

Abstract

The present study explored the factors of crime among recidivists and non-recidivists. Moreover, gender differences in factors of crime and types of crimes were identified. The demographic differences and types of crimes were also examined among recidivists and non-recidivists. It was a collective case study, aimed at identifying the collective themes across all participants with researcher's reflections. Total sample of incarcerated individuals (N= 12) were categorized into 06 recidivists (3 males, 3 females) and 06 non-recidivists (3 males, 3 females). These participants were recruited from Central Jail, Lahore. Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted through Interview schedule regarding participants' personal, familial and social life before and after imprisonment. Thematic analysis was applied to analyze the data individually and collectively across all cases of crimes. However, the objective was to report the collective themes for recidivist and non-recidivist. Findings revealed themes for recidivist males and females "*Social Stigma*", "*Pessimistic View of life*", "*Poverty*", "*Family Conflicts*", "*Criminal History in Family or by Peers*"; and themes for non-recidivist males and females were "*Optimistic View of Life*", "*Poverty*", "*Family Conflicts*", "*Negative Emotions*". The gender difference in terms of themes/factors of crime indicates that the recidivist males have the high percentage for *Social Stigma*, *Pessimistic View of Life*, and *Criminal History of Family/Peers*, whereas the recidivist females have more percentage in *Poverty and Family Conflicts*. Similarly, the non-recidivist females reported more *poverty, family conflict* and *negative emotion*, and non-recidivist males had more *optimistic view of life*. Recidivist males were more involved in crimes of murder while non-recidivist males were more involved in

robbery. In non-recidivists females there was no specific category that got the highest percentage, rather all the three categories i.e. murder, drug dealing and kidnapping got 33%.

Keywords: Recidivists, Non-Recidivists, Crime, Social Stigma, Criminal history, Poverty