



THE HEALTH PROBLEM OF WOMEN DEPRIVED OF FREEDOM

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ABSTRACT

Social reforms, currently occurring on in society and encompassing practically all spheres of human life, have aggravated many social-psychological phenomena. As an obvious result of strained contradictions in this aspect resulting in the orientation towards criminally-punishable, criminally-forced means of solving problems among unstable people has become the unpredicted increase of the crime. According to the reports of International Prison Reforms the prison population on the whole increased by 10% from 2004 to 2015. About 6.5% of the imprisoned throughout the world are women. From 2000 to 2015 the number of women -prisoners grew by 40%. The increasing crime among the female population has made the problem of aggression particularly topical as the tendency to aggressive as well as criminal actions is known and significantly expressed. It attracted the attention of forensic psychiatrists, criminologists and sociologists to the female contingent of the penitentiary system. According to the comparative data of forensic psychiatrists of different countries, the level of psychic disorders in imprisoned women is much higher than in imprisoned men. Women, compared to men, are less accustomed to conditions of reformatory institutions, this category of the convicts is one of the most "difficult". They endure the deprivation of freedom much more dramatically and drastically. Imprisoned women are less psycho-physiologically adaptive, impairment of which leads to increasing depression. They perceive the isolated condition in a more complicated manner, the process of the collapse of socially significant relations takes place much faster. In a large measure it has an influence on the maintenance of the high level of crime relapse in women.

KEYWORDS: . penitentiary medicine, health of women, deprived of freedom, prison regimen, psycho-emotional health, condition of the convicts, women's crime, accentuation of the character.

Social reformations, going on in the society at present and enveloping practically all the spheres of human life, have aggravated many social-psychological phenomena which haven't attracted any attention before. It's obvious that the process of marginalization, the replacement of one social-cultural environment with another one can't be painless. A man, who has been formed in a certain condition, who has adopted corresponding values, norms and traditions since the very moment of birth, when entering another unknown and strange social-cultural environment with their own norms and traditions, becomes ruled by anxiety, uneasiness for their future. In case of the absence of cir-

cumstances, promoting favorable adaptation to the marginal, it is not only possible but in the majority of cases outburst of aggression, leading to crime, does occur [Sadkov E, 2000].

During the second half of the 80s of XX century the Republic of Armenia, like all the other countries of the former Soviet Union, underwent a process of radical public-social changes which appeared to be rather unusual and strange and in some cases quite unexpected for an imposing number of people. The obvious and visible result of aggravated contradictions, leading to spreading of criminally punishable, criminally forcible means of problem solving among unstable population, was the unpredictable growth of crime.

It is also worthwhile to note the specific features of the national Armenian character which have criminogenic meaning. Excessive emotionalism, extreme hot temper, age-long deep-rooted and sometimes painful jealousy, adherence to the na-

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tional Armenian traditions coming from the depths of the centuries, which in many cases cause mistrustfulness, painful ambition, vindictiveness, etc. are examples of such features [Arakelyan S, 1999].

The prognosis of criminality in the world, in certain regions and countries at the beginning of the third millennium provokes just fears. The total number of criminality is increasing all over the world in the nearest future. Its average growth can be within 2-5% per year. Extrapolation of existing tendencies, expert assessments of the possible criminological situation in the world, modeling of the causal basis of future criminality, system analysis of the whole set of criminologically significant data of the past, present and possible future lead to such variant of prognosis [Luneyev V, 1996].

More than 9.25 mln people are in prison all over the world [World Prison Brief, 2014]. According to the reports of the International Prison Reformations the number of the imprisoned increased by 10% during the period of 2004-2015. About 6.5% of the convicts worldwide are women, from 2000 to 2015 the number of women-prisoners rose by 40% [PRI, 2015].

The structure of female criminality is of special apprehension nowadays. According to the severity of committed deeds the social danger increase tendency at the expense of especially grave ones has become its typical feature [Sinkov D, 2003; Badov A, 2008].

Women's criminal behavior has the most negative influence on the society, its institutes, especially on the family and moral-psychological atmosphere on the whole. It concerns completely not only the crime committed by women, but also their asocial actions: prostitution, hard drinking, alcoholism, drug abuse, vagrancy. Female criminality like the juvenile criminality can be an index of morally healthy society, its spiritualism, attitude to the basic human values [Radochina T, Morozova Yu, 2013].

The growing criminalization of the female population has made the problem of aggression particularly topical. As the tendency of psychopathic personalities to aggressive, as well as criminal action is known and expressed significantly, it has drawn the attention of forensic psychiatrists, criminologists and sociologists to the female contingent of the penitentiary system [Rusina V, Povaly-

ukhina]. The investigations, conducted by Koroleva E.V. and co-authors (1995) among 18-55-year-old women undergoing forensic-psychiatric examination in the Center of Social and Forensic Psychiatry after Serbski V.P. in 1983 and 1995 allowed to reveal some differences in the clinical-social characteristics of women committing illegal deeds.

All investigated women were accused for committing particularly grave aggressive transgression of the law directed against the person: murder, attempted murder, causing serious bodily injuries with various outcomes. Thus, out of 168 women who underwent stationary forensic-medical examination in 1983, 23 (13%) committed aggressive acts, and in 1995 - 32 (36%) out of 84 women. So, during the period of 1983-1995 a tendency of an expressed increase of both the total number of aggressive deeds and their specific weight in the structure of other transgressions of the law is noted [Koroljova E, Kharitonova N, Naumovich A, 1998].

The attention towards the psychic health problem in reformatories is growing all over the world and is growing rightfully. Quite a number of legal, social and political factors during the last 40 years has resulted in today's epidemics of psychic disorders in the penitentiary system [Baillargeon J et al., 2009]. Spreadness of psychic disorders among the imprisoned is much higher than in general population. Regular randomized investigations both in Russia and abroad testify to the presence of about 40-80% imprisoned in the penalty institutions with different psychic abnormalities. According to the literature data the special contingent quite often has combined psychic pathology in great majority of cases in the form of depression, anxiety and schizophrenia [Rusina V, 2009; Birmingham L et al., 2006; Senior J., 2013; Maccio A., et al; 2015; Altinoz A., et al., 2016].

According to the comparative data of forensic psychiatrists of different countries the level of psychic disorders in imprisoned women is much higher than in imprisoned men [D'Orban P, 1990; Nannah-Moffat K, Shaw M, 2001].

The British scientists studying the psychic health state of imprisoned women and men have noted that 14% of women-prisoners didn't have any precisely determined psychic disorders whereas it was only 7% in men. Neurosis was diagnosed in 63% of women and 40% of men, cor-

respondingly. Alcohol dependence was 39% in women and 63% in men. The level of personality disorders was of special attention composing 50% in imprisoned women which is far higher than that in male cohort [Marshall T et al., 2000; 2001].

In 1988, 1989 and 1992 special investigations were carried out in Canada to determine psychic health in women-prisoners and women in general population and they showed that dissocial disorders of personality were more spread in transgressors (36.8-49.0%) [Laishes J, 2002]. Investigations of psychic health conducted in Ethiopia have shown that the level of anxiety was much higher among those imprisoned who considered themselves to be unhappy before being deprived of freedom [Dadi A et al., 2016]. The literature sources testify that the prisoners with limited intellectual abilities have higher indices of accompanying psychic disorders more often than their peers [Dias S et al., 2013].

The work of V.E. Vasianina (2002) on the study of socio-demographic indicators, differentiated by the direction of committed aggressive violent actions is of special interest. Statistically significant results have been revealed among those women who have broken the “outside family” law with the predominance of prisoners with aggravated heredity (alcoholism, personality pathology), whose parents had been imprisoned, brought up in orphanages, boarding schools or under conditions of cruel treatment and emotional rejection. First of all, those were unemployed not married people who were deprived of parental rights, who had earlier been brought to trial. Correlation-regression analysis has shown that in women with personality disorder the triad of factors triggering commitment of “outside family” aggressive transgressions are narcotism, alcohol abuse as well as sexual aggression towards those in orphanages and teenagers under examination [Vasianina V, 2002; Rusina V, 2013].

The investigations, carried out by Rusina V.V. among women murdering their offsprings, are of special interest. The influence of psycho-pathological mechanisms in the frames of psychotic conditions with the existing predictors in the form of auto- and heteroaggressive behavior is distinctly revealed. Infliction of bodily injuries to children without a fatal issue and the absence of their proper

care are greatly conditioned by the women’s social trouble and are more typical for women with personality disorder combined with alcohol abuse. This is also enabled by the easy irritability of the contingent in combination with low frustration tolerance, psychic immaturity, not high intellectual level, as well as the absence of external inhibiting factors [Rusina V, 2002b].

Women compared to men are less adaptive in reformation institutional conditions. This category of the convicts is one of “the most difficult” [Kunts E, 2008]. They bear the deprivation of freedom more keenly and dramatically. It’s an emotional strike causing an inconsolation state, excessive anxiety, depression, not seldom accompanied by the loss of life perspective and increased watchfulness to people [Minster M, 2009 a,b].

The investigation, conducted by Lusher’s method of colour test in Armenia for studying the psycho-emotional state of women and men deprived of freedom (n=100) has revealed that the average index of choice instability factor (F1) characterizing the person’s readiness to disadaptive behavior on emotional exertion, their tendency to antisocial behavior, fancifulness, inadequacy, in proportionality of emotional reactions, increased tendency to conflicts is twice higher in imprisoned women (34.38%) than in men (15.38%). This characterizes women as people with lower emotional-volitional steadiness, it’s more difficult for them to control their behavior on emotional exertion, and hence, they are more inclined to disadaptive behavior [Vardanyan K et al., 2016a].

Imprisoned women are less psycho-physiologically adaptive which can result in depression, whereas imprisoned men with the same feature can develop increased neurotization of personality [Sachkov S, 2011]. It’s more difficult for them to adapt to the isolation conditions, the process of collapse of socially significant links takes place more quickly. To a certain measure, it has an influence on the maintenance of the high-level relapse of crime in women [Kunts E, 2006].

Finding themselves in prison, the woman has to stay in a certain environment, communicate with a limited number of people, ought to obey the regimen of that institution, get accustomed to certain traditions, rights, views typical of that exact institution, i.e. to the criminal subculture. In this aspect

women being in places of confinement for the first-time experience psychological and moral problems related to the primary adaptation (not being ready and refuse to follow informal norms of behavior peculiar for places of freedom deprivation [Bartasjuk A, Kontanistov E, 2013].

Conditions of places of confinement can't help influencing on the convicts' character and promote the occurrence and development of frontier forms of neuro-psychic pathology which makes psycho-hygienic and psycho-preventive issues one of the most important problems of human psychic health maintenance. We can conclude from the above mentioned that it's of utmost importance to reveal early sub-clinical forms of pathology in particular neurotization, psychopatization and predisposition to them. Diagnostics of character accentuations has a quite serious role in this aspect which are capable for transferring into pathological condition under the influence of psychotraumatic factors [Marieva E, Senko V, 2011]. According to the literature data human characteristic features are "subaffective", that is they precede diseases of affective spectrum and so are premorbid and are manifested after such diseases which the author prefers to combine not in the notion "personality disorder" but in the notion "temperament" [Akiskal H et al., 2004; 2005].

The investigation conducted by "Akiskal HS-TEMPS-A" method among 100 convicts in Armenia has shown that hyperthymic accentuation is dominating among people deprived of freedom. For women, it composed 48% (24) and for men – 62% (31). Mood overfalls and short-term depressions are typical of the hyperthymic with the prevalence of increased tonus phase. During the period of increased high mood people with hyperthymic accentuation can do both good and bad things depending on their tendency. The criminal in such condition can commit a series of deeds "at one breath". They are in great need of communication, their speech differs with improvisation and quickness, holds a discussion well. In case of depression their phrases are incomplete, answer mainly in one word. They are characterized by the reinforcement of attraction and slackening of delay, i.e. in the phase of excitation all the borders of permitted and forbidden become obliterated. They admit criticism badly, become more self-conceited, self-criticism is

weak, they are initiators, energetic, inventive, tend to be a leader in the group. Very often the tendency to be ahead becomes a motive for crime [Vardanyan K et al., 2016b].

Women-mothers compose a separate category of imprisoned women in places of confinement who have a special mentality and unique demands related to their position. The problem of imprisoned women's maternity has always been especially topical, as the woman stands by her child's fate. In this category of women not seldom arouses the wish to refuse their offspring. In such situations, they are often estranged and rather aggressive. A pregnant woman or mother of an infant, being in places of confinement, besides individual, social and uniquely conditioned peculiarities of their mentality is also the carrier of the mentality of mother and the person serving her sentence [Mukhina V, 2003; Shaw J et al., 2015].

The results of the investigations testify that imprisoned women compared with women at large often have premature birth, and the child is registered to have low weight at birth [Knight M et al., 2005; Walker J et al., 2014].

When studying the peculiarities of sexually transmitted infections clinic prolongation of the incubation period is determined in imprisoned women with hepatitis B, C, HIV-infection, tuberculosis. sexually transmitted infections course in women independently of imprisonment terms, suffering from hepatitis B, C, TB, HIV-infection, was often less symptomatic, or no clinical manifestations were revealed. Not seldom among women taking anti-tuberculosis preparations polimerase chain reaction, passive hemagglutination reaction-immunoenzyme analisis reactions on Chlamidia, Trichomonas, sexually transmitted viral infections were negative during treatment and they became positive soon after completing the specific therapy [Tertishnikova V, 2006].

When characterizing the psychic health of imprisoned women V.Rusina notes that due to the high level of psychic disorders, significant risk of their decompensation under conditions of correcting institutions psychological-psychic service should be developed, special treating-rehabilitating programs should be worked out involving social support service for achieving successful rehabilitation [Rusina V, 2002a]. At the same time,

it should be mentioned that according to the literature data imprisoned women who have undergone art-therapy demonstrate improvement of physical and emotional self - feeling (estimation of the subjective condition of the imprisoned), decrease in number of complaints of neurotic character (decrease in number of applying for medical aid), steadiness of positive changes in the sphere of behavioral and emotional culture [Shcherbakova N, 2013].

Thus, the analysis of the literature data has shown that investigations conducted in Armenia

for studying the problems of women in penitentiary institutions are rather few.

For an adequate planning of effective treating-preventive measures directed to the maintenance of health of people serving sentence it is necessary to have information about the health condition of the contingent as well as about factors influencing on the development and spreadness of diseases under conditions of penitentiary institutions of the Republic of Armenia.

In view of the above the need for conducting special studies in this direction is obvious.

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