

Original Article

A ONE YEAR REVIEW OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN A WOMEN OF LAHORE . A STUDY AT FMH

Farhatulain Ahmed, Afshan Ambreen and Samina Khurshid.

Objective: Women and children are often in great danger in the place where they should be safest: within their families. Those affected by domestic violence experiences a hidden "homelessness".

Material and Methods: A cross-sectional descriptive study from April to June 2012 at Fatima Memorial hospital, Shadman Lahore. The total population of Lahore is 10,000,000. The sample size 384 women .Inclusion criteria is married women 18-50 years old , resident of the community > 3 years.

Results: A total of 384 women were included in the study,82% had different types of violence,37% had physical violence from husband .Infertility and not giving birth to a son were two other reasons for violence found in our study.

Conclusion: The levels of physical, psychological violence were high as compared to sexual violence, confirming it's a universal phenomenon existing worldwide in all communities. There should be the laws passed and implemented in the society against the domestic violence so that women can also play a healthy role in the development of the country and there family and we appear as a successful nation on the globe of the world.

Key Words: domestic violence,sexual abuse,psychological violence.

Introduction

Women and children are often in great danger in the place where they should be safest within their families. Those affected by domestic violence experiences a hidden "homelessness".¹ Domestic violence against women is a worldwide phenomenon which occurs across the lifespan, affecting women of all age groups and socio-economic backgrounds.² Women are at a disproportionately high risk of physical, sexual and psychological violence from an intimate person and family members. Violence survivors are also at an increased risk of a wide range of psychological and behavioral problems.^{3,4} Violence against women is present in every country, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. The global dimensions of this violence are alarming, as highlighted by studies on its incidence and prevalence. Specific groups of women are more vulnerable, including minority groups, indigenous and migrant women, refugee women, women in institutions and detention, women with disabilities, female children, and elderly women. Reliable statistics are hard to retrieve, studies estimate that, from country to country, between 20 and 50 per cent of women have experienced physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner or family members⁵ Starting from industrialized countries like UK and

US 25% and 28% of women experience physical violence.^{6,7} In Egypt 35% of women reported being beaten by their husband at some point in their marriage.⁸ Countries like Kenya and Uganda reports rate as high as 42% and 41%.^{9,10} Regarding Asia and Pacific, Cambodia 16%, Korea 38%, Thailand 20% report of domestic violence^{11,12,13} Estimates of prevalence of domestic violence within India vary widely from 18% to 70%.^{14,15} Domestic violence widely prevails in Pakistan. A study in Karachi showed that 34% of the interviewed women when asked about domestic violence reported physical abuse.¹⁶ Another study in Pakistan estimated that 99% of housewives and 77% of working women are beaten by their husbands.¹⁷ Another study coded the percentage of domestic violence in Pakistan as 65% (physical violence), and almost one third (30.4%) of those reported sexual violence both often leading to serious injuries, which required emergency medical attention.¹⁸ Domestic violence against women is found in many forms of physical abuse in Pakistan. This includes burning women using kerosene oil or petrol and acid throwing which is prevalent in urban as well as rural areas, cutting nose and lips. According to the autonomous Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), 791 women became victims of 'honor' killings in 2010.¹⁹ Women's social and economic circumstances may influence their vulnerability to

Violence in marriage. These factors include education, family structure, stress, social learning, poverty and substance abuse.²⁰ Some common precipitating factors for domestic violence in Pakistan includes: daily conflicts, disagreements between women and men on any decision, family related problems, choice preferences, conflicts of the two gender, dowry, existing misconception about Islamic thoughts and traditional norms, misuse of women in the name of honor justifying honor killing and inherent superiority of males ignoring the women's autonomy.^{21,25} Domestic violence against women leads to far-reaching physical and psychological consequences, some with fatal outcomes. (Table) The purpose of the present study is to estimate the prevalence of domestic violence among a selected sample of women from middle socioeconomic communities in Lahore, Pakistan and to identify the reasons for domestic violence among the women.

Material and Methods

A cross-sectional descriptive study from April to June 2012 at Fatima Memorial hospital, Shadman Lahore. The total population of Lahore is 10,000,000. The sample size of 384 women. Participants included married women aged 18-50 years resident of the community for > 3 years. A detailed questionnaire was distributed randomly, without pre-selection process, to patients sitting in the waiting room of hospital clinic. The questionnaire for women included items on socio-economic details and domestic violence experience. To assess domestic violence exposure, women had to answer a series of questions in yes or no on various behaviors of violence. (see annexure). Questions were posed to find the specific act of violence during their lifetime. These behaviors and corresponding questions have been identified to constitute domestic violence based on previous studies in other setting.^{24,25} These questions were prepared in English and then translated to Urdu. **Annexure 1a:** Questions posed to women in this study to consider physical, psychological and sexual violence against women

Psychological violence:

1. Has your husband or family members ever insulted you by using bad language?
2. Has your husband or other family members ever threatened you with objects like stick, knife etc?
3. Has your husband or other family members ever threatened you to send to your parents' house?
4. Has your husband or other family members ever

sent you to your parent's house?

5. Has your husband or other family members ever created financial hardships you, by not making money available to you?
6. Has your husband or other family members ever frightened you by looking angrily at you?
7. Has your husband or other family members often suspicious that you are unfaithful?
8. Has your husband or other family members ever ignored you and showed indifference to you?
9. Has your husband or other family members ever made you deprived of your privileges in the family?
10. Has your husband or other family members ever neglected you?
11. Have you ever been denied of basic personal needs?
12. Have you ever felt that you are not being involved in decision makings in the family?

Table-1: Distribution according to socioeconomic status.

Characteristic		Female Participants Number
Age Groups	<20 years	47
	20-29 years	266
	30 Years	71
Education	Illiterate	17
	Functional literate	30
	School education	126
	College education and above	173
Occupation	Salaried job	287
	Small business	14
	House wife	83
Family income per month	PKR 30,000-40,000	73
	PKR 40,000-50,000	85
	>PKR 50,000	85

Table2: Prevalence of violence (life-time occurrence) as reported by women.

Type of Violence	Reported by Women
Physical Violence	49%
Psychological Violence	32%
Sexual Violence	17.5%
Total Prevalence	73.5%

13. Has your husband or any other family member ever restricted you to go to your parents' home or other places like friends'/relatives' houses, places of worship, etc?

Physical violence:

1. Has your husband or other family members ever assaulted you physically (slapped, pushed, pulled, hit, kicked, dragged, choked)?
2. Has your husband or other family members ever scalded you or burnt you?

Sexual violence:

1. Did your husband or other male members in your family ever physically force you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?
2. Did your husband ever deny you to have sex when you want?
3. Did your husband ever hurt or cause injury to your private parts?

Table-3: Involvement of husband in perpetrating different behaviors of domestic violence as reported by women.

Behavior's of Domestic Violence	Total Prevalence	By Husband
Physical Violence	Hit and beat burns	49% 37%

Hit and beat burns 49% 37%

Psychological Violence

Abusive Language 28% 25%

Threatened with stone 6% 4%

Knife Stick 9% 5%

Financial Hardships 32% 29%

Angery looks 26% 21%

Threatened to send to parents 19% 12%

Sent to parents home 25% 18%

Deprived of privileges 22% 16%

Neglected 26% 12%

Showed indifference not involved in decision making denial of basic needs 11% 6%

Sexual Violence

Denial of Sex 3% 3%

Coerced Sex 12% 12%

Causing sexual hurt/injury 2.5% 2.5%

Table-4: Prevalence of various forms of domestic violence reported by women by some socioeconomic characteristics

Characteristics	Prevalence of domestic violence			
	Physical	Psychological	Sexual	
Age Group	<20 Years	23	39	11
	20-29 years	124	57	39
	30 years	41	26	15
Education	Illiterate	15	07	04
	Functional literate	24	1	07
	School Education	98	57	37
	College education and above	51	19	17
Occupation	Salaried Job	112	88	31
	Farming / Small Bussiness	05	04	03
	House Wife	70	30	31
Family income per month	Functional literate	67	59	27
	School Education	77	33	24
	College education and above	44	40	14

Table-5: Reasons for abuse according to the 384 women of middle socioeconomic status in urban areas.

Reason	Abuse affected by			
	Husband Verbal	Husband Physical	In-laws Verbal	In-laws Physical
Financial	63%	44	51	33.5

Infertility	31	29.3	29	18.2
Not having a son	28.6	19	27.8	17.5
Husband beating the children	25	12.6	22.7	5.6
Refusal of sex by wife	5.1	3.2		
Disobeying with in laws	17.6	11	22	3.3
Arguing with husband	16.1	8	19	3
Not understanding household chores	15.8	6.6	19	3
Going out without permission	14.4	3.2	17.1	
Going to parents home without permission	11.1	2.6	9.6	
Interference by wife's parents	4.8	1.9	04	1.3
Conflict about family planning	4.8			
Husband being addicted to drugs	16.7	14.4		
Dowry	10.6		26.6	11.8
Inlaws dislike wife	07	5.2	25.7	17.1
Exchange marriages	1.2	0.6	3.3	1.5

Statistical Analysis

The analysis of data was performed with IBM spss. Frequency and percentage were reported as categorical variable.

Discussion

In the present study, women reported as high as 82% of some form of violence. The levels of physical, psychological violence were high as compared to sexual violence, confirming it's a universal phenomenon existing worldwide in all communities.^{26,27} It is expected that living in rural areas is itself a risk factor when compared to women living in urban areas. However the rate of domestic violence in urban area, class belonging to middle socioeconomic status, observed in our study is 82% which is comparatively high as compared to 57.6% in a study conducted in urban area (Karachi) in Sindh, Pakistan.²⁸ The total prevalence of physical abuse reported by the women was 49% and by the husband 37% whereas the rate of psychological violence was 32% and sexual abuse was 17.5%. When comparing to the other study conducted by Tazeen et al ²⁸ in Pakistan shows figures for sexual violence were 53.4%, and for psychological abuse were 81.8%. When comparing to the low socioeconomic class the rates are quite similar. Infertility and not giving birth to a son were two other reasons for violence found in our study. Women are not aware of their reproductive rights, it is believed that the woman

alone is responsible for the sex of a child. One of the limitations in this study is the non purposive random sampling and secondly the topic of interview is very sensitive and participants may not have expressed their views openly. The upper house of parliament has unanimously passed a bill, which was pending since August 2009, criminalizing violence against women and children. According to its people committing domestic violence will face a minimum sentence of six months and a fine of at least Rs. 100,000 (\$1100)

Conclusion

The levels of physical, psychological violence were high as compared to sexual violence, confirming it's a universal phenomenon existing worldwide in all communities. There should be the laws passed and implemented in the society against the domestic violence so that women can also play a healthy role in the development of the country and there family and we appear as a successful nation on the globe of the world.

*Department of Gynae and Obstetrics
Fatima Memorial Hospital Labore
www.esculapio.pk*

References

1. Burke T. Housing and poverty. In: Fincher R, Nieuwenhuysen J, editors. Australian poverty. Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 1998: 165-184.
2. Kleinschmidt KC. Elder abuse: a review. *Ann Emerg Med* 1997; 30: 463-472.
3. Garcia-Moreno C, Jansen HAFM, Ellsberg M, Heise L, Watts C: WHO multi-country study on women's health and Domestic violence against women. Initial results on prevalence, health outcome and women's response Geneva; World Health organization;2005.
4. Campbell JC: Health consequences of intimate partner violence. *Lancet* 2002,359:1331-1336.
5. World Health Organization (1996) 'Violence Against Women'. WHO Consultation, Geneva: WHO
6. Feder G, Griffiths C, MacMillan H. Zero tolerance for domestic violence. *Lancet* 2005;365:120.
7. Council on Scientific Affairs, American Medical Association. Violence against women. *JAMA* 1992;267: 3184-89.
8. Sidibe ND, Campbell JC, Becker S. Domestic violence against women in Egypt- wife beating and health outcomes. *Social Scie Med* 2006; 62:1260-77.
9. Emenike msc, S. Lawoko msc, phd, K. Dalal msc.. Intimate partner violence and reproductive health of women in Kenya. *International Nursing Review*. Volume 55, Issue 1, pages 97102, March 2008
10. Michael A. Koenig, Tom Lutalo, Feng Zhao et al. Domestic violence in rural Uganda: evidence from a community-based study. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2003;81:53-60.
11. Mary Ellsberg¹, Lori Heise, Rodolfo Peña⁴, Sonia Agurto⁵, Anna Winkvis. Researching Domestic Violence Against Women: Methodological and Ethical Considerations. *Studies in Family Planning* 2001;3:1-16.
12. Mikiyong Kim-Goh and Jon Baello. Attitudes toward Domestic Violence in Korean and Vietnamese Immigrant Communities: Implications for Human Services. *Journal of family violence* 2008;23:647-654. DOI: 10.1007/s10896-008-9187-2
13. Mary Ellsberg, PhD, Henrica AFM Jansen, PhD, Lori Heise, BA, Prof Charlotte H Watts, PhD, Dr Claudia Garcia-Moreno. Intimate partner violence and women's physical and mental health in the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence: an observational study. *The Lancet* 2008;371:1165-1172.
14. Michael A. Koenig, PhD, Rob Stephenson, PhD, Saifuddin Ahmed, PhD, Shireen J. Jejeebhoy, PhD, and Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN. Individual and Contextual Determinants of Domestic Violence in North India. *American Journal of Public Health* January 2006, Vol 96, No. 1
15. Leland K. Ackerson¹, S. V. Subramanian. Domestic Violence and Chronic Malnutrition among Women and Children in India. *Am. J. Epidemiol.* 2008; 167 (10):1188-1196. doi: 10.1093/aje/kwn049
16. Fikree FF, Bhatti LI. Domestic violence and health of Pakistani women. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet* 1999;65:195-201.
17. Watts C, Zimmerman C. Violence against women: global scope and magnitude. *Lancet.* 2002; 359:1232-7.
18. Violence against women in Pakistan. Annual report 2004. Report of Human rights commission of Pakistan.
19. Domestic violence: facing reality: another day another beating: Published in *The Express Tribune*, September 30th, 2011.
20. Seltzer, Judith A., Debra Kalmuss (1988). "Socialization and Stress Explanations for Spouse Abuse". *Social Forces* (University of North Carolina Press) 67 (2): 473-91.
21. Shaikh MA. Domestic violence against women--perspective from Pakistan. *J Pak Med Assoc* 2000;50:312-4.
22. Goodman LA, Koss MP, Russo NF. Violence against women: Physical and mental effects. Part I: Research findings. *Applied and Preventive Psychology* 1993; 2: 79-89
23. Krantz G, Garcia-Moreno C. Violence against women. *J Epidemiol Commu Health* 2005;59:818-21.
24. Hunter WM, Sadowski LS, Hassan F, Jain D, De Paula CS, Vizcarra B, et al: Training and field methods in the WorldSafe collaboration to study family violence. *Inj Control Sof Prmot* 2004,11:91-100.
25. International institute of Population Sciences, ORC Macro: National Family Health Survey (NFHS-2), 1998-99 Mumbai India: International institute of Population Sciences; 2000.
26. Martin SL, Tsui AO, Maitra K, Marinsshaw R: Domestic violence in northern India. *Am J Epidemiol* 1999,150:417-426.
27. Garcia-Moreno C, Jansen HA, Ellsberg M, Heise L, Watts CH: Prevalence of intimate partner violence: findings from WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence. *Lancet* 2006,368:1260-1269.
28. Tazeen S Ali, Nargis Asad, Ingrid Mogren, et al. Intimate partner violence in urban Pakistan: prevalence, frequency and risk factors. *International journal of women's health*, March 2011 Volume 2011:3 Pages 105-115.