

THE PSYCHOSOCIOLOGY OF THE DELINQUENT WOMEN IN ROMANIA

Mirela Cristiana NILĂ STRATONE*

Abstract

As a general definition, the personality is all psychological traits of the person, an assembly of the integrity, correlated with the unity of social roles of the individual who accompanying them the course of life.

The personality is both object and subject of individual development.

It is primarily a concept related to epoch, country, group, organization which it belongs the individual throughout his life.

Also, one can state that the personality is formed and evolves once with the action of external factors of environment, she does not exist aprioric thereof, and they are not strangers to the determinations of personality: this puts its mark on the environment, both categories coexisting.

This analysis represents an important segment of the study on the women offender profile in Romania. Social need of the knowledge of such a is clear profile accented of the dangerous character which it represents the woman offender in the Romanian society.

The aim of the present study consists in researching about the social and psychological profile of criminal women.

Keywords: *personality traits, bio-psycho-socio-cultural system, biopsychological components, social components, relapse.*

1. Introduction

The personality is, to the integral human level, a bio-psycho-socio-cultural system, which is fundamental under the conditions of the existence and activity in the early stages of individual development in society.¹

The human personality contains specific traits. These traits distinguish him from the behavioral point of view, of other individuals.

"In the defining of the personality, is frequently resorts to the formula: *the personality is unique and unrepeatable*. And the attribute of individuality attached of the personality, emphasizes this signification; the essence of the personality resulting from its particular features and their original articulation. And is manifested in the behavior of the individual, in his actions and interactions."²

The personality, along with the temperament, the skills, the character and the creativity, make up the system of the personality.

„The majority of the personality researchers have put into focus the relationship between structure and her conversion in behavior, emphasizing certain properties, traits, internal dynamics or characteristic factors which determines the individual behaviors. The trait itself may not to be directly measured, was resorting to the assessment of the behavior, reaching

to identify the personality with the pattern of behavior."³

For the study of criminogenesis, it was concluded that is needed a research of synergistic type.

Considering the fact that in terms of the basic characteristics of the personality of the delinquent there is no fundamental differences between sexes, the synergic perspective from which it is studied the personality of the delinquent involves⁴:

a) the clinical research for the reconstruction of the personal and pathological antecedents of the subject;

b) the paraclinically examinations having as main role the proof and the objectification of the clinical diagnosis, as well as the deepening of the etiopathogenesis some disturbances;

c) the biogenetic investigations having as premise the role of hereditary factors in the structuring of personality, and as aim the identifying concretely of the factors of heredity;

d) the neurofiziopathological interpretation for the explaining the causality of aggressive behavior manifestations with social resounding, related biopsychological conditions that exacerbate or trigger them;

e) the sociological research, which has two objectives: primarily, for the reconstitution of the delinquent structure personality and of the way in which was framed in the social environment, of the conflictual incidents and how they were solved and

* Mirela Cristiana Nilă Stratone, Lecturer, PhD, Faculty of Administrative and Social Sciences, "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest (e-mail: mrl_cristiana@yahoo.com).

¹Banciu D., Rădulescu S.M., Teodorescu V. – *Tendențe actuale ale crimei și criminalității în România*, (București, Lumina Lex, 2002), p. 144.

²Neculau A.(coord.) -*Psihologie socială*, (Iași, Polirom, 1996), p. 154.

³*Ibidem*.

⁴Mitrofan N., Zdrenghea V., Butoi T. -*Psihologie Judiciară*, (București, Șansa, 1992), p. 48.

secondly, for the orientation of the possibilities to rebalancing and social reinsertion;

f) the medical-legal resolving, namely the providing of the medical-legal objective data, on which basis is concluded on the state of imputability (awareness, discernment).

Such a transdisciplinary approach of deviant behaviors plays a crucial role in the avoidance of the judiciary errors and contributes to the penitentiary treatment also past-executional, so at re-socialization and reintegration.

The personality components and the personality types make up two basic perspectives in personality analysis.

2. Content

Biopsychological components

In the book „*Psihologie judiciară*“ (op. Cit.1992) N.Mitrofan, T. Butoi and V. Zdrengea, they considered the qualities and deficiencies of a person as being determinants in the constitution of personality. Thus, we can talk about positive or negative issues concerning to the person's health and his physical appearance. The physical appearance matter very much to women, the basic condition is to be a proper health. A deficiency in this sense creates frustrations, which could lead in many cases to deviant behaviors. There are known cases of murder or causative of death blows, with author women who use such acts out of jealousy or envy. Frequently, the inferiority concerning health or physical appearance appears compensated in activity. This one takes shape as a "revenge" and falls within the criminality sphere. This one does not mean that men do not support inferiority complexes in case the major deficiencies of the body prevents them to be happy.

In terms of the temperament of the women who arrive in the situation to execute a custodial punishment, it should be noted that in most cases studied, this present lability. The psychic life of the prisoner women suffers multiple and brutal transformations, starting with the placement into prison and continuing up to the end of its life. She will support rapid changes from a peaceful inner state at a agitated state, and each of these statuses can operate sometimes more, sometimes less. Everything is as a disorder, which can lead to the abnormal statuses which enter frequently in the pathological area.

The relation attitudes-aptitudes is conditioned by the aptitudinal endowment of the personality. In the case of the delinquents we find talented, skillful, intelligent womens, who decided that the area of their activity is prohibited, thus manifesting itself socially negative. We encounter womens as economist or accountant, lawyer or doctor by profession etc. in whose case, the talent in the profession practiced was the nucleus on which to build a criminal career: embezzlements, frauds of public documents or private, funds embezzlement, biased decisions and sometimes

the refusal to exercise the profession without receiving in advance illegal benefits. In any situation, the talent, intelligence, skill, are dependent on individually attitude who can orient their efforts on a positive or negative track of social point of view. The result is weighed until at a certain moment, on a case by case in illicit gainings and freedom.

Social components

The essential features that are retrieved permanently in the work of the individual and not support significant changes, make up the character, a personality's structure that emerges as an effect of the social environment action, the education, with a decisive role in shaping the behavior.

The behavior models imposed by society forces the person to choose some attitudes both towards self and towards others, work, life, etc.

It can be said that the attitude as the foundation of the character, contribute to the formation of the personality, balanced or deviant, as is oriented the activity: in a positively or negatively sense.

Personality traits

In the book „*Psihologia comportamentului deviant*“ (op. cit., 1994), the psychologist Ruxandra Rascanu starts from the idea according to which the personality traits are variable, they evolve lifelong of the individual, due to the influences which it receives from the environmental area, with which are in constant contact.

In this process, the personality suffer emphasis of the existing traits or impairments and their improvements, and the acquiring of new traits.

Regarding the characteristic traits of the individual's personality, they appear as trends of reaction, relatively permanent.

The traits can be cause but also effect of individual behavior. A mother who abandons her child (behavior) is immoral (trait). The cause of her behavior is located in immorality, but also this trait is it accentuated due to the act committed.

An individual has a lot of traits, positive or negative, but his personality is formed depending on some features. These acquired supremacy over the others, becoming dominants and giving specificity his personality.

Personality types

The superior organization of personality we encounter it in form of type or style.

The first to have separated the personality types was Hippocrates (sec.V î.e.n.). He „chose as a criterion of its typology, the predominance of one with the four humors of the human body (blood, black bile, yellow bile, phlegm), stipulating therefore, the existence of

four fundamental temperamental types: sanguine, melancholic, choleric, phlegmatic.”⁵

Another typology of reference in history is determined by C.G. Jung, who starting from purely psychological premises, finds two personality types namely: extroverts and introverts. Both attitudes are found to every individual, but depending on case, only one orientation is dominant and conscious, subordinating it the other. These types are found to extreme one of each other. Jung tries to explain the existence of a third type, ambivert, that it lies between the two extremes, but he characterized so rigid each of the two types, extroverted and introverted, so that creates the sensation of template, of pure type that does not finds its correspondent in reality.

Another idea that emerges from Jung's typology is that the extroverted person is generally a person with negative traits, willing at social deviance, while the introverted is present to the opposite pole.

H. J. Eysenck is trying a similar typology with Jung's style. He explains which are the characteristics of each of the two categories, the extraverts and the introverts, separating them, placing them in completely separate groups, but still recognizing that geographical space offers surprises, in the sense that the delinquents have different characteristics depending, among others, of area.

Most interestingly, the most widespread, and most difficult to studied remains the intermediate type of personality (ambivert).

Of metaphysically point of view, the personality typologies helps us to study deeply the criminal behavior, but remains essential the reference to individualization, as in case for punishment granted for offense.

The psychology of women offender

The psychology of the detained person, as a result of collective social action; In contrast, the deviance that doesn't come in the form of the individual personality, but at the level of groups, through the social behaviors unsupported by the community, presents itself as a group phenomenon.

First, the expression of a mental illness on an individual level has its origin in the manifestation and the influence of a community.

Secondly, the deviance refers to the person as a social actor, the study being realized customized. The prisoner who will have some degree of mental illness is not considered deviant by the origin of her disorder, but through their membership (solidarity, socialize, sodalite) considered deviant to the group. The manifestations to such a group should not always reach criminal situations, staying in the uncriminal deviance area.

Therefore it can be stated that the group effect exist and it manifests previously the individual mental

debility, largely resulting the action, sitting right at its origin.

Mostly, the prisoners located in the Romanian prisons, motivate their act as a result of the discrepancy between their goals (for which, in Romania, increasingly concerns to a decent living standard or even below) and the resources that society gives to achieve those goals.

In „*Psihologie penitenciară*” (op. cit.2001), Gh. Florian presents the deviance among others, as a result of the crisis of inadequacy, calling the Merton's theory: „the deviance results from the dissociation between social structure and the methods to which the person can call to achieve goals“.

The entry into the prison, for a woman means deep estrangement who was not prepared for ever. It is as if that would enter through a black hole into another dimension, but instead of meeting the fascination, the unknown suspect just from the reading fiction, she meets all that is grotesque for a woman: the lack of privacy, new rules for hygiene (a certain hygienie, that she needs to learn and accept), the slang in the most trivial forms.

The personality of the newly detained will suddenly become strong vulnerable amid the disharmony in front of an explosion of the frustrations coming from behind. placed face to face with lack of defense vis-à-vis the new rules imposed of the quarantine, which will be decisive in the new social networking.

The shock manifests at all levels of personality, the lack of affection generating bitterness, the lack of esteem leading to the undue need for esteem, all on the background of prison overcrowding, a phenomenon that underlies the feelings of anger, hatred, contempt, revenge, etc. It is necessary to specify that the overcrowding arises at the time of the exceeding the possibilities for accommodation in penitentiary institution.

But the phenomenon is present even in the cells where are unoccupied beds: the lack of the intimate space from home, the lack of hygiene, comfort and nourishment of which the individual has benefited before submitting in the detention space, the presence of strangers, and special conditions not yet accepted (for some people the conditions offered by the prison can not be accepted in full never by the end of the sentence), the presence of foreign and unpleasant smell, does not differ much from situations where all the seats in ceell were occupied.

All this will be added to an inevitable psychological collapse that will generate more aggressive causing emotional intolerance towards the detention environment.

However, on the psychic prisoners will act "the walls complex": the owned will become more withdrawn, supporting a strong process of restraint, and if she won't have enough resources to remain in

⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 53.

this state, she will exteriorize, adhering to the condition of prisoners, finally socializing at the prison culture.

Along it's the prison includes:

- the adaptation phase, when the perso lodged in prison feels fear and the need to obey, amid the feelings of loneliness, abandonment from those left out, helplessness;

- the adaptation stage is the stage in which the prisoner passes through the process of socialize in the prison subculture, internalizing both desirable rules of prison custody, that will try to exploit them in the interest, by blackmailing, streams, spreading rumors, lies, etc. as well as the norms and values promoted by the group of detention in part, aiming also personal interests;

- the participation stage, where the prisoner feels no longer alone, but much more self-confident; there is already a network of interpersonal relations between her and the rest of prisoners on the one hand and between her and prison staff on the other;

- the integration stage, when the owned strongly feels the need of membership of the group to which it belongs, adhere to common goals and has a particular status within the group (social integration); psychosocial, the prisoner support easier the stress, tensions will annihilate largely (psychosocial integration); as representative of the group detained in which is part of, it will be the bearer of basic personality characteristics, will represent a "sociotip" bearer of valence group (subcultural integration); from this step it starts to the reintegration, or vice versa, to the repetition: some women realize their benefits if they make efforts to re-socialization - work, participation in rehabilitation activities, participation in training courses - and are preparing for release, because they want and favors them and other realize that is more comfortable to live in prison and they integrate to way of life so well, that after serving their sentences will return knowingly in the prison environment where the shock of the submission in the quarantine won't exist, they being already "hardened" for what they expect.

The psychological changes and the disharmonic manifestations of the prisoners personality, we encounter throughout the prison process, whose steps will be detailed in terms of prison treatment in the last chapter of the book.

The psychosociology of the relapse in Romania

I have shown above what the shock effects of the submission in the prison are, particularly for a woman serving a prison sentence. However, some of them relapse, so occurs the relapse.

The relapse exists and gives major problems due to the failure treatment of the prison, more exactly it is a symbol of the impotence of resocialization work in the prison.

For perfecting the prison treatment methods, many experts have classified the recidivists in: casual

and marginal, pseudo-offenders, ordinary offenders, offenders of habit.

There are two types of theories among the criminal: retributiviste theories aiming a proportional relation between punishment and unlawful act for which it will be applied also the utilitarian theories, oriented to the results and long-term effects of punishment.

Regarding the application of the punishment, this is part of some models of penalty: occasional female offenders to whom it applies usual treatment of intimidation, those considered suitable for straightening, that receive a reeducational sentence, dangerous delinquents that requires a large penalty which include neutralization.

One aspect that is worth taking into account is the one of explaining the situations of prison failure treatment, which mostly lead to relapse, but especially the investigation of the contemporary causes from the Romanian criminal area.

Thus, the social factors have acquired a special scale in the today Romania regarding to the criminal causation and the relapse versus with psychological factors, on which has been focused so far, as those on which action must be taken.

The prison treatment focuses primarily on psychological counseling, rehabilitation programs are limited to spatial temporality prison, reintegration being only a theoretical aspect shy introduced in records and without the ability to be used, on the one hand because of the shortcomings of the existing legal framework and on the other hand because pf the social workers – the sociologists, social workers - who are undervalued at the prison and not only, for psychologists, seen as a "do-totum", asking them to resolve all the problems, and finally they support the the criticisms of the failures on psycho-socio-cultural plan.

The social factors are the ones that lead some women to achieve immediate goals through illicit means, Romanian company offering quite difficult living conditions for women, mainly due to the difficult economic situation.

There are certainly women who relapse of mental causes, but their number is illustrative for us to focus for the most part on psychiatric or psychological researches.

Of course, it is necessary the departure from the psychological analysis of recidivism, but it is imperative the sociological analysis, so a further research by highlighting all the social factors that contribute to the etiology of the crime by setting concrete goals and aspirations of former prisoners under today Romania's concrete conditions and through the revaluation of the methods and the the possibilities of achieving these goals.

Obviously, it will lead to the precarious economic situation, the social protection system and legislative deficiencies, too.

Last but not the least, it appears the need to focus in the context described above, on a reconsideration of the concept of reinsertion, as well as a review of the current dimensions of reintegration of the persons released from prison, but particularly women, major or minor, being repeat offenders in smaller numbers than men and minors back in the detention.

At the same time, it requires a forecast regarding to the reintegration, through it offering to the prisoners, among others, during treatment resocialization, some clarity on the future, which will inevitably lead to trust and hope, problem elements within the group of detention, as already has been pointed out in this paper.

3. Conclusions

Following studies conducted by researchers who initiated this area, which I would call without mistakes, founders, and the study carried out by me personally in Romania, we can conclude:

– the components of the personality of women offender are in interdependent relationship;

– the society provides the appropriate framework for the commission of offenses;

– the society is the product of human awareness, of the human individual character, it is the result of our development throughout history.

„Regardless of the type of society we have absolute relationships, fixed, in terms of the human personality. This does not mean that everything is absolutely, constant. Of course, we have variable elements, but they refer in particular to the types of expression of delinquent behavior, attitudes and interpersonal relationships.

Scholars who reject any biological explanation and explain the numerical sex differential purely in terms of social conditions are more numerous. Still other researchers have concentrated on the study of certain characteristics of female offenders such as health, intelligence, exposure to economic pressure, and an unfavorable home environment.

We concludes that the amount of female crime has been greatly underestimated by traditional opinion and that the criminality of women reflects their biological nature in a given cultural setting.”⁶

References

- Banciu D., Rădulescu S.M., Teodorescu V. – Tendințe actuale ale crimei și criminalității în România, (București, Lumina Lex, 2002).
- Dahrendorf, R., Essays in the theory of society, (Stanford, University Press, 1968).
- Gheorghe Florian, Psihologie penitenciară, (București, Oscar Print, 2001).
- Mitrofan N., Zdrenghia V., Butoi T. -Psihologie Judiciară, (București, Șansa, 1992).
- Neculau A.(coord.) -Psihologie socială, (Iași, Polirom, 1996).
- Rădulescu, Sorin M., Devianță, criminalitate și patologii sociale, (București, Lumina Lex, 1999)
- Rășcanu Ruxandra, Psihologia comportamentului deviant, (București, Ed. Universității București, 1994).
- Robert Bierstedt, The Social Order, (New York, Fourth Edition, 1974).
- <https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=134222>

⁶ <https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID>