

## A Study Of Domestic Violence Among Married Women Reference To North Nazimabad (Arafat Town)

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### Abstract

This study is an exploratory research. The primary objective of this study was to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of domestic violence on married women in our society. Domestic violence is increasing day by day in Pakistani society. No day passes without the mass media reporting serious violence offences within families and households. This research was conducted to know that what are the causes and environments which create domestic violence among married women with special reference to North Nazimabad (Arafat town). It is a fact that majority of the women could hardly read or write a sentence due to this situation they cannot protect themselves from domestic violence and cannot fight for their rights legally. Majority of women living in joint family system are also facing domestic violence, so the reasons behind this can be poverty, depressing environment, societal pressures, imbalance of power between men and women, male dominance and female ignorance about their rights in which the child is brought up. . The Abusive and violent patterns leave a lasting impression on the child behavior. In Pakistan majority of women consider the behaviors and actions of men in societies as inherited normal actions which really make them more vulnerable to any type of abuse in their home.

### تلخیص مقالہ

یہ مطالعہ انکشافی تحقیق پر مبنی ہے۔ اس مطالعہ کا بنیادی مقصد ہمارے معاشرے میں شادی شدہ خواتین پر کیے جانے والے گھریلو تشدد کی حد کو جانچنا تھا۔ پاکستانی معاشرے میں گھریلو تشدد دن بدن بڑھتا جا رہا ہے۔ کوئی دن نہیں گزر تا جب ذرائع ابلاغ گھرانوں اور خاندان میں روار کھے جانے والے انتہائی نوعیت کے تشدد کا ذکر نہ کرتے ہوں۔ یہ تحقیق اس لیے کی گئی کہ جان سکیں کہ وہ کیا ماحول اور وجوہات ہیں جو شادی شدہ خواتین پر ہونے والے گھریلو تشدد کا محرک ہیں خصوصاً نار تھ ناظم آباد (عرفات ٹاؤن) کے علاقے میں۔ یہ ایک حقیقت ہے کہ زیادہ تر خواتین بمشکل پڑھ یا ایک مکمل جملہ لکھ سکتی ہیں۔ انہی حالات کی وجہ سے وہ خود کو گھریلو تشدد سے نہیں بچا پاتیں اور نہ ہی اپنے حقوق کے لیے قانونی طور پر لڑ پاتی ہیں۔ زیادہ تر خواتین جو مشترکہ خاندان میں رہتی ہیں وہ بھی گھریلو تشدد کا شکار ہوتی ہیں۔ جس کی بنیادی وجہ غربت، افسردہ ماحول، سماجی دباؤ، خواتین اور مردوں کے درمیان طاقت کی غیر مساویانہ تقسیم اور جس ماحول میں ایک بچہ پروان چڑھتا ہے وہاں مردوں کا تسلط اور خواتین کی اپنے حقوق کے بارے میں کم علمی بھی ہے۔ دشنام آمیز اور پر تشدد رویے بچوں کے رویوں پر گہرے اثرات چھوڑتے ہیں۔ پاکستان میں زیادہ تر خواتین معاشرے میں مردوں سے رویوں اور حرکات کو ورثے میں ملے ہوئے عام رویے تصور کرتی ہیں جو کہ حقیقتاً ان کو ان کے گھر پر ہونے والے مختلف اقسام کے تشدد سے مزید حدف بناتے ہیں۔

## Introduction

Domestic violence, also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, and intimate partner violence, is defined as a pattern of abusive behaviors by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, or cohabitation. Domestic violence, so defined (Siemieniuk, 2010), has many forms, including physical aggression or assault (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects), or threats thereof; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; controlling or domineering; intimidation; stalking; passive/covert abuse (e.g., neglect); and economic deprivation. (Markowitz, 2000) Some women suffer from domestic violence but are not completely aware of it. Domestic abuse, also known as spousal abuse, occurs when one person in an intimate relationship or marriage tries to dominate and control the other person. Domestic abuse that includes physical violence is called domestic violence. Domestic violence and abuse are used for one purpose and one purpose only: to gain and maintain total control. An abuser doesn't "play fair." Abusers use fear, guilt, shame, and intimidation to wear down and keep other under his or her thumb. Abuser may also threaten you, hurt you, or hurt those around you.

Domestic violence and abuse does not discriminate. It happens among heterosexual couples and in same-sex partnerships. It occurs within all age ranges, ethnic backgrounds, and economic levels. And while women are more commonly victimized, men are also abused—especially verbally and emotionally, although sometimes even physically as well. (Smith & Segal, 2012). Though they are not physically hit by their spouse, yet are victims of other forms of violence, that is, emotional, psychological imposing in human restrictions and isolating them from friends and family (Hayat, 2002). In Pakistan the extended family is the basic functional unit. Such a family might include the dominant male (usually but not always the eldest) and his wife or wives; his brothers and his married sons, daughters, nephews and their wives; his married sons, daughters, nephews and nieces and, on occasions, other more distant relative, sometimes in the role of domestic servants (Hakim, 1998) Domestic violence is: "the inflicting of physical injury by one family or household member on another; also: a repeated / habitual pattern of such behavior." "Domestic violence is the abuse meted out to women within the family and the home. It ranges from abuse to torture, which is physical, mental, sexual, psychological and emotional."<sup>1</sup>

The term Domestic Violence was popularized by feminists in the 1970's to refer to male violence (Psychological as well as Physical) against women in whom and to press the policy care that such violence should not be viewed as a private matter but as a subspecies of violence against the person that should be policed as aggressively as ` similar violence between strangers. History shows that the status of women has always been based on a contradictory, they have been placed on a pedestal, adored and worshiped as Goddesses; and on the other hand they are vilified as witches and treated as a mode of commodity of trade. It was only with the development of human race, the advent of Islam and revelation of the Holy Quran, that women were granted equality in

all respects. The Holy Quran teaches comparison and regard towards all those who are down trodden. Domestic violence has been described as the most pervasive violation of human rights. Many women do not realize that they are living in abnormal conditions and normally blame themselves for problems in their relationship. (Straus,1999;17 )

### **Types of Violence**

Many people wrongly believe that domestic violence involves physical abuse, whereas it can take the following forms as well,

#### **Physical Abuse**

Physical abuse involving contact intended to cause feelings of intimidation, pain, injury, or other physical suffering or bodily harm. Physical abuse includes hitting, slapping, punching, choking, pushing, burning and other types of contact that result in physical injury to the victim. Physical abuse can also include behaviours such as denying the victim of medical care when needed, depriving the victim of sleep or other functions necessary to live, or forcing the victim to engage in drug/alcohol use against his/her will. If a person is suffering from any physical harm then they are experiencing physical abuse. This pain can be experienced on any level.( Lynn, 2004) It can also include inflicting physical injury onto other targets, such as children or pets, in order to cause psychological harm to the victim.

**Sexual Abuse** is any situation in which force or threat is used to obtain participation in unwanted sexual activity. Coercing a person to engage in sexual activity against their will, even if that person is a spouse or intimate partner with whom consensual sex has occurred, is an act of aggression and violence. Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, *by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work* (Jeffrey ,2000).

**Emotional Abuse** (also called psychological abuse or mental abuse) can include humiliating the victim privately or publicly, controlling what the victim can and cannot do, withholding information from the victim, deliberately doing something to make the victim feel diminished or embarrassed, isolating the victim from friends and family, implicitly blackmailing the victim by harming others when the victim expresses independence or happiness, or denying the victim access to money or other basic resources and necessities. Degradation in any form can be considered psychological abuse. Emotional abuse can include verbal abuse and is defined as any behaviour that threatens, intimidates, undermines the victim's self-worth or self-esteem, or controls the victim's freedom. (Dutton, 2006). This can include threatening the victim with injury or

harm, telling the victim that they will be killed if they ever leave the relationship, and public humiliation.

**Verbal Abuse** is a form of emotionally abusive behaviour involving the use of language. Verbal abuse can also be referred to as the act of threatening. Through threatening a person can blatantly say they will harm you in any way and will also be considered as abuse. (Hamel & Nicholls 2007) it may include profanity but can occur with or without the use of expletives. Verbal abuse may include aggressive actions such as name-calling, blaming, ridicule, disrespect, and criticism, but there are also less obviously aggressive forms of verbal abuse.

**Economic Abuse** is a form of abuse when one intimate partner has control over the other partner's access to economic resources.(Fisher 1996) economic abuse may involve preventing a spouse from resource acquisition, limiting the amount of resources to use by the victim, or by exploiting economic resources of the victim.

### **Basic Causes of Domestic Violence**

The main cause is the. Abusive and violent patterns in the home leave a lasting impression on the child behaviour which in batter life leads to their becoming an abusive male or a depressive female. A violent environment in the house results in the following behaviour patterns. Males tend to develop a dominant attitude moulded in a self image of being all powerful, commanding decisive personality deluded by the myth that he is only one who is knowledgeable and knows what is best for all the family members. Especially the females, when he fails to enforce his view or resolve issues which are normally beyond his control or apprehension, he resorts to violence. (Hampton. et.al, 2006)

The above generally gives rise to the following scenario: Children seeing the pitiful condition of their mother or sister due to the father's violence curb their urge for independence and do not leave home to be able to protect them. This lays a heavy burden on the child as the mother or sister becomes emotionally immersed and dependent on the child/children to meet her emotional and other needs to the extent, that it at times leads to unnatural and undesirable relationship.

### **Islam and Domestic Violence**

Islam condemns domestic violence. Once a number of women came to the prophet (PBUH) to complain that their husbands had beaten them. The prophet announced that men who beat their wives are not good men. The prophet also said, "Do not beat the female servants of Allah' (Engineer, 1992) Allah knows that life is not always a bowl of

cherries. And so He stipulates that a man must be kind to his wife even if he happens to dislike her<sup>2</sup>.

The conditions of women in Arabia before Islam were very bad. Women were treated like slaves or property. Their personal consent concerning anything related to their well-being was considered unimportant. The birth of the daughter in a family was not an occasion for rejoicing, but was regarded with humiliation. The practice of killing female children was uncontrolled.<sup>3</sup> With the advent of Islam came the verse from the Quran condemning those who practiced female infanticide:

“And when the news of (the birth of) a female (child) is brought to any of them, us face becomes dark, and he is filled with inward grief! He hides himself from the people because of the evil of that whereof he has been informed. Shall he keep her in the earth? Certainly, evil is their decision.”<sup>4</sup>

“And when the female (infant) buried alive (as the pagan Arabs used to do) shall be questioned. For what sin she was killed? “O you who believe! You are forbidden to inherit women against their will, and you should not treat them with harshness, that you may take away part of the Maher (bridal-money) you have given them, unless they commit open illegal sexual intercourse. And live with them honorably. If you dislike them, it may be that you dislike a thing and ALLAH brings through it a great deal of good.”<sup>5</sup>

### **Domestic Violence in Pakistan and Law**

According to (HRCP) “Every second Pakistani women is a victim of domestic violence” Every hour two women are beaten in Pakistan, according to an estimate by Human Development Foundation, a local NGO. Yet, almost a year after being cheered by the National Assembly on August 4, 2009, the Domestic Violence bill has not been passed. Even today though the 21<sup>st</sup> century has arrived, woman in rural and urban areas of Pakistan are deprived of the socio-economic and legal rights as they live under a pyramid system of religious injections, tribal codes, feudal traditions and discriminatory laws. All there in their respective connotation conflict with one another and have made it next to impossible to deal with the problems which has given rise to conflicting views further affecting the well being of women. Our society must change our thinking and approach towards women. (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2009,

A very heavy burden is placed on women. She is expected to bear all the responsibility of house hold chores, raising the children, make both ends meet within a limited income, face the ire of in-laws and above all satisfy the desires of the male and in the process procreate. This burden is further added to if she works to support the family. Pakistan is a

developing country and like every emergent state it's facing the challenges of poverty, hunger, unemployment and many undesirable and unwanted social customs like male dominance and feminine inadequacy etc. Being an Islamic republic the law of the land gives equal rights to both men and women but this is out of practice because of women's ignorance and male supremacy. The prevailing culture particularly that in the rural areas disgraces women as inferior beings and subordinates to men.

The male counterparts suppress them emotionally and socially. All their rights are restricted in the name of modesty, protestation and safety. They are possessed as a property and are even subject to domestic violence. This is also led by a basic perception that a man's honor resides in the action of women in his house. Because of this great responsibility women are denied of their basic human rights like to get education, to have choices in life, to claim any financial independence etc. In short urban females in many aspects are equivalent to men and are enjoying their rights in South Asia particularly in Pakistan. They are competing men in every walk of life. This picture is entirely different in slum and rural areas. There female are clearly oppressed, restricted to mobility, right to educate and job. In a society, they are sexually harassed as well as raped. At family level birth of boy is more commemorated than female child. In Pakistan, gender based violence undermines women's autonomy.<sup>6</sup>

The Annual statistics report of Aurat foundation showed that 8539 women became victims of violence in 2011 and there was an overall 6.74 percent increase in the reported cases of violence in the country as compared to year 2010. The figure was 8000 in 2010; in 2009, 8548 incidents of violence against women were reported; in 2008, these incidents numbered 7571. The report depicted that the incidents of violence in the last four years mostly numbered in the same range and that the country had not witnessed any decrease in the crimes against women. This reflected that neither the state nor the society was responding to curb uncivilized behavior. However, some forms of violence had seen notable increase. For instance, sexual assault cases increased by 48.65 percent, acid throwing cases increased by 37.5 percent; 'honor' killings by 26.57 percent and domestic violence increased by 25.51 percent. AF considered this number as the 'tip of the iceberg' as the data collected by their staff was solely based on the cases reported in the media, while a majority of the cases remain unreported. The report stated that for a large number of incidents, the FIRs were not lodged which reflected the reluctance of the victims to involve the police. Among the 8539 incidents, FIRs were registered in 6745 cases; for 911 cases the FIRs were not registered and there was no information available in 883 cases. The biggest number of unregistered cases was noted in Sindh where FIRs were not registered in 605 cases and no information was available in 75 incidents among the total of 1316 reported cases. In the process of collecting the data, the AF staff observed some trends that, if allowed to continue, will further aggravate the situation of violence against women in the country. One such trend was noticed in Balochistan where, in most of the

cases of Siah Kari (honor killing), the women were killed on the orders of the Jirga. However, the same Jirga let the men involved in these incidents to live after receiving hefty amounts of money in terms of compensation.<sup>7</sup>

## **Law**

The domestic violence (Prevention and Protection) bill was passed unanimously by the National Assembly on August 4, 2009, but the bill lapsed after the Senate failed to pass it within the three months required under the country's constitution.

“Victims of domestic violence have long faced a double injustice- abuse at home and then no protection from the government” said Ali Dayan Hasan, senior South Asia researcher at Human Rights Watch. “The proposed law has widespread support in Pakistan, and the government should make passing it priority”. The Pakistani government should quickly reintroduce legislation to protect women and children from domestic violence, Human Rights Watch in New York (2011). Legislators from both opposition and government parties told Human rights Watch that even though President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime minister Yusuf Raza Gillani supported the bill, it was delayed by unofficial opposition from some ministers who had privately urged members of Islamist parties to oppose the bill in the upper house. Islamist parties had not opposed the bill in the National Assembly. The domestic violence bill seeks to prevent violence against women and children within a network of protection committees and protection officers and prompt criminal trials for suspected abusers. The bill defines domestic violence as including, though not being limited to, “All intentional acts of gender-based or other vulnerable persons, with whom the accused person is or has been in a domestic relationship”. The bill requires the court to set a hearing within three days of receiving a complaint and to adjudicate the case within 30 days. The law prescribes incremental terms of imprisonment and fines for each breach of a protection order. The measure makes sexual harassment or intimidation punishable by three years in prison, a 500,000 rupee fine [US \$6,000], or both. The bill includes protection in public places such as markets, public transport, streets, or parks, and more private settings, such as workplaces, private gatherings and homes. “Pakistan’s parliament has passed only half the legislation needed against sexual harassment.” Hassan said, “If the government is serious about protecting women, it should present the companion measure for parliamentary approval immediately domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2009, has not been passed.”<sup>8</sup>

## **Literature Review**

Culture violence of theory is an idea that in large, pluralistic societies, some subcultures develop norms that permits the use of physical violence to a greater degree than the

dominant culture. Thus family violence will occur more frequently in violent societies than in peaceful ones. Peer relationships that support it are exemplary and violent images on TV can a “Culture of violence” against women.<sup>9</sup>

There are many different ideas within feminist theory of domestic violence, but Bograd in *Feminist Perspectives on wife abuse* has identified four common strains. These are

1. That as the dominant class, men have differential access to material and symbolic resources and women are devalued as secondary and inferior.
2. Intimate partner abuse is a predictable and common dimension of normal family life.
3. women’s experiences are often defined as inferior.
4. The feminist perspective is dedicated to advocacy for women.( Bograd,1999;275-289)

On the individual and couple level, different theories that integrate more psychological, sociological and biological perspectives exist. (Wolfgang and Ferracutti in 1967) ”Ban ki moon, United Nations Secretary General, 2007.stated that “Violence against women continues to persist as one of the most heinous, systematic and prevalent human rights abuses in the world. It is a threat to all women, and an obstacle to all our efforts for development, peace and gender equality in all societies.

### **Domestic Violence in the World**

- At least one in three women is beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused by an intimate partner in the course of the lifetime.
- Women aged 15-44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, motor accidents, war and malaria. (World Bank)
- Approximately 80,000 women suffer rape and attempted rape every year.
- More than 60 million women are “missing” from the world today as a result of sex selective abortions and female infanticide Several global surveys suggest that half of all women who die from homicide are killed by their current or former husbands or partners. (Cullen & Wilcox 2010).

“According to an estimate, approximately 70% to 90 % Pakistani women are subjected to domestic violence” According to a survey conducted on 1000 women in Punjab,35% of the women admitted in the hospitals reported being beaten by their husbands. The survey reported that on an average, at least two women were burned every day in domestic violence incidents and approximately 70% to 90% of women experience spousal abuse. In 1998,282 burn cases of women were reported in only one province of the country. Out of the reported cases, 65% died of their injuries the official figures given for murder



during the year 1998 were 1974 including 885 murder cases reported in only one province. A study conducted in Karachi reported that a large proportion of women are subjected to physical violence that has serious physical and mental health consequences. A recent survey of domestic violence shows that 68% of the victims believe that their partners have the right to use violence against them. This was found to be a depressingly common view, which has little to do with tribal and cultural attitudes, because despite all the propagation of sexual equality majority of women still regard themselves subordinate to men. (UNICEF (1999)

### **Objectives of the Study**

- To explore the basic causes of domestic violence on married women.
- To explore the relationship between age at marriage of women and attempt of violence.
- To identify the relationship between the level of education of women and type of violence.
- To identify the relationship between the family income and type of violence.

### **Hypothesis**

1. Age at marriage of women is likely to be related with attempt of violence.
2. Level of education of woman is likely to be related with type of violence.
3. Type of family is likely to be related with type of violence.
4. Family income is likely to be related with the type of violence.
5. Age of women is likely to be related with type attempt of violence.

### **Methodology**

The present study is an exploratory research. This research design is applied when the researcher is to be acquainted with the problem or the community she wants to study. The selected universe of this study was North Nazimabad town Researcher used multi sampling methods. Area of Arafat town, selected from North Nazimabad Town through lottery method. 200 respondents were drawn adopting the procedure of proportional allocation by random sampling. Interview schedule method was used for data collection. To finalization of questionnaire 20 interviews were taken for pre-testing and after some modification and addition was done wherever required. After the data collection each interview schedule was given a serial number and then each question in the interview schedule is allotted a symbol which is known as code number. Then researcher

transferred the coded material on a tally sheet and tables were made. Chi-square test was applied to verify the relationship between two variables.

### Result of Hypotheses

Ho -There is no relationship between the age at marriage of women and attempt of violence.

H1- Age at marriage of women is likely to be related with attempt of violence.

**Table. 1**

Age at Marriage	Violence(yes)	Violence(no)	To some extent	Total
<b>Below 17 years</b>	80	5	5	90
<b>18-25 years</b>	70	5	5	80
<b>A6-above</b>	06	11	13	30
<b>Total</b>	156	21	23	200

$$X2OB = 69.379$$

$$X2CRIT = 9.488$$

$$df = 04$$

Level of significance 0.05

$$r = 0.57$$

Hence the calculated value 69.379 is greater than X2 crit value, 9.488, df is 04 and level of significance is 0.05. Thus Null hypothesis is rejected, and original hypothesis is accepted, that there is strong relationship between age at marriage of women and violence.

Ho - There is no relationship between the level of education of women and type of violence.

H2 - The level of education of women is likely to be related with type of violence.

**Table No 2**

Level of education	Physical Violence	Verbal Violence	Emotional Violence	Total
<b>Illeterate</b>	72	25	36	127
<b>Primary-middle</b>	18	08	17	43
<b>Metric above</b>	12	09	09	30
<b>Total</b>	102	42	56	200

$$X^2_{OB} = 6.557$$

$$X^2_{CRIT} = 9.488$$

$$df=04$$

Level of significance= 0.05

$$r= 0.17$$

Hence, the calculated value = 6.557 is smaller than  $X^2$  CRIT value 9.488, df is 04 and level of significance is 0.05. Thus the original hypothesis is rejected and null hypothesis is accepted. Data reveals that there is no relationship between the level of education of women and type of violence.

Ho - There is no relationship between the type of family and type of violence

H3 - Type of family is likely to be related with the type of violence.

**Table No 3**

Type of Family	Physical Violence	Verbal Violence	Emotional Violence	Total
Nuclear	56	12	21	89
Joint	46	30	35	111
Total	102	42	56	200

$$X^2_{OB} = 9.892$$

$$X^2_{CRIT} = 5.991$$

$$df= 02$$

Level of significance 0.05

$$r= 0.219$$

Hence the calculated value = 9.892 is greater than  $X^2_{CRIT}$  value, 5.991, df is 02 and level of significance is 0.05. Thus null hypothesis is rejected, and original hypothesis is accepted. Data reveals that there is moderate relationship between the type of family and type of violence.

Ho - There is no relationship between family income and type of violence.

H4 - Family income is likely to be related with type of violence.

**Table No 4**

<b>Level of Income</b>	<b>Physical violence</b>	<b>Verbal Violence</b>	<b>Emotional Violence</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Below 5000</b>	12	11	15	38
<b>5000-8000</b>	20	12	20	52
<b>8000-above</b>	17	19	21	110
<b>Total</b>	49	42	56	200

$X^2_{OB} = 16.767$

$X^2_{CRIT} = 9.488$

df= 04

Level of significance= 0.05

Hence the calculated value 16.767 is greater than  $X^2$  CRIT value which is 9.488, df is 04 and the level of significance is 0.05. Thus null hypothesis is rejected and original hypothesis is accepted. Data reveals that there is strong relationship between family income and type of violence.

Ho - There is no relationship between the age of women and attempt of violence.

H5 - Age of woman is likely to be related with the attempt of violence.

**Table No 5**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Violence (Yes)</b>	<b>Violence (No)</b>	<b>To Some Extent</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Below 18 years</b>	13	06	06	25
<b>19-23 Years</b>	31	05	06	42
<b>24-28 Years</b>	15	05	06	26
<b>29 Above</b>	97	05	05	107
<b>Total</b>	156	21	23	200

$X^2_{OB} = 26.848$

$X^2_{CRIT} = 12.592$

DF= 06

Level of significance = 0.05

$r = 0.355$

Hence the calculated value of  $X^2$ , 26.848, is greater than  $X^2_{CRIT}$ , value, which is 12.592, df is 06 and level of significance is 0.05. Thus null hypothesis is rejected, and original hypothesis is accepted. Data reveals that there is strong relationship between age of women and attempt of violence.

**Findings**

- Majority of the respondent's ages were 29 years.
- Majority of the respondents were house wives.
- Majority of the respondents were illiterate.
- Majority of the respondents were living in joint family.
- Majority of the respondent's family income had 8000 and above.
- Majority of the respondents were facing financial difficulties.
- Majority of the respondents were facing tension at their homes.
- Majority of the respondents wants to leave their husbands because of domestic violence.

**Conclusions**

Domestic violence has become a part of our society and can no more be treated as an isolated incident. Its occurrence has become so common that it is treated in a matter of fact with loudly a voice being raised in its favour on the plea, that it is a personal matter to be solved by the family. Islam requires that husbands should treat their wives with respect and prohibits all forms of violence. Domestic violence must be accepted as a heinous crime.

**Recommendations**

- First of all, the state should take a serious step regarding domestic violence.
- There must be crises centres in each locality, where battered women can get emergency help.
- The state should make shelter homes for the victims, because in our society majority of the families refuse to house their female relative when they are turned out their marital home.
- Women should be educated to know that domestic violence is heinous crime, because many women think that violence by their husbands is right.
- Males should be taught to respect the opposite sex from early child hood.
- Unfortunately the response of police to domestic violence is non-serious and deplorable; they create hurdles in the way of the victims who seek justice. So government should take immediate against the behaviour and attitudes of our police.
- Government should also mobilize its resources to make society aware of this evil.

**End Notes**

1. (Merriam-Webster dictionary) m-w.com
2. (Qur'an 4-19)

3. Al Quran, An-Nahl 16: 58-59
4. Al Quran, At-Takwir, 81:8-9
5. Al Quran, An-Nisa 4:19
6. <http://tribune.com.pk/story/33509/two-women-abused-every-hour-in-pakistan/>
7. <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2012/02/14/city/islamabad/aurat-foundation-launches-report-on-violence-against-women/>
8. <http://www.hrwo.org/news/2010/01/11/Pakistan-expedit-domestic-violence-legislation>
9. [http://www.jpma.org.pk/full\\_article\\_text.php?article\\_id=1372](http://www.jpma.org.pk/full_article_text.php?article_id=1372)

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