

Imprisoned Mothers: Understanding the challenges of women prisoners parenting their children in Noida District jail

Riti Singh^{1*}, Ahrar Ahmad Lone²

^{1*}Research Scholar, Sharda School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sharda University, ORCID: 0009-0000-4811-6633, E-mail: 2022301975.riti@sharda.ac.in

²Assistaint Professor, Sharda School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sharda University. ORCID: 0009-0007-7445-7047, E-mail: ahrar.ahmad@sharda.ac.in

Citation: Singh, R., & Lone, A. A. (2024). Imprisoned Mothers: Understanding the challenges of women prisoners parenting their children in Noida District jail, *Educational Administration: Theory and Practice*, 30(5) 15646-15654
Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v30i5.10096

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

This study examines the experiences of imprisoned mothers residing with their children in Noida District Jail, India. Using interviews, it explores how these women deal with parenting in a strict and difficult environment. The study found that mothers feel lonely, afraid of being separated from their children, and worry about their child's growth and well-being. Poor food, lack of child-friendly facilities, and weak support systems add to their stress. While being with their children brings comfort, it also increases feelings of guilt and anxiety. The research suggests better prison conditions and support for both mothers and their children.

KEYWORDS: Prison, Women Prisoners, Crime, Dependent Children, Family.

Introduction

Indian society has undergone a significant transformation over the last two decades, which has increased women's association with various illegitimate activities. Engaging in illegal activities increased the number of women in prison. Women prisoners are a detested group in society, and being in custody impacts every aspect of a person's life. Women faced such disregard and ignorance. Prison worsens gender disadvantage and discrimination, amplifying it further upon release (Math & Murthy 2011). Women detainees are put through humiliating circumstances that strip them of any dignity and respect they may have had before entering the prison (Bedi 2006).

The number of female convicts is growing faster than the number of male prisoners, according to surveys conducted in various countries¹. Nevertheless, women make up a tiny portion of the total number of prisoners worldwide (Ryder 2020). According to UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME and Atabay (2014), because there are fewer females in the prison system, there is a general lack of consideration for women's gender-specific needs, as well as a denial of many services and opportunities that male convicts have access to. Women prisoners must face double disadvantage in prison, which increases the inequality they face. It is evident that the prison system is designed with male inmates in mind, and their needs and importance are always given priority over those of female inmates (Van Den Bergh et al. 2011). Gelsthorpe (2004), despite the government having passed various laws, agreements, declarations and numerous prison improvement initiatives, the conditions of prisoners are awful.

Children in Prison

More than a thousand children accompanied by their mothers are in prisons all over India. In the R. D. Upadhyay v. State of Andhra Pradesh decision in 2006, the Supreme Court of India ordered all states and union territories to permit children to reside with their mothers until they reached 6 years of age (Singh

¹Handbook on women and imprisonment (2014). Criminal justice handbook series. <https://doi.org/10.18356/b4f63625-en>

2022; Ahsan 2018). Two categories of children of women prisoners in jail exist: those who accompany their mothers during their incarceration, and those born there due to their mothers' incarceration during pregnancy. Young children may accompany their mothers into prison in many nations, and babies born to women in prison remain in prison with their mothers, which according to Pandey (2004), can be disastrous. Prisons have been claimed to lack a typical environment, care, and affection from family members, such as fathers and siblings, compelling children to spend their crucial formative years in a restricted setting among the prisoners (Shastra 2023). Children of women prisoners are a vulnerable group who need special attention because they are more liable to be contaminated by criminogenic influences and are likely to suffer from psychosocial problems and get the wrong orientation to life, which may manifest in some forms of juvenile delinquency in the later part of their lives (Sarkar & Gupta 2015). A child's contact with the adult criminal system is never natural (Ahsan 2018). The prison setting does not support a child's inclusive development. Children who remain in prison are unable to experience an everyday life.

Methods

Research design

The study was conducted using interpretative phenomenological analysis. Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) in research involves analyzing how individuals comprehend their personal and social worlds, focusing on the meanings they attribute to experiences (Squires 2023). It allows for a deep examination of the relationship between individuals and their environments, relying on participants' descriptions of experiences and perceptions (Taylor et al. 2023). This Study focused on experience of mothers in prison. This Study aimed to comprehend the essence of the phenomenon by examining how incarcerated mothers experienced it.

Research Setting and Participant

The study was conducted in the Gautam Buddha Nagar district jail. This Prison currently has 63 women prisoners, of whom 8 live with their children. Purposive sampling was implemented to recruit mothers in prison, who has dependent children with them in prison. Women prisoners who were interested were part of the interview sessions. We conducted 7 in-depth interviews from April 8, 2024, to April 11, 2024. The participants were provided with details of our purpose.

Consecutive sampling was used to identify the women prisoners for the interview. The research participants selected for this study represent a group of seven women were housed in Gautam Buddha Nagar district jail at the time of data collection with their children. Notably, these women have served at least one month of imprisonment, reflecting a varied spectrum of experiences of motherhood within the criminal justice system.

Participant	Type of Prisoner	Serving Period	Age	Children with them	Sex of Children	Age of Children
1	C	4 Years	27	1	F	5 Year
2	UT	1 Years, 4 Months	23	1	F	4 Month
3	UT	6 Months	39	1	F	3 Year
4	UT	2 Years, 3 Months	32	1	F	4 Year
5	UT	3 Months	35	1	M	6 Year
6	UT	2 Years	27	1	M	4 Year
7	UT	2Years, 6 Months	26	1	M	3 Year

Table 1: Characteristics of Participants

Source: Authors owns elaboration

The above data (Table 1) sheds light on the family and demographic traits of a particular prison population. Six of the seven participants are under trial prisoners (UT), and the remaining one is a convicted prisoner (C). This indicates that most of the participants in this sample are under trial. The inmates' ages range from 23 to 39 years, with an average age of approximately 29.86.

The dataset contains seven children, with an average age of approximately 3.62 years, the children's ages range from 4 months to 6 years. With four girls and three boys, the children's gender distribution is slightly skewed towards the female gender.

The data shows a prisoner population that is primarily under trial, with a range of sentence lengths and an average age in the late twenties. The children of the prisoners are almost evenly distributed by gender and are mostly very young, averaging little over three and a half years old.

Data Collection and Analysis

This study uses phenomenology to explore incarcerated mothers' lives. The data was analysed using Reflexive Thematic Analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2019), which may be adapted to a phenomenological framework by focusing on participants' subjective meanings and lived experiences. Data were collected through face-to-

face, semi-structured interviews with incarcerated mothers, focusing on their children's needs, prison support systems, relationships, and the impact of imprisonment on their children. Interviews, conducted under prison authority supervision, captured mothers' experiences of parenting, available facilities, and family ties.

Limitations of Studies

This study has a few important limitations. First, it was done with a small number of participants, so the findings cannot be applied to all women in prison. The study took place only in Noida District Jail, and conditions there may be different from other prisons.

Also, because the interviews were done in prison, some women may not have felt safe or comfortable sharing everything openly. Lastly, since the study is based on the researcher's interpretation of what women said, there is a chance of personal bias. These limits should be kept in mind when looking at the results.

Results and Findings

Women Prisoners have significant issues fitting in with prison life. Prison administration is expected to uphold the fundamental requirements for maintaining human life, such as food, clothes, and shelter, among others. The prison's social and physical environments contribute to a variety of issues that its inmates face. Problems with physical well-being, mental state, feelings, and social interaction could be quite prevalent in prison.

1. The Dilemma of Mothers

As we first spoke to participants, about their greatest concern, participants shared their concerns about their children with us. Staying with inmates could have a negative impact on the cognitive growth of the children. Inmates who have children are more concerned for their children than themselves.

Most of the Prisoners shares mixed feelings. They are grateful because they have company in prison. They can spend their time with someone who is very close to them. On the other hand, they are also worried about the future of their children.

"Experiencing incarceration during formative years can profoundly harm children's entire lives. Children pick up various behaviors from their surroundings. Living with prisoners who are depressed and worried about their own lives affects the cognitive growth of children." (Participant 1, C)

Other participants explain the challenge they faced while living in prison with their children

Sometimes it's also hard to live with a child in prison. He keeps asking about her sisters and why we are here. How long will we live here? It's hard to answer all these questions. Sometimes he starts crying to go back... I have no idea how to deal with these situations. (Participant 4, UT)

The statements directly address the adverse impact on children who leave in prison with their mothers. Other women also express deep sense of fear, sadness, and worry

"You Know.... Having someone so intimate and close to you here is a very pleasant thing. However, I felt sad for her. I'm frightened... I have trouble sleeping at night. I wonder how long she will stay with me and what will happen to her if I'm not allowed to go out. If I'm not able to get out of prison soon then my daughter will not get to school. She will be left far behind from the rest of the children in many ways, like technology, games, and various survival skills which children learn in their formative years of development. Still, I don't want my daughter to live outside with someone else without me... I don't know in what condition my son is outside... I don't want to leave her in that condition." (Participant 7, UT)

One prisoner explain that she feels very close to her child and don't want to be separate

"I feel very close to my child; you know, she is the sole relationship that I have here with myself. That is why I feel connected to her, not just because I am carrying him but also because I feel she is the only one with whom I can share my feelings. I know it's not good for her to live with me inside the prison. But the idea of having to part with my child is beyond comprehension." (Participant 6, UT)

In any case, being a parent can be difficult, and feeling cut off from your child can make things much more complicated and depressing. Women prisoners have their doubts and fears about being separated from their children.

"I constantly feel like I'm not doing my duty as a mother as well as I would like to. I'm not able to fulfill the desire of a child. I know that my daughter deserves to live a normal life, but I don't know whether I will be able to give her that life or not." (Participant 1, C)

All the Statement highlight that Living with their mothers in prison has long-term developmental consequences. Emotional pressure, routine hardship, and a lack of stimulation in prison all impede cognitive and psychological growth. Children are sensitive, and being around depressed or anxious moms evokes fear, instability, and uncertainty. In contrast to the home, prison offers few opportunities for healthy social and emotional growth. Children who are alone, exposed to adult emotional distress, and may not receive age-appropriate care suffer physiologically and may develop long-term mental and behavioral disorders.

2. Hazardous Environment for Children:

Children who have not committed any crime are also subject to the same restrictions as the accused. Instead of growing up in a nurturing home or educational setting, children of female prisoners are exposed to an atmosphere of confinement. Due to inadequate supplemental nutritional and educational facilities, staying in jail harms children's physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development.

Some women explain how living with women prisoners causes emotional pain, lowers a child's self-esteem, and leads to social problems.

"Life in custody surrounded by prisoners can never be normal for any child. Children experience a custodial atmosphere where security concerns and the behavior of adults may be unpredictable or even harmful to children. This misbehavior of prisoners and prison's depressed environment makes children also stressful and fearful". (Participant 5, UT)

One participant explains how the prison environment is not suitable for growth of children.

"Living with women prisoners cannot be a sustainable living situation for any child. The stigma of living in prison can lead to emotional distress and social challenges for a child. It affects the self-esteem and well-being of children." (Participant 6, UT)

The statement highlights how prison environment is deeply unnatural and potentially damaging for any child. Surrounded by adult prisoners, children are constantly exposed to a custodial atmosphere where security concerns, unpredictable behavior, and emotional instability are the norm.

2. Separation and Loss:

All the prisoners allow inmates to meet their family members twice a week. Different dates have been set aside for defendants and those in court. Family members of prisoners can visit the prison to get updates about the inmate's well-being and to give supplies for daily necessities. Inmates have the option to telephone their families five days a week. A prison officer explained that female prisoners with strong family links were better equipped to cope with difficulties in prison. Family members may visit once or twice a month, and there are other opportunities for communication, such as phone calls.

The inquired with the prisoners about any visits from family members. Many prisoners claimed that their relatives visited them only occasionally because they were underprivileged, had meager pay scales, and could not afford to travel. Most of the women inmates have very low rates of family visits and support.

Somen inmates reveal the deep emotional toll of imprisonment on both incarcerated mothers and their children.

"The initial shock of imprisonment for me and my son was separation from families and enforced living with other women, which made me stressed. I was always worried about my children and family; I couldn't eat and sleep properly.... But I know that it is not easy for them to come so far to meet me. It's difficult to explain to my son why we are here: when we will go back to live with his sister, why can't we meet them?" (Participant 7, UT)

"My maternal side was also not supportive; I missed my mother. She visited me only once when I got arrested and gave me a few things for my daughter. I don't have any relations with my father anymore. Along with me, it is also difficult for my daughter...she doesn't know why she can't meet her grandparents, why she can't live with them." (Participant 5, UT)

These emotional tolls revolve on issues of familial alienation, emotional isolation, and broken kinship relationships. The initial shock of incarceration is amplified by the forced severance from familial support structures, particularly for mothers who are concerned not just about their personal circumstances but also about the bewilderment and emotional pain their children undergo.

One inmate reflects the emotional instability and mental strain that come with being in custody while trying to stay connected to loved ones.

"Maintaining connection with family and friends is a roller-coaster ride. At the beginning of the week, I feel good when I call my family and friends. Things are going well. Things could change again by the end of the week, though. Someone can feel good and bad in a week. It's hard to maintain emotional balance throughout the whole time." (Participant 2, UT)

The statement highlights how unpredictable and fragile emotional well-being can be for someone in prison. Moments of happiness are often short-lived, and the lack of consistent support or normalcy makes it difficult to cope. Statements highlights the psychosocial strain of imprisonment, where both parent and child are caught in a state of emotional dislocation, struggling to cope with unanswered questions and unmet emotional needs.

3. Caged Childhood

The prison environment is just not conducive to the holistic development of children. Many children who stay in prison never experience normal family life, sometimes until the permitted age of six years. The confinement of children along with their mothers leads to the confinement of their psyche.

Children's psyches get imprisoned when they are confined with their mothers. Staying in a negative and custodial environment, the socialization patterns of these children are severely affected.

"In a negative and custodial environment, their socialization gets negatively affected. They develop poor social skills as their socialization is mostly limited to women prisoners. They have limited interaction

opportunities.... I'm afraid that after going outside, my daughter will not be able to live in our environment, or he will not be able to stay inside any four walls. Life outside prison is very different. There is so much to see and learn if she will be able to be okay or not." (Participant 3, UT)

The effect of their environment on their psyche is so strong that boys may be found impersonating and talking like the female gender, having grown up only among women confined in the female ward. Unusual sights, like those of stray animals on the road (seen on the way to court with the mother), are frightening to them. Such children become violent and aggressive or show withdrawn behavior in prison.

Inmates raise concern regarding the behavioral and psychological development of children living in prison settings.

"Given the child's high degree of curiosity and oppositional behavior, children quickly adopt the behavior pattern of inmates. Children in the ward with them adopt a rebellious attitude because they continuously observe altercations and fights among the inmates." (Participant 6, UT)

The participant notes that children's natural curiosity and developmental stage render them impressionable, increasing the likelihood of mimicking the actions of others. Frequent confrontations, altercations, and emotionally charged relationships among convicts lead these youngsters to internalize and replicate such behaviors, frequently resulting in defiance or opposition. This suggests a detrimental socialization process within a restricted and emotionally intense setting, highlighting serious concerns regarding the lasting impacts of incarceration on children's mental health, emotional stability, and behavioral development.

4. Support Systems

Prisoner connections can and frequently do, serve a variety of beneficial objectives. For instance, assist women prisoners in coping with the hardships of jail, offer insightful counsel, and show how the level of social support among female prisoners affected the prisoners' mental health.

"We support one another. Being the oldest among them, they hold me in high regard. They asked for my opinion about little things regarding their children. I like to help them as well. I think knowing the fact that I can help the others special this little life in prison made me feel little bit relaxed and happy." (Participant 3, UT)

In the challenging environment of prison, the participant experiences emotional relief and a renewed sense of purpose through the act of offering guidance and support to fellow inmates, particularly in relation to their children. The experience of being regarded and sought after contributes to her sense of respect and self-worth, effectively mitigating the dehumanizing elements associated with incarceration. This demonstrates the ways in which inmate solidarity and caregiving roles contribute to resilience, a sense of belonging, and emotional coping within a restrictive and emotionally deprived environment.

5. Medical Care

Women in the prison expressed dissatisfaction with the medical care they received, despite some of them providing examples of high-quality care. They held in high regard those professionals who gave off an air of sympathy and concern for their welfare.

"Prison has medical staff and basic medical facilities, and the medical staffs are nice! It's not just because they helped me; they are sincere individuals. They talk to the children nicely; sometimes they bring sweets or chocolates for the children. They make time to listen to us." (Participant 5, UT)

Some women felt that the authorities have the power to prevent convicts from seeing a doctor. Getting medical consultations from experts is not easy; you must explain to the staff why you need to see a doctor, and if the staff accepts your justification, you may proceed.

"I want to see a doctor, but that was not enough to pay a visit to the hospital. Everything has legal process in prison; we are not allowed to go to any hospitals without proper legal orders. It takes four to five days, or sometimes more than that, to get permission to pay a visit in the hospital." (Participant 6, UT)

The lack of autonomy in seeking healthcare within prison environments disproportionately affects women, particularly in matters related to reproductive health, maternal care, and chronic illnesses. This situation calls for a reevaluation of prison health policies to ensure that access to medical care is treated as a fundamental right rather than a privilege subjected to procedural hurdles.

6. Access to Education Programs

Education programmers are helpful for prisoners to connect with community and get better opportunities in the future. While explaining the facilities regarding educational facilities women prisoners show their dissatisfaction with learning and teaching facilities for children. Not having a qualified teacher for children is one of their major concerns.

One inmate highlights the Absence of a consistent teaching schedule or trained educators

"Although the premises have classroom infrastructure, there were no systematic classes for children. Classes run on a volunteer basis; staff members teach children in their free time, which is not enough for children's growth since they are not trained to teach." (Participant 1, C)

The Statements highlight the systemic educational and developmental disadvantages faced by children living with their incarcerated mothers. Despite the presence of basic classroom infrastructure within prison premises, there is a clear lack of structured and consistent educational programming.

“Learning curricula for children aged 0–6 years, children who are raised in jail can’t have regular education facilities; they can’t go outside of prison. These children lack experience with having more children around them and making friends, which might affect their social life in the future.” (Participant 4, UT)

“Even though staff and offices try their best to not treat children as offended, it still shows deference from outside. Getting paper and pens was a struggle. Jail culture has rules and regulations of its own. There are customs one needs to follow. These rules are for inmates, but they affect children as well.” (Participant 3, UT)

These statements point to a pressing need for dedicated, child-focused educational interventions within prison settings that not only address the learning needs of children but also mitigate the psychological and social limitations imposed by incarceration. Unlike UN Convention on the Rights of the Child that provide early education programs and structured prison nurseries, the Indian system remains dependent on informal arrangements, reinforcing inequality

7. Food Access and Nutrition

Most of the women inmates are concerned about not having a properly tailored diet for their children, resulting in frequent illness. While some inmates have the means to purchase additional food for themselves and their children on the prison premises,

“There is no special diet suited to children given to them for dinner. We fed them the same food that was served to us. Most of the food items on the menu are unappealing to the children. In earlier days, my daughter was frequently ill from a lack of sufficient nutrition; she refuses to eat because it’s not the food she used to like.” (Participant 2, UT)

“Feeding us is responsibility for authority they really didn’t care on likes or dislikes. It’s ok for us but seeing children in this situation is heartbroken. Since I have financial support from my family, I can buy food for my son but not every child in prison has that much support to buy food for them.” (Participant 6, UT)

The prisoners complained about the bland, tasteless meals due to poor preparation. These issues with prison food are a result of mass cooking, obsolete kitchens and tools, and the uncaring attitude of the inmates who prepare the meals.

“The quality of the material is fine, but the food still does not taste good, basically because of the process of cooking. It may be that the person who cooks is not interested in cooking anymore, or the food may be the least thing about which I will be concerned in prison. At the same time, I can’t ignore the struggle of my child; he is not fond of all those foods. At first, he insisted on getting something else to eat, but now he is aware of the circumstances. Although he stopped requesting another item to eat, I know it’s difficult for him to eat here.” (Participant 4, UT)

The participant’s highlights the effects of food. While the mother becomes indifferent to meals due to emotional distress, she remains concerned about her child’s nutrition and well-being. The child’s reluctant adaptation to bland food reflects the harsh reality of growing up in an unsuitable environment. This underscores the emotional strain on incarcerated mothers and the need for child-sensitive dietary policies and more humane prison conditions.

Discussion

Parenting during imprisonment is an emotionally complicated and structurally complex experience, especially for women who enter prison as primary caregivers (Richie, 2002; Young & Reviere, 2006). The voices of the women interviewed reflect deep concern for their children’s development in the context of incarceration. According to existing studies, over 75% of incarcerated women are mothers, and their imprisonment causes significant disruptions in their children’s lives, including psychological distress and social isolation (Dallaire, 2007; Ceballo & Absin, 2022).

Mothers in prison worry about the long-term emotional and psychological impact of prison life on their children, who are often confined to overcrowded, poorly equipped environments lacking stimulation, privacy, and support (Haney, 2018; MoWCD, 2018). Many women reported that their children face delayed speech, social withdrawal, and fear conditions that mirror developmental concerns raised by Piaget (1972) and Di Iorio et al. (2019).

The statements of inmates reflect the mothers’ emotional pain and helplessness. They often struggle to explain prison life to their children, experience shame and anxiety, and feel powerless to meet their basic needs. Although living together can maintain emotional bonds and potentially reduce recidivism (Johnson, 2022), the prison environment itself remains deeply unsuitable for child-rearing. Children face inadequate nutrition, delayed healthcare, and lack structured education and recreation (Diksha et al., 2022; Klare & Claire, 2022).

The presence of support networks helps imprisoned mothers cope more effectively. Women with family support felt more emotionally stable and less anxious about their children’s future (Healy et al., 2001). However, most incarcerated women come from marginalized backgrounds with limited economic and social support, compounding their challenges (Devi & Bali, 2024; WHO, 2014). As several women pointed out,

financial constraints meant they could not provide adequate nutrition or medical care for their children, issues worsened by overcrowded and poorly maintained prisons (Naik et al., 2019).

Even though maternal and childcare policies exist, they are poorly implemented. Women also face gender disparities in access to rehabilitation programs, further limiting their chances of reintegration post-release (Tutu & Roekel, 2010). Yet, despite these hardships, some women find resilience through informal support systems inside prison, offering one another parenting advice and emotional support.

Recommendations

- Set up specific, child-friendly sections within jails to provide a safe and caring environment for children living with their moms.
- Encourage regular and meaningful communication between mothers and their families through video conversations, extended visiting hours, and child-friendly visitation facilities.
- Ensure mothers and children have enough nutrition and access to health care, including prenatal and postnatal care and mental health assistance.
- Women should have equitable access to high-quality educational and skill-building programs to promote reintegration after release and lower recidivism rates.
- Set up regular counseling sessions for moms and children to help them deal with separation, trauma, and anxiety.
- Ensure that existing legal mandates are effectively implemented and conditions in women's prisons are periodically monitored, with the involvement of independent monitoring agencies.
- Provide better educational and learning facilities should be provided to children in prison so they can integrate into society after release.

Reference

1. Abbott, Laura, Tricia Scott, Hilary Thomas, and Kathy Weston. 2020. "Pregnancy and Childbirth in English Prisons: Institutional Ignominy and the Pains of Imprisonment." *Sociology of Health & Illness* 42(3):660–75. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9566.13052>
2. Ahsan, Tabish, Devayani Tumma, Surekha Sale, Pradnya Shinde, Minal Kolatkar, Priyanka Kamble, Reena Jaiswar, Vaishali Jaiswal, Minakshi Karoth, Krupa Shah, and Sharon Menezes. 2018. *CHILDREN OF Women PRISONERS*. Tata Institute of Social Sciences. https://tiss.edu/uploads/files/Children_of_Women_Prisoners_-_The_Invisible_Trial.pdf
3. Baumeister, Roy F., and Mark R. Leary. 1995. "The Need to Belong: Desire for Interpersonal Attachments as a Fundamental Human Motivation." *Psychological Bulletin* <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.117.3.497>
4. Bedi, K. 2006. *It's always possible: One Woman's Transformation of Tihar Prison*. Himalayan Institute Press, 88-105.
5. Braun, Virginia, and Victoria Clarke. 2019. "Reflecting on Reflexive Thematic Analysis." *Qualitative Research in Sport Exercise and Health* 11(4):589–97. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2159676x.2019.1628806>
6. Ceballo, Emma C., and Faith Ann Joy C. Absin. 2022. "PHENOMENOLOGY OF INCARCERATED MOTHERS: WHAT ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN?" *European Journal of Social Sciences Studies* 7(4). doi: 10.46827/ejsss.v7i4.1269. <https://doi.org/10.46827/ejsss.v7i4.1269>
7. Dallaire, Danielle H. 2007. "Incarcerated Mothers and Fathers: A Comparison of Risks for Children and Families." *Family Relations* 56(5):440–53. doi: 10.1111/j.1741-3729.2007.00472.x. <https://doi.org/10.1111/J.1741-3729.2007.00472.X>
8. Di Iorio, S., M. Ortale, M. Querejeta, F. Quintero, and A. Sanjurjo. 2019. "Growth and Development of Children Living in Incarceration Environments of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina." *Revista Española De Sanidad Penitenciaria* 21(3):118–25. <https://doi.org/10.4321/s1575-06202019000300002>
9. Devi, Nitasha, and Pooja Bali. 2024. "Impact of Castigation of Women Prisoners in India." *Kuey.Net*. doi: 10.53555/kuey.v30i5.4783. <https://kuey.net/index.php/kuey/article/view/4783>
10. Gelsthorpe, Loraine. 2004. "Women and Punishment: The Struggle for Justice. Edited by Pat Carlen. Willan Publishing, Uffculme, Cullompton, Devon, 2002, ISBN 1-903240-58-1, ISBN 1-903240-57-3." *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health* 14(1):67–68. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cbm.569>
11. Haney, Craig. 2018. "The Psychological Effects of Solitary Confinement: A Systematic Critique." *Crime and Justice* 47(1):365–416. doi: 10.1086/696041
12. Harrison, Kim. 1997. "Parental Training for Incarcerated Fathers: Effects on Attitudes, Self-Esteem, and Children's Self-Perceptions." *The Journal of Social Psychology* 137(5):588–93. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224549709595480>

13. Healy, Karen, Denise Foley, and Karyn Walsh. 2001. "Families Affected by the Imprisonment of a Parent: Towards Restorative Practices." *Children Australia* 26(1):12–19. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s1035077200010051>
14. Heimer, Karen. n.d. *Changes in the Gender Gap in Crime and Women's Economic Marginalization*. Vol. VOLUME 1. <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/lbrr/archives/cnmcs-plcng/cn34984-v1-427-483-eng.pdf>
15. Johnson, Jacqui. 2022. "Mothering Within a Prison Nursery – a Review of the Literature." *Routledge eBooks* 401–12. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003202295-35>
16. Klare, Martin, and Powell Claire. 2022. "Mother–Infant Separations in Prison." Pp. 388–400 in *Routledge eBooks*. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003202295-34>
17. Liebling, Alison, and Helen Arnold. 2012. "Social Relationships Between Prisoners in a Maximum Security Prison: Violence, Faith, and the Declining Nature of Trust." *Journal of Criminal Justice* 40(5):413–24. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2012.06.003>
18. Link, Bruce G., Elmer L. Struening, Michael Rahav, Jo C. Phelan, and Larry Nuttbrock. 1997. "On Stigma and Its Consequences: Evidence From a Longitudinal Study of Men With Dual Diagnoses of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 38(2): <https://doi.org/10.2307/2955424>
19. Linonge-Fontebo, Helen Namondo, and Marlize Rabe. 2015. "Mothers in Cameroonian Prisons: Pregnancy, Childbearing and Caring for Young Children." *African Studies* 74(3):290–309 <https://doi.org/10.1080/00020184.2015.1068000>
20. MacDonald, Morag. 2013. "Women Prisoners, Mental Health, Violence and Abuse." *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* 36(3–4):293–303. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.IJLP.2013.04.014>
21. Martínez-Álvarez, Bm, and A. Sindeev. 2021. "Experiences of Incarcerated Mothers Living With Their Children in a Prison in Lima, Peru, 2020: A Qualitative Study." *Revista Española De Sanidad Penitenciaria* 23(3):98–107 <https://doi.org/10.18176/resp.00039>
22. Math, Suresh Bada. 2014. "Mental Health and Substance Use Problems in Prisons: The Bangalore Prison Mental Health Study; Local Lessons for National Action." *Positvepsychology*. https://www.academia.edu/1185496/Mental_Health_and_Substance_Use_Problems_in_Prisons_The_Bangalore_Prison_Mental_Health_Study_Local_Lessons_for_National_Action
23. Ministry of Women and Child Development. 2018, June. WOMEN IN PRISONS. Ministry of Women and Child Development. Retrieved from <https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/Prison%20Report%20Compiled.pdf>
24. Naik, Kiran R., Director' Skill Development, and Vision Fly. 2019. "THE PROBLEMS OF PRISONERS: AN ANALYSIS." *International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews (IJRAR)* 6(2):267–69. <https://www.ijrar.org/papers/IJRAR1AXPo12.pdf>
25. Ogrizek, Anais, Marie Rose Moro, and Jonathan Lachal. 2021. "Incarcerated Mothers' Views of Their Children's Experience: A Qualitative Study in French Nurseries." *Child Care Health and Development* 47(6):851–58. doi: 10.1111/cch.12896. <https://doi.org/10.1111/CCH.12896>
26. Paliath, Shreehari, Preety Acharya, Shreehari Paliath, Preety Acharya, and Indiaspend. 2020. "Indiaspend." *Indiaspend*. Retrieved (<https://www.indiaspend.com/8-women-prisoners-children-live-with-them-heres-how-the-system-fails-them/>).
27. Project Director National Commission of Women Dr. Shaila Parveen New Delhi Lecturer Deptt of social work, Priyanka Chaturvedi, Sunita Srivastava, Neelima Agnihotri, Pawan Tripathi, and Irshad Ahmad. 2006. *A Study of Condition of Women Prisoners & Their Children in Eastern U.P. Jails*. edited by L. Dubey, V. Sinha, and K. B. Joshi. https://ncwapps.nic.in/pdfReports/A_Study_of_condition_of_Women_Prisoners_and_Their_Children_in_Eastern_UP_Jails.pdf
28. Piaget, Jean, and Bärbel Inhelder. 1969. *Psychology of the Child*. New York: Basic Books. <https://www.alohabdonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/The-Psychology-Of-The-Child.pdf>
29. Powell, Claire, Lisa Marzano, and Karen Ciclitira. 2016. "Mother–Infant Separations in Prison. A Systematic Attachment-Focused Policy Review." *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology* 28(2):274–89. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14789949.2016.1204465>
30. Richie, B. E. 2002. The social impact of mass incarceration on women. In Mauer, M. & Chesney-Lind, M. (Eds). *Invisible punishment: The collateral consequences of mass imprisonment*. <https://thenewpress.com/books/invisible-punishment>
31. Ryder, Judith A. 2020. "Enhancing Female Prisoners' Access to Education." *International Journal for Crime Justice and Social Democracy* 9(1):139–49. <https://doi.org/10.5204/ijcsd.v9i1.1468>
32. Sapkota, Diksha, Susan Dennison, Jyai Allen, Jenny Gamble, Corrie Williams, Nomxolisi Malope-Rwodzi, Laura Baar, Janet Ransley, and Tara Renae McGee. 2022. "Navigating Pregnancy and Early Motherhood in Prison: A Thematic Analysis of Mothers' Experiences." *Health & Justice* 10(1). doi: 10.1186/s40352-022-00196-4. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36308566/>
33. Sarkar, Shilpi, and Sandhya Gupta. 2015. "A Case Study on Prison Conditions for Young Children of Imprisoned Mothers in a Selected Prison of Uttar Pradesh, India." *Indian Journal of Psychiatric Nursing* 10(1):38. doi: 10.4103/2231-1505.260569. <https://doi.org/10.4103/2231-1505.260569>

34. Shastra, Nyaay. 2024. "An Analysis of the Legal Services for Women Prisoners and Their Children in Indian Prisons." . <https://doi.org/10.17613/a4e6-kh32>
35. Singh, Aryan. 2021. *PRISON REFORMS IN INDIA: ABSENCE OF a REHABILITATION APPROACH*. Vol. II. *journal-article*. <https://ijirl.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/PRISON-REFORMS-IN-INDIA-ABSENCE-OF-A-REHABILITATION-APPROACH.pdf>
36. Soble, L., Stroud, K., Weinstein, M., & Impact Justice. 2020. Eating Behind Bars: Ending the hidden punishment of food in prison. Impact Justice. Retrieved from <https://impactjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/IJ-Eating-Behind-Bars-Release1.pdf>
37. Squires, Vicki. 2023. "Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis." Pp. 269–74 in *Springer texts in education*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-04394-9_43
38. Taylor, Yulia, Fiona Edgar, and André M. Everett. 2022. "Insights From the Application of Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis in Management Research." Pp. 23–42 in *Research methodology in strategy and management*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/s1479-838720220000014003>
39. Thorburn, K. M. 1995. "Health Care in Correctional Facilities." Retrieved (<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC1303263/>).
40. Tutu, Desmond, and Dennis Van Roekel. 2011. "Facing the Future: Global Education at the Crossroads." *HuffPost*. Retrieved (https://www.huffpost.com/entry/facing-the-future-global_b_544449).
41. UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME, and Tomris Atabay. 2014. *Handbook on Women and Imprisonment*. 2nd ed. edited by J. Van Den Brand, R. Brett, A. Fraser, A. Gatherer, T. Heydeman, N. McGeorge, M. Loffman, N. Du Preez, O. Robertson, G. Sahgal, L. Schlitt, S. Scurfield, R. Shankardass, V. Tkachenko, R. Amberg, C. Baroni, P. Barzanò, F. Hariga, P. Meissner, M. Spolander, and M. Demmer. UNITED NATIONS. https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/women_and_imprisonment-2nd_edition.pdf
42. Van Olphen, Juliana, Michele J. Eliason, Nicholas Freudenberg, and Marilyn Barnes. 2009. "Nowhere to Go: How Stigma Limits the Options of Female Drug Users After Release From Jail." *Substance Abuse Treatment Prevention and Policy* 4(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/1747-597x-4-10>
43. Van Den Bergh, Brenda, Alex Gatherer, Andrew Fraser, and Lars Moller. 2011. "Imprisonment and Women's Health: Concerns About Gender Sensitivity, Human Rights and Public Health." *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 89(9):689–94. <https://doi.org/10.2471/blt.10.082842>
44. Wakefield, Sara, and Christopher Uggen. 2010. "Incarceration and Stratification." *Annual Review of Sociology* 36(1):387–406. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.soc.012809.102551>
45. World Health Organization. 2014. *Prisons and Health*. edited by S. Enggist, L. Møller, G. Galea, and C. Udesen. https://www.unodc.org/documents/hiv-aids/publications/Prisons_and_other_closed_settings/2014_WHO_UNODC_Prisons_and_Health_eng.pdf.pdf
46. Wright, Emily M., Patricia Van Voorhis, Emily J. Salisbury, and Ashley Bauman. 2012. Click or tap here to enter text. Gender-Responsive Lessons Learned and Policy Implications for Women in Prison." *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 39(12):16(Baumeister and Leary 1995)12 <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093854812451088>
47. Young, Vernetta D., and Rebecca Reviere. 2005. *Women Behind Bars*.