INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES BULLETIN
ISSN: (E) 3007-1917 (P) 3007-1909
Volume 4, Issue 3, 2026

INVESTIGATING WOMEN PRISONERS' EXPERIENCES WITH LEGAL PROCEDURES IN PUNJAB'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Nazia Hamid[*1], **Dr. Aamir Hayat**[2]

[*1]*PhD Scholar, School of Sociology & Criminology, Minhaj University Lahore*
[2]*Assistant Professor, School of Sociology & Criminology, Minhaj University Lahore*

[*1]naziahamid833@gmail.com, [2]draamir.soc@mul.edu.pk

DOI: http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.21467176

Keywords
Women Prisoners, Criminal Justice System, Gender-Based Discrimination, Social Stigma, Institutional Neglect, Gender Norms, Penal Reform, Thematic Analysis, Punjab Pakistan, Gender-Sensitive Policies, Incarcerated Women, Systemic Inequities, Mental Health Support, Sociocultural Prejudices.

Article History
Received: 23 January 2026
Accepted: 16 March 2026
Published: 31 March 2026

Copyright @Author
Corresponding Author: *
Nazia Hamid

Abstract
This study examines the systemic neglect faced by women prisoners in Punjab's criminal justice system, focusing on how societal attitudes and institutional barriers shape their experiences. Researcher conducted qualitative thematic analysis of in-depth interviews with imprisoned women, revealing pervasive moral judgment and social exclusion rooted in entrenched gender norms. Participants reported being labeled as "immoral" or "bad" regardless of their crimes' contexts, with family rejection emerging as a recurring sub-theme due to community shame. Moreover, gendered double standards were evident, as male offenders faced comparatively less severe social consequences. Legal challenges, such as poor procedural comprehension and reliance on lawyers, further compounded their vulnerabilities, while structural inadequacies including insufficient gender-sensitive facilities and mental health support exacerbated their hardships. Policy gaps were also identified, with existing protections often unimplemented, leaving women disproportionately affected by systemic biases. The findings underscore the intersection of gender and criminal justice, highlighting how women prisoners endure compounded stigma and neglect. This research contributes to the discourse on penal reform by advocating for gender-sensitive policies that address both sociocultural prejudices and institutional shortcomings. The study's significance lies in its empirical focus on lived experiences, offering actionable insights for policymakers to mitigate systemic inequities in Punjab's criminal justice system.

INTRODUCTION

The criminal justice structure is a complicated system of institutions, but the treatment of women prisoners is not a well-researched topic, especially in South Asia. Although general systems theory can be used to give frameworks of how criminal justice structures are organized (Bernard et al., 2005), such models tend to ignore gendered differences in the experiences of women in incarceration. Women in Punjab face specific challenges when dealing with the legal system, not just official actions, due to the influence of patriarchal norms on social perceptions.

The literature on criminal justice administration that has been available has tended to emphasize the systematic coordination and rarely has it dealt with the investigation of gender bias in how the institutions work (Munro, 1971). Indicatively, studies on the prisons in Punjab have shown poor health care within the prison environment and overcrowding but have not challenged the question of how the stigma within the society

reinforces these structural weaknesses (Khan et al., 2023) Regardless of the offenses, women prisoners often suffer moral judgment condemning them as deviant or unsuitable to have family (Butt, 2014). This stigmatization usually results in the abandonment of their family members and they are left with no social or economic support after incarceration (Khalid, 2025).

In this study, researcher discussed how the criminal justice system in Punjab contributes to gendered stigma and systemic neglect. Family denial, institutional apathy and policy malfunction indicate that women inmates are disproportionately targeted by moral condemnation, compared with men, because of existing gender norms. The main aim is to examine their lived experiences based on the qualitative interviews, where the patterns of discrimination found in the realms of the society, law, and structure. The study discussed as important in three aspects: first, it puts the voices of women in the center, as they are usually overlooked in the context of penal, second, it reveals the interplay between cultural prejudices and institutional indifference, and, third, it is used to present the empirical evidence on the effects of gender-sensitive reforms.

The findings presented in broader debate on the penal justice by providing an overview of how the issue of systemic injustice is exacerbated on women in the province of Punjab. The sociocultural aspects of incarceration have been highlighted in this paper, as the previous literature has tended to focus on legal processes (Waldron et al., 2009), thus highlighting the fact that stigma is not linked to the official sentencing process. As an illustration, respondents talked of being ostracized even after their terms are over and it means that punishment does not stop at the prison gates. These observations are at odds with the mainstream thinking on criminal justice that fails to acknowledge post-release (Lynch, 2014).

Literature Review

Though literature on women's imprisonment in South Asia has increased over time with a growing focus on gender norms and criminal justice, there has been a lack of understanding of how these dynamics are manifested in the penal system of Punjab. Rubab (2022) indicates that women tend to come across the legal institutions as victims and offenders, and there are systemic obstacles that come their way whether they are the victims or the perpetrators. This twin weakness is further compounded in Punjab whereby patriarchal systems determine how females should conduct themselves in society. Indicatively, Virk and Cheema (2009) reveals how female prisoners are disproportionately adjudged to have breached the moral codes of gender and their offences are usually presented to have committed crimes against the honor of the family as opposed to laws.

Stigmatization of women in prison is a legal, social and family problem. It is reported that sometimes families disown female prisoners to avoid the embarrassment that they bring to the family/ community and leave them without support networks at the time and after their imprisonment (Mehra, 2014). This is in accordance with the general cultural arguments that associate women's crime with moral deficiency, as discussed by (Durrani & Ahmed, 2022). In the areas of Punjab this is particularly acute, because the position of women within traditional groups is closely supervised. Interestingly, researchers argues that these attitudes are the result of the colonial treatment of prisoners as a practice where gendered difference in the treatment of justice itself was legal (Haider et al., 2025).

Structural inadequacies also make a significant contribution to these problems. Lack of gender-sensitive services, such as health and job training programs, is a significant challenge to rehabilitation (Khokhar et al., 2024). The present research is from Punjab, The findings of the current study are validated by Zulfiqar et al. (2025) which states the significance of infrastructural failures in sustaining the marginalized cycles after release.

However, the women also struggle to deal with the justice system because of legal illiteracy. Butt (2014) states that most women in prison are

completely reliant on the services of lawyers for the reason that they know nothing about the legal process, and thus they can be exploited in different ways. Another reason for this difficulty, as highlighted by Khalid (2025) is the absence of female legal aid providers. These challenges are not unique to Punjab but are intensified when gender-based discrimination is also a factor in conjunction with low quality bureaucratic systems.

Actions to these policies are still not effective. The frameworks that are in place such as the ones mentioned in research do not address the sociocultural issues surrounding incarceration of women (Waldron et al., 2009). For instance, the cover of violence in the custody is not fully realized as in (Lynch, 2014). This mismatch between policy and practice makes the need for reforms and gendered realities that need to be taken into account evident.

This study gives a more comprehensive picture of the criminal justice system of Punjab and its relationship with stigma and systemic neglect in comparison to the previous studies. Although current research concentrates on individual problems, like legal barriers or health disparities (Khan et al., 2023), our thematic analysis combines these aspects, showing the amount of their collective influence on the life of women. We highlight the stories of the participants and uncover how attitudes in society, institutional flaws, and policy gaps all contribute to a gender-specific push for change.

Methodology

This paper utilized the qualitative research design to understand the lived experiences of women about legal procedures in the criminal justice system in Punjab. Respondents were women prisoners from these cities Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, and Rawalpindi representing Punjab. The thematic analysis principles presented by (Braun and Clarke, 2006) informed the methodological approach since it offers a systematic approach to identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns in qualitative data. This method was chosen due to its adaptability in the ability to capture subtle social phenomena and its focus on placing the voice of the participants, which was essential in meeting the research goals.

The purposive sampling was used to recruit participants with different demographic and criminal case profiles. The inclusion criteria were that the participants had been or still imprisoned in the Punjab prisons and there were no limitations on the type or length of their sentence. This plan enabled the inclusion of women with diverse levels of contact with the criminal justice system, both pretrial detainees and long-term inmates.

Participation was made possible by working with local NGOs and legal aid organizations, which also assisted in creating trust and counteracting institutional obstacles. Snowball sampling was also adopted whereby first participants referred other participants who qualified as per the study criteria. This approach was especially useful when it comes to women who had already been released and still experienced post-incarceration stigma.

Data Collection

In-depth, semi-structured interviews served as the primary data collection tool. Each interview lasted between 45 to 90 minutes and was conducted in Punjabi or Urdu, depending on the participant's preference. Interviews were audio-recorded with consent and later transcribed verbatim for analysis. The interview protocol included open-ended questions designed to elicit narratives about:

1. Perceptions of societal attitudes toward women prisoners,
2. Experiences with familial and community rejection,
3. Challenges encountered during legal proceedings, and
4. Barriers to accessing institutional resources or support.

Probes were used to explore emergent themes, such as the role of gendered double standards in shaping these experiences. Field notes were maintained to document contextual details, including nonverbal cues and emotional responses, which enriched the interpretive process.

Thematic Analysis

The analysis was conducted in a 6-phase model suggested by (Braun and Clarke, 2006): familiarization, initial coding, theme development, review, definition, and reporting. Reading of the transcripts was done repeatedly to distinguish common patterns which were then coded through NVivo software to enable organization and retrieval. The codes were then grouped into initial themes, e.g. the moral labeling, and the structural neglect, that were developed further through constant comparison within the transcripts.

Peer debriefing was done to ensure rigor whereby two independent researchers were used to review the coding structure and thematic interpretations. The discrepancies were discussed and this increased the validity of the findings. Besides, member checking was conducted whereby some preliminary themes were shared with some participants and their feedback confirmed the correctness of the representations.

Ethical Considerations

The research followed ethical conduct in conducting research with vulnerable populations. The informed consent was provided in written form, and particular care was taken to make sure that those with low literacy levels understood the consent. Anonymity was maintained because pseudonyms and transcripts of identifying details were removed. Since the issues addressed are sensitive, consultations to counseling services were offered to participants who were showing signs of distress during or after interviews.

Results

The results of the qualitative interviews can be summarized as deep reflections on the lived experiences of women inmates in Punjab, which show the convergence of societal stigma, legal barriers, and structural shortcomings. The concept of thematic analysis led to the identification of four important dimensions that describe how the gendered biases influence their experiences with the criminal justice system. Not only do these patterns represent systemic inequities, but they also highlight the strength of the participants to overcome such difficulties.

Societal Attitudes Toward Women Prisoners

Thematic analysis of interviews with the participants revealed that society's attitude towards women prisoners in Punjab has profound moral judgments and gender expectations. No matter how they had been jailed, women reported that their communities accused them of being immoral, or deviant. One of them says in the following: “Log mujhe ghalat aurat kehte hain. Kisi ne yeh nahi poocha ke main kis haal mein thi?” Nobody inquired what was the case with me). This was echoed in a number of interviews, and it illustrates how, in society, crime is equated with lack of morality.

Social Stigma and Familial Rejection

An on-going sub-theme was the social isolation of women, not only at the time of arrest but also after they have been jailed. The respondents stated that neighbors and family members kept themselves away from others so they could not be linked with a contaminated person. One of the women said, “Mere rishtedar bhi baat karna band kar dete hain, kyunki unhe sharm aati hai “(Even my relations stopped talking to me because they are ashamed). This stigma was carried over to their families who were usually coerced by other members of society to do away with the ties. This rejection left most women to lack the support of any kind emotionally and financially, making them more vulnerable in and out of prison.

Gendered Double Standards

Gender disparity in the treatment of male and female offenders was always part and parcel of the participants. The criminal activities of men were justified or exonerated in most cases whereas the criminal activities committed by women were depicted as a breach of the cultural norms. One of the participants said, “ Agar mard jaimata hai to log kehte hain galti kar di, lekin aurat ke liye kehte hain aur badchalan.” A two-way standard suggests that deeply embedded attitudes towards women policing that police women's actions are more rigorously judged than that of men.

The emotional/psychological burden

Stigma had a huge impact on the social sphere. Shame was discussed, as was isolation and hopelessness, and some women had taken on the negative labels imposed on them. One of the participants told me that she felt bad because she does not know how she feels, as everyone was telling her that she was wrong (Main khud ko ghalat samajhne lagti hoon, kyunki sab mujhe waisa hi kehte hain). They could not imagine even after being released that they will be accepted back into the society as part of them.

Intersectional Vulnerabilities

Marginalized socio-economic participants noted that compounded stigma was a result of being both marginalized and having a deeper marginalization due to poverty and caste hierarchy. The story was told by a woman, “Mere liye to dohra punishment hai, ek jail ka ek samaj ka” (Two punishments, one in jail, one in society). The stories reflect the additional stigmatization of women prisoners as a result of multiple identities, which seldom features in policy discussions.

Personal encounters with the Legal System

The stories of the women indicated that navigating the law in Punjab was extremely challenging, fraught with dependency, confusion and obstacles in the law. Throughout all the responses, there was a consistent theme about the complex legal procedures that respondents felt were inaccessible to them. “Main samajh hi nahi paati thi ke court mein kya ho raha hai”, said one of the respondents. “Mujhe aapne waqeel par bharosa karna para”. I had no choice but to rely on my lawyer). This legal illiteracy resulted in women being completely under the jurisdiction of legal representatives, which caused power imbalance that resulted in exploitation at times.

Procedural confusion and communication gaps

Another theme was the lack of clarity over the legal process, participants said they were not given enough information in understandable terms about the process of going to court. Some of the women recalled getting important details of their cases in informal ways and not in formal ways in courts. One of them remembered, “Mujhe apne faisle ka pata tab chala jab meri saheli ne newspaper dikhaya” (When my friend presented me with a newspaper, I heard about my sentence). These experiences are indicative of structural issues in ensuring defendants have access to information, particularly women with low levels of education.

The communication barriers were extended to the relations with the legal community. Major concerns cited by most respondents were that lawyers spoke in "legal jargon" without interpreting it to them leading to anxiety. The lawyer spoke so much in English that you could not understand anything he said, you see, I do not know anything (Wakeel sahab angrezi mein itni tezi se baat karte the ke main kuch samajh nahi paati), said one woman. This language marginalization is highly skewed towards women in rural areas and towards less educated women and this exacerbates the inequalities in access to the law.

Structural Barriers in Legal Representation

The research found that there were drastic differences in the quality of legal aid. Whereas a few respondents explained that they had positive experiences with court-appointed lawyers, others talked about perfunctory representation. One of the women said, Mere wakeel ne kabhi meri puri kahani tak nahi suni (My lawyer never heard my whole story). These are typical examples of complaints about legal aid services in South Asia (Butt, 2014), where government lawyers often are overworked and lack the resources to prepare a case.

Access to competent legal support was also constrained by financial constraints. A few respondents reported that they had sold assets to hire private attorneys, but were unhappy with the private attorneys' services. One participant shared that “papa ne zameen bechi lekin ek din bhi case tayyari nahi ki” (My father sold the land but the lawyer did not prepare the case even a day). This is an indicator of how much poverty contributes to women prisoners' legal vulnerability.

Judicial process biases, Gendered processes, Judges and gender bias

The respondents explained that they had encountered gender stereotypes in court which had an impact on their cases. A woman who was accused of a property case mentioned that the judge had challenged her morality and not the merits of the case: "Hakim sahab ne poocha ke acchi auratein kya ghar chhod kar bhaagti hain?" (Do good women run out of their houses after leaving them, was the question put by the judge?). The moral judgements are rooted in the attitudes of judges as reported in Virk and Cheema (2009), which are influenced by a patriarchal value.

Another key issue then was the delay in the investigation of cases, with many women languishing in pretrial limbo for many years. One of respondents told me that I had been in jail for four years but that yet to be the first hearing of my case. Such delays can be due to inherent systemic inefficiencies such as understaffed courts and too many cases (Munro, 1971) but the resulting impacts are disproportionate to women who lose family connections with extended imprisonment.

Intersection with Other Vulnerabilities

Compounded discrimination was described by women belonging to the religious or ethnic minorities. A Christian respondent said, "Jab main ne kaha ke main Isai hoon, to mujhe lagta hai ke hakim ne meri appeal kam seriously li" (When I said that I was Christian, I felt that the judge has not taken my appeal seriously). As in research these experiences show that law systems reinforce the social hierarchy that exists in society (Haider et al., 2025).

All these law suits had a cumulative effect, causing a great deal of distress to the mind. The respondents talked of court appearances as traumatic experiences of confusion and lack of power. One of the women recalled that: "har date par jaana aise khatre mein dal diya jao" (Going to each hearing was like throwing yourself into danger). This emotional burden is one of the reasons why trauma-informed legal practices are important to take into account the specific vulnerabilities of women in courts.

Contrast with Male Defendants' Experiences

A number of the respondents observed unequal treatment of the male and female defendants in court. One woman commented that "mere saath hi case chalta tha, jyada ahamiyat hata kee, mere sawalon ko", (so the case was heard with mine, but his questions were given more importance). These results align with other gender bias related to judicial processes, where women's testimony is perceived as less credible (Durrani & Ahmed, 2022).

The findings overall reveal the failure of the legal system in Punjab to be able to meet the special needs of women, not just in terms of understanding procedures but also in being gender neutral. These institutional shortcomings compound with the societal stigma to create multiple disadvantages that women continue to face in the criminal justice process.

Structural problems in the criminal justice system

The interviews depicted structural shortcomings of the criminal justice infrastructures in Punjab that discriminate against women convicts in disproportion. The situation of the unmet basic needs of women was reported by the respondents, one woman stated "Yahan auraton ke liye koi alag intezam nahi hai". Such inadequacy of facilities for women is a serious weakness on the part of prison authorities particularly in view of the particular vulnerability of female prisoners.

Inadequate Physical Infrastructure

There was also a general lack of spaces that were dedicated to women health and hygiene issues. A high number of participants said that they were sharing overcrowded barracks with no privacy to shower or tend to their menstrual needs. "Hum sab ko ek hi kamre mein sona parta hai, chahe kisi ko mahwari ho tya naah"(We all have to sleep in the same room, whether a person is menstruating or not), one of the participants explained. The conditions are against international standards of detaining women and increase health risks, especially in pregnant

women or with chronic conditions (Campbell & Kleinig, 2017).

As a result, the researchers found that out of all the mother and child units in Punjab, there were only two and the rest of the imprisoned mothers had to leave their children behind. This practice is not only in violation of research showing benefits of maternal-child separation for child development. it is also inflicting permanent psychological harms on the mother and her child (Howard et al., 2011).

Deficient Healthcare Systems

It was noted that a major deficit was the issue of mental health support, and the participants indicated that they did not have access to counseling services or psychiatric services. The woman who had problems with depression posted: "Doctor kehte hain tension mat lo, lekin koi bata nahi raha ke kaise" (Doctors say don't take stress, but no one tells how). The lack of trauma-informed care is especially worrying considering the prevalence of the history of abuse among female prisoners (Karlsson &Zielinski, 2020).

The need for physical health services was also not met and there were complaints about the response time for healthcare workers and the absence of medication. The findings align with findings in which reported that lack of attention to the health demands of women in the prisons of Punjab was systemic (Khan et al., 2023).

The failure of administration and policies

Though there are gender sensitive provisions in the Punjab Prison Rules, the respondents reported that the rules are not being implemented on a large scale. A woman would say the violation of family visitation rights was a thing that happened when the law said that they should meet once per week, once a year they come said a woman. This governance disconnect is representative of systemic failures in governance found in (Lynch, 2014).

Security checks typically ignored the dignity of female employees and male employees were reported to have given invasive searches. This is against the national laws and international human rights (Wormer, 2010).

Intersectional Barriers

Religious minorities exposed women to further suffering such as dietary restrictions and prayer facilities. "Humare liye halal khana nahi hai. Kabhi kabhi bhukhe sona parta hai" (There's no halal food for us. At times we must even sleep starving) said one of the Muslim prisoners in a Sikh-dominated establishment. These results build on previous studies of intersectional experiences in prison (Ocen, 2013).

Comparative Analysis with Male Facilities

Respondents who had male family members in prison portrayed a sharp disparities in the allocation of resources. "Mere bhai ko library aur gym mila hai. Yahan to kitaab tak nahi hai" (My brother got a library and gym. Here we don't even have books), observed one woman. Such disparity indicates institutional discrimination in favor of rehabilitation needs of men as in (Virk & Cheema, 2009).

The identified structural deficiencies, which include poor healthcare up to discriminatory policies, all contribute to a situation that enhances the marginalization of women. The combination of these institutional failures and societal stigma, legal restrictions creates a system of disadvantage that compounds during incarceration and continues after.

Discussion

The results of this research can be used to understand the deep and complex issues that women prisoners encounter within the criminal justice system in Punjab, and how societal stigma, legal constraints, and structural inadequacies come together to form multipronged disadvantages. These insights have important theoretical and practical consequences, especially in the realization of the gendered aspects of punishment and the necessity of systemic changes.

Theoretically, the study highlights the position of moral judgment as a social control measure, which strengthens patriarchal standards, which

require police women to be more strictly controlled in their actions than the actions of men. The widespread characterization of women as immoral or deviant is in line with the feminist criminological theories that argue against the perpetuation of gendered hierarchies by criminal justice systems (Virk & Cheema, 2009). The stigmatization of the participants within themselves also confirms the theories of symbolic violence in which the marginalized groups internalize the mainstream social discourse which rationalizes their oppression (Flores & Pellico, 2011). The findings criticize the traditional criminology paradigm which ignores the extra-legal impacts of incarceration and calls on researchers to incorporate sociocultural studies in the study of penal systems.

In practice, the research identifies practical policy and practice areas of the policymakers and practitioners. First, there were legal literacy courses specifically designed to address the needs of female prisoners that would alleviate the power dynamics that were established by the lack of transparency in the process and reliance on the attorney. Women could be empowered by simplified legal guides in the regional languages and community-based workshops, which would make women better negotiate court processes. Second, the reported disparities in the gender-sensitive prison facilities, including a lack of proper healthcare and vocational education, warrant urgent budgetary investments to match the facilities with the international standards (Campbell & Kleinig, 2017). Third, the widespread family and community non-acceptance requires the use of post-release services such as halfway homes and anti-stigma community awareness.

It is also necessary to mention the limitations of the study. The use of qualitative interviews, though deep in nature, might not provide the entire picture of the diversity of experiences among the prison population of Punjab. The sampling biases may be due to excessive representation of some groups of people, e.g. urban or literate people, and their over-representation may discriminate against the voices of rural or non-literate women. Furthermore, the focus of the study on women prisoners does not include the viewpoints of other key stakeholders, including the staff, lawyers, and judges of the prison, whose views may give a more comprehensive picture regarding systemic barriers. In future studies, mixed methods are to be utilized to measure the level of stigmatization and its relationship with recidivism rates, and to address the intersectional differences in caste, class, and religious identities.

The long-term effects of incarceration on the social reintegration of women should also be examined in future research, especially the effect of incarceration on the stigma of employment, housing, and relationships with family members upon release. Comparative studies in other parts of South Asia would determine whether the issues confronting Punjab are localized or represent more of a general regional trend. Moreover, interdisciplinary teams with mental health professionals might result in new interventions to mitigate the psychological burden of internalized stigma, including peer-support groups or trauma-informed counseling programs.

Overall, the work does not only reveal the systemic injustices against women prisoners but also paves a way to the research and policy. Given that it focuses on the lived experiences of incarcerated women, it provides the stakeholders with an opportunity to rethink criminal justice in the light of gender equity and social justice. These reforms are urgent, and their need cannot be underestimated because the compounded stigma presented herein continues to propagate marginalization cycles that are very much beyond prison bars.

IEER
Institute for Excellence in Education & Research

Conclusion

This paper has discussed the interplay between gender ideals and criminal justice in Punjab and how women inmates are subject to the exponential stigmatization and institutional indifference. The results support the idea that the morality of women is disproportionately questioned by society, and the participants were subjected to severe moral judgments and rejection by their relatives regardless of the context of their crimes. Their vulnerabilities are also compounded by legal and structural obstacles, such as opaque court processes to poor prison infrastructure, and point to systemic inefficiencies in meeting gendered needs. These lessons oppose the traditional penal strategies by illustrating how extra-legal implications, especially social ostracism, stretch the punitive scope of incarceration among women.

The longitudinal effects of stigma on the reintegration process need to be studied in the future, and policymakers need to be focused on gender-sensitive reforms. The research highlights the acuity of the need to discuss the institutional biases and the sociocultural prejudice in order to reduce the compounded disadvantages women experience within the criminal justice system of Punjab.

References

Bernard, T., III, E. P., & Pare, P. (2005). General systems theory and criminal justice. *Journal of Criminal Justice*.

Bosworth, M., & Kaufman, E. (2013). Gender and punishment. *Unable to Determine the Complete Publication Venue*.

Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*.

Butt, K. (2014). Women prisoners: A case study of central jail, kot lakhpat, lahore. *South Asian Studies*.

Campbell, T., & Kleinig, J. (2017). United nations rules for the treatment of women prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders (the bangkok rules). *Prisoners' Rights*.

Durrani, Z., & Ahmed, Z. (2022). The condition of women prisoners of pakistan and how the legal system deals with it: Comprehensive analysis with india. *Issue 4 Indian JL & Legal Rsch.*

Flores, J., & Pellico, L. (2011). A meta-synthesis of women's postincarceration experiences. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing*.

Gaes, G. (2008). The impact of prison education programs on post-release outcomes. *Reentry Roundtable on Education, John Jay College*.

Haider, S., Tayyab, D., Behzad, A., & Ibrahim, S. (2025). Colonial shadows and modern authorities: An in-depth analysis of female prisoners in pakistan with cross-jurisdictional insights and primary interviews from district .... *ASSAJ*.

Howard, K., Martin, A., Berlin, L., et al. (2011). Early mother–child separation, parenting, and child well-being in early head start families. *Attachment & Human Development*.

Karlsson, M., & Zielinski, M. (2020). Sexual victimization and mental illness prevalence rates among incarcerated women: A literature review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*.

Khalid, A. (2025). Experiences of women at bijnor district jail, uttar pradesh: A case for women-centric criminal justice system practice. *Social Work Research: Methodologies in Fields of Social Work*.

Khan, A., Khattak, N., & Khan, S. (2023). The lived experiences of pregnant women prisoners in punjab, pakistan: Issues and concerns. A qualitative study. *Journal Of Khyber College Of Dentistry*.

Khokhar, H., Rani, T., & Hussain, F. (2024). Impacts of gender disparity and socio-educational structure on legal awareness of women inmates: A case study of prisons in sindh, pakistan. *Global Regional Review*.

Lynch, G. (2014). Our administrative system of criminal justice. *Fordham L. Rev.*

Mehra, V. (2014). *PROBLEMS OF ABUSE OF WOMEN PRISONERS'RIGHTS IN INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PUNJAB*. bprd.nic.in.

Munro, J. (1971). Towards a theory of criminal justice administration: A general systems perspective. *Public Administration Review*.

Ocen, P. (2013). Unshackling intersectionality. *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*.

Rubab, I. (2022). Women's experiences of criminal justice system in pursuit of inheritance: Voices from pakistan. *The Routledge Handbook of Women's Experiences of the Criminal Justice System*.

Torrijo, H. R., & Maeyer, M. D. (2019). Education in prison: A basic right and an essential tool. *International Review of Education*.

Virk, A., & Cheema, A. (2009). Gendering criminology: An analysis of jagged justice behind the bars with special reference to a study conducted in a lone women jail of state of punjab. *GNLU L. Rev.*

Waldron, R., Quarles, C., McElreath, D., Waldron, M., et al. (2009). *The criminal justice system: An introduction*. api.taylorfrancis.com.

Wormer, K. V. (2010). *Working with female offenders: A gender-sensitive approach*. books.google.com.

Zaidi, A., Couture-Carron, A., et al. (2016). 'Should i or should i not'?: An exploration of south asian youth's resistance to cultural deviancy. *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth*.

Zulfiqar, D., Lak, T., Hussain, M., Mobeen, M., et al. (2025). A phenomenological exploration of challenges hindering the effective rehabilitation and reintegration of post-incarcerated women in pakistan. *Unable to Determine the Complete Publication Venue from the Given Information*.

IEER
Institute for Excellence in Education & Research