

**SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF FEMALE CRIMINALS AT THE  
KAJANG WOMEN PRISON, MALAYSIA**



**RESEARCH MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (RMI)  
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA  
40450 SHAH ALAM, SELANGOR  
MALAYSIA**

**BY :**

<b>HEAD OF PROJECT:</b>	<b>RACHEL SAMUEL</b>
<b>MEMBER 1:</b>	<b>ROAIMAH OMAR</b>
<b>MEMBER 2:</b>	<b>ROHANA ARIFFIN</b>

**MAY 2012**

Table of Contents

1. Letter of Report Submission.....

2. Letter of Offer (Research Grant) .....

3. Acknowledgements.....

4. Enhanced Research Title and Objectives.....

5. Report.....

5.1 Proposed Executive Summary.....

5.2 Enhanced Executive Summary .....

5.3 Introduction.....

5.4 Brief Literature Review.....

5.5 Methodology .....

5.6 Results and Discussion.....

5.7 Conclusion and Recommendation .....

5.8 References/Bibliography .....

6. Research Outcomes .....

7. Appendix.....

Rujukan Kami : 600-RMI/SSPDANA 5/3/Dsp (266/2009)  
Tarikh : 20 Januari 2010



Prof. Madya Dr Rachel Samuel a/p Samuel  
Ketua Projek

Prof. Madya Dr Roaimah binti Omar  
Ahli Projek

Fakulti Pengurusan Perniagaan  
UITM MELAKA

Prof. Madya Dr Rohana Ariffin  
Ahli Projek  
Kolej Uniti, Petaling Jaya  
d/a Prof. Madya Dr Rachel Samuel a/p Samuel  
Fakulti Pengurusan Perniagaan  
UITM MELAKA

Puan

**KELULUSAN PERMOHONAN DANA KECEMERLANGAN FASA 03/2009**  
**TAJUK PROJEK : PROFILING FEMALE CRIMINALS IN THE MALAYSIA PRISONS**

Dengan segala hormatnya perkara di atas adalah dirujuk.

Dengan sukacitanya, Institut Pengurusan Penyelidikan (RMI) mengucapkan tahniah kepada puan kerana telah berjaya ditawarkan Geran Dana Kecemerlangan bagi projek penyelidikan tersebut tertakluk kepada syarat-syarat dalam lampiran.

Tempoh projek penyelidikan ini ialah dua (2) tahun, iaitu bermula 01 Januari 2010 hingga 31 Disember 2011. Peruntukan yang diluluskan ialah sebanyak RM20,000.00 sahaja bagi Kategori A. Puan diminta mengemukakan kertas cadangan penyelidikan beserta bajet yang baru seperti yang dicadangkan dan bersesuaian dengan jumlah kelulusan yang telah diluluskan.

Sekian, harap maklum dan terima kasih.

**"SELAMAT MENJALANKAN PENYELIDIKAN DENGAN JAYANYA"**

Yang benar

**MUSTAFAR KAMAL HAMZAH**

Ketua INFOREC

Merangkap Ketua Penyelidikan (Sains dan Teknologi)

- s.k. 1. Pengarah, UITM MELAKA  
2. Puan Rosnani Abdul Razak, Penolong Bendahari  
Unit Kewangan Zon 17 (Penyelidikan)

RAM/CS

Pencawang Naib Canselor (Penyelidikan) : 603-5544 2094/2095  
Bahagian Penyelidikan : 603-5544 2097/2091/2098/5521 1462  
Bahagian Perundingan : 603-5544 2100/2753/2092  
Bahagian Inovasi : 603-5544 2750/2747

Bahagian Penerbitan : 603-5544 1425/5544 2747  
Bahagian Sokongan ICT : 603-5544 3097/2104/5521 1461  
Bahagian Sains : 603-5544 2993/5521 1463  
Pejabat Am : 603-5544 2093/2101/2057/2559

Penolong Pentadbiran : 603-5544 2090  
Fax : 603-5544 2096/2767  
Unit Kewangan Zon 17 : 603-5544 3404  
603-5521 1335



Research Management Institute (RMI) Universiti Teknologi MARA, 40450 Shah Alam, Malaysia  
<http://www.rmi.uitm.edu.my>



## **5.2 Enhanced Executive Summary**

Crime rates have increased significantly over recent months and years, specifically urban crime rate. The number of females incarcerated in Malaysian prisons grew from 2909 in 1998 to 3511 in the year 2000 (15.07 rate per 100,000 inhabitants) (Malaysian Crime Index, 2002). A total of 34 female prisoners were interviewed face-to-face at the Kajang Prison to explore their socio-demographic characteristics and family background. Incarcerated females at the Kajang Prison are mainly charged for possession and usage of various forms of drugs. Recidivism was only seen in the female drug dependents, some of whom had been in and out of prison more than five times. The women were mainly in the 30-39 age group and had been married before, though a higher proportion were divorced at the time of interview. All those who were married had children. The imprisonment seems harder on these women as they are totally dependent on the support system to care for their children. In majority of the cases, there is no contact with the younger children and strained relationships with the older children. In many cases, both the female and her husband/boyfriend were both in prison as crime was carried out together with one part abetting with the other. About half the women grew up in broken homes. A higher percentage of the women had fathers who were unpleasant and were physically and emotionally absent during their growing up years. These women who have ended up in prison after having grown up in broken homes currently have children who are also in broken homes as their mothers and at times, their fathers too, are absent from their lives. Hence, the cycle of violence continues.

### 5.3 Introduction

The criminal behavior of women has been studied less than that of men. This could be because women commit fewer crimes than men, especially violent offences, and also because female crime would typically be carried out in private and domestic spheres. In addition, women's roles as mothers, society's taboo towards female violence and consequent denial have possibly reduced the concern of this issue. In Malaysia, out of 39, 258 prisoners in 2008, only 9% were females (Malaysian Stats, 2009).

Historically, women have been more likely to commit minor offenses and have made up only a small proportion of the offender population. It is generally accepted that women commit a small share of all crimes, which are less serious and less professional in nature, resulting in their smaller representation within the criminal justice system (Heidensohn, 1994). This suggests that gender may be of greater statistical significance in differentiating between criminals and non-criminals than any other characteristic (Worrall, 2001). However, globally, there is a rising trend in the percentage of female offenders and their participation in violent crime. The increase is related to personality characteristics, substance misuse and prior criminal behavior of the offenders (Putkonen, Komulainen, Virkkunen, Eronen & Lonnqvist, 2003).

Though the numbers of the offenders seem insignificant, this research was carried out to have an in-depth understanding of who the female offenders in Malaysia are and what types of crimes are they incarcerated for. More than half of the female prison population in Malaysia is made up of foreigners from poorer neighboring countries with immigration offenses being the highest in terms of committed crimes. The focus of this research however was only the Malaysian female offenders, which makes up a much smaller percentage than the 9% stated above.