

Original Research Article

Domestic violence on women by their husbands in Gadap town, Karachi, Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

Background: An important component of domestic violence, often ignored is the realm of passive abuse, leading to violence. Passive abuse is covert, subtle and veiled. This includes victimization, procrastination, forgetfulness, and ambiguity, and neglect, spiritual and intellectual abuse. Objectives of the study were to assess the type and magnitude of domestic violence inflicted on women by their husbands in Gadap town Karachi and to determine the factors perpetuating domestic violence among women in Gadap town, Karachi, Pakistan.

Methods: This cross-sectional study, was conducted in Gadap town Karachi from Nov, 1, 2010 to March 1, 2011. A total of 100 married /separated / divorced, females aged between 20 to 50 years were interviewed and pre-designed questionnaires were filled.

Results: A total of 100 women were included in the study. About 93 % women reported that their husbands quarrel with them. The main issue that flare their husbands was money (65%). 11 percent of the participants reported participation of in-laws. Positive answers to threats and abuses were given by 95% of the women interviewed where as 5% gave negative answer. Frequency of abuse was recorded as often in 85%, where as it was occasional in 15%. Being shouted/yelled by their husband was the most common phenomenon of violence. Eighty six percent reported physical violence and non-consensual sex was found in 56%.

Conclusions: Domestic violence is prevalent in Pakistan at an alarming rate. Women are the sufferers and are subjected to physical, psychological and sexual abuse in their home by partners and in-laws. The factors associated with domestic violence in Pakistan are low-economic status of women, lack of awareness about women rights, lack of education, falsified beliefs, imbalanced empowerment issues between males and females and male dominant social structure.

Keywords: Domestic violence, Women

INTRODUCTION

An important component of domestic violence, often ignored is the realm of passive abuse, leading to violence.¹ Passive abuse is covert, subtle and veiled. This includes victimization, procrastination, forgetfulness, and ambiguity, and neglect, spiritual and intellectual abuse.² According to the Centers for Disease Control, domestic

violence is a serious, preventable public health problem affecting more than 32 million Americans, or more than 10% of the U.S. population.³

The Islamic laws and teachings related to the rights and status of women are not interpreted accurately by different social and community settings whereby, it is not understood by any one which law is applicable where.

Men often confuse social and cultural norms with Islamic perspectives and mix up all the religious teachings with their own innate actions, which make Islamic laws and teachings unclear or almost absorbed. In the end it is the woman who has to face the consequences of all those norms and manmade laws of which domestic violence is most prominent.

METHODS

It was a cross sectional study conducted from November 2010 to March 2011. Hundred married /separated /divorced female who were living in Gadap town, Karachi, Pakistan were interviewed. The age range of inclusion was between 20 and 50 years. Females under the age of 20 and above 50 years were excluded from the study. The technique used was convenient sampling. For data collection a questionnaire was developed for data collection which comprise of both open and close ended question and coding was done. Consent of interviewees was obtained and questionnaire was filled. Data was shifted to master data sheet and analyzed through SPSS

(Statistical Package of Social Science) 17.0 versions. Study was conducted after approval of synopsis and questionnaire by ethical committee of Baqai Medical University department Of Health Sciences. Informal individual consent was obtained.

RESULTS

Cumulatively 140 women were approached, out of which 100 agreed to participate in this study. 61% women interviewed were between the ages of 20- 30 years. 31% were between the ages of 31-40 years and 7% were between the ages of 41 -50 years. No formal education was received in 39% of the wives interviewed (Table 1). 47% had received primary education and 14% had received secondary education as well. Regarding husbands education the wives replied that 25% husbands had no formal education. 27% husbands had received primary education, 44% had received secondary education, 3% had Intermediate education and 1% had graduation degree. 57% of women interviewed had under 10 years of duration of marriage.

Table 1: Age range and type of violence.

Age	20-30 years	Total (N=61)	31-40 years	Total (N=32)	41-50 years	Total N (9)
Type of violence	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Shouted/ Yelled	49%	1%	26%	1%	8%	1%
Constant criticism	11%	0	4%	1%	0	1%

34% had 11 -20 years of marriage duration, 8% had 21 -30 years of marriage duration and 7% were divorced after 4-5 years of marriage. 3% of women interviewed did not have children, 43 % had 1-3 children, and 54% had more than 3 children. Among the women interviewed 48% along with their husbands were living with their in laws and 52% were living in nuclear family set up.

87 % of them were Muslims while, 13% were Hindus. They belonged to different ethnic groups which include Sindhi 54%, Punjabi 18%, Balochi 11% and Pathans 10%. Regarding their husbands occupation 13% were driver, 4% were mason, 32% were farmer, 8% chowkidars, 27% were laborer, 13% were shopkeepers 1% were teacher, dispenser and working in multinational companies (Figure 1).

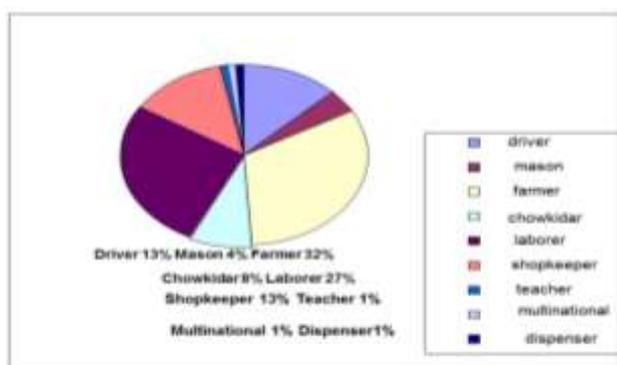


Figure 1: Occupation of men inflicting violence.

14% separated and 7% divorced women were either living with their parents or in a separate household with their children. The women interviewed in the Gadap town

The income of husband of study population varied from 5000 to10000. Sixty three percent had their own houses and 37% were living on rent. 22% replied that their husbands cared about them and 78% denied about care. 12 (24%) replied that their husbands used to discuss family matters with them and 76% replied in negative. Thirty one percent wives used to help their husbands in resolution of problems, 38%denied such help while the rest 31% of respondents had no response. Ninety three percent of respondents faced quarrels with their husbands while 7% gave no response.

The main issues that flared their husbands were; money 65%; demand for a son 14%; drugs 10% and various other pressures by in-laws 11%. Of all, 75% husbands expressed love for their children and 25% did not. Positive answers to threats and abuses were given by

95% of the women interviewed whereas 5% gave negative answers. Frequency of abuse was recorded as often in 85%, where as it was occasional in 15%. Women reported enduring multiple types of violence. Out of which being shouted or yelled were 88% while remaining 12% faced constant personal criticism. Forty three percent of the respondents' husbands were addicted to smoking, pan 28%, alcohol 18%, drugs 6% and niswar 5%. Out of 100 women interviewed 86% replied that they had been physically abused by their husbands while 14% reported negative. The distribution of physically abused women was as follows: slapping was 69%, pushing 10%, kicking 6%, use of stick 12.7%.

The physical abuse ended up in contusions 70.9%, lacerations 16.2%, fracture 8.13% and burns 4.65%. Upon enquiry about violence during pregnancy 68% gave a positive answer and 32% gave a negative answer. Positive answer to non-consensual sex was given by 56% and negative answer by 44%. In spite of domestic violence 79% were living together with their husbands, 14% were separated and 7% were divorced.

DISCUSSION

Quantifying domestic violence is difficult as it is inextricably linked to socio-culture norms and beliefs. The "subordinate status" of women leading to domestic violence, contributes to a significant health burden in women as one third of all the adult women in the world have experienced it.³

Domestic violence entails physical, sexual and psychological abuse perpetrated by a person with whom the victim has an intimate relationship.³ Hence Shouting, physical hitting and engaging in non-consensual sex in the context of an intimate relationship constitute domestic violence.^{4,5} This study was an attempt to assess type and magnitude of domestic violence inflicted on women by their husbands and also to determine the factors perpetuating domestic violence. In this study the most common type of violence reported was shouting and yelling about 88% and physical abuse declared by study respondents was 86%.

Unemployment is one of the important determinants of the violence against women. In this study I found that mostly husbands were jobless and 89% had monthly income below 10,000.^{6,7} It is very difficult for them to manage all expenses in this amount and resulted in quarrels abuses and violence. Unemployment increases the risk of depression, aggressiveness and violent behaviors which in turn can result in an increased risk of physical, sexual and emotional abuse.⁸ This study was an attempt to get the victim's perspective, and the pervasiveness of domestic violence found is alarming. Most of the husbands were primary and middle passed proportionally, more educated than wives yet domestic violence, often both physical and verbal was common in these families. A previous study in Pakistan reported on

domestic violence from the perspective of men, with the sample size of 70 in which all respondents admitted to ever verbally abusing their wives and over two-third admitted.^{9,10} To ever engaging in non-consensual sex with their wives.¹¹

This study is a modest attempt to view violence in Pakistan. The study may help men, women, public health professionals, and policy and decision makers to understand the dynamics of violence against women, thus moving them into action.

CONCLUSION

Domestic violence is prevalent in Pakistan at an alarming rate. Women are the sufferers and are subjected to physical, psychological and sexual abuse in their home by partners, in-laws and in some circumstances by their brothers and parents. The factors associated with domestic violence in Pakistan are low-economic status of women, lack of awareness about women rights, lack of education, falsified beliefs, imbalanced empowerment issues between males and females, male dominant social structure and lack of support from the government. Integrated supportive services and legal intervention should be made available in situations of domestic violence.

Support and help for women to rebuild and recover their lives after violence, should be a part of the intervention strategy, including counseling, relocation, credit support and employment. In order to prevent women from domestic violence and provide them medical as well as judicial and legal support, new plans and interventional maps should be made in the societies in collaboration with health team members, religious and societal leaders, NGOs, police department and people from other similar groups. This strategy implementation should be enforced.

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