

## **A Critical Study of Lived Experiences of Women inside a Special Jail in Odisha, India**

**Srijeeta Das\***

*KIIT School of Liberal Studies*

**Sukanta Chandra Swain**

*School of Economics and Commerce (KSEC)*

*KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar*

**Abstract:** This paper critically examines the normative framework governing women prisoners in India and compares it with the lived experiences of women inmates in Jharpada Jail, Odisha. Using a mixed-methods approach, the study draws on prison records, observations, and interviews with 43 convicted and undertrial inmates. It assesses the implementation of provisions relating to accommodation, sanitation, privacy, healthcare, personal belongings, and dignity. The findings reveal significant gaps between policy and practice, particularly in healthcare access, hygiene, legal assistance, vocational opportunities, and mental well-being. Structural deficiencies, inadequate funding, and infrastructural constraints continue to hinder the effective realization of gender-sensitive prison reforms.

**Keywords:** Prison, Women Inmates, Odisha Prison Manual

**JEL Classification Number:** K14

---

\* Corresponding author. Research Scholar. Email: [srijeetaxperia@gmail.com](mailto:srijeetaxperia@gmail.com)