

A SOCIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF POLYGAMOUS MARRIAGES AND ITS EFFECTS ON FAMILIAL LIFE

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ABSTRACT

The present study “Effects of Polygamous Marriages on Familial Life” was carried out in district Bajaur under a conceptual framework in which violence, children socialization, dowry and property rights were independent variables while effects of polygamous marriages were dependent variable. Data was collected from 384 respondents from a population of 1, 56, 240 households through Uma Sekaran table. A well-thought-out questionnaire was used for data collection. After collection data were entered to SPSS, and Uni-variate test was carried out for prevalence of the causes and chi-square was carried out for association between dependent and independent variables. At Uni-variate level majority of the respondent strongly agree that polygamy causes violence, poor children socialization, effect equal distribution of dowry and property rights. At bivariate level the association between women limited decision making power, limited decision-making power due to biological factors, dowry prevalence, hatred and jealousy among co-wives, dowry prevalence and separation of polygamous families due to unequal distribution of family property were found significant with effects of polygamous marriages. It was concluded that polygamy co-wives face hatred, jealousy and insecurity in polygamous families. Similarly, father could not provide equal care among wives and their children which lead to lower development. Furthermore, property division, owning the parents, and faction and feuds are also the outcomes of failed polygamous marriages. Marital education, ensuring basic marital rights, highlights important teachings and

implementation of court decisions with true letter and spirit are recommendations in the light of the study.

Keywords: Polygamy, Familial life, Violence, Dowry, Children Socialization, Property rights

INTRODUCTION

Background of the study

Positive and quality relationships with others are indispensable for optimal living and the essence of humanity lies in quality relations with others (Ryff and Singer, 2000). One of the most significant social relations of an individual is with his/her family. Family is the first agent of socialization through which one learns how to interact with society and to perceive ourselves and others (Goode, 2007). Marriage is one of the quality and prestigious relationships which may be monogamy and polygamy varies from area to area and social structure. Polygamy is a marital relationship which involves more than two partners (Low, 1988). Polygamous relationships can take any number of forms, including, but not limited to, serial pair-bonding (known most frequently as serial monogamy), polygamy, polyandry, communal living, and “open” pair-bindings (Robinson, 1997). Polygyny has been defined as “the marriage of a man to two or more women at the same time” (Head, 1991), or the “practice of plural marriage” (Altman and Ginat, 1996). Polyandry, deriving from the Greek, poly (“many”) and Andros (“men”), refers to a simultaneous pair bond between one female with multiple males (Seawright, 2014). The term polygamy has also been used synonymously with polygyny, although it could also be used to encompass polyandry (Welch and Glick, 1981). Polygamy is legally and widely practiced in 850 societies across the globe and accepted by a wide range of nonwestern ethnic and religious groups (Bergstrom, 1992; Hartung, 1982). In 2000, the overall prevalence of polygamy was 28% in the 34 countries (Fenske, 2015). Polygamous marriage is a major institution in Africa and in the Middle East (Garenne and Walle, 1989). Polygamy is considered to be a valid form of marriage in Algeria, Chad, Ghana, Benin, Congo, Gabon, Togo, Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, and Israel (in Bedouin-Arab communities) (Welch and Click, 1981).

Polygamy and Religions

According to the Old Testament, Abraham ﷺ “the friend of God” had more wives, David ﷺ had one hundred wives; and Solomon ﷺ is even said to have had 700 wives and 300 concubines. This serves to show that the culture or the concept of polygamy is rooted in our ancestral history (Thobejane and Flora, 2014). Polygamy is prevalent in Muslim communities. Islam tolerates polygamy; however, it has placed various conditions for it.

Allah, the Almighty has declared in the Quran:

...فَانكِحُوا مَا طَابَ لَكُمْ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ مَثْنَى وَثُلَاثَ وَرُبَاعَ فَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا فَوَاحِدَةً...

“...then marry (other) women, who seem virtuous to you, two or three or four; and if you fear that you cannot do them justice, then one (only)...” (The Quran 4:3). The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon Him) warned against favoritism and said that: "He who has two wives and is not just between them, he will come on the day of resurrection with one of his sides fallen." (Abu Dawood, 2133 & Tirmidhi, 1141).

Constitution of Pakistan and Polygamy

The Muslim Family Laws Ordinance 1961 has created various restrictions on polygamous marriages by introducing a system of compulsory registration (Muslim Family Law Ordinance 1961). The written permission of arbitration council is considered necessary for entering to polygamy. The arbitration council can give permission of polygamy when council is satisfied to its necessity and just which include physical unfitness, insanity, infertility, sterility of the wife (wives) and willful avoidance of a decree for restitution of conjugal rights on the part of the existing wife (Rule 14, Muslim Family Law Ordinance 1961).

Polygamy and Pakhtun Culture

The trend of polygyny is an outcome of cultural traditions in the area, where they follow the tradition of polygamy as practice of Pakhtunwali because it has done by their ancestors. In religious context the local people exploit the exercise of polygyny. Obviously polygamy leads to exploitation and abuse of women because it is difficult for men (poor) to do justice among the wives, usually the younger wife has a respectable status compared to the older wife in our society because of the slandering and jealousy among wives a man has to use violence to control them.

In Pakistan, five percent of married men are estimated to be involved in polygamous relationships (Hayat 2006). Polygamy is legally permitted in Sharia, but under certain strict pre-conditions. The most common and controversial practice among Pakhtun is polygyny. Instead of the Islamic conception, in “Pakhtunwali” the practice of polygyny is used for taking revenge and such revenge may arise because of conflict with family of the bride or any member thereof. After second marriage it is a common practice that the first wife becomes socially isolated without any justice (Naz, 2015).

It has been concluded from the above literature that polygamous marriages is a global phenomenon that is practiced throughout the world and specifically in Muslim countries because of certain religious and cultural beliefs. The practice of polygamy is highly observed in Tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where due to unequal treatment and violation of religious teachings multiple social and psychological issues are associated with polygamy.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Number of risk factors associated with polygamous marital structure which factors include marital conflict, marital distress, absence of the father, and financial stress. Along with the economic pressure of supporting a large polygamous family, these educational disparities tend to produce high levels of financial distress. In turn, financially distressed parents are more likely to be depressed (Duncan & Brooks-Gunn, 2000). Polygamy is permitted in every religion however the conditional permission of polygyny in Quran proved that Islam discouraged polygyny, since it is impossible to establish justice among plural wives (Quran 4; 3. Quran 4; 129). Polygamy forces women to live in poverty by forcing them to share resources. Financial dependence and lack of resources pressurize women after entering into polygamous marriages (CEDAW, 21). Polygamy has a detrimental effect on children because when a man has more than one wife, he often has a large number of children in a short period of time. Conflicts often erupt among the families because several wives and children are competing for small and finite amount of resources. Although polygamy itself is not a prohibited practice under international human rights law (CEDAW, Article.14). Polygamy is a complex phenomenon which has been reported to impact children's social behaviors, identity and sense of self-esteem (Elbedour, Bart & Hektner, 2000; Krishna kumar & Buehler, 2000). Other consequences of

polygamous families include little interest exhibited by fathers in the children of senior wives (Al-Krenawi & Graham, 1999), accompanied by significant interest in the children of junior wives (Al-Krenawi & Graham, 1999). Cherian (1994) and Kampambwe (1980) claim that by weakening the parent–child bond, polygamous family life provides a reduced level of emotional satisfaction and psychological security for the child. In rural areas of Pakistan, specifically in tribal areas the practice is increased with the passage of time that effecting the existing family structure. Thus the study is conducted to find out the consequences of polygamous marriages and familial structure.

Objectives of the study

- To find out basic information of the sampled respondents.
- To investigate about the association of various aspects like violence, child socialization with polygamy.
- To give recommendations in the light of current study.

Research Questions of the study

- How Polygamous marriages have impact on the structure of family?
- Is there any kind of jealousy and conflict among family members living in a polygamous family?
- How polygamous marriages effects family in socioeconomic terms?

Significance of the study

As we know that family is ever basic institution for society, and a basic need of social life. Family is primary source of socialization where people learn about their whole life. A peaceful familial life is the guarantee for having more success ahead. While unstable familial life has a disruptive relation to future achievements. Unfortunately due to lot of instabilities in polygamous families, it ultimately leads to violence and conflicts among family members. The issue is identified in the research area that affected families, therefore it is necessary to discuss. This study might help the future researchers to go deeply and resolve the issues related to that kind of families.

Literature Review

Polygamy is a marital state or family structure in which the husband is married to multiple women at one time (Bart, Elbedour and Hektner, 2007; Cherian, 1990; Al-Krenawi and Graham, 1999; Al-Shamsi and Fulcher 2005; Al-Sherbiny 2005). The

practice of polygyny is widespread in collectivistic cultures such as those found in the Middle-East, Asia and Africa (AlKrenawi and Graham, 2006; Al-Shamsi and Fulcher, 2005; AlSherbiny, 2005; Jankowiak, 2008; Sonbol, 2003). Contrary to popular belief, polygamy was a highly practiced tradition around the globe up until 2009 (United Nation's publication "Population Facts", 2011).

Polygyny is a legalized practice in Pakistan, which is in keeping with the state religion-Islam. The Islamic faith, allows men to be married to a maximum of four women at a time under stringent and well-defined conditions (Al-Quran, 4:3; 4:129). Despite polygyny being a permissible practice, supported both by the religious doctrines and the Pakistani constitution, there are no official records of its prevalence in the Pakistani society (Pervez and Batool, 2013).

Violence and polygamy

Gender violence is estimated to take place in as many as 80–90 percent of the households in Pakistan (Human Rights Watch, 1999). Patriarchal social norms are embodied in strict codes of behavior, rigid gender separation, family and kinship patterns, and a strong ideology linking family honor to female virtue which is used to maintain control over women (Moghadam, 1992).

A study conducted in Nigeria shows women in polygamous marriages was more likely to suffer violence than in monogamous unions (21.4% and 12.9) (Umeora, Dimejesi, Ejikeme and Egwuatu, 2008). Polygyny is consistently associated with significant degrees of emotional and physical violence against women (Nurmila, 2009). Women felt shocked and heartbroken when their husbands suddenly announced that they intended to take a second wife (Aisyaha and Parkerb, 2014). Women in polygamous families are suffering from distress, social isolation, loneliness and maltreatment (Nurmila, 2009).

Suhand jati (2002) examined the cases of 50 women who registered as having experienced domestic violence: 12 were women who filed for divorce because of violence toward them that involved polygyny (unofficial wives, mistresses or long-running affairs). The women express unequal treatment among wives despite the fact that the religions underpinning polygamy (e.g. Islam) stipulate the existence of equity (Phillips, 2001).

Polygamy and Child Socialization

In some cultures, around the world (including Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Oceania), it is common for children to live in families with more than two parents (Altman and Ginat, 1996; Broude, 1994). These expanded family structures are based on marriages that may involve polygamy a husband with two or more wives, polyandry a wife with two or more husbands or polyandry two or more wives simultaneously married to two or more husbands (Sinha and Bharat, 1985; Valsiner, 1989).

The children of polygamous marriages tend to see themselves at one level as children of one mother and one father, and at another level as children from different mothers who share one father. These children experience both challenges and benefits from these two levels of viewing their family circumstance. For instance, older siblings of one wife may fund the education of younger siblings of another wife when their common father is unable to do so, often in his old age (Elizabeth and Acheampong, 2010).

Disruptive factors such as a lack of parental involvement (Gecas and Schwalbe, 1986), the psychological unavailability of parents, especially the mother figure (Egeland, Sroufe, and Erickson, 1983), the dissolution of the family (Cleveland, Wiebe, Oord, and Rowe, 2000), and change in the family system, create discontinuity in the child's immediate environment, which, in turn, can adversely shape a child's adaptive and developmental health (Porter and O'Leary, 1980).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology is a systematic, theoretical analysis of applied methods in every field of study. It contains a theoretical analysis of the body of practices and principles related to the knowledge department. In general, it involves ideas such as theoretical models, phases and quantitative or qualitative techniques (Irny and Rose, 2005). Research methodology offers theoretical infrastructure to understand which method, set of methods, or best method that can be applied to a particular case (Igwenagu, 2016). The study on effects of polygamous marriages on familial life will be conducted according to the methodology as given below.

Universe of the study

The study was conducted in District Bajaur.

Sample size and study design

The total population of district Bajaur is 10, 93,684 as per Pakistan population census report 2017, similarly as per standard household size of Pakistan the total households in district Bajaur are 1, 56,240. On the basis of homogeneous culture, research selected a sample size from total households of the area as per Sekaran 2003, which are 384. So, 384 was the sample size for the current research study. Furthermore, the said sample size was equally distributed on each tehsil of district Bajaur. Therefore, from each tehsil 54 respondents was randomly selected.

Tools of data collection

A pretested interview schedule based on five likert scale was used for data collection. A detailed questionnaire comprising of the parameters of polygamous marriages and familial life based on the five likert scale was constructed for data collection.

Tools of data analysis

On the basis of conceptual framework in which violence and child socialization were independent variables while polygamous marriages were dependent variable and the statistical tests i.e. Univariate for prevalence and chi square for association measurement was carried out. The analyzed data was tabulated and interpreted as per Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan thesis format along with policy recommendations in the light of the study.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**Socio economic profile of the respondents**

Basic information of the respondents according to this study are age, gender, marital status, Monthly income, family type, educational status and educational level. Its detail is given in the following lines with against each table conspicuously shown below;

Gender of the respondents

Statements	Total	Frequency	Percent
Male	384(100)	277	72.1
Female	384(100)	107	27.9

Values in cell show frequency while values in parenthesis show percentages.

Gender of the respondents

In this study out of total 288 respondents 72.1% were male and 27.9% were female. It is due to the prevailing cultural norms in which males are enjoying superiority over female.

Family type and marital union of the respondents

Family type of the respondents				Marital union of the respondents			
Statement s	Total	Frequenc y	Percen t	Statement s	Total	Frequenc y	Percen t
Joint	384(100)	282	73.4	Monogam y	384(100)	249	64.8
Nuclear	384(100)	102	26.6	Polygamy	384(100)	135	35.2

Values in cell show frequency while values in parenthesis show percentages.

Family type and marital union of the respondents

Table 4.1.4 depicts the respondent's distribution on the basis of family and type and marital union, almost 73.4% belonged to joint family while the rest i.e. 26.6% were from the nuclear family. Similarly, out of 100% 64.8% of the respondents were from monogamous families and 35.2% of the respondents were from polygamous families.

Monthly Income and monthly expenditure of the respondents

Monthly income (Rs)				Monthly expenditure (Rs)			
Range	Frequency	Percent	Total	Range	Frequency	Percent	Total

15001-25000	62	16.1	384(100)	10001-20000	156	40.6	384(100)
25001-35000	79	20.6	384(100)	20001-30000	167	43.5	384(100)
35001-45000	121	31.5	384(100)	30001-40000	31	8.1	384(100)
Above 45001	122	31.8	384(100)	Above 40001	30	7.8	384(100)

Values in cell show frequency while values in parenthesis show percentages.

Monthly Income and monthly expenditure of the respondents (Rs)

The table 4.1.6 shows that out of 100% respondents, 16.1% of the respondent's monthly income were between 15001-25000, 20.6% were between 25001-35000. Similarly, 31.5% respondent's monthly incomes were between, 35001-45000 and 31.8% were above than 45000. The above table shows that out of 100% respondents, 40.6% were between, 10001-20000, 43.5% were between 20001-30000. Similarly, 8.1% of the respondents were 30001-40000 and 7.8% of the respondent's total monthly expenditure was above than 40001. The total monthly income and expenditure was found average.

Uni - Variates Analysis

As per nature of the questions incorporated in the questionnaire every respondent was interviewed in form of a series of statement within each selected variable, categorized of five responses (Strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree and strongly agree). The respondents were asked according to the nature of the format of questions and placed as per their response to each question accordingly.

Violence in polygamous families

Values in cell show frequency while values in parenthesis show percentages.

Statements		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Husbands consult with first wife before polygyny	384 (100)	35(9.1)	45(11.7)	8(2.1)	118(30.7)	178(46.4)

Wife permits polygyny due to husband family pressure	384 (100)	36(9.4)	42(10.9)	13(3.4)	124(32.3)	169(44)
Co-wives relations depending on living arrangements	384 (100)	35(9.1)	46(12)	9(2.3)	116(30.2)	178(46.4)
Polygamous family face co-wives rivalry and conflicts	384 (100)	25(6.5)	31(8.1)	10(2.6)	125(32.6)	193(50.3)
Co-wives rivalry arises due to household activities	384 (100)	30(7.8)	32(8.3)	13(3.4)	127(33.1)	182(47.4)
Husband does not treat co-wives as equal	384 (100)	35(9.1)	42(10.9)	14(3.6)	118(30.7)	175(45.6)
Co-wives have limited decision making power	384 (100)	36(9.4)	46(12)	3(0.8)	119(31)	180(46.9)
Limited decision-making power due to biological factors	384 (100)	35(9.1)	40(10.4)	13(3.4)	123(32)	173(45.1)
Limited decision-making power due to economic factors	384 (100)	36(9.4)	45(11.7)	7(1.8)	117(30.5)	179(46.6)
Husband's preference leads to jealousy and hatred	384 (100)	25(6.5)	30(7.8)	15(3.9)	144(37.5)	170(44.3)
Women feel high level of stress and insecurity	384 (100)	33(8.6)	44(11.5)	10(2.6)	123(32)	174(45.3)

Violence and polygamous marriages

Different kinds of violence found in polygamous families because of complex family circumstances. Questions were asked from respondents regarding Violence. 46.4% of the respondents strongly agree that husband consults their first wife when he wishes to marry another wife” 30.7% of the respondents were agree with the statement, although 11.7% respondents disagree the statement, similarly 9.1% were strongly disagree and 2.1% followed neutral. 44% of the respondents strongly agree that the first wife permits husbands for polygamy because of husband’s family pressure, similarly 32.3% respondents choose agree, although 10.9% respondents were disagree with the statement, 9.4% followed strongly disagree and 3.4% followed neutral. The study of Roy, Hidrobo and Heath, (2020) showed that in many cases of polygamous marriages people may not marry with another without the consent of first wife or without the dissolution of first marriage.

In polygamous family co-wives relations depending upon living arrangements or standards of the family” for the above statement out of 100%, 46.4% of the respondents choose strongly agree and 30.2% of the respondents followed agree. However, 12% respondents were disagreed with the statement, 9.1% of the respondents followed strongly disagree and 2.3% of the respondents were neutral. 50.3% of the respondents were strongly agree that polygamous family face co-wives rivalry and conflicts and 32.6% of the respondents followed agree. Although 8.1% respondents followed disagree, 6.5% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 2.6% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. 47.4% of the respondents choose strongly agree for the statement that co-wives rivalry often arises due to household activities in polygamous families and 33.1% of the respondents choose agree. However, 8.3% respondents followed disagree, 7.8% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 3.4% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. The research studies of Baland and Ziparo, (2017), Rossi, (2016) revealed that living in the same household polygamous families lacking cooperation among wives instead they have increased conflict on family domestic affairs. 45.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that husband does not treat first and second wives as equal in family domestic affairs and 30.7% of the respondents were agree with the statement. Although, 10.9% respondents were disagree that husband does not treat first and second wives as equal in family domestic affairs, 9.1% of the respondents were

strongly disagree and 3.6% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. The studies of Gerdemann, (2019), Madhavan, (2002) found that husband does not treat both wives equal that leads to different forms of violence in polygamous families.

“Wives have limited decision making power in polygamous families” for the above statement the 46.9% of the respondents were strongly agree and 31% of the respondents followed agree. However 12% respondents choose disagree, 9.4% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 0.8% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. 45.1% of the respondents choose strongly agree that limitation of decision-making power for a wife in polygamous families is due to biological factors i.e. sterility of the wife and 32% of the respondents were agree with the statement. However, 10.4% respondents were disagreed that limitation of decision-making power for a wife in polygamous families is due to biological factors i.e. sterility of the wife, 9.1% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 3.4% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. “Limitation of decision-making power for a wife in polygamous families is due to poor economic background” for the above statement the table shows that out of 100%, 46.6% of the respondents choose strongly agree. 30.5% of the respondents followed agree, 11.7% respondents followed disagree, 9.4% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 1.8% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. A study conducted by Lees et al., (2018) concluded that in polygamous relationships women have limited decision-making power especially in economic matters of the family.

“Husband’s preference for a particular wife leads to jealousy and hatred towards the most favored wife” for the above statement the table shows that out of 100%, 44.3% of the respondents choose strongly agree. 37.5% of the respondents followed agree, 7.8% respondents were disagreed, 6.5% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 3.9% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. The study of Phillips, (2001) found that despite religious teachings wives in polygamous families feel unequal treatment from husband in family matters. “Women in polygamous families feel high level of stress and insecurity due to emotional and physical violence from their husband” for the above statement the table shows that out of 100%, 45.3% of the respondents choose strongly agree. 32% of the respondents followed agree, 11.5% respondents followed disagree, 8.6% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 2.6% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. The

research studies of Umeora et al., (2008) showed that women are exposed to emotional and physical violence in polygamous families.

Children socialization in polygamous families

Statements	Total	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Parents provide more care to all children equally	384 (100)	27(7)	38(9.9)	5(1.3)	119(31)	195(50.8)
There is an equal relationship among father and children	384 (100)	34(8.9)	33(8.6)	4(1)	110(28.6)	203(52.9)
Love and care relationship among father and children	384 (100)	34(8.9)	35(9.1)	10(2.6)	127(33.1)	178(46.4)
Children close relations with biological mother	384 (100)	32(8.3)	33(8.6)	12(3.1)	118(30.7)	189(49.2)
Children confused relations with other mother	384 (100)	35(9.1)	40(10.4)	11(2.9)	142(37)	156(40.6)
Children of the senior wife perceived neglected	384 (100)	36(9.4)	35(9.1)	13(3.4)	122(31.8)	178(46.4)
Conflict and rivalry effect children social development	384 (100)	33(8.6)	31(8.1)	4(1)	119(31)	197(51.3)
Conflict effects children behavioral development	384 (100)	34(8.9)	32(8.3)	7(1.8)	120(31.3)	191(49.7)
Children's lack of access to share basic life needs equally	384 (100)	27(7)	42(10.9)	6(1.6)	120(31.3)	189(49.2)

Limited financial resources	children education	384	30(7.8)	32(8.3)	8(2.1)	121(31.5)	193(50.3)
Children face financial issues		384	28(7.3)	35(9.1)	9(2.3)	115(29.9)	197(51.3)

Values in cell show frequency while values in parenthesis show percentages.

Children socialization in polygamous families

Children socialization is the prime responsibility of any family. Children socialization process is different among polygamous families as compared to other monogamous families. Questions were asked from respondents regarding children socialization in polygamous families. The 50.8% of the respondents strongly agree that in Polygamous family parents provide equal care to all children and 31% of the respondents were also agree with the statement. Although, 9.9% followed disagree, 7% were strongly disagree and 1.3% followed neutral. Similarly, 52.9% respondents strongly agree that there is an equal relationship among father and children of both wives in polygamous family and 28.6% choose agree with the statement. Similarly, 8.9% were strongly disagree, 8.6% were disagree and 1% followed neutral. “There is an unconditional love and care relationship among father and children of both wives in polygamous family” for the above statement the table shows that out of 100%, 46.4% of the respondents choose strongly agree. 33.1% of the respondents followed agree, 9.1% respondents followed disagree, 8.9% of the respondents followed strongly disagree and 2.6% of the respondents were neutral. The studies of Muhammad, (2017), AL-Krenawi, Graham, and Nevo, (2002), AL-Seef, (2008), Elbedour, Onwueghbuzie, Caridine, and Abu-Saad, (2002) on effects of polygamous marriages on family members concluded that father may not be able to provide the necessary care for their children.

49.2% of the respondents choose strongly agree that in polygamous family children have affection and close association with biological mother and 30.7% of the respondents agreed it. However, 8.6% respondents were disagreed with the statement, 8.3% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 3.1% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. For the statement “Children in polygamous families have conflict of opinion and confused relationship with another mother” 40.6% of the respondents choose strongly agree and 37% of the respondents followed agree.

However, 10.4% respondents followed disagree, 9.1% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 2.9% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. The studies of Halsted, (2017), Beker, (2008) children in polygamous families may have close connection with biological mother while detachment relationship with another mother. “In polygamous family children of the senior wife perceive themselves as neglected after second marriage of the father” for the above statement the table shows that out of 100%, 46.4% of the respondents choose strongly agree. 31.8% of the respondents followed agree, 9.4% respondents were strongly disagreed, 9.1% of the respondents were disagree and 3.4% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. The study of AL-Samaree, (2002) revealed that Lack of parenthood, such as absence of father creates emotional and behavioral problems to children in polygamous families.

“In polygamous family children fall in conflicts due to rivalry which affect their social development” for the above statement, 51.3% of the respondents choose strongly agree the statement and 31% of the respondents followed agree. Although, 8.6% respondents choose strongly disagree, 8.1% of the respondents were disagree and 1% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. “Conflict in polygamous family effects children emotional and behavioral development” for the above statement the table shows that out of 100%, 49.7% of the respondents choose strongly agree. 31.3% of the respondents followed agree, 8.9% respondents were strongly disagreed, 8.3% of the respondents were disagree and 1.8% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. The research studies of Elbedour, Bart and Hektner, (2000) children in polygamous relationships have lower societal performance, bad personality development and self-respect.

49.2% of the respondents choose strongly for the statement that children in polygamous families have lack of access to share basic life needs equally and 31.3% of the respondents also followed agree. However, 10.9% respondents were disagreed, 7% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 1.6% of the respondents were strongly neutral with the statement. For the statement due to limited resources children have less educational achievements in polygamous family the table shows that out of 100%, 50.3% of the respondents choose strongly agree and 31.5% of the respondents followed agree. Although, 8.3% respondents followed disagree, 7.8% of the respondents were disagree and 2.1% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. The work of Al-krenawi and Lightman, (2000) revealed that children in

polygamous relationships have lower access to family resources which leads to lower academic achievements. “Children face serious financial issues in polygamous families” for the above statement the table shows that out of 100%, 51.3% of the respondents choose strongly agree. 29.9% of the respondents followed agree, 9.1% respondents followed disagree, 7.3% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 2.3% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. The study of Duncan and Gunn, (2000) showed that children in polygamous relationships have serious financial issues.

Bi -Variates or chi Analysis

Dependent variable (effects of polygamous marriages) was cross tabulated with independent variables (Violence and Children socialization) and appropriate statistics i.e. χ^2 was used to ascertain the relationship between the dependent and independent variables as shown below.

Association of Violence with effects of polygamous marriage

		Independent	Dependent		
Statements	Response	Yes	No	Total	Statistics
Husbands consult with first wife before polygyny	SD DA N A SA	27(7) 33(8.6) 7(1.8) 87(22.7) 133(34.6)	8(2.1) 12(3.1) 1(0.3) 31(8.1) 45(11.7)	35(9.1) 45(11.7) 8(2.1) 118(30.7) 178(46.4)	$\chi^2=0.908(0.923)$
Wife permits polygyny due to husband family pressure	SD D N A SA	30(7.8) 29(7.6) 11(2.9) 98(25.5) 119(31)	6(1.6) 13(3.4) 2(0.5) 26(6.8) 50(13)	36(9.4) 42(10.9) 13(3.4) 124(32.3) 169(44)	
Co-wives relations depending on living arrangements	SD DA N A SA	28(7.3) 34(8.9) 7(1.8) 90(23.4) 128(33.3)	7(1.8) 12(3.1) 2(0.5) 26(6.8) 50(13)	35(9.1) 46(12) 9(2.3) 116(30.2) 178(46.4)	$\chi^2=5.686(0.224)$
Polygamous family face co-wives rivalry and conflicts	SD D N A SA	21(5.5) 23(6) 6(1.6) 91(23.7) 146(38)	4(1) 8(2.1) 4(1) 34(8.9) 47(12.2)	25(6.5) 31(8.1) 10(2.6) 125(32.6) 193(50.3)	
Co-wives	SD	20(5.2)	10(2.6)	30(7.8)	
					$\chi^2=1.836(0.768)$
					$\chi^2=2.625(0.622)$
					$\chi^2=4.240(0.374)$

rivalry arises	D	26(6.8)	6(1.6)	32(8.3)	
due to	N	9(2.3)	4(1)	13(3.4)	
household	A	101(26.3)	26(6.8)	127(33.1)	
activities	SA	131(34.1)	51(13.3)	182(47.4)	
Husband	SD	26(6.8)	9(2.3)	35(9.1)	$\chi^2=1.208(0.877)$
does not treat	D	31(8.1)	11(2.9)	42(10.9)	
co-wives as	N	9(2.3)	5(1.3)	14(3.6)	
equal	A	87(22.7)	31(8.1)	118(30.7)	
	SA	134(34.9)	41(10.7)	175(45.6)	
Co-wives	SD	22(5.7)	14(3.6)	36(9.4)	$\chi^2=11.895(0.018)$
have limited	D	42(10.9)	4(1)	46(12)	
decision	N	3(0.8)	0(0)	3(0.8)	
making	A	90(23.4)	29(7.6)	119(31)	
power	SA	130(33.9)	50(13)	180(46.9)	
Limited	SD	26(6.8)	9(2.3)	35(9.1)	$\chi^2=9.140(0.058)$
decision-	D	34(8.9)	6(1.6)	40(10.4)	
making	N	6(1.6)	7(1.8)	13(3.4)	
power due to	A	96(25)	27(7)	123(32)	
biological	SA	125(32.6)	48(12.5)	173(45.1)	
factors					
Limited	SD	27(7)	9(2.3)	36(9.4)	$\chi^2=1.293(0.863)$
decision-	D	34(8.9)	11(2.9)	45(11.7)	
making	N	4(1)	3(0.8)	7(1.8)	
power due to	A	89(23.2)	28(7.3)	117(30.5)	
economic	SA	133(34.6)	46(12)	179(46.6)	
factors					
Husband's	SD	19(4.9)	6(1.6)	25(6.5)	$\chi^2=10.268(0.036)$
preference	D	24(6.3)	6(1.6)	30(7.8)	
leads to	N	10(2.6)	5(1.3)	15(3.9)	
jealousy and	A	119(31)	25(6.5)	144(37.5)	
hatred	SA	115(29.9)	55(14.3)	170(44.3)	
Women feel	SD	25(6.5)	8(2.1)	33(8.6)	$\chi^2=0.385(0.984)$
high level of	D	32(8.3)	12(3.1)	44(11.5)	
stress and	N	7(1.8)	3(.8)	10(2.6)	
insecurity	A	91(23.7)	32(8.3)	123(32)	
	SA	132(34.4)	42(10.9)	174(45.3)	

Cell values show frequency, parenthesis values percentages while in last column show χ^2 parenthesis values show significance level at 0.05% confidence level.

Association of violence with effects of polygamous marriages

Polygamous families are much exposed to violence. Violence can be found in many forms including but not limited to domestic violence, abuse, familial conflict and rivalry, faction and feuds, physical and emotional torture etc.

Due to sociocultural values this is common that people do not consult with their wives about marriage with another wife. The result for the statement that husband consult with their first wife for second marriage was found non-significant

($p > 0.05$) with effects of polygamous marriages. In many cases first wife permits polygamy due to husbands family pressure or divorce etc. in this regard the result for the statement wife permits polygamy because of husband family pressure was found non-significant ($p > 0.05$) with effects of polygamous marriages. The work of Bao, (2008) and Elbedour, et al., (2002) presents that consultation with previous wife/wives and equal distribution of family resources both in cash and kind as well as physical and social could satisfy wives to some extent.

Co-wives living arrangements occur in many forms in polygamous marriages i.e. living in a combined household or in a separate household. In this way the co-wives relations depending on living arrangements was found non-significant ($p > 0.05$) with effects of polygamous marriages. The studies of Yalmaz, Tamam, (2018), Nevo, and Al-Krenawi, (2006) found that co-wives may live together in a shared accommodation however sometimes wives may live in separate houses although prevalence of wife abuse is higher in polygamous families.

Co-wives rivalry and conflicts are common among many polygamous families. In this regard polygamous families' faces co-wives rivalry and conflicts was found non-significant ($p > 0.05$) with effects of polygamous marriages. It is observed from the work of Jankowiak, Sudakov, and Wilereker, (2005) that co-wives life and relation is always based on competition and conflict on shared husband and his property.

Household activities include domestic responsibilities of wives and children's. In this way co-wives rivalry arises due to household activities was found non-significant ($p > 0.05$) with effects of polygamous marriages. However it may be due to sensitivity of the study the result was found non-significant. Co-wife competition is heightened whenever women and their children are more dependent on their husband for resources or attention. Polygamy may lead to jealousy, competition, disputes over unequal distribution of household resources and the development of mental ill health in the women involved in the relationships (Moosa et al., 2006).

Equal treatment of both wives is a serious challenge for husband in polygamous families. The result was found non-significant ($p > 0.05$) between husband does not treat both wives equally with effects of polygamous marriages. It may be because of the sensitive nature of questions the result was non-significant. Although, the studies found different forms of violence in polygamous families and

husband does not treat both wives as equal and keeping them busy to protect himself (Gerdemann, 2019; Madhavan, 2002).

Decision making is considered a big challenge for wives in polygamous families. The result for the statement wives have limited decision making power in polygamous families was found significant ($p < 0.05$) with effects of polygamous marriages. Multiple factors are associated with limited decision-making power of women in polygamous families. The result for the statement women limited decision making power is due to biological factors was found significant ($p < 0.05$) with effects of polygamous marriages. However, the result for the statement women limited decision making power is due to economic factors was found non-significant ($p > 0.05$) with effects of polygamous marriages. Some of the researchers believe that polygyny shows the gender discrimination in society due to women lower social status (Exposito, 2017; White and Burton, 1988). Similarly, polygyny is sometimes practiced because of infertility of the wife or the desire for male child (Yalmaz, Tamam, 2018; Nevo, and Al-Krenawi, 2006).

Hatred and jealousy among wives is much common among wives in polygamous families. In this regard the result for the statement husbands preference for a particular wife leads to jealousy and hatred was found significant ($p < 0.05$) with effects of polygamous marriages. Studies concluded that co-wives in a constant competition in polygamous families to attain the love and attention from their shared husband (Turly, 2015). Studies showed that women are not equally treated in polygamous families (Gerdemann, 2019; Madhavan, 2002).

Women are exposed to emotional and physical violence from husband in polygamous families. In this regard the result for the statement women faces emotional and physical violence was found non-significant ($p > 0.05$) with effects of polygamous marriages. It may be due to the religiosity of the respondents the results was found non-significant. The studies of Gerdemann, (2019), Kazianga and Klonner, (2006) found that polygamous families observed high prevalence of violence and conflict among wives on household activities. Similarly the senior wife wants to maintain her status quo and control over the resources, if the resources are limited then they become more exposed to emotional and physical violence due to competition with each other.

Association of children socialization with effects of polygamous marriages

Statements	Independent	Dependent		Total	Statistics
	Response	Yes	No		
Parents provide proper care to all children equally	SD	24(6.3)	3(.8)	27(7)	$\chi^2=8.513(0.075)$
	D	33(8.6)	5(1.3)	38(9.9)	
	N	4(1)	1(.3)	5(1.3)	
	A	90(23.4)	29(7.6)	119(31)	
	SA	136(35.4)	59(15.4)	195(50.8)	
There is an equal relationship among father and children	SD	23(6)	11(2.9)	34(8.9)	$\chi^2=3.734(0.445)$
	D	25(6.5)	8(2.1)	33(8.6)	
	N	3(.8)	1(.3)	4(1)	
	A	89(23.2)	21(5.5)	110(28.6)	
	SA	147(38.3)	56(14.6)	203(52.9)	
Love and care relationship among father and children	SD	24(6.3)	10(2.6)	34(8.9)	$\chi^2=3.379(0.496)$
	D	26(6.8)	9(2.3)	35(9.1)	
	N	9(2.3)	1(.3)	10(2.6)	
	A	100(26)	27(7)	127(33.1)	
	SA	128(33.3)	50(13)	178(46.4)	
Children close relations with biological mother	SD	23(6)	9(2.3)	32(8.30)	$\chi^2=1.785(0.775)$
	D	25(6.5)	8(2.1)	33(8.6)	
	N	10(2.6)	2(.5)	12(3.1)	
	A	92(24)	26(6.8)	118(30.7)	
	SA	137(35.7)	52(13.5)	189(49.2)	
Children confused relations with other mother	SD	24(6.3)	11(2.9)	35(9.1)	$\chi^2=1.562(0.816)$
	D	30(7.8)	10(2.6)	40(10.4)	
	N	9(2.3)	2(.5)	11(2.9)	
	A	104(27.1)	38(9.9)	142(37)	
	SA	120(31.3)	36(9.4)	156(40.6)	
Children of the senior wife perceived neglected	SD	30(7.8)	6(1.6)	36(9.4)	$\chi^2=6.283(0.179)$
	D	22(5.7)	13(3.4)	35(9.1)	
	N	10(2.6)	3(.8)	13(3.4)	
	A	86(22.4)	36(9.4)	122(31.8)	
	SA	139(36.2)	39(10.2)	178(46.4)	
Conflict and rivalry effect children social development	SD	25(6.5)	8(2.1)	33(8.6)	$\chi^2=3.138(0.535)$
	D	21(5.5)	10(2.6)	31(8.1)	
	N	3(0.8)	1(.3)	4(1)	
	A	84(21.9)	35(9.1)	119(31)	
	SA	154(40.1)	43(11.2)	197(51.3)	
Conflict effects children behavioral development	SD	28(7.3)	6(1.6)	34(8.9)	$\chi^2=4.880(0.300)$
	D	26(6.8)	6(1.6)	32(8.3)	
	N	7(1.8)	0(0)	7(1.8)	
	A	88(22.9)	32(8.3)	120(31.3)	
	SA	138(35.9)	53(13.8)	191(49.7)	

Children's	SD	19(4.9)	8(2.1)	27(7)	$\chi^2=2.623(0.623)$
lack of	D	33(8.6)	9(2.3)	42(10.9)	
access to	N	3(0.8)	3(0.8)	6(1.6)	
share basic	A	91(23.7)	29(7.6)	120(31.3)	
life needs	SA	141(36.7)	48(12.5)	189(49.2)	
equally	SD	24(6.3)	6(1.6)	30(7.8)	$\chi^2=5.058(0.281)$
Limited	D	25(6.5)	7(1.8)	32(8.3)	
financial	N	7(1.8)	1(.3)	8(2.1)	
resources	A	82(21.4)	39(10.2)	121(31.5)	
effects	SA	149(38.8)	44(11.5)	193(50.3)	
children	SD	18(4.7)	10(2.6)	28(7.3)	$\chi^2=2.647(0.619)$
education	D	25(6.5)	10(2.6)	35(9.1)	
Children face	N	6(1.6)	3(.8)	9(2.3)	
financial	A	89(23.2)	26(6.8)	115(29.9)	
issues	SA	149(38.8)	48(12.5)	197(51.3)	

Cell values show frequency, parenthesis values percentages while in last column show χ^2 parenthesis values show significance level at 0.05% confidence level.

Association of children socialization with effects of polygamous marriages

Children socialization is an important aspect of family life in which children learn about family and societal activities from their parents. The prime agents of socialization include family and parents. The association of children socialization with effects of polygamous marriages as follows.

The table 4.3.2 showed a non-significant ($p > 0.05$) relationship of father provision of equal care to all children, equal relationship among father and children of both wives and unconditional love and care relationship of children with father with effects of polygamous marriages. Al-Samaree, (2002) reported that lack of parenthood mother or father create emotional and behavioral issues such as drug addiction, aggression and frequent conflicts among the members of polygamous families.

It is a general tendency that children have strong attachment with biological mother. The statement children have close association with biological mother was found non-significant ($p > 0.05$) with effects of polygamous families. Similarly, the statement that children have confused relationship with other mother was also found non-significant ($p > 0.05$) with effects of polygamous marriages. It may be due to certain cultural or familial factors the result was found non-significant, although the disconnection of children in polygamous families from parents may leads to close connection with biological mother while detachment relationship with foster mother

(Halsted, 2017; Beker, 2008). Similarly, the result for the statement children of the senior wives neglected was found non-significant ($p > 0.05$) with effects of polygamous marriages. A study conducted in Ethiopia find out that in polygamous relationships the order of wives plays a significant role for the socioeconomic benefits of the family, especially the sons of the first wife provide more socioeconomic benefits and education (Uggla et al., 2018).

Furthermore, conflict among children effect social development, emotional and behavioral development, lack of access to basic life needs, less educational achievements, and financial issues were found non-significant ($p > 0.05$) with dependent variable effects of polygamous marriages. The outcome of the work of Muhammad, (2017), AL-Krenawi, Graham, and Slonim-Nevo, (2002), AL-Seef, (2008), Elbedour, Onwueghbuzie, Caridine, and Abu-Saad, (2002) reveals that polygamous families face all these challenges i.e. financial, educational, emotional, psychological and behavioral issues due to mistrust, conflict, competition and the self-esteem of polygamous family members.

FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings:

1. Majority of the respondents were strongly agreed that husbands consult their first wife when that wish to get a second marriage and their wife allow them because of husband family pressure (Table No. 4.2.1).
2. Majority of the respondents were strongly agreed that co-wives relations depending on living arrangements of polygamous families and polygamous families face co-wives rivalry and conflicts, which arises due to household activities and husband does not treat wives equal in domestic affairs (Table No.4.2.1).
3. Majority of the respondents were strongly agreed that wives have limited decision making power in polygamous families because of biological and economic factors (Table No.4.2.1).

4. Majority of the respondents were strongly agreed that husband preference for a particular wife leads to jealousy and hatred towards most favored wife and women feel high level of emotional and physical violence (Table No.4.2.1).
5. Majority of the respondents were strongly agreed that parents provide proper care to all children equally and there is equal relationship, unconditional love and care relationship among father and children of both wives (Table No.4.2.2).
6. Majority of the respondents were strongly agreed that children have close association with biological mother, confused relationship with other mother and children of senior wives perceived neglected after second marriage of the father (Table No.4.2.2).
7. Majority of the respondents were strongly agreed that conflicts in polygamous families effect their social development, behavioral and emotional development (Table No.4.2.2).
8. Majority of the respondents were strongly agreed that children in polygamous families have lack of access to basic life needs, education and have serious financial issues (Table No.4.2.2).

Conclusions:

The study “effects of polygamous marriages on familial life” concluded that male dominancy, illiteracy, joint family system and poverty are common in the study area. Furthermore, polygyny is extensively practicing in the study area, while the first wife informed from the husband decision of marrying another wife which shows limited decision-making power of women. Moreover, the polygyny invites insecurity, stress, hate and jealousy among wives. In the area most of the people practice because of rest wife failure in children bearing. It was also concluded that most of the parents fail to provide equal proper care, support, and love to all children of different wives which create close attachment with biological mother while enmity with other mother and even with father. Polygamous families’ children often face social, financial, educational and behavioral issues. It was also concluded that daughters receive dowry from her families in the study area while the property useless, illness, and its distribution are some of the prominent issues of polygamous marriages in the area.

Recommendations:

On the basis of the findings of the study, the following were the main recommendations made for future studies;

1. Polygyny is a universal phenomenon which has its own consequences across area and culture to culture, therefore the researchers and academicians should give more attention for making new policies in the light of modern social changes through in-depth researches.
2. The husband's might not marry other wives without any genuine reason and it is necessary to consult with first wife and her children before entering polygyny.
3. The implementation of Muslim Family Law ordinance might be ensured by the governmental authorities and courts with true letter and spirit as well as the recent decisions of Supreme Court and high courts might be implemented in order to prevent the injustice and unequal treatment in polygamous families.
4. Comprehensive research studies, awareness, through governmental and non-governmental organizations, academicians, religious clergies for both genders to inform them from the basic rights of both genders as well as if possible, from the socio-cultural and biological characteristics of both husband and wife before entering into marriage.

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