



# Sociological Analysis of Women's Involvement in Criminal Acts in Tanjungpinang: The Influence of Economy, Family, and Social Environment

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## A B S T R A C T

This study aims to identify and analyze the factors that cause women to come into conflict with the law in the Tanjungpinang area, focusing on women as perpetrators of criminal acts. The research method utilized involved in-depth interviews with informants who have direct experience related to this issue. The findings indicate that economic factors, social environment, and family conditions are the main drivers of women's involvement in criminal activities. Urgent financial needs often force women to seek quick solutions through illegal avenues, such as fraud and theft. The social environment that permits and normalizes deviant behavior influences individuals' mindsets and actions, thus increasingly driving women to engage in illegal activities. Furthermore, the dynamics within the family, including internal conflicts and lack of emotional support, also contribute to women's decisions to confront the law. In addition to external factors, the psychological and emotional conditions of women, such as poor mental health due to stigma and discrimination, are significant factors that exacerbate their situations. This study emphasizes the importance of social support, appropriate rehabilitation, and educational programs for women involved in criminal behavior. Therefore, this research aims to provide valuable insights for policymakers and the community to develop more effective and inclusive prevention strategies for women in Tanjungpinang.

## INTRODUCTION

Criminals can come from a variety of backgrounds and genders, including women. Women's involvement in crime can vary from minor cases to more serious crimes (Belknap 2020). The reasons behind women's involvement in crime can also vary, ranging from economic, social, psychological, to situational factors. Sometimes, women become involved in crime due to environmental pressure or because they are involved in a crime ring led by someone else. However, just like with men, each individual should be considered as an individual with their own case and should not be generalized (Starr 2015; Steffensmeier et al., 2017).

Previous research on women and criminality was conducted by Pradini (2019), with the title Women and Criminality (Study of Women Drug Abusers at the Class IIA Pekanbaru Women's Correctional Institution). The results showed that the factors that caused women to consume drugs were the biggest factor causing women to consume drugs were family environmental factors or 76.1%. The awareness of women who abuse drugs is quite large, as evidenced by the desire to stop consuming drugs by 97.0% of the awareness and deterrence of women who abuse drugs after becoming prisoners at the Class IIA Pekanbaru Women's Correctional Institution. In addition, similar research was also conducted by Fitri (2017), with the research title Women and Criminal Behavior: Critical Study of the Role of Social Stigma.

In the case of female recidivists, the results showed that in general the fall of women into criminal acts was caused by various factors. One of the factors is unfair treatment and multiple violence as perpetrators and victims (Leon and Aizpurua 2024; Schröttle and Vogt 2016). The research findings also show that the punishment received is not only when in prison but also after leaving prison. Rejection and negative

responses from the environment reinforce the negative stigma about women prisoners. The stigma of being a criminal, an untrustworthy person, and labeling as a convict makes it difficult for them to make adjustments, difficult to find work, and become antisocial (Mackay et al. 2018).

Criminality cases in Tanjungpinang City are not only committed by men but there are also female perpetrators. What we know so far is that women are weak figures and always obey the rules, it turns out that they can still do deviant things, namely committing criminal acts. Criminal acts committed by women, of course, will also definitely get legal consequences in accordance with applicable regulations and will definitely get sanctions commensurate with the actions taken. Criminal cases that exist on various platforms illustrate that anyone can be caught in criminal cases, not only men but criminal cases can occur in women as the main perpetrators (Martiasari 2019; Sukardi 2017; Yudiantoro 2018).

There is also one case where the perpetrator is an ASN (State Civil Apparatus) who works in a community institution, actually utilizing his position and authority to obtain drugs and sell them for profit (Rahim 2023). Crimes involving women as perpetrators can vary from minor cases to more serious crimes. Some examples of crimes involving women include: Theft: Women can be involved in shoplifting, petty theft, or cyber crimes such as identity theft. Fraud: Committing fraud using a variety of means, including financial fraud, insurance fraud, or online fraud. Drug trafficking: Engaging in drug trafficking or distribution. Domestic violence: While there are often more reports of violence against women, there are also cases where women are involved as perpetrators of domestic violence. Organized crime: Engaging in more organized criminal activities, such as money laundering, human trafficking, or other

criminal activities involving strong networks (Hamid and Rusmawan 2023).

Women involved in crime or cases of criminal acts can occur in various cultural and economic backgrounds so that society's views on women's behavior can vary greatly around the world and are often influenced by cultural, social and historical factors that exist in that society. This study aims to determine the factors that cause women to be involved as perpetrators of criminal acts in the Tanjungpinang Police area. The main focus of this research is to see how the factors that cause women to be involved as perpetrators of criminal acts in the Tanjungpinang Police area. So, it is found that the urgency of this research in sociology is to see how gender roles and stereotypes in crime and what factors allow crimes committed by women. Then this study is still rarely researched by previous researchers and this study can provide an in-depth perspective of the perpetrator.

## METHODE

The location of this research is in the Tanjungpinang area, in this study the data of female perpetrators who commit criminal acts are perpetrators recorded in 2023, this research uses a type of qualitative research on the grounds that this approach will enable a more in-depth research process in the form of seeing what basic factors make a woman commit a criminal act (Copes et al. 2020). In this study the overall population was 12 female suspects in criminal cases at Tanjungpinang Police Station and then in this study the sampling technique in research based on certain considerations or purposive sampling, the criteria in this study were women who committed criminal acts or violations of the law in the Tanjungpinang City area with the number of informants as many as 8 female suspects in criminal cases. In this study, data collection was carried out by observation, the observation carried out was by observing their activities while in detention. The next data collection technique is, interviews, by conducting in-depth interviews, the researcher will find out more in-depth things about what phenomena actually occur so that the research informants can take action.

From the results of this interview, important information will be obtained about what caused the informants to commit criminal behavior. Data from research informants in the form of information data related to questions that have been asked based on interview guidelines that have been asked. Data reduction will be useful for separating similar data so that later it can be easier to analyze Data presentation, namely the next data analysis technique is data presentation, the intended data presentation is the data from interviews with informants and then presented. Presentation of data in this study in the form of interview results which are presented and then analyzed in order to provide a clear picture of what phenomena occur in the problem of women involved in criminal cases. Then at the end, conclusion drawing or data verification will be carried out, which is the part of the analysis that will later conclude the research results in depth and so that they are easy to understand.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Women involved in crime or cases of criminal activity can occur in a variety of cultural and economic settings, and they can be involved in many types of crime, from petty theft to more serious crimes such as drug trafficking, fraud, violence, or organized crime. Most crime cases involve men, but there are

also women involved in criminal activity (Barberet 2014; Grace 2022). The following is data on the distribution of the number of crime cases based on the gender of the perpetrator in the Tanjungpinang City Police Area below:

**Table 1.** Distribution of the Number of Crimes with Female Offenders in the Tanjungpinang City Police Area

No	Year	Totally
1	2020	4
2	2021	4
3	2022	6
4	2023	12
Total		28

*Source: Criminal Case Data of Tanjungpinang Police Station Year 2023*

Based on the data, the number of crimes committed by women in 2023 has increased, the number includes cases, trafficking, fraud, embezzlement, and also drugs. The following is an analysis of the factors that influence female criminality in the Tanjungpinang City Police Area:

### *Social Factors*

Based on the results of interviews in research on factor analysis of the causes of women dealing with the law obtained, it can be concluded that social factors have a significant role as a driver of individuals to commit crimes. In sociological analysis, these social factors include various sources of influence, such as family environment, community, interaction with peers, employment conditions, and the impact of using cyberspace or the internet. The family environment as the primary social unit plays a role in shaping individual values and behavior. Instability in the family, for example, can lead to emotional neglect that encourages individuals to seek escape outside of social norms. In addition, interactions within the community and the influence of peers cannot be ignored; individuals tend to adopt the norms and behaviors of the groups around them, especially when they feel pressured and constrained by problems. From the informants' answers, one of the social factors that encourage informants to commit crimes is from the community environment. The culture of society is that when doing an association with others, they always wear jewelry to show that they come from a well-off family. This is what makes the informant feel tempted to have the same thing but does not have enough capital so that he dares to commit criminal acts in the form of fraud or embezzlement.

### *Economic Factors*

In the economic factor, the informant's answer shows that the difficulty of getting a job makes the informant experience a sense of depression due to the demands of meeting urgent economic needs. The feeling of wanting to help the family in meeting economic needs forces informants to look for jobs with decent salaries. However, the difficulty in finding a job with an adequate salary made the informant finally decide to commit a crime for a higher fee. In a sociological context, this economic pressure often arises from the inadequacy of the income earned, which is not proportional to the financial burden that must be borne, such as debt repayments, basic daily needs, and responsibility for many family members. When economic resources are limited, individuals, including women, may feel

compelled to seek alternatives that do not comply with existing legal norms, in order to fulfill their basic needs and improve the welfare of their families. In addition, the growing phenomenon of hedonistic lifestyles in modern society also exacerbates this situation. Hedonism, which prioritizes the search for pleasure and instant gratification, often creates unrealistic expectations regarding quality of life. When women feel pressured to meet these lifestyle standards, they may be more prone to resorting to crime as a solution. In many cases, this situation creates a vicious cycle where unmet economic needs drive them to participate in unlawful acts, which in turn can further worsen their economic conditions and limit access to better opportunities.

### *Religious Factors*

From the informants' answers, it can be seen that criminals tend to be aware that they will receive a reward or sin when they commit a crime. However, the view of the time of receiving rewards from religious law that is not instantly obtained, makes them dare to commit crimes. In addition, the perpetrators actually also have a fear of being punished by religious law. However, circumstances that force them to commit these crimes such as the demands of meeting urgent economic needs and the many needs of family members that must be met but the income, they have is inadequate. A sense of compulsion for the poor living conditions in terms of the economy encourages the perpetrators to commit criminal acts regardless of the punishment that will be obtained from their religion. They assume that God will know the reason behind why they committed the crime. In a sociological context, the firmness of faith and the stability of *taqwa* are essential components that can influence individual morality and ethics. Someone who has a strong understanding and appreciation of religion tends to be more able to refrain from deviant actions because they have clear guidance regarding the moral and legal boundaries that must be followed. However, when the religious understanding of female research informants who are criminal offenders is inadequate or superficial, it can result in their inability to control their impulses and desires to commit offenses. In their experience, the temptation of quick money, albeit from illegal activities, can make them "lose their eyes", thus ignoring the norms that should be upheld. This reflects the dilemma between economic needs and spiritual values, where economic pressures can trump values that should be held dear.

### *Environmental Factors*

From the informants' answers, it is important to have a good friendship environment in order to have a good impact on life. Informants get a bad influence from their friendship environment. This has an impact on the mindset and actions that the informant will take. A person tends to observe and learn what is happening and all activities in the surrounding environment. The learning process occurs and then they process from their subconscious what they get and learn from their environment, then a decision to act arises. From the answers given by several informants, it can be concluded that the social environment has a significant influence on an individual's future actions. A conducive and positive environment tends to create individuals who behave well and comply with prevailing norms. Conversely, an unsafe environment that is prone to crime can be a motivating factor for individuals to engage in criminal acts.

When a person grows up and interacts in an environment that is familiar with deviant behavior, they tend to be influenced by the norms and values that apply there. An environment that commonly violates the law will create social legitimacy for these actions, so that the perpetrator feels more motivated and accustomed to breaking the rules. This is in line with the concept of deviant subculture theory, which states that individuals can be influenced to adopt the values and behavior of groups that they consider more appropriate to the situation they face.

### *Family Factors*

From the findings of the interviews that have been submitted, it can be concluded that the family environment acts as a very decisive factor in influencing individual behavior. The family, as the first social unit that portrays affection, norms, and values, or a good environment will have a positive impact on individual character development. When family members support each other, communicate well, and apply healthy disciplinary principles, individuals tend to grow up with a strong understanding of moral and ethical boundaries, with the potential to lead positive and productive lives. Conversely, poor families that may be characterized by internal conflict, violence, emotional instability, or neglect can influence the development of children's behavior in a negative direction. In this context, individuals raised in disharmonious environments often face difficulties in developing the ability to control emotions and impulses, and may be exposed to deviant behaviors that are considered normal in their families.

### *Analysis of Feminism Theory*

Departing from the concept of Classical Sociology Feminism theory which says that; (1) Women as victims of Patriarchy often feel oppressed and restrained every time they make movements that should be freely carried out, thus encouraging these women to commit criminal acts as a form of protest to free themselves from patriarchal encouragement; (2) Feminism concepts that emphasize gender roles and stereotypes always appear to limit women and encourage women to commit certain crimes (Yulius et al., 2024; Suryani et al., 2023).

Radical feminist, socialist, and postmodernist theories also cannot be forgotten in every crime committed by women ranging from forms of rebellion, poverty and lack of resources, lack of state and policy roles, criticism that is not responded to by perspectives from critical alternatives, and seeing the role of identity and subjectivity of women in committing crimes (Gilmour 2021). Women who commit crimes also look to the critical thinking of the structural and institutional forces that drive the weak justice system and public policies against criminality committed by men and then feel that if they commit crimes women will assume power and that power is used to commit crimes (Collins 2018).

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research that has been conducted, it can be seen that in the phenomenon of women dealing with the law or women who become perpetrators of criminal acts in the city of Tanjungpinang. From the results of the research, it can be seen that in several factors, the factors that most often arise or that trigger women to commit criminal acts are factors due to economic problems where the perpetrators feel that urgent

