



**RESEARCH PAPER**

**A Sociological Analysis of Women Protection Rights against  
Violence in Punjab, Pakistan**

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**ABSTRACT**

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The present research explored the level of knowledge of women about the types of violence and the level of knowledge of women protection laws. The common woman of Pakistani society is incapable to avail the protection laws against violence. The women of Faisalabad were selected for the present study. Multistage sampling technique was adapted and a sample of 384 women was drawn. Interview schedule was used to collect data. Chi square test was applied. After analysis, results showed that there is no association between giving harsh gestures to a woman with their knowledge about protection rights. Results also showed that women agreed that women protection rights can protect women from violence when the daily usage items are destructed, and/or they are slapped. It is recommended that women should be triggered by educating the women at various levels by effective role of media

**Introduction**

Violence is, nowadays, a global phenomenon. The prevalence of violence is being observed in almost every corner of the world. The severity of this phenomenon is increasing day by day as it is screwing the existence and practicing of human rights all over the world. In most societies of the world violence has been declared as form of crime. The women of the developed countries can avail a legal system for their security and well-being whereas women of the developing countries are still getting deprived of such legitimacy. In some case if any legality is formulated some internal forces create annoyance for both the State and for the women folk.

Violence against women is as old as mankind (Akhter & Akbar, 2016). Since the occurrence of discrimination and biasness against women has been observed

mainly as a part of human history the need to protect the women is also being realized in all ages. It is an endemic epidemic that hurts, damages and brutalizes the women destructing her tangibly, mentally, sexually and financially. There is no constraint of origin, civilization, class, education, income, age or any other trait. Thus, the women face multiple forms of violence. It is a socio-cultural dilemma that may affect the lives of victims even to death. Killing and/or assaulting sexually is also labeled as violence. Abusive way of talking, insulting and calling names is a type of violence. Economic deprivation, exploitation and social exclusion are also type of violence (Ajah, Iyoke, Nkwo, Nwakoby, & Ezeonu, 2014).

### **Status of Women in Pakistani Society**

In most of other cultures of the world women are dominated by males. The deep-rooted traditional belief system restricts the rights of women thus leaving open chances of violence against them. Men think that women are their personal properties and can control their every aspect of life including their thoughts and sentiments. They claim that they do not need to get permission for this even. In other words, women are entirely at their disposal and if women want to raise their voice against this hostility, they will have to face the consequences in the form of some more violence. Similar situation also exists in Pakistani culture. Thus, Pakistani women remain as a sufferer (Ali B., 2014).

In Pakistan violence is a threatening topic (Abrar & Ghouri, 2010). According to an estimate, during the last ten years, 73913 cases of violence against women had been reported. It has drastic socio psychological, economic and cultural magnitudes for the female victim and for the rest of the members of the household. Despite of the nature of the level of education and level of empowerment of women in Pakistan the instances of violence against women are prevailing. Therefore, violence is a severe public and social problem in Pakistan (Akhter & Akbar, 2016). Females in Pakistan are facing the problems of gender discrimination, gender disparity and violence therefore, they cannot utilize their rights. They are oppressed and face domestic violence therefore they remain deprived of availing their basic rights whereas there is severe need to protect women from this discriminatory behavior.

### **Victimization of Pakistani Woman**

In Pakistan, women are mainly dominated by men no matter they are from outside of the domestic environment or they are their intimate partners. Women face gender discrimination along with inequality starting from the early days of their lives. The family in which they are born takes the girl child for granted and as the time passes the girls become use to the discriminatory behavior of the family members which involve both men and women of the household. This unfairness grows up with them. The male heads from inside of the household and the social structure from outside impose multiple restrictions behind the curtain of family, religious and societal norms. Thus, women in Pakistan take breath in conventional environment (Abrar & Ghouri, 2010). This situation implies for women of both

urban and rural areas thus facing sexual, domestic, work place violence nowadays women are facing cyber violence too. Pakistani rural women are still being used as an item of a trade to settle debts or battle. It has been also stated that that the extreme form of violence faced by women of Pakistani society is domestic violence which takes place at the homes.

Pakistan women are the victims of direct violence; they are killed cruelly in the name of honor or customs. They are burnt alive as impunity of not bringing enough dowries. They are divorced when they are unable to give birth to a male child. They are left hungry when they fail to get money from their parents' house and are threatened when they refuse to serve the parents of their husbands. Wife beating, battering, acid throwing, burning, restricting good money to them and incarcerating "within the four walls of the house" are the major issues in the rights of women. Amnesty International (1998) declared that, approximately seventy-percent to ninety-percent of Pakistani women are subjected to domestic violence. Whereas, it was estimated that over 1000 women were killed in the name of honor in 1999 alone, which reflect that a phenomenon that is growing annually.

As the types of violence against women are various the motives behind this are generally smaller, dimmer and quite pathetic. As a matter of fact, violence happens out of nothing in general. The phenomenon, thus, occurs mainly as a pictogram of male supremacy over female and as a sense of holding the women folk as a property (Babur, 2011). This was doubled with a sense to view the woman as being submissive to men. As the forms of violence are so deep and variant in nature the most common form is domestic violence. It is a menace to women's basic rights and her well-being. It requires a synchronized and practical resolution involving both State and the society. The revolutionary Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act was first passed by the Senate of Pakistan in 2012. According to this any act will be considered as violence if it bears the following characteristics:

- a) Harming, injuring, wounding or hurting the wellbeing, safety, any bodily organ and /or life either mentally or physically the aggrieved and targeted person and/or attempt to do so
- b) Abusing, mistreating, battering, exploiting physically or verbally
- c) Depriving economically and not fulfilling the financial needs of a person
- d) Hoarsening, threatening and coercing to commit any illegitimate, illegal, immoral or antireligious act
- e) Snatching personal property and using for own self
- f) Snatching children to disturb emotionally.

Thus, the activities that include gender based and/or other physical or psychological mishandling performed against women; children or other vulnerable person will be considered as violence. Consequently, assault or attempt to assault, criminal act, emotional psychological economic or physical

mistreatment, bullying, stalking, terrorization and extortion fall under the canopy of violence.

Violence is mainly justified as a reactionary outcome of a male which is permitted in a male-controlled culture. Pakistan is a developing country and is facing this situation adversely. Discrimination, disparity, inequality, unfairness and biasness is found in almost every domain of the life. Women can be secured if they become able to avail their protection rights properly. Sometimes women are not encouraged either by the members of the society or by the members of the household to complaint against the aggressive behavior of their male partners therefore, the violence remains abandoned. Whereas, in some situations women themselves remain unaware about what type of behavior is termed as violence. For instance, according to the UN definition of violence showing harsh gestures to a woman is termed as violence. It may happen that the woman gets habitual of this bodily indication and she might not be knowing that this is a form of violence. This ignorance may lead women to the unawareness about their knowledge of protection rights also. On the other hand, it has been seen that the women in their early childhood are trained and socialized in such a way that they are not permitted to make any complaint regarding such behavior (Abrar &Ghouri, 2010). Therefore, a visible infringement of human as well as women rights becomes a part of customary behavior. In some cases, a woman gets scared when she is shown a knife by her male partner still, she remains silent about the violent behavior and does not report about it to anyone. This is because the women are not aware that the protection laws can help her to avail their rights. On the other hand, a woman complaint to undergo violent behavior from her intimate partner when daily usage items are being smashed or she is being slapped. Since the women are taught to control their emotions, they keep on stomaching many acts that may be identified as violence hence, the violation of human and women rights carries on. The question here is about the knowledge of the types of violence that has been done on the women folk of the society since long ago and a need to sensitize the women to know about their basic legal rights.

### **Need of Protection Laws**

Pakistan has been lacking an adequate system to protect women form domestic violence. Shelter homes for destitute women are not established. Women are entirely unable to get support from their families. They do not get the financial assistance to proceed their case in the relevant court as majority of such women is having no source of income on their own. Another factor of not providing any support to the battered women is that the members hold the view that by taking the case to the court will disrupt their honor so least encouragement from the family supporters is shown. In fact, women are sometimes compelled to withdraw their court case as the whole matter is a matter of shame and stigma to them. At this point the State should get involved in it so that these brutalized women get some relief and become able to revive. Therefore, the legal protection system is a need of the hour to the women who had faced the brutality and to the women who

are in threat of violence. The State must develop a structure to defend such women.

### **Review of Literature**

Gardsbane (2016) investigated that violence against women occurs in Uganda is mainly due to the patriarchal structure. It is a matter of social justice. The study analyzed that cases of violence against women are reported in Uganda because the women feel that their basic rights have been crushed. They are not being given the liberty to live freely as males can do, thus the findings supported that violence against women is human right violation.

Ali, Hassan, & Ayesha (2015) stated that violence against women is a common phenomenon. It is being expressed in Pakistani movies. The reflections of the movie being presented that woman are beaten physically. Louder tone, harassing and exploitation is also used to present the role of woman. The image of Pakistani women from lower class presents them as submissive whereas the character of modern Pakistani women presents them as confident.

Manzoor, Rehman and Bano (2013) identified the different kinds of violence on women of Pakistani Punjab. A framework was developed to analyze the core issues related to violence against women using socio economic, political and cultural procedure. The study projected a hope to inspire policy makers and administration to develop policies and strategies to remove violence from the society resulting in healthier developments and better opportunities in women's lives. It was suggested through the findings of the research that law enforcement agency and legal progressions must be revolutionized; training and awareness must be delivered and protection systems for women must be established.

Anaeme, F.O (2012) stated that the history of violence is as old as the record of mankind. It is a part of cultural and normative system. The issue is prevailing throughout the globe. The women rights are freedom of women and every woman is entitled to attain the rights. Therefore, the violence against women should be stopped as this is defiance of basic human as well as women rights. The study also stated that the gender discrimination and gender inequality are an absolute violation of human as well as women law.

Payne &Wermeling (2009) conclude that the domestic violence is a criminal act and it discusses efforts to address domestic violence through the passage and enforcement of criminal and civil laws. The article reviews the social science, legal, and criminal justice literature regarding interventions used to stop domestic violence. A need for theoretical foundations, effectiveness of police interventions, and the use of protective orders was discussed along with basic information for assisting clients who are victims of violence in their own homes.

## **Material and Methods**

The quantitative method was used to find out the level of knowledge of women protection rights against violence. Keeping in view the nature of the study it was decided to involve the women population of the research area. Since age is an important factor shaping the attitude therefore the selection of women was done considering the limit of age between 25 to 45 years. Therefore, multistage sampling technique was adapted for the present research. To collect data for the present study Faisalabad district from Punjab was selected as universe. After receiving the demographic characteristics of Faisalabad District from Tehsil Municipal Administration office the researcher decided to select 4 union councils out of a total of 157. A complete list of the number of Union Councils was obtained from the office of Tehsil Municipal Administration office and the selection of 4 UCs was done randomly. Since the population of these union councils is not equal therefore proportionate sampling method procedure was applied. Since the researcher wanted to communicate educated women ranging from age 25 to 50 years the investigator collected the lists from the office of election commission Faisalabad to get the exact numbers of women residing in 157 union councils of Faisalabad. According to the data provided there were 691984 women/girls in 157 Union Councils. The next phase during the research was to fix the size of selected sample. The total selected population consists of 691984 women. The researcher selected a sample of 384 women as the selected sample for the study keeping the level of confidence at 5%. To contact the respondents the researcher decided to follow the procedure of purposive sampling. Each one of them was interviewed through interview schedule method.

## **Hypotheses**

Following hypotheses were made for the present study

1. Higher the level of knowledge of the respondents regarding giving harsh gesture is a form of violence higher will be the level of knowledge that women protection rights are made to protect women from violence.
2. Higher the level of knowledge of destruction of daily usage items is a type of domestic violence greater will be their level of knowledge of women protection rights
3. Higher the level of knowledge of respondents regarding slapping is a form of violence higher will be the level of respondent's view that women protection rights are made to protect women from violence.

## **Results and Discussion**

Results and discussion are being presented here for the present study.

Hypothesis 1: Higher the level of knowledge of the respondents regarding giving harsh gesture is a form of violence higher will be the level of

knowledge that women protection rights are made to protect women from violence.

**Table 1**  
**Association between giving harsh gestures and knowledge about women protection rights**

Respondent's view regarding giving harsh gestures publicly a female is a form violence	Respondent's view that women protection rights are made to protect women from violence			Total
	Agree	Disagree	No Response	
Agree	152	63	29	244
	139.2	73.7	31.1	244.0
Disagree	51	39	14	104
	59.3	31.4	13.3	104.0
No response	16	14	6	36
	20.5	10.9	4.6	36.0
Total	219	116	49	384
	219.0	116.0	49.0	384.0

Chi square = 8.252    df = 4

Table 1 shows the association between the knowledge of the respondents regarding giving harsh gesture is a form of violence with the level of knowledge that women protection rights are made to protect women from violence. Since the calculated value of Chi Square which was 8.252 was less than the table value which was 9.49, therefore, there is no association between the knowledge of respondents regarding harsh gesture is a form of violence and the level of knowledge that women protection rights are made to protect women. Therefore, the hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis2: Higher the level of knowledge of respondents regarding destruction of daily usage items is a form of violence higher will be the level of knowledge of respondents that women protection rights are made to protect women from violence.

**Table2**  
**Association between destruction of daily usage items and knowledge about women protection rights**

Respondents' knowledge regarding destruction of daily usage items is a form of violence	Respondents' view regarding women protection rights are made to protect women from violence.			Total
	Agree	Disagree	No response	
Agree	108	50	24	182
	103.8	55.0	23.2	182.0
Disagree	85	38	11	134

	76.4	40.5	17.1	134.0
No response	26	28	14	68
	38.8	20.5	8.7	68.0
Total	219	116	49	384
	219.0	116.0	49.0	384.0

Chi square = 14.123    df = 4

Table 2 shows the association between the levels of knowledge of respondents regarding destruction of daily usage items is a form of violence and the knowledge of respondents that women protection rights are made to protect women from violence. The calculated value of chi square i.e 14.123 was greater than the table value which was 9.49 therefore the hypothesis that there is an association between the level of knowledge of respondents regarding destruction of daily usage items is a form of violence and the knowledge of respondents that women protection rights are made to protect women from violence was accepted.

**Hypothesis 3:** Higher the level of knowledge of respondents regarding slapping is a form of violence higher will be the level of respondent's view that women protection rights are made to protect women from violence.

**Table3**

**Association between slapping and knowledge about women protection rights**

Respondents' knowledge that slapping is a form of violence	Respondent's view that women protection rights are made to protect women from violence			
	Agree	Disagree	No Response	Total
Agree	180	85	37	302
	172.2	91.2	38.5	302.0
Disagree	27	12	7	46
	26.2	13.9	5.9	46.0
No response	12	19	5	36
	20.5	10.9	4.6	36.0
Total	219	116	49	384
	219.0	116.0	49.0	384.0

Chi square = 10.98                      df = 4

Table 3 presents the association between the level of knowledge of respondents regarding slapping a female is a form of violence and the level of respondents' view that women protection rights are made to protect women from violence. As the calculated value of chi square i.e 10.98 was greater than the table value of chi square which was 9.49 there is an association between the knowledge of respondents that slapping is a form of violence and that women protection rights are made to protect women. Thus, the hypothesis was accepted.



## **Conclusion**

Pakistan as a developing country is facing the question of domestic violence which is becoming a major social issue violating the human rights in its critical form. Since violence has many types the lawful measures should be constructed to protect the women in much broader sense. Consequently, the Government of Pakistan has also tried to construct some lawful measures to protect women from violence. The present research aims to find out the level of knowledge of the women about the existence of domestic violence and women protection laws against violence. After analysis, it was observed that respondents do not have knowledge that women protection laws are made to protect women when they face harsh gestures from their males which is a form of violence. Secondly, it was concluded that respondents know that women protection rights can protect them when they face destruction of daily usage items which is a form of violence. Coming next to this, it was observed that the respondents have knowledge that women protection laws are made to protect them when they are being slapped which is a form of violence.

## **Recommendations**

After the research was conducted and the findings were made following recommendations and suggestions may be proposed by the researcher.

The awareness to fight for the rights of women should be triggered by educating the women at various levels.

Media can play an effective, influential and inspirational role to raise the demand of implementation of legal protection rights against violence.

Government should focus towards the improvement of judicial and police department.

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