

Identifying Patterns/Drivers in Women Criminals

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ABSTRACT

The general notion of women, who are usually regarded as caregivers and nurturers, can kill in cold blood is difficult to accept in Indian society. Despite the belief that murders are mostly male-perpetrated, women are often also culprits, killing with the same heartlessness as any male killer. As is the case with other aspects of life, it is often seen that the motivations of women killers are different from their male peers. While many male criminals are driven by sadism, sex, violence and lust, women's motivations are found to be mostly economic in nature. Predominantly many Motives are common, to both genders are greed and mental imbalance.

This present paper is an attempt to study different aspects of women criminal with parameters or drivers such as Education, Family Background, Social Status, Personal life, and any history of sufferings Mentally or Physically. This paper also focuses on various Modus Operandi adopted by Such Women. The Study will help Criminologist and Forensic Psychologist to understand the reason why a woman who is supposed to be caregiver is able to take away the life in cruel manner. The study will help to prevent / handle such women from committing such offences by Knowing the psychology and motive behind a criminal mind.

Keywords: Forensic Psychology, women, female criminals, murders

INTRODUCTION:

The present paper titled "Identifying Patterns / Drivers in Women Criminal" aims to study psychology behind those famous female criminals in India through their case

study. The women Taken for study have committed crime in the most heinous and unusual manner. The authors wanted to understand the Psychology and circumstances behind these female criminals. The data has been collected from the information available in different Internet websites and collated. The present study is about twelve such women Murderers who have been in news for their crime.

Murder IPC definitions:

According to section 300 of Indian penal code, except in the cases hereinafter excepted, culpable homicide is murder, if the act by which the death is caused is done with the intention of causing death,

-or-

If it is done with the intention of causing such bodily injury as the offender knows to be likely to cause the death of the person to whom the harm is caused, or-

-or-

If it is done with the intention of causing bodily injury to any person and the bodily injury intended to be inflicted is sufficient in the ordinary course of nature to cause death,

-or-

If the person committing the act knows that it is so imminently dangerous that it must, in all probability, cause death, or such bodily injury as is likely to cause death, and commits such act without any excuse for incurring the risk of causing death or such injury as aforesaid.

Case sections have been provided in Table 1:

Section	Offence	Punishment	Cognizable or non-cognizable	Bailable or non-bailable	By what court triable
302 IPC	Murder	Death, or imprisonment for life, and fine	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
303 IPC	Murder by a person under sentence of imprisonment for life.	Death, or imprisonment for life, and fine	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
304 IPC	Culpable homicide not amounting to murder, if act by which the death is caused is done with intention of causing death, etc.	Imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for 10 years and fine.	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
304A IPC	Causing death by rash or negligence act.	Imprisonment for 2 years or fine, or both.	Cognizable	Bailable	Magistrate of the first class
304B IPC	Dowry death	Imprisonment of not less than seven years but which may extend to imprisonment for life.	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
305 IPC	Abetment of suicide committed by child, or insane or delirious person or an idiot, or a person intoxicated.	Death, or imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for 10 years and fine.	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
306 IPC	Abetting the commission of suicide	Imprisonment for 10 years and fine	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
307 IPC	Attempt to murder	Imprisonment for 10 years and fine	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
	If such act causes hurt to any person.	Imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for 10 years and fine.	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
	Attempt by life-convict to murder, if hurt is caused.	Death or imprisonment for 10 years and fine.	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
308 IPC	Attempt to commit culpable homicide.	Imprisonment for 3 years, or fine, or both.	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
	If such act causes hurt to any person.	Imprisonment for 7 years, or fine, or both.	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
309 IPC	Attempt to commit suicide	Simple imprisonment for 1 year, or fine, or both.	Cognizable	Bailable	Any Magistrate.

Section	Offence	Punishment	Cognizable or non-cognizable	Bailable or non-bailable	By what court triable
311 IPC	Being a thug	Imprisonment for life and fine.	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
312 IPC	Causing miscarriage	Imprisonment for 3 years, fine, or both.	Non-cognizable	Bailable	Magistrate of the first class
	If the woman be quick with child	Imprisonment for 7 years and fine.	Non-cognizable	Bailable	Magistrate of the first class
313 IPC	Causing miscarriage without woman's consent.	Imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for 10 years and fine.	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session.
314 IPC	Death caused by an act done with intent to cause miscarriage.	Imprisonment for 10 years and fine.	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
	If act done without woman's consent.	Imprisonment for life, or as above.	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
315 IPC	Act done with intent to prevent a child being born alive, or to cause it to die after its birth.	Imprisonment for 10 years or fine, or both.	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
316 IPC	Causing death of a quick unborn child by an act amounting to culpable homicide.	Imprisonment for 10 years and fine.	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Court of Session
317 IPC	Exposure of a child under 12 years of age by parent or person having care of it with intention of wholly abandoning it.	Imprisonment for 7 years, or fine, or both.	Cognizable	Bailable	Magistrate of the first class
318 IPC	Concealment of birth by secret disposal of dead body.	Imprisonment for 2 years, or fine, or both.	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Magistrate of the first class

Table 1
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECT

Unlike male serial killers who are frequently driven by sexual lust, female serial murderers tend to take a much more

pragmatic approach to their killings. Female serial killers are much more likely than males to kill for profit or revenge, and, therefore, they are more likely to fall into the category of a hedonist. There is a

popularly held myth that serial killers are all men. This notion is simply not true, but it is understandable why many people would hold this erroneous belief. In fact, sexual or sadistic motives are extremely rare among female serial murderers. Psychopathic traits and histories of childhood abuse are often found among the very few female serial killers who have sexual or sadistic motives. Female serial killers are much more likely than males to kill for profit or revenge, and, therefore, they are more likely to fall into the category of a hedonist comfort/gain killer than any other type. Although they comprise less than 15 percent of all serial killers, females are very effective in their work and they typically use quieter and less messy methods to kill than their male counterparts. The methods they use for murder are more covert or low-profile, such as murder by poisoning, which was the preferred choice or modus operandi of female serial killers in the research study. Other methods of murder that were also identified in the study of female serial killers include shooting, stabbing, suffocate. Other methods of murder that were also identified in the study of female serial killers include shooting, stabbing, suffocation, and drowning. Female comfort/gain killers are frequently involved in theft, fraud, or embezzlement prior to becoming serial killers due to their interest in material things. Although most female serial killers murder for money or other profit, some do it for the attention and sympathy they receive following the death of someone they cared for. Female serial killers generally operate in a specific place that they know well, such as their home or a health care facility where they are employed. They rarely go trolling for victims out in the open as male serial killers often do, but rather find victims in their family or workplace.

Occasionally, a female serial killer will become involved with a male serial killer as part of a serial killing team. In such instances, the female will typically be the more submissive of the two and help to

select victims in order to please her dominant male partner. Contrary to preconceived notions about women being incapable of these extreme crimes, the women in our study poisoned, smothered, burned, choked, shot, bludgeoned, and shot newborns, children, elderly, and ill people as well as healthy adults; most often those who knew and likely trusted them.

IMPORTANT CASE STUDIES

TroilokyaTarini Devi

- **Education:** Unknown
- **Family background:** Unknown
- **Social status:** Low
- **Social life:** Sex worker, con woman, serial murderers.
- **Presence at social media:** Unknown
- **Mental and physical health status:** Aggrieved & Medium Built.
- **Kids/married/love-marriage/arranged marriage:** Widow (old husband), remarried lover Kali Babu and adopted his kid Hari.
- **Number of Victims &Victim type:** Killed 5 women over period of 3 years
- **Modus Operandi:** Drowning
- **Location type:** Kakkoorgrachi, Calcutta
- *The Calcutta High Court soon convicted her and she was hanged to death in 1884.*

K.D Kempammaaka aka Cynaide Mallika

The first reported case of serial killing by a woman in modern India

- **Education:** Unknown
- **Family background:** Poor background
- **Social status:** Low
- **Social life:** Domestic worker and Gold Smith's assistant.
- **Presence at social media:** Unknown
- **Mental and physical health status:** Unknown
- **Kids/married/love-marriage/arranged marriage:** Married a tailor, but was abandoned by her husband in 1998. Her husband left her after Kempamma's chit fund business took large losses. Her

husband threw her out of the house. She has three children.

- **Number of Victims & Victim type:** Murdered multiple women and but got convicted for 6 murders only.
- **Modus Operandi:** Poisoning by Cyanide
- **Location type:** Karnataka
- *She was caught by police trying to dispose of the jewellery and confessed under interrogation. She was the first woman to be sentenced to death in Karnataka. As a young and ambitious girl, KD Kempamma was married to a tailor of a simple background, but a simple life was not her cup of tea. Intensely ambitious Kempamma always craved the luxuries of wealth. Even if her purpose for committing the murders might have been the bait of wealth, her transformation as a deadly criminal may lie in some of the earlier pieces of her less-known life. Before the murders, Kempamma had a chit fund that crashed after a short period. After that, she left her family and struggled with several low-paying jobs as domestic help and an assistant to a goldsmith. And it was probably during this time, she realized that crime was an easy step into wealth. The financial burden of her condition might be formed to be a purpose for her upcoming illegal deeds.*

Renuka Shinde, Seema Gavit and Anjanabai Gavit

- A. Seema Mohan Gavit, born in 1975 (age 46-47 yrs) in Pune, India
- B. Renuka Shinde, born in 1973 (age 48-49 yrs old) in Pune, India
- C. Anjanabai Gavit was mother of Seema Mohan Gavit and Renuka Shinde
 - **Education:** Unknown
 - **Family background:** Unknown
 - **Social status:** Low
 - **Social life:** Unknown
 - **Presence at social media:** Unknown
 - **Mental and physical health status:** Unknown

- **Kids/married/love-marriage/arranged marriage:** Hailing from Nashik, Anjanabai had fled to Pune with a truck driver, who deserted her soon after Renuka was born in 1973. Mother and daughter most probably survived by stealing. Anjanabai later married Mohan Gavit, a retired soldier, following which Seema was born in 1975. Mohan Gavit ultimately abandoned his wife and daughter and remarried. The trio continued stealing, with the younger daughter sometimes being used as bait. Elder sister Renuka get married in 1989 to Kiran Shinde, a tailor working in Pune, at a temple near Shirdi
- **Number of Victims & Victim type:** 5 (murder) and 13(kidnapings) of children
- **Modus Operandi:** Brutally killed (bashed heads, starved of death, thrown off the stairs etc.
- **Location type:** Western Maharashtra
- *The Bombay High Court ultimately commuted their death sentence to life imprisonment in 2022. The sisters currently remain lodged at Yerwanda jail in Pune. Had their original sentences been carried out, the sisters would have been the first women to be executed in India since 1955. The reason for kidnapping the children was to take them to crowded places where one of the trio would try to steal people's belongings. If the thief was caught, she would either try to evoke sympathy through the child, or create a distraction by hurting it. The kidnapped child would later be killed.*

Neha/Neah Verma

First woman that was to be hanged in India.

- **Education:** Unknown
- **Family background:** Unknown
- **Social status:** Low
- **Social life:** Beautician, murderer
- **Presence at social media:** Unknown
- **Mental and physical health status:** Unknown

- **Kids/married/love-marriage/arranged marriage:** Unmarried
- Number of Victims & Victim type: Murdered 3 members of Deshpande family –
 - i. Ashlesha Deshpande (21)
 - ii. Her mother Megha (42)
 - iii. Grandmother Rohini Padhke (70)
- **Modus Operandi:** Shooting, stabbing with knife multiple times
- **Location type:** Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- *Almost two-and-half year after the incident, the district court here in a landmark judgement on December 13, 2013 had awarded death sentence to all three accused, convicting them for murder, dacoity and trespass. Neha Verma is currently lodged in the Indore Central Jail. The jailers are deeply troubled by her attitude. But recently on International Women's Day, Neha awarded by Dr.Vartika Nanda's Tinka-Tinka Foundation. While in prison, she learned the work of zardozi and taught other women, apart from taking a beauty parlor course and taught other female prisoners to be clean.*

Jolly Joseph

- **Education:** First year college drop out.
- **Family background:** Unknown
- **Social status:** middle class
- **Social life:** Faked that she was M.com graduate and had job in NIT, Calicut but her true whereabouts about her real job remains uncertain.
- **Presence at social media:** Unknown
- **Mental and physical health status:** Unknown
- **Kids/married/love-marriage/arranged marriage:** She married her first husband Roy Thomas in 1997. Jolly and Roy had two sons, now aged 15 and 21. In 2011, her husband Roy Thomas died under mysterious circumstances. Following the death of Shaju Zachariah's wife in 2016, Jolly married Shaju.

- **Number of Victims & Victim type:** Killed 6 members of the family she was married into.
- **Modus Operandi:** Cyanide poisoning
- **Location type:** Kozhikode district of Kerala state in southern India.
- *She allegedly obtained the cyanide with the help of M. S. Mathew and Praji Kumar, who have also been arrested. It was Rojo Thomas, Roy Thomas' brother, who complained to the police about the six unnatural deaths whose investigation led to Jolly Joseph. Following her arrest in October 2019, Jolly has confessed to using cyanide to kill the six people.*

Phoolan Devi as Bandit Queen

- **Education:** Uneducated, never went to school.
- **Family background:** Poor family background, father did farming on very small part of land in Jalaun district in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Social status:** Low social status
- **Social life:** Human right activist, dacoit, politician
- **Presence at social media:** Unknown
- **Mental and physical health status:** Unknown
- **Kids/married/love-marriage/arranged marriage:** Spouses- Umed Singh (*Love marriage*), Vikram Mallah (*Affair while Vikram was married*), Puttilal Mallah (*Arrange Marriage*) and No Kids.
- **Number of Victims & Victim type:** 48 Crimes including 30 charges of dacoity and kidnapping
- **Modus Operandi:** Dacoity and Kidnapping with the help of gang members.
- **Location type:** Across Bundelkhand, which straddles the border between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- *Phoolan was charged with as many as forty-eight crimes, including thirty charges of dacoity (banditry) and kidnapping. Her trial was delayed for eleven years, during which time she remained in prison as an undertrial.*

During this period, she was operated on for ovarian cysts and underwent a hysterectomy was finally released on parole in 1994 after intercession by Vishambhar Prasad nishad, the leader of the Nishadha community (another name for the Mallah community of boatmen and fisherfolk). The Government of Uttar Pradesh, led by Mulayam Singh Yadav, withdrew all cases against her. This move shocked the country and became a matter of public discussion and controversy.

- **Death of Phoolan Devi:** At 1:30 p.m. on 25 July 2001, Devi was shot dead by three masked gunmen outside of her Delhi bungalow. She was hit nine times, variously in the head, chest, shoulder, and right arm. Her personal security guard, Balinder Singh, was shot in his right chest and right arm. Devi was taken to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, but was declared dead.
- **Perpetrator of Phoolan Devi's Death:** The prime suspect, Sher Singh Rana later surrendered to the police. Rana allegedly claimed to have murdered Devi in revenge for the upper-caste men she gunned down in the Behmai massacre. In the latest ruling, on 14 August 2014, the court sentenced Rana to life in prison and a fine.

Shabnam Ali

- **Education:** Double M.A in English and Geography
- **Family background:** Well to do Landholders and father was an Arts teacher in the Local college.
- **Social status:** Middle
- **Social life:** Worked as School teacher
- **Presence at social media:** Unknown
- **Mental and physical health status:** Unknown
- **Kids/married/love-marriage/arranged marriage:** 7 weeks pregnant with her lover Salim's child.
- **Number of Victims & Victim type:** Killed seven members of her family —

her mother, father, two brothers, sister-in-law, cousin and 10-month-old nephew.

- **Modus Operandi:** Serving milk laced with poison and then slitting their throats.
- **Location type:** Bawankheri village, U.P
- **Motive for murder:** Shabnam's family were against her relationship with Salim since they were family of landholders and Shabnam was also educated while Saleem was 6th standard dropout daily wage earner, and because of this despite In their socio-economic background, there was dispute in the family and therefore she killed her family, while, she was 7 weeks pregnant.
- *She is India's first death row convict to be hanged. Shabnam and Saleem were sentenced to death in 2010 by sessions court in Amroha, U.P. Over the next 11 years, Shabnam went to Allahabad High Court, the President, and twice appealed to Supreme Court. In January 2021, her appeal was rejected by Supreme Court.*

Lala Wanh aka India's Lady Bluebeard

- **Education:** Uneducated
- **Family background:** Unknown
- **Social status:** Unknown
- **Social life:** Unknown
- **Presence at social media:** Unknown
- **Mental and physical health status:** Unknown
- **Kids/married/love-marriage/arranged marriage:** No kids and for the first time she got married at the age of 14 (arrange marriage) followed my marrying 17 times in 6 years.
- **Number of Victims & Victim type:** Murdered 17 Husbands of hers.
- **Modus Operandi:** Killed other 16 husbands with poisoning and she tried to kill her 17th husband with an axe when she was caught.
- **Location type:** Bhatinda, Punjab
- *All her husbands passed away after 1 week of marriage. she confessed to killing her husbands as and when she*

found more attractive partners. She was called India's Lady Bluebeard, after the character of the well-known fairy-tale. She was not executed but was sentenced to jail for 12-15 years.

Putli Bai

- **Education:** Unknown
- **Family background:** Mother ran a brothel in Agra
- **Social status:** Low
- **Social life:** Dacoit by profession and Serial Killer
- **Presence at social media:** Unknown
- **Mental and physical health status:** Unknown
- **Kids/married/love-marriage/arranged marriage:** Initially had an affair with Bandit named Sultana where she had 2 kids with him. Sultana was accused of 84 murders and her husband was shot dead by police, but Putli escaped and then she had an affair with Kalla Gujar.
- **Number of Victims & Victim type:** Murdered 11 villagers who nestled in Vindhya hills as she suspected that those villagers have told police about her and therefore as plan of revenge, she killed them all.
- **Modus Operandi:** Unknown but probably by use of guns
- **Location type:** Vindhya Hills where she killed 11 villagers. She was born in Agra.
- *The 32 yr old putli and her lover Bandit, kalla Gujar were killed along with other members of the gang outside the village of Chati, about 150 miles South of New Delhi on Jan 9, 1958.*

K. Maria Susairaj

- **Education:** Educated
- **Family background:** Hails from affluent family in Mysore
- **Social status:** High
- **Social life:** South Indian film actress
- **Presence at social media:** Unknown
- **Mental and physical health status:** Unknown

- **Kids/married/love-marriage/arranged marriage:** No kids and unmarried but was in relationship with Lieutenant Emil Jerome Mathew.
- **Number of Victims & Victim type:** One (01) and he was Neeraj Grover (TV Executive)
- **Modus Operandi:** Stabbed with knife and then chopped the body and burnt it
- **Location type:** Mumbai
- *Maria Susairaj was found not guilty of the killing, but guilty of destroying evidence and was sentenced to a maximum three years' imprisonment. She was released the following day with time served. Jerome Mathew was found guilty of culpable homicide amounting to murder and of destroying evidence. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison for the killing, and 3 years for destroying evidence. The sentences will be served concurrently, with 3 years' time served already applied.*

Shashikala Patankar aka Baby patankar

- **Education:** Unknown
- **Family background:** Was involved in illegal activity as well and cases are registered against them as well.
- **Social status:** Low
- **Social life:** Most dreaded drug peddler in Mumbai.
- **Presence at social media:** Unknown
- **Mental and physical health status:** Unknown
- **Kids/married/love-marriage/arranged marriage:** Unknown
- **Number of Victims & Victim type:** Killed Majogankar's mother and Baby Patankar was aunt of Majogankar.
- **Modus Operandi:** Poured kerosene over the victim while she was alive and burned her
- **Location type:** Mumbai
- It was a 22-year-old murder case and Baby Patankar along with her 3 partners in crime killed Majogankar's mother by pouring kerosene and burning her because the mother disapproved of the

drugs to be kept in the house and was against the illegal activity. *Because the mother was hurdle in flourishing business of drugs, baby katankar killed her along with her 3 other partners in crime. Drug mafia Shashikala alias Baby Patankar, 54, who was arrested by Mumbai police in April 2015, had achieved a spectacular growth in the narcotics trade over the last 30 years.*

- *Patankar was arrested after the seizure of 12 kg of Mephedrone (MD) worth around Rs 2.5 crore from the locker of her boyfriend, police constable Dharmraj Kalokhe. Kalokhe was arrested on March 9 and later dismissed from service. Kalokhe and Patankar's son, Satish, has also been arrested in the case.*

SimmiKahlon

- **Education:** Well-educated
- **Family background:** Belonged from well settled Sikh family in Chandigarh.
- **Social status:** High
- **Social life:** employed as an assistant and receptionist at a law firm in Canada
- **Presence at social media:** UNKNOWN
- **Mental and physical health status:** Forensic psychologist From Canada when had interview with her believed that she suffered from borderline personality disorder and over reacted in situations when depressed and that is how her cycle continued.
- **Kids/married/love-marriage/arranged marriage:** Not married and has a boyfriend and lived in basement, live in relationship.
- **Number of Victims & Victim type:** Her own kids, first child was born and then died and she kept that child in box, when she got pregnant with second child (second pregnancy), she wanted to abort it but missed the date so she killed them, aborted them herself along with the help of her boyfriend, and kept them in box.
- **Modus Operandi:** Keeping in box till the kids died

- **Location type:** Canada
- *Simmikhalon was born in Chandigarh as harsimratkhalon and she died in 2009 because of complications in pregnancy. After her death, her crime was discovered.*

CONCLUSION

A critical Analysis of the above cases, following Inferences were drawn regarding female criminals:

1. All the Accused had a problematic childhood or suffered some trauma during growing up years in life.
2. Education does not matter in becoming a criminal as few accused are well educated and few are totally uneducated.
3. Some or the other way a male counterpart is involved in the crime.
4. They have resorted to easiest modus operandi available to them.
5. Almost 99% women had multiple affairs or multiple marriages.
6. For most of Female criminal no Psychological or Physical assessments were done.

SUGGESTIONS

After our collated data the authors would suggest that a proper study on Psychology including their Mental Status, personality assessment, IQ & EQ level to be assessed. Along with this, there can be a study by Biologist to determine if any of the diseases of blood analysis is common to the female criminal. The collected data will help Criminologist in Identifying Women Criminal and evolve a solution for any of the problems found in this study.

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