spouse abuse - domestic violence in a word, are elements that can explain the delinquent behavior to a large extent.

Nowadays, the socialization process tends to be realized less and less in the family, thanks to stand a longer time in school, friendship, extra-curricular activities. Even the time spent by the child inside the home is captured by a computer, television or other media influences that transmit information that can lead in many cases to adopting a deviant behavior.

We are witnessing a certain independence of the child from the family, which means that socialization takes place outside of it, where the lack of parental control leads to choices not in accordance with norms and values accepted by society, finalizing themselves by committing deviant acts, which leads inevitably to the rise of criminality.

In the family where the mother executes a custodial punishment, family relationships have special features, being influenced among others also by the attitude of the condemned.

2.2.3. The domestic violence, a criminogenic factor

Domestic violence ("spouse abuse"), which is a topic of import in the social sciences landscape of ours from us, is an undeniable cause of the increase in the criminality rate.

The communist man was considered a spotless individual, totally devoted to the respective political ideology. This ideological creation of power does not allow to real individuals to existing in the attention of state policy.

The non-fulfillments felt by the individual in the plan of social life sprang into the one of his private life. The victim from work place, from society, became the executioner of the weaker than him. The adultery, beating, rape of the partner were practices that, through the frequency with which they were taking place in the private life sphere, had the aura of normality in the eyes of most individuals.

Domestic violence is now considered a form of social illness that affects the physical and mental resources of communities.

Variants of the solutions adopted by women victims are: remaining in a situation, divorce or separation, death or transformation of the woman into an aggressor, through a mimicry with a survival role in relation to her executioner. In the case of adopting the first option, everything stays behind closed doors, in the privacy of the home without any intervention from outside. Women who align with this behavior versus their own drama are the unseen side of domestic violence, which is, unfortunately, much higher than the one seen. In the case of the woman has the moral necessary force to take an attitude before chronicization her relationship with her partner, she will appeal to separation, following the divorce action. A third situation in which the woman victim of domestic violence can be, is the death of her. In Romania there is very little statistical data on the death of the woman victim of domestic violence. In order to get out of the crisis situation, there is a fourth possibility when the woman victim of domestic violence interrupts the violent

manifestations on herself by taking over the aggressive behavior, as a response to the violence being suffered.

By adopting this solution to end the crisis, the victim woman turns into aggressor, to the adress to the life partner, child, or society.

The infractions committed by the women who have become aggressors range from low-risk of periculozity offenses, to the most atrocious crimes. Everything is done in correlation with all the other factors who determined the increase of the criminality rate.

2.2.4. Educational institutionalized environment – school

The excessive *schooling* leads to a drastic reduction of a time spent in family. This is the reason why the socialization is it realizing increasingly being done by school institutions.

The school is trying to recover what has not been realized in the family, especially since it also benefits by advantages like from the pursuit of behaviors and, as such, the identification of the deviance and their controlling. By order and discipline, by monitoring behavior, even "repairing" family failures in regarding of the education of minors is attempted.

The lack of family discipline, poor schoolling results, the school dropout, are present elements at the future sociopaths. In this regard, there is a growing problem for creating programs that would replace these shortcomings within the school with positive elements, with a preventive role.

2.2.5. The membership groups

The entourage, or the social environment of the individual, presents a particularly important contribution in it's socializing , whether positive or negative.

„S. and E. Glueck have reported that more than 98% of the 500 offenders observed had largely delinquent friends while the other delinquents, less than 8% had delinquent friends[6].“

In the entourage, the delinquent behavior is learned, the individual being attracted by the encouragements of the group on the one hand, and on the other, it comes into play the fact that the expected rewards, cover and exceed as a value the punishments and sanctions afferent to these behaviors.

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[6] Sandu I.E., Sandu F., Ioniţă Gh.I.,2001, *Criminologie*, Ed. Sylvy, Bucureşti, p. 224.

There are distinct social groups that have a deviant tendency (marginal groups) generated by a particular subculture. The most dangerous group in this respect is the group of detainees, who being characterized by the penitentiary subculture and dominated by the phenomenon of prison, will predominantly lead to a future relapse.

Apart from the family, the main source of learning about deviance is entourage.

Of great importance in terms of entourage is the fact that in each group who present deviance there is often a leader who knows how to behave in such a way as to shelter themselves from the rigors of the law by directing the weakest and believers in actions that run counter to moral norms, after then benefit more than they, of the illicit value. That is why it is imperative necessary that the family, if not these, the school, or other social control factor, act for the detection, tracing and deactivation of such groups, in order to save the exploited (see live meat traffic).

2.2.6. Mass media - methods of learning antisocial behavior

Since the media is the main means of informing today, it transmits in many cases unselected information which, for some sectors of the population, is a negative factor influencing delinquent behavior.

To increase ratings and for commercial purposes, some information is overstated or are presented as the most shocking, and during this it is intended to create panic.

By revealing to the public the plans and the activity of certain courts and a factors of social controlling, the unfolding of the activity of discovering and catching the offenders is aggravated, and more than that, the media contribute to the learning of deviant behavior style, by young people.

It should be noted that it is generally taken into account that the most shock the banal reasons for the crime, because at these have access the vast majority of individuals.

Media, and especially television, are undoubtedly contributing to the rise of criminality by:
– learning the aggressive style of conduct;
– reducing inhibitions related to aggression;
– insensibilization and habituation to violence;
– shaping the image of reality that people base their actions on.

The written press, covering a large segment of information, pursues the same economic goals and often promotes the triviality and describes the shocking situations to the limit of the unreal. Is

arriving even to the distortion of information, without taking into account that this is how a segment of the population is borning which creates its selves an unreal world, driven by violence, with unpredictable consequences.

2.2.7. The religious factor between prevention and influence

Religion is a particularly powerful social factor, having on the one hand the power to prevent deviant acts and, implicitly, criminality, as well as leadership power, on the other, of the deviance manifestation.

First of all, it should be made clear that religion has an important role to play in combating criminality. Christians believe that the only cause of evil is removal from God, so committing a crime means a man without holy faith.

Religion has been a social control tool over the centuries. Her power have oscillated over time, becoming a marginalized reality in the socialist order. But man's faith in God to being innate, the Christians continued to live around the Church, so religion retained its gregarious force.

Since ancient times, the religion has been used as a tool of interest groups to seizure the political and economic power. Through her, the riots have started, through her perspective, was signed treaties of world importance and vital[7].

In church, the religion is a tool to combat delinquency, in social life it is a ready instrument at any time to initiate a mass movement, fact which may involve delinquent actions.

2.2.8. Discrimination of class, racial and ethnic - criminogenic factor

The offenders belonging to the inferior social class, commit criminal offence that can be discovered in much higher proportion than those belonging to the immediate superior classes and controlled more precisely by the competent organs. The economic factor, which causes material inequalities, creates the ground for deviant manifestations for obtaining illicit income.

The criminalty shows up different and depending also by race or ethnicity.

The mankind present varieties with distinct particular characters, or ethnic differentiations, which they call race.

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[7] The best reference can be made to the Inquisition

In our country, the statistics show an increased criminality rate among romanian nationality women, compared to those of rroma nationality. This is a situation by the level of discovered criminality, the real criminality highlighting the very high criminality rate among rroma women.

In the US, the blacks present the highest rate of criminality.

The blacks represent almost one-eighth of the population, but in 1980 they accounted for half of those arrested for murder, rape, robbery, and between a quarter and a third of those arrested for burglary, theft, car theft and aggression.

2.2.9. Criminal-related factors that perpetuate murder - alcohol and drugs

Consumption of alcohol is no longer a privilege of men. Nowadays, as many women use alcohol, for various reasons. The stress is the one of the reasons why the woman is appeal to alcohol, unrealizing the dependence that is being installed as well as the loss of control.

Between alcohol consumption and delinquent behavior there is a close link that bears the name of violence.

First of all, we can talk about traffic accidents, committed as effect of alcohol consumption, as culpable offenses. Also in the case of accidents, we can also mention work accidents caused by alcohol consumption, due to diminishing attention, slowing of reflexes, etc., accidents that most of the times had the most serious consequences. Leading by pronounced excitability and impulsive manifestations, incomplete drunkenness is the cause of crimes committed by violence: robbery, bodily harm, death-blow, sexual orgies in the group, who sometimes ending tragically.

Another factor related to violence is drug use. In some cases, alcohol precedes drug use, which leads to criminal acts. In other cases, criminal behavior precedes the drug use.

The drug consumption is considered a phenomenon that has grown even in our country.

Among women, there are occasional consumers who are not realized the danger at drug addiction, but also permanent consumers, some of which women do not accept treatments and helpness for give up consumption, and others who have understand the shortcomings caused and struggle to save themselves.

On the other hand, another problem faced by society is that not all drug users are known and as such remain a series of unknown traffickers, which causes an alarming rise in criminality. [8]

The cases in which the pimp networks do not deal with drug trafficking are scarce.

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[8] The trafficking in live meat is associated with the drug trafficking

More and more women are recruited to work around traffickers, arriving themselves to directly involved, even to initiating and leading certain transactions. Under these circumstances, some of the women involved become victims, others are abusing by dependent persons, through blackmail or other means.

The human beings trafficking is another criminogenic factor that has taken a great amplitude in our country. In this phenomenon the women appear both as victims and authors. Whether they become drug addicts consumption, whether they are caught and condemned for drug trafficking, or human beings trafficking, they are all victims in the end.

2.2. Political influences on criminality rate

Since political factors governing the social life, they determine the rate of criminality to rise during times of crisis. In such situations, due to the increase in the unemployment rate, for economic reasons, the material shortcomings appear, which inevitably lead to criminal acts.

At the family level, there appear unfavorable changes to the functioning of this group at optimal parameters, conditions when the juvenile delinquency is in tendence of increasing.

In situations of struggle for the seizure of political power, as well as for transition, there are manifesting states of social anomy. They provide favorable conditions for criminal behavior, both at middle social class level (theft, robbery, deception, etc.), as well as at high social classes level (intellectual crimes, war crimes, state blows, etc.).

Although the aggression has been presented above as a psychic factor, it has to be said that this is also a cultural product.

Within a society, the subcultures of different social groups promote values that can lead to antagonisms, contributing to the development of different forms of aggression, which in their turn are the preconditions for deviant acts.

This is how the theory of political violence, which includes the theory of intrapersonal relative deprivation and the theory of interpersonal relatives deprivation, is born.

The relative deprivation consists principally in injustice, dissatisfaction and frustration, all depending on social comparisons that the individual, revolted, makes them out of positions considered inferior.

As far as intrapersonal relative deprivation is concerned, we are dealing with status frustrations that lead to disintegration of status, that is, the inability to occupy a previous status

considered superior to the present, as well as an anomie in the sphere of personal psychic life. The relative interpersonal deprivation refers to the individual's desire to acceded a superior status, this being in the hierarchy of another social group different from the individual concerned.

As a political factor, it can be said that the aggressiveness, the element underlying the reporting of violent manifestations to different cultures, led to the emergence of *the theory of political violence*.

3. Conclusions

The social evolution does not give any sign of rest in terms of the need and the desire to quickly solve the problems in everyday life. The women are in a position to solve social and individual problems without benefiting often from help of the family, partner, friends, and of course society part. For some women, the solving of problems or the fulfilling of personal desires is limited to illicit methods. Conscious or not aware of the crimes they appeal to, they change the ratio of forces between feminine and male criminality, contributing to the formation of a social matrix dominated by delinquency. Gradually, this female delinquency will fit into the normal social future.

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