

Women's Studies on Crime Trends and Related Factors^{*} -Analysis on the Cause of Crime Rising in Korea-

여성범죄 경향과 관련요인에 관한 고찰

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ABSTRACT

그동안 한국사회에서 여성은 '가부장적 사회 이데올로기에 순응'하는 보수적이고 남성 종속적인 역할에 머물러 있었다한다면 최근 우리사회는 여성들도 '가정과 직장의 양립'이 가능한사회로 되고 있어 오히려 여성이 중심이 되는 시대로 변화 되면서 차츰 여성의 역할역시 매우중요한 시대가 되어가고 있다 할 수 있다.

이로 인해 한국사회에 있어서 그동안 여성범죄는 남성범죄에 비해서 현저히 적은 편이었지만 사회분위기가 경제 중심으로 재편되고 급속히 산업화, 민주화가 진행되는 과정에서 계속적으로 증가추세를 보이고 있다.

또한 우리사회의 '도덕적 안전 막'이라 할 수 있었던 고유의 대가족 제도가 무너지고 핵가족 제도로 변화되면서 여성들의 가치관에 많은 변화를 주게 되었으며, 무분별한 외래문물의 도입, 지나친 이기주의 발생 등은 급기야 물질만능과 개인주의의 사회분위기를 초래하게 된 것도 여성범죄 증가의 한 가지 원인이 되었다고 할 수 있다.

특히 1990년대 후반 발생한 한국의 IMF 상황과 최근의 미국 발 세계경제위기 상황은 가장의 실직으로 인한 남성의 권위상실을 초래하게 되었으며 급기야 여성이 생활전선에 나서는 사례를 증가시키고 있어 지금까지의 전통적인 여성의 역할이 큰 변화를 가져와 가사나 자녀를 돌보는 일에 소홀하게 되었으며, 이로 인해 파생된 부부간의 애정의 결여는 이혼, 탈선 등으로 이어져 결국에는 가정이 붕괴되는 등 여성범죄의 결과를 초래하는 결과를 가져오기도 하였다.

따라서 최근 한국사회의 변화에 따라 급증하고 있는 여성범죄에 대하여 그 원인과 동기 등 여성범죄를 유발하는 여러 가지 요인을 고찰하여 이에 대한 법적, 사회적 대안을 찾아내어 여성들의 활동을 지원하고 사회적 참여를 확대시킬 필요가 어느 때보다 절실하다고 할 수 있겠다.

Key Words: Female crime(여성범죄), Rising(증가), Divorce(이혼), Nuclear family(핵가족)

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I . INTRODUCTION

Until the late Joseon dynasty, the last dynasty of Korea, women's status was entirely subordinate to men. Not only were the basic human rights of women incomparably inferior to men, their social status and financial stability were also considered poor.

However, when the nation gained independence from the Japanese colonial rule in 1945, the passive and inferior character were replaced with socially active character with ability. In particular, the Korean war that took place in 1950 left many women with no other alternatives but to take the responsibility as a breadwinner, since their husbands or grown-up sons were sent to the battlefield. As Korea entered the 1970s, the nation's consumption has expanded due to the population boom in large cities; the value changed and improved education. The sudden widespread of amusement business affecting public morals and the economic development had precipitated seismic changes of social structure and had produced more opportunities for women to participate in social and economic activities. In other words, more women came to work in diverse social standings that had been considered for men only in the past.

Therefor, as more and more women started to take part in social activities in expanded areas, the female crime became frequent and the list of motives, causes and patterns grew longer, reflecting the increasingly complicated reality.

The formerly conservative and conventional society of Korea had transformed into an open and liberal society like the world's advanced nations, which brought in more chances to be involved in criminal activities. Not only that, but more women committed crimes affecting sexual ethics and their extravagance became stronger. The chastity valued highly in the traditional society lost its position to newly introduced sexual culture. All these have posed a serious threat to the Korean society.¹⁾

In this regard, I believe that renewing the understanding of the trend and significance of female crime in the Korean society and therefore to analyze the reason of its increase are highly essential to come up with female crime preventive measures.

1) Supreme Public Prosecutors' Office, 「Crime Analysis」, Volume 1, 1999 ~2003.

II. The theory behind this woman for the crime

1. the significance of female crime

Women's some kind of criminal law, the country is not even gender-insensitive, so the concept is not legal. So women the target of a crime that women are the type of crime and women to be the subject of a criminal committing a crime can be divided into individual university entrance exams say the women in the latter case,

the crime was a crime to distinguish between male and female crime because The physical structure of men and women are different, two different aspects of mental, social and domestic locations are different, so quantitative and qualitative differences, because to have,

2. the characteristics of female crime

Male to female crime qualitative and quantitative features are noticeable compared to the crime. The majority of female crime, fraud and theft, stolen property, offender, and infanticide abortion, organic (organic, especially infants), sin has the highest crime rates,

Male violence is a crime that compared the characteristics of the female characteristics of the crime is often insincere, dishonest sex, murder, poisoning methods a lot. Physiological characteristics of women with menstruation, pregnancy, menopause and severe emotional fluctuations increasing crime, especially theft, was committed to a lot of fire-raising, etc. at the time of menstruation,

In general, men and women of the world population is roughly similar, but the men's female crime January 5 to January 10 appears enough.

In general, women's rising social and economic status, the more civilized the more socially advanced female crime rate is high. However, the United States and Finland, with a high social status of women to advance women in many civilized countries, so a relatively low crime rate, crime, culture, and women are from the objection does not necessarily proportional.

Women's high crime rate the country of Hungary (22.6%) and Belgium (25.5%), Portugal (22.5%) and Italy (17.4%) countries with lower crime rates in Finland

(46%) and Greece (5.9%) and Sweden (6.3%) and Japan (6.3%), United States (8.3%) and Norway (8.3%), said South Korea and a female crime is significantly lower, women are protected from competition for survival are believed to be a sinner in social matters,

3. Female Crime Trends

Wed steadily rising tide of female offenders, and nearly doubled in the last 10 years has increased. Has exceeded the growth rate to continue. However, the ratio of male criminal offenders compared to the percentage of women that tall women are relatively less violent types of crime Being can not feel a threat to society. However, the smallest percentage of crime and social pathologies that can be said that the increase in crime should not be overlooked. In addition, the country's crime policies focus only on crimes that men are interested in women for the crime due to the lack of female crime. Examine trends is necessary to predict the future direction,

III. Analysis on the Trend of Female Crime in Korea

1. Current Situation of Female Crime

Korea's female crime rate has been on the steady rise for the past eight years. In 2000, the female crime recorded 290,931 (or 15.15 percent of 1,918,952 in total). The figure rose to 342,431 (or 16 percent of 2,145,465), 0.9 percent up from eight years ago.

<Table 1> Ratio of Women of Criminals in Korea

								(person)
Year	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07
Total								
Number of Perpetrators	1,918,952	2,005,476	1,975,930	1,953,119	2,302,813	2,003,351	2,028,206	2,145,465
Number of Female	290,931	311,718	311,184	320,859	400,714	328,845	328,842	342,431

* Source : National Police Agency of Korea, Police Agency White Paper(2008)

This means that of 100 convicted perpetrators, 16 are female. The main cause of the gradual rise is women's expanded social activities which then in turn are caused by the increase in the number of single woman and divorce rate. It is also found that since 2003, an increasing number of people has turned to crime for survival due to economic stagnation worse than the previous year, which also contributed to the increase of female crime.

However, the rate of female crime is still on the rise, but its proportion can be said very low, compared to that of male crime, which is at least not a bad news.

This is because that female crime has a relatively low possibility of getting caught and women's physical weakness and small chances to participate in social activities have limited opportunities to be involved in crime.²⁾

Therefore, if the statistic comes to include crimes which investigators failed to acknowledge or failed to catch its perpetrators, the actual statistics of female crime in Korea might be much higher than the analyzed figures.

2. Statistics by Female Offenders of Major Crimes

As shown in the Table 2, the number of female perpetrators caught for theft rose from 7,075 in 2000 to 11,967 in 2007. Both the number and its ratio are on the rise.

In the case of female fraud offenders, the number recorded 64,353 in 2000 but it has decreased to as low as 64,076. Since 2003, the numbers have started to slightly grow again.

2) Research Institute of Asian Women, 「Women Studies」, Sookmyung University Press, 1991

<Table 2> Statistics by Female Offenders of Major Crimes

unit : Person(%)

	Theft		Fraud		Misfeasance		Assault		Injury	
	Total	Female Ratio	Total	Female Ratio	Total	Female Ratio	Total	Female Ratio	Total	Female Ratio
2007	11,967	16.7	56,237	23.8	1,125	18.8	16,354	14.6	15,358	14.8
2006	10,414	16.1	68,350	24.7	1,292	18.3	11,183	14.7	14,119	15.4
2005	8,709	14.9	72,834	26.5	1,387	19.1	3,944	18.5	6,854	19.9
2004	9,091	15.5	101,109	30.7	1,489	20.0	3,889	18.8	7,384	19.6
2003	9,086	14.8	92,418	28.2	1,412	17.9	4,227	19.2	8,712	19.6
2002	8,627	13.1	70,084	25.2	1,065	15.1	3,739	18.7	7,920	19.1
2001	7,405	12.9	64,078	24.9	1,155	16.3	4,169	18.7	8,771	19.0
2000	7,075	10.8	64,353	25.7	1,534	19.7	4,130	18.9	8,790	18.8

* Source : Supreme Public Prosecutors' Office, 「Crime Analysis」 (2000~2007)

The number of misfeasance committed by women recorded 1,534 in 2000 and dropped to 1,412 in 2003. The comprehensive analysis on major crimes committed by women indicates that most cases have been on the gradual increase for the recent five years and that violations concerning prostitution, adultery, fraud, and forgery are major crime cases committed by women that are continually increasing. It can be understood that during the transition period from primary industry to tertiary industry, women's social and economic activities have expanded, and the expansion were followed by the increase in the crime committed by women. To put it simply, it is confirmed that women's increased participation in the society has been closely connected with the increase of female crime.

As of 2003, the most frequently committed crime is fraud (92,416), followed by violence (54,238), and crimes that have the high ratio of female offenders are violations concerning prostitution and adultery, which clearly testifies to the seriously degraded morality of chastity due to the change of Korean women's traditional idea on chastity which has weakened.

3. Statistics by Ages

Age is a significant factor that differentiates every human being since the age differences can also mean differences in biological and psychological conditions and social experiences. This naturally brings in differences in each human's connection

with crimes. Therefore, it is noteworthy to pay a keen attention to how the type and tendency of crimes are differently displayed by ages.

<Table 3> Statistics by Ages

Unit : Person(%)

	19 years old or younger	20 -25	26 -30	31 -35	36 -40	41 -50	51 -60	60 years old or older	Unkon- own	Total
2007	13,930 (4.6)	26,049 (8.5)	26,945 (8.8)	29,592 (9.7)	40,126 (13.1)	91,060 (29.8)	39,170 (12.8)	12,736 (4.2)	25,717 (8.4)	305,325 (100)
2006	10,501 (3.5)	26,645 (8.8)	26,534 (8.8)	31,001 (10.3)	40,142 (13.3)	91,248 (30.3)	36,827 (12.2)	12,016 (4.0)	26,552 (8.8)	301,366 (100)
2005	9,679 (3.1)	30,172 (9.8)	27,677 (9.0)	33,860 (11.0)	42,768 (13.9)	94,888 (30.8)	34,065 (11.0)	11,343 (3.7)	23,991 (7.8)	308,443 (100)
2004	11,591 (3.1)	44,383 (11.8)	37,912 (10.1)	43,582 (11.7)	51,284 (13.7)	109,499 (29.3)	35,412 (9.5)	11,076 (3.0)	29,144 (7.8)	373,883 (100)
2003	15,609 (4.4)	45,325 (12.6)	35,727 (10.0)	42,948 (12.1)	50,461 (14.2)	102,016 (28.6)	31,516 (8.8)	10,077 (2.8)	22,540 (6.3)	356,219 (100)
2002	18,518 (5.4)	41,673 (12.1)	33,532 (9.8)	41,788 (12.2)	51,533 (15.1)	97,514 (28.5)	30,532 (8.9)	10,053 (3.0)	17,195 (5.0)	342,338 (100)
2001	20,448 (5.9)	36,259 (10.6)	32,581 (9.5)	41,312 (12.0)	56,572 (16.4)	96,732 (28.1)	31,181 (9.0)	9,699 (2.8)	19,971 (5.8)	344,755 (100)
2000	18,487 (5.6)	29,409 (8.8)	30,037 (9.2)	40,472 (12.3)	57,692 (17.6)	90,418 (27.6)	30,546 (9.3)	9,540 (2.9)	21,525 (6.6)	328,126 (100)

* Source : Supreme Public Prosecutors' Office, 「Crime Analysis」 (2000~2007)

As the Table 3, Statistics by Ages, shows, women in their thirties account for the largest proportion, followed by those in their forties and twenties. The table indicates that the ratio of women in their twenties or younger is getting lower, while those in their thirties to forties have been recorded with an increasing ratio. The ratio of those who are 51 years old or older shows little sign of change.

In 2003, the number of female offenders at the age from 41 to 50 accounted for the largest 28.6 percent (102,016) of the total, followed by those between 36 and 40 (14.2 percent) and others between 31 and 35 (12.1 percent),.

The high percentage of female offenders in their thirties and forties can be understood as a result of the fact that the degradation of sexual ethics and women's expanded social activities by economic difficulties have increased chances for women to be exposed to criminal environment.

4. Statistics by Education Levels

Table 4 is the statistics sorted out by education backgrounds of female offenders.

<Table 4> Statistics by Education of Female Offenders

Unit : Person(%)

	Non-educate d	Element ary	Middle school	High school	Two-ye ar college	Universit y	Graduate school	Others	Unkno wn	Total
2007	3,651 (1.2)	16,488 (5.4)	27,311 (8.9)	106,126 (34.8)	11,819 (3.8)	19,656 (6.5)	1,006 (0.3)	3,768 (1.2)	115,500 (37.8)	305,325 (100)
2006	3,637 (1.2)	16,631 (5.5)	26,871 (8.9)	100,295 (33.3)	10,647 (3.6)	18,964 (6.2)	989 (0.3)	4,077 (1.4)	119,255 (39.6)	301,366 (100)
2005	5,316 (1.7)	23,816 (7.7)	31,960 (10.3)	106,745 (34.6)	12,273 (4.0)	21,555 (7.0)	1,284 (0.4)	3,227 (1.0)	102,267 (33.2)	308,443 (100)
2004	6,518 (1.7)	31,868 (8.5)	42,491 (11.4)	137,041 (36.6)	15,037 (4.0)	25,557 (7.0)	1,456 (0.4)	5,507 (1.5)	108,390 (29.0)	373,883 (100)
2003	9,072 (2.5)	39,079 (11.0)	50,855 (14.2)	143,803 (4.8)	17,420 (4.8)	27,791 (7.8)	1,854 (0.5)	3,179 (0.9)	63,166 (17.7)	356,219 (100)
2002	10,296 (3.0)	42,401 (12.3)	53,500 (15.6)	142,965 (41.7)	16,609 (4.8)	25,678 (7.5)	1,808 (0.5)	3,007 (0.9)	46,074 (13.5)	342,338 (100)
2001	11,462 (3.3)	46,064 (13.0)	56,355 (16.3)	138,966 (40.3)	15,575 (4.5)	24,178 (7.0)	1,744 (0.5)	2,663 (0.8)	47,748 (13.8)	344,755 (100)
2000	12,235 (3.7)	47,260 (14.0)	55,127 (16.8)	130,232 (39.6)	11,869 (3.6)	21,295 (6.4)	1,433 (0.4)	3,376 (1.0)	45,299 (13.8)	328,126 (100)

* Source : Supreme Public Prosecutors' Office, 「Crime Analysis」 (2000~2007)

It is statistically true that the more education the women receive, the fewer crimes the society will end up witnessing. However, it is hard to consider that formal education plays a role to prevent crimes directly. Since the formal education is the reflection of the economic status and intelligence, it can be said that education and crimes are closely related. In addition, female education in Korea has improved a lot along with the expanded social activities, democratization, and extension of women's rights. Of all female offenders, high school graduates and those with higher education account for the largest proportion, while female offenders with no educational background or elementary school certificates are on the decrease. However, it is expected that the decrease of female offenders with high school certificate or higher education will continue due to the consistent improvement of education of Korea.³⁾

Also, of the offenders with higher education, the proportion of white color females are growing. Therefore, a conclusion can be drawn from the above figures regarding the relationship between female crimes and their educational background. The characteristic and environmental features are the factors that affects female offenders until they commit crimes, meaning that the crime rate of those with lower education is not higher than that of those with higher education. This fact is contrary to the general idea regarding the crime rates.

5. Statistics by Motives

The Table 5 displays the statistics of female crimes by motives. According to it, for the recent five years, motives have not changed much and the number of crimes that happen because of people's carelessness, accidental reasons, and greed is decreased to some extent.

3) Korean Institute of Criminology, "Study of the Situation of Sexual Assault and Countermeasures", 1991

<Table 5> Statistics by Motives

Unit : Person(%)

	Greed	Speculation	Retaliation	Family feud	Curiosity	Temptation	Impulse	Dissatisfaction with reality	Carelessness	Others	Unknown	Total
2007	17,802 (5.8)	3,670 (1.2)	751 (0.2)	1,266 (0.4)	1,524 (0.5)	1,671 (0.5)	42,670 (14.0)	1,635 (0.5)	34,197 (33.1)	101,197 (33.1)	98,942 (32.4)	305,325 (100)
2006	17,255 (5.7)	3,881 (1.3)	687 (0.2)	1,255 (0.4)	1,311 (0.4)	1,342 (0.4)	38,240 (12.7)	1,324 (0.4)	30,070 (10.0)	103,318 (34.3)	102,683 (34.1)	301,366 (100)
2005	16,819 (5.5)	4,029 (1.3)	818 (0.3)	1,604 (0.5)	957 (0.3)	1,185 (0.4)	43,149 (14.0)	1,565 (0.5)	32,718 (10.6)	110,660 (35.9)	94,939 (30.8)	308,443 (100)
2004	25,367 (6.8)	4,905 (1.3)	899 (0.2)	1,841 (0.5)	1,060 (0.3)	1,629 (0.4)	47,058 (12.6)	1,604 (0.4)	44,605 (11.9)	144,261 (38.6)	100,654 (26.9)	373,883 (100)
2003	54,949 (15.4)	3,475 (1.0)	756 (0.2)	2,182 (0.6)	971 (0.3)	1,089 (0.3)	45,918 (12.9)	1,915 (0.5)	51,591 (14.5)	150,656 (42.3)	42,717 (12.0)	356,219 (100)
2002	53,141 (15.5)	4,388 (1.3)	886 (0.3)	2,008 (0.6)	1,646 (0.5)	1,639 (0.5)	47,331 (13.8)	2,043 (0.6)	52,690 (15.4)	140,212 (41.0)	36,354 (10.6)	342,338 (100)
2001	53,497 (15.5)	4,502 (1.3)	1,048 (0.3)	2,548 (0.7)	1,765 (0.5)	1,760 (0.5)	50,975 (14.8)	2,144 (0.6)	54,501 (15.8)	136,637 (39.6)	35,378 (10.3)	344,755 (100)
2000	50,734 (15.5)	4,198 (1.3)	1,167 (0.4)	2,524 (0.8)	1,224 (0.4)	1,101 (0.3)	46,660 (14.2)	2,061 (0.6)	53,582 (16.3)	128,131 (39.0)	36,744 (11.2)	328,126 (100)

* Source : Supreme Public Prosecutors' Office, 「Crime Analysis」 (2000~2007)

The decrease is probably due to the nation's economic growth and increased GNP that has solved poverty problems to some extent. On the other hand, the increase in accidental crimes are due to the situation that women's expanded social activities increased their chances to commit crimes.

However, it is believed that of all reasons, material-almighty attitude and the characteristics of capitalism served a lot to increase the crime rate of Korean female offenders. Therefore, it is concluded that the major motive of female crime is the result of their excessive greed or desire for living expenses.

6. Statistics by Occupations

The Table 6 displays the statistics of female criminals by their occupational living. Although the categories of these statistics are not detailed enough to come up with concrete analysis, women with stable jobs, such as civil servants, or women with professional jobs show low tendency of being involved in criminal

activities, while women who are self-employed or are working as laborer or a service worker accounted for a large percent. In particular, female criminals who worked as a self employed worker recorded a sharp drop from 29 percent in 2000 to 23.9 percent in 2003, while female criminals who worked for another person gradually increased from 19.4 percent in 2000 to 21.1 percent in 2003.

<Table. 6> Statistics of Occupation of Female Offenders

Unit : Person(%)

	Self-employed	Employee	Professional	Civil servant	Others	Total
2007	64,122 (21.0)	51,417 (16.8)	6,892 (2.3)	963 (0.3)	181,926 (59.6)	305,325 (100)
2006	64,971 (21.6)	47,745 (15.8)	6,848 (2.3)	1,016 (0.3)	180,775 (60.0)	301,366 (100)
2005	68,563 (22.2)	47,720 (15.5)	6,272 (2.0)	1,011 (0.3)	184,850 (59.9)	308,443 (100)
2004	83,455 (22.3)	57,266 (15.3)	7,214 (1.9)	953 (0.3)	224,978 (60.2)	373,833 (100)
2003	85,141 (23.9)	75,331 (21.1)	6,279 (1.8)	794 (0.2)	188,674 (53.0)	356,219 (100)
2002	91,127 (26.6)	73,642 (21.5)	5,862 (1.7)	715 (0.2)	170,992 (49.9)	342,338 (100)
2001	95,572 (27.7)	71,790 (20.8)	6,123 (1.8)	844 (0.2)	170,426 (49.4)	344,755 (100)
2000	95,311 (29.0)	63,542 (19.4)	5,413 (1.6)	752 (0.2)	163,108 (49.7)	328,126 (100)

* Source : Supreme Public Prosecutors' Office, 「Crime Analysis」 (2000~2007)

A conclusion that can be drawn from the above statistics is that jobs with stability and certain group regulations tend to serve as a crime deterrent, while liberal and non-regulated living environment can make females vulnerable to the temptation of crime.

7. Statistics by Living Standards

As mentioned above, it has been generally believed that one of the major factors of female crime in Korea comes from economic difficulties. It is true that to measure the living standard of female criminals objectively and reasonably is extremely difficult. As in the Table 7, female criminals from the lower class

accounted form 60.6 percent in 2003, while the middle class 25.9 percent and the upper class 0.9 percent, which means female criminals from the lower class still account for a large percent of the total number of offenders.

<Table. 7> Statistics by Living Standard of Female Offenders

Unit : Person(%)

	Upper class	Middle class	Lower class	Unknown	Total
2007	2,131 (0.7)	75,745 (24.8)	129,426 (42.4)	98,023 (32.1)	305,325 (100)
2006	2,247 (0.7)	70,854 (23.5)	126,498 (42.0)	101,767 (33.8)	301,366 (100)
2005	2,577 (0.8)	70,095 (22.7)	141,466 (45.9)	94,305 (30.6)	308,443 (100)
2004	3,285 (0.9)	86,828 (23.2)	182,810 (48.9)	100,960 (27.0)	373,883 (100)
2003	3,097 (0.9)	92,240 (25.9)	215,929 (60.6)	44,953 (12.6)	35,219 (100)
2002	3,241 (0.9)	95,660 (27.9)	206,021 (60.2)	37,46 (10.9)	342,338 (100)
2001	3,313 (1.0)	95,907 (27.8)	207,427 (60.2)	38,108 (11.1)	344,755 (100)
2000	3,273 (1.0)	89,213 (27.2)	197,187 (60.1)	38,453 (11.7)	328,126 (100)

* Source : Supreme Public Prosecutors' Office, 「Crime Analysis」 (2000~2007)

Considering that many crime cases by lower class females are related to property matters, poverty is the most common motive of female criminals from the lower class. In other words, material wealth is a stimulus that tempts lower class people to commit crimes.

In addition, the high percentage of property-related crimes can be interpreted to mean that poverty is one of the most common causes of committing crimes. To put it another way, the statistics shows that many lower class women had failed to restraint their desire for material wealth and eventually committed property-related crimes.⁴⁾

4) Kim Sang-yun in collaboration with other three researchers, "Study of the Trend and Characteristics of Female Crime", 「Research collection of learned papers」, Legal Research and Training Institute, 1991, Alsder, F and R.J.Simon, The Criminology of Deviant Women, Houghton Mifflin, 1979.

8. Statistics by Marriage Status

<Table. 8> Statistics by Marriage Status

Unit : Person(%)

	Unmarried	Living with spouse	Divorce	Separation by death	Living together	Unknown	Total
2007	52,600 (17.2)	114,824 (37.6)	24,200 (7.9)	9,735 (3.2)	5,180 (1.7)	98,786 (32.4)	305,325 (100)
2006	47,670 (15.8)	112,768 (37.4)	23,102 (7.7)	9,623 (3.2)	4,974 (1.7)	103,229 (34.3)	301,366 (100)
2005	50,781 (16.5)	118,324 (38.4)	27,516 (8.9)	11,155 (3.6)	4,764 (1.5)	95,903 (31.1)	308,443 (100)
2004	70,267 (18.8)	146,167 (39.1)	34,744 (9.3)	13,287 (3.6)	5,967 (1.6)	103,451 (27.7)	373,883 (100)
2003	85,064 (23.9)	169,708 (47.6)	36,467 (10.2)	14,025 (3.9)	5,195 (1.5)	45,760 (12.8)	356,219 (100)
2002	81,685 (23.9)	169,378 (49.5)	33,618 (9.8)	14,686 (4.3)	5,310 (1.6)	37,661 (11.0)	342,338 (100)
2001	77,445 (22.5)	175,031 (50.8)	32,977 (9.6)	15,841 (4.6)	4,970 (1.4)	38,491 (11.2)	344,755 (100)
2000	67,549 (20.6)	170,230 (51.9)	30,354 (9.3)	16,625 (5.1)	4,461 (1.4)	38,907 (11.9)	328,126 (100)

* Source : Supreme Public Prosecutors' Office, 「Crime Analysis」 (2000~2007)

As the Table 8 shows, the crime rate of married women is generally higher than that of unmarried women, which is contrary to the common thought that marriage would bring in stability and therefore serve to reduce the crime rate. This is because when married women are challenged by economic difficulties, they easily incline to turn to criminal activities, such as theft or burglary for survival. In the case of unmarried women, their crime rate continually rose from 20.6 percent in 2000 to 23.9 percent in 2003. Though divorce doesn't seem to account for a large proportion of the total number of female crimes, still it has also recorded a gradual increase from 9.3 percent in 2000 to 10.2 percent in 2003, which is worthy of attention. This increase is due to economic difficulty after divorce. The statistics shows that the increase in the number of women suffering from a problematic marriage and broken family has greatly contributed to the increase in the crime rate. Recently, the Korean society has gone through drastic structural changes. Its political structure has shifted to democracy, the economic structure has move toward the industrialization, and the cultural structure has been focused on individualism or expansion of ego. Such changes also can be understood to create

direct and mutual relation between women and their tendency for crimes. Women's own valuation on themselves after marriage has changed a lot, ideal image of women that housewives in these days describe has also changed to replace traditional homemaker with modern women who also know how to enjoy their own time leisurely. In this regard, women's participation in social activities naturally created favorable attitude toward their pursuing their careers, and the more opportunities women have for their economical activities, the stronger desire for consumption they will have. Furthermore, the relationship with their spouses and expectations for the roles of their spouses have changed gradually as well, transforming from a vertical relationship in the traditional society into a horizontal relationship that is fairer than it was in the past. To men, this means the weakening patriarchal authority and the collapse of the traditional family rules, which, as a result, has made changes in the crime rate of women.

9. Statistics by Criminal Records

According to the Table 9, the crime rate of those with no criminal records decreased from 55.9 percent in 2000 to 53.5 percent in 2003, while the first time offender has gradually increased from 15.5 percent in 2000 to 16 percent in 2003. The crime rate of second time offenders and subsequent offenders has risen continually. As shown above, in the case of female criminals, ex-convicts tend to commit crimes again more often than those with no criminal records do. This, I believe, is a part that the Korean society lacking in social security system for female ex-convicts are to blame to a great extent.

<Table. 9> Statistics by Female Offenders with Criminal Records

Unit : Person(%)

	No Record	First-time offender	Second-t ime offender	Third time offender	Fourth time offender	Fifth time or subseque nt offender	Unknown	Total
2007	149,233 (48.9)	38,545 (12.6)	18,756 (6.1)	10,601 (3.5)	6,174 (2.0)	13,465 (4.3)	68,551 (22.5)	305,325 (100)
2006	147,495 (48.9)	37,210 (12.3)	18,047 (6.0)	10,253 (3.4)	6,037 (2.0)	13,002 (4.3)	69,322 (23.0)	301,366 (100)
2005	153,462 (49.8)	40,971 (13.3)	19,702 (6.4)	10,904 (3.5)	6,284 (2.0)	13,050 (4.2)	64,070 (20.8)	308,443 (100)

	No Record	First-time offender	Second-t ime offender	Third time offender	Fourth time offender	Fifth time or subseque nt offender	Unknown	Total
2004	192,282 (51.4)	54,305 (14.5)	26,079 (7.0)	14,297 (3.8)	7,934 (2.1)	15,774 (4.2)	63,212 (16.9)	373,883 (100)
2003	190,717 (53.5)	56,954 (16.0)	27,465 (7.7)	14,836 (4.2)	8,369 (2.3)	16,318 (4.5)	41,560 (11.7)	356,219 (100)
2002	185,431 (54.2)	55,536 (16.2)	26,375 (7.7)	14,268 (4.2)	8,531 (2.5)	16,455 (4.9)	35,742 (10.4)	342,338 (100)
2001	190,443 (55.2)	54,550 (15.8)	26,039 (7.6)	14,203 (4.1)	8,126 (2.4)	15,414 (4.4)	35,980 (10.4)	344,755 (100)
2000	183,292 (55.9)	50,739 (15.5)	23,941 (7.3)	12,643 (3.9)	7,373 (2.2)	13,553 (4.1)	36,585 (11.1)	328,126 (100)

* Source : Supreme Public Prosecutors' Office, 「Crime Analysis」 (2000~2007)

In other words, female crimes have increased in quantity through quality changes. Therefore, it can be said that there are problems with the current special policies to prevent crimes, such as correction programs to stop female offenders from being subsequent offenders. In order to help them become socially healthy and responsible people and therefore be able to go back to their family, school, or society, the government or any relevant rehabilitation facilities should come up with proper measures should be implemented to improve the current situation.

IV. Causes of the Increase in Female Crime in Korea

1. Changes of Social Structure

As the Korean social system has gone through transition from traditional society to industrial society, people's way of living has changed with it, serving as a factor to increase the female crime rate. To put it simply, ethical values and family systems unique to the traditional Korean society has dramatically changed due to the massive wave of materialistic Western culture and lifestyle, leading to the openness of Korean women's way of thinking that had been closed for a long time. More women started to participate in social activities and its scale is almost equal

to that of men. The increased opportunities in social and economical activities has affected the pattern and trend of female crime.

Thanks to economic affluence today, the education level of Korean women has dramatically improved and as a result, the proportion of female offenders with higher education has increased as well. In particular, until the late 1960s, it was often the case that many turned to crimes for their survival due to collapsed morals and ethical values, social disorder and economic difficulties after the Korean War. Also, most female crimes at that time was for survival. They engaged themselves with prostitution to make money to survive, and weakening sense of morality and extreme poverty made many women turn to crimes. In the 1970s when the nation made a remarkable economic growth, the increasing number of female offenders were from tertiary industry. The number of female theft and property crimes has sharply risen, compared to those of men. The purpose of crime has also changed from survival to "having fun and not working." The recent trend of female crime is stimulant related or sex crimes and they are on the rise, too.

2. Participation in Social Activities

Socialization of Korean women started along with the progress of industrialization since the late 1970s. Former homemakers were forced to step into the labor market. The population boom in large cities made it difficult for women to find their own selves in the constantly changing and complicated city life. The anxiety that approached women before they even realized resulted in a huge change on the pattern of female crime.

When Korea was at the state of farming industry with an extended family system, most women found it hard to enjoy their own time. However, in cities, nuclear family system replaced the large family system because women had to go out to work. Women's early cessation of childbearing and affluent living conditions allowed women to enjoy their leisure time. The problem, however, was that social measures or welfare facilities to support women were far from enough, which as a result made women often finding themselves in money fraud, gambling and corrupted sexual ethics. The aberration of middle aged women was once considered as a serious social problem at that time. Besides, it is concerning that as the speedy democratization of the Korean society has improved the women's rights and encouraged more active participation of women, more women came to compete with men under same conditions, which probably could increase the crime rate of female

theft and fraud offenders. The increased working opportunities for women might serve to increase the rate of related crime cases involving women.⁵⁾

3. Economic Activities

Generally speaking, economic development refers to the industrialization and economic growth, and its structural changes that Western societies had gone through.

The changes in economic aspects are definitely followed by changes in urbanization, social structure and system, and values. In this regard, women's participation in economy also can be considered as a factor that has served to increase the crime rate.

During the transition from a traditional society to an open society, nation's economic scale has expanded and women's economic activities has triggered the expansion of women's social activities, which naturally led changes in women's family role and social role as well. This is why the process of role changing is highly likely to be closely connected with women's criminal activities.

In other words, the Korean society since the 1960s has witnessed changes in Korean women's moral values and way of thinking brought by their increased social and economic participation during the process of industrialization. Those changes became a significant factor that changed the trend of female crimes by making them similar to male crimes.

4. Changes in Family System

In the traditional Korean society, women's roles are extremely limited and blocked. In those days, women were viewed as physically inferior to men and therefore their chances to participate in social and economic activities were smaller than men. Women were considered as a passive character and their crime rate was also very low. However, with society's industrialization and economic development, women's roles became more expanded. They are no longer forcibly bound by a responsibility to move to the husband's workplace and take care of the parents. By using the birth control and having only one or two children, women came to be out of the traditional extended family system, allowing them to have enlarged social and

5) Allison Morris, *Women, Crime and Criminal Justice*, New York : Basil Blackwell, 1987.

economic roles. Along with that, the changes of criminal environments resulted in the increase in quantity and the seriousness of the crime in quality.

In other words, under the extended family system, entire family members served to both protect and monitor, and therefore temptation for crimes could be prevented. However, in the nuclear family system, women are free from intervention or control, making them vulnerable to factors that could bring in moral aberration and crimes.

This is how the change of the family system in the Korean society has provided environments that women can easily fall for. This contributed to increase the female crime rate. It is true indeed that various statistics make it impossible to deny the fact that the increase in the crime rate of married women is higher than that of unmarried women.

V. Conclusion

According to the analysis on the situation of female crime in Korea based on official records, the characteristic of female crime in Korea is that the proportion is far lower than male crime as for now, but the rate is on a gradual rise since the 1980s.

This shows that changes in social status, physiological or psychological features, and changes of the family system are mutually connected with female crime. Also, considering the fact that the increase of most female offenders caught for felony is property related crimes, those women are mostly impulsive offenders who are easily tempted by luxury goods displayed in department stores.

According to the statistics by age groups of female offenders, their crime rate reached the highest point during their adolescent period and continued to drop since then. But, the highest crime rate of women at the age between 41 to 50 tells us that generally women over thirties accounted for most proportion of the crime rate of females.

Every age group has differences in the pattern and type of the crimes. And, it is expected that along with the increase in women's social participation, the crime rate of female continues to grow.

Most female offenders have no jobs and those working in agriculture and industry also accounted for a large proportion. Of the number of employee offenders, the proportion of those working for amusement business is the highest.

Not only that, the proportion of the crimes committed for survival and ex-convicts' subsequent crimes have been on the rise, too.⁶⁾

Given the fact that the collapse of the traditional extended family system of Korea has also served to increase the crime rate, the nuclear family system brought in many changes in women's values. Women became neglectful of house chores and child raising, the absence of affection between husband and wife will finally lead to divorce and aberration, which will in the end serve to raise the crime rate of female.

Indiscriminate adoption of foreign cultures along with the trend of globalization, excessive selfishness, and material-almighty attitude has affected values of many people. Such social changes made the trend and pattern of female crimes similar to those of men, also resulting in corrupted sexual ethics.

Good example is the abortion statistics of Korea. Its annual figure reached over 1 million. Of them, more than 20 percent is the teens or unmarried women in their twenties, which is appalling truth. This shows that social atmosphere that pursues momentarily pleasure has seriously degraded the sexual morality of women and that women's value of treating a life lightly becomes stronger. Also, radical changes of the Korean society that values materials too much triggered the lavishness and the sense of vanity of women. Selfishness, such as greed for economic wealth and real estate speculation, is also triggered by the changes, which has served as both direct and indirect factors that influenced female crimes in Korea.

Therefore, in order to prevent the female crime from increasing, the most important task is to first analyze the causes of female crime and the motives that trigger such causes and then to prepare institutional apparatus and supplement that can prevent crimes in advance.

6) Jennifer James, William Thornton, "Women's Liberation and The Female delinquent", Journal of Research in crime and Delinquency.

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