

# ROLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN CAUSING DESPAIR IN UNMARRIED GIRLS

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## **ABSTRACT**

The present was conducted with objective to determine the causes of despair in unmarried girls. A sample size 159 respondents out of 264 was selected through random sampling procedure from three Mohallahs of Union Council Jahngrha, district Abbotabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The conceptual framework of the study comprised of domestics violence against women as independent variable and causes of despair in unmarried girls as dependent variable. Chi-square test was used to find out association among study variables. The study found that a significant relationship was found between despair and family as a first place where women are trained to bear violent actions ( $p=0.034$ ) and the support of economic discrimination in not our society for violence ( $p=0.000$ ). Awareness rising among masses through use of mass media, local political and religious leadership regarding religious and legal rights and status of women so that view of marriage and dowry as a capital transfer is publically negated, devising policies that can make it easy for poor and middle class females to access judiciary, minimize domestic violence through implementation of law, enhancing female education and strengthening moral base of marriage and family to measure morality instead of economic, benefits in mate selection were recommendations in light of study findings.

**Key words, Despair Domestics violence, deprivation, development and Patriarchy**

## **I. Introduction**

Gender base violence is a major cause of mortality and morbidity among females therefore it is recognized as serious human rights issue that obstacle economic development and had its worse effect on public health. The violence act may lead to blindness, disfigurement, and death of victims. Most of this violence act has its roots in social psychological causes like redeeming families on oblige individual honors, patriarchal superiority or economic reasons (Rose, 2012). Various forms of domestic violence may range from physical violence, sexual assault, economic control, emotional abuse or its combination (UNDP, 2013). In traditional societies where customs and traditions secure patriarchy, the violence against female is high and wide spread (Anderson, 2002).

Women are mostly blamed for they are harassed, killed, or raped in the streets or at homes because these women are provoked these are hacked by their speech, action or just their

presence, this is like blaming the victims. Women are considering deviate their normal expecting behavior or projected as root of corruption and cause of lax morality. These women are pointed as the cause of disintegration of family and social values (committee on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, 2000).

Pakistan based study is review that domestic violence take place approximately 80 percent of household in country. Domestic violence in form of beatings, sexual violence, torches, mutilation, acid attacks and burning the victims' alive. (Human right commission of Pakistan, 2012). The ethnic, religious and economic background of marry women are the important indication that instigate violence against them. Therefore violence against poor low class women having beliefs of minority religious denomination is more prone to domestic violence in specific (United Nation, 2000).

Ministry of Women Development (1987) and Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (1996) reported that 80% of the families in the country are involved in domestic violence. While Yoshima and Sorenson (1994) found that 58.7% of 796 respondents of the survey were victims of domestic violence. Furthermore, Fischbach& Herbert (1997) called domestic violence an international issue with visible effects of deaths, physical injuries and mental problems.

Human Rights Commission (1998) reported domestic violence as a barrier in the way of mobility, women education and employment, besides that it effects women empowerment in the country negatively.

According to Segal (1999) India faces the problem of violence against women while in United States, people are aware of the problem and in other countries there is less awareness reported, however in United States, maltreatment in families is found commonly.

In a United Nations report of 2000, it was found that low caste Pakistani girls when seek to get education are targeted of violence because of a class issue. Furthermore, marriages out of caste, religion and community also had the same results.

Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against women (2000) discussed that violence against women is the outcome of their speech and action or their presence, besides that the role of media is also playing its role to an extent that people only think that violence against women is the only way to decline of society could be stopped by eradication of women.

Anderson (2002) stated that patriarchy is secured by customs and traditions which resulted violence in tribal and feudal societies, where clashes are solved through informal ways. In this regard, Mohanty et al. (2004) argued that an uneven attention has been given to female homicide because there are several important factors like dowry disputes and sexual assault involved in it.

Anderson (2007) found that domestic violence effect thousands of people because the victims cannot leave these relationship, however in turn this violence has resulted major mental and physical problems for female and homicide is also increasing with the passage of time due to increasing hopelessness in females. Same effects were mentioned by Ali and Irma (2010) they also discussed the factors promoting domestic violence, the socio-economic and also political system, culture and influence of surrounding countries, they suggested that socio-economic and political factors can reduce domestic violence.

According to the study of Nausheen (2011), 44.6% of the female were suffered due to physical violence while psychological abuse was also mentioned in the findings. Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (2012) forwarded the types of violence as beating, sexual assault, torture, and burning. These findings were supported by Rose (2012) that these are the parts of global pattern of violence against women which has the support of illiteracy and also economic and employment disparity.

Heise (1994) quoted by Rose (2012) as he called domestic violence against women as a barrier in the way of social development because it deprives women to take their part in the development of society.

Rafferty (2013) reported customs as the supporter of violence against women. Human Rights Commission (2011) reviewed by Rose (2013) stated that violence against women is going to challenge every society of the world while laws should address this issue which needs much efforts to eliminate the causes. For Mohanty et al (2013), the main causes of domestic violence are marital disharmony and dowry disputes which mostly affected illiterate and low income families.

Rizvi & Rizvi (2000) and Parveen (2014) stated that in Pakistani society, honor killing became a serious issue in recent years because people accept it socially and is considered according to cultural and religious norms, they reported that this practice is painstaking private issue because it happens in family internally.

## II. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Universe of the study

The study area was comprised Jahngrha union council, city Havelian, District Abbottabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The study area more specifically consisted of three Mohallahs, Zamin Shah, Qassab, and Syalli. Unmarried females representing marriage age bracket were the potential respondents for this research study.

### 2.2 Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

A pilot study was conducted by researcher to determine the number of unmarried girls in the study area, according to which a total of 264 girls were on range of passing marriage age. A sample of 159 respondents sufficed for the population of 264 (Sekaran, 2003). The random sample technique was used for data collection. The sample was proportionally allocated to each Mohallah by using proportional allocation formula (Cochran, 1977). Distribution of respondents is given in Table-1.

$$n_i = \frac{n}{N} N_i \times N_i$$

$n$  = Total sample size required for researcher.

$N$  = Total unmarried girls in study area.

$N_i$  = unmarried girls in each Mohallah.

$n_i$  = Selected respondent size from each Mohallah.

**Table-1. The number of unmarried girls and sample distribution in various Mohallah's in the Study Area.**

S/No	Mohallah Name	Total number of unmarried girls	Sample size
1	Zamin Shah	114	68
2	Qassab	63	38
3	Syalli	87	53
Total		264	159

### 2.3 Characteristics of the respondents.

To fulfill the requirements of the study those respondents were investigated who had following characteristics.

1. They were in age group of 22 to 45.
2. They were unmarried.
3. Mentally sound to respond to questions.

### 2.4 Tools for data collection

Interview schedule was used as a tool for data collection with face to face interview method as a procedure. The interview schedule was pretested in the field and corrected for the shortfalls.

### 2.5 Analysis of Data

SPSS software was used for the analysis of data. The uni- variate and bi variate approaches were applied.

#### 2.5.1 Uni-variate Analysis

Univariate analysis was used for percentage proportion of background, independent and dependent variables along with frequency distribution of respondents. Following equation was used for data class's percentage.

$$\text{Data class's percentage} = f/N * 100$$

Where,

f = Data class's frequency

N = total observations.

### 2.5.2 Bi-variate Analysis

Bi-variate analysis was applied to estimate the relationship between dependent and independent variables. Chi square test was used to test the strength and direction of association of variables at bi- variate level.

#### Chi- Square Test

The Chi- square test was used to test the relationship between the two variables. Following statistical technique was adopted to find the value of chi- square test (chudhry and kamal 1977).

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^r \sum_{j=1}^c \frac{(O_{ij} - e_{ij})^2}{e_{ij}}$$

Where,

$\chi^2$  = Chi Square

$O_{ij}$  = Observed frequencies in  $i^{\text{th}}$  row and  $j^{\text{th}}$  column

$e_{ij}$  = Expected frequencies regarding  $i^{\text{th}}$  row and  $j^{\text{th}}$  column

r = Number of rows

c = Number of columns

Df = (r-1) (c-1)

There are some conditions for Chi- Square Test which are given below,

1. The subjects for each group are randomly and independently selected.
2. Each observation must qualify for one and only one category.
3. Sample size must fairly be large such that no expected frequency is less than 5, for r and c > 2 or < 10 if r = c = 2.

When third assumption was violated in data then the Fisher Exact Test was used instead of simple Chi- Square Test. The mathematical form of the Fisher Exact Test as,

$$\text{Fisher Exact Test} = \frac{(a+b)! (c+d)! (a+c)! (b+d)!}{N! a! b! c! d!}$$

Where a, b, c, and d were the observed numbers in four cells of contingency table and "n" the total number of observations.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1. Despair in Unmarried Girls

Despair is a state of depressed mood and hopelessness. Depression is a state of low mood and aversion to activity that can affect a person's thoughts, behavior, feelings and sense of well-being. What is the state of despair and what are the main causes derived by the study are given in table 2.

A high proportion of 81.8% of the respondents felt alienated because of being subordinate to men, 16.4% of them did not agree with the statement and 1.9% were uncertain. Moreover, 80.5% of the respondents saw their self-worthy of love care and support while 15.1% did not keep themselves in sentiments and 4.4% were uncertain. Similarly, 54.1% of the respondents believed that they were left alone by the family in their issues while 45.3% of them disagreed with the statement and 0.6% of the respondents remain uncertain. Bettencourt (2000) pointed out the issue of subordination of female in South Asian societies that women are seen as second-class citizens; they are not respected and are regarded as being inferior to men who caused despair and alienation in them. Majority (73.6%) of the respondents thought that they were powerless as they were not allowed to plan and get their desired goals of life, while 25.8% of them did not thought so and 0.6% of them were uncertain. Moreover, 53.5% of the respondents said that they were incapable of solving their issues as they had no support from family, while 44% of the respondents disagreed and 2.5% of the respondents were uncertain. In addition, 79.2% of the respondents thought that they were limited in the choice of mate selection, 15.7% of them disagreed with the statement and 5% of them were uncertain. Bophal (1997) found that South Asian women are treated as just women, they are seen as able to affect the izzat, and hence, their behavior is closely monitored. In order to be marriageable, they must behave in accordance with cultural rules without their personal choices and decisions. Almost half (50.3%) of the respondents believed that they would be in different state if they were living in city while 42.8% of the respondents disagreed and 6.9% of the respondents were uncertain. Moreover, 83.6% of the respondents were in the state where they become self-critical when they look forward towards their future and 16.4% of the respondents were not in this type of mental condition.

**Table 2. Perception of the respondents towards despair (dependent variable)**

Statements	Agree	Disagree	Uncertain
You feel alienated because of being subordinated to men.	130 (81.8%)	26 (16.4%)	3(1.9%)
You see yourselves worthy of love, care, or support.	128 (80.5%)	24 (15.1%)	7 (4.4%)
You have been left alone in your issues by family.	86 (54.1%)	72 (45.3%)	1 (0.6%)
You are powerless as you are not allowed to plan and get your desired goals of life.	117 (73.6%)	41 (25.8%)	1 (0.6%)
You are incapable of solving your issues as you have no support from family.	85 (53.5%)	70 (44.0%)	4 (2.5%)
You are limited in your choice of mate selection.	126 (79.2%)	25 (15.7%)	8 (5.0%)
You would be in a different state if u were living in a city.	80 (50.3%)	68 (42.8%)	11 (6.9%)
You become self-critical when you look forward to	133 (83.6%)	26 (16.4%)	00

your future.			
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\*value in the table present frequency while values in the parenthesis represent percentages proportion of the respondents.

### **3.2. Association between Despair in Unmarried Girls and Domestic Violence against Women**

There is also a complex relation between despair in unmarried girls and domestic violence against women. To measure this relation, few statements were developed which are given in table 3.

Promotion of violence in the neighbors has a non-significant ( $p=0.797$ ) relation with despair. While Ali and Irma (2010) stated that violence in the surrounding countries have affected Pakistan and promoted violence against women. However a significant relation ( $p=0.034$ ) was found in despair and family as a first place where women are trained to bear violent actions. The local culture promotes gender based segregation of roles, responsibilities and feelings. The males are promoted as aggressors on the bases of patriarchy, and female bear the aggression due to her dependency on male. The feeling are inculcated in her personality during her socialization hence increase her despair. Conversely, a non-significant ( $p=0.237$ ) relation was found between despair and the role of media in the promotion of violence by scenes and stories. Likewise a non-significant ( $p=0.222$ ) relationship was found between despair and the psychological effects of violence against women on young girls.

The support of gender based economic discrimination in our society has a highly significant relationship ( $p=0.000$ ) with despair in unmarried girls. The gender based division of labor place male on higher ranks on the bases of their economic earning, whereas work of women remain indistinct, this make female feel unworthy, indecisive and despaired. This was stated by Rose (2012) as the violence is promoted by education and economic discrimination. However, a non-significant relationship ( $p=0.809$ ) was found in the non-existence of such law which can address and bring violence to a minimum level and despair, while according to Sitaraman (1999), in Pakistan there are the laws of limitation of violence but not of elimination. This is because of the conflict between state laws and customs where people follow customs so strongly. Here again a non-significant relation ( $p=0.121$ ) was found between despair and hopelessness of girls as the result of violence against women. Culture support for domestic violence had a non-significant relationship ( $p=0.227$ ) with despair. Rose (2012) stated that

culture and religion has a strong support for violence while Raferty (2013) also mention violence as the outcome of customs.

Local cultural arrangements help to absorb the shocks of discrimination against women in two distinct ways, initially the female in their family of procreation are trained in such a way to accept the supremacy of male and bear violence against them without any complaint. Secondly, an unskilled, uneducated girl has to sacrifice her rights and live of economic support from their male members. Keeping silence, however have detrimental personality effects with high despair outcomes.

**Table 3. Association between Despair in unmarried girls and domestic violence against women**

Statements	Attitude	Despair in unmarried girls		Total	Chi square ( $\chi^2$ ) P value
		Yes	No		
An environment of violence against women in neighbour promotes violence.	Agree	114 (71.7%)	19 (11.9%)	133 (83.6%)	$\chi^2 = 0.455$ (P= 0.797)
	Disagree	16 (10.1%)	4 (2.5%)	20 (12.6%)	
	Uncertain	5 (3.1%)	1 (0.6%)	6 (3.8%)	
Family is the first place where women are trained to bear acts of violence without complaint.	Agree	106 (66.7%)	14 (8.8%)	120 (75.5%)	$\chi^2 = 4.485$ (P= 0.034)
	Disagree	29 (18.2%)	10 (6.3%)	39 (24.5%)	
	Uncertain	0	0	0	
Scenes/ stories of violence propagated by mass media promote violence.	Agree	90 (56.6%)	13 (8.2%)	103 (64.8%)	$\chi^2 = 1.396$ (P= 0.237)
	Disagree	45 (28.3%)	11 (6.9%)	56 (35.2%)	
	Uncertain	00	00	00	
Violence against	Agree	103 (64.8%)	21 (13.2%)	124	$\chi^2 = 1.490$

women has worse psychological effects on the young girls who are unmarried.				(78%)	(P= 0.222)
	Disagree	32 (20.1%)	3 (1.9%)	35 (22%)	
	Uncertain	00	00	00	
The pattern of violence against women is supported by the economic discrimination in our society	Agree	105 (66%)	11 (6.9%)	116 (73%)	$\chi^2= 17.549$ (P= 0.000)
	Disagree	22 (13.8%)	13 (8.2%)	35 (22%)	
	Uncertain	8 (5%)	00	8 (5%)	
There is no such law in our country which addresses the issue of domestic violence and to bring such cases to a minimum.	Agree	96 (60.4%)	16 (10.1%)	112 (70.4%)	$\chi^2= 0.424$ (P= 0.809)
	Disagree	38 (23.9%)	8 (5%)	46 (28.9%)	
	Uncertain	1 (0.6%)	00	1 (0.6%)	
Violence against women results into hopelessness in girls.	Agree	93 (58.5%)	14 (8.8)	107 (67.3%)	$\chi^2= 4.227$ (P= 0.121)
	Disagree	35 (22%)	6 (3.8%)	41 (25.8%)	
	Uncertain	7 (4.4%)	4 (2.5%)	11 (6.9%)	
Our culture support violence against women in one way or the other.	Agree	105 (66%)	17 (10.7%)	122 (76.7%)	$\chi^2= 2.961$ (P= 0.227)
	Disagree	23 (14.5%)	7 (4.4%)	30 (18.9%)	
	Uncertain	7 (4.4%)	00	7 (4.4%)	

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Local cultural arrangements help to absorb the shocks of discrimination against women in two distinct ways, initially the female in their family of procreation are trained in such a way to accept the supremacy of male and bear violence against them without any complaint. Secondly, an unskilled, uneducated girl has to sacrifice her rights and live of economic support from their male members. Keeping silence, however have detrimental personality effects with high despair outcomes.

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