

Plight of female prisoners

HDYD Jayathilaka¹ and EADA Edirisinghe¹

The purpose of this study is to analyze the plight of female prisoners in Sri Lankan prisons and to identify basic characteristics of prison life. Welikada prison was selected for this study and a sample of 300 female prisoners was selected for in-depth interviews. In addition questionnaire was also administered.

The findings of the study refer to a number of problems such as overcrowding and its repercussion, drug addiction, sexual harassment, under socialization of children, lack of proper rehabilitation programmes, unavoidable exposure of the offenders to the professional criminals. The prison system has failed to address these problems successfully due to various reasons.

Key words: Women, Prisons, Female criminality, Prisoners, Sri Lanka

¹ Department of Sociology & Anthropology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka