



Contents lists available <http://www.kinnaird.edu.pk/>

Journal of Research & Reviews in Social Sciences Pakistan

Journal homepage: <http://journal.kinnaird.edu.pk>



ASSESSMENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN PAKISTAN

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Abstract

Domestic violence is a social problem worldwide but occurrence of violence against women by the intimate partner is more prevalent in under-developed countries. Violence is a social problem which may have adverse effects on the health and social well-being of the victims. In Pakistan, domestic violence is considered as a family problem and females usually have to bear physical, emotional or sexual violence due to the norms of the society. This study explored the occurrence of different types of violence in Pakistan. Data about women was extracted from Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) 2017-2018 by taking a sample of size 5753 households. The data were analyzed using the chi-square test of association and the factors causing physical, emotional and sexual abuse were predicted employing logistic regression models. The results revealed that majority of women in Balochistan were suffering from physical violence whereas the women in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were suffering from emotional and sexual violence compared to other provinces. Further, the logistic regression model explored that the residential area, literacy, wealth index, number of other wives, husband education level, respondent occupation and women age were the significant factors of physical, emotional and sexual violence against women. The study concluded that emotional violence was more common compared to other types of violence whereas most of the women have reported emotional and sexual violence in KPK province while physical violence was more prevalent in Balochistan and Sindh provinces. It is suggested that awareness programs on tolerance and gender equality must be arranged in order to address domestic violence and its effect on women. Although the Government of Pakistan has approved the domestic violence law to address this social issue but its implementation should be ensured and the awareness about this law must be communicated to the masses in order to address this issue positively.

Keywords

Domestic violence, logistic regression, emotional violence, physical violence, sexual violence, logistic regression.



1. Introduction

Importance of family cannot be denied while in a marital relationship, husband and wife are the support system of each other. A good relationship between husband and wife leads to perspective, happy and peaceful life. A healthy relationship between the couple has a good impact on the lives of the partners as well as on their children. Unfortunately, some couples lack a good relationship that in turn leads to many problems, such as depression, breakups and violent behavior. There are many causes of a weak relationship between couples but in most of the cases, prevalence of violence against females is one of the significant causes. Violence against women is a global issue but it is more common in under-developed countries. This single issue has become a cause of several physical, social and emotional problems among women. It has been observed that women are still more vulnerable and dependent on their male counterparts and have no voice for their rights. According to a report by World Health Organization (1999), domestic violence is a root cause of many problems that cause mental illness, hence affecting the fundamental rights and freedom of the victims. Domestic violence also had no significant association with living arrangements, education and income levels of the respondents or their husbands, and pregnancy status. A research conducted by Gonzalez-Brenes (2004) observed that female's education, household wealth, and earning are correlated with women's attitude

towards violence while economic opportunities lead to decrease in violence. Educated women have a higher ratio of exposure to economic violence in comparison with those who are uneducated (Alkan, Ozar & Unver, 2021). Researchers also recognized that factors such as age, education, employment and socioeconomic status, nuclear living system, religion and the duration of marriage were significantly associated with the perpetration of violence (Gonzalez-Brenes, 2004; Salehi and Mehraliyan, 2005, Owuamanam and Akintoke, 2013), Thankian, Kusathan, Mwaba, Sidney, Menon and Anitha, 2015). According to some studies, majority of the women experienced violence in form of emotional, sexual and physical abuse (Kazemain, Razaghi, Toufani, and Nemat, 2005; Rabbani, Qureshi and Rizvi, 2008; Mamdouh, Ismail, Kharboush, Tawfik, Sharkawy, Abdel-Baky and Sallam, 2012). According to a study by Khan, Ali and Khujja (2009) domestic violence has a positive relation with low social status, low income and low level of education whereas poverty is the major reason along with other factors such as male patriarchal culture, daily conflicts and disagreements between a wife and husband. Pambe, Gnoumou and Kabore (2013) explored that emotional, sexual and physical violence have a weak association with socioeconomic characteristics whereas working women were involved in decision making regarding their own health and some other domestic matters. A research by Kampli, Kazi,

Chavan, Velhal and Aras (2013) revealed that the female from a low socioeconomic background were facing emotional and physical violence by their male counterparts as well as by their in-laws. Usually, the women who have been facing the emotional and physical violence are unaware of their rights and laws addressing the violence against women (Rana, Choudhary and Kaithwass, 2014). According to a study by Paul (2016) female participation in work force and financially supporting the family did not decrease the prevalence of domestic violence. A study by Ferdous, Kabir, Khan and Chowdhury (2017) showed that women without education have faced more domestic violence whereas the women living in rural areas are highly likely to be the victims of domestic violence. According to a research by Idris, Aziz, Khalid, Nizar, Rasip, and Ayub (2018) domestic violence had significant negative effect on the health of victim and their performance at work.

A research by Straus, Guonjian, Christian and Roberts (2020) made a comparison between the factors relating to violence between abused and never abused women. The significant differences between the non-physical forms of abuse such as name-calling and put-downs were reported whereas the same ratings about physical forms of abuse by the intimate partner were made by

abused and never abused women. A study explored the prevalence of domestic violence in Gilgit Baltistan, a territory administered by Pakistan where women faced the domestic violence that in turn have significant impact on women's mental health. The study explored that poverty, the influence of in-laws, and second marriage were the significant risk factors contributing domestic violence among women (Hussain, Hussain, Zahra and Hussain, 2020).

2. Materials and methods

The aim of the study was to assess the prevalence of domestic violence against women in Pakistan. Target population comprised women living in the Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Balochistan, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) and Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan. Secondary data was collected from Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) (2017-2018) of Pakistan taking a total of 5,753 households. Data was analyzed using the chi-square test and logistic regression model whereas the graphical comparison across the regions and area of living was also carried out. The analysis of data was done using Excel and SPSS 24.0. The figure and all the tables presented in this research article were constructed by the authors through software packages.

Figure

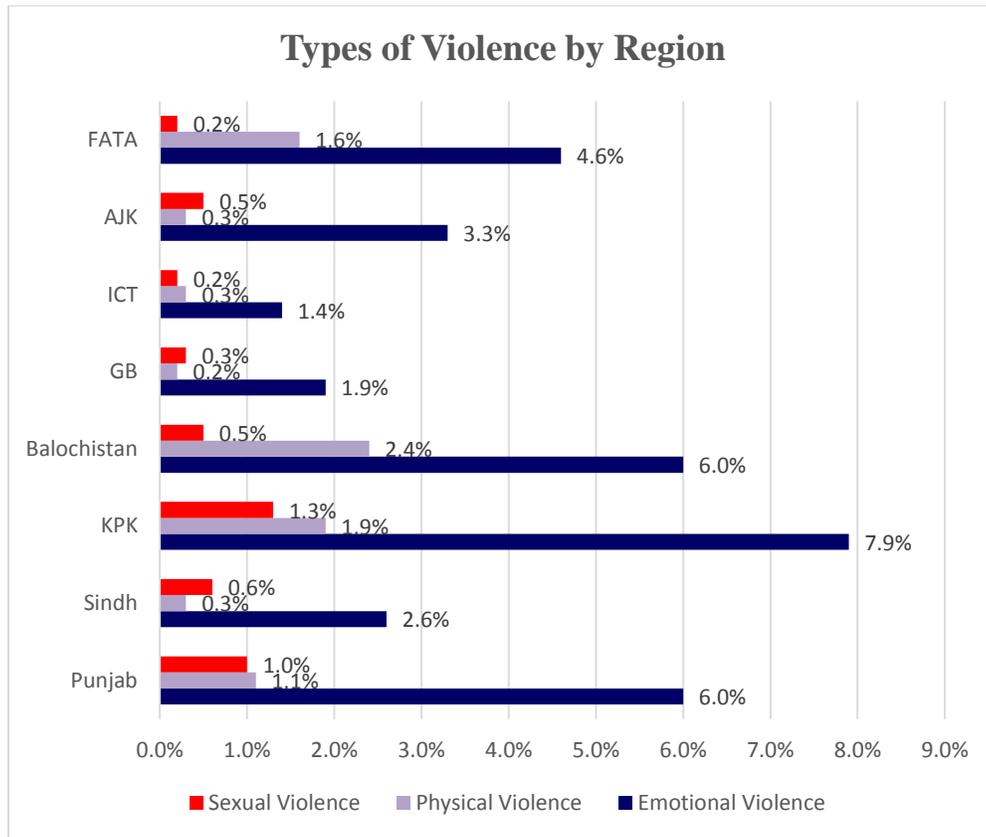


Figure 1 Types of violence by Region

3. Results

By observing figure 1, the multiple bar chart of region in Pakistan, it can be seen that Balochistan is suffering most from physical violence with the percentage of 2.4, KPK is suffering most from

emotional violence with the percentage of 7.9 and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is suffering most from sexual violence with the percentage of 1.3 as compared to other regions.

Table 1 Chi-square test of Association of Physical Violence in Pakistan

<u>Variables</u>	<u>Value</u>
Region	447.943594
Type of place of Residence	9.114481
Wealth Index Combined	107.207316
Had a say in choosing the Husband	137.900610

It is obvious from table 1 that the variables region, type of place of residence, wealth index combined and had a say in choosing the husband are highly significantly associated with physical violence in Pakistan.

Table 2 Chi-square test of Association of Emotional Violence in Pakistan

<u>Variables</u>	<u>Value</u>
Region	690.187619
Type of place of Residence	37.233814
Wealth Index Combined	137.298150
Had a say in choosing the Husband	137.820504

Table 2 of chi square test of emotional violence in Pakistan shows that the p-value of the region, type of place of residence, wealth index combined and had a say in choosing the husband is highly significant so there is an association with emotional violence in Pakistan.

Table 3 Chi-square test of Association of Sexual Violence in Pakistan

<u>Variables</u>	<u>Value</u>
Region	44.875390
Wealth Index Combined	16.947753
Currently residing with Husband/Partner	4.955704
Had a say in choosing the Husband	6.624086

Observation of table 3 chi-square test is showing the variables such as Region, Wealth index combined, currently residing with husband/partner and had a say in choosing the husband are significantly associated with sexual violence in Pakistan. As compared to the Punjab, other regions, such as Sindh, GB and AJK have less cases of physical violence since the odds ratios turned out to be less than 1 whereas KPK, Balochistan, ICT and FATA have more cases as indicated by the odds ratios greater than 1 (Table 4). The estimated odds of vulnerability to physical violence for the women in poorer wealth quintile are 0.760 times the estimated odds for those who belong to the poorest wealth quintile. The estimated odds of vulnerability to physical

violence for the women in middle wealth quintile are 0.587 times the estimated odds for those who belong to the poorest wealth quintile. The estimated odds of vulnerability to physical violence for the women in richer wealth quintile are 0.475 times the estimated odds for those who belong to the poorest wealth quintile. The estimated odds of vulnerability to physical violence for the women in richest wealth quintile are 0.144 times the estimated odds for those who belong to the poorest wealth quintile. It is estimated that the odds of physical violence are 2.659 times higher for women who reported that their husbands have another wife as compared to those whose husbands do not have multiple wives. It is estimated that the odds of physical

violence are 0.886 times lower for women who reported that their husbands have two more wives as compared to those whose husbands do not have multiple wives. It is estimated that the odds of physical violence are 5.636 times higher for women who reported that they are not aware of multiple wives of their husbands as compared to

those whose husbands do not have multiple wives. For every additional year of age, the odds of women experiencing physical violence increase by a factor of 1.029.

Table 4 Binary Logistic Regression Analysis for Physical Violence in Pakistan

<u>Variables</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>Significance</u>	<u>Exp(B)</u>
Region		.000	
Sindh	-1.286	.000	.276
KPK	1.114	.000	3.046
Balochistan	1.455	.000	4.283
GB	-.861	.014	.423
ICT	.363	.201	1.437
AJK	-.592	.028	.553
FATA	1.580	.000	4.855
Rural	-.209	.084	.812
WIC		.000	
Poorer	-.275	.042	.760
Middle	-.533	.001	.587
Richer	-.745	.000	.475
Richest	-1.936	.000	.144
No. of wives		.000	
One other wife	.978	.000	2.659
Two other wives	-.121	.912	.886
Don't Know	1.729	.005	5.636
Women age	.029	.000	1.029
Constant	-3.265	.000	.038

Table 5 Binary Logistic Regression Analysis for Emotional Violence in Pakistan

<u>Variables</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>Significance</u>	<u>Exp(B)</u>
Region		.000	
Sindh	-.936	.000	.392
KPK	1.302	.000	3.678
Balochistan	.585	.000	1.794
GB	.150	.279	1.162
ICT	-.068	.641	.934
AJK	.232	.041	1.262
FATA	1.738	.000	5.688
Rural	.026	.724	1.026
Literacy		.964	
Able to read only parts of sentence	-.074	.609	.928
Able to read whole sentence	.035	.678	1.036
No card with required language	-19.960	.999	.000
Blind/visually impaired	-19.352	1.000	.000
WIC		.000	
Poorer	-.012	.898	.988
Middle	-.221	.046	.802
Richer	-.138	.272	.872
Richest	-.600	.000	.549
No. of wives		.188	
One other wife	.378	.053	1.460
Two other wives	.640	.388	1.896
Don't know	.372	.556	1.451
Husband Education		.124	
Primary	.044	.661	1.045
Secondary	-.033	.702	.968
Higher	-.235	.027	.791
Don't know	-20.250	.999	.000
Women age	.010	.017	1.010
Respondent Occupation		.002	
Commissioned armed forces officers	-19.540	1.000	.000
Non-commissioned armed forces officers	-18.655	.999	.000

Armed forces occupations, other ranks	-19.764	.999	.000
Chief executives, senior officials and legislators	.570	.207	1.767
Administrative and commercial managers	-.388	.084	.679
Production and specialised services managers	-19.864	.999	.000
Hospitality, retail and other services managers	.904	.315	2.470
Science and engineering professionals	.237	.656	1.268
Health professionals	1.163	.416	3.200
Information and communications technology professionals	-20.028	.999	.000
Legal, social and cultural professionals	.609	.026	1.839
Science and engineering associate professionals	-.586	.222	.557
Health associate professionals	.954	.355	2.596
Legal, social, cultural and related associate professionals	-.959	.377	.383
Information and communications technicians	-20.296	1.000	.000
General and keyboard clerks	.656	.107	1.927
Customer services clerks	.976	.000	2.653
Numerical and material recording clerks	.526	.001	1.692
Personal service workers	-.767	.128	.464
Sales workers	-.038	.849	.963
Personal care workers	1.179	.006	3.251
Market-oriented skilled agricultural workers	.549	.109	1.732
Constant	-1.228	.000	.293

As compared to the Punjab, other regions, such as Sindh and ICT have less cases of emotional violence since the odds ratios turned out to be less than 1 whereas KPK, Balochistan, GB, AJK and FATA have more cases as indicated by the odds ratios greater than 1 (Table 5).

The estimated odds of vulnerability to emotional violence for the women in middle wealth quintile are 0.802 times the estimated odds for those who belong to the poorest wealth quintile. The estimated odds of vulnerability to emotional violence for the women in richest wealth quintile are 0.549 times the estimated odds for those who belong to the poorest wealth quintile. For every additional year of age, the odds of women experiencing emotional violence increase by a factor of 1.010. The estimated odds of emotional violence for women who reported their occupation as Legal, social and cultural professionals, customer services clerks, numerical and material recording clerks personal care workers are, respectively, 1.839, 2.653, 1.692 and 3.251 times higher than the odds of emotional violence for those who are not working anywhere and did not work in the last 12 months. As compared to the Punjab, other regions, such as Sindh, Balochistan, ICT and FATA have less

cases of sexual violence since the odds ratios turned out to be less than 1 whereas KPK, GB and AJK have more cases as indicated by the odds ratios greater than 1 (Table 6).

Women residing in rural areas are less likely to suffer from sexual violence compared to those in the urban areas of Pakistan. The estimated odds for the former are 0.684 times the odds for the latter. It is estimated that the odds of sexual violence are 2.069 times higher for women who reported that their husbands have another wife as compared to those whose husbands do not have multiple wives. It is estimated that the odds of sexual violence are 43.928 times higher for women who reported that they are not aware of multiple wives of their husbands as compared to those whose husbands do not have multiple wives. The estimates indicate that the odds of women being victims of sexual violence are 0.501 times lower when husbands have secondary education compared to those whose husbands have no education. The estimates indicate that the odds of women being victims of sexual violence are 0.35 times lower when husbands have higher education compared to those whose husbands have no education.

Table 6 Binary Logistic Regression Analysis for Sexual Violence in Pakistan

<u>Variables</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>Significance</u>	<u>Exp (B)</u>
Region		.000	
Sindh	-.479	.038	.619
KPK	.683	.001	1.980
Balochistan	-.678	.021	.508
GB	.098	.744	1.103
ICT	-.319	.367	.727
AJK	.131	.601	1.140
FATA	-.241	.463	.785
Rural	-.380	.013	.684
Literacy		.114	
Able to read only parts of sentence	.627	.012	1.872
Able to read whole sentence	-.049	.788	.952
No card with required language	-17.720	1.000	.000
Blind/visually impaired	-18.233	1.000	.000
WIC		.210	
Poorer	.204	.299	1.227
Middle	.097	.676	1.102
Richer	.003	.991	1.003
Richest	-.435	.186	.647
No. of wives		.000	
One other wife	.727	.019	2.069
Two other wives	-18.586	.999	.000
Don't know	3.783	.000	43.928
Husband Education		.000	
Primary	-.043	.816	.958
Secondary	-.692	.000	.501
Higher	-1.051	.000	.350
Don't know	-18.600	.999	.000
Women age	.012	.178	1.012
Constant	-2.936	.000	.053

4. Discussion

Domestic Violence against women is a global phenomenon that prevails all over the world and the perpetrators of it are generally familiar to their victims. This study aims to explore the prevalence of various types of domestic violence (physical, sexual and emotional), identify factors relating to domestic violence and predict domestic violence against women in Pakistan on the basis of a number of related factors. Women are suffering from violence not only in lower class but also middle class and upper-class. In Pakistan, highest percentages of emotional and sexual violence are reported in KPK (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) whereas physical violence is highest in Balochistan as compared to other provinces. Lowest percentages of emotional and sexual violence are reported in ICT (Islamabad Capital Territory) although physical violence is lowest in GB. Physical and emotional violence is widespread in rural areas but sexual violence is more prevalent in urban area. In Pakistan, of all eight regions under study, a greater risk of physical violence is found in Sindh, GB (Gilgit Baltistan) and AJK (Azad Jammu Kashmir) compared to the Punjab Province. The regions, such as KPK (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Balochistan, AJK (Azad Jammu Kashmir) and FATA are observed to have more cases of emotional violence whereas KPK (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) is the only province reporting a larger number of victims of sexual violence than the province of Punjab. Similarly, a lower risk of physical violence is found in KPK (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa),

Balochistan, ICT (Islamabad Capital Territory) and FATA compared to the Punjab Province. Emotional violence is more prevalent in Sindh whereas sexual violence is reported more frequently in Sindh and Balochistan as compared to the Punjab Province. Wealth Index Combined (WIC) is associated with the three types of violence considered in our research indicating the relationship of socioeconomic status to violence. An increased hazard of physical and sexual violence is investigated either when the husbands have one more wife or when the wives are unaware if the husbands have multiple wives in comparison with those who do not have multiple wives. A lower likelihood of sexual violence is examined when husband's education is secondary or higher in comparison with those who are not educated. As age of a woman advances, chances of all types of violence also increase. Women who reported their occupation as legal, social and culture professionals, customer services clerks, numerical and material, recording personal care workers are at an increased hazard of being victims of emotional violence compared to those who do not work anywhere. This study is in agreement with the study conducted by Thankian, Kusathan, Mwaba, Sidney, Menon and Anitha (2015), according to which, women age, respondent occupation and residential area are significant in explaining physical, emotional and sexual violence respectively whereas wealth index, women age and husband's education are significant in the current research. A study

conducted by Ferdous, Kabir, Khan and Chowdhury (2017) is also in line with the current study for significantly predicting the three types of violence. Uneducated women experience physical, emotional and sexual violence more compared to educated women.

5. Conclusion

Domestic violence is a globally rising sensitive issue, an under-reported crime and usually ignored because it occurs behind the closed doors. Women experience many types of violence in daily life. This study revealed that any form of violence has a negative impact on the health of women. Laws or ordinances must be formulated and executed to overcome domestic violence and for protection of the victims. Besides, community-based awareness programs should be organized to overcome this crime against women.

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