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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Domestic violence against women and its perceptions & experiences: An analysis from the perspective of KPK, Pakistan.

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Abstract

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This study investigated the extent and prevalence of violence against women in the regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - Dera Ismail Khan (DIK) and Upper Dir. It found that most of the women living in those areas had been subjected to multiple forms of violence. It was learnt that the basic reason of such behaviour was lying in the cultural practices prevalent in the patriarchal structure of the society. Moreover it was hoped that after identifying the problems which the women in those areas have to face, some efforts may be carried out to make the affected women aware of their basic rights in the light of religious and constitutional framework of Pakistan. In order to solve this issue first it was felt necessary that a framework should be developed to analyze the extent of violence which the women have been facing in those areas. Under this framework socio-economic, political and cultural systems were analyzed to study the core issues related to VAW. The methodology implied to carry out this study was based on collection of primary data. A well-structured questionnaire was developed to carry out household surveys for collection of the same data. The questionnaire had different sections including: a) Demographic profile of the respondents, b) modes of domestic violence being faced, c) severity of domestic violence, d) perceptions regarding socio-cultural attitudes towards such violent behaviors, e) factors associated with domestic violence. A total of 1436 **female** respondents were interviewed during the survey, out of which 603 of them were from the urban areas whereas 833 belonged to the rural areas. District wise breakdown of the respondents was; from DIK: 677 – 401 urban/ 276 rural, and from Upper Dir: 759 – 202 urban/557 rural. The survey provided a holistic overview of the extent of prevailing violence against women in those areas of Pakistan. The outcomes of this study had twofold objectives i.e. first was to find out the extent of VAW, and secondly to influence the decision makers by highlighting the urgency and importance of the issue, so that urgent steps would be taken by the policymakers to develop strict frameworks for the social, psychological, physical and economic protection of our women, constituting 49% of our total population.

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Introduction

Domestic Violence against women has become a major issue almost all over the world. Domestic violence or abuse against woman is an overarching and cross cutting issue extending the boundaries of all the cultures. It is a serious social problem that needs a quick solution. The World Health Organization (WHO) defined domestic violence as, "The range of sexually, psychologically and physically coercive acts used against women by intimate partners". Statistics indicate that almost 70% of the women across the world become victims of sexual or physical violence by their partners or other men during their lifetime (UN Women, 2011).

There are various forms of domestic violence such as verbal (mental, emotional and psychological abuse), physical, sexual and economic abuse (Greenan 2004). Moreover, a number of factors are associated with violence against women including lack of education, lack of awareness about basic human rights, low economic status, gender empowerment issues and lack of access to financial aid from the government (Babur 2007). As Rahel Nardos says, "The dual constructs of women as the property of men and as the standard-bearers of a family's honor set the stage for culturally sanctioned forms of violence"¹.

Prevalence and constant increase in the incidents of domestic violence in Pakistan has plagued our social structure to a large extent, making it one of the most threatening socio-cultural problems (Irfan 2009). A constant increase in the number of cases of domestic violence witnessed in Pakistan during the past decade has reached an alarming rate (SPDC 2012). According to a study, it has been estimated that about 5000 women lose their lives due to the domestic violence each year, leaving thousands of others maimed or disabled². The results of RCP's annual report indicates that in Pakistan the percentage of women subjected to different types of domestic violence included 65% of those who have suffered (and/or suffering) from physical violence and 30.4% who have been (and/or are) subjected to sexual violence.

The fact sheet on domestic violence in South Asia indicated that in Pakistan 32.8% respondents admitted that they (ever) had a non-consensual sex with their wives (South Asia Conference 2011). The annual report (2009) of the Aurat Foundation shows that the total number of cases of domestic violence reported in Pakistan were 608, out of which 271 were reported in Punjab, 134 in Sindh, 163 in KPK and 22 in Baluchistan. According to the Fourth Annual report 8539 women had been subjected to domestic violence during 2011. When this ratio was compared with the ratio of 2010 it was learnt that there was an increase in the cases of VAW up to 6.74% that were ever reported. The number of VAW reported during 2010 was 8000, whereas 8548 were reported in 2009 and 7571 in 2008 (Aurat Foundation 2011). Moreover, it was noted that despite the passing of various bills and laws for women rights during the past few years there had been no reduction in the number of such incidents and this picture is quite alarming (HRC 2010).

The main focus of this study was to identify the various issues that women had to face in KPK society. Domestic violence is considered as a private problem of KPK community as mostly it is regarded as a family matter. This was indicated to be one of the reasons for which the exact causes, impacts and magnitude of VAW were not properly documented. Hence, in the absence of proper documentation the seriousness of this issue is undermined resulting in existence of a huge gap in the legislation and its implementation. It is eminent that the constitution of Pakistan does not create any biases on the basis of gender difference and it ensures basic human rights to all the citizens of Pakistan irrespective of their cast, creed or sex. However, the governance structure prevailing in the country does not ensure the just implementation of such rights.

The fault lies in the socio-cultural and the educational structure where the women are not being given any awareness about their rights and the recent developments and formulation of women protection laws, passed by the parliament of Pakistan, in the recent past. There is still a lot of confusion and mistrust for the fair enforcement and implementation of such laws. Specially keeping in view that the country has a patriarchal social system where the men hold dominant say and position in the society. Another reason adding fuel to the existing problem is the sensitivity of the matter as most of the victims (women) are reluctant to talk openly about this issue. This may be because in the cultural context this matter is considered exclusively a private or family issue; and it is believed that openly admitting the existence of such an issue would further deteriorate the situation resulting in divorce or honor killing (Niazi 2012).

Moreover, it is thought that by openly admitting it would bring social embarrassing for the whole family. The prevailing cultural practices strongly believe that being the head of the family the male members of the family hold the right to beat up their women dependents. It is the irony of fact that such shameful acts are not considered as a violation of women's right. In most of the illiterate and even in many of the well cultured and literate families such acts are rather seen as signs of "Gairat" where the male members are expected to use the show of power by beating up their (supposed) rebellious wives so as to have a strong hold and control over them. Thus denying their women the basic human rights i.e. the right to a respectful and emotional, physical and psychological secure life.

¹Nardos R *et al* 2003, "Cultural, Traditional Practices and Gender Based Violence" published by Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 87-88.

²Hnasar, Robert D 2007, "Cross Cultural Examination of Domestic Violence in China and Pakistan", by University of Louisiana.

Furthermore, it is the irony of fate that any women who report such acts of violence has to face a severe condemnation at the hands of their family and relatives apart from being subjected to social criticism and exacerbated violence (Khan 2011). Women trying to escape violent marital relationships have to face social alienation, separation from their children, possible deprivation for those with no independent source of income or parental support, and in extreme cases also mutilations and/or death. This problem is further accelerated when the victims (women facing violence) are made prone to unjust and unfair decisions made under the local arbitration councils which too are exclusively male dominated organizations, leaving these victims subjected to further violence (Bhatti 2011).

As stated earlier that the vulnerability of women belonging to any age group, to violence is rooted in the traditional patriarchal structure of our society, which relegate them to a subservient and dependent status, both socially and legally (Ali 2008). Despite some of the positive changes in some sectors of our conservative society; such as participation of an increasing number of women in diversified fields over the time, still there is a marked gender imbalance amongst a majority of our population. Girls are still undervalued in many families. Women's rights remain restricted with respect to access to education, vocational training, freedom of movement, employment opportunities and options, and access to other economic resources including the right to inheritance. Their contribution in the national economy is not recognized. Most of the women are not even allowed to take decisions regarding their own-self. Moreover they have a minimal access to governance and judicial recourse forums.

Keeping in mind all the above stated issues there is a dire need that the society as whole should get united if we want to eliminate the barbaric practice of VAW from our society. Women are an important component of the society they are the foundation stone of the family institution which is the basis of the society, as we learn the basic patterns of behavior from these very institutions. Hence it is very important to equip the women with the knowledge about their own rights. Therefore make them psychologically and physically strong enough to confront and deal with all those evil practices prevailing in our society which pose a threat to their respectful existence and survival. When the women would become strong they will in turn ensure that our future generations are safeguarded and enriched.

From the above discussion, it is clear that there are several frameworks and theories explaining domestic violence against women from various perspectives. In Pakistan, there is not any such theory which would explain the dynamics of domestic violence against women with the help of quantitative data. This study tried to explain all the factors influencing VAW, including intrinsic and extrinsic factors, socio-economic, political and cultural phenomenon. In conclusion, this study has tried to find some possible solutions to this problem both at the micro and macro level.

Objectives:

1. To identify problems faced by women in a patriarchal society, which has marginalized women's role?
2. To increase awareness on the different forms of violence and the implied consequences faced by the victims.
3. To find out possible solution to be taken to eradicate VAW.
4. To chalk out the causes and effects of VAW and the possible measures to prevent it.

Organization of Paper

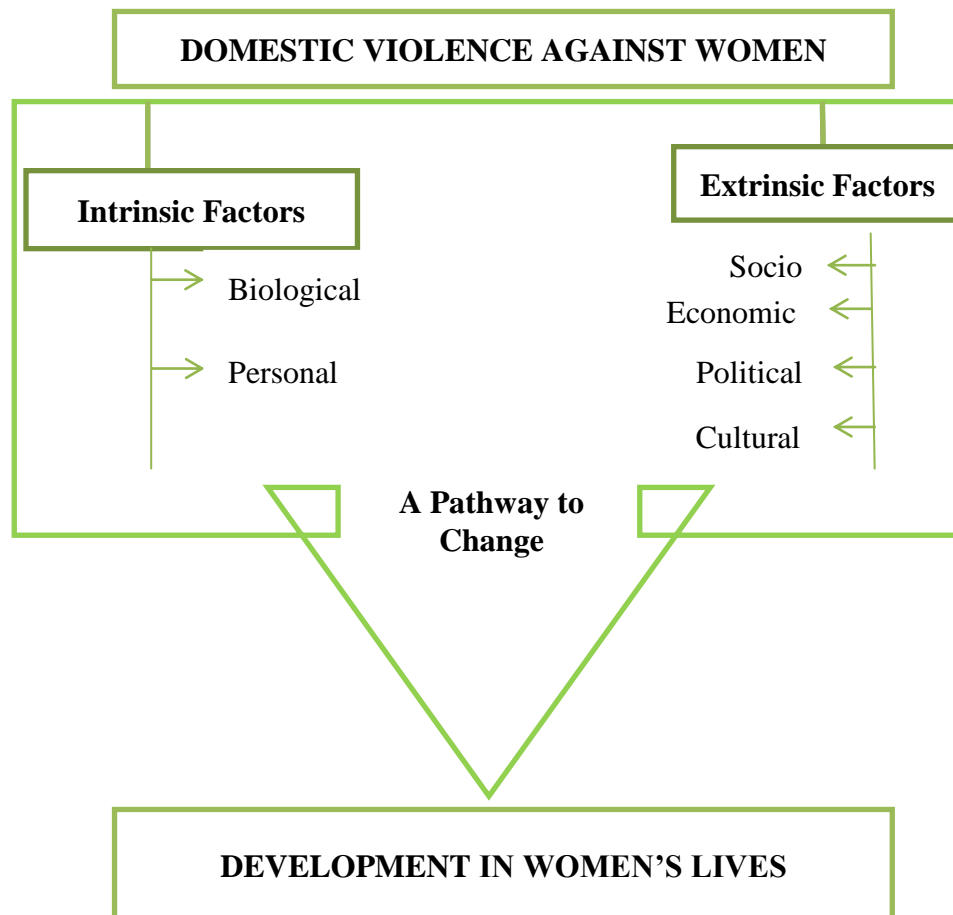
This paper would describe violence against women and its perception and experiences, evidence gathered from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - Dera Ismail Khan (DIK) and Upper Dir. This study has been divided into various sections. The first section constituting of introduction is followed by a review of the literature and then the objectives. Second section includes the methodology to be implied for this study, followed by third section projecting the outcomes and findings of the (same) research. However, the fourth section comprises of the discussion and recommendations. The research finally focuses on the strict need for taking immediate measures and drawing out certain policies which could give a permanent solution to this alarmingly increasing socio-cultural issue.

Materials and Methods

This study is based on primary data collected during the AWAAZ³ project under SDPI⁴. A well-structured questionnaire was developed on the basis of which the data was collected carrying out a survey (of the households). Main areas which the questionnaire focused were: a) Demographic profile of the respondents, b) modes of domestic violence, c) severity of the domestic violence, d) perceptions regarding socio-cultural reason for violence, e) experiences of domestic violence. A total of 1436 **female** respondents were interviewed in KPK and the data collected was then analyzed by using SPSS (16.0) it was learnt that out of the total respondents 603 belonged to the urban area and 833 were rural. District wise breakdown of this data shows that in DIK the number of respondents was 677 – 401 urban and 276 rural, in Upper Dir it was comprised of a total of 759 respondents – in which 202 were urban whereas 557 were rural. Percentage and proportion test were used to draw out conclusions.

Moreover a framework was developed which used socio-economic, political and cultural systems to analyze the extent of incidents of violence against women. Based on the facts and figures collected this study chalks out a brief picture of VAW in various areas of KPK, Pakistan.

1. Framework



³AAWAZ: It's a five year program regarding accountability and violence. It tracks to strengthen the democratic process in Pakistan. The primary goal of the project is to make overall process answerable to citizens.

⁴The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) is think tank which works as a catalyst, to catalyze the transition towards sustainable development, defined as the enhancement of peace, social justice and well-being, within and across generations. It is based in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Results and Discussion

There are various forms of domestic violence. These include intrinsic and extrinsic factors having different levels and frequencies which are described as follows:

1.1 Intrinsic factors

There are various physical and biological factors that affect an individual's behavior. This includes personal attributes like age, education, earning level and the acceptance of patterns and trends of violence prevailing in a society. Moreover, such factors as; substance abuses, experiencing any kind of abusive behaviors during one's early childhood, also witnessing any kind of marital violence amongst the family members could also be counted amongst intrinsic factors resulting in an increase in the cases of domestic violence in the Pakistani society.

1.1.1 Relationship b/w age of women and domestic violence

Results of various cross-sectional studies shows that younger women are at a greater risk in becoming victims of domestic violence, we can see that there is no relation between younger women and domestic violence. However this study indicates that there was no significant relationship between the ratio of women's age and their chances of becoming victims of domestic violence. Hence it was clear that their (women's) age does not play any role in either making them vulnerable to the violent behaviors or protect them from becoming victims of domestic violence. Women of all ages are prone to be the victims of different types of violence including being murdered, yelling/verbal abuse by their partners, wife battering, criticism by their partners, or by denying availability of money or economic means, snatching their children and being threatened to be thrown out of the house.

1.1.2 Relationship of level of literacy/education and domestic violence

It is eminent that the results of different studies had shown that the women who had less formal education were more likely to become victims of domestic violence as compared those who were highly educated. It was found that about 48% of the respondents interviewed were uneducated. Further it was learnt that unsurprisingly the percentage of illiterate victims amongst rural communities (56%) was higher than those in the urban (38%). The highest rate of urban illiterates was found in Upper Dir comprising of 49.5% and the highest rate of rural illiteracy was noticed in the areas of DIK i.e. 58%. Overall education level of other respondents were found to be: Primary qualified 6.1%, Secondary literates 12%, Matriculates 16%, Intermediates 6%, Bachelors qualified 5%, those who were Masters and/or above were about 5%.

It was found that due to lower rate of education amongst the women, they are mostly not aware of their basic human rights which they were allowed under the constitutional provisions (Pakistan) and the sharia laws. The study investigates that in KPK, due to lower literacy rate amongst women, almost 67.1% (71.1% urban, 63.9% rural) of the women were found to be unaware of existence of any law in Pakistan that would protect them from becoming victims of domestic violence. Data was further split indicating that in upper DIR 51% (49% urban, 52% rural) and in D.I.Khan 86%, (83% urban, 89% rural) were found to be unaware of the existence of any such protection laws⁵. However the 1973 Constitutions of Pakistan states, "All human beings are born free and equal with dignity and rights". It further states, "All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to enjoy equal protection of law irrespective of their cast, creed and gender, and there shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex alone" also it says, "Steps shall be taken to ensure full participation of women in all spheres of national life". In Pakistan the articles 1, 2, 7, 16, 21(2), 25(2) also articles 25, 27, 35, 37 and 21 are related to the basic human rights. Therefore, preventing all the citizens of Pakistan (including the women) from becoming victim to any type of arbitrary behavior or projected to any type of violence. Hence it was marked clearly that most of the women in Pakistan who had become victims of domestic violence were (are) the ones who possessed lower level of literacy or were (are) uneducated, whereas those who had (are having) higher education level were (are) less prone to becoming victims of domestic violence.

⁵ Please see the table no. 5 in Annex for details.

1.2 Extrinsic Factors

Extrinsic theories explain the socio-economic, socio-cultural and socio-political factors responsible or involved in the incidents of violence against women. The facts remain hidden that some of the social, economic, political, traditional and cultural behaviors prevalent in our society are the drivers of increasing episodes of VAW. Women are made prone to such violent behaviors in a number of ways including; early age/childhood marriages, forced marriages, murders on dowry issues, honor killings, acid burning, flame throwing, exchange of women and girls to settle a dispute, yelling or verbal abuse by a partner. Marital rape, verbal abuse, spousal control, financially punitive actions, taking the children away from the mother and threatening expulsion from the marital house and being kept under constant threats of divorce are some of the other frequently used means of VAW.

Table 1: Different Factors of violence

Demographic Area	Early age /Child Marriage		Forced Marriage		Murder (Murder and Honor Killing)		Acid Burning		Flame Burning		Exchange of women/girls to settle a dispute	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
KPK	471	60.9	50	6.5	40	5.2	2	0.3	1	0.1	42	5.4
KPK Urban	173	51.5	18	5.4	9	2.7	0	0	0	0	16	4.8
KPK Rural	298	68	32	7.3	31	7.1	2	0.5	1	0.2	26	5.9
DIR	252	96.6	9	3.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DIR Urban	45	95.7	2	4.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DIR Rural	207	96.7	7	3.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.I.Khan	219	42.7	41	8	40	7.8	2	0.4	1	0.2	42	8.2
D.I.Khan Urban	128	44.3	16	5.5	9	3.1	0	0	0	0	16	5.5
D.I.Khan Rural	91	40.6	25	11.2	31	13.8	2	0.9	1	0.4	26	11.6

The largest percentage of the abuse as reported by most of the women respondents was associated with marriages – in which child/underage marriage constituted 61% in KPK (52% urban, 68% rural). The data was further analyzed and it was found that the ratio of child/underage marriage in DIR were 97% (96% urban, 97% rural), in D.I.Khan, 43% (44% urban, 40% rural). Forced marriage is another common issue which is also a kind of violence. From the data it was learnt that in KPK about 6.5% of the marriages were forced marriages (5.4% urban, 7.3% rural), in DIR the ratio of forced marriages was up to 3.4% (4.3% urban, 3.3% rural), and in D.I.Khan it was almost 8% (5.5% urban, 11.2% rural). Incidents of exchange of women/girls to settle a dispute was also found to be an important factor contributing towards the increasing incidents of domestic violence. From the above table, it is clear that in the KPK 5.4% cases of VAW are found (4.8% urban, 6% rural), and the data for DIR was still missing. Whereas in D.I.Khan the ratio of VAW was noted to be 8.2% (5.5% urban, 11.6% rural).

Table 2: Psychological/Emotional Violence

Demographic Area	Yelling Abuses at partner		Spouse tried to have physical intimacy without consent		Criticizing partner to make them feel bad or useless		Controlling partner by rejecting financial support		Snatching the children and threaten to throw out from house		Threaten to divorce or separation	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
KPK	135	10.2	33	2.5	41	3.1	68	5.1	24	1.8	27	2
KPK Urban	74	12.8	21	3.6	21	3.6	31	5.4	14	2.4	14	2.4
KPK Rural	61	8.1	12	1.6	20	2.7	37	4.9	10	1.3	13	1.7
DIR	22	3.2	21	3.1	12	1.8	32	4.6	13	1.9	12	1.8
DIR Urban	11	5.9	12	6.4	6	3.2	12	6.4	7	3.7	8	4.3
DIR Rural	11	2.2	9	1.8	6	1.2	20	4	6	1.2	4	0.8
D.I.Khan	113	17.5	12	1.8	29	4.5	36	5.6	11	1.7	15	2.3
D.I.Khan Urban	63	16.2	9	2.3	15	3.8	19	4.9	7	1.8	6	1.5
D.I.Khan Rural	50	19.5	3	1.2	14	5.4	17	6.6	4	1.6	9	3.5

A moderate to low levels of psychological/emotional abuse by spouses or relatives was also mentioned by some of the respondents. It was found that 10.2% (12.8% urban, 8.1% rural) of women had experienced verbal abuses by their husbands in KPK, in DIR it was reported to be 3.2% (5.9% urban, 2.2% rural) and in D.I.Khan it was 17.5% (16.2% Urban, 19.5% Rural). Incidents of marital rape reported in the KPK were 2.5% (3.6% urban, 1.6% rural), in DIR they were 3.2% (6.4% Urban, 1.8% rural) whereas the ratio found in D.I.Khan was 1.8% (2.3% Urban, 1.2% rural). It was further found that there was almost a ratio of 3.1% (3.6% urban, 2.7% rural) of the women who suffered from criticism by their husbands, who wanted to make them feel belittled. In DIR the ratio of women suffering from criticism by their husbands was found to be almost 1.8%, (3.2% urban, 1.2% rural) and in D.I.Khan it was noted to be as much as 4.5% (3.8% urban, 5.4% rural).

The incidents of controlling women by denying money was found to be 5.1% in the KPK (5.4% urban, 4.9% rural), in DIR it was found to be 4.6% (6.4% urban, 4% rural). The number of cases of taking away children from the mothers and incidents of threats of expulsion from marital houses were reported to be around 24 in KPK which was estimated to be 1.8%; 2.4% urban and 1.3% rural, whereas the number of women who received threats of being divorced were calculated to be about 2% (2.4% urban, 1.7% rural) in KPK.

Sons were thought to be liable to be given priority in socio-religious context of the traditional society in KPK. Daughters were often thought to be a financial burden in most of the cultures the world over. It becomes another factor contributing towards ever increasing episodes of VAW. It was found that some women were being subjected to violence if they have more daughters as compared to those women who produce more sons. However the findings of this study speculate that only 3.7% of the women in KPK said that their husbands were angry if the wife did not produce a son. When the women were asked about the reaction of the husband/family/in-laws at the birth of a daughter, the data indicated that in KPK 7.3% (4% urban and 9.6% rural) men were not happy at the birth of a daughter. When the data was further analyzed it was clearly found that in DIR the percentage of men not happy at the birth of a daughter was 12.3% (9.7% urban and 13.2% rural) in D.I.Khan 1.3% (1.1% urban, 1.6% rural). It was learnt that more negative response was shown in the people living in rural areas over the birth of a daughter than it was shown amongst those living in urban areas⁶. However, there were some limitations in the data because it was not clearly indicated if it was referring to the reaction of people over the birth of a first born daughter or those born later.

During the household survey carried out under this study it was learnt that 169 female respondents (11.9%) had become victims of domestic violence during the previous year, with the ever increasing number in the upper DIR – 126, followed by D.I.Khan – 43. It was found that out of all the women being subjected to domestic violence only

⁶ Please see table 2 in Annex for details.

20 had reported their cases to the police/court – 18 in upper DIR and 2 in D.I.Khan⁷. One of the reasons of the minimal reporting was investigated to be women's lack of trust in the formal arbitration system, secondly the lack of women's access to the formal arbitration councils/courts due to the existing biases against the women in the male dominated societal structure of KPK. Besides these one of the biggest instigator of this ever increasing socio-cultural problem was found to be the existing informal arbitration system e.g., *jirgas, panchayats* which still hold sway in the region. From the data it was clearly found that in KPK the percentage of arbitration body included: *jirgas* 58% (urban 68%, rural 56%), courts 42.1% (Urban 33% rural 43%), whereas the data was missing for the police/law enforcing bodies. Data indicated that a significant number -33% (urban 28%, rural 35%) of the respondents were in the favor of reporting such cases to relevant law departments. 25.9% were of the view that such cases should be settled amongst the family only. However, the ratio of those in the favor of involving friends in such matters was found to be 3%, while 83.3% felt that those cases should not be reported at all⁸.

Unemployment is one of the important factors responsible for increasing incidents of violence against the women (Johnson 1996). Hence it was confirmed through this research that a strong correlation existed between the ratio of incidents of violence and the proportion of unemployment amongst men. It was reported that due to unemployment the risk of increased depression, chances of violent behavior and aggressiveness would increase which may result in sexual, physical and emotional abuse (Ali, 2008). This study indicates that 6% unemployed (urban 7%, rural 4%). The major occupation in both districts emerged as housekeeping, with figures of 94% overall 91% urban for DIK, and for Upper Dir 91 % overall, 93.8% urban. Overall, 82.6% reported that on average they worked for 8 or more hours daily, 83% in DIK and 22% in Upper Dir.

Conclusion

This study was used to explore the various acts and behaviors associated with one of the ever increasing socio-cultural issue i.e. Violence against Women in the KPK region of Pakistan. From the study it was concluded that the term, "violence against women" is used vaguely. Domestic VAW was a commonly occurring phenomenon all across KPK, and has not been taken as a serious issue. Data indicates that in KPK, prevalence of psychological abuse was reported to be more than the physical abuse. It was learnt that there were different factors responsible for instigating the violent attitudes towards the women; these include early age or child marriages, forced marriages and exchange of women and girls for settlement of disputes. It was further found that in both the urban and rural areas in various districts of KPK, many girls are forced into underage marriages. Moreover, they are also given as an offering to settle disputes or conflicts. Murder, acid burning and flame throwing on women are also reported in this study.

It was further learnt that besides the physical forms some other forms of violence were also being faced by the women in the various districts of KPK. Those forms of violence include psychological as well as emotional violence. Yelling and verbal abuses by an intimate partner, attempt of spouse to have physical intimacy without the wife's consent, criticizing the wife to make her feel bad or as if she was a useless thing. Curtailment of economic resources to maintain control by the spouse, snatching the children away from the mother and keeping under constant threats to be expelled out of the marital house. Moreover, threats of being given divorce or threats of separations all are the different categories of psychological and emotional violence which prevail in the society apart from various forms of physical violence. According to this study, unemployment is another reason responsible for increasing incidents of violence against women. It was found that there was a strong linkage between the increasing incidents of VAW and the ratio of male unemployment, as the number of VAW incidents was found to increase with the increase in the ratio of unemployment in men. It was analyzed that with an increase in the rate of unemployment an increasing trend was observed in the cases of men suffering from depression and stress, hence, resulting in a violent and aggressive behavior towards the women.

Sexual harassment at home, at the market places or at workplace were also reported in this study. It was reported that the incidents of involvement of the men from the influential families was still one of the unresolved issues prevailing in the society in KPK. It was highlighted in the study that one of the major contributing factors for the VAW was the existing informal arbitration systems e.g., *jirgas, panchayats* which are still structured in an old fashion and do not include some women arbitrators so that the trend of male biased decisions could be done away

⁷ Please see the table 3 in Annex for details

⁸ Please see the table 4 in Annex for details.

with. Moreover, due to the existing practice of such powerful Jirga leaders of using their influence over the formal arbitration bodies (police and courts) the victimized women either do not trust or are reluctant to approach those authorities (formal) to get justice. Apart from this the cost, delays and possible public embarrassment are some of the other factors which are hindering the eradication of VAW from our society.

Policy Implication

We hope this study would help the decision and policy makers to understand the different forms of violence against women so that they can frame new laws and strengthen the existing laws in order to improve women's lives. Some recommendations are given below

1. In order to carry out the **preventive measures** there is a dire need for raising **awareness campaigns, designing anti-violence (on women) educational curricula, massive media campaigns and sensitization of society** by designing such programs which give the message for stopping violence against women.
2. The government should also introduce community mobilization and through that public awareness program. Moreover it should also ensure implementation and enforcements of protection laws to eliminate violence against women.
3. Police departments and judicial processes which place constraints on women from accessing justice have to be reformed. Women-Police should be trained to deal with issues such as domestic violence so that women feel protected.

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Appendix

18. Table no. 1: Demographic and Number of Respondents in KPK Women

Demographic Area	Number of Respondents
KPK	1436
KPK Urban	603
KPK Rural	833
Upper DIR	759
Upper DIR Urban	202
Upper DIR Rural	557
D.I.Khan	677
D.I.Khan Urban	401
D.I.Khan Rural	276

19. Table no. 2: Attitude of husband/family/ in laws on the birth of a daughter?

Demographic Area	Happy		Indifferent		Not Happy	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
KPK	1182	86.4	135	9.9	51	3.7
KPK Urban	485	84.3	61	10.6	29	5
KPK Rural	697	87.9	74	9.3	22	2.8
DIR	660	89.1	56	7.6	25	3.4
DIR Urban	165	84.6	16	8.2	14	7.2
DIR Rural	495	90.7	40	7.3	11	2
D.I.Khan	522	83.3	79	12.6	26	4.1
D.I.Khan Urban	321	84.2	45	11.8	15	3.9
D.I.Khan Rural	202	81.8	34	13.8	11	4.5

20. Table no 2.1: What do you feel when you give birth to a daughter?

Demographic Area	Happy		Indifferent		Not Happy	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
KPK	1231	90.5	30	2.2	99	7.3
KPK Urban	536	94	11	1.9	23	4
KPK Rural	695	88	19	2.4	76	9.6
DIR	644	87	5	0.7	91	12.3
DIR Urban	175	89.3	2	1	19	9.7
DIR Rural	469	86.2	3	0.6	72	13.2
D.I.Khan	587	94.7	25	4	8	1.3
D.I.Khan Urban	361	96.5	9	2.4	4	1.1
D.I.Khan Rural	226	91.9	16	6.5	4	1.6

21. Table no. 3: Have you ever been a victim of violence in past 12 months?

Demographic Area	Yes		No	
	F	%	F	%
KPK	169	11.9	1248	88.1
KPK Urban	57	9.6	534	90.4
KPK Rural	112	13.6	714	86.4
Upper DIR	126	16.7	629	83.3
Upper DIR Urban	30	14.9	171	85.1
Upper DIR Rural	96	17.3	458	82.7
D.I.Khan	43	6.5	619	93.5

D.I.Khan Urban	27	6.9	363	93.1
D.I.Khan Rural	16	5.9	256	94.1

22. Table no. 3.1: If yes, did you report any case to police/courts during past 12 months?

Demographic Area	Reported		Not Reported	
	F	%	F	%
KPK	20	16.7	100	83.3
KPK Urban	3	9.4	29	90.6
KPK Rural	17	19.3	71	70.7
Upper DIR	18	21.4	66	78.6
Upper DIR Urban	2	20	8	80
Upper DIR Rural	16	21.6	58	78.4
D.I.Khan	2	5.6	34	94.4
D.I.Khan Urban	1	4.5	21	95.5
D.I.Khan Rural	1	7.1	13	92.9

23. Table no. 4: Most efficient Institutions in addressing reported cases of violence against women.

Demographic Area	Courts		Police		Jirga		FamilyElders		Public commissions	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
KPK	284	20.1	50	3.5	698	49.5	365	25.9	5	.4
KPK Urban	139	23.6	20	3.4	224	38.0	201	34.1	1	.2
KPK Rural	145	19.6	169	22.9	204	27.6	180	24.4	41	5.5
Upper DIR	124	16.6	2	.3	584	78.3	32	4.3	0	.00
Upper DIR Urban	21	10.4	1	.5	175	87.9	1	.5	1	.5
Upper DIR Rural	103	18.8	1	.2	409	74.8	31	5.7	3	.5
D.I.Khan	160	24.1	48	7.2	114	17.2	333	50.2	5	.8
D.I.Khan Urban	118	30.2	19	4.9	49	12.5	200	51.2	1	.3
D.I.Khan Rural	42	15.4	29	10.6	65	23.8	133	48.7	4	1.5

24. Table no. 5 Are you aware of any law that protects women rights?

Demographic Area	Yes		No		Don't Know	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
KPK	441	32.6	909	67.1	4	0.3
KPK Urban	159	28.1	405	71.7	1	0.2
KPK Rural	282	35.7	504	63.9	3	0.4
Upper DIR	357	48.2	380	51.4	3	0.4
Upper DIR Urban	101	50.5	99	49.5	0	0
Upper DIR Rural	256	47.4	281	52	3	0.6
D.I.Khan	84	13.7	529	86.2	1	0.2
D.I.Khan Urban	58	15.9	306	83.8	1	0.3
D.I.Khan Rural	26	10.4	223	89.6	0	0