

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY AT TANGAIL JAIL

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Abstract

Incarceration in the prison is a kind of punishment that is used by the judiciary for ensuring the public safety. Those who are really guilty must be punished, but the families of the prisoners become vulnerable economically and socially in their absence. The study is intended to find out the socio demographical background of prisoners and the socio-economic impact of imprisonment on their families, their experience under law and how they are surviving now. It is a descriptive study accomplished in the Tangail District Jail where is purposively a total of fifty families were taken as sample from one fifty two prisoners who have been living for more than one year in the prison. Most of the prisoners mostly farmer are very poor, worker and a very few of them are service holders, business person or students. The families have been forced to lead a vulnerable life under object poverty. The society also tends to victimized by means of avoidance and threatening. The prisoners' families have experienced a horrible as has been seen even to while they have been dealt with under legal procedure. They faced torture by police, lost everything for bearing the cost of trial and hiring lawyers. A segment of people are so poor that, they could not really hire a lawyer. The government has provided lawyer to those people accused of crime and punishable up to death. Imprisonment has not resulted in aggression in the psychology of family members. Unexpectedly, almost forty two percent respondents did not actually commit crime; they were the victims of land conflict or local politics, etc. They want justice and seek from the government for removing bribery from all stages of justice system and the exorbitant demand of the lawyer.

Keywords: Prisoner's profile, Social condition, Economic impact, Legal experience, Justice

Introduction

Individual liberty is one of the most fundamental of human right, recognized by the international human rights instruments and the national constitutions of countries throughout the world. In order to take this in view, even for the time being, the concerned parts of the governments have a duty to justify the use of imprisonment as necessary to achieve an important societal objective. There should be no less restrictive means towards gaining the objective. The overall of incarceration is rising throughout the world, while there is a little evidence that the increased use is improving public-safety. There are as of now more than nine million prisoners over the world and that the number is growing (R. Walmsley, 2005).

The loss of liberty that results from imprisonment is inevitable. But, still there are some more effects of imprisonment, not only on the prisoners also on the families of the

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prisoners. These effects are, however have been analyzed in this paper. In *Punishment and Social Structure*, probably the most-quoted word is, 'Every system of production tends to discover punishments which correspond to its productive relationships' (Rusche and Kirchheimer, 1968:5). According to Durkheim, in the modern industrial state, this corresponding punishment is nothing but imprisonment.

In industrial societies, prisons have become the dominant punitive instrument to such an extent that prison and punishment are commonly regarded as almost synonymous (Molessi and Pavarini, 1981:1). Rousche and Kirchheimer have given their opinion that, prison was a source of labour. Convict labour was an addition to the labour supply, which is why, according to them, prison became a dominant mode of punishment at the time of industrialization. As imprisonment has a grievous impact on the economic condition of the prisoners' families, so the concern of the study is to measure the economic impact of imprisonment on prisoners' families. The other side has always been unnoticed in the country, that why he treated as the societal effect of imprisonment. The person who is imprisoned, his/her children, family members or dependents become usually labeled in the society. Becoming thus stigmatized, they become isolated, as to say from the society. Economically and socially they get out of the mainstream, which is not only harmful for them, also for the society. It may have an effect on the recidivism or new risk of crime involvement.

In the study, it is revealed that most of the prisoners are poor, have no prior criminal records in family. Imprisonment has made them socially and economically victim. Middle class people become so more affected than poorer sections of people.

Prisoners in the World Perspective

Families of prisoners have traditionally been seen as the 'forgotten victims' of the criminal justice system in England and Wales (Matthews 1989). They can experience a range of problems due to the imprisonment of a near one, such as economic hardship, social stigmatisation and emotional difficulties, yet no one statutory or voluntary body has had responsibility for assisting families with these issues. Furthermore, despite commentators such as Woolf (1991) and HM Chief Inspector of Prisons (HMCIP) (1999a) recognising family and community ties as important to the stability of prison regimes and the well-being of prisoners, families have often been ignored in debates surrounding the nature and purpose of imprisonment. (Dr Alice Mills, 2009: 2)

Children whose parents are incarcerated have perhaps inadvertently been treated as one group with one set of service needs. But, the experience of parental incarceration is only one of many factors that may influence how children are faring. We know for example, many children whose parents are incarcerated have been exposed to parental (e.g., substance abuse, mental health problems, etc.) and environmental risk factors like poverty prior to their parent's incarceration. Child attributes, where the child is placed during a parent's incarceration, and the nature of the relationship with the substitute caregiver may also influence how well a child functions in the face of parental incarceration (Johnson & Waldfogel, *in press*).

Earlier research works have shown that families where a parent is imprisoned are likely to suffer significant disadvantages need in additional, perhaps different support from intact families (Shaw 1987, 1992). Research in Scotland concluded that 'for most children imprisonment of a parent is a traumatic experience. Feelings of loss and

confusion may well be compounded by the altered financial and emotional resources of the remaining parent or carer.' As a result, 'an emphasis should shift from re-establishing family contact to maintaining family contact' (Peart and Asquith 1992, pp.21–22). Work by Richards (1992) and Noble (1995) leaves a little doubt that children are frequently distressed, disturbed and confused, as well as financially disadvantaged, particularly by a father's imprisonment.

Pauline Morris argues convincingly for a policy permitting far more frequent contact between prisoners and their wives and for extended home leave arrangements. Assistance for family visits to hospital patients-an altogether simpler matter is much more generous. From her survey of large samples of prisoners and their families Mrs. Morris shows, secondly, the paucity of their contacts with relevant welfare services and their ignorance of what services might help them. Citizens' advice bureau make no 'organized attempt to inquire from prisoners' families whether they are in need of any kind of help during the husbands' imprisonment'. The majority of wives have never heard of prison welfare officers (Pauline Morris, 1965. 327 PP. 50s.) whose parents are imprisoned.

Researchers have only begun to explore the far-reaching effects of imprisonment beyond prison walls. Unintended consequences highlighted so far include: the social disorganisation of communities (Clear *et al* 2001); reduced job opportunities for ex-prisoners (Holzer *et al* 2004); diversion of funds away from schools and universities (Hagan and Dinovitzer 1999); and psychological and financial burdens on families. (Joseph Murray, 2005: 442)

Numerous studies suggest that of security attachment during infancy has important consequences for later psychosocial functioning. Securely attached infants have been rated as more socially competent with peers (e.g., Elicker, Englund, & Sroufe, 1992; Erickson, Sroufe, & Egeland, 1992; Pastor, 1981; Waters, Wippman, & Sroufe, 1979) and parents (e.g., Pastor, 1981), (Sroufe, 1983), less dependent on teachers (Erickson, Sroufe, & Egeland, 1985; Sroufe, 1983) and better able to regulate impulses and feelings (Sroufe, 1983) than otherwise attached infants.

In a study of infants in foster care, Stovall and Dozier (2000) found that attachment behaviors emerge between infants and foster caregivers within two months after placement. Studies of children adopted from institutions also suggest that, even though these children might theoretically be at risk for attachment disturbances, very few children actually exhibit such disturbances, though insecure attachments are more common among previously institutionalized children than never institutionalized children (Zeanah, 2000). And there is evidence that children form meaningful attachments to grandparents (Myers, Jarvis, & Creasey, 1987). Children who have more positive emotional ties to foster parents and receive physical affection from them are better adjusted psychologically and academically than other foster children (Marcus, 1991).

Objectives of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to observe the socio-economic background of the prisoners, the social and economic impact of the imprisonment on prisoner's family and the legal experience of the prisoners and their families during trial and imprisonment. The specific objectives of the study are-

- i) Assess the socio-economic background of the prisoners;
- ii) Evaluate the social impact of imprisonment on prisoner's family;

- iii) Analyze the economic impact of prisoner's family; and
- iv) Find out the legal experience of prisoner and prisoner's families.

Study Methodology

The research design is embedded within the qualitative framework. It is a descriptive research. The family members, especially the heads of the family of the prisoners have been taken as the unit of analysis of the study. The main focus was the background of the prisoner and his/her family, the economic, psychological, social effect of their family and the perception about the justice. The economical effect of imprisonment and the societal effect of imprisonment has analyzed from the interview of the respondents and the information from the prison. Observation and interview have been used as research methods in the study.

Study area

Tangail district has been selected as study area, firstly because the district is near the Capital City. The permanent residences of the prisoners of Tangail jail are mostly within Tangail, which would be impossible if the study area were in Dhaka. Besides, the mobility rate is lower in the rural area than urban areas; it is also an important consideration for choosing Tangail as the study area. The most important consideration is that, the social bonding or control in the rural area is much higher than urban area, so the analysis of social effect of imprisonment will be much effective in this area. The Tangail prison is also near the researcher's work place, so, the communication was easier. In addition, communicating with prison officials was easier as the department was locally renowned to the prison officials. If the researcher needed any kind of support from the department or public support for security, it could be easier in the local area.

Population and sample

Families where any member has been imprisoned for more than one year have been taken as population of the study. As per the record of Tangail prison, there are 152 prisoners who have been living there for more than one year. So, the population size is 152, according to the prison record.

Justifying the factors of determining sample size (i.e. population size, cost-involvement, time requirement, and the purpose) purposively a sample of 50 families of prisoners was taken as sample of the study. The study thus has covered about 32.9% of total prison population. Prisoner's family member, who came to meet the prisoners at jail, especially the head of the family was my sample. Sample as has been said earlier was selected purposively; random selection of the respondent was not possible for the study for the unavailability of respondent. The information was cross checked from the prisoners by taking interview through same questionnaire.

Working Relationship Building Process

The establishment of working relationship building with the offenders and their family were the most crucial part of the data collection at entrance stage. For interviewing the prisoners first of all we had to convince to the official authorities to issue me a letter to request to the Superintendent of Tangail jail to allow me take information about the prisoners. We had to wait a long time to meet the jail officials to take the approval for

conducting study inside the jail. We had to explain the topic and objectives of the study to the Asst. Jailer. With his help, after two days we got the permission of Jail Super to conduct my study. Before initiating the study in actual form, the objectives of the study were discussed with the governing staff of the prison. The initiative helped in eliciting cooperation of the prison-staff in conducting of the study. Moreover, it facilitated the easy movement within the prison. At times, the prison staff helped in removing the doubts of the inmates. The efforts of the researcher and the supporting words from staff helped in establishing the rapport with the respondents. As a consequence, the inmates appeared to be more willing in sharing information with the researcher. The main purpose of going inside the jail was collecting the information about the total amount of prisoners, length of imprisonment, specially the period each one is living inside the jail and the addresses of their family. We had to convince the Jailer that all the information will be used just for research work; no personal dealing will be conducted further about any case. The main factor in the exchange of information appeared to be in neutral position, neither a part of the staff, nor one of the respondents. Every available opportunity and situation was used to strengthen the rapport. The respondents inside the jail were brought to the office of the Assist. Jailer and we interviewed them there.

Outside jail, we had to build up rapport with the families of the prisoners. In the first look we used to exchange greetings and asked for their permission to talk to them. To build up rapport, we had to introduce myself to them first. The first question of all of them was that what we will do with the information. We had to explain the purpose of the interview. They asked us how we can help them. We tried to convince them, if they cooperate regarding their problems in details, researcher would be able to write a good report based on facts about the problems they are facing. It would be helpful for the government and officials to address the problem as discussed. They were found inquisitive in respect of helping them meet the prisoners and delivery of the food they brought to the prisoners. It was possible to make them understand that the researchers limitations to carry anything to the prisoners, and there are certain legal procedures of meeting needs of the prisoners. However, services were taken to take them to the counter to have ticket for meeting the prisoners.

Pre-test Administration

To improve the specification of the interview schedule, pre-testing was administered to a small group of 8 members. Firstly, 5 prisoners of Tangail Jail were interviewed. The other 5 respondents were the family members of prisoners who came to meet prisoners at jail. Those who were selected for the study were staying long time inside jail, at least for 5 years. The respondents were not representative of the universe of the present study. This was done in order to know the defects of the research design and make suitable modifications. Out of the pre-test, it was found that the respondents were not available as it was thought before the study. The residences were in such remote areas, where it was not possible to reach and find out the house of the prisoner. It was also very costly and risky.

The possible answers of the questions of the questionnaire were specified by the pre-test. Several new concepts also came up from the exercise with the respondents during the pre-test. So, in the light of the pre-test experience, a final revision of the schedule as well as sample selection was designed and the selection of instruments for use for primary data-collection could be drawn up.

Data collection techniques and procedures

Questionnaire Schedule and direct interview were conducted to collect data from the prisoners and prisoners' family.

Interview Administration

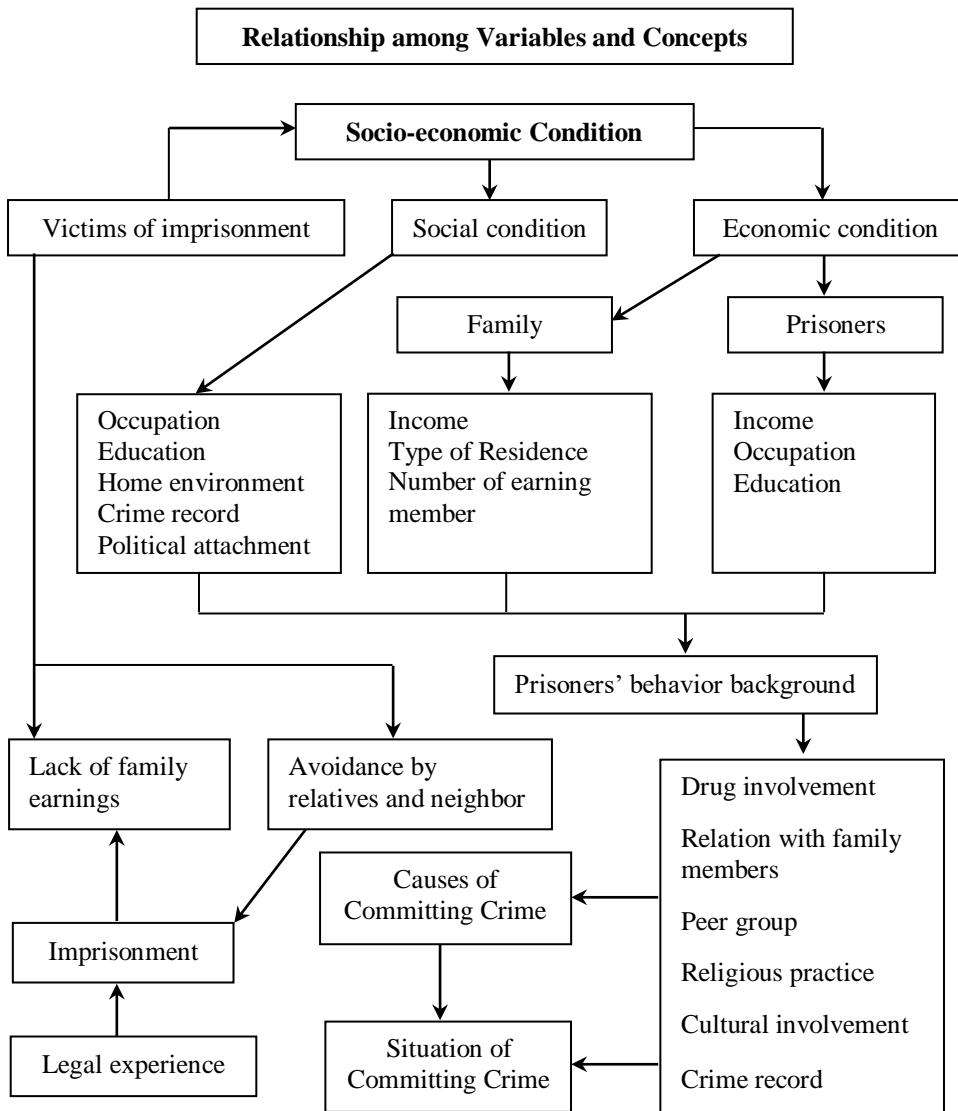
Through prior contacts with the respondents and observation sessions in the jail, the researcher became successfully well-acquainted with relevant aspects of the respondents. This helped immensely in the selection of appropriate statements on a number of dimensions which were in one way or the other known to be related to crime. The open-ended questions enabled the respondents to express their views and opinions freely and elaborately.

Schedule Structure

Interview schedule was semi-structure and has been embedded with both close-ended and open-ended questions and with precise operationalization of variables. As an empirical study, the interview schedule has been so guided that can identify factual information of prisoners, various socio-economic and demographic condition of prisoner's family, and their experience of being victimized of social or institutional humiliation. For checking the reliability of data 10 respondents' families (about 10 families) have been contacted for their opinions and observations. Prior to develop the final interview schedule, a pilot study comprising 10 respondents has been employed to minimize operational, logical and analytic problem of the data collection instrument. The researcher has worked in interviewing with making effort to build up a good rapport with the respondents. Collection of data from respondents as the key informants and secondary data analysis has been conducted regarding the saturation of data.

Data Analysis Techniques

Both the systems of quantitative and qualitative data analysis have been performed for the data collected. In processing stage, quantification of qualitative data and proper coding scheme was completed. Particularly, univariate (frequency table, percentage, *etc.*) and bivariate (contingency table, cross-table, *etc.*) analyses have been exercised in analyzing data. For ensuring accuracy and celerity of results, SPSS software has also been used by the researcher in data analysis. Graphical presentation and proper interpretation has been carried out to address a wider audience. Finally some relevance qualitative analyses including case study were comprehended and analyze for more in depth analysis of the problem.



Findings of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to observe the socio-economic background of the prisoners, the social and economic impact of the imprisonment on prisoners' families and the legal experience of the prisoners and their families during trial and imprisonment.

Socio-Economic Background of Prisoners

The table below shows that there has been a significant association between age of the prisoners and the crime rate. 80% prisoners are middle aged (26-40 years). The maximum age of murderers are distributed between 26-40 years, especially between 36-40 years. People accused of woman and child repression is mainly aged between 31-35 years. The prisoners who were accused of dacoity are within the 36-40 years of age. The people accused of riot are aged 16-20 years mainly.

Table 1. Socio-Demographical characteristics of prisoners

| Characteristics | | Crime | | | | | | | | Total |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--------|----------------------------|---------|-------|----------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------|
| | | Murder | Women and child repression | Dacoity | Riot | Arms act | Drug dealing | Forest act | Griev. Hurt | |
| Age of the respondent | 16-20 | 5% | | | 66.7% | | 50% | | | 8% |
| | 21-25 | | 10% | | | | | | | 2% |
| | 26-30 | 20% | | | 33.3% | 54.5% | 50% | 100% | | 26% |
| | 31-35 | 20% | 60% | | | 45.5% | | | | 30% |
| | 36-40 | 35% | 30% | 100% | | | | | | 24% |
| | 41-45 | 10% | | | | | | | | 4% |
| | 46-50 | 10% | | | | | | | 100% | 6% |
| | Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Educational qualification | Illiterate | 55% | 70% | 100% | 33.3% | 18.2% | | | | 46% |
| | Primary | 15% | 20% | | 33.3% | 18.2% | 50% | 100% | | 20% |
| | Secondary | 5% | | | | | | | | 2% |
| | S.S.C | 15% | 10% | | | 45.5% | 50% | | | 20% |
| | H.S.C | | | | | | | | 100% | 2% |
| | Hons. And above | 10% | | | 33.3% | 18.2% | | | | 10% |
| | Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Occupation of the Prisoner | Weaver | 30% | | | | | | | | 12% |
| | Farmer | 5% | 30% | | 33.3% | 18.2% | | | 100% | 16% |
| | Driver | 35% | 20% | 50% | | 9.1% | | 100% | | 24% |
| | Labour | | 30% | 50% | | | 50% | | | 10% |
| | Service holder | 10% | | | | | | | | 4% |
| | Student | 10% | 10% | | 66.7% | 18.2% | 50% | | | 16% |
| | Businessman | 10% | 10% | | | 54.5% | | | | 18% |
| | Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Cultural activities | Yes | 15% | | | | 9.1% | 50% | | | 10% |
| | No | 85% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 90.9% | 50% | 100% | 100% | 90% |
| | Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Religious practice | Regular | 35% | | | | 18.2% | | 100% | 100% | 22% |
| | Irregular | 30% | 90% | 100% | 66.7% | 18.2% | 50% | | | 44% |
| | Not at all | 35% | 10% | | 33.3% | 63.6% | 50% | | | 34% |
| | Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

The people who were accused of arms Act have been formed between aged 26-35 years and people who are accused of drug dealing are aged 16-20 years and 26-30 years and people who were accused of forest Act are found aged between 26-30 years. The prisoners found guilty of hurt are found aged between 46-50 years.

Near about 50% of the prisoners (46%) have been found illiterate. A section of 10% prisoners are well educated also. People who were accused of homicide, 55% of them have been found illiterate, 35% are under S.S.C and 10% have been found up to degree level education. People who were accused of woman and child repression were those who are mostly illiterate. The persons who were dacoits are all found illiterate. People who were arrested for rioting are both illiterate and literate. Persons related to arms case have been mostly S.S.C passed. Drug dealers are less educated; 50% of them are primary level passed and the rest of them are S.S.C passed. Who were arrested for hurt is H.S.C passed and those arrested for forest related case are primary level passed.

Prisoners who were arrested for different types of crime were not professionally criminal. They were mainly weaver (12%), farmer (16%), driver (24%), mechanic (10%), service holder (4%), and student (16%), and business persons (18%). Among the prisoners who were arrested for murder were mostly weaver and auto, vehicle driver. A small number of farmers, service holders, business persons and students were also found in such case.

Prisoners who were arrested for woman and child repression were mostly farmers, workers and drivers. Who were arrested for dacoity, were found drivers or mechanics by occupation. The prisoners arrested for riot were farmers and students. Those arrested for arms dealing or keeping arms have been business persons. A big bulk of 90% prisoners was not involved in any kind of cultural activities; only 22% prisoners were found regular in religious practice.

Most of the Prisoners (70%) have never taken drugs, 18% prisoners sometimes have taken drugs, and only 12% prisoners used to take drugs frequently. All the dacoit convicts used to take drugs, like alcohol. Those who were convicted of rioting, one third of them were found to take phensidyle at times; 27.3% prisoners convicted under arms act sometimes used to take alcohol. Prisoners who were convicted of drug dealing 50% of those took drugs and used to take heroin.

Now, if we consider the peer group of the prisoners, we can see that 26% of their peer groups were good, 38% of them had indifferent peer group, and 36% of them had deviant peer group support. Among of them who were accused of murder, were convicted for dacoity and 50% of them had bad peer group association in early life. Those who were involved in drug dealing, 50% of them had the same experience.

Most of the prisoners (68%) had good relations with the family members. Prisoners accused of murder 65% had good relation with family, 35% were indifferent relation. 80% prisoners', who were accused of women and child repression, were reported to have good relations with the family. According to the opinion of the respondents these persons had a good relation with family members because they mainly were the head of the family, and secondly 26% of them were good persons. Those who had indifferent relation or something conflicting it was due to the deviancy of the prisoners. Those who did have aggressive behavior had indifferent relation because they were the head of the families and for this reason they took it as normal and they would abide by.

A section of 12% of prisoners had prior criminal record and 88% had no prior record of crime, it was so found in the study.

Among those who had prior criminal record, they are now accused of dacoity and illegal arms dealing. According to the data all the dacoits had prior record of dacoity. And 36.4% people who were convicted for arms dealing had prior record of terrorism. A group of 16% prisoners did have aggressive behavior at home, 12% prisoners had transgression and 6% prisoners had the vices. Of the prisoners accused of murder 25% of them did have aggressive behavior at home, 5 % were found to do vices. Those who were accused of woman and child most of them had the record of transgression. 34% prisoners' father, 10% mother, 36% prisoners' wife is in charge of the family and 10% prisoners have their brother or son to look after his family.

Among the prisoners 96% are Muslims. Among the present heads of the prisoners' families, almost one third is the farmers (26%), 18% are workers, a small number are business persons and service holders and a section of 22% are home makers. From data, we can say that most of the families were poor involved with farming, work, or joblessness but having the responsibility of family maintenance. More than 56% of the heads of the prisoners' families are illiterate. Prisoners' families (48%) would earn only Tk 1000-5000 per month and 36% of them did less than Tk 1000 per month that means they have almost no earning at present.

Most of the families (68%) had comfortable home environment. Mostly, in case of prisoners who were accused of woman and child repression, 70% of their families reported that they had an uncomfortable home environment for poverty. Likewise those accused of dacoity, the family members in 50% reported that they had an uncomfortable home environment; but 74% respondents said that they were satisfied with what they have and with this contention they had a comfortable home environment, and good relation among themselves. In case of 98% cases there is no crime record in the family members. Only among the prisoners who were arrested for dacoity, 9.1% had prior family crime record, and the family crime records were also related to the same offence.

The Economic Impact of Imprisonment on Prisoner's Family

The study shows that the economic impact on prisoners' families has been studied by the problems faced by families in respect of income, number of earning members, source of income, and the occupation of prisoners' spouses etc. In this respect, it has been found, a total of 76% prisoner's family had only one earning members; and only 22% families had two earning members. So, the problem of income has been faced by all the types of families; specially the poor ones so that the imprisonment itself had bearing a cost of combining case, trial, and fooding for them.

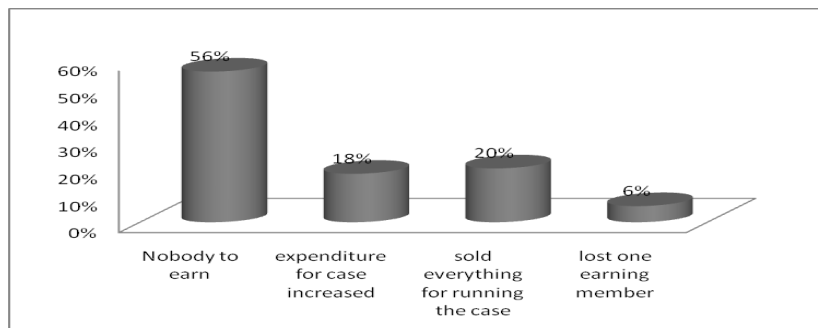


Fig. 1. Economic problem faced by prisoner's family

In 56% families there was no earning member. There were in 18% families of prisoners, there were no earning members, but for the cost of trial and cost of fee for continuing the cost of that was on increase at great extent. A section of 20% families was found to have sold everything for bearing the cost of trial, and still the only earning member was living in prison. These types of families were facing severe poverty (Fig-1).

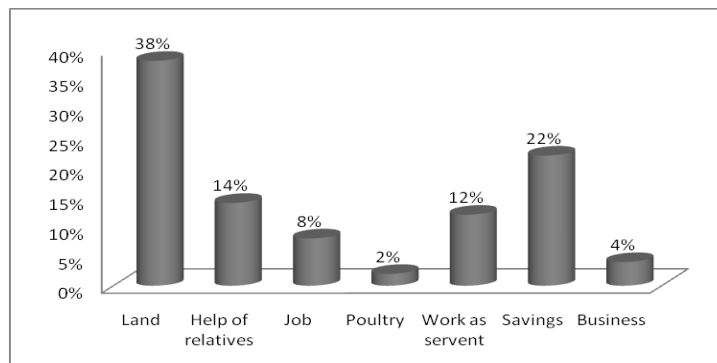


Fig. 2. The present source of income of prisoners' families

From the above figure the study shows that 38% family’s income of the prisoners come from agriculture land, 14% families used to lead their life with the help of the relatives; only 8% families run by a member who has job; 12% family members have been found engaged as maid servant for their living; 22% families maintained by their previous savings. Finally, the displayed data represent the vulnerability to sense extending of the prisoners’ family anyway.

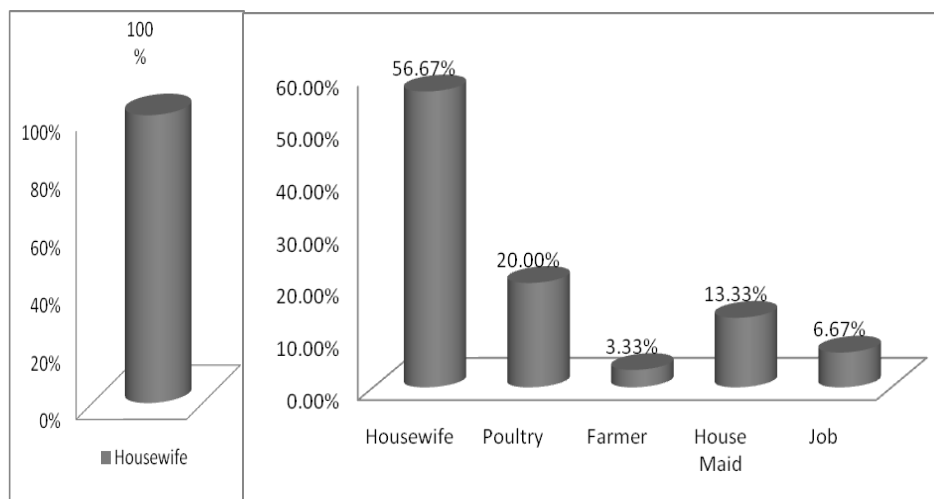


Fig. 3. Occupation of wife before and after imprisonment.

Table 2. The social impact of imprisonment on prisoner’s family

| Characteristics | | Crime | | | | | | | | Total |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|----------------------------|---------|-------|----------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------|
| | | Murder | Women and child repression | Dacoity | Riot | Arms act | Drug dealing | Forest act | Griev. Hurt | |
| By neighbors | Some problem | 70.0% | 80.0% | | 66.7% | 36.4% | 50.0% | 100% | 100% | 62% |
| | threat | 15.0% | 10.0% | | | | | | | 8% |
| | avoidance | 15.0% | 10.0% | 100% | 33.3% | 63.6% | 50.0% | | | 30% |
| | Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| By relatives | Some problem | 80.0% | 80.0% | | 66.7% | 54.5% | 50.0% | 100% | 100% | 70% |
| | threat | 10.0% | 20.0% | | | | | | | 8% |
| | avoidance | 10.0% | | 100% | 33.3% | 45.5% | 50.0% | | | 22% |
| | Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| By educational or occupational org. | Some problem | 85.0% | 90.0% | | 66.7% | 54.5% | 50.0% | 100% | 100% | 74% |
| | avoidance | 5.0% | 10.0% | 100% | 33.3% | 45.5% | 50.0% | | | 22% |
| | psychological pressure | 10.0% | | | | | | | | 4% |
| | Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

The presented data have shown that 62% respondents said that they faced some problems by their neighborhoods; only 8% people said that their neighbors threat them and 30%

people reported that their neighbors have avoided them. Only in case of 30% persons who were accused of murder are avoided or threatened by their neighbors. A total of 63.6% persons related to arms Act and half of the drug dealers have been avoided by neighbors. A small group of 20% persons arrested for woman and child repressions are threatened by relatives, in 100% cases dacoits were avoided by relatives, and 33.3% persons related to riot are avoided by relatives. A number of 45.5% persons related to arms Act was avoided by the relatives, 50% drug dealers were so by the relatives. A section of 22% persons have been avoided in the educational or occupational organizations.

Persons living in the huts have been threatened more than others, because these types of poor people are too more helpless than others for imprisonment of the head of the family. Persons living in tin-shed buildings faced fewer problems than others. People of relatively higher status, who lived in building, were mostly avoided by neighbors, because this is the middle class persons of the society that sustain with respectful status.

A section of 26% people had to leave their residence in spite of the imprisonment. It is seen, 12% people left home for the torture of police; 2% person left home for the neighbor's torture, 8% persons left home for the torture of police as well as neighbors, 4% people left home in search of livelihood. Among the persons who were married, 10% prisoners' spouses were living with their respective parents, 48% prisoners' spouses used to live with their father in-laws. The longer the prisoners had been living inside the jail, the higher the rate of work involvement of spouses in various fields which they could never desire.

Legal Experience of Prisoners' Family

A section of 76% prisoners reported that they received no cooperation from the local political leaders, and only 24% prisoner's family expressed that they got moderate help from the local political elites. A section of 54% of the prisoners accused of arms Act has got moderate help of the local political leaders, 33.3% prisoners accused of riot got moderate help from the same groups during trial. Rest of the prisoners got no help from any local elites. For most of the prisoners' families they were unreachable or got favors of the political power. A small size constituting 20% families, which have close relation with political leaders, got moderate help.

In most cases (62% prisoner's family) faced torture of police during investigation, 22% prisoner's families experienced that there was no investigation of police. Most of the people arrested for arms dealing, murder, woman and child repression, dacoity, riot, faced threat, torture of police during arrest and investigation. All the forest cases convicts without any investigation. A small size of 12% people could not even hire a lawyer because of poverty, lack of previous experience or thinking it is unnecessary. Another 8% persons were provided assistance by government lawyers.

A section of 58% people spent money for hiring lawyer. Others spent money for police, broker and prison or nowhere. As most of the people are poor, so their capacity of spending money is below the level, almost 50% of the persons could spend only up to Tk 25000 only. People who spent more than Tk one lakh, were mostly middle class people or upper middle class people. Data show that more than 50% of the persons were accused of murder, one third accused of riot, one fifth of arms Act, and persons accused of hurt have spent more than Tk one lakh. These cases were relatively more grievous and lengthy and people had to spend more money in these cases.

Table 3. Background of crime

| Crime | | Characteristics | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------|-------|----------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------|
| | | Murder | Women and child repression | Dacoity | Riot | Arms act | Drug dealing | Forest act | Griev. Hurt | Total |
| Crime actually conducted | Yes | 40% | 90% | 50% | 33.3% | 63.6% | 100% | | 100% | 58% |
| | No | 60% | 10% | 50% | 66.7% | 36.4% | | 100% | | 42% |
| | Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Reason behind the Crime | Land conflict | 15% | 10% | | 66.7% | 18.2% | | | 100% | 18% |
| | Political reason | 20% | | | 33.3% | 27.3% | | | | 16% |
| | Jealous | 30% | | | | | | | | 12% |
| | Poverty | | | 50% | | | | | | 2% |
| | Family conflict | 25% | 30% | | | | | | | 16% |
| | Bad peer | 5% | 10% | | | 36.4% | 50% | | | 14% |
| | Greed | 5% | 50% | | | 9.1% | 50% | | | 16% |
| | False Arrest | | | 50% | | 9.1% | | 100% | | 6% |
| | Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

From the given table we find 58% crimes were actually committed by prisoners, and others were victims of the justice system. The poor, helpless people had been victimized of false case for land conflict (18%), jealousy (12%), politics (16%) etc. These helpless, poor persons who were trapped did not get justice and rather imprisoned for crimes for what they were not responsible.

A section of 42% persons reported that main problems lying with justice system are very lengthy, 26% people opined that justice system of the country was ineffective, some said the system is too harsh, and to very small number of people justice system is effective.

Another significant finding is that people do not react aggressively about the cases. In 60% families of the prisoners, they just want that they should come back in the family, in 38% families it was a want of justice.

Prisoners' families were in distress. Fifty percent families had a need for economic help from the government, 26% persons recommend that government would stop bribery in all the sectors of justice and 24% people wanted lawyer from government.

Conclusion

Imprisonment, the confinement of the criminals from one angle help the society to increase public safety (Dirk van Zyl Smit, 2007; pg-3), but on the other hand make the families of the prisoners vulnerable economically and socially. The offender, who has actually committed a crime, must be punished, but the family of prisoners should not get punishment for the occurrence. But in practice, the families are being the victims of imprisonments.

From the profile of the prisoners, we can see that most of the prisoners were very poor, mostly farmer, worker and a very few prisoners were service holder, businessperson or student (table 1). The families of the prisoners are also reflects the status of the prisoners living in prison. Almost four fifth of the prisoners' family's monthly income was less than Taka five thousand. Most of them (76%) had only one earning member, who was

then staying in the jail. So, the families are leading a vulnerable life of poverty. The society is also making them victim by avoiding and threatening them (table 2).

The prisoners' families, as had been found experienced a horrible experience of dealing with legal procedure. They faced torture of police, lost everything for bearing the cost of trial and hiring lawyer. There are a percentage of people (12%) who could not even hire a lawyer also. The government has provided lawyer to some people (8%) who were accused of crime and liked to be sentenced to lifetime imprisonment or death punishment.

To the persons who were the family members of the prisoner, just want the prisoners come back, have they had no revenge intention or any type of aggressive mentality. An important finding of the study was that, almost forty two percent persons did not actually commit crime, they were the victims of land conflict, politics etc.(table 3). They want justice and pray to the government for removing bribery from all steps of justice system. Poor people want economic help from government and want lawyer's assistance. Prison conditions by and large also needed to be improved.

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