



## **DOES MARRIAGE REDUCE CRIMES? THE IMPACT OF MALE SPOUSE ON FEMALE SPOUSE'S CRIMINALITY**

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### **Abstract**

Marriage in Asia has recently undergone several changes and the relationship between spouses is considered as one of the most important mature life course transitions. This concept imposes explanatory power on females as they are influenced by different attitudes of male spouses after the marriage. While empirical studies emphasized that criminal desistance for male spouses are visible subsequently to this union, the study explores the impact of the male spouses towards the female criminality after the marriage. Moreover, the nature of the impact has been substantiated throughout the study. Based on randomly selected 63 married women in the Magazine remand prison in Welikada, the study collected primary data through interviews, observations, questionnaires, participant observations and case studies. Secondary data were gathered through empirical literature. The effect of marriage was analysed through qualitative and quantitative methods such as SPSS (V24) and qualitative content analysis. The highest criminal participation was reported in substances and money laundering offences which interlink with poverty and family survival. Temporary wedges holders and the absence of permanent occupations strongly influence criminality. The study revealed the co-relation between spouses and emphasized that deviant male spouses were the direct cause to criminal tendencies, including theft attempts and attempted murder. The nature of the behaviour of male spouses reflected direct pressure on females for crime commission or acted as an intermediate during the commission. The role of maternity was a determinant fact in developing frustration when coping with marital bonds. The outcomes suggest creating a sophisticated system for government officials to strengthen their financial status by creating self-employment for women. Further, programmes to enhance the value of 'family' and to protect the cultural value of the unit are more crucial in order to prevent broken families. In-depth studies on consequences of broken families will co-operate significantly to determine more loopholes of the social system including children and additionally will assist practitioners in policy making.

**Keywords:** *Criminal tendency, Deviant influence, Female criminality, Marital bond, Spouse*