

Women Prisoners in Odisha: A Case Study of Angul and Talcher Jails

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DECLARATION

I hereby state that the work entitled “Women Prisoners in Odisha: A Case Study of Angul and Talcher Jails” is my original work produced for the partial fulfillment of the final semester of Master in Development Studies at National Institute of Technology Rourkela, in the academic year 2013-2015. It has not been reproduced from any other source except where due reference or acknowledgement is made explicitly in the text.

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Women Prisoners in Odisha: A Case Study of Angul and Talcher Jails” submitted by Madhusmita Majhi in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in Development Studies submitted to the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Technology Rourkela, is an authentic work carried out by her under my supervision. To the best of my knowledge, the matter embodied in the thesis has not been submitted to any other University / Institute for the award of any Degree or Diploma.

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ABSTRACT

This thesis is an attempt to understand the lives of women prisoners in Odisha. It focuses on Angul and Talcher jails and initiates conversations with women prisoners to understand the level of anxiety and depression faced by them. The objective of this research project is to evaluate the anxiety of freedom faced by women prisoners. It also documents life of the prisoners when they are in the jail and tries to study their outlook towards life and freedom. Stress, anxiety and depression were among the most frequently reported problems in the cases under review though in several cases prison life was more comfortable than everyday harassment for some women. Women in prison face many problems in their life during their jail-term and there is a growing level of anxiety towards dealing with life after imprisonment. While they spoke of the particularities of their own lives, during my conversation I found that their past, present and what they do in future life were of ample significance. In conclusion, it is noted that women prisoners appear to normalize their problem to fight depression.

Keywords

Women Prisoners, life in jail, Odisha

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

After a crime a convict comes to prison. Generally, prison is a correctional institution. In prison prisoners are confined while undergoing their sentences. Women prisoners spend an average of 17 hours a day in their cells. They face various problems like overcrowding, poor sanitary facilities, lack of physical and mental activities, and lack of health care in prisons. These living conditions in prison have long-term impact on their mental health. They suffer from physical and emotional damages. In long run it also impacts their life after imprisonment.

This thesis explores the level of anxiety and depression faced by women prisoners. It focuses on Angul district jail in Odisha. According to their crime court decides the length of their sentences. The women prisoners who are going to be released in the next one to two years are studied in this thesis. Prisoners who have spent more than three years have also been studied. The marginalisation and discrimination experienced by women in society does not stop in the prison. Rather it continues to impinge on their lives even when in state custody, perhaps in its most aggravated forms. After they are released they face many problem from there society as well as family.

When women are in the jail they live their life in a different way than before. Before coming to jail they live with their family and society. They live their life in an independent way. They have many friends and relatives. After coming to jail they face many difficulties with their life. The prisoners are separated from their family. Prisoners suffer from physical and emotional damage. So this study is for mapping their anxiety while they are in the jail. Women prisoners have

limited exposure to the outside world while they are in the jail. They have limited contact with their families. Therefore studying their psychology is important for a researcher.

1.2 Women Prisoners in India

The total number of jails in the country is 1349. Out of them, there are 127 central jails, 340 district jail, 806 sub jails, 21 special jails and 20 women jails and 40 open jails. Total available capacity of all the jail in India during 2013 is 3,43 and 169. The total inmate population is 3,85,135. All over the total number of inmate population 3,68,184 is the male inmate population.16,591 is the female inmate population.(Record, 2012, I).

Out of 2,54,857 under trials inmate 76,626 were illiterates 1,10,385 were educated of above class X and below graduation 12,459 were graduates and 3,471 were post graduates.

(Record, 2012, II)

Number of persons convicted under attempt to murder increased sharply by 23.2% in 2011 and decreases sharply by 17.7% in 2012. (Record, 2012, III)

The highest number of inmates training in agriculture, carpentry, canning, tailoring, weaving, soap and phenyl making and handloom were reported in Madhya Pradesh (1,766) Gujarat (1,634), Assam (129), Delhi (986), West Bengal (164), Madhya Pradesh (167), during 2012.

(Record 2012, III)

1.3 Women Prisoners in Odisha

There are 85 jails of different kinds functioning in the state of Odisha. Out of them, there are five central jails, nine district jails, sixty-seven sub-jails, two special jails and one women jail and open jail. Total available capacity of all the jails in Odisha during 2012 is 18,012. The total inmate population is 12,867. (Record, 2012, IV)

Out of the total inmate population 12,391 are male and 476 are female inmate population. The total occupancy rate is 71% in Odisha jail. The average capacity of inmates in different jails is 321, 153, 624, 52, 125 per district jail, sub jail, central jail, women jail, open jail respectively.

During 2007, the prison population was 13,306 males and 477 females. There are 50 children below 6 years living with their mothers. (Record, 2012, IV)

In most of the jails in Odisha women and men prisoners live together. Proper attention and services cannot be given to handful of women offenders confined in a typical man's jail. In Odisha, there is no exclusive jail for the housing of women prisoners. The overcrowding and unhealthy prison conditions may also take a toll on the physical and mental well being of a woman in custody.

1.4 Prison Reformation

Women in the prison face many problems; Women in prison have experienced victimization, unstable family life, work failure, and substance abuse and mental health problems. The first jail reform committee was constituted in 1838. This committee recommended setting up of central prisons with 1000 capacity. All prisoners are having minimum standard of decent living. Second prison reform committee was constituted in 1862. It was set up to make a special investigation of the serious diseases and health matters of the prisoners.

In 1987, the government of India appointed the justice Krishna layer committee to undertake a study on the situation of women prisoners in India. It has recommended more women police or staff for women prisoners.

The Prisoner Act 1894, aimed at providing uniform facilities for prisoners all over India. India Prison Committee 1919-20, decided that the prisoners should be properly classified and mix-up should be avoided. It decided that prisoners should be separated according to their nature of crime and gender. During the Post-Independence Period, Maharashtra was the first state to introduce the system of wages in 1949. In 1980, the government of India set up a committee on jail reform, under the chairmanship of justice A.N.Mulla. The first federal prison for women opened in April 30, 1927. The modern prison in India originated with the minute by TB Macaulay in 1835. A committee namely, Prison Discipline Committee was appointed which submitted its report on 1838. The committee recommended increased rigorousness of treatment while rejecting all humanitarian needs and reforms for the prisoners. In 1864 the second

commission of inquiry in to jail management and discipline was appointed.
(http://www.nimhans.kar.nic.in/prison/chapter_2.pdf)

Recent Status of Women Prisoners in Angul Jail.

The Juvenile jail of Angul was established in the year 1897. Some sub-jails came under Juvenile jail such as Atmallik jail which was established in 1938, Talcher jail which was established in 1892 and Pallahara jail.

Against the schedule capacity of 97 prisoners an average of 220 prisoners are being accommodated in juvenile jail Angul. All these three sub jails house a total of 149, 31, 39 prisoners respectively. The prisoners who below 18 years of age live in Probation hostel.

Methodology

Research has been conducted inside prison in Angul district Odisha. This research project is completely a quantitative process. It is a face to face interview with women prisoners. The interview process is completed by using questionnaire method. The study area is in Angul district jail. It is one of the case study methods. This study is help to know the women prisoners perception about society.

Chapter II

Women Prisoners in Odisha: A Case Study of Angul and Talcher Jails

Case 1

The case of Kokila Pradhan

1. Kokila Pradhan is a 45-years-old woman from Jayantinagar village. She had a small family with her husband. Her real profession was farming. Kokila was convicted on 16 September 2014. The date of release 21 September 2019.
2. In this case the accused are Kokila Pradhan and Sudama Pradhan and the deceased is Mina Pradhan. Kokila is convicted of the murder of her husband Sudama Pradhan's second wife. The accused Kokila was in bad terms with her husband Sudama. Problems started arising in her marital life, after her two children died. Kokila's husband then married for a second time to a girl called Mina from Kadaliberena village, in the year 2009.
3. At the time of marriage Mina did not get anything from her family. After few months Mina started contacting her family members. Kokila and Mina quarrelled regularly. Sometimes Sudama also took part in these quarrels. Kokila and her husband Sudama both forced Mina to get some money from her father as dowry. Due to this reason both the women were hostile towards each other. Sudama and Kokila, both were demanding 10,000 rupees from the parents of the Mina as dowry. Consequently it is told that Both Sudama and Kokila demanded heavy dowry from Mina and her family. Sometimes the couple sent Mina home to her parents. Because of the ill-treatment and cruel behaviour of

the couple towards Mina, she took some drugs. In 2012 Mina died. When she died there was a big quarrel between Kokila and Mina. That afternoon Mina died after consuming some drugs. Mina was sent to Taince Hospital where she died the same day.

4. According to my interview with the accused (Kokila), said that it was not a murder but a suicide. According to her, Mina wasn't interested in Sudama. If she was even advised something she used to quarrel with Kokila. In 2012 Mina died.
5. From the evidence on record, it is clear that Kokila Pradhan and Sudama Pradhan most of the times tried to force Mina to get money or stuff from her home. After the death of Mina her parents lodged an FIR with Angul Police. Mina's father and brother said that Kokila and Sudama demanded money. These facts were clearly deposed by 3 witnesses including some village members. The first witness is Mina's father, the second is her mother and the third her brother.
6. On consideration of the evidence on record, the accused were convicted by the decision of additional sessions judge of Angul and punished under section 304B and 498A and sentenced to undergo imprisonment for ten years and to pay a fine of Rs.10,000/.
7. The assessors have found the accused guilty of an offence under section 498(a) and 304(b) Indian Penal Code. The assessors are of opinion that the accused is guilty of murder.
8. During my conversation I found that Kokila was not depressed. Because she doesn't have other family member Kokila and her husband both are in jail. She was only thinking about their future and she is regretting for her crime.
9. During two years of jail life she behaved well with other prisoners and officers. Her prison life is simple.

Case 2

The case of Sumati Parida

1. Sumati Parida is a 42-year-old woman from Rantlei village. She lives her husband, with her two sons, one daughter and daughter-in-law. She had a good relation with her villagers'. Her real profession was farming and cultivation of vegetables on her own land. She was imprisoned on 8 December 2014. Now she was in under trial.
2. In this case the accused are Sumati Parida and Sumanta Parida and the deceased is Jhuna Parida. The accused Sumati Parida is convicted of the murder of her son Sumanta Parida's wife. In 2011, the accused Sumati Parida's elder son Sumanta Parida got married to a girl called Jhuna from Kadaliberena village. They had a love marriage against the wishes of their family.
3. At the time of marriage Jhuna did not get anything as dowry from her family, for since it was a love marriage. After few months of marriage Jhuna started contacting her father and other family members. After talking with Jhuna, Jhuna's father gave Rs 20,000 in cash and gold as dowry. Sumati and Sumanta both demanded household articles and more money from Jhuna's parents as additional dowry. Both Sumati Parida and Sumanta Parida increased their demand repeatedly extra dowry from Jhuna. Because of the ill-treatment and cruel behaviour of the mother and son towards Jhuna, on 2nd November

2014 Jhuna tried to commit suicide by consuming same form of pesticides and died on her way to Angul district hospital.

4. During my conversation with Sumati Parida; Sumati Parida's son Sumanta Parida had a love marriage with Jhuna. After two years of marriage they had a daughter. After the birth of the baby both Jhuna and Sumanta started quarrelling for take care of baby. As it was said Jhuna never took care of the baby and she did not have much knowledge how to take care of a baby. Sumanta Parida lived in Sambalpur for his job. On 2 November 2014 morning they started quarrelling again for the same topic. Then Jhuna said that Sumanta didn't love her. Jhuna asked him if he could live happily without her. She then tried to commit suicide. On that afternoon Jhuna died after consuming pesticides. At that time Sumati Parida and Sumati Parida's husband were on field, farming. Sumati Parida's second son came home for lunch. He saw that his sister-in-law was in bad condition and went to call her mother immediately. Then Sumati Parida and her husband, after receiving this news, returned home and took her to the hospital. At that time Sumati Parida's elder son Sumanta Parida was not in the house, Sumanta Parida was on the way to Sambalpur.
5. From the evidence on record it is said that the accused Sumati Parida and Sumanta Parida most of the time tried to force Jhuna to get some money and items of domestic use from her home. After hearing the news of Jhuna's death, Jhuna's father gave an FIR to the Angul police station. Jhuna's father and brother gave the statement to the police that Jhuna was killed by her in laws because of insufficient dowry. These facts were clearly deposed by two witnesses. The first witness was the deceased's father; the second was the deceased's brother.

6. In this case the accused Sumati Parida surrendered herself for the release of her son.
7. On consideration of the evidence on record, accused Sumati Parida was put on trial by the decision of additional session's judge of Angul. As punishable under section 304B and 498A Sumati was sentenced to undergo imprisonment for ten years and to pay a fine of Rs.10, 000.
8. The assessors have found the accused guilty of an offence under section 498(a), 302, and 304(b), 34 Indian Penal Code. The assessors are of opinion that the accused is guilty of murder.
9. During my conversation with Sumati, I found that she was facing depression. She was always thinking about her family and her son who is imprisoned for the same reason. One of the major issues she faces being in jail is her granddaughter's upbringing. She lives with Sumati in jail.
10. Sumati spends her life in prison as a dutiful grandmother. She always involved herself in taking care of her grandchild. Her behaviour towards other prisoners was good.

Case 3

The case of Kumudini Behera and Basini Nayak

1. Kumudini Behera is a 32-year-old woman from Tebudu village. Basini Nayak is a 25 – year-old woman from Bagdia village. Kumudini had a small family with her husband and two sons. She had a good relation with villagers. She was a house wife. She was imprisoned on 18 December 2014. She is illiterate. Basini was living with her husband she doesn't have any child. Her profession was farming.

2. In this case accused are Kumudini Behera and Basini Nayak. The accused are imprisoned for cooking and selling Mahuli liquor. On 18 December 2014 at about 4 P.M while the ASI of Patkumunda, and two home guards were patrolling in the evening, they got information that someone is cooking and selling Mahuli liquor at village Tebudu (Bagidia) without any license. Then the police officers proceeded to find out the accused namely Kumudini Behera and Basini Nayak. Both accused belong to same family. Kumudini and Basini and their family members were involved in this illegal activity. Kumudini and Basini were cooking the Mahuli liquor as well as selling to the other people. During the search of the accused home that night, the ASI found that some of the cooking instruments, raw material, that is, Mahula flowers as well as some amount of liquor.
3. On conclusion of the investigation, the police filed an FIR under Section 47(A) (I) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.
4. On 18 December 2014 night Kumudini Behera was brought by the police with her two brothers-in-law and sister-in-law Basini Nayak.
5. During my conversation with the accused, Basini said that this is not the first time for them to face the police. But earlier both of them were successful in escaping. Only Kumudini's brother-in-law was caught by the police. But this time accused are fail to escape and are caught by the police.
6. Kumudini said that they don't have sufficient land for farming. Kumudini Behera and Basini's husband are daily labours and also they did cultivate other's lands. Because

their income was very low they chose to cook Mahuli and sell it and they liked their profession. She said she doesn't feel guilty for this crime.

7. During my conversation Kumudini was tensed for her kids and about her date of release. Her behaviour was very polite towards other prisoners.

Case 4

The case of Sebati Sahu

1. Sebati is a 32-year-old woman from Siarinali village. She had a small family and stayed with her husband and nine-year-old daughter. She was a daily worker and a farmer. She was able to read and write in Odia language.
2. In this case the accused is Sebati Sahu and the deceased is Santosh Kumar Sahu .The accused is convicted of the murder of her husband Santosh. In 2004, Sebati got married to Santosh. Sebati's behaviour towards her family as well as society was very rude. Sebati's husband was a farmer and they were poor. Because of the low income Sebati's husband could not fulfil the demands of Sebati. They didn't have land of their own or a house to live in. Sebati always started quarrel with her husband Santosh for money. But Santosh failed to give more money. Sebati also failed to educate her daughter. Sebati always blamed Santosh for their poor income and poor standard of living condition. Santosh wasted his money in Alcohol. This is another reason for their quarrel. And these quarrels made Santosh to commit suicide by consuming pesticides. The same night he died during treatment at Angul hospital.

3. After concluding their investigations the police filed a case under Section 302/301/34 Indian Penal Code.
4. During my conversation with the accused, she said that Santosh was suffering from fever. He was ill due to heavy drinking of alcohol. But Santosh's brother had filed an FIR at Angul police station against his sister-in-law. He claimed that due to the financial problem Sebati always quarrelled with Santosh and her family. These facts are clearly deposed by two witnesses including some villagers.
5. During my conversation with Sebati, she was behaving in a rude manner. She was in depression due to her daughter's education and future. Now her daughter lives in Adarsha Ashram. She neither has any land nor a house to live in after release. So Sebati was planning for their future.

Case 5

The case of Rita Barik

1. Rita is a 22-year-old woman from Boinda. She had a small family with her husband and children. She is a house wife. She attended school till class 5. So is able to read and write in Odia language.
2. In this case accused is Rita Barik. The accused is imprisoned for the case of selling ganja. On 26 March 2014 at about 7 P.M while an assistant sub inspector and a home guard of Boinda were patrolling, they got information that someone is selling ganja. Then the police proceeded to find out the accused namely Rita Barik of village Boinda. Rita and her husband were involved in this illegal

activity. During the search of her house that evening, police had found 5 Kg ganja in a bag.

3. After concluding the investigation the police filed a case under Section 20 (b)(iia)(c) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.
4. Rita Barik was brought to the police station that evening with two more family members. One was her brother-in-law, and the second, her husband.
5. The assessors found Rita guilty of an offence under section 20 (b)(iia)(c) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. The assessors are of opinion that the accused is guilty of crime.
6. During my conversation with Rita, I found that she is in depression for her 6-year-old daughter. As a homemaker she was worried about her family. She was anxious about her case and the date of her release to meet her children.
7. She is a well behaved woman. She has made friends over there.

Case 6

The case of Geeta Devi and Chatri Khatum

1. Geeta is a 38-year-old woman. She is a widow and lived with her two sons. She was a house wife. She is an illiterate woman. She belongs to a poor family. Chatri Khatum is a 50-year-old woman who was a house wife. She has a joint family with her husband, children and grandchildren. Both the accused belong to same place Gopalganj village in Bihar district.

2. In this case accused are Geeta Devi and Chatri Khatum. The accused are imprisoned for illegally transporting 50 kilos of ganja. On 18May 2013 both were travelling from Angul district in Odessa to Gopalganj in Bihar with four other people. They were arrested by the Talacher police when the jeep crossed the border of Talacher district. The police officer found that both were paid huge amount of money for ganja and they had a contract with a small farmer who used to cultivate ganja in Angul district. The police arrested the farmer too and other people who were with them and impounded the jeep.
3. During my conversation with the accused Geeta Devi, she stated that she and Chatri came to Odisha to meet some relatives and to visit Puri.
4. The assessors have found accused guilty of an offence under section 20 (b)(ia)(c) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.
5. During my conversation with Geeta she was under depression for her family because she was the only member of the family who was able to earn. Her elder son is mentally ill and the other one was only of 16 years. No one helped her to solve her case. Till today she is not getting any information about her family.
6. During my conversation with Chatri Khatum, I found that she was also under depression because of her pending case.
7. Both behaved well with other prisoners and jail staff.

Case7

The case of Bilash Behera

1. Bilash is a 35-year-old woman from Biru in Angul district. She had a small family with her husband and children. She was a house wife. She is an illiterate woman.
2. In this case accused is Bilash Behera. He is imprisoned for affray. Bilash Behera was arrested by the police for fighting with her husband and neighbours. She always quarrelled with her family and neighbours. And some time also hurled stone son people. She also has an old pending case filed 3 year ago for same activity. In the previous case she was released with warning. This time her brother-in-law filed an FIR against her name for fighting and harming people. On 29 December 2014 morning she fought with her husband and her husband was injured. She was arrested for the crime of affray.
3. During my conversation with the accused she said that her husband always fought with her. I found that she was sufferings from mental illness. Even when I asked her name she told me that her name is Annapurna Behera. Her behaviour was hostile towards other prisoners.
4. The jail officers they also informed me that this type of behaviour created problems for her family members. In jail life she doesn't eat properly and often she suffers from health problems.
5. After concluding their investigation the police filed a case under Section u/s-307/506 Indian Penal Code Act.

6. I found that she is facing the problem of mental disorder. Her behaviour was hostile towards other prisoner.

Case 8

The case of Kumuduni Majhi

1. Kumuduni is a 23-year-old woman from Tukuda. She had a small family with her husband and 6-year-old son. She was a house wife. She belongs to a poor family.
2. In this case accused is Kumuduni Majhi. The accused is imprisoned for the case of cooking and selling liquor (Mahuli). On 19December 2014 the Assistant Sub Inspector of Tukuda got information that someone is selling Mahuli liquor without any license .Then the police officer proceeded to find out the accused namely Kumuduni Majhi. The accused were selling Mahuli liquor 3 KMs away from their home in the forest. Kumuduni and her husband Sanatana Majhi both are involved to this illegal activity. During the search of the accused shop that morning, police found some cooking instruments, raw material (Mahula) as well as some amount prepared liquor.
3. During my conversation with the accused she said that Mr.Behera (Assistant Sub Inspector) arrested her without any evidence.
4. The assessors have found accused were guilty of an offence under section 47(A) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.
5. She was tensed for her 6-year-old son. She doesn't have other family members or relatives to help her out in this bad situation. She said that no one is taking care of

her son. She is eagerly waiting for her release. She maintained a good relationship with other prisoners.

Case 9

The case of Kanaka Behera

1. Kanaka is a 50-year-old woman from Tebuda. She lives with her husband, a 15-year-old son and a mentally challenged daughter of 16 years. She was a house wife. Her real profession was farming. She has her own farm land. And her husband's profession was collecting palm-sap.
2. In this case accused is Kanaka. The accused is imprisoned for the case of cooking and selling liquor (Mahuli). On 1⁸ December 2014 the Assistant Sub-Inspector of Tebuda arrested Kanaka for selling Mahuli liquor without any license. Kanaka and her husband both are involved in this illegal activity. During the search of the accused home that morning, police found some cooking instruments, raw material (Mahula) as well as some amount of prepared liquor.
3. After concluding their investigation the police filed a case under Section 47(A)(I) BNOXISE Act.
4. During my conversation with the accused she said that, she is tensed for her son and daughter. Her daughter has mental disorder. No one cares for her. She is also tense for her paddy. I found that she was also under depression because of her pending case.
5. Her behaviour towards others was good.

Case 10

The case of Binodini Biswal and Baidehi Dehuriy

1. Binodini is a 40-year-old woman from Sitkoili. She had a big family with her husband, one son and five daughters. She was a house wife. Binodini and her husband Trithabasi both are illiterate and their real profession was farming as well as daily labours. Baidehi also belongs to the same village as Binodini. Baidehi lived with her husband and her children. She is a 40- year-old woman. Baidehi and her husband Batakrushna both were unemployed. They belong to a poor family.
2. In this case accused are Binodini Biswal and Baidehi Dehuriy. The accused Binodini is imprisoned for the case of cultivation and selling of a fim without license. Baidehi is imprisoned for the case of cultivation and selling ganja.
3. On 21 February 2014 the Inspector of Angul got information that someone is involved with illegal activities. Then the police officer proceeded to find out the accused namely Binodini and Baidehi and arrested them. The accused Binodini and her husband Trithabasi both are involved for this activity. During the investigation police found a farm land as well as some amount of fima. Baidehi and her husband Batakrushna are also involved with illegal activities. During investigation police found 20 KGs ganja from their house.
4. After concluding their investigation the police filed a case under Section 18 (c) at Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Both the accused come under the same section.

5. During my conversation with Binodini, I found her guilty of her crime. She promised not do get involved in such an act. But conversation with Baidehi revealed that her husband didn't have any work so she was forced to do all this illegal things for her income. Her husband is now absconding after a warrant was issued against him.
6. Binodini and Baidehi both are well behaved. Some time they quarrel with themselves but all are live as a family.
7. Binodini was always thinking about her family, her 16-year- old son and two daughters. She was under depression for her unsolved case and date of release.
8. Baidehi is a very poor woman and she has two kids. Her husband is also unemployed. She was tensed for her children who were without parents. Moreover, there is one to help her solve the case.

Chapter 3

Results and Conclusions

The thesis began with reviewing the status of women prisoners in Angul district of Odisha. Total 14 women prisoners are in Angul and Talcher sub jails. I was starting my field work from Angul jail to Talcher. During my field work I had some conversation with the Jail Superintendent about prisoners' status. Then I gathered information about all women prisoners staying there. I talked with the jailer, women prisoners ward care-takers. Then I started collecting women prisoners' files and then deeply studied their case history. Through case history file I got information about their name, date of imprisonment, IPC section, and their date of release (if convicted) and other basic information. Then I enquired as why they are in jail and for which case. After collecting the basic information about prisoners, I moved on towards my second step, that was interaction with prisoners individually in person. Then I started my conversation with prisoners one by one. I got all the information from them and I got answers of my research questions as well. I achieve my objective and observed their daily activities.

First I introduced myself as a student. Then I ask their names. They also enquired what I was doing there. I explained them as a researcher I need to contact with them and I want to collect some basic information about their pervious and jail life. Starting from their names I carried on interaction find out their age, education, family members, economic status, their before imprisonment and in jail. In this way I proceeded. They all cooperated with me and they behaved well with me. Overall, my conversation was good.

During the period of discussion I found that some women prisoners faced high level of depression than others. The level of depression and anxiety is based on their imprisonment period and family status.

1. Economic status: During my conversation with the women prisoners most of the cases come under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances act in IPC section. Here I found that they don't have any other source of their income. While their real profession is farming and working on fields, they don't have sufficient land for cultivation. For their low level of income they are forced to get involved in this type of act. Low income is one of the important causes that led to depression.
2. Imprisonment period: During my survey I found that one of the prisoners is already convicted and imprisoned for the period of 10 years. She was less depressed than other accused prisoners still waiting for judgement.
3. Family members: Women with kids suffer comparatively high level of depression rather than the rest. It is because they don't have anyone to take of their household and children. Their relatives often feel reluctant to help them during this bad situation. Few of prisoner's husbands are in jail with them. And few of them have warrants issued in their names and they are absconding or not arrested.
4. Case solving: During my conversation with the prisoners I found that most of the prisoners' cases are pending because no one helps them to get bail. Even for small crimes they live in jail for long periods of time.

5. Future: I found that in some cases both husband and wife live in jail. In such case their depression level rises because they don't get information about their home and property. They become tensed thinking about where to go and what to do after will be released. They don't have money for starting life anew. Some of the women prisoners who are suspected under the case of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances act say that they can't change their way of life. Because they don't have another option to get livelihood from because of scarcity of land, they will be again forced to do the same job.

Now I focus on prisoners' cause of depression. During my field work I first interacted with Kokila who had already spent 2 years in jail. She was imprisoned for 10 years. I found that during conversation she was not under depression because she had no other family member to think about except her husband who is also in jail. Therefore, she was only anxious about her future. She doesn't have sufficient money to start a new business and the jail authority is not providing them with any training program which might help her in future.

After my conversation with Sumati, I found that she was facing depression thinking about her granddaughter's upbringing. I found out that she was not convicted of her crime and undergoing imprisonment as an under trial culprit.

My conversation with Kumudini Behera, Rita, Kumudini Majhi, Kanaka, Binodini and Baidehi revealed that they were tensed for their children and about their date of release. All of them have small children and they have no one to take proper care for their children and home. Out of them some of the women prisoners' husbands are in jail. Most of the women prisoners are facing depression for the cause of their family.

When I started my conversation with Sebati, I found out that by nature she was a rude women. She was under depression for her delayed judgment. She was in jail for murdering her husband. She has a 9 year-old-daughter. Her daughter was the cause of her depression who is now living in Adarsha Ashram at Angul. During her 2 year stay in jail she was able to meet her daughter only once.

I found out that Geeta and Chatri both belong to Bihar state. And both are not able to meet their family members. They are imprisoned since 2012 but till date their case is not solved.

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