

Women and Moral Crime in Jordanian Society

A Field Study

By

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This study focused on the personal and social characteristics of female prisoners who committed moral crimes. In addition to investigation of their self-esteem and the circumstances related to their crimes, a comprehensive social field survey was used in this study. The sample consisted of 90 female prisoners in Jwaydah detention center in Amman. Data was mainly collected by interview, and by written response in order to achieve the objectives of the study. Information was handled through descriptive methods, and through analysis by (SPSS) program with test (F) in order to test the assumptions of the study.

The most notable results of the study are:

- 1- **Personal Characteristics:** Most of the sample cases ranged in age between (18-25) years. The majority were unmarried, illiterate, and unemployed. For those employed, monthly income averaged less than (100 JD), most of them worked in free jobs. Most were living in cities, and indicated feelings of sadness and depression. Many felt they committed moral crimes in order to escape to a “better life.”
2. **Family Characteristics:** Most of the sample came from large families consisting of 12-18 persons, with a low level of income and education for

parents and/or husbands. Some of them were involved with drugs, alcohol, gambling, and pornographic movies. There was a high percentage of domestic violence in these families, especially assault, and many family members had criminal records.

3. **Types of Crimes:** Of the crimes reported, the highest rate was for adultery, and next for prostitution. The most often reported reason for committing a crime was to revenge parents/husbands. Friends often encouraged them to commit these crimes. Most women reported watching pornographic videos, which encouraged their behavior, and the majority felt remorse for having committed their crimes.

