

# ATTITUDES OF WORKING AND NON-WORKING WOMEN ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: AN ANALYTIC STUDY OF HYDERABAD

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## ABSTRACT

*The present study was conducted to evaluate the attitudes of working women about domestic violence in Hyderabad. The sample composed of 100 respondents (i.e 50 married working women and 50 unmarried working women). During conducting the research Domestic violence Questionnaire applied, which is prepared by researcher self, its validity is measured by spilt half reliability method ( $r=0.8$ ) which shows that it is reliable. Data were analyzed by statistically methods. By Statistically analysis of married working women's score, the mean is 14.76 and the mean of unmarried working women's score is 13.4. The standard deviation of married working women is 2.952 and the standard deviation of unmarried working women is 2.68. This research findings conformed assumption and proved that the married and unmarried working women's attitudes about domestic violence is similar, there is no difference among their attitudes and both are realized women's right and conditions and the issue of domestic violence.*

**Keywords:** *Domestic Violence, types, sign and symptoms of domestic violence, incidents of violence*

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## INTRODUCTION

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, domestic violence defines as: "the inflicting of physical injury by one family or household member on another; also: a repeated or habitual pattern of such behavior. The US Office on Violence against women (OVW) defines domestic violence as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship in which any one partner to gain or maintain power and control over the partner. Domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion and gender; in form of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional, economic, and psychological abuse. Domestic abuse, sometimes known as spousal abuse, occurs when one person in an intimate relationship or marriage tries to dominate and control the other person. Domestic abuse which includes physical violence is called domestic violence.

There are both physical and Psychological signs and symptoms of domestic violence.

### **Psychological Signs and Symptoms:**

There are recognizing signs and symptoms in both abuser and abuse person, such as abuser appear overly controlled or coercive and give all answer for questions while the abuse person appear confused, refuse to give any answer, will out of sight, quite, passive, and abuse person show also depression, crying, and poor eye contact with others. They have also anxiety; depression, chronic fatigue of suicidal thoughts; stress and substance abuse as common signs of domestic violence.

### **Physical Signs and Symptoms:**

There are injuries of tympanic membrane (eardrum) rupture, rectal or genital injury, facial scrapes, cuts or fractures, neck scrapes, abdominal cuts, tooth loose, head scrapes, arm scrapes, injuries on body, buttocks and genitals, block blows to the head, and chest, cuts on palms, kick on feet, back legs, buttocks and head crouched on floor, burns body from cigarette, bite marks, rope burns, bruises, hit with belt buckle. These all show as signs and symptoms of domestic violence.

## **TYPES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

There are five types of domestic violence

### **Physical Abuse:**

Physical abuse includes hitting, choking, pushing, biting, pushing, backhanding, shoving, kicking or burning, beating, slapping, pulling hair, punching, arm twisting, holding down, throwing, threading, not providing medical attention on women, refuse to get any help, forced to use substance like alcohol and drugs, refuse to get any basic need to wives or women, using knife or gun for physical harm, and driving recklessly.

### **Sexual Abuse:**

It includes the unwanted touching, demeaning comments about body or appearing such as femme or bitch, forcing to sex without consent, rape with an object, refusing to comply for safe sex, coercing the women into sex with others, crossing the sexual boundaries, exposing the women to sexually transmitted disease, treating women as sex object, doing sex as a punishment or unwanted sadistic sexual acts, sex contact that demean, humiliates or like feeling of shame or vulnerability and forced to coerced sexual act and control over the women.

### **Emotional / Psychological Abuse:**

It includes the abuse in which use or misuse, without consent of financial or monetary resources of women such as forbidding the women to work, jeopardizing the employment, creating conflicts with co-workers or clients, forcing women to miss/less work by using threats or injuries, refuse to contribute any expenses, control over bank accounts and property, denying access to mutual funds, forced for all money he spends, forcing women to pay for all expenses, destroying women's property, using credit cards, money or checkbooks of women without consent or forcing women to sign in financial document.

### **Identity Abuse:**

It includes as using personal identity to demean, manipulate and control by men such as threading to out women from relationships as family, neighbors or boss, forcing and make it homophobia in women. Making this belief that she is too ugly and too old that's why she never would make another relationships, reticulating the women's appearing

such as grooming, dress or voices , forced to out act as blame as transgender, bisexuality or gay, blaming as women is a non-monogamy, using stereotypes attitudes.

### **CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:**

#### **An Environment:**

It is very important where a person taught about violence such as a child follow his father when he came home from work and using drink and show angry, threatening at his mother. A child watches and learns it. An uneducated environment cause domestic violence.

#### **Poor Self-Esteem:**

It is affected in such a way that when child grow up in domestic violent type home; he possesses low self-worth and he may engaged in negative self talk. As he became younger get frustration and isolating with hidden anger and that anger will burst out in the form of domestic violence on their wives.

#### **Drug & Alcohol Abuse:**

It is precursor of domestic violence because when a person used substance, drug or alcohol he leads to out of control behavior and due to this act they have poor emotional health and leads to secondary anger, results in beating, pushing of their wives and causes domestic violence.

#### **Low Income /Wages:**

Person who have low wages or low income or loss earning power, lack of any financial support, they become abuser and act as domestic violent, further lack of awareness of human rights, lack of education also cause domestic violence tendencies in men.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Domestic violence is very common. Past researches shows that there is one in every four women in their lifetime experiences or affected by violence in regardless of age, social class, race or disability. Domestic violence considers as private phenomenon in Pakistan, which is affected in family and there is no proper attention and focus for its assessment, policy changes or intervention.

A study by Lancet, (2002) it is estimated in Pakistan that 99% housewives and 77% working women are beaten by their husbands by means of different forms of violence. HRCP's annual report (2004) states that in Pakistan there are 65% physical violence and 34.4% sexual violence which leads to some injuries requiring medical emergency treatments. South Asia; Fact Sheet (2005) brought about domestic violence which states that 32.8% reported to having slapped their wives and 77.1% reported to engaged in non-consensual sex with their wives in Pakistan. Thirteen million separate cases /events of physical violence against women from their partners or husband's reported in any one year, (Home Office, 2004; Dodd et al, 2004; Dobash and Dobash, 1980; Walby and Allen, 2004) indicated that in England on typical day, there are a number of women and children who use domestic violence services. In Pakistan Society women faced violence and discrimination to their religion and cultural norms on daily bases. It is estimated that 70 to 90% women are subjected to domestic violence in Pakistan. A survey conducted in Punjab on 1000 women, shows that 35% women beaten by their husbands/partners reported and they admitted in hospitals. Further it states that it is an average that at least two women burned every day in case of domestic violence and estimated 70 to 90% women reported spousal abuse.

In 1998, there were 282 cases of burning of women; from only one province, among them 65% reported died during injuries. In 1998, from official figures it states that there were 1974 cases of murder among them 885 reported from only one province range. A study from Karachi shows that large amount of cases of women who are subjected to physical violence and having serious mental health and physical problems reported. Familial violence like honour killing is a form of violence against women in Pakistan. Honour killing or Karo Kari occurred and reported in every part of the country. Official figures states that during 1998-2004, there are more than 4000 people among than 2800 women died. Furthermore; in 1997, there were 86 karo Kari killings in Larkana alone and 53 of being violent, (Parveen, A, Ali, 2008). According to WHO, (2002) reported that 10% to 69% women were being physical hit or violent by their partners/husbands in their homes/lives reported in 48 different countries.

Furthermore, it states that women who are physically violent also reported Psychological and mentally abuse and out of half cases, one third cases reported sexual abuse/violent. Domestic violence is a

serious topic for attention for both rural areas and more developed countries such as Karachi. A study of Karachi shows that 34% women reported domestic violence. A study in Pakistan states that 99% housewives and 77% working women are beaten by their partners/husbands. A study in Karachi, (1990) shows that there were 34% women reported physical abuses among them 50% reported abuse during their pregnancy. When women seek any help from others, or were anxious or depressed there would be higher risk of being domestic abuse. A study in Pakistan shows that 32.8% men slapped their wives whereas 77.1% engaged in non-consensual sex with their wives. A study from Pakistan shows that 65% physical violence and 30.4% sexual violence reported which required medical treatment. Findings from Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) show that 46.9% women reported as non-consensual sex or marital rape.

According to HRCP report a study report of private organization states that there were 15 cases of acid attacks occurred in Bahawalpur during 2004 January to June among them two women died while some caused severe injuries with loss of vision permanently. Approximately 400 in each year victimized to acid affected from their husbands and in-laws. Throughout 21th century there are 15,000 cases of violence reported in Pakistan. Cases of domestic violence or physical abuse during 2005 to 2006 were about 63% to 60% respectively. In 2005 and 2006; 98% domestic violence in married and unmarried female reported. In 2005 there were 58 cases of domestic violence whereas in 2006 there were 78 cases reported. In 2005 there were 47% physical injuries while in 2006 there were 41% physical injuries reported. Majorities of burning cases reported as accidental in Pakistan. There were 58% burning cases of accidental during 2005, while 47.6% in 2006. It remained practically constant that victims of burning cases of 109 and 113 in 2005 and 2006 respectively. In 2005 to 2006 there were doubled cases of deliberate burning. In 2005 to 2006 there were more than doubled cases of acid throwing found, almost 10 and 22 victims during 2005 and 2006 respectively. There were most common three reasons for burning cases were "set on fire"; "stove-related" and "heater" found in 2005. Honour killing were increased and acid throwing act as a method of reclaim honour, these are popular cases in 2006. There were 48% husbands threw acid on their wives during 2005 while 66.7% husbands threw acid on their wives in 2006, (Trend analysis Human Rights Violence-2005 and 2006, Report by Aleyha Ahmed, 2007).

### Events /Incidents of Violence in Sindh, Pakistan

According to Aurat Foundation in 2008, there are 300 cases of torture reported, whereas in earlier six months of 2009, there are 320 cases reported. According to United Nations Populations Fund (UNFP) in Pakistan; 1000 women killed by every year in honour killing. A survey reported of 2004 to 2006 states that there are 65 cases of acid throwing attacks reported in 14 districts of Punjab. There are 24 cases of acid throwing reported in 2008. In the year of 2009, there are 27 cases of these types occurred, in which 21 cases found in first six months of 2009 in Punjab. The Annual report 2009 of Aurat Foundation indicated that domestic violence cases reported as below:

- In Punjab; there are 271 cases of Domestic violence
- In Sindh; there are 134 cases of Domestic violence
- In NWFP; there are 163 cases of Domestic violence
- In Baluchistan; there are 22 cases of Domestic violence
- In Islamabad; there are 18 cases of Domestic violence

During January-December 2009, from 23 districts of Sindh, there is total 1762 cases of violence against women reported such as:

- Murder cases are: 288
- Honour killing cases: 284
- Kidnapping / abduction cases: 160
- Domestic violence cases: 134
- Suicide cases: 176
- Rape/ Gang rape cases: 122
- Sexual Assault/attack cases: 44
- Stove burning cases: 10
- Acid throwing cases: 9
- Miscellaneous cases: 535

A study conducted by Research and Development for Human Resources, Sindh indicated that honour killing cases reported as: in Ghotki= six; Jacobabad=six; Shikarpur=three; Khairpur= three; Larkana= three; Naushero-Feroz =two; Karachi= one; Shahdadkot=one; Qamber= one; Kashmore= one; Sanghar=one, further report states about domestic violence that 32 women including nine of Karachi, five of Hyderabad, three each of Naushero-Feroz and Larkana, two each in Kashmore, Ghotki and Sukkur and one in Sanghar, Tando Mohammad Khan, Dadu, Shahdadkot, Qamber,

Khairpur, Shikarpur and Jacobabad have lost their lives. According to report published in "The Tribune" March 2, 2011, there are two critical documents including reports of cases which are an impact assessment report and a strategy paper. As strategy paper states, 80% women experienced domestic violence in Pakistan; among them one woman in every three women has experienced of some kind of violence / abuse against women like acid throwing, immolation, honour killing, rape, Psychological or verbal abuse. Further as emphasized in report that Pakistani women are not only poor and weak in our society; but there is discrimination against them in forms of laws that are made to subjugate and oppress them.

According to women right, there is clearly statement found that Pakistan has extremely higher level of gender discrimination, whereas one of few countries has negative sex ratios such as 108.5 men of 100 women. Further paper states that on Human Development Index; there are 177 developing countries, among them Pakistan rank on 136 in number. In Human Developing Index; there are 93 countries on number 82 showing gender development index, whereas 156 countries on number 152 showing gender empowerment index. Neva Khan reported that there are 4,000 cases of domestic violence occurred in 2010. Javed Hassan considered violence against women as "a symptom of disease". Women in our country consider as commodities or piece of the furniture" (The Tribune" March 2, 2011).

### **Purpose of Study**

The main purpose of study was to analyze / to assess the attitudes of working women and non-working women about domestic violence and to analyze the difference in married working women and unmarried working women's attitudes regarding domestic violence. To generalize the importance of women's rights and find out the incidents of domestic violence in Sindh, Pakistan

### **Hypotheses:**

1. There would be non-significant difference in attitudes of working and non-working women of Hyderabad.
2. There would be significant difference in attitudes of married working and unmarried working women of Hyderabad.



## METHODOLOGY

### **Sample:**

The sample (N=100) comprised 50 working women and 50 non-working women, among them 25 married and 25 unmarried working women. All respondents belong to Qasimabad Hyderabad. The age range of the respondents was 25 to 56 years. Sample composed of working women were taken from Government as well as non-government organizations of Hyderabad. Working women were doctors, teachers, assistants, nurses, principal, heads, directors, project coordinators and social mobilizer. Random sampling method used in present research.

### **Instruments:**

For the purpose of present study two Questionnaires were used. Firstly, the Domestic Violence Questionnaire was used developed by researcher self. It consists of 30 items. Its reliability was checked through spilt-half reliability method which shows that the scale is reliable ( $r=0.8$ ). Secondly, Personal Information Questionnaire (PIQ) was also administered on the sample to collect the background characteristics of the respondent's age, marital status, socio-economic status, education, occupation, no: of children, joint family system or nuclear family system.

### **Procedure:**

Data were selected through simple random sampling collected from Qasimabad Hyderabad. There were 100 respondents. Two Questionnaires (the Domestic Violence Questionnaire and Personal Information Questionnaire) were used to collect data from each respondent. Questionnaires were administered and also instructions were given to the respondents that are like "you are free to ask any question about statement which are given in the questionnaires, and two columns are given in front of each statement, please select the column which explains about you more appropriately, there is not any right or wrong answer for any statement. Only your responses are important, etc. In that way, the respondents easily give their responses and the purpose of research was found.

## RESULTS

In results from Table: 1, 2, 3, t-value shows non-significant difference in attitudes of working women and non-working and married working women and unmarried working of Hyderabad. By calculation of respondent's scores on Domestic violence emotional scale, the Score of all respondents (working women & non-working women, Married working women and unmarried working women) each from of both categories indicated that both are equal in their views /perception and attitudes that why the finding is of no difference among them. So the women of Hyderabad understand the phenomenon of domestic violence and they are very much aware about it.

**Table No: 1**

*Analysis of Results of attitudes of working and non-working women on Domestic Violence Questionnaire*

Sample category & no:	M	SD	t
Working Women (N=50)	14.48	2.047	0.825
Non-Working Women (N=50)	11.18	1.581	

*Note: \* $p > 0.10$ , shows non-significant mean differences*

**Table No: 2**

*Analysis of Results of attitudes of working married and working unmarried women on Domestic Violence Questionnaire*

Sample category & no:	M	SD	t
Working married Women (N=25)	14.76	2.952	0.42
Working unmarried Women (N=25)	13.4	2.68	

*Note: \* $p > 0.10$ , shows non-significant mean differences*

**Table No: 3**

*Analysis of Results of attitudes of Non-working married and Non-working unmarried women on Domestic Violence Questionnaire*

Sample category & no:	M	SD	t
Non-Working married Women (N=25)	11.32	2.264	0.115
Non-Working unmarried Women (N=25)	11.04	2.208	

*Note: \* $p > 0.10$ , shows non-significant mean differences*

## DISCUSSION

The purpose of present study was to evaluate the “attitudes, perception or views of working and non-working women as well as married and unmarried women about domestic violence and to find out Significant Difference among their attitudes.” Present research conforms following hypothesis:

1. There would be no difference in views and attitudes of working and non-working women about domestic violence
2. There would be no difference in views and attitudes of married and unmarried women about domestic violence
3. Domestic violence is likely to be impacted on workplace of women

Domestic violence findings are supported by some previous research findings such as it occurs as out of 406 there are 40% women are abuse emotionally/physically, 31% women forced sex, 7% women live in abusive relationship, whereas 68% women told themselves as abusive victim, and 12% women asked the phenomenon of abuse. Whenever abusive victims told about their abuse to about the doctors, then doctors did nothing for their cases about 20% of their patient. All women recommended by the doctors strongly as when their treatment that women get information on seeking protective services, legal and community resources from knowledge their doctors, (Caralis PV, & Musialowski, 1997).

In different sites of practices, there were found some differences in the nurses in their attitudes and beliefs about domestic violence; but mostly differences found in the behaviors of nurses. Results from the sample about 54% respondents reported that they have educated about domestic violence which received from continuing education program or in formal setup, this type of education were received by mostly of public health nurses. Education about domestic violence affected both attitudes and behavior of the person. Of the total sample 31% nurses reported abuse by their family members as well as their parents, (Mary Lou Moore RNC, FAAN, Dan Zaccaro, and Linn H. Parsons MD' 2006).

In Pakistani culture; there are prominent factors such as pressure from society, imbalance of power between men and women; that's why women followed all rules and regulations of men and society, defiance to women; followed rules leading penalty such as honour killing, throwing of acids. Research on domestic violence, (2002) found that 46.9% women abuse by their husbands as by their reporting views in interviews, further findings shows that 46.9% abuses reported as their sisters of abusers. After backs of reporting there are 54.8% occurs decrease temporary changed in violent behavior of husbands. Further women had few of about their future of their children, paybacks, and few of them have no moral supports from others like friends. If; a woman in case wants to get social supports; she received non supportive behavior of their parents as well as from their community members also faced rejection from all sides. Women are subjected to high in murder cases from mostly residence of rural or tribal areas.

A survey, (2003) from Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences found that 96.76% women abused, treating by means of hitting, shouting the fear of threatened by knife or gun by their husbands/partners. Whereas 51.7% reportedly did not respond and they merely suffered the violence silently. Pakistani women mostly complaining that they are isolated from the mainstream of society. Women in Pakistan are maltreated by male dominant setup in society so they claim that if they are given a chance they must be show more positive efforts in development of society and its aspects with their efforts.

Attitudes of working women in survey; mostly found as follows:

1. Women has equal rights for living in society, they should be educated because through education they can fight for their rights.
2. Women were killed; or tortured by gender based discrimination it faced by all women including working and non-working. They were sexually harassed in working places.
3. Mostly women said about domestic violence as common violence occur or sees as in the form of honour killing, to beat , to use abusive language for women, to rape, to burn, to marry a young girl with old age men, to sell women, to force women for prostitution, to spread alcohol on women's body, to cut head or hair, one lip and nose of women, etc
4. Domestic violence of Women is spread all over the world; it is in every common in villages or rural areas.
5. Women are killed innocently.
6. Women faced injustice from their rights in their home
7. Women are tortured physically as well as psychologically
8. Women has lack of proper attention, they are only used as slave person
9. Women has rejected in taking part or receiving land or any money from their father's land or money. They are not getting still any share from their father's land or money.
10. Women didn't get still to decide decision regarding any kind of matter such as about their marriage.
11. Married women faced mostly violence of beating and burning at their home, while honour killing and sexually harassment faced by unmarried women.
12. Women reported domestic violence as Physical violence which can include: Burning, Biting, Choking, Grabbing, Punching, Pushing, Throwing, Scratching, Shaking and Slapping.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Future research should be conducted on the attitudes of uneducated women on basis of demographic difference of, age wise, socio-economic condition base, and marital status; there might be difference in results of research on the basis of above factors studying by separately in single research.

In order to prevent women from domestic violence; following ways should be implementing in a society.

- Women should be having medical support
- Women should be having judicial and legal support
- There should be new plans and intervention maps made in society
- There should be collaboration with health team members for taking any actions
- There should be collaboration with religion and societal leaders
- There should be role of NGOs in given awareness programs
- There should be role of police department
- There should be collaboration of groups of people from their community/ society

## CONCLUSION

Women are victimized in forms of Physical, Psychological and sexually by their parents, husbands, in-laws and also by their brothers at their homes. Present research concluded that working and non-working women of Hyderabad have similar attitudes about domestic violence.

In Pakistan there are some factors which are associated in domestic violence such as male dominant social structure, lack of education, falsified beliefs, imbalanced empowerment issues between males and females, lack of support from the government, low-economical status of women, and lack of awareness about women's rights. There should be made availability in situation of domestic violence by means of integrated supportive services, legal intervention and redress should be made available in situations of domestic violence.

## LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present study has limited on the terms that selected women are educated living in Hyderabad city, either these women are working or non-working. Women who are uneducated living in Hyderabad city would be selected for further research. There might be difference in views/attitudes of educated and uneducated women about domestic violence. There are also some factors such as women living in joint family or nuclear family, in-laws members, income of husbands, family members and age of husbands; separately each factor involves affecting in cases of domestic violence.

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