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KEY WORD : RECIDIVISM / FEMALE OFFENDERS

PATRAPORN WONGTHAI : FACTORS AFFECTING THE RECIDIVISM OF FEMALE OFFENDERS IN THE CENTRAL WOMEN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.

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The objective of the study is to find out the general features and factors affecting the recidivism of female offenders. The population used in this research was 160 female recidivists serving their imprisonments in the Central Women Correctional Institution. Questionnaires were used to collect data.

The findings of the study are as follow:

1. Most of the female recidivists are under 30 with primary school education. Most of them were divorced and they earned very little money. Before committing their crimes, they stayed with their parents.

2. Most of the offenses committed by the female recidivists involved drugs. The next most common were offenses involving property and the next were offenses involving life and body.

3. Causes of recidivism of female offenders are related to the offenses. The female offenders committing drug offenses were driven by the disire to hurt their families. The female offenders committing crime against property were motivated by their low income, and the motivation of crime against life and body was uncontrolable anger.

4. Ages, education, income, marital status, parents' marriage life, family relations, first offense having friend that broke the low, cigarette smoking, drinking alcohol, using addictive drugs, jail term, treatment by relatives/friends/neighbours/police officers, and the chance of having legal job are related to the recidivism.