



ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

OPEN ACCESS

THE PROFILE OF HOMICIDE PERPETRATORS IN BELÉM-PA: AN ANALYSIS FROM FEMINIST CRIMINOLOGY

^{1,*}Victoria Di Paula Moraes Magno, ²Edson Marcos Leal Soares Ramos and ³Karla Cristina Nina Furtado

¹Master student in Public Safety (UFPA) and Lawye, Belém-Pará-Brazil

²Doctor of Production Engineering (UFSC) and Professor at UFPA, Belém-Pará-Brazil

³PhD student in Theory and Behavior Research (UFPA) and Professor at IFPA, Belém-Pará-Brazil

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 19th November, 2018
Received in revised form
27th December, 2018
Accepted 03rd January, 2019
Published online 27th February, 2019

Key Words:

Woman, Homicides,
critical feminist criminology, Patriarchy.

ABSTRACT

This study aims at showing the Profile of Perpetrators and victims of homicide crime in Belém-Pará and presenting the literature from feminist criminology by addressing female authorship as the central theme of the research and thus arousing interest beyond culture of victimization imposed by patriarchy in a macro sociological perspective in the construction of criminalized women. The methodological course conducts a quantitative study from the records of Bulletins of Police Occurrence of women who committed homicide from 2011 to 2017. It is presented the profile of those involved through exploratory and descriptive statistics. It is considered the regional reality of the data collected and the social context of homicide perpetrators; the theoretical positioning will be that of feminist critical criminology.

Copyright © 2019, Victoria Di Paula Moraes Magno et al. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Citation: Victoria Di Paula Moraes Magno, Edson Marcos Leal Soares Ramos and Karla Cristina Nina Furtado, 2019. "The Profile of homicide Perpetrators in Belém-PA: an analysis from feminist criminology", *International Journal of Development Research*, 9, (02), 25599-25602.

INTRODUCTION

The feminine protagonism throughout the years was supportive of submission imposed by the patriarchy. Since primitive societies, the female figure was tied to maternal tasks, domestic activities and the ones that did not require physical force; according to Herman (2012) there was a female privilege in conceiving, gestating and giving birth, conditioning the woman to exercise her sexuality for the sake of reproduction. The global interest in addressing the issue of women is limited by studies that portray them as victim, marginalizing the possibility of studying women as a social and cultural being beyond the characteristics that male hegemony reproduces. Montenegro (2016) emphasizes that the representative figure of woman towards the patriarchal society is as a taxable person. Feminist authorship, from a feminist criminological perspective, refers to the understanding of feminism, as well as its relation to law. According to Campos (2017), the first feminist wave of law began in the 1970s. It was based on the formal principle of equality between men and women. In the eighties, the second moment of feminist critique was dominated by the theory of difference, in which there was

awareness that the rules would be based on male experience and sought a legal conception of equality that encompassed both the biological and cultural differences between men and women. According to Montenegro (2016), female submission from the legal point of view was demonstrated in the concern of the right to limit in the scope of Civil Law the capacity of women in their wealth, education and decision-making power. In the scope of Criminal Law, the concern was small, due to the strong characterization of the woman as a fragile, domestic, dependent being that did not offer danger, which remained the victim. Feminist criminology, for Mendes (2017), has pursued a policy of coping with male domination by developing a knowledge for the renewal of criminal sciences. Deconstructing the premises that reproduce patriarchal practices is part of the strenuous task of feminism in Criminal Law, as well as constructing ways in which women can be studied based on legitimate data on female delinquency, without interference from the male paradigm that permeates criminological statistics. This study intends to show the sociocriminal profile of Woman homicide perpetrator through a quantitative research by performing an exploratory and descriptive analysis of data provided by the Deputy Secretariat of Intelligence and Criminal Analysis-DSICA, an agency of the State Secretariat of Public Security and Social Defense of Pará. Besides, demonstrate the importance of

*Corresponding author: Victoria Di Paula Moraes Magno,
Master student in Public Safety (UFPA) and Lawye, Belém-Pará-Brazil

producing knowledge about this issue of women who commit crime, in view of the great controversy behind the massive discourse of women's victimization in the criminal justice system, as well as fragilization by patriarchal society; data was generated regarding this phenomenon within the reality of Belém-Pará.

The criminal woman and the feminist criminology: The Criminological Literature carries with it concepts that have been perpetuated by a patriarchal Criminal Law, in which the woman is seen as a fragile being and defenseless, that does not offer risks; the criminological gaze positioned the woman as a victim by directing studies of authorship always with data based on men; for Bertaux (2014), it is to establish as criterion for delimitation of the subject to be studied only the ones that are statistically expressive, a phenomenon called "scientific illusion". The patriarchal conduct of Criminal Law reflects the social evolution perpetrated by women as a submissive being. It contributes to perpetuate the invisibility of women as perpetrators of crimes. The specificities were non-existent, since the Brazilian Penal Code of 1940 (BRASIL, 1940), in some crimes, only women were figured in the passive pole, maintaining the division between honest woman, the virgin and simply the woman (MONTENEGRO, 2016). Miralles (2015) points out that the dominant sociological theories in criminology have neglected the subject of female crime. The low number of demands for crimes committed by women may be small, but very significant, given the volume and severity of their sanction, since there is a strong informal social control in which institutions such as family, school, work and medicine carry out a coercion of women in the domestic sphere.

The Contribution of Feminism to criminology aims to introduce the perspective of gender in the criminal sciences, aiming to understand the female universe in crime beyond androcentric standards. For Netto and Borges (2013), the observation of social actors in criminology, performs a social analysis which starts from the assumption of diversity and begins to give science a macro structural view of criminalization, since the studies of male referential do not contemplate the feminine criminal universe, which, however quantitatively inferior, have their particularities. As stated by Walmsley (2017), according to data published by the World Prison Brief of the University of London's Criminal Policy Research Institute, Brazil ranks fourth in the world for female prisoners, second only to the United States, China and Russia; in Brazil (2018), the National Survey of Penitentiary Information (Infopen) points out that in Brazil the rate of imprisonment of women increased by 525% between 2000 and 2016. In data presented by the Superintendency of Pará Penitentiary System - SUSIPE (PARÁ, 2018), it was verified that in the Female Recovery Centers, the crime of homicide in qualified modalities occupies the 3rd place with (6.2%) and the simple homicide modality occupies the 6th place with (4.1%) in the quantitative of criminal classification in the female prison population of the State of Pará. Brazil reached the historical mark of 62.517 homicides in 2016, according to information from the Ministry of Health (MH). As assumed by the Atlas of violence (2018), the number of homicides in largest number are in the states of north and northeast in the country, of which Pará occupies the 5th place. This fact aroused the interest of knowing regionally and from a gender perspective the crime of homicide committed by women. In Brazil, the scarcity of studies that seek to understand in their complexity the crimes committed by women, especially

homicides highlights the importance of researches such as (RATTON, GALVÃO, ANDRADE, 2012), that discuss the repercussion of gender theories and criminology, aiming at constructing an explanatory model with gender cut.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data description: The material collected for this study were the ones from Bulletins of Police Occurrence, of which were selected only from homicide crimes committed by women. They were registered by the Civil Police and consolidated by the Deputy Secretariat of Intelligence and Criminal Analysis-DSICA from 2011 to 2017, in the State of Pará, with emphasis on Belém. The study was carried out in different stages, in which a bibliographical research was first carried out for the theoretical basis. Then, from the information provided by the Deputy Secretariat of Intelligence and Criminal Analysis (DSICA), 62 Bulletins of Police Occurrence and qualification and interrogation documents were analyzed. They were read in order to collect additional information. As inclusion criterion, it was determined the cases of homicides committed by women in Belém. Data were presented from an exploratory analysis in tables and graphs, which represent in a synthetic way the information about the behavior of numerical variables raised in this research. According to Bussab and Morettin (2013), the exploratory data analysis is an objective statistical technique to organize, describe and summarize the information by presenting important peculiarities of the dataset, through graphs, tables and synthetic measures. The variables presented were collected directly from the Integrated System of Public Security-SPS-WEB. An exploratory data analysis was carried out, based on the survey of 62 Bulletins of Police Occurrence that contained the crime of homicide committed by women from 2011 to 2018. Through them, a descriptive statistical analysis was carried out, which according to (FONSECA; MARTINS, p. 101, 2013) is a set of techniques that aim to describe, analyze and interpret numerical data of a population or sample.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the case records analyzed, Table 1 shows that in the period of 2011-2017, in the State of Pará there were 388 records of homicides committed by women, of which only 62 occurred in the capital Belém. Most crimes occurred in 2013 (25,81) and 2015 (22,58), respectively, with a sharp fall in 2016 to (1,61) followed by a (14,54) increase in 2017.

Table 1. Percentage of homicides committed by women in Belém in relation to the state of Pará in the period from 2011 to 2017

Year	Pará		Belém	
	Quantity	Percentage	Quantity	Percentage
2011	45	11,60	6	9,68
2012	48	12,37	8	12,90
2013	64	16,49	16	25,81
2014	63	16,24	8	12,90
2015	66	17,01	14	22,58
2016	49	12,63	1	1,61
2017	53	13,66	9	14,52
Total	388	100,00	62	100,00

Source: DSICA, October, 2018, made by the authors.

Table 2 shows that most of the homicides perpetrators are between 18 and 24 years old (35,49%), and the majority of the victims are between 37 and 64 years old (27,43%).

Table 2. Percentage of Homicides committed by women occurred in Belém-PA, 2011/2017, by age group, educational level, marital status and labor situation of Victim and Author

Variable	Category	Victim		Author	
		Quantity	Percentage	Quantity	Percentage
Age Group (in years)	0 to 11	1	1,61	1	1,61
	12 to 17	3	4,84	1	1,61
	18 to 24	15	24,19	22	35,49
	25 to 29	10	16,13	13	20,97
	30 to 34	15	24,19	10	16,13
	35 to 64	17	27,43	15	24,19
	65 or more	1	1,61	-	-
	Total	62	100	62	100
Educational level	Illiterate	-	-	1	2,08
	Incomplete Elementary School	24	61,54	18	37,51
	Complete Elementary School	5	12,82	10	20,83
	Incomplete High School	4	10,26	11	22,92
	Complete High School	5	12,82	7	14,58
	Incomplete Higher Education	1	2,56	-	-
	Complete Higher Education	-	-	1	2,08
	Total	39	100	48	100
Marital Status	Single	2	4,44	6	11,32
	Married	32	71,12	37	69,81
	Stable union	11	24,44	9	16,98
	Widow	-	-	1	1,89
	Total	45	100	53	100
Employment Status	Work	22	73,33	18	45
	Do not work	8	26,67	22	55
	Total	30	100	40	100

Source: DSICA, October, 2018, made by the authors.

Note: (1) 23 cases without information on the victim's educational level and 14 cases without information on the author's educational level;

(2) 17 cases without information on the civil status of the victim and 9 cases without information on the civil status of the perpetrator;

(3) 32 cases without information on the victim's employment status and 22 cases without information on the author's employment status.

According to the Brazilian Yearbook of Public Safety, in 2018, Pará was the third state with the highest index of Youth Vulnerability to Violence and Racial Inequality (IYV). The Pará State Penitentiary System has a greater proportion (33,98%) of female inmates aged from 18 to 24. It corroborates data from the age group of women homicide perpetrators in Belém (PARÁ, 2018). Santos (2016), France (2014) and Almeida (2001) point to joviality in the majority of female offenders. According to Brazil (2018), the female prison population is formed by young people, considered up to 29 years of age, according to the Youth Statute classification (Law n° 12.852/2013). Besides that, it is emphasized that Pará is among the states with the highest concentration of young people in the system prison. Most of the women who committed homicide (37,51%) had incomplete elementary school, it was also observed that most victims (61,54%) had incomplete elementary school (Table 2). It was verified that the level of education of women prisoners in the State of Pará Penitentiary System (PARÁ, 2018) corroborates data obtained from police records, since 51,05% of female inmates also had incomplete elementary school, however 61,83% of these incarcerated women were enrolled in educational activities. It can be seen in Table 2 that 69, 81% of the homicide perpetrators in Belém-PA are single, and 71,12% of the victims are also single. Regarding marital status, Almeida (2001) points out that most criminal cases do not reveal the true condition of the lover, life mate and friend woman. Most of them appear as single because they do not have records in notaries or husbands at home all the time. When reading the Bulletins of Police Occurrence and qualification and interrogation documents, there was heterogeneity in the type of relationship between the Author and her Victim, since cases of relationships, cases of enmity relationships, cases of infanticide, settlement of accounts and also involvement with crime were found. In this sense, Almeida (2001) points out that women do not only kill their partners motivated by ill-treatment or jealousy as traditional criminology maintains.

It was pointed out that women also killed enemies, people who had some disagreement with them, with relationship closeness or not. In the labor registries mentioned in Table 2, most of the homicide crimes perpetrators in Belém do not work (55.00%), while the majority of victims work (73.33%); with the analysis of police records, it was revealed that the majority of the authors were housewives or students. The expressive number of authors who do not work (most of them are housewives) attests to the patriarchal representativeness of women's criminal selectivity. It characterizes women of popular classes, whose job opportunities and independence are restricted. They occupy professions that historically imprison them to home, to the private, which is traditionally considered the woman's place (ALMEIDA, 2001). The note that demonstrates the work situation of the Author raises the question of how these women, that were mostly household women, became involved in homicides and raises the hypothesis of relation of the crime with the private life. Following this line, it was detected that the majority of the victims of homicides committed by women in Belém-PA are males (n = 49; 79.03%) and only 13 (20.97%) are females. By reading the Bulletins of Police Occurrence, it was verified that many crimes were committed against a man with whom the Author had an affective relationship and in many cases suffered some type of violence. Women exposed to aggressions that feel violated cause violence to be perpetrated. According to Weare (2013), battered women become violent. It results in the death of their aggressors; victimization offers them an explanation for their actions. Santos (2016), Roland (2010) and Almeida (2001) point out that criminal women perform crimes for various reasons such as: greed or financial gain, jealousy, revenge, status, self-defense, sadistic sexual pleasure and psychosis, which translates into a heterogeneity in the reasons that lead women to kill. Ratton and Galvão (2016) emphasize the importance of criminological research in the feminist field for the process of re-signification of social constructions related to normative femininity. It avoids its association with

stigmatizing identities, which characterize it as insane, bad, violent or criminal. Therefore, it was aimed at accomplishing this demystification. Arguments that emphasize the victimization history suffered by homicidal women as a central explanatory element for such a phenomenon may be related to a political strategy of overcoming the silences around gender inequalities (Ratton and Galvão, 2016). Such argument, finds support in the patterns strongly supported by patriarchy.

Final considerations: This study aimed to demonstrate the profile of homicide Perpetrators and victims in Belém, capital of Pará, from a quantitative approach. Descriptive statistics were performed. They aimed at meeting the need to present data on the murderous woman. Besides the simple fact of knowing their characteristics, it was sought to contribute to something greater, which is fomenting studies in feminist criminology. Elements that motivated this research, such as the increase in female incarceration and the increase in the homicide crime rate in which Pará appears among the states of higher incidence, arouses interest in knowing the homicidal woman, her victim and the characteristics that permeate this phenomenon. Incomplete information from the Bulletins of Police Occurrence made it difficult to trace a detailed profile, however the research identifies a young woman, single, low educated, not included in work activity, mostly peripheral, who perform household activities and some of them were exposed to various types of violence in the domestic sphere. It was verified that the victims had low educational level, however they had work activity. They were mostly men who were killed by feelings of jealousy or revenge. They may have had affective relation with the author or not. They could have become victims due to animosities, legitimate defense, revenge, financial interest and even infanticide. Most of the homicides surveyed were executed without prior planning. There is no homogeneity in the motivations found in the reports of occurrence and qualification records and interrogations, pointing to a diversity that demystifies the rooted patriarchal construction of female victimization. Removing the criminal woman from invisibility and to study her transgressive behavior aims at providing a foundation for a gender perspective in criminology, contributing to the construction of a feminine criminal policy and creating public policies that can generate education and values to curb the growth of youth Brazilian criminal. Women are socially represented by their femininity and domesticity. They are marginalized to invisibility in primitive theories on criminology. Analyzing their form of delinquency is a means to foment the feminist criminology, and thus to set the profile characterization of criminal women although in a regionalized way, a confrontation of patriarchal conception of criminal sciences, which in the majority places the woman as victim.

REFERENCES

- ALMEIDA, 2001. Rosemary de Oliveira. *Mulheres que matam: universo imaginário do crime no feminino*. Rio de Janeiro: Relume Dumará.
- BERTAUX, Daniel, 2014. A vingança do curso de ação contra a ilusão científica. *Civitas*, v. 14, n. 2, p. 250-271.
- BRASIL, Código Penal Brasileiro. Promulgated on December 7, 1940.
- BRASIL, 2018. Ministério da Justiça. Levantamento Nacional de informações penitenciárias – Infopen Mulheres, 2.ed.
- BUSSAB, W. O., MORETTIN, P. A. 2013. *Estatística Básica*. 8.ed., São Paulo: Saraiva.
- CERQUEIRA, D; LIMA, R.S., BUENO, S., NEME, C., FERREIRA, H., COELHO, D., ALVES, P., PINHEIRO, M., ASTOLFI, R., MARQUES, D., REIS, M., MORIAN, F. 2018. *Atlas da Violência*, IPEA and FBSP.
- FÓRUM BRASILEIRO DE SEGURANÇA PÚBLICA. Anuário Brasileiro de Segurança Pública. 11^o Edition. São Paulo: Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública, 2017.
- HERMAN, 2012. *Leda Maria. Maria da Penha Lei com nome de mulher: violência doméstica e familiar, considerações a lei Nº 11.340/2006, comentada artigo por artigo*. Campinas: Servanda Editora.
- CAMPOS, 2017. Carmen Hein de. *Criminologia Feminista: teoria feminista e crítica às criminologias*. 1.ed., Rio de Janeiro: Lumen Juris.
- FONSECA, 2013. Jairo Simon da; MARTINS, Gilberto de Andrade. *Curso de Estatística*. São Paulo: Atlas.
- FRANÇA, Marlene Helena de Oliveira, 2014. Criminalidade e prisão feminina. *Revista Ártemis*, v. XVIII, n. 1; p. 212-227.
- MENDES, 2017. Soraia da Rosa. *Criminologia feminista: novos paradigmas*. 2.ed., São Paulo: Saraiva.
- MIRALLES, Teresa, 2015. A mulher: O controle informal. In: BERGALLI, Roberto. *Pensamento criminológico II Estado e Controle*. 1.ed., Rio de Janeiro: Revan.
- MONTENEGRO, Marília, 2016. *Lei Maria da Penha: Uma análise criminológico-crítica*. Rio de Janeiro: Revan.
- NETTO, Helena Henkin Coelho; BORGES, Paulo César Correa. A Mulher e o Direito Penal Brasileiro: entre a criminalização pelo gênero e a ausência de tutela penal justificada pelo machismo. *Revista de Estudos Jurídicos UNESP*, v. 17, n. 25, 2013.
- PARÁ. Superintendência do Sistema Penitenciário do Pará – SUSIPE em números. Pará, Nov. 2018.
- RATTON, José Luiz; GALVÃO, Clarissa; ANDRADE, Rayane. Crime e gênero: controvérsias teóricas sobre a agência feminina. *Temas da sociologia contemporânea*. Rio de Janeiro: 7Letras, p. 177-196, 2012.
- RATTON, José Luiz; GALVÃO, Clarissa. Para além da maldade, da loucura e da vitimização: Agência intencional e volição em crimes violentos praticados por mulheres. *Civitas*, Porto Alegre, v. 16, n. 1, p. 26-41, jan.-mar. 2016.
- SANTOS, Hermílio. Mulheres como autoras de violência. *Civitas*, Porto Alegre, v. 16, n. 1, p. 42-58, jan.-mar. 2016.
- WEARE, Siobhan. “The mad”, “the bad”, “the victim”: gendered constructions of women who kill within the criminal justice system. *Laws*, v. 2, n. 3, p. 337-361, 2013.
- WALMSLEY, Roy. *World Female Imprisonment List*. Institute for Criminal Policy Research. 4th Edition, 2017.
