CAUSES, FORMS AND LEVELS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN MUZAFFARABAD: AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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Abstract: The present study was conducted in Muzaffarabad. It focused the forms of domestic violence prevalent in the society along with the levels and causes which have enduring impacts on the lives of women in the area. Objectives: The objectives of study were to determine causes, levels and forms of domestic violence and comparison of violence against women in urban and rural area of Muzaffarabad. Method: Both paradigms, quantitative and qualitative, were merged to conduct the study. The sample size was taken 600 equally 300 from urban and rural area. The respondents were enumerated through a well structured quantitative questionnaire and interview schedule through convenience sampling technique. The data was analyzed through SPSS 16.00 version. Results: The causes of domestic violence were found as alcoholism, drug addiction, unemployment, financial matters and psychological issues. Two main forms of domestic violence were found physical and psychological. Physical violence found 7.1% in rural area and 8.7% in urban area among the 300 respondents each along psychological violence in rural area was found 99.6% and in urban area it was found 100%. The overall ratio of physical violence found 15.8% while psychological violence 99.8% recorded. It signifies that domestic violence is more prevalent in urban setting rather than rural.

Key Words: Psychological, Physical, Customary, Deterrence, Intimate

INTRODUCTION

Domestic Violence
The World Health Organization (WHO) defines domestic violence as any act of “gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” The important cause of mortality of women is manifested in domestic violence which is customary in each country (World Health Organization 1996).

Symonides & Volodin (2002) quoted, definition of United Nations General Assembly violence against women as: “Any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

A study describes the prevalence of intimate partner violence was detailed in the range of 30% to 79% (Fikree and Bhatti 1999). The women are marginalized in many kind of domestic violence in developing countries and it is a concern of public health issue (Heise and Pitanguy 1994). The women had been victims of domestic violence in many countries as 34% in Egypt (Diop-Sidible, et al. 2006), 17% in Canada (Cohen, et al. 2005) and 16.4% in Haiti (Gage 2005). in medical clinic of Sudan reported in 2001 reported that low educational status, unemployed and new married women are abused (Ahmed and Elmardi 2005). Women has right to participate fully in society across the cultural and religious barriers (Watta and Zammerman 2002). The situation of domestic violence in Pakistan neither GO’s nor NGO’s intend to prevent it and lack the basic data behind violence. The women from all socioeconomic and educational classes suffer from violence vulnerable (Alvarez and Ashton 2004).

Forms of Domestic Violence
The forms of domestic violence discussed are physical, psychological and sexual (Fee, et al. 2002; Farid et al. 2008). Shaheed described that the violence diverge consequently. The state of domestic violence in rural area is grimmer than that of the urban area. According to a 2008 HRCP report, 80
percent of wives in rural Punjab feared violence from their husbands, and nearly 50 percent of wives in developed urban areas admitted that their husbands beat them. Traditional customs are more approximate in rural area and the women are used to settle conflict (Shaheed 1990). Domestic violence is blueprint of physical, sexual and psychological misuse by someone with whom woman has had intimate relationship (American Medical Association 1992). Psychological forms of domestic violence include behavior, economic abuse and social isolation (Haj-Yahia 2000; Cohen, et al. 2000). Physical violence has several serious facets and injuries in developing countries women are more prone to domestic violence as in Karachi study indicate that all husbands yell at their wives even during pregnancy (Sheikh 2000). 19-69% women found victim of physical abuse from partner (Krung, et al. 2002). 32% confessed to slap their wives and 77.1% confessed the sexual abuse. Another study held in Karachi reported that 34% women physically abused by husband and 15% even pregnant women abused (Fikree and Bhatti 1999). 72% physically abused women were depressed while a study in 2005 on 176% married men showed that 94.9% women were verbally abused whereas 49.4% physically abused in the marital life (Fikree, et al. 2005).

**Causes of Domestic Violence**

Some ancient traditions and customs still prevalent in Pakistan which contains marriage exchanges, marriages with Quran, Karo Kari, Honor killing and Dowry. Furthermore, misapprehension of religious teachings is another facet which makes women more susceptible to violence (Niaz and Hassan 2006). Price explored numerous causes of domestic violence in Pakistan. One of the most important is poverty whereas in the patriarchal culture in Pakistan; typically the men enjoy all the privileges and decision making rights. The reported dynamics accountable for domestic violence in Pakistan are daily conflicts and misunderstanding at household level on decisions and family problems including the preferences and financial insecurity compel the partners to violence.

Every third woman in Pakistan is illiterate and ignorant in relation to their rights. In Pakistan, Poverty and ignorance allow religious dogma to be accepted without question. Illiteracy, ignorance, superstition, fatalism and blind faith in clergy (religious leaders) are great allies in the maintenance of the status quo, providing a sound basis for an extreme form of patriarchal society (Babur, 2007). It is unfortunate that women in Pakistan are the major victims of this patriarchal and traditional narrow-mindedness. Hype is being created by the electronic media through the news and develop opinion which tends to anarchy in the society. In case of rape media portray the picture and even the footage indicate the demonization. In dramas, advertisements and news regarding the women are used as sex objects depicting their subordinate position and undermining their capabilities. The media portrayal also aspire the youth to practice what is being envisaged (Ahmar 2004). In-laws also commit violence against women, the extended family system in Pakistan also cause domestic violence and women face harassment from whole family (Sami and Ali 2006; Irfan and Badar 2002). Education improved women status, increased their contribution to household and awarded more freedom and lessens the dependency (Bates, et al. 2004).

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The present research was hearted on the causes, levels and forms of domestic violence on women prevalent in the rural and urban areas of Muzaffarabad, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and to compare the rural urban extent of domestic violence. The urban area consist of two wards of Khawaja Muhalla while rural areas comprised six villages of Neelum and Jehlum valley with sample size of 50 households from each village. A quantitative and qualitative research was conducted with a sample size 600, 300 each from rural and urban area on household level by using non-probability, convenient sampling technique. A well structured close ended questionnaire along with interview guide was designed to collect data from the respondents. The data were collected by researcher along with key informants and hence analyzed. SPSS version 13.00 was used for the analysis of data.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The purpose of study was to discuss with the respondents and to extract their responses regarding the domestic violence, its forms, and levels and compare the extent of violence in urban and rural areas. The findings which are drawn from the respondents in the light of the objectives are discussed and summarized to draw the conclusions. The conclusions are presented from the findings through a careful analysis as given below:
Causes Of Domestic Violence In Rural And Urban Areas

Table 1: Distribution of Responses regarding Causes of Domestic Violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Alcoholism</th>
<th>Media</th>
<th>Drug Addiction</th>
<th>Social Exclusion</th>
<th>Unemployment</th>
<th>Financial Constraints</th>
<th>Psychological Problems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreed</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The question asked from women regarding the causes of the domestic violence and the respondent seen enthusiastic to respond through multi responses check list. There were seven causes enlisted in it and the women responded most of the options. The women were also asked whether to combat this issue or not, the greater ratio 94% of respondents directly supported that it should be eradicated. The causes were Alcoholism, Media, Drug addiction, Social exclusion, Unemployment, Financial constraints and the Psychological problems. Out of 600 sample size, 12 respondents disagreed with the given causes and did not show their intension in this regard. Alcoholism was reported by 473 respondents which is a high ratio considered for the domestic violence and may lead some others reasons. A low ratio of 42 respondents reported media as a cause of domestic violence. Drug addiction was reported by the 484 respondents which is alarming beside the alcoholism. The women reported that drug addiction is also a main reason for violence. The ratio of social exclusion is not considerably high but 150 respondents reported that social exclusion is the cause behind the domestic violence. The unemployment ratio is great as 438 respondents reported that unemployment leads to domestic violence. Financial constraints were reported by the 416 women, the severe cause of the domestic violence and 335 women reported that psychological problems are also a serious threat to domestic violence.

Comparison And Analysis, The Prevalence Of Domestic Violence In Rural And Urban Areas

Table 2: Distribution of Comparison and Analysis of Rural and Urban Domestic Violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Violence</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Psychological Violence</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Violence</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild Violence</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Violence</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Violence</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very High Violence</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparison

Physical Violence
Out of the 300 respondents of rural area, 42.8% did not face any physical violence whereas 4.5% faced mild physical violence, 2% faced moderate physical violence and 0.3% high and very high physical violence. In urban area 41.3% faced no physical violence whereas 5.5% faced mild physical violence, 2.0% faced moderate and 1.0% faced high physical violence while very high physical violence was faced by 0.2% women.

Psychological Violence
The psychological violence in rural areas was determined, 0.2% faced no psychological violence whereas 47.5% faced mild psychological violence and 2.3% faced moderate psychological violence. High and very high psychological violence was not reported. In urban areas, 42.8% faced mild psychological violence, 7% faced moderate psychological violence and 0.2% faced high psychological violence whereas very high psychological violence was not reported.

Comparison
Among 300 respondents, 7.1% faced physical violence in rural areas while 8.7% respondents faced physical violence in urban areas. The psychological violence is faced by 49.8% respondents in rural areas.
whereas 50% respondents faced psychological violence in urban areas. It is concluded from above discussions that ratio of physical and psychological violence is greater in urban areas than the rural. Physical ratio of physical and psychological violence is greater in urban areas than the rural. Physical violence in rural area is reported 7.1% while in urban areas it is 8.7% and psychological violence is 99.6% in rural area whereas all the respondents in urban areas face psychological violence.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that causes of domestic violence are heinous and especially the alcoholism, drug addiction, unemployment, financial matters and psychological issues are more prevalent at the present time and women are the vulnerable because they have to bear upon the impacts of such causes. The frustrated intimate partner, however, face problems and resultanty experience violence to their female partners but the extent of violence has had been very low. There had not been found any severe or police case which could be an evidence to allege the deterrence. The women were enough aware of domestic violence, its forms along the levels and trends in the society. The forms of domestic violence are physical and psychological whereas other forms are not found in which 15.8% face physical violence and 99.8% face psychological violence. Domestic violence is customary in society as physical violence found 7.1% in rural area and 8.7% in urban area among the 300 respondents each along psychological violence in rural area was found 99.6% and in urban area it was found 100%. The overall ratio of physical violence found 15.8% while psychological violence 99.8% recorded. It signifies that domestic violence is more prevalent in urban setting rather than rural.

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