

Abstract

The aim of the study was to investigate the lived experiences of incarcerated female population living in jails in Pakistan. Total 4 female participants were recruited from Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore for data collection using the purposive sampling strategy. The age range of female participants was between 40 to 50 years. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews and the results obtained were analyzed by Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA). One model was developed for superordinate and subordinate themes of female prisoner participants. The superordinate themes included in the model were attitude towards perception and commitment of crime, initial adjustment in prison, psychological distress, family and imprisonment, perception about future, personality and coping strategies. Multiple factors were emerged as subordinate themes. In attitude towards perception and commitment of crime, many perceptions were emerged as subordinate theme including crime as sinful act, crime due to notorious reputation and circumstantial commitment of crime. Initial adjustment included the initial reaction, acceptance towards imprisonment and physiological reaction towards adjustment. Psychological distress included the subordinate themes of mood instability, hopelessness, regret and selfblaming. Family and imprisonment included the effect of imprisonment on family and attitude of family towards imprisonment. Perception about future contained subordinate themes including hopelessness regarding future, optimism regarding post-release life and uncertainty regarding post-release life. In the theme of personality, different subordinate themes of personality were included such as changes in temperament, state of mistrust, lack of moral values, frustration intolerance and lack of socialization. Coping strategies mainly used by the participants included religious coping, hope and distraction.

Keywords: lived experiences, incarcerated population,