

Increasing Trend of Domestic Violence with Women in Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To study the increasing trend of domestic violence with women in Pakistan.

Study Design: Retrospective study

Place and Duration of Study: This study was carried at Emergency Departments of four hospitals namely Services Hospital, Lahore, Shahina Jamil Hospital Abbottabad, Gangaram Hospital Lahore and Mayo Hospital Lahore from 1st January 2012 to 31 May 2013.

Materials and Methods: The cases of domestic violence with women were selected from aforementioned hospitals. The data was collected on proforma and analyzed for results.

Results: In our study the incidence of Domestic violence with women was maximum at the age of 21 – 30 years (33%) and minimum at the age of 71 – 80 years as shown in Table No.1. The incidence was maximum with house wife (25 %) and minimum in wives of business man (0.5 %) as shown in Table No.2 The incidence of Domestic violence with women was 56 % in lower class, 34 % in middle class and 20 % in high gentry as shown in Table No 3. Addict member of family had 83 % incidence Domestic violence with women of and 17 % in non addict people as shown in Table No 4. The incidence of Domestic violence with women was 73 % in unmarried and 27 % in married as shown in Table No 5.

The incidence of Domestic violence with women was 83 % in people having mental / physical sickness as compared to healthy people (17 %) as shown in Table No 6. The incidence of Domestic violence with women was 37 % in literate people and 63 % in illiterate people as shown in Table No 7. The incidence of Domestic violence with women was high 67 % in couples living in joint family system as compared to couple living in non joint families (33 %) as shown in Table No 8 The trend of Domestic violence with women was 67 % in rural area and 33 % in urban area as shown in table No.9

Conclusion: The tendency of domestic violence with women is a global problem It is increasing day by day in developed / under developed countries and nations. This trend is even going to be increased even in Muslims countries where domestic violence with women is prohibited (Haraam).

Key Words: Domestic violence, Psychological, economical, mental / physical sickness and joint family system.

INTRODUCTION

Recently many social scientists have paid their attention towards the issue of violence against women, not only in the developed but also in the developing world.^[01] Feminist movements for the last three centuries have been focusing on the repressive conditions being faced by women across the world but the condition of the women is still far from satisfactory and cries out for amelioration. Recently feminist scholars have concentrated on strategies to safeguard women from domestic violence.^[02] Although, technological advancement, globalization, industrialization, internationalization of media and efforts made by international institutions, including international non-governmental organizations have created some space for women to compete on equal footing but the situation is unfortunately still much unsatisfactory for those women who are living in under developed nation.^[03] On the other hand there are few international humanitarian organizations, which are working to eliminate this violence against them. The cumulative and even concerted efforts by struggling parties have been born little fruit and the situation still remains unpalatable and

oppressive.^[04] This brutal violence has different forms and multi-lateral dimensions. It varies for society to society in its magnitude and intensity.^[05] Domestic violence with women is one of the major issues and practices in violence against women. According to Heise violence against women is a worldwide phenomenon, transcending cultural, geographic, religious, social and economic boundaries.^[06] It has come to be recognized internationally as an important issue and has become the subject of a substantial amount of research in recent decades. The most common type of violence against women is domestic; violence perpetrated by intimate partner or ex-partner.^[07]

In the context of Pakistan social setup violence against women has a very abnormal proportion since the societal norms encourage and perpetuate the superiority of men-folk. Among other reasons for the dominance of the men over women, is the joint family system.^[08] This stretched family yields excessive influence of the in-law over the wife husband relations and is a substantial cause of wife degradation, wife humiliation and domestic violence with women. It is usually the mother-in-law who is the major factor in this sanguine

drama but she is all the same reinforced feudal make-up of family structure. It is very rare that mother-in-law comes to fend the disputes but most of time she ignites and sparks vicious conflagration among spouses. He Pandora-box of complaints against her daughter-in-law is never exhausted.^[109]

The factors intercalating through which female are targeted in rural Punjab have specific formations.^[110] The societal norms to a large extent incite the husbands to domestic violence with women. To some extent religion is also misused in perpetuating. The same extant religion is also misused in perpetuating such acts.^[111] The frequency of severe domestic violence with women has resulted into a chain reaction of social malformation. The present research has unfolded disastrous, the victims have an urge to live in a unclear family rather than to live in a joint family and face such inexorable violence. In their perception and to some extent true, it minimizes the intrusions of the in-laws thus rending part the social fabric of society. While on the other hand some of these victims are struggling to opt out of marriage contract but are faced with the dilemma of between the devil and the deep blue sea since the dissolution of such a contract is likely to result into further misfortune and complications and top of all the infliction of social stigma, that is attached to a forsaken divorce.^[112]

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The cases of domestic violence with women were taken from Emergency Departments of Services Hospital, Lahore, Islam Teaching Hospital, Sialkot, Gangaram Hospital Lahore and Mayo Hospital Lahore.

RESULTS

In our study the incidence of Domestic violence with women was maximum at the age of 21 – 30 years (33 %) and minimum at the age of 71 – 80 years as shown in Table No.1.

The incidence was maximum in house wife (25 %) and minimum in wives of business man (0.5 %) as shown in Table No.2

The incidence of Domestic violence with women was 56 % in lower class, 34 % in middle class and 20 % in high gentry as shown in Table No 3.

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The trend of Domestic violence with women was 67 % in rural area and 33 % in urban area as shown in Table No.9.

Table No.1 Domestic violence with women with relation to age

S.No	Age	Cases	Percentage
01	10 – 20	10	10 %
02	21 – 30	33	33 %
03	31 – 40	25	25 %
04	41 – 50	15	15 %
05	51 – 60	11	11 %
06	61 – 70	04	04 %
07	71 – 80	02	02 %
	Total	10	100 %

Table No.2 Domestic violence with women with relation to occupation

S.No	Occupation	Case	Percentage
01	Students	07	07 %
02	House wife	25	25 %
03	Factory worker	15	15 %
04	Office worker	10	10 %
05	Business man wife	05	05 %
06	Former wife	07	07 %
07	Laborer	15	15 %
08	Addict wife	16	16 %
	Total	100	100 %

Table No.3 Domestic violence with women with relation to socio – economic status

S.No	Socio – economic status	Case	Percentage
01	Lower class	56	56 %
02	Middle class	34	34 %
03	High gentry	20	20 %
	Total	100	100 %

Table No.4 Domestic violence with women with relation to addiction

S.No	Addiction	Cases	Percentage
01	Member of Addict people	83	83 %
02	Non Addict people	17	17 %
	Total	100	100 %

Table No.5 Domestic violence with women with relation to Marital Status

S.No	Marital Status	Case	Percentage
01	Un Married	73	73 %
02	Married	27	27 %
	Total	100	100 %

Table No.6 Domestic violence with women with relation to mental / Physical Sickness

S.No	Sickness	Cases	Percentage
01	Sick family members	83	83 %
02	Healthy family members	17	17 %
	Total	100	100 %

Table No.7 Domestic violence with women with relation to Literacy Status

S.No	Literacy Status	Cases	Percentage
01	Literate	37	37 %
02	Illiterate	63	63 %
	Total	100	100 %

Table No.8 Domestic violence with women with relation to joint family system

S.No	Family System	Cases	Percentage
01	Joint family system	67	67 %
02	Non joint family system	33	33 %
	Total	100	100 %

Table No.9: Domestic violence with women with relation to residential area

S.No	Residential area	Cases	Percentage
01	Rural area	67	67 %
02	Urban area	33	33 %
	Total	100	100 %

DISCUSSION

Domestic violence with women is a global problem and exists in both developed / under developed nations. The Domestic violence with women is going to be increased even in Muslims countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Saudi-Arabia etc.^[13] The battering can be decreased by observing preventive measures like,^[14]

- Joint family system
- Creating awareness about human rights by seminars, religious teachings / education
- By providing psychological services
- By providing social services
- By providing economical services
- By providing treatment for mental / physical sickness.
- By increasing literacy rate
- By increasing religious teachings

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Most of the Domestic violence with women thought that it was due to the family tradition and husbands are incited or coaxed by other family members to commit such acts.^[15]

Domestic violence or any other type of violence is always due to some clashes in the relationship of two or more than two individuals. Family is a basic institution of the society where all the members act as component of the system and for the smooth environment it is important that every one play his/her role positively.

The most important factor in the domestic violence in previous studies is the crucial role of mothers-in-law in Pakistan society. It is considered as extrinsic factor which abets and encourages the husband to become batterers in their houses.

The perception of divorcing has been fundamentally associated with severity of battering. Although it is thought to be course for a female to initiate for divorce, in rural Punjab.^[16]

CONCLUSION

The tendency of domestic violence with women is a global problem It is increasing day by day in developed/ under developed countries and nations. This trend is even going to be increased even in Muslims countries where domestic violence with women is prohibited (Haraam).

Suggestion: The tendency of domestic violence with women can be decreased by observing following measures

- Non Joint family system
- By creating awareness about human rights by seminars, religious teachings / education

- c) By providing psychological services
- d) By providing social services
- e) By providing economical services
- f) By providing treatment for mental / physical sickness.

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