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### **Gender dimensions of corruption**

Questions of gender differences of corruption in Russia are considered in the framework of both the criminological research of corruption crimes (the study of offender personality) and sociological studies of the perception of corruption by the population and involvement in corruption processes.

Over the last five years (2008-2012) the share of women in the total number of offenders remained about the same and amounted more than 15% in Russia (although it's decreased from 15,98% in 2008 to 15.3% in 2012).

*Table 1*

**Dynamic of the number of women who have committed crimes  
in 2008-2012<sup>1</sup>**

Articles of the Criminal Code/years		Total identified the perpetrators of the crime	Of women	
			Abs.	Share, %
All crimes	2008	1256199	200834	15,98
	2009	1219789	194202	15,9
	2010	1111145	172375	15,5
	2011	1041340	159329	15,3
	2012	1010938	154368	15,3
Abuse of power and excess (articles 285 and 286)	2008	4035	654	16,2
	2009	4232	578	13,6
	2010	3988	450	11,3
	2011	3399	386	11,3
	2012	3008	375	12,5
Getting a bribe (article 290)	2008	2174	514	23,6
	2009	2409	565	23,5
	2010	2384	574	24,1
	2011	2169	524	24,2
	2012	1687	422	25,0
Bribery (article 291)	2008	4483	750	16,7
	2009	4425	621	14,0
	2010	3761	550	14,6
	2011	3545	422	11,9
	2012	3671	386	10,5

<sup>1</sup> See: Data form 2-EGS «Information about persons who have committed crimes» GIATC of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for 2008-2012.

If for such corruption crimes as the abuse of power, excess, bribery (articles 285, 286, 291 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation) the share of women- offenders approximately corresponded to the above data, to get a bribe (article 290 of the Criminal Code), rightly recognized as one of the most socially dangerous corruption offences, the share of women- offenders significantly exceed the allocation for all crimes is 25% in 2012. Moreover if the share of women - offenders in a whole and women - offenders under the articles 285, 286, 291 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation is insignificant declining during the last five years (2008-2012), the share of women - offenders in getting a bribe in the same period is increased (23,6% in 2008 and 25% in 2012).

According to available data<sup>2</sup>, in the first half of 2013, the share of women - offenders in the total number of offenders was 15,5% (80485 are women-offenders, from the total number of offenders - 520442). Women who have committed crimes under articles 285 and 286 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, in the first half of the current year was revealed 161 or 11.7% of the total number of offenders. 1214 women (21,3%) got a bribe and 250 - gave a bribe (11,4%).

Unfortunately, statistics in the shares of women - offenders in Russia are not available yet. However, these questions were investigated some scientists both criminologists and sociologists.

Thus, according to results of the sociological research in the Ivanovo region<sup>3</sup> men are more likely face to corruption when have to deal with employees of traffic police, law enforcement agencies and military enlistment office, and women when dealing with communal services and officials in the field of education.

However, despite of the fact that education and health area are traditionally more typical for women, criminological research of corruption in these areas are not allow to make an unambiguous conclusion.

So only in 2013 results of various researches have shown quite different results. According to the research of Balebanova T.A. the proportion of women who have committed of corruption crimes in health area much more lower than men: 84,4% of medical workers subject to liability for corruption crimes are men, while the number of women is only 15.6%<sup>4</sup>. According to Polucarova A.V.<sup>5</sup> crimes of corruption in this area are often committed by male persons (79% of men against 21% of women). Moreover, the author notes that these figures are not associated with overall gender structure of employed in the health area, but reflect

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<sup>2</sup> See: Data form 2-EGS «Information about persons who have committed crimes» GIATC of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for January-June 2008-2012.

<sup>3</sup> See: Kupriyanov, I.S. Corruption practices of the population of the region: gender aspect / I.S. Kupriyanov //Woman in the Russian society. 2010. № 3. P. 36-46.

<sup>4</sup> See: Balebanova T.A. Modern state of corruption in the Russian health area and measures of its prevention: criminological research. Abstract of thesis Candidate of laws. M., 2013.

<sup>5</sup> See: Polucarova A.V. Penal and criminological measures against corruption in the health area. Abstract of thesis Candidate of laws. M, 2013. P. 24.



the fact that traditionally men are prevailed in the most corrupt and bribe capacious areas of health (surgery, oncology, cardiology, health management)<sup>6</sup>.

However, according to the research of Plokhov S.V.<sup>7</sup> corruption crimes in the sphere of health are performed mainly by women. The author notes that, as a rule, there are women aged 20 to 40 years, with work experience from 5 to 20 years, consisting in the capacity of attending physician, with income from 10 to 25 thousand roubles in the family for 1 person, on the following reasons:

- over the low salary set by the state, doctors believe that their work should be paid significantly higher and consider a bribe as an expression of gratitude for their labour;

- a third of doctors would not come into corruption relations, if were believed in the inevitability of criminal liability.

It's interesting that the patients, who engage in corrupt relationships with healthcare professionals, mainly serve men aged 20 to 40 years, by occupation entrepreneurs or employees of commercial organizations. The main motivation component of their corruption relations is the fear for their life and health or life and health of their relatives, because according to the opinion of potential briber the additional monetary compensation is a motivation for the doctor and would promote for better treatment; additional motivation factors are that it's more convenient, faster, without queue; the bribe is reached a certain medical worker, who has not too big salary. For illegal receipting of the sick-list the majority apply to the known doctor<sup>8</sup>.

According to the results of research similar situation can be observed in the sphere of education<sup>9</sup>. The subjects of corruption offences (lecturers and teachers, and also often directors at schools) also, as a rule, are women, and with work experience from 5 to 10 years. On account of the low salaries the main motivation of corruption relations is additional income. Such motive reinforces the confidence-thirds of the teachers in his impunity. Male more often come into corrupt relationships with teachers (studying in the 11th form of secondary schools, or their parents, and students). The initiators in this case, as a rule, are the briber. In spite of negative attitude to corruption, for the majority of pupils and students is acceptable to bribe the teacher. The reason for corruption relations among schoolchildren is the inability to learn the subject because of its complexity, or extortion of money by the teachers, unwillingness to spoil relations with them due to adverse consequences in case of failure.

Many scientists tried to find explanations for the fact that women are less likely to commit crimes, including corruption. So, sociological researches<sup>10</sup> show

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> See: Plokhov, S.V. Resistance to corruption crime in the social sphere (on the example of the health and education of the Volgograd and Saratov regions). Abstract of thesis Candidate of laws. Saratov, 2013. P.25

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Kupriyanov, I.S. Corruption practices of the population of the region: gender aspect / I.S. Kupriyanov // Woman in the Russian society. 2010. № 3. P. 36-46.



that women are more intolerant of corruption than men consider that corruption is a negative phenomenon, which it is necessary to struggle, 73,3% of women, 62,8% of men. 14,9% of men and only 5,8% of women believe that the corruption is normal. Women critically evaluate the general level of bribery in their region: 12,1% of men believe that the level of corruption in the Ivanovo region is lower than in other regions, among women the answer met much less - only 5,5%; on the contrary more high level of corruption in their region consider 11% of women and only 7,9% of men.

Compared with men, women give bribes less frequently, which agrees well with the results of research conducted in the USA and some European countries, and also corresponds to the above statistics. However, men are more at risk of involving into corruption situation and increasingly faced with the solicitation of bribes by public officials. Men had to give a bribe more often than women (62,3% and 53,6 % respectively). Similarly, men had more to extortion of a bribe (42,3% of men and 35,7% of women).

In the report of the Women's Fund of the United Nations (UNIFEM), «Progress of the world's women 2008/2009: Who answers for women? Gender and accountability»<sup>11</sup> was noted that in developed regions, Central and Eastern Europe and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in the countries of South-East Asia and Pacific percentage of women who think that corruption is high, higher than among men. However, in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia in some cases, the percentage of men who consider that the level of corruption is high, higher than the percentage of women who hold this view.

Taking into account these features it's sometimes proposed increase in the number of women in the civil and municipal service as one of the anti-corruption measures. However, such proposals are unlikely to deserve attention. According to Federal service of state statistics<sup>12</sup> for the past ten years (1999-2011) women are dominated on positions of civil and municipal service in Russia. Thus, in 2011, it was 71,3% of all government - employees and employees of the civil service in the bodies of state power of the Russian Federation (589858 and 827503 respectively). In legislative bodies - 58,2% (7489 from 12857), executive power - 70,2% (468515 from 667142), the judiciary and the prosecutor's office of 78,8% (106409 from 135055), other state authorities - 62,0% (6422 from 10365). Moreover, women prevail on all categories (see Fig. 1)<sup>13</sup>.

Fig.1  
«The employees of the civil service  
by gender and category of posts on October 1, 2012»

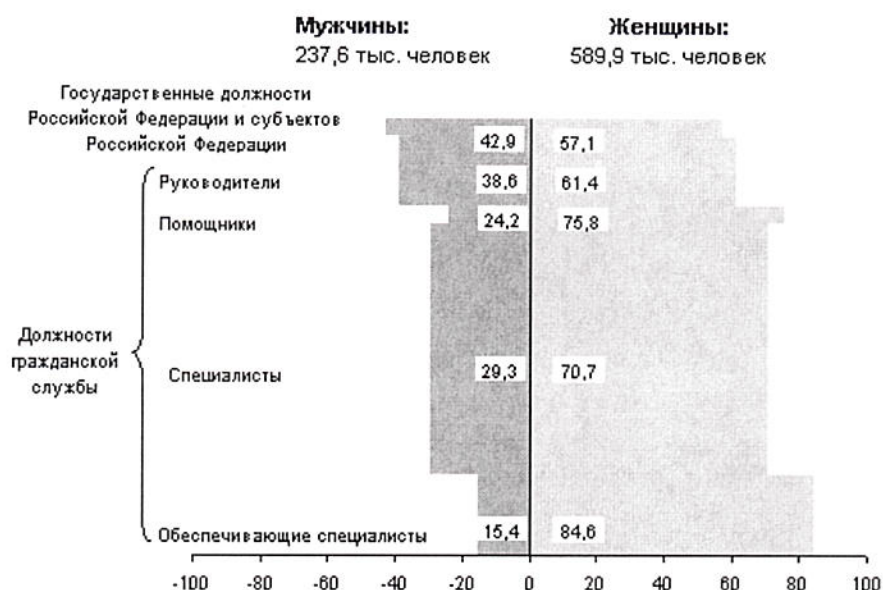
<sup>11</sup> See: Report UNIFEM' «Progress of the world's women 2008/2009: Who answers for women? Gender and accountability»

[http://www.un.org/ru/publications/pdfs/world\\_women\\_report\\_2008\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/ru/publications/pdfs/world_women_report_2008_2009.pdf) (date of access: 28.11.2013).

<sup>12</sup> URL: [http://www.gks.ru/free\\_doc/2011/gos-kadr/tab1.htm](http://www.gks.ru/free_doc/2011/gos-kadr/tab1.htm) (дата обращения: 28.11.2013).

<sup>13</sup> URL: [http://www.gks.ru/free\\_doc/new\\_site/gosudar/graf2a.htm](http://www.gks.ru/free_doc/new_site/gosudar/graf2a.htm) (дата обращения: 28.11.2013)

**Состав работников гражданской службы  
по полу и категориям должностей  
на 1 октября 2011 года**



It should be noted that the experts UNIFEM associated low levels of corruption with the democratic and transparent policy and not with the number of women employed in the public service<sup>14</sup>. Should be fully agree with UNIFEM in the fact that «the Election or appointment of women to leadership positions is a noble and just goal, but by itself it will not be able to «clean up» government. It's necessary an effective system of checks and balances, regardless of the gender of politicians»<sup>15</sup>.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.