

**THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON STUDENTS ACADAMIC
PERFORMANCE: A CASE STUDY OF CHARSADDA DOSEHRA**

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ABSTRACT

The main aim of the study is to find out the effects of domestic violence on performance of students studies in public secondary schools. The case study was conducted in union council Dosehra District, Charsadda. The study problem clearly states the research gap that is how domestic violence is negatively affecting academic performance of students, the researchers has conducted study through quantitative method. A sample of fifty respondents was drawn from the target population of government higher secondary school and local people in union council Dosehra. The population includes ten teachers, forty students both male and females from the homes with domestic violence. Study was quantitative in nature while questionnaire was used for data collection.

Key words: quantitative, population

1. INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence is an ancient problem as it was practiced in old societies. It has recently gained increasing credit as a serious social problem of the world over (Clinard, 1998). Violence has been defined by many authorities such as World Health Organization (WHO) that defined it as: The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation (WHO, 1996). The definition encompasses interpersonal violence as well as suicide behaviour and armed conflict. It also covers a wide range of acts to include threats and intimidation. Besides death and injury, the definition also includes the myriads and often less obvious consequences of violent behaviour such as psychological harm, deprivation, maldevelopment that compromise the well-being of individuals, families and communities.

Domestic violence acts as a barrier to promoting equality, peace and development within a community. It contradicts and violates women rights and freedoms (United Nations Department, 2000). The society in which we live determines every aspect of our life

including cultural and social values, the manners of how to behave with elders, youngsters and the opposite sex. The teachings of every religion are based on equality and justice, but specifically Islam has clearly demarcated the rights of parents, off springs, spouse and neighbours. The people living in a society are united by friendship or common interests and beliefs forming a concordance which teaches them how to behave and respect each other corresponding to their respective position and value in a society. When such type of harmony is disturbed, it results in conflict and changes of behaviour which may convert into the form of violence. When relationships and good family harmony are disturbed, the result can be domestic violence (Mujahid S, Naveed A, 2009).

Another major concern is that domestic violence is continuously perpetuated and kept unreported due to lack of access to legal information, legal aid or protection, laws that effectively prohibit violence against women, inadequate efforts on the part of public and the absence of education to address the causes and consequences of violence (United Nations Department, 2000).

Domestic violence in Pakistan is evidently present and on the rise. It is not socially perceived as an issue in Pakistan (Zakar. R, p 811). Domestic violence is a normal practice in the Pakistani society, and this is especially so in the village areas (Welchman. L, p 78). It is considered a routine matter and people do not bother to give it due consideration (Zakar. R, 2011). Pakistan has a predominantly rigid patriarchal structure and the rights of women are highly disregarded (Welchman. L, 2005).

Pakistani society is the one where old and inhuman traditions are still present. It is an Islamic country but the culture is not at all Islamic owing to the influence of different cultures and religions that were present in pre historic era of the region. So our culture is the mixture of custom sand traditions of many religions and cultures. Our society still carries the old signs of tribal and feudal setups especially about women, we are still old. Men continue to be the masters of their fate (**Hussain, M, 2003**)

1.2 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

In the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (formerly known as NWFP) there are some strict customs and norms, literacy ratio are very low. Discrimination against women is much present here and old false traditions like honour killing, swara (meaning to settle the disputes between two rival groups the woman of the aggrieved part is given to the opposing group)

and other customs exist here. Wife beating is quite an accepted practice. There is no concept of marital rape, giving of women, as compensation to settle the feuds and disputes is common (Amnesty International USA, 2009). In domestic violence family is even brothers do not support sister if husband batters her. Evidence of women not considered valid or important – women never registered in FIR (HRCP, 2002).

Most of the women in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are subject to high risk of suppression and the customs and traditions of the area also make it difficult for them to report cases of violence against them (Aurat Foundation 2012).

1.3 Defining domestic violence

1.3.1 Definitions and Key Concepts

Although domestic violence is pervasive worldwide, there is no universally accepted definition or terminology. Unfortunately, domestic violence is a complicated and difficult issue to study and the research findings are inconsistent. There is no truly objective way to think about the issue because values, beliefs, and emotions affect how we see it or if we see it at all (Levy, 2008). For example: although women may feel that violence used against them is painful or wrong, they may not necessarily define it as a crime. On the other hand, many women do not define forced sex by the husband or intimate partner as rape (WHO, 1997). Consequently, the definitions of domestic violence or violence against women also differ in line with various perspectives and orientations, such as, the various theoretical, political, and policy responses of human rights and developmental organizations (Pickup, William & Sweetman, 2001).

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) defines violence against women as:

"Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life" (UNIFEM, 2009).

Domestic violence includes all these forms such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse and abuse to property and pets. According to him, exposure to these forms of violence has considerable potential to be perceived as life menacing by those

victimized people and can leave them with a sense of vulnerability, helplessness and in extreme cases horror (Ganley, 1989).

Physical abuse is any violent behavior that involves the deliberate use of force against the body of another person. That risks physical injury, injury and or pain. It also includes pushing, hitting, slapping, choking, using an object to hit, twisting of a body part, forcing the ingestion of an unwanted substance and use of a weapon (Dutton, 1992).

Sexual abuse is any unwanted sexual intimacy forced on an individual by another. It may include oral anal or vaginal stimulation or penetration, forced nudity, forced exposure to sexual explicit material or activity. Compliance may be obtained through actual or threatened physical force or through some other form of oppression. Psychological abuse may include derogatory statements or threat of being killed by another individual. It may also involve isolation, economic threats and emotional abuse (Dutton 1992).

Domestic violence is widespread and occurs among all social economic groups. In a national survey of over 6000 American families are affected and it was estimated that between 53% and 70% of male batterers also frequently abuse their children (Straus and Gelles 1990).

The term “Domestic” refers to the family home where such violence is perpetrated against women. Violence against women in the home is especially dangerous because while the home is said to be the safest place for men, the home can be the least safe place for women (Edwards, 1989).

1.4 Forms of Domestic Violence

The following are the forms of domestic violence:

1.4.1 Physical violence

Physical violence against women can be define as slapping or throwing something that could inflict hurt; pushing or shoving; hitting with a fist or something else that could inflict hurt; kicking, dragging or beating up; choking or burning on purpose; or threatening with, or actually using, a gun, knife or other weapon (Gelles, 1997).

1.4.2 Psychological/Emotional violence

Emotional abuse can be define as being insulted or made to feel bad about oneself; being humiliated and belittled in front of others; being intimidated or scared on purpose; or being threatened with harm directly or in the form of a threat to harm someone the woman cares about (Gelles, 1997).

1.4.3 Sexual violence

This means any act, that a person committed by which violates the sexual freedom of any member of the family unit through the use of force, intimidation, coercion, blackmail, deception or any other procedure, which prevents or limits free will.

Sexual abuse involves forcing a partner to have sex or engage in specific acts, through which a person compel a other person, grabbing or molesting a partner, criticizing a partner's sexual performance or withholding sex. Sexual abuse may also include any unwanted sexual intimacy forced on one individual by another. It may include oral, anal or vaginal stimulation or penetration, forced nudity, forced exposure to sexually explicit material or activity or any other unwanted sexual activity (Dutton, 1994).

1.4.4 Child abuse

This is anything which individuals, institutions or processes do or fail to do which directly or indirectly harms children or damages their prospects of safe and healthy development in adulthood (Wambui, 2000). Child abuse may take the following forms: physical abuse, verbal or emotional abuse, child neglect, sexual abuse and early marriages.

1.5 Causes of domestic violence

1.5.1 Poverty

Domestic violence is more likely to occur in cases where individuals experience less wage-earning power. This is a case where the purchasing power of a family or of an individual is eroded to an extent that the provision of the basic needs is compromised. The children in such homes experience the higher exchanges between the parents over food, medication and

clothing. It targets children because the economic position of their families cannot fulfill their basic desire and needs because they are the consumers of the basic needs. The parents and the guardians or the care givers extend their anger and frustrations to the children or fight among themselves as children witness. The inability of parents and caregivers often lead to fights in the presence of parents or may see the anger displaced to the children.

1.5.2 Unstable Family Structures

Single mother households tend to have overprotective elements to children. The children in such households may experience high handed disciplinary measures because the mothers imagine that the children may be rude with gaps created by the absence of the father. Child headed households equally have experienced domestic violence created by the rivalry among the siblings who tend to overburden others with household chores and in a struggle to survive, ends up either in abuses or even fights among themselves.

1.5.3 Drug, alcohol and substance abuse

Substance like that is very dangerous effect on the social and economic behaviour of any individuals and mostly affected the health and social grooming of children such an abuse leads to out-of-control behaviour (Elk Grove, 1998). The number one commonality within the dynamics of most alcoholic families is poor emotional health. This leads to secondary anger, which is an ineffective substitute for dealing honestly with emotions. The children mostly bear the brunt of this emotional instability (Romans 12: 18b, KJV).

1.5.4 Poor self esteem

Domestic violence is often linked to poor self-esteem. A child growing up in a violent home is likely to have very little self-worth. The child may be engaged on a pattern of negative self-talk. "If i were any good, my father wouldn't beat me. I will never amount to anything." (Regier, D.A and Cowdry, R.W 1995). As a young man, his frustrations and isolations may grow and along with it, a hidden anger due to his feelings of helplessness. Anger is a major source of fuel that wills flames of domestic violence. Most of the children when they become younger were also become serious threat to the societies.

1.5.5 Culture

An environment where violence is taught by example or accepted as “normal” will imprint upon a child’s psyche. A young boy may see his father come home from work drunk and angry, screaming at his mother. The boy watches his mother attempt to please and placate his father’s drunken behaviour. Every family and society is an initial and basic school for a child if a child born in a culture, where the behaviour of their parents with each other is harsh and unethical so then their children educated and get knowledge the same. The young boy is being taught that violence gets results. He then develops own ideas about what makes a man. Most cultures treat children as non-entities who should only be seen and never to be heard. Most wrongs committed in most homes are explained in terms of children activities. It is normal for parents in Africa to shift their failed activities in terms of children.

1.6 Domestic violence: A worldwide problem

Domestic violence in Pakistan is evidently present and on the rise. Symptomatically, the situations that women face every day are not good (Bukhari. A, p 125). In the year of 2008, 7571 events of violence against women were reported in the country (Welchman. L, p 79). In these incidents 1897 women were killed and 1784 were abducted, 778 women were raped and twenty-nine women suffered acid burning (Bukhari. A, p 125).

In Pakistan, 80 per cent of women experience violence within their homes. Despite the fact that many incidents of ‘honor killing’ are not reported, in 2002, more than 450 Pakistani women or girls were killed by relatives in so-called ‘honor killings’, and at least as many were raped (HRC Report, 2002).

In Afghanistan, there is a significant incidence of rape, forced marriage abductions, and assaults. Women are also attacked and imprisoned by armed groups without due process, for not complying with their Taliban style edicts on dress and behavior. Statistics are scarce, but in 2003, an Amnesty International report indicated a high incidence of such violence (Amnesty International, 2003).

Every six hours, somewhere in India, a young married woman is burned alive, beaten to death, or driven to commit suicide. It is estimated that more than 15,000 women suffer from dowry-related violence every year. In a nation-wide survey in India, nearly 50 per cent of

women reported at least one incident of physical or psychological violence in their lifetime (ICRW, 2000).

Female feticide is reported in 27 of India's 32 states, and the impact on the sex ratio among young children is alarming. The 2001 census shows only 927 girls for every 1,000 boys (compared to 945 girls in 1991). The declining numbers are most pronounced in the economically advanced states of Punjab and Gujarat. In Punjab it is estimated that one in five girl children is missing due to selective abortions (Oxfam Briefing Paper. August 2004).

Forty seven per cent of Bangladeshi women experience some physical violence at the hands of their intimate partners. If psychological violence were included, the figure would be much higher (UNFPA) (2000). Every week, more than ten women in Bangladesh suffer from an acid attack that leaves them brutally disfigured, and often blind and disabled (Acid Survivors, Foundation). A study in Bangladesh shows that 32 per cent of women working outside their homes experience disruption of their work due to incidents of domestic violence (UNFPA (2003).

According to the Chairperson of the National Committee on Women, violence against women is on the increase in Sri Lanka. Sample survey reveals that 60 per cent of women suffer domestic violence in Sri Lanka (Iryagolle I, 2003).

Conclusion

The study came up with the following conclusion

Domestic violence is rising globally and throughout Pakistan. Similarly, the situation is so worsen in Pakhtun society. Domestic violence was found to be practiced occasionally in the area. Children's in the area have been directly or indirectly affected by domestic violence. The researcher found out that domestic violence leads to students late arrive to schools. Majority of respondents confirmed that domestic violence is a reason for student not to take classes in schools. All most huge number of respondents declared that domestically abused student disturbs other in classes. Most of the respondents rated that domestically abused students hurts other physically. Wide number of respondents affirmed that students from the homes with domestic violence violate the rules and regulations of school. Domestic violence was found a major cause of abusive behaviour. Psychological abuse was found very high in the area followed by physical abuse. Domestic violence was found to be a major cause of

truancy as many students did not go to school consistently and this affected their academic performance. Domestic violence had contributed to high rate school violence and also caused poor concentration among students.

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