

**Social Sciences & Humanity Research Review**  
**VOLUME. 1, ISSUE. 1 2023**

An Essential Framework for Comprehending the Relationship Between Gender  
and Crime is a Theory that Specifically Focuses on the Gendered Aspects of  
Female Criminal Behavior

Nayab Nasir

Ms Scholar the Riphah University Islamabad Campus at [nayab455@gmail.com](mailto:nayab455@gmail.com)

Mis Naila Iqbal

Ms Scholar the Riphah University Islamabad Campus- [naila5767@gmail.com](mailto:naila5767@gmail.com)

**Abstract**

According to the majority of criminologists, there is a global gap in the rates of criminal behaviour between men and women. Women, on the other hand, demonstrate a lower propensity to participate in illegal activities in comparison to men. Experts, on the other hand, have varying points of view about a number of significant issues. Does the gender split change over time and space, or does it follow a consistent pattern over the entire population? Which hypothesis is the most probable in light of the disagreement that has been observed? Are there instances in which women engage in criminal activity that is motivated by reasons that are either markedly different from or comparable to those of men? Are traditional social theories capable of providing an appropriate explanation for the disparities in criminal conduct that exist between males and females, as well as the fact that females are more likely to engage in criminal activities with higher frequency? Which theories have the highest level of explanatory power, regardless of whether they are gender-specific or gender-neutral?

**Keywords**-Gender, Crime Gendered Aspects, Female Criminal Behavior

**Introduction**

The large amount of historical and contemporary literature that investigates the connection between gender and criminal behaviour cannot be adequately covered by a single article. It is possible that over history, criminologists have showed less interest in investigating female criminality; however, recent research reveals that this trend is beginning to turn back in the other direction. The association between criminal behaviour and gender has been examined more thoroughly than the relationship between criminal behaviour and age or race, despite the fact that there are still a great number of questions that have not been answered. For sociologists, the abundance of evidence that substantiates the validity of traditional sociological theories of crime in explaining gender disparities in criminal behaviour and female involvement in criminal activities should be sufficient to satisfy their needs. This is especially true when it

**Social Sciences & Humanity Research Review**  
**VOLUME. 1, ISSUE. 1 2023**

comes to less serious offences that are prevalent in both official and unofficial crime records. It is required to do additional research in order to gain a better understanding of the gender differences that are detected in the patterns of serious criminal behaviour. These differences are very minor in comparison to the gender differences that are observed in less serious offences.

An analysis of the similarities and differences between male and female criminal records is carried out first, followed by an examination of the similarities and differences. After that, we proceed to conduct a condensed study of theories that provide explanations for the underlying causes of the gender disparity and the patterns that have been seen, with a particular emphasis on the "gender equality" argument. In accordance with this theory, the gender gap in criminal behaviour would gradually vanish as cultural standards about gender roles for males and females grow increasingly comparable to one another. As a result, our objective is to improve the theory and research in the field by employing a framework that is generally acknowledged and that takes into consideration gender inequalities (Steffensmeier & Allan, 1995). The purpose of this study is to investigate the high correlation that exists between gender and criminal behaviour and to suggest possible areas for more research to be conducted in the future. While there are some similarities between the criminal actions that males and girls engage in, there are also some variances between the two. As opposed to more serious crimes such as robbery and homicide, property and drug-related offences are more common among both men and women, according to an analysis of criminal activity. This is in contrast to more serious crimes such as other types of crimes. The fact that males exhibit a significantly higher propensity towards criminal action in contrast to females is evident, and this is in addition to the fact that they are more likely to engage in prostitution. On the other hand, as compared to severe felonies, the disparity in crime rates between the sexes is somewhat less pronounced for minor property violations.

The comparison of crimes perpetrated by males and females can be facilitated through the analysis of data derived from diverse sources. The present study examines the FBI arrest data for both males and females, as reported by the US Department of Justice in 1990. In addition to including data from the National Crime Victimization Survey, self-reported crime surveys, research on criminal careers and delinquent organizations, and case studies, we employ a wide range of qualitative data to examine the differences that exist between male and female offenders.

**Social Sciences & Humanity Research Review**  
**VOLUME. 1, ISSUE. 1 2023**

The presented data in Table 1 illustrates the arrest statistics pertaining to individuals of both male and female genders across several offense categories as reported by the FBI. It is important to note that the data excludes arrests related to escape and curfew violations, which are considered youth offenses, as well as arrests related to rape, a crime predominantly perpetrated by men. The dataset also includes information on the trends in the proportion of female arrests (columns 7-9), the characteristics of male and female offenders, and the arrest rates per 100,000 persons. Women's disproportionately high rate of incarceration It's possible that the similarities between the statistics for 1960, 1975, and 1990 are more significant than their differences, despite the fact that some authors claim to have seen notable oscillations in the ratio of female arrests over time periods (Adler, 1975; Simon, 1975). The percentage of female arrestees remained consistently below 15% throughout all offense categories and all three decades studied, with the lowest rates seen for the most serious crimes. There has been a significant shift in the number of female suspects apprehended for relatively small property crimes like fraud and theft, as shown by the data. From a range of 15% to 17% in 1960, the ratio increased to a range of 30% to 43% by 1990.

To collect statistics on crime victims, the government annually conducts a large-scale survey known as the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). According to numbers from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) published by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in 1992, female involvement in major criminal activities is low. When victims are asked about the perpetrator's gender during NCVS interviews, the results show a strong correlation with the UCR data. Approximately 7% of robberies, 12% of aggravated assaults, 15% of simple assaults, 5% of burglaries, and 5% of motor vehicle thefts in 1990 were reported to have been committed by women. This percentage has stayed the same ever since the 1970s, when the first National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) was conducted. Self-reported data on offenses, especially those committed by adolescents, have been the focus of several surveys. These findings constantly back up the claim that female criminals are overrepresented in less serious types of criminality, while their numbers dramatically decrease for more serious crimes (Canter, 1982). This statement holds true for both the prevalence (the percentage of male and female samples reporting any offenses) and the frequency (the total number of offenses committed by an active offender within a given time period) of offenses. Self-reported statistics do not fully capture the magnitude of sex disparities observed in official data (Jensen & Eve, 1976; Smith & Visher, 1980). Moreover, in self-

**Social Sciences & Humanity Research Review**  
**VOLUME. 1, ISSUE. 1 2023**

reported prevalence data pertaining to minor offenses like shoplifting and moderate drug use, these disparities are even less noticeable (Canter, 1982). Gang membership as a social phenomenon Thrasher (1927) found evidence that girls have been a part of different gangs throughout history. It's clear that some modern-day girls use gang membership as a defense mechanism against discrimination based on their gender, race, or socioeconomic status. It is not the presence of people that matters, but rather the magnitude and quality of their contributions. Male gang informants generally portrayed women as cheerleaders or camp followers, which led to a skewed picture of female gang members in early research.

Scholarly studies today are focusing more on female gang informants, and from such studies we can see that women's roles inside gangs span a far wider spectrum than was previously supposed. According to Campbell (1984), female gang members maintain their reliance on male gangs, while their social status is equally, if not more, shaped by their female counterparts. Additionally, it has been observed that females involved in gang activities engage in fights in various settings and employ similar weapons as their male counterparts (Quicker, 1974). Furthermore, the gang context is believed to have a substantial influence on the emergence of violent inclinations among females involved in criminal activities (Fagan, 1990). Although certain female gang members may deploy aggressive rhetoric, their actions reveal a significant degree of respect towards their male counterparts. This is evident through their avoidance of excessive violence and adherence to gender-scripted behaviors, as highlighted by scholars such as Campbell (1990), Chesney-Lind and Shelden (1992), and Swart (1991). More than 90% of individuals involved in gang activities are male. Based on the works of Miller (1980) and Swart (1991), it has been observed that female participation in gang activities predominantly manifests as auxiliary or branch membership within male-dominated gangs. Furthermore, it has been noted that girls are often excluded from engaging in the majority of economic criminal endeavors, as highlighted by Bowker et al. (1980).

The phenomenon of employment inside the criminal realm The discipline of criminology emphasizes a heightened focus on individual criminal trajectories, specifically pertaining to the frequency of criminal acts perpetrated by a solitary offender. In investigations comparing male and female criminal professions, gender differences in violent career offenders have been identified. Throughout their criminal trajectories, women engage in far fewer acts of violence compared to men, albeit

constituting a minor fraction of the overall offenses perpetrated by individuals within any certain demographic. Moreover, the professional trajectories of female offenders who engage in aggressive behavior commence and reach their peak slightly earlier compared to their male counterparts. Existing literature suggests that women exhibit a higher propensity than men to abstain from engaging in further acts of violence, as evidenced by the findings of Denno (1994), Kruttschnitt (1994), and Weiner (1989). The examination of case studies and interviews conducted with female criminals of a serious kind has indicated a notable absence of a firm dedication to engaging in criminal activities (Arnold, 1989; Bottcher, 1986; Miller, 2003). The aforementioned result stands in stark contrast to the criminal behavior and enthusiasm for criminal activities displayed by the majority of male offenders, as evidenced by studies conducted by Sutherland (1937), Prus and Sharper (1977), Steffensmeier (1986), and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1991).

The question of whether theories for male crime, primarily formulated by male criminologists, can be equally applicable to female crime has been a subject of enduring scholarly discourse. Do the same macrosocial factors account for criminal behavior among females and males? There exists a considerable body of research that suggests a significant convergence in the underlying factors contributing to criminal behavior among both men and women. Moreover, both conventional and modern theoretical frameworks can be employed to elucidate the gender discrepancies observed in less serious criminal activities, as well as the propensities for female involvement in criminal behavior. The explanation of gender discrepancies in serious female criminality and significant crime presents a greater challenge. The concept of correspondence within a social context refers to the exchange of written or digital communication between individuals or groups within a social setting. This form of communication serves as a means of conveying information, ideas, and emotions, and plays a significant role in shaping.

There is a notable correlation between the socioeconomic backgrounds of female offenders and their male counterparts, as evidenced by many scholarly reviews (Denno, 1994; Chesney-Lind & Shelden, 1994; Steffensmeier & Allan, 1995). In a manner akin to their male counterparts, female individuals who have committed offenses often come from marginalized minority communities, possess a disadvantaged socioeconomic background, possess poor educational attainment, and face either unemployment or underemployment.

A notable distinction in the social profiles of female criminals lies in their increased likelihood of having dependent children. The costs associated with females. The rates of regression among male individuals. The degree to which male rates serve as a predictor of female rates offers indirect indications of shared underlying causes for male and female criminal behavior (Steffensmeier & Allan, 1988; Steffensmeier et al., 1989). Societies or organizations characterized by a pronounced male crime rate also exhibit a correspondingly elevated female crime rate, while conversely, societies or groups characterized by low male and female crime rates demonstrate a similar pattern. During periods characterized by increasing, decreasing, or stable rates, the female rate exhibits a comparable pattern to that of the male rate across time. According to Steffensmeier and Allan (1988) as well as Steffensmeier and Streifel (1992), when examining the regression of female rates for a certain group on male rates for the same group, whether it is done over time or across different crime categories, the majority of comparisons do not exhibit statistically significant deviations from the prediction of no difference. Despite the presence of gender disparities, the aforementioned research indicates that female rates of response are influenced by similar social and legal elements as male rates (Bortitch & Hagan, 1990; Steffensmeier, 1980; Steffensmeier & Streifel, 1992).

The present study focuses on the analysis of combinations. Steffensmeier and Streifel (1993) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the structural factors influencing female crime rates. Their findings align with previous research that have examined similar factors in relation to male crime rates. In urban areas characterized by pronounced poverty and economic disparities, there is a higher incidence of female criminal behavior. There is an urgent need for additional macro-aggregate studies focusing on female offenders.

## References

Ahlqvist, Toni, Bäck, A., Halonen, M., Heinonen, S. (2008). Social media road maps exploring the futures triggered by social media. VTT Tiedotteita - Valtion Teknillinen Tutkimuskeskus (2454): 13.

**Social Sciences & Humanity Research Review**  
**VOLUME. 1, ISSUE. 1 2023**

Kaplan Andreas M., Haenlein Michael. (2010). Users of the world, unite! The challenges and opportunities of social media, Business Horizons, Vol. 53, Issue 1 (page 61)

Kietzmann, H., Jan, Hermkens, Kristopher. (2011). Social media? Get serious! Understanding the functional building blocks of social media. Business Horizons Vol54: 241–251. State of the media: The social media report 2012. Featured Insights, Global, Media + Entertainment. Nielsen.

Retrieved December 9, 2012 from <http://blog.nielson.com/nielsonwire/social/2012>  
Harris, Kandace (2008). Using Social Networking Sites as Student Engagement Tools. Diverse Issues in Higher Education Vol 25 (18). Social Media Revolution Video. Youtub. Retrieved June 22, 2012 from <http://www.youtube.com/watch>? Economy of India. Retrieved June 13, 2013 from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy\\_of\\_India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_India) Standard of living in India. Retrieved June 13, 2013 from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard\\_of\\_living\\_in\\_India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_of_living_in_India) Telecommunications statistics in India.

Retrieved June 13, 2013 from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telecommunications\\_statistics\\_in\\_India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telecommunications_statistics_in_India) Internet to reach 45 mn in rural India by year end – Study .

Retrieved June 13, 2013 from <http://www.businessstandard.com/india/technology/news/internet-to-reach-45-mn-in-rural-india-by-year-end-study/484965/> Teen Rage on facebook is ebbing, says new study. (2013, May 13). Hindustan Times, pp.25 Keen, Andrew (2007). The Cult of the Amateur. Random House. p. 15.

Ahlqvist, Toni, Bäck, A., Halonen, M., Heinonen, S. (2008). Social media road maps exploring the futures triggered by social media. VTT Tiedotteita - Valtion Teknillinen Tutkimuskeskus (2454): 13.

Kaplan Andreas M., Haenlein Michael. (2010). Users of the world, unite! The challenges and opportunities of social media, Business Horizons, Vol. 53, Issue 1 (page 61)

Kietzmann, H., Jan, Hermkens, Kristopher. (2011). Social media? Get serious! Understanding the functional building blocks of social media. Business Horizons Vol54: 241–251. State of the media: The social media report 2012. Featured Insights, Global, Media + Entertainment. Nielsen.

**Social Sciences & Humanity Research Review**  
**VOLUME. 1, ISSUE. 1 2023**

Retrieved December 9, 2012 from <http://blog.nielson.com/nielsonwire/social/2012>  
Harris, Kandace (2008). Using Social Networking Sites as Student Engagement Tools. Diverse Issues in Higher Education Vol 25 (18). Social Media Revolution Video. Youtub. Retrieved June 22, 2012 from <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Jyfjyfjyf> Economy of India. Retrieved June 13, 2013 from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy\\_of\\_India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_India) Standard of living in India. Retrieved June 13, 2013 from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard\\_of\\_living\\_in\\_India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_of_living_in_India) Telecommunications statistics in India.

Retrieved June 13, 2013 from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telecommunications\\_statistics\\_in\\_India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telecommunications_statistics_in_India) Internet to reach 45 mn in rural India by year end – Study .

Retrieved June 13, 2013 from <http://www.businessstandard.com/india/technology/news/internet-to-reach-45-mn-in-rural-india-by-year-end-study/484965/> Teen Rage on facebook is ebbing, says new study. (2013, May 13). Hindustan Times, pp.25 Keen, Andrew (2007). The Cult of the Amateur. Random House. p. 15.