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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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Abstract

Academia and industry cooperation in research & development projects: Experiences and recommendations

Research and development (R&D) play a pivotal role in the advancement of highly technological economies. To fortify the European economy, the European Union strategically invests significantly in R&D, notably employing the smart specialization strategy mandated for every member state. However, engaging in R&D is a complex undertaking, demanding a profound understanding of the intricacies involved. Establishing trustworthy partnerships is equally vital, posing a particular challenge for member states lacking a tradition in R&D, such as Croatia and Slovenia.

Efficient and effective R&D necessitates collaboration between industry and academia, the two primary stakeholders, who require support in the form of experience and knowledge exchange. In this presentation, I will share insights gained from my involvement in

implementing the Smart Specialization Strategy in Croatia, active participation in various R&D projects, and discussions with companies on R&D project themes. An intriguing revelation surfaces: companies excel in development, while academia thrives in research, yet both face challenges in the collaborative domain of R&D. I will delve into the prevalent misunderstandings between these partners, elucidating how they impede projects and lead to suboptimal outcomes. Additionally, I will discuss potential interventions by policy makers to enhance the efficacy of this collaboration.

THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS ON THE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY IN SLOVENIA

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Abstract

The paper discusses the impact and extent of the 2008 economic crisis on the book publishing industry in Slovenia, a key sector in the development and preservation of Slovenian culture and language. Through six selected indicators, the operations of 15 publishing houses in Slovenia were analysed, covering large, medium, and small publishers but excluding self-publishers. The analysis confirmed hypotheses about the financial and economic crisis dimensions, which led some publishers to face liquidity issues. However, the crisis also presented opportunities, which some publishers utilized to successfully adapt their business models, maintaining or even improving their market position.

Key Words

Economic crisis; book publishing industry; Slovenia.

ANALYSIS OF FEMALE CRIME IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN IN THE CONTEXT OF A GENDER APPROACH

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The changes in the socio-economic role of women provoke an increase in female crime as well as an increase in the proportion of convicted women. In the Republic of Kazakhstan, the trend of convergence of gender and social roles leads to the lessening of the gap between female and male crime. To address the growing numbers of female crime in Kazakhstan, measures are being taken to humanize criminal legislation. However, the official statistics of the Prosecutor General's Office show that along with a decrease in the number of women's criminal cases, there is an increase in administrative offenses committed by women. Having analyzed the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of modern female crime in the context of a gender approach, the authors propose the most effective measures aimed at preventing, combating, and reducing the level of female crime.

Key Words

Women's crime; gender approach; gender gap in crime; feminist criminology; humanization of legislation.

DYNAMICS AND FINANCING OF THE STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS: AN EXAMPLE OF SLOVENIAN COMPANIES

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Abstract

The author shows how companies in the real (non-financial) sector of the economy carry out their investment activities, especially how they invest in long-term assets (physical capital), in terms of both investment dynamics and investment financing, with an emphasis on strategic investments. In the theoretical part of the paper, the author presents certain laws that apply in the field of investment activity, addressing the issue of the intensity of the investment activity of companies over time (investment dynamics) and the issue of providing the necessary financial resources for the implementation of strategic investments (investment financing). The latter also relates to the issue of companies' access to long-term financial resources on the financial and capital markets. In the empirical part of the paper, on a sample of Slovenian large and medium-sized companies from the real (non-financial) sector of the economy, the investment activity of companies in the period 2010–2017, i.e. after the great financial crisis and economic recession, is shown. This is done through the prism of various factors and their effects on investment ability in terms of exploiting investment opportunities, investment financing or creditworthiness, the actual implementation of investments in relation to investment plans, and the economic effects of the investments made. The author puts forward several research hypotheses (9), which he fully confirms.

Key Words

Strategic investments; investment dynamics; investment financing; investment implementation; investment effectiveness.

GAINING INSIGHT INTO CONSUMERS' CHOICE OF PREFERRED WORDS WITH THE MAXDIFF METHOD

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Abstract

The research aims to categorize associations with the term trust using the MaxDiff method as a means to evaluate the effectiveness of advertising messages. Statistical analysis confirmed significant differences between various word associations linked to the term trust. Adjectives such as reliable, loyal, and caring emerged as the most frequently associated words with the term trust, reflecting respondents' preferences. Additionally, the study revealed that 80.8% of respondents favored adjectives over nouns when linking them to the term trust. Through the utilization of the MaxDiff methodology, this research provides valuable insights into the nuanced perceptions of trust in advertising, informing the development of more impactful messaging strategies.

Key Words

Trust; advertising credibility; preferences; adjectives; nouns.

GENERIC AND COURSE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES IN COMPARISON

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Abstract

Higher education institutions frequently align the high-level, generic competencies outlined in their curricula with job market demands, but the implementation of generic competencies and the corresponding course-specific competencies is crucial. Our study explores the reflection and interconnection of generic and course-specific competencies in course implementation. Research based on an undergraduate course, "Business Plan and Startup of a Company," reveals that students improved their generic competencies while developing course-specific competencies and that their development is interconnected. The progress in acquiring the course-specific competencies surpasses the acquisition of the generic competencies. The study reveals higher advancements in generic competencies that were at a lower level of development as opposed to those that were more developed prior to the beginning of the course. We noticed similar trends in the context of course-specific competencies. We also investigated which generic and course-specific competencies were more developed during the case study course and the underlying reasons.

Key Words

Course-specific competence; generic competence; competence development; business studies; higher education.

THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS ON THE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY IN SLOVENIA

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Abstract

The paper discusses the impact and extent of the 2008 economic crisis on the book publishing industry in Slovenia, a key sector in the development and preservation of Slovenian culture and language. Through six selected indicators, the operations of 15 publishing houses in Slovenia were analysed, covering large, medium, and small publishers but excluding self-publishers. The analysis confirmed hypotheses about the financial and economic crisis dimensions, which led some publishers to face liquidity issues. However, the crisis also presented opportunities, which some publishers utilized to successfully adapt their business models, maintaining or even improving their market position.

Key Words

Economic crisis; book publishing industry; Slovenia.

INTRODUCTION

Although the 2008 economic crisis began in America with the collapse of the mortgage-based financial system, it significantly affected the European economy in 2009, as evidenced by the considerable negative values of real GDP in EU member states (Stražišar et al., 2015). The repercussions of the economic crisis are still felt today and will be addressed for much longer. The crisis substantially altered sectoral relationships, severely impacting many companies unable to repay loans, leading to bankruptcies (Stražišar et al., 2015; Kotz, 2009).

During the crisis, the heart of Slovenian publishing annually produced around 2000 new titles, with about half from larger Slovenian publishers with well-developed sales channels, securing enough revenue for smooth operations. In 2012, a decline in book purchases by libraries, accounting for about a tenth of the Slovenian book market, significantly impacted publishers' revenues. Additionally, the reduction of state-subsidized funds deepened the crisis in publishing by decreasing funds for author fees, affecting the number of new books (Rugelj, 2012; Rugelj, 2013). Moreover, the Slovenian market's small size and the limitation

of publishers to the Slovenian market, requiring the same production and sales efforts as publishers in larger language markets, should not be overlooked (Rugelj, 2012; Rugelj, 2013).

The purpose of this research was to determine the impact and extent of the 2008 global economic crisis on the publishing industry of Slovenia. Although the effects of the crisis were felt somewhat later in Slovenia, they were nonetheless significant, and many publishers were not prepared for them or perhaps even thought they would be able to avoid them. However, according to official data, it was in 2014, when Slovenia's economic growth after the crisis turned positive again and GDP increased, that the publishing industry of books saw an increasing trend of declining numbers of published titles. Some publishers have already disappeared or are dependent on large bookstore chains.

Through an analysis of the business performance indicators of publishers in Slovenia, the research showed the extent to which the economic crisis affected the publishing industry in our market and thus significantly shook the existence of many publishers in Slovenia and caused many social changes. At the same time, it proved the importance of recognizing new trends and factors that cause crises and the timeliness of action.

When determining the success of a company, profitability indicators are undoubtedly the most important, as they explain the achieved business results of economic entities. The higher their value the more successful the company is. The most commonly used indicators are ROE (return on equity) and ROA (return on assets), which show how successfully the company manages the owners' assets and how successfully the company manages its assets. The analysis of the business result thus tells us how successfully the company converts revenues into profit, to what extent the business result stems from regular activities or extraordinary events, and most importantly, it tells us how prepared the company is for a possible crisis (Bergant, 2018). Of course, we should not neglect the indicators of efficiency either. If the coefficient of total efficiency is greater than 1, the company is more successful, which means that it operates with a profit. Indicators of productivity, such as revenue per employee (which, however, show the opposite trend), are also very interesting for the analysis of success. A company is more successful if the amount of total revenue per employee is as high as possible.

The research objectives were:
1. Analyse the business performance of 15 selected publishing houses in Slovenia in the period 2011-2019 using selected business performance indicators.
2. Based on the obtained data, verify the extent to which the analysed publishing houses were prepared for the economic crisis.

It should be emphasized that the research was conducted only in Slovenia and it can not be generalised to the global level. The sample of 15 analysed publishing houses includes large, medium and small publishing houses, but does not include self-publishers.

Research Hypotheses

H1: The economic crisis of 2008 had a negative impact on the book publishing industry in Slovenia, as some publishing houses in Slovenia faced financial and liquidity problems after the crisis.

H2: The dimensions of the economic crisis of 2008 had negative consequences for the publishing industry in Slovenia, leading to the collapse or bankruptcy of some publishing houses.

H3: The economic crisis of 2008 later had a positive impact on certain companies in the publishing industry in Slovenia, as it brought new trends that some publishing houses took advantage of and adapted their business models or created new ones, thus preserving their existence.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

As part of the research, we analysed the business performance indicators of 15 large and small publishing houses that operated during the research period of the last nine years. The entire analysis of the selected business performance indicators of the 15 studied Slovenian publishing houses is based on official data and the classification of activities of the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Services (AJPES). According to the Law on State Statistics, AJPES is responsible for collecting and processing data from the annual reports of business entities in the Republic of Slovenia.

Within the analytical approach, we analysed historical accounting data for the selected 15 Slovenian publishing houses, i.e. data from their financial statements, such as the income statement and balance sheet, for each year from 2011 to 2019. It should be emphasised that in June and July 2020, we also obtained the latest data for 2019, as due to the pandemic, these financial statements for 2019 were not available until June 2020 onwards.

Based on the Slovenian Accounting Standards, we selected accounting indicators. We calculated them for the period 2011-2019, namely as an average for the period 2011-2015, for which we assumed that there was a significant deterioration in the business performance indicators of the selected largest Slovenian publishing houses operating in the period under study. This is also indicated by the re-presented picture of the number of books published between 2009 and 2015, which shows a sharp or the largest drop in the number of books published precisely in the period 2011-2015.

Precisely because the largest drop in the number of books published since 2011 was followed by the largest drop in the GDP of the Republic of Slovenia in 2009 (an almost 8% drop in GDP) with an estimated lag of around two years, we assumed that the largest Slovenian publishing houses would also perform worse from 2011 to 2015.

We selected the second study period 2016-2019 because we assumed that the business performance of the publishing houses that remained on the market had nevertheless stabilised somewhat or improved slightly from 2016 to 2019, during a period of higher growth in Slovenian GDP (Slovenian GDP started to grow again from 2014 onwards, but we also assumed a lag of around two years in the recovery and improvement of the business performance of Slovenian publishing houses, i.e. from 2016 onwards).

RESULTS

For the analysis, we selected the business performance of 15 Slovenian publishing houses that mostly have the main activity registered as J 58.110 - Publishing of books. We thus selected for data processing 15 publishing houses for the period 2011-2019 and excluded six of the most important indicators from among the many possible business performance indicators:
- Short-term liquidity ratio
- Credit exposure from operations
- Debt-to-equity ratio

- Net financial debt to EBITDA
- Return on equity (ROE)
- Return on assets (ROA)

Hypotheses 1 and 2

We confirmed hypotheses 1 and 2 with the help of data analysis for 15 Slovenian publishing houses, by calculating the six selected key business performance indicators for the analysed period 2011-2019.

It is evident from the calculation of the sum of all revenues of the Slovenian publishing houses included in the analysis that the economic crisis also had a negative impact on the publishing industry with a delay, as their total revenues in 2011 amounted to EUR 60.8 million and fell by 46.5% to EUR 32.6 million in revenues in 2019.

The impact of GDP growth in the period 2014-2019 on the improvement of business performance indicators in the publishing industry is also evident from the analysis of the average values of the six analysed indicators for the period 2016-2019 compared to the period 2011-2015.

Financial and liquidity problems

The financial and liquidity problems of publishing houses are particularly evident from the calculations of the short-term liquidity ratio and the credit exposure indicator. In the period 2011-2015, three analysed Slovenian publishing houses had a higher credit exposure from operations (the indicator was higher than 0.30), which represents 21.4% of all studied publishing houses. In the last period 2016-2019, four analysed Slovenian publishing houses had a higher credit exposure from operations (the indicator was higher than 0.30), which represents 28.6% of all studied publishing houses.

This indicator is important because it shows potential liquidity problems of the company, and it is recommended that the credit exposure indicator from operations be less than 0.30. This means that more than 25% of the studied publishing houses in Slovenia faced financial and liquidity problems, which in such a small economic area as Slovenia represents a great risk and instability for the publishing industry of books.

Hypothesis 3

We also confirm hypothesis 3 and again present the key findings for each indicator.

Liquidity

Liquidity or the short-term liquidity ratio has slightly improved in the last period 2016-2019 compared to the period 2011-2015 for nine studied publishing houses, which represents 64.3%. Overall, looking at all publishing houses together, the average short-term liquidity ratio for this publishing industry has improved in the last period 2016-2019, i.e. in the period of higher economic growth, compared to the first period 2011-2015, i.e. the period after the great crisis. Thus, the average short-term liquidity ratio in the period 2016-2019 was 2.53 and was higher than in the period 2011-2015, when it was 2.14.

Credit exposure from operations

Credit exposure from operations improved in the last period 2016-2019 compared to the period 2011-2015 for eight studied publishing houses, which represents 57.1%. It worsened for four publishing houses, and for two publishing houses, it remained essentially unchanged. Overall, looking at all publishing houses together, the average credit exposure from operations indicator for this publishing industry has improved in the last period 2016-2019, i.e. in the period of higher economic growth, compared to the first period 2011-2015, i.e. the period after the great crisis of 2008 or 2009. Thus, the average credit exposure from the operations indicator in the period 2016-2019 was 0.55 (the recommended value is below 0.3) and was lower than in the period 2011-2015, when it was 1.22.

Debt-to-equity ratio

The debt-to-equity ratio improved in the last period 2016-2019 compared to the period 2011-2015 for ten publishing houses, which represents 71.4%. It worsened for four publishing houses. Overall, looking at all publishing houses together, the average debt-to-equity ratio for this publishing industry has improved only slightly in the last period 2016-2019, i.e. in the period of higher economic growth, compared to the first period 2011-2015, i.e. the period after the great crisis of 2008 or 2009. Thus, the average debt-to-equity ratio of the selected Slovenian publishing houses in the period 2016-2019 was around 55.9% (the recommended value is below 60%) and was lower than in the period 2011-2015, when it was around 57.7%.

Net financial debt to EBITDA

Net financial debt to EBITDA improved in the last period 2016-2019 compared to the period 2011-2015 for nine studied publishing houses, which represents 64.3%. It worsened for four publishing houses, and for one publishing house the indicator remained essentially unchanged.

Return on equity (ROE)

ROE improved in the last period 2016-2019 compared to the period 2011-2015 for eight studied publishing houses, which represents 57.1%. It worsened for six publishing houses.

Return on assets (ROA)

ROA improved in the last period 2016-2019 compared to the period 2011-2015 for eight studied publishing houses, which represents 57.1%. It worsened for six publishing houses.

DISCUSSION

The impact of the financial and economic crisis of 2008 on the book publishing industry in Slovenia was significant. The calculated business performance indicators of the studied publishing houses showed that several publishing houses faced financial and liquidity problems in the period 2011-2019. These problems were more pronounced in the first study period, i.e. the recession period from 2011 to 2015. In the second study period 2016-2019, i.e. the period of economic growth, the indicators showed a more positive trend.

The negative impact and dimensions of the financial and economic crisis of 2008 on the book publishing industry are also reflected in the calculation of the sum of all revenues of the older Slovenian publishing houses included in the analysis. Their total revenues in 2011 amounted to EUR 60.8 million and fell by 46.5% to EUR 32.6 million in revenues in 2019. As

a result, many publishing houses in Slovenia found themselves in financial and liquidity problems and were therefore forced to cease operations or go into bankruptcy.

Despite this, there are some positive trends, especially in the second study period, i.e. the period of economic growth from 2016 to 2019. The studied business performance indicators improved. The overall business performance improved for eight out of 14 studied publishing houses, and three managed to maintain stable business performance.

The impact of GDP growth in the period 2014-2019 on the improvement of business performance indicators in the publishing industry is also evident from the analysis of the average values of the six analysed indicators for the period 2016-2019 compared to the period 2011-2015.

Based on the results of the analysis of the impact of the financial and economic crisis of 2008, we present the following proposals:

1. **Early recognition of crisis symptoms**

    - Publishing houses should pay as much attention as possible to the symptoms that may indicate the onset of a particular crisis, identify them, analyse them, and react to them promptly.

    - The timeliness of recognizing negative economic and other trends and indicators is extremely important, as companies can more easily and quickly correct possible mistakes if they operate positively. In the event of a financial or liquidity deficit, positive solutions become much more difficult.

2. **Optimization of business costs and creation of capital reserves or liquidity**

    - Optimization of business costs and creation of capital reserves or liquidity is key to successfully overcoming the crisis. This should be done already in the period of economic growth, i.e. when GDP is growing, and not when it starts to fall. This is because the conditions for borrowing loans or financial loans also change and become more stringent in crises and recessions.

3. **Clear and developed logic and financing program**

    - Since it is impossible to avoid crises in the business world, it is necessary to have a clear and developed logic and financing program for the period of crisis management, when the company's turnover falls or revenues are lower than expected.

    - It is necessary to have secondary business plans and to adapt business models to the potentially new economic situation.

4. **Timely recognition of trends and opportunities**

    - Each crisis also creates certain trends and opportunities, so it is extremely important for publishers to recognize them in a timely manner.

    - Monitoring, analysing, and above all, timely recognition and adaptation to certain trends in the economy are crucial for the survival or even improvement of business operations even in times of crisis.

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ANALYSIS OF FEMALE CRIME IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN IN THE CONTEXT OF A GENDER APPROACH

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Abstract

The changes in the socio-economic role of women provoke an increase in female crime as well as an increase in the proportion of convicted women. In the Republic of Kazakhstan, the trend of convergence of gender and social roles leads to the lessening of the gap between female and male crime. To address the growing numbers of female crime in Kazakhstan, measures are being taken to humanize criminal legislation. However, the official statistics of the Prosecutor General's Office show that along with a decrease in the number of women's criminal cases, there is an increase in administrative offenses committed by women. Having analyzed the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of modern female crime in the context of a gender approach, the authors propose the most effective measures aimed at preventing, combating, and reducing the level of female crime.

Key Words

Women's crime; gender approach; gender gap in crime; feminist criminology; humanization of legislation.
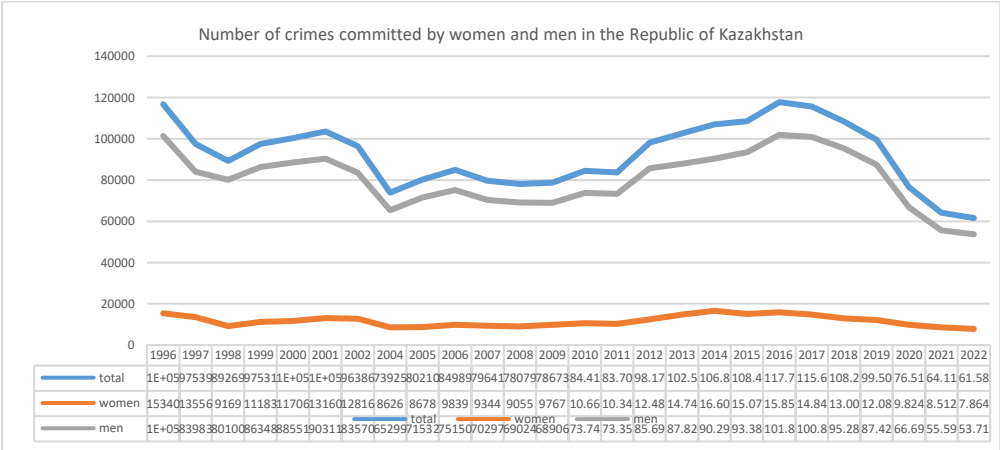
INTRODUCTION

Modern realities of social life demonstrate the vulnerability of women in comparison with men due to their greater work and home load, fear of losing their jobs, low wages, and weak social protections or support of motherhood.

There remains an ever-increasing need for better socio-economic conditions, which cannot be met because of the discrepancies in the status of women in the social structure. As a result of socio-economic differentiation, tensions are increasing, which often leads to deviations among women such as domestic drunkenness, alcoholism, drug addiction and prostitution. All of the above, along with the change in the social role of women in society, encourages more and more women to commit crimes.

Official statistics from the Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Accounts of the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Kazakhstan show swinging trends in the dynamics of both general crime and female and male crime. Female crime peaked in 1996 (15,340 crimes) and 2014 (16,608 crimes); the highest rates of crimes committed by men in 1996 were 101,327, in 2016 – 101,887.

From the end of the 2000s to 2014, there has been an increase in female crime, and since 2014, women and men have had a steady downward trend in overall crime (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Number of crimes committed by women and men in the Republic of Kazakhstan

Number of crimes committed by women and men in the Republic of Kazakhstan

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
total	1E+05	97539	89269	75311	1E+05	1E+05	96386	73925	80210	84989	79641	78079	78673	84.41	83.70	98.17	102.5	106.8	108.4	117.7	115.6	108.2	99.50	76.51	64.11	61.58
women	15340	13556	9169	11183	11706	13160	12816	8626	8678	9839	9344	9055	9767	10.66	10.34	12.48	14.74	16.60	15.07	15.85	14.84	13.00	12.08	9.824	8.512	7.864
men	1E+05	83983	80100	86348	88551	90311	83570	65299	71532	75150	70297	69024	68906	73.74	73.35	85.69	87.82	90.29	93.38	101.8	100.8	95.28	87.42	66.69	55.59	53.71

Source: Compiled by the authors on the basis of Reports of Form No. 1-M "On Registered Criminal Offenses". Section 6. "Information on Persons Who Have Committed Offences". Statistical Indicators of the Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Accounts of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CLS&SA GP RK)// https://qamqor.gov.kz/crimestat/statistics

In general, over the past 25 years, there has been a stable gender gap in crime in Kazakhstan, characterized by a much lower level of female crime compared to male.

Despite the general trends in the development of crime among both sexes, each of them has its own distinctive features, factors, quantitative and qualitative differences.

The analysis of crimes committed by women, their quantitative and qualitative characteristics in the context of the gender perspective makes it possible for the State to respond by changing legislation in a timely manner, as well as to develop preventive measures to reduce the commission of crimes.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The problem of female delinquency in the context of gender approach started to receive its due attention only in the 1980s in foreign Anglo-American literature.

One of the first scholarly works is the monograph "Women, Crime and Criminology" by C. Smart, first published in 1977. The author emphasizes that the lack of interest in women's crimes is explained by its insignificant scale compared to men's crimes (Smart,1977).

At the same time, the scholarly paper of the American researcher Adler Freda "Sisters in Crime: the Rise of the New Female Criminal" was published. The author divided crimes into male and female, rejecting the theory of a gender passive female criminal. Using crimes such as prostitution and violent crimes, the researcher proved that the increase in female crime is explained by the expansion of women's empowerment. So, for example, if a woman has a body that can be sold, she is able to become a prostitute... if a woman works as a clerk in a bank, this leads to her becoming able to commit bank fraud. By this, a woman who commits crimes is under the constraints of socio-economic factors (Adler, 1975).

This position was similar to that of Rita James Simon, who, in her monograph "The Contemporary Women and Crime", suggested that "as women become freer from domestic work, they are more engaged in work and are more likely to engage in the types of crime for which the profession offers them the greatest opportunity." Rita James Simon cited statistics showing that in 1972 the most common types of crimes among women in the United States were forgery, fraud, and embezzlement (Simon, 1975), which, in conjunction with the theory of possibilities, confirmed her hypothesis.

Since the 1970s, Carlen has been researching the problem of women inmates in the UK. In her monograph "Women's Imprisonment. A Study in Social Control" the researcher emphasized that the 65% increase in the number of imprisoned women over the past 12 years had also brought up problems associated with their detention (Carlen, 1983). Later, P. Carlen in 2000, while continuing to study the English prison system based on the prison statistics of the Home Office of England and Wales, showed that between 1990 and 1998 the number of women in prisons doubled: from 1,767 to 3,110, which was 4.9% of the total number of prisoners. The researcher concluded that female prisoners are different from male, therefore, this should be reflected both in prison regimes and in policies aimed at reducing each type of crime (Carlen, 1999/2000).

The issue of gender in judicial decision-making was the subject of a collective study by Darrell Steffensmeier, John Kramer, Cathy Streifel "Gender and Imprisonment Decisions". In their article, the researchers conclude that gender inequality is characteristic of the length of imprisonment: gender influences the decision on the length of imprisonment (Steffensmeier et al.,1993).

In the 1980s and 1990s, almost all criminologists abroad recognized the significance of feminist criminology, and Heidensohn Frances emphasized the development and importance of research on women offenders, women as victims of crime, and as participants in social control (Frances,1995).
At the beginning of the 20th century, the gender approach in criminology took on more active development, and new aspects of the problem of female crime were revealed. Scholars compared patterns of female and male delinquency, identifying gender differences in the context of the nature of offenses (Steffensmeier, Allan, 2003).
Campaniello N., a researcher at the University of Essex (UK), supports the theory of possibilities and comes to two conclusions that are important for us: first, over the past 50 years, parallel with the increase in women's participation in the labor market, female crime has been growing; secondly, men are more responsive to changes in illegal earnings (doubling the expected illicit income increases the crime rate among men by 36% and women by 23%), while no gender differences in response to changes in the probability of arrest have been established (the expected probability of arrest reduces the crime rate by 14% for both sexes) (Campaniello,2019).

Thus, the gender approach, which marked the beginning of the development of feminist criminology, allowed Anglo-American researchers to formulate and substantiate new theories of female criminality that explain the causes of female criminal behavior. Based on the identified causes, scholars not only forecast the dynamics of crime development, but also influence decision-making by state authorities in the development and improvement of legislation, conceptual documents aimed at combating and reducing the level of crime.

Over the past twenty years legal scholars and criminologists of post-Soviet schools of law, relying on the achievements of Soviet and foreign criminology, have significantly expanded and deepened research on female crime and its individual aspects.

In the context of our research problem, of particular interest is the study by N.M. Romanova (Romanova, 2009), devoted to the consideration of the causes of women's crimes through the prism of the gender approach. Another researcher, Kupriyanova A.V. (Kupriyanova,2008) uses the scholarly and theoretical achievements of Soviet and foreign criminology, formulates the concept of "gender criminology" and substantiates the need to use the gender approach in the study of female crime, as well as juvenile delinquency.

Special consideration should be given to the scholarly article by M.A. Kachaeva and V.V. Rusina "Gender Aspects of the Features of Aggressive Crimes Committed by Women". The authors identify the features of female criminality, which are closely related to the historically determined place of women in the system of social relations, their social roles (gender), as well as biological and psychological features. (Kachaeva, Rusina,2010).

Our special attention was focused on the monograph of criminologists A.E. Nabatova and T.P. Afonchenko "Gender Criminology: Concept, Structure, Content" (Nabatova, Afonchenko, 2020). Based on empirical data, criminologists distinguish an independent branch of criminology – gender criminology, which is aimed at studying the causes, factors, conditions of female crime, as well as its prevention.

Despite the rather diverse aspects of the study of female crime, its criminological analysis in the context of the gender approach in the Republic of Kazakhstan has not been carried out, which gives our study relevance and novelty.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of modern female crime in the Republic of Kazakhstan in the context of the gender approach and, using the example of the most frequently committed types of crime, to develop recommendations aimed at preventing, combating, and reducing female crime.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The dialectical and material methodological basis of the study allows us to comprehensively research the problem of female crime, determine its share in the overall structure of crimes, and identify the causes of female crime. Through general scholarly research methods of synthesis, analysis, data processing, the authors will propose the most effective measures aimed at combating this illegal phenomenon.

The empirical basis of the article is represented by the Statistical Indicators of the Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Accounts of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the condition and dynamics of female crime; statistical compilations submitted by the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan; official data from the World Bank, the International Labor Organization; data published in scholarly sources on women's crime in foreign countries.

DISCUSSION

In the Republic of Kazakhstan, as in many other countries, the crime rate among women is traditionally lower than among men, although women outnumber men in general population. The latter is confirmed by the main indicators of gender statistics provided by the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Table1). In terms of averages, the percentage of women in the total population of Kazakhstan is 51.7%, men - 48.3%.

Table1: Main indicators of gender statistics

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Population, thousand people, at the end of the year	14 901,6	14865,6	14851,1	14 866,8	14951,2	15074,8	15219,3	15396,9	15571,5	15982,4	16203,3
Female	7 724,1	7 705,9	7 697,6	7 706,6	7 752,2	7 817,9	7 894,5	7 987,6	8 079,9	8 283,5	8 395,3
Male	7 177,5	7 159,7	7 153,5	7 160,2	7 199,0	7 256,9	7 324,8	7 409,3	7 491,6	7 698,9	7 808,0

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Population, thousand people, at the end of the year	16 440,5	16673,9	16910,2	17160,9	17 415,7	17669,9	17918,2	18157,3	18395,6	18631,8	18879,5	19122,4
Female	8 515,5	8 632,2	8 751,3	8 876,3	9 002,6	9 128,1	9 249,7	9 366,0	9 482,4	9 597,6	9 719,1	9 835,6
Male	7 925,0	8 041,8	8 158,9	8 284,6	8 413,1	8 541,8	8 668,5	8 791,3	8 913,2	9 034,1	9 160,4	9 286,8

Source: Women and men of Kazakhstan 2017-2021.Statistical Collection. Astana, 2022, 87 p., pp.4-5

The consensus among criminologists is that the gender gap in crime is universal: women are less likely to commit crimes than men in all countries, according to Pennsylvania researchers of gender and crime Darrell Steffensmeier and Emilie Allan, partly explaining this by women's lower susceptibility to focus on material success, minimal influence on women by delinquent peers, and the manifestation of stronger social ties in women, contributing to greater social control and supervision (Steffensmeier, Allan, 2003). However, statistical indicators of the proportion of female criminals in countries vary from 10% to 25%: in the United States - 24.5%, in Germany - 21.4%, Sweden - 18.2%, South Korea - 18.0%, Japan - 17.4%, France - 15.6%. (Alekseeva, 2020). In the Russian Federation, from 1990 to 2012, the share of crime ranged from 10 to 16%, and over the past decade it has been 15-16%. (Vakulenko, 2021).

In other words, in every country today there is a so-called gender gap in crime, the existence of which is explained by researchers Campaniello N. and Gavrilova E. by the increase in the commission of crimes by women, as well as by the increase in the percentage of women in prisons (Campaniello, Gavrilova, 2018).

In our country, according to the statistical indicators of the Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Accounts of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan

(CLS&SA GP of RK) in the past twenty years the average proportion of crimes committed by men is 88.5 per cent, while the proportion of women who commit crimes averages 11.5 per cent of the total crime rate (see Figure 2), i.e., 2 times lower than in the USA, Germany, Sweden.

Figure 2: Proportion of women and men who committed criminal offenses in the Republic of Kazakhstan

Source: Compiled by the authors on the basis of Reports of Form No. 1-M "On Registered Criminal Offenses". Section 6. "Information on Persons Who Have Committed Offences"
Statistical Indicators of the Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Accounts of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CLS&SA GP RK)// https://qamqor.gov.kz/crimestat/statistics
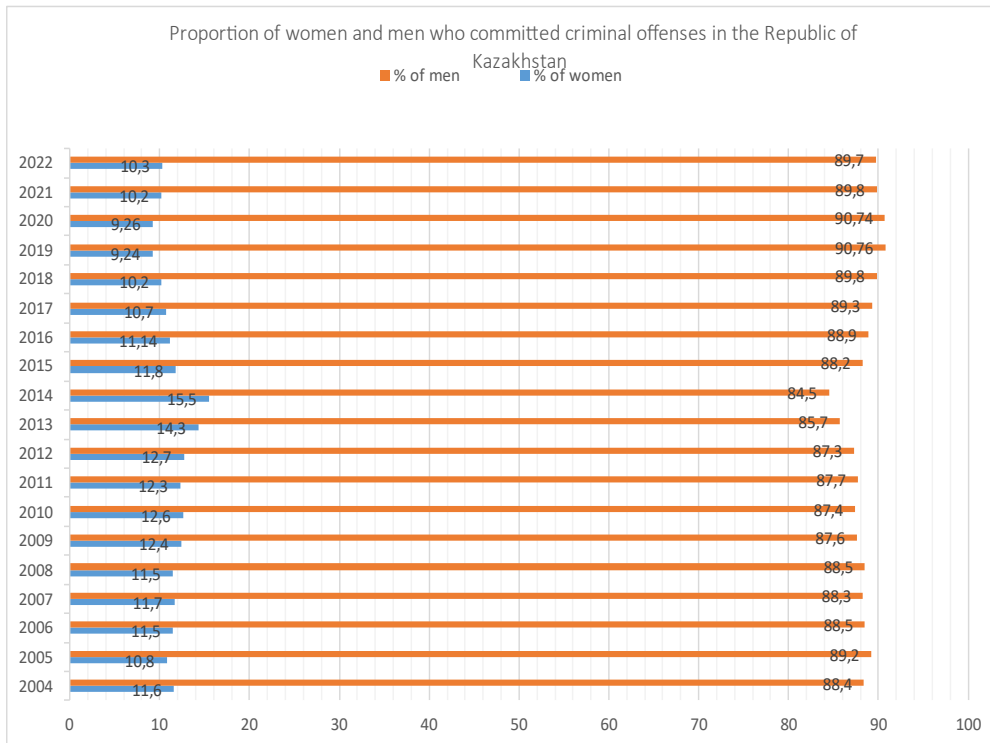
From 2004 to 2014, official statistics show a slight but steady upward trend in the proportion of crimes committed by women, while the same indicators decreased among men. During this period, the number of crimes committed by women increased most sharply in 2009 and 2010, then decreased slightly in 2011, but increased again from 2012 to 2014. In 2014, the maximum proportion of crimes committed by women was 15.5 per cent, compared to 11.6 per cent in 2004.

This period of growth in female crime in Kazakhstan can be partly explained by the increase in women's participation in the labor market, which is confirmed by official ILO data, visualized in Figure 3 "Employment-to-population ratio, 15+, % (ILO estimate)". At the same time, not only statistical indicators, but also the theory of possibilities, which we mentioned earlier in the Literature Review, demonstrate a correlation between the increase in crimes committed by women and their increased participation in the labor market.

Figure 3: Employment-to-population ratio, 15+, % (ILO estimate)
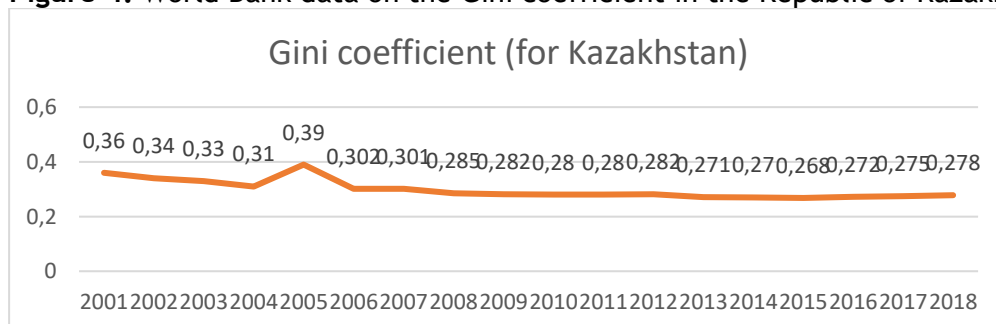
Source: https://genderdata.worldbank.org/

Additionally, the quantitative gap in crime is explained by scholars as related to gender roles. The traditional gender role, which focuses on such socio-cultural indicators as motherhood, marriage, beauty, and sexuality, were factors that hindered female delinquency. (Romanova, 2009).

Thus, in modern Kazakh society, with the change in gender roles, as well as the growing trend of women's participation in labor activity, the reverse negative side is manifested – an increase in their representation in criminal activities.

Some criminologists (Gilinsky, 2005, Kalashnikov, 2019, Skifsky, 2007, Yuzikhanova,2005), as well as economists (Fedotov,2019), who identify crime factors, use the Gini coefficient to determine the impact of population inequality indicators, which reflect the degree of impact of socio-economic stratification of society on the crime rate.

Based on the World Bank's data on the Gini coefficient in the Republic of Kazakhstan (data for Kazakhstan are publicly available only for the period from 2001 to 2018, see Figure 4), as well as visualized indicators of the Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Accounts of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan Figure 1."Number of crimes committed by women and men in the Republic of Kazakhstan" (Figure 1 above), it is possible to visually confirm the hypothesis that social inequality increases the crime rate in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Obviously, our conclusion is not deep enough nor evidence-based, but it should be taken into account that when the state develops measures aimed at combating female crime, it is necessary to conduct serious research related to the degree of influence of socio-economic inequality on the crime rate, and to take measures aimed at reducing inequality.

Figure 4: World Bank data on the Gini coefficient in the Republic of Kazakhstan

Source: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI?locations=KZ&name_desc=true&view=char

There are many other causes and factors of female delinquency, which are identified by criminologists, psychologists, sociologists, political scientists, and economists. However, for each type of criminal act committed by women, there will be individual reasons and factors. Therefore, in order to determine them, serious independent comprehensive research is needed in the context of quantitative and qualitative characteristics inherent in each type of criminal act. Moreover, if we conduct a retrospective analysis of female crime, we can notice a change in the causes of criminal behavior depending on the transformation of historical conditions. The scope of our study allows us only to identify the general qualitative and quantitative indicators of female crime in Kazakhstan, on which we will continue to focus our attention further.

From 2015 to the present day, the data "Proportion of women and men who committed criminal offenses in the Republic of Kazakhstan" demonstrate a swinging, but generally downward trend in the share of female crime in Kazakhstan.

One of the reasons for the decline in female crime is the adoption of the new Criminal Code of 2014 (Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated July 3, 2014, No. 226-V ZRK), which, along with other codes, has become the basis for a new stage in the improvement of criminal law, criminal procedure, criminal executive, and administrative legal relations. (Sartaeva, 2016). One of the main principles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 2014 was the principle of humanization of criminal legislation, which is manifested in many institutions of criminal law, including the norms governing exemption from criminal liability. Many types of exemption from criminal liability, according to the Kazakh professor S. Rakhmetov, allow our law enforcement agencies and courts not to bring the case to punishment... (Rakhmetov, 2015). In this case, we are talking about the introduction into the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 2014 of paragraph 2 of Article 68 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan "Exemption from criminal liability in connection with reconciliation", which provides that "minors, pregnant women, women with young children, men raising young children alone, women aged fifty-eight and over, men aged sixty-three and over, first-time offenders who have committed a serious crime that does not involve causing death or grievous bodily harm may be released from criminal liability if they have reconciled with the victim or applicant, including through mediation, and have made amends for the harm caused...." (Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated July 3, 2014, No. 226-V ZRK// https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/K1400000226#z282).

In this context, the position of Campaniello N. is relevant, emphasizing that, under equal conditions, the treatment of women accused of committing a crime, compared to men, is the most lenient in favor of the female.... (Campaniello, 2019). Furthermore, after the adoption of the new Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan, there was a decrease in the number of crimes committed by women in subsequent years from 16,608 in 2014 to 7,864 in 2022. However, the statistics of administrative offences committed by women shows the opposite growth dynamics. Official statistics reported for the last 10 years (Official statistics in the context of gender have been presented by the CLS&SA of GP of RK only since 2012; see Figure 5), show a trend of growth in women's offenses by 5.5 times, against the background of an increase in the total number of administrative offenses by 3.4 times.

Figure 5: Number of administrative offenses in the Republic of Kazakhstan for the period from 2010 to 2022.

NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENSES IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN FOR THE PERIOD FROM 2010 TO 2022.

Source: Compiled by the authors on the basis of the Reports of the form No. 1-AD "On the results of consideration by the authorized bodies of cases of administrative offenses". Statistical Indicators of the Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Accounts of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CLS&SA GP RK)// https://qamqor.gov.kz/crimestat/statistics

Moreover, the ongoing process of humanization of the criminal legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan was accompanied by the fact that in 2017 the articles "Intentional infliction of minor bodily harm" and "Battery" from the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan were moved to the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Republic of Kazakhstan. According to the statistics below (see Table 2), the number of administrative offenses related to intentional infliction of minor bodily harm committed by women almost tripled from 2017 to 2022, and the number of cases of battery inflicted by women doubled from 2018 to 2022.

Table 2. Number of registered administrative offenses"

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total administrative offenses registered in the reporting period	4 125 238	5 077 564	6084055	7 322 159	8 795 325	9 245 192
Administrative offences committed by women	480 623	641 153	914 238	1 107 688	25 339	1842789
Article 73. Unlawful Acts in the Sphere of Family and Domestic Relations (Committed by Women)	1 076	1 064	1 181	1 147	1 417	1 253
Article 73-1. Intentional infliction of minor bodily harm (committed by women)	1 514	3 005	3 116	2 850	3 624	4 144
Article 73-2. Battery (Committed by women)	0	879	1 038	1 068	1 563	1 706
Article 73-3. Defamation (committed by women)	0	0	0	90	277	315

Source: Compiled by the authors on the basis of Reports of Form No. 1-AD "On the Results of Consideration of Cases of Administrative Offenses by Authorized Bodies". Statistical Indicators of the Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Accounts of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CLS&SA GP RK)// https://qamqor.gov.kz/crimestat/statistics

The overall picture of female delinquency consists of two interrelated components: quantitative and qualitative characteristics. In turn, according to the authoritative Kazakh criminologist E.O. Alaukhanov, it is "the analysis of qualitative signs over a long period of time that helps to reveal real trends and patterns of crime" (Alaukhanov, 2004). The qualitative analysis of crime is revealed through the analysis of the structure (determination of the proportions of various types of crimes) and the nature of criminal acts (the degree of public danger).

So, let us determine the percentage of different types of crimes for which women are most often convicted. An analysis of the official statistical indicators of convicted women in the Republic of Kazakhstan gives an idea of the most frequently committed crimes by women for the period from 2000 to 2021.
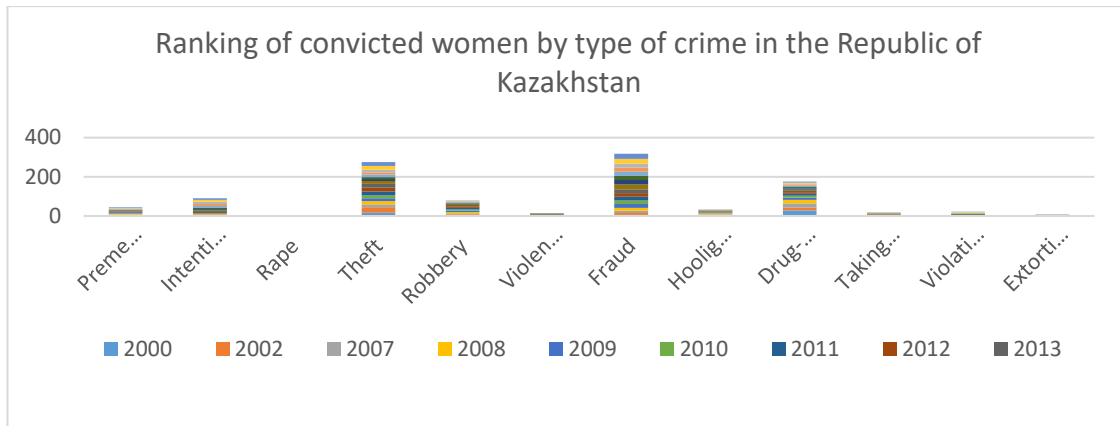
The Table 3 "Number of convicted women by the most frequently committed types of crimes in the Republic of Kazakhstan" and the Figure 6 "Ranking of convicted women by type of crime in the Republic of Kazakhstan", compiled by the author on the basis of data from the CLS&SA GP RK, show that women are most often convicted of fraud, theft, as well as drug-related crimes.

Table 3: Number of convicted women by the most frequently committed types of crimes in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The number of convicted women for the most frequently committed types of crimes in the Republic of Kazakhstan // Compiled by the author according to the data of the CLS&SA GP RK // https://qamqor.gov.kz/crimestat/statistics																	
	2000	2002	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Fraud	4,9	9,5	12	14,6	19,3	18	19,8	17,8	19,7	24,3	24	21,8	20,5	20,7	20,8	23,9	26,8	1st place
Theft	17,4	27,7	14,6	15,8	15,3	15	19,2	19,1	19,2	15	10,3	9,8	12,3	11,5	14,2	19,3	19,9	2nd place
Drug-related offences	28,2	14	22,4	17,5	11,3	10,6	8,7	8,5	6,3	6,7	6,9	7	6,3	6,9	4,9	4,6	5,3	3rd place
Intentional infliction of grievous bodily harm	1,2	1,4	2,8	2,5	2,3	2,5	2,5	5,5	4	3,1	6,9	8	8,3	9,6	11,1	10,1	7,9	4th place
Robbery	3,4	4,6	5,4	7,3	6,7	6,4	7	8,8	6,8	5,6	2,6	2,9	3,1	2,2	2,4	2	0,9	5th place
Premeditated murder and attempted murder	1,7	1,8	3,6	3	3	2,4	3,1	3,7	2,7	2,6	2,1	2,5	2,8	2,5	2,6	2	2,2	6th place
Hooliganism	2,9	3,7	2,6	2,7	2,2	2,3	2,1	1,7	2,6	2,4	1,4	1,1	1	0,8	0,8	0,3	0,2	7th place
Taking a bribe	0,2	0,3	1,1	1,2	0,8	0,7	0,7	1,3	2,1	1,2	1,4	0,7	1	1,6	1,2	1,1	0,6	8th place
Violation of traffic safety rules and operation of vehicles			1	1,1	0,9	0,7	0,5	0,5	0,5	1,1	1,6	3,2	1,6		4,8	1,8	1,9	9th place
Violent Robbery	1	1,3	1,3	0,8	0,8	0,9	1,1	1,5	1	0,6	0,3	0,4	0,6	0,4	0,5	0,2	0,1	10th place
Extortion			0,7	0,6	0,7	0,3	0,3		0	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,4	0,2	0,3	0,1	0,2	11th place
Rape	0	0	0	0	0,1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,04	0	0	12th place
Other	39,7	35,7	32,5	32,9	36,6	40,2	35	31,6	35,2	37	42,2	42,5	42,1	43,5	36,3	34,6	33,8	
Total, as a percentage		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Source: Compiled by the authors according to the data of the Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Accounts of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CLS&SA GP RK)// https://qamqor.gov.kz/crimestat/statistics

Figure 6: Ranking of convicted women by type of crime in the Republic of Kazakhstan

Ranking of convicted women by type of crime in the Republic of Kazakhstan

Source: The ranking was carried out by the authors using the construction of a grouped Table 3 "Number of convicted women by the most frequently committed types of crimes in the Republic of Kazakhstan".

Similar most common types of crime, such as theft, fraud and drug-related crimes, are also committed by women in the United States, England, Wales and Italy (see Figure 7). (Campaniello, 2019).

Figure 7: In the US, England and Wales, and Italy, women tend to commit mostly property crimes, 2009.

Figure 4. In the US, England and Wales, and Italy, women tend to commit mostly property crimes, 2009
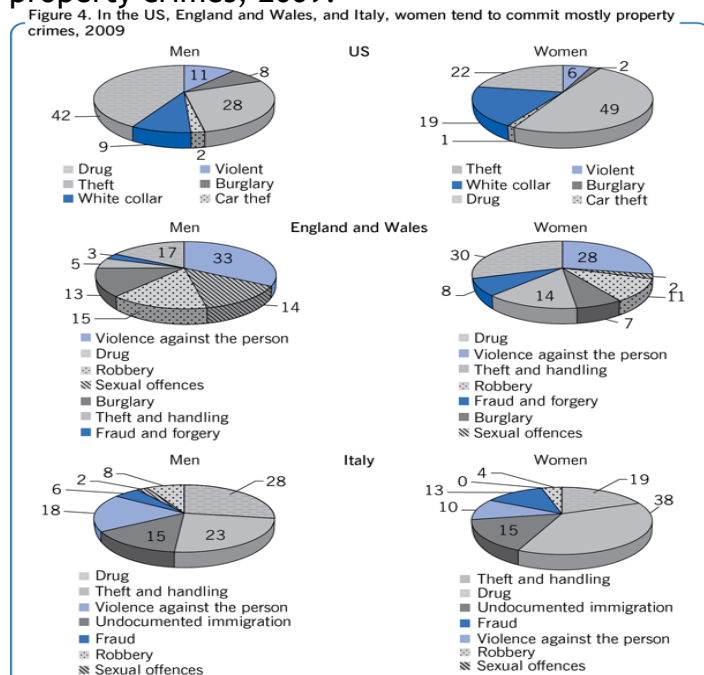
Source: by Campaniello, N. Women in crime. IZA World of Labor 2019: 105 doi: 10.15185/izawol. 105.v2

Before turning to the analysis of the main types of crimes for which women are most often convicted in Kazakhstan, it should be noted that from 2000 to 2021, against the background of an overall decrease in the number of convicted women, there is a 6.5-fold increase in the number of women convicted for intentional infliction of grievous bodily harm, a 3-fold increase in the number of women convicted for taking a bribe, and the number of women convicted for premeditated murder and attempted murder increased by 1.3 times. This indicates an increase in the social danger of women's crimes.

Let us also refer to the statistical data related to the categories of crimes committed by women and men, in particular, to the visualized statistical indicators given in the figure 8 "Number of women who committed criminal offenses in the Republic of Kazakhstan (by category)" and in the figure 9 "Number of men who committed criminal offenses in the Republic of Kazakhstan (by category)". An analysis of the number of women who have committed criminal offences in the Republic of Kazakhstan, depending on the degree of public danger, shows an increase in serious crimes, while the number of similar crimes committed by men tends to decrease.

On the whole, other categories of crimes indicate that the dynamics of female crime repeats the vector of development of crime in Kazakhstan as a whole: most often both women and men commit crimes of medium and minor gravity, which tend to increase, while particularly serious crimes tend to decrease among both men and women.

Figure 8/9: Number of women who committed criminal offenses in the Republic of Kazakhstan (by category) and number of men who committed criminal offenses in the Republic of Kazakhstan (by category)"
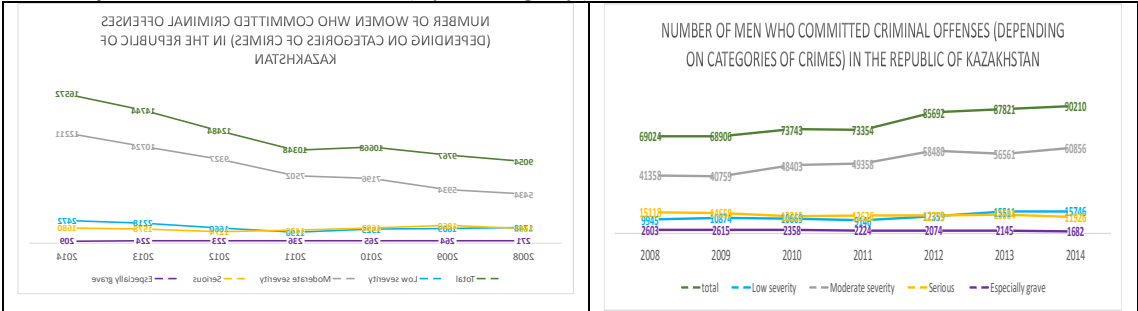
Source: Compiled by the authors according to the data of the Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Accounts of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CLS&SA GP RK)// https://qamqor.gov.kz/crimestat/statistics

Next, we will dwell in more detail on crimes against property committed by women in the Republic of Kazakhstan (using the example of fraud and theft) and propose measures aimed at combating these illegal acts.

Fraud is the most common type of crime among women in the Republic of Kazakhstan. From 2000 to 2021, there was a steady increase in the number of women convicted of fraud in the Republic of Kazakhstan by 5.4 times (see Figure 10).

Figure 10. The number of women convicted for the most frequently committed types of crimes in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The number of women convicted for the most frequently committed types of crimes in the Republic of Kazakhstan
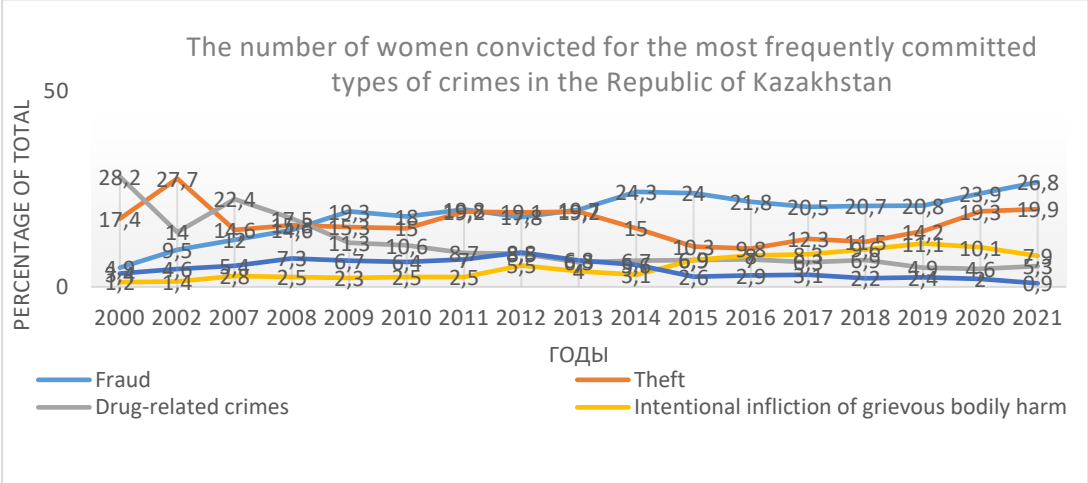
The peak in the number of women convicted of fraud was reached in 2021, amounting to 26.8% of the total number of crimes committed by women, compared to 4.9% in 2000.

The example of Adler's position that if a woman works as a clerk in a bank, this can lead to the commission of bank fraud (Adler, 1975), confirms, as does the theory of possibilities, that an increase in women's participation in the labor market leads to an increase in criminal acts committed by women. This is evidenced by the official data on "Employment-to-population ratio, 15+, % (ILO estimate) » (see Figure 3 above) showing the increase in women's employment, and the statistics presented in the table 3. "Number of convicted women by the most frequently committed types of crimes in the Republic of Kazakhstan", confirming the increase in the number of women convicted of fraud.

Thus, in Kazakhstan, at least until 2019 (the period of the pandemic), it is possible to trace a correlation between the increase in women's participation in the labor market and the increase in female fraud.

However, during the COVID-19 period, labor market indicators show a decline in women's employment, with a further increase in women convicted of fraud. Moreover, over the past five years, there has been a sharp increase in this relatively new type of Internet fraud in the overall category of fraud. According to criminologists Bezborodov D.A., Gilinsky Y.I., Zarubin A.Y., Kravchenko R.M., Kraev D.Yu., Lyubavin M.A., Popov A.N., Fedyshin P.V., this is explained by the fact that the "consumption society" demands a continuous increase in spending on various types of purchases. Since not everyone manages to make money legally, and while theft or robbery on the streets is risky and not very effective, illegal "earning" with the help of a computer is both convinient and profitable. According to some reports, the total damage from cybercrime in the world exceeds 120 billion US dollars per year. Thus, significant changes in the dynamics and structure of crime will inevitably continue in our unfamiliar new world, which should be the subject of the most thorough scholarly research.

American researchers Pratt, Holtfreter, and Reisig, using a representative sample of 922 adults, conducted a survey in Florida, U.S. that proved that the results of regression models are consistent with previous studies, specifically that sociodemographic characteristics shape everyday online activities (e.g., spending time on the Internet and making online purchases). Moreover, researchers demonstrated that indicators of routine online activity predict the influence of socio-demographic characteristics on the likelihood of becoming a victim of online fraud (Pratt, Holtfreter, Reisig, 2010).

Today, in the Western criminology, several theories have been developed to explain the increase in crime, which are relevant to COVID-19. One theory partially explains the situation with the increase in female fraud both during and after the pandemic. This is the *routine activities theory*, according to which "COVID-19 restrictions are reducing crime in public places... Mobility is also decreasing, while the use of online communications is increasing, leading to an increase in online crime and a decrease in offline crime (Hoeboer, Kitselaar, Henrich, 2023).

Thus, the positions of researchers of various schools of criminological thought confirm the inevitable trend of the growth of Internet fraud based on the theory of routine (everyday) activities, which in the context of the pandemic is becoming even more relevant. The second most common type of crime among women is theft, which, like fraud, is a crime against property. The proportion of women convicted of theft fluctuates slightly over the years (17.4% in 2000 and 19.9% in 2021), but generally remains within relatively stable limits, in contrast to the proportion of women convicted of fraud, the percentage of which has increased 5.5 times over 20 years. At the same time, over the past six years, the total number of theft crimes committed by women has decreased by almost 2.5 times (see Table 4).

Table 4: Information on the number of women who have committed theft.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Theft (Article 188 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan)	6573	5723	5517	3875	3006	2666

Source: Compiled by the authors on the basis of statistical reports submitted by the CLS&SA GP RK "Report No. 1-M. On registered criminal offences. Section 6. Information on Persons who Have Committed Offences"// https://qamqor.gov.kz/crimestat/statistics

However, neither the number of women who have committed theft nor the number of women convicted of theft gives a complete picture of the extent of the crime. According to an international survey of victimization in Kazakhstan (Assessment of the level of public safety and trust in law enforcement agencies, 2018), only 66% of victims reported theft of a vehicle, only 32% of theft of items from a vehicle or parts of a vehicle, 56% of motorcycle theft, 30% of bicycle theft, 49% of cattle theft, 53% of burglary, and 26% of theft of personal property, which confirms the high latency of this type of crime (see Table 5). The situation is aggravated by the fact that the victims of theft themselves do not take proper measures to preserve their property.

Table 5: Proportion of crime victims in Kazakhstan and two major cities who reported the latest incident to the police

	Kazakhstan	Astana	Almaty
All crime	21	28	27

Car theft	66	54	78
Theft from the car or car parts outside	32	40	31
Motorcycle theft	56	100	84
Bicycle theft	30	44	38
Cattle theft	49	54	21

Source: Table from "Assessment of the level of public security and trust in law enforcement agencies". Astana, 2018. – 66 p. – p.20.

At the same time, the compensation of damages rate averages 43% *(32 billion tenge out of 57 billion tenge over 5 years)*, which creates reasons for the population to express dissatisfaction with the work of the police (Project. Concept of Public Safety in Partnership with Society for 2024 – 2028, 2023). The same conclusion is confirmed by the data of an international survey assessing the level of security in Kazakhstan, according to which 44% of the surveyed victims of crimes, who reported them to the police, were very dissatisfied with the actions of the police.

Table 6: Level of satisfaction with police actions among victims of crimes who reported them to the police

	Completely satisfied	rather satisfied	rather dissatisfied	very dissatisfied	don't know/don't remember
All crime	20	12	21	44	3
Car theft					
Theft from the car or car parts outside	35	25	21	17	1
Motorcycle theft	13	13	18	54	1
Bicycle theft	59	17	3	21	0
Cattle theft	38	6	25	29	1
Break-in	9	21	9	55	6

Source: Table from: "Assessment of the level of public security and trust in law enforcement agencies". Astana, 2018. – 66 p. – p.22.

Accordingly, the state needs to take measures aimed at combating the latency of crimes, as well as increasing the level of public confidence in law enforcement agencies by improving the quality of their work. In presenting the criminological characteristics of crime, it is important to assess not only the quantitative and qualitative indicators of the crimes of the type under consideration, but also of the persons who committed these crimes. Another measure aimed at both preventing and combating female crime is the compilation of a profile of a typical female offender. Having information of the average age of a female offender, the state should take comprehensive measures aimed at working with women in this age bracket.

Statistical data presented in the table 7 "Composition of convicts who committed theft" allowed to determine the typical statistical profile of a person who committed theft in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Age: between 21 and 39 years old; education – secondary; the main occupation of the offender at the time of committing of the criminal offences: unemployed and not a student.

Table 7: Composition of convicts who committed theft

Form No. 11.
Report on the composition of convicts who have committed criminal offences

Composition of convicts who committed theft

Table A

Name	Total Convicted	Women	Age								Education					Blue collar	White collar	Student	Others, including retired	able-bodied persons who do not work or study (except those	of them (gr.37) previously convicted	Incapacitated	Convicted	In military service
			14 years to 15 years	from 16 years to 17 years	from 18 years to 20 years	from 21 years to 29 years	from 30 years to 39 years	from 40 years to 49 years	from 50 years to 59 years	60 years and older	Higher and incomplete higher education	Specialized secondary (vocational)	Secondary (High school)	Lower secondary (through 9th grad)	Uneducated									
a	1	2	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
Year 2022																								
ALTOGETHER																								
Theft (art.188 p.1)	1839	258		10	64	585	652	411	89	28	103	179	1512	41	4	99	2	12	60	1647	549	1	17	1
Theft (art.188 p.2)	446	58	1	10	46	186	132	53	15	3	23	46	355	21	1	53	3	9	42	337	63		2	
Theft (art.188 p.3)	5703	286	24	93	531	2035	1911	881	185	43	279	466	4723	230	5	297	12	115	199	5022	1518	5	46	7
Theft (art.188 p.4)	167	7			5	68	69	15	9	1	21	11	130	4	1	12		2	15	138	32			
Year 2021																								
Theft (art.188 p.1)	1855	292		10	95	592	707	354	76	21	98	162	1516	74	5	86	1	11	86	1659	559	2	9	1
Theft (art.188 p.2)	377	41	1	7	36	163	121	31	13	5	24	44	290	18	1	30	2	5	29	311	56			
Theft (art.188 p.3)	5276	243	36	80	405	1908	1824	790	206	27	185	478	4356	246	11	260	2	100	192	4663	1770	2	54	3

Theft (art.188 p.4)	213	11	1	1	6	76	87	30	10	2	35	21	154	3		17	3	1	19	172	52			1
Year 2020																								
Theft (art.188 p.1)	1223	189		5	75	362	469	235	60	17	64	123	997	38	1	81	4	6	49	1076	365	2	5	
Theft (art.188 p.2)	742	48	6	17	70	335	209	81	22	2	24	58	618	40	2	64		23	36	613	186		6	
Theft (art.188 p.3)	5074	268	36	66	391	1945	1705	723	176	32	138	439	4208	282	7	229	4	104	154	4504	1516	5	72	2
Theft (art.188 p.4)	227	7	1		3	95	92	25	9	2	37	16	171	3		10	1	1	31	183	51		1	
Year 2019																								
Theft (art.188 p.1)	698	128		3	47	249	251	105	39	4	39	81	554	24		49	2	4	46	596	186	1		
Theft (art.188 p.2)	1676	103	11	17	168	679	540	217	40	4	44	161	1372	95	4	100	1	30	70	1474	584	1		
Theft (art.188 p.3)	1972	113	12	32	168	784	661	254	52	9	80	154	1665	71	2	76	6	35	83	1770	691	1		1
Theft (art.188 p.4)	244	16	1		13	96	94	30	10		26	21	188	9		13		1	15	213	60			2
Year 2018																								
Theft (art.188 p.1)	979	183		2	71	332	369	148	50	7	35	97	802	45		66	18	3	44	846	212	1		
Theft (art.188 p.2)	2457	131	16	32	249	1013	795	283	58	11	61	238	1999	157	2	137	30	41	110	2133	684	2	1	3
Theft (art.188 p.3)	898	43	1	7	63	442	272	88	22	3	67	85	721	22	3	67	15	5	66	739	161		2	2
Theft (art.188 p.4)	349	10	1	5	13	154	114	47	15		59	31	254	5		27	18	4	26	272	75			1
Year 2017																								
Theft (art.188 p.1)	1049	192		6	67	348	404	155	59	10	34	116	839	58	2	82	24	6	25	906	186	1	1	1
Theft (art.188 p.2)	2861	156	17	39	298	1230	880	302	86	9	64	314	2266	215	2	142	46	36	41	2585	763		3	1
Theft (art.188 p.3)	1019	65	5	18	85	502	263	108	30	8	64	94	827	33	1	68	20	11	50	862	202	1	1	
Theft (art.188 p.4)	359	10	2	2	23	178	111	36	7		50	41	262	6		26	20	5	20	278	67		1	
Year 2016																								
Theft (art.188 p.1)	724	169		9	50	269	251	101	38	6	23	83	565	52	1	37	15	5	24	639	81		1	
Theft (art.188 p.2)	2143	116	8	39	232	989	625	188	55	7	55	247	1655	185	1	107	27	25	30	1943	379	1	1	1
Theft (art.188 p.3)	805	39	2	12	90	405	200	79	16	1	55	64	659	26	1	43	20	13	15	708	120			1
Theft (art.188 p.4)	279	10		3	29	139	81	21	6		31	24	215	9		12	8	3	19	233	41			

Source: Data for 2016-2022 are presented by the author by sampling from Form No. 11. Report on the composition of convicts who committed criminal offenses of the CLS&SA of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan// https://qamqor.gov.kz/crimestat/statistics

Even though men commit theft more often than women, the factors leading to the commission of the crime are practically the same (see Figure 11).

Figure 11: Composition of convicts who committed theft (Article 188, Part 1 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan)

COMPOSITION OF CONVICTS WHO COMMITTED THEFT (ART.188 P.1 CC OF RK)

Source: Compiled by the authors based on the data of the CLS&SA GP RK // https://qamqor.gov.kz/crimestat/statistics).
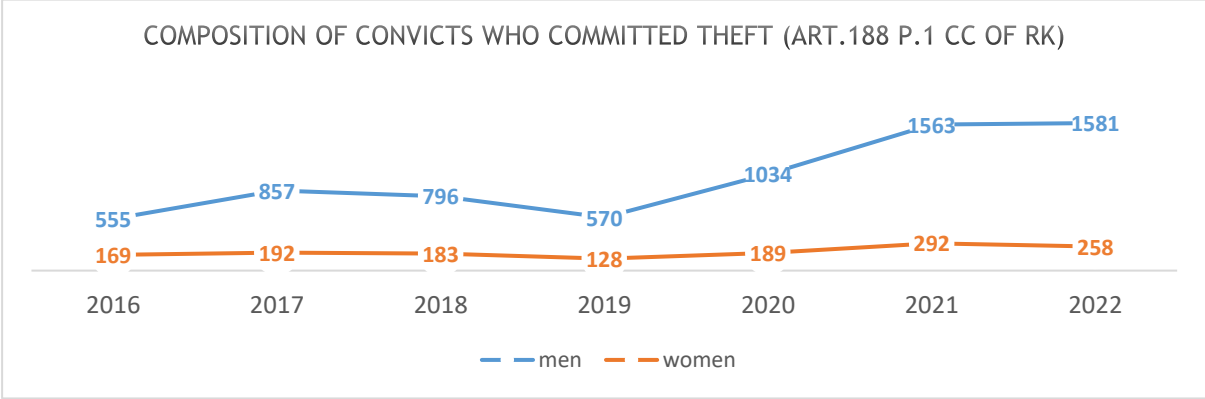
Therefore, the typical profile of a person who has committed a theft would be common for women and men. The general nature of this profile is also confirmed by the analytical data on the categories of crimes given above.
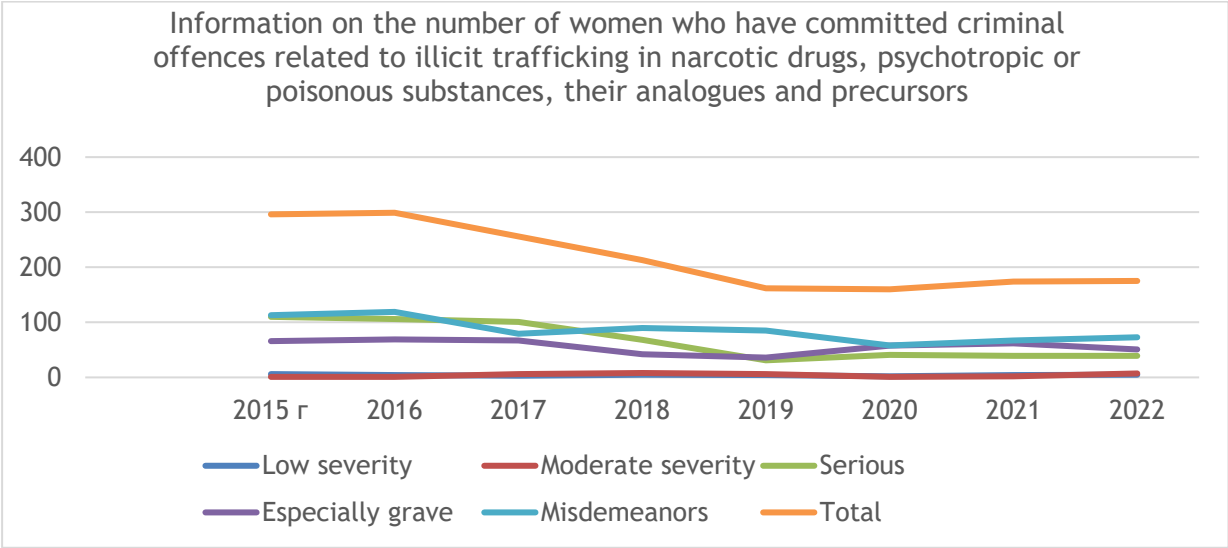
Overall, a typical profile of a person who has committed a theft can help develop strategies to prevent and investigate theft and other crimes. However, for a more detailed typical description of a person who committed a particular type of crime, we would offer the following structural components detailing his or her overall description:
- socio-demographic characteristics: gender, age, place of residence, education, marital status, employment status;
- criminal and legal characteristics: criminal record, type of offense, aggravating factors, reasons for committing the offense;
- psychological characteristics: sanity, intellectual qualities, temperament, etc.

Thus, it is necessary to improve official legal statistics in order to solve not only the problem of the increased number of theft crimes, but also to prevent other types of crimes committed by women in Kazakhstan. Drug-related offences are the third most common committed crime among women in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

From 2000 to 2021, there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of women convicted for drug-related crimes in the Republic of Kazakhstan. In terms of the severity of drug-related offences, misdemeanors and serious crimes are the most common offenders committed by men and women (see Figures 12,13).

Figure 12: Information on the number of women who have committed criminal offences related to illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic or poisonous substances, their analogues and precursors

Source: Compiled by the authors based on the data of the CLS&SA GP RK // https://qamqor.gov.kz/crimestat/statistics).

Figure 12: Information on the number of men who have committed criminal offences related to illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic or poisonous substances, their analogues and precursors

Source: Compiled by the authors based on the data of the CLS&SA GP RK // https://qamqor.gov.kz/crimestat/statistics).
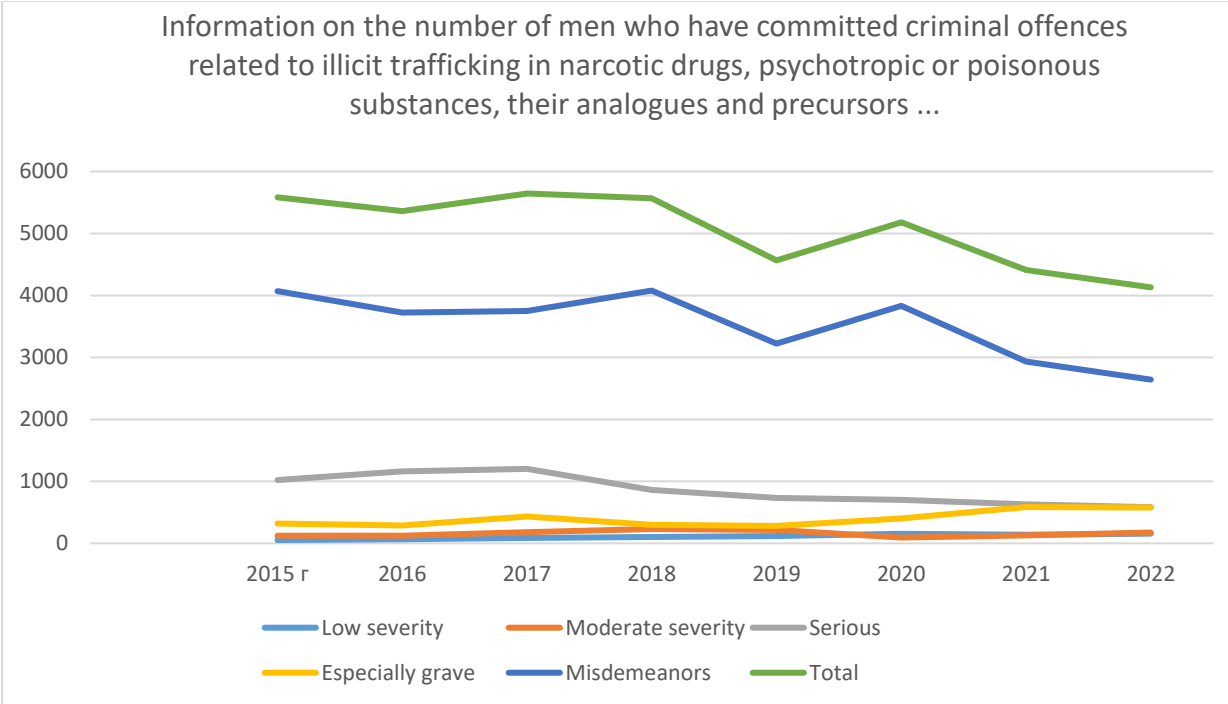
In recent years, there has been a downward trend in the number of women who have committed criminal offences while under the influence of narcotic drugs, psychotropic toxicants, and their analogues (see Table 8).

Table 8: Information on persons who committed criminal offenses under the influence narcotic drugs, psychotropic toxicants, and their analogues, precursors who were registered with the internal affairs bodies

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	Total offences committed under the influence of drugs and toxic substances	1630	1708	1570	1347	1356	1120	764
2	Of these, committed by women	45	53	31	33	18	26	22
3	Total diagnosed with drug addiction	341	294	201	166	159	147	132
4	Of these, women	40	31	15	15	11	16	19

Source: Compiled by the authors based on the data of the CLS&SA GP RK on completed cases/ https://qamqor.gov.kz/crimestat/statistics

Official statistics show positive changes in the fight against drug addiction and the impact of institutional and legal measures aimed at preventing such crimes among women.

To date, the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan has fourteen elements of crimes aimed at combating drug offences (articles: 218, 262, 263, 264, 265, 286, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan). Since 1998, the Law "On Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Their Analogues and Precursors and Measures to Counteract Their Illicit Trafficking and Abuse" has been in force in Kazakhstan. In addition to the Act, such policy documents as Presidential Decree No. 394 of 16 May 2000 "On the Strategy for Combating Drug Addiction and Drug Trafficking in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2001-2005" were adopted. It was repealed by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated June 18, 2009 No. 829 and replaced by the Decree on "On the Strategy for Combating Drug Addiction and Drug Trafficking in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2006-2014", and supported by the Program for Combating Drug Addiction and Drug Dealing in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2009-2011, the Sectoral Program for Combating Drug Addiction and Drug Dealing in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2012-2016, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 29, 2010 No. 1113 "On Approval of the State Healtcare Development Program of the Republic of Kazakhstan "Salamatty Kazakhstan" for 2011 – 2015".

Since 2016, there were no new sectoral state programs to combat the mentioned crimes but measures were taken to give the Government the control over all dangerous types of synthetic substances and their analogues, and in 2021, "synthetics" were classified as hard drugs, the criminal liability for possession of which begins from 1 gram.

However, since 2021, there has been an increase in offenses related to narcotic substances, and in 2023, the Government again adopts the document of the secondary legislation level "Comprehensive Plan for Combating Drug Addiction and Drug Dealing in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2025" (Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated June 29, 2023 No. 508), which provides for the allocation of 53.1 billion tenge from the budget, including almost 367 million tenge of the funds of the State State-Owned Enterprise "Center for Forensic Examinations" of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In the context of our research, it should be noted that the practice of developing and implementing medium-term anti-drug state programs has a positive influence, as it reduces the level of this type of crime in Kazakhstan among both women and men. In this regard, the *theory of social control over crime (in particular, drug-related crime*) applied by the state is justified, according to Professor Y.I. Gilinsky, considered in a narrow sense, as a set of legal means and methods aimed at influencing unlawful behavior in order to prevent, minimize, reduce or eliminate it (Gilinsky, 2015). In other words, the successful state policy of combating drug addiction in the Republic of Kazakhstan is based on the concept of social control over drug crime.

In the research literature, such control is also called legal control, or control over crime, which includes such structural components as the content of crime, the establishment of responsibility for crime, the creation of state bodies and granting them special authority to combat crime, prevent and reduce crime, the mechanisms of non-state control over crime and the establishment of cooperation of non-governmental agents with state authorities in order to strengthen the social prevention mechanisms, etc.. Shopina I.N., Mulyavka D.G., Grechanyuk S.K., and Fedchishina V.V. formulate the main tasks of transforming the existing models of social control being the prevention of crime. They also emphasize the importance of national and regional crime prevention programs, which, along with legal acts, are the normative basis for social control over crime (Shopina et al., 2019).

Once again emphasizing the importance of the measures taken by state bodies in this direction, it is necessary to focus on their shortcomings:

- The measures are legally punitive but not preventive;
- The public and non-governmental organizations are poorly involved in the prevention of drug abuse;
- There is no program for the compulsory treatment of drug addicts;
- We can also agree with the position of Y.L. Kazarinov, who proposed to intensify the fight "not only against the illegal production of narcotic drugs and their trade, but also against certain negative phenomena that nourish and support such criminal activity" (Kazarinov, 2000).

CONCLUSION

Let us summarize the results of the analysis of women's crime in the Republic of Kazakhstan in the context of the gender approach:

- The data show that the proportion of female crime in the overall structure is relatively constant, which confirms the existence of a gender gap;
- Prior to the adoption of the new Criminal Code, the proportion of women who committed criminal offences was demonstrating an upward trend, which can be partly explained by the increase in women's participation in the labor market, as well as by socio-economic, psychological and other reasons. The increase in the number of women's crimes is accompanied by a reduction in the gender gap in the labor market;
- The trend towards convergence of gender and social roles is narrowing the gap between female and male crime;
- After the entry into force of the new Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan, there has been a sharp decrease in the number of women's crimes, which was partly a consequence of the humanization of criminal legislation;
- The further process of decriminalization of criminal legislation has led to a significant increase in the number of administrative offences committed by women.
- A qualitative description of the general structure of modern female crime in the Republic of Kazakhstan indicates that:
- Over the past 20 years, women have been the most frequently convicted of fraud, theft and drug-related offences;
- The increase in the number of women convicted of intentional infliction of grievous bodily harm, premeditated murder and attempted murder indicates a trend towards an increase in the public danger of female crime;

The dynamics of female crime, depending on the degree of danger to society, is close to that of men, which is confirmed by the most frequent commission of crimes of medium and minor gravity, which tend to increase, as well as by the decrease in particularly serious crimes in both gender categories.

Official statistics of convicted women in the Republic of Kazakhstan for the period from 2000 to 2021 show that women are most often convicted of crimes against property: fraud and theft. An analysis of crimes against property, which are most often committed by women in the Republic of Kazakhstan, allowed us to formulate the following conclusions:

- Before the pandemic, there was a correlation between the increase in women's participation in the labor market and the increase in female fraud;
- During the COVID-19 period, labor market indicators in Kazakhstan show a decrease in female employment with a further increase in women convicted of fraud;
- The pandemic has demonstrated that in the face of threats or challenges, the structure of crime can change, which requires not only serious additional research, but also the prompt adoption of comprehensive measures to respond to such challenges;
- The *routine activities theory*, developed by representatives of Anglo-American criminological school, partially explains the growth of female fraud in the pandemic and post-pandemic periods;
- An analysis of theft crimes committed by women shows that there is a high degree of latency, the prevention of which requires increasing the level of public confidence in law enforcement agencies by improving the quality of their work;
- A typical profile of the theft offender can help develop strategies to prevent and investigate theft and other crimes. However, for a more detailed typical description of a person who has committed a particular crime, it is necessary to improve official legal statistics.

Drug-related crimes are the third most committed crime among women in the Republic of Kazakhstan. At the same time, over the past 20 years, there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of women convicted of drug-related offences in the Republic of Kazakhstan, which repeats an identical trend among men. The severity levels of drug-related offences are also similar: misdemeanors and serious crimes are more likely to be committed by both men and women. The level of this type of crime in Kazakhstan, both among women and men, is reduced by the practice of developing and implementing medium-term anti-drug state programs. However, the analysis of these programs proves the need for their improvement in terms of strengthening preventive measures, involving the public and non-governmental organizations in preventive measures, as well as developing a program for the compulsory treatment of drug addicts. Thus, the elimination of shortcomings in the fight against drug crime and other types of illegal acts should be based on a gender approach, which not only takes into account gender differences in crime, but also opens up new opportunities to assess and prevent crime in relation to modern socio-economic, demographic, and psychological conditions.

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