

**Contributing Factors of Domestic Violence against Women:  
A Study of Dar-ul-Aman, District Multan, Pakistan**

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**Abstract**

Women are neglected and discriminated in every aspect of life. In Pakistan traditionally women are considered as subordinate to their men. Women are suffering in every sector. They don't know about their rights as generally they are less educated. Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development goals focus on gender equality and much legislation has been passed in favor of women rights but still in Pakistan women are insecure even in their homes. They are considered as subordinate to men and are not allowed to participate in any matter of life. The objectives of the present study were to know the prevalence and types of domestic violence; to identify the root causes of domestic violence; to know the contributing factors compelling women into Dar-ul-Aman. The present study was conducted in Dar-ul-Aman, District Multan, Pakistan. The population for present study was all the women who faced domestic violence and were living in Dar-ul-Aman District Multan, Pakistan. For the data collection interview schedule was used as a tool. Of the 100 respondents, majority 56% respondents belonged to age group 21-30 years, 32% belonged to 31-40%, 4% belonged to age group 41-50, 2 % belonged to above 50 years. The data revealed that 76% respondents belonged to rural area and 24 % respondent's belonged to urban area. About 52% respondents' family monthly income was less than 20000 PK rupees, 33% respondents family monthly income was 21000-30000 PK rupees, 6% respondents' income was 31000-40000 PK rupees, 7% respondents family monthly income was 41000-50000 PK rupees and 2% respondents family monthly income was above 50000 PK rupees. Grater part of the respondents 72% discussed that their male partners used drugs and 28% shared that their male partners did not use any drugs. Majority 83% respondents faced violence by their male partners, while 7% shared that perpetrators were fathers, about 9% respondents shared that their other family members were perpetrators of domestic violence and only 1 % expressed that any other was perpetrator of domestic violence. About 63% respondents faced

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physical violence, 29% faced verbal and 7% faced sexual violence. The study concluded that women should have equal opportunity in their life decisions and they must have parental and in-laws support for their better life.

**Keywords:** Contributing Factors, Domestic Violence, Women

### **Introduction**

Violence is the broad term referring to the use of illegal ways against any individual with the deliberate action of beating, hurting, damaging or killing someone. However the World Health Organization determines the violence as the use of the intentional force against someone or the community having the consequences in the terms of harm, death, mal development and the exploitation (WHO 1997). The eternal relationship of male and female has been marked by the dominant nature of the man and the submissive attitude of the women for the centuries. Men consider themselves as the stronger than and the superior to the females and they execute such kind of behavior in their routine life practices. Domestic violence is the organized way of behavior through which one individual uses abuse or the violence against the other one within the domestic context. This is also referred to as the intimate partner violence which takes place within the relationship of spouses. However it can also be presented with the people or the opposite sexes, who live together, or are engaged within the same sex relationships. Domestic violence can be observed in many forms in our society, however some of the most visible forms are verbal, emotional, physical, sexual, religious, and economic and the reproductive. However domestic violence can be observed within the following forms in our society (Watts & Zimmerman, 2002).

Domestic violence is the wide phenomenon and it is not subject to the single element for its dissemination, there are many factors that play the contributing role within the domestic violence. Culture is the particular tool which creates the guidance and patterns to behave when this unique culture is transferred through the process of socialization, different roles and the responsibilities attached with the gender are also transmitted to the other generation. Culture gives males more specific, dominant, and autonomous and the decisive role than the women. This increases sense of superiority in the males and they consider violence as the legitimate tool to subordinate women (Jewkes Levin and Kekana, 2002). Economic factors play the pivotal role to trigger the domestic violence. In the present society males are dominant over the resources,

production of the resources and other ways of production, women are kept away from all these activities, ultimately they become dependent, weak and helpless before men. This creates the reason for the males to dominate females and exploit them (Koeing, 2003). Women have the lower rate of literacy and the awareness of legal rights. They are not engaged in the legislation and the execution process hence they are the marginalized and socially excluded. This rises the violence amongst the women because males take over the advantage of female. Moreover women do not pursue their cases within the courts which is very alarming for the fortune, hence this paves the way for the males to be violent towards females (Coker, 2001).

Nevertheless the spectrum of subcontinent is also similar and the society is enriched by the chains of patriarchal norms which are considered more significant than religion. This inherited pan aroma influences the life of Pakistani women a lot till today. Although Pakistan has the majority of Muslims and here the Islamic laws are practiced but unfortunately cultural norms of ancient people are still persisting within the Pakistani society leading to the denial of the basic rights of the females and treatment of inferior creature with them (Awan, 2004). Perhaps this is the male dominancy which springs various problems regarding the women life in the context of Pakistani society. But it is evident that the fabric of society is woven within the cultural diversity and women are treated differently across various regions according to values and traditions of that particular area (Offenhauer, 2005). Despite violence is rooted in the history but it was unnoticed till 1980, it gained the status of pivotal issue when a woman lobbying initiated campaign to diminish the psychological, physical and the economical abuse. So this activity remained effective as the time passed the violence against women was taken as the violation of the basic rights of women with the lethal consequences over their social life and well being of health (Ellsberg and Heise, 2005). In this way the violence against women gained the pivotal concentration from the European and the American countries. After the sensitization and the dissemination of awareness legislation and the preventative measures took place against this rising issue. Therefore, in the earlier 1990 some of the laws were formulated to encounter the violence against women over the gender basis (Gelles, 1997). A significant ratio of 5-20% of women lost their healthy years of life due to the domestic violence between the age of 15 to 44 years (WHO, 1997). The situation of violence is worsening in Pakistan due to the practice of inhuman norms and the traditional methods to exploit the basic rights of women (Khan, 2006). The sense of superiority among men is not endowed by the religions, law or the politics but it is

persisting within the nature of norms acquired by males from the society (Saima, 2013). However the intensity of violence is fluctuating with reference to the geographical area, 80 percent of the wives face violence in the Punjab while 50 % of wives encounter this evil (HRCP, 2004).

Women are the 51% of the Pakistani population, they are present in the parliament but they do not have the decisive role in the legislation and the parties' decision. Moreover they come to the assembly through the quota of the parties. Hence they are not influential in the parliament. This poor status of women creates gaps for the males to take the edge of the situation. Perhaps the ways for the violence is strengthened in the society (Heise, 1994). Domestic violence is a worldwide issue. Violence against females can be characterized as instant or indirect mental or Physical torment against females. Females are confronting such aggressive behavior inside their home by their husbands. Domestic violence not only harms women but also lessens down their confidence level and their self-respect. The men with low salary think that it is their privilege to indicate violence against women. Violence takes forms as burning, rape, watta satta, spouse beating and honor killing. In this society, the age time of 21-35 is more delicate for females (Hayat,2002). Domestic Violence is viewed as an individual or private issue in Pakistan that is the reason there are not appropriate measures to control this issue. In Pakistan, women have to face gender discrimination due to religious and customary values. It is evaluated that in Pakistan, 70-90% females confront domestic violence. Domestic violence is a social issue in Pakistan yet government is not taking legitimate actions against the issue. As per specialists, females are as yet confronting abnormal state of domestic violence because of their social surroundings which shape the conduct of people. It is important to know that progress can't take place until females are given appropriate rights since women are the real piece of our population. It is perceived that domestic violence is a behavior that is learned and social environment regulates its frequency and intensity. Social principles and qualities distribute the part to male and female, males are viewed as predominant, definitive and leaders while females are believed to be subordinate to male and have no specialist to choose in any condition of life. Because of customary practices females do not break that harsh connection since they think that to break down such distressing relation is a sin. Domestic violence may be caused by individual personal traits like income, age, and education. Studies have demonstrated that usually young females are the victim of such violence and also the females that are less educated as compared to the females that are equally educated to that of their

spouses. In Pakistan most of the children just do what they see as they see their elders do violence they just replicate it. Pakistan has a male dominating social pattern where males take all the decisions and females are considered as their subordinate. History witnesses the subordination of women before men as they are regarded as their property and they were compelled to follow men in aspects of life while sacrificing their all happiness. Females are compelled to wed with the will of their parents and they do not have any choice to select their life partners according to their own will. Even honor killing is still being practiced in Pakistan. Currently females are confronting violent behavior at homes. There is a need to take steps on individual grounds but also on societal grounds. The whole culture ought to be changed and women ought to be dealt with manhood and religious bases paying little attention to men made practices (Malik, 2014).

### **Research Methodology**

The study was conducted in Dar-ul-Aman, District Multan, Pakistan between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. A total number of 100 females living in Dar-ul-Aman Multan were interviewed through purposive sampling technique. Structured interview schedule was used as a tool for data collection. Respondents were explained about the study and informed consents were obtained before data collection. Respondents were encouraged to ask additional information relating to interview. Respondents voluntarily participated in this study. Interview schedule was divided into two parts, the first part was based on questions relating to demographic information of the respondents such as name, age, type of marriage, residential area, education level, family monthly income and occupation, whereas the second part comprised of questions relating to violence i.e. Did your husband watch violent movies? Did you husband faced violence in his child hood? Did your husband take any type of drug? After facing violence do you report the abuse? Do you think that your health affected due to violence? Do you thing domestic violence affects your children? Does your husband or in-law tease you for dowry? Do you think that women economic empowerment can overcome the violence against women? Do you think women education can overcome the violence against women? Before collecting data, interview schedule was discussed with two senior experts (>12 Years' experience and working at the Department of Sociology, Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan, Pakistan. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23 was used for data analysis.

## Results

<i>Table 1. Demographic information of the respondents(n=100)</i>	
<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency (%)</b>
<b>Respondents Age</b>	
21-30 years	56(56.0%)
31-40 years	32(32.0%)
41-50 years	4(4.0%)
Above 50	8(8.0%)
<b>Type of Marriage</b>	
Arranged	50(50.0%)
Forced	36(36.0%)
Love	14(14.0%)
<b>Residential area</b>	
Urban	24(24%)
Rural	76(76.0%)
<b>Education level of the respondents</b>	
Illiterate	55(55.0%)
Primary	21(21.0%)
Middle	9(9.0%)
Matriculation	12(12.0%)
Intermediate	3(3.0%)
<b>Respondent family monthly income</b>	
<20000 PKRs	52(52.0%)
21000-30000 PKR	33(33.0%)
310000-40000PKR	6(6.0%)
41000-50000 PKR	7(7.0%)
>50000 PKR	2(2.0%)
<b>Respondents Occupation</b>	
House wife	92(92.0%)

Private Job	3(3.0%)
Govt. Job	3(3.0%)
Agriculture	2(2.0%)

Of the 100 respondents, majority 56% respondents belonged to age group 21-30 years, while 32% of the respondents belonged to age group 31-40 years, 4% belonged to 41-50 years, and 8 % belonged to age group above 50 years. All the respondents were married females and Muslims. Questions were asked to the respondents about the types of marriage. The data revealed that the marriage of 14% respondents was love, 50% was arranged marriage and 36% was forced marriage. Of the 100 respondents, majority 76% females who were residing in Dar-ul Aman were belonging to rural areas and 24% respondents belonging to urban areas. About 55 % respondents were illiterate, 21% respondents education was primary, 9% was middle, 12% was matriculation and 3 % was above Intermediate. The data revealed that majority 52% of the respondents family monthly income was less than 20000 PKR, while 33% respondents family monthly income was between 21000-30000 PKR, 6% respondents family monthly income was between 31000-40000 PKR, 7% respondents family monthly income were 41000-50000 and only 2% respondents family monthly income was above 50000. Question was asked to the respondents about their occupation. The data showed that 3% respondents were government employees, 3% were doing private job, 2% were involved in agricultural activities and majority 92% were house wives.

<b>Table II. Crosstab</b>					
<b>S.No</b>	<b>Statements</b>	<b>Faced domestic violence</b>		<b>Chi-Square</b>	<b>P=Value</b>
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		
1.	Is there quarrel between you and your partner?			$X^2 = .315$	(P= .478)
	Yes	85(90.4%)	9(9.6%)		
	No	5(83.3%)	1(16.7%)		
2.	<b>Did your husband watch violent movies?</b>			$X^2 = 3.664$	(P=.063)
	Yes	27(81.8%)	6(18.2%)		
	No	63(94.0%)	4(6.0%)		
3.	<b>Did your husband faced violence in his childhood?</b>			$X^2 = 1.778$	(P=.159)
	Yes	43(86.0%)	7(14.0%)		
	No	47(94.0%)	3(6.0%)		
4.	<b>Did your husband take any type of drug?</b>			$X^2 = 1.786$	(P=.169)
	Yes	63(87.5%)	9(12.5%)		
	No	27(96.4%)	1(3.6%)		
5.	<b>After facing violence did you report the abuse?</b>			$X^2 = .372$	(P=.388)
	Yes	36(87.8%)	5(12.2%)		
	No	54(91.5%)	5(8.5%)		
6.	<b>Do you think your health is affected due to violence?</b>			$X^2 = .154$	(P=.533)
	Yes	84(90.3%)	9(9.7%)		
	No	6(85.7%)	1(14.3%)		
7.	<b>When you are in health problems due to violence then does your husband take you for checkup in hospital?</b>			$X^2 = .218$	(P=.462)
	Yes	13(86.7%)	2(13.3%)		
	No	77(90.6%)	8(9.4%)		
8.	<b>Do you think domestic violence affects your children?</b>			$X^2 = 1.084$	(P=.257)
	Yes	75(91.5%)	7(8.5%)		



	No	15(83.3%)	3(16.7%)		
9.	<b>Does your husband restrict you to go to your parent's home?</b>			$X^2=.679$	(P=.310)
	Yes	57(91.9%)	5(8.1%)		
	No	33(86.8%)	5(13.2%)		
10	<b>Does your husband or in-law tease you for dowry?</b>			$X^2=1.528$	(P=.188)
	Yes	36(94.7%)	2(5.3%)		
	No	54(87.1%)	8(12.9%)		
11	<b>Do you think women economic empowerment can overcome the violation against women?</b>			$X^2=.945$	(P=.262)
	Yes	59(92.2%)	5(7.8%)		
	No	31(86.1%)	5(13.9%)		
12	<b>Do you think women education can overcome the violation against women?</b>			$X^2=.088$	(P=.616)
	Yes	78(89.7%)	9(10.3%)		
	No	12(92.3%)	1(7.7%)		

Of the 100 respondents, greater part 94% of the respondents reported that there was a quarrel between partners while only 6% said that there was no quarrel with their husbands. Question was asked to the respondent if their husband watched violent movies, 33% said that their husband watched violent movies while 67% reported that their husbands did not watch violent movies. Half of the respondents 50% said that their husband faced violence in their childhood. Majority 72% of the respondents discussed that their husbands took drugs while 28% said that their husbands did not take any type of drugs. About 59% said that after facing violence they did not report the abuse, 93% respondents shared that their health was affected due to violence, 85% respondents replied that they were in health problem due to violence their husbands did not take them for checkup to hospitals. Majority of the respondents 82% discussed that domestic violence affected their children. Greater part of the respondents reported that their husbands restricted them to visit their parents' homes. Majority of the respondents agreed that women education and economic empowerment could overcome the violence against women.

## **Discussion**

The present study was carried out to explore the contributing factors of domestic violence against women. The findings of the study showed that 50(50%) of respondents' type of marriage was arranged, 36(36%) was forced and 14(14%) was love marriage. In the present study majority 76(76%) respondents belonged to rural areas and 55(55%) were illiterate. The findings of the study correlates with other study conducted by Asian Human Rights Commission in (2008) that 80 percent of women in rural areas of Punjab admitted that their partners beat them. Similar findings were found in the study conducted by Babur et al, 2007 that normally in rural areas father's thought that there would be no benefit to give education to daughters, because after marriage they would have to wash dishes. About 52(52%) respondents' family monthly income was <20000PKR. The findings of the study demonstrated that greater part 92(92%) of the respondents were housewives. Respondents reported that they faced quarrel some behavior of their partners. Greater part of the women kept silent without reporting violence to concerned and relevant bodies that having authority. About 50(50%) respondents discussed that their husbands faced violence in their childhood. Similar results were found in another study conducted by Jewkes (2002) that childhood experience of violence in the home reinforced men the normative nature of violence.

In this study majority 63(87.5%) of the respondents explained that their husbands took drugs. These findings correlates with other study conducted by Feseha et al. (2012) the women whose husbands drink alcohol, drugs experienced intimate partner violence higher than those their husbands do not use drugs. So use of substance abuse significantly is associated with domestic violence. Likewise 84(90.3%) respondents expressed that their health was affected due to violence. Respondents expressed their feelings that when they were in health problems due to violence their husbands never took them for checkup to hospital. Of the 100 respondents (75%) expressed that domestic violence affected on their children. Respondents reported that violation against women could be overcome through economic empowerment. Greater part (78%) of the respondents reported that women education could reduce the violation against women.

## **Conclusion**

In Pakistan prevalence rate of domestic violence is alarming. Women suffer and are subjected to psychological, physical, emotional, economical and sexual abuse by their partners, in-laws and in some circumstances by their parents and brothers. Low economical status of women, lack of awareness regarding women rights, lack of education, power imbalance issues between women and men, male domination, social structure and lack of government support are the contributing factors of domestic violence in Pakistan.

## **Recommendations**

1. There is a need to recognize domestic violence as the national level issue.
2. There must be educational programs in all levels for women and men in all cultures and societies.
3. The production of alcohol; drinking and its trafficking must be prohibited in Pakistan, similarly state must acquire help from religious leaders, social groups and strengthen law and order situation to overcome addictive material and alcohol in the country.
4. Recreational and other entertaining programs should be developed by the government where women along with their family can relax and enjoy.
5. Legal intervention, integrated supportive services should be made available in situation of domestic violence.
6. Intervention strategies including counseling, credit support, relocation and employment are important to rebuild and get recovery of women lives after violence.
7. The government, program planners, concerned bodies, policy makers, non-governmental organizations must establish appropriate strategy to control and prevent violence against women.

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