IDENTIFYING WOMEN'S VULNERABILITY TO DIFFERENT SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN SMALL CITIES: A CASE STUDY OF SAMUNDRI

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ABSTRACT

Women are the most important part of society, but unluckily, they are deprived of their rights due to social intolerance, social injustice, and household environment. The objective of the study is to assess the problems faced by urban women in **S**amundri. Questionnaire-based technique was used, and all questions were close-ended, according to five Likert scales. The total sample size was 380, and the questionnaire was filled from household women, household girls, working married women, working unmarried women, and single, educated women. After data collection, Chi-square was used to check the relationship between different household and societal problems like the family system and decision problems, marital status and respondent's status, income and lifestyle satisfaction, freedom of movement, and family type. Cross tabulation was also used to check the relationships and percentages of the variables different and vulnerability to problems. Simple frequency distribution was used to check the percentage of the data; it was used on the respondent's visual problem, household problems, knee problems, depression problems, inequality problems, and sleeping difficulties. The geospatial analysis discovered the most vulnerable areas for some social and health problems of women in Samundri. The results of the study revealed that different age groups of women were facing different problems at the household and community level. Some problems were closely the same with each other like mental stress, irritating environments of household, depression, and husband behavior.

KEYWORDS: Women, Samundri, Social intolerance, Household environment, Frequency distribution, Cross tabulation, Chi-Square, Geospatial mapping

INTRODUCTION

Most of the women are facing inequalities and gender disparity in the modern age. On the other hand, women are attaining their rights and becoming successful in politics, business, and technology. They are getting a higher education and work in different fields of interest along with men. Women prove their potential in all fields of life; now, it is hard to find out any profession where women are not employed (Kumari, 2014).

However, it is true that working women and household women have been facing many issues, including exploitation, harassment, gender bias, and torture, physically, mentally, and sexually. Today we see through the

different news and reports that women face mental stress, sexual torture, less prestige, and security issues in all working places (Bhattacharya, 2014). There are several challenges and difficulties, which are faced by working women every day at the workplace. Generally, women face harsher treatment, less esteem, extending working hours, fewer incentives, insecurity, fewer leaves, and poor wages as compared to men. That's why they feel hesitant to work with men. The problem has become more severe for such women who are working in fields with men because they have to deal with men who are narrow-minded and treat them badly (Mittal et al., 2015).

Undoubtedly, that education is the right of all human and education empowers the women in a positive way and groom their personality, but lack of education deprives them of their rights; as a result, they cannot do anything, and they have to depend on their men and husband (Murtaza, 2012). Lack of women status and Gender Inequalities deprive the women of their social, cultural, and economic rights e.g. education, equal employment privileges, power status, decision making (Bushra & Wajiha, 2015; West, 2006). Globally, the prevalence of this issue is very widespread, and its roots are very strong.

Women's representation is inevitable in education and economic development. Economic development is only possible if women work side by side of men in society. Gender equality is very important for economic growth, poverty reduction, and enhances well-being in society (Duflo, 2012; Mason & Smith, 2003). Although women work in various fields, e.g., banks and universities, etc. but their earning face negative trends (Bhoganadam et al., 2014). After all these realities, it can be thought that women's status and participation is very important to bring a positive change in society. Women are equally competent to men as and could help to reduce a lot of social evils from the society like poverty, domestic violence, corruption (Bushra & Wajiha, 2015).

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The Samundri city is expanding day-by-day due to rapid urban growth, but the women of Samundri are facing inequalities and socio-economic problems. The reasons behind this are social, economic, cultural, and religious barriers. This study is totally focusing on such women who are deprived of their rights in all aspects of life through this study, the background and the current situation of women in the study area will be assessed.
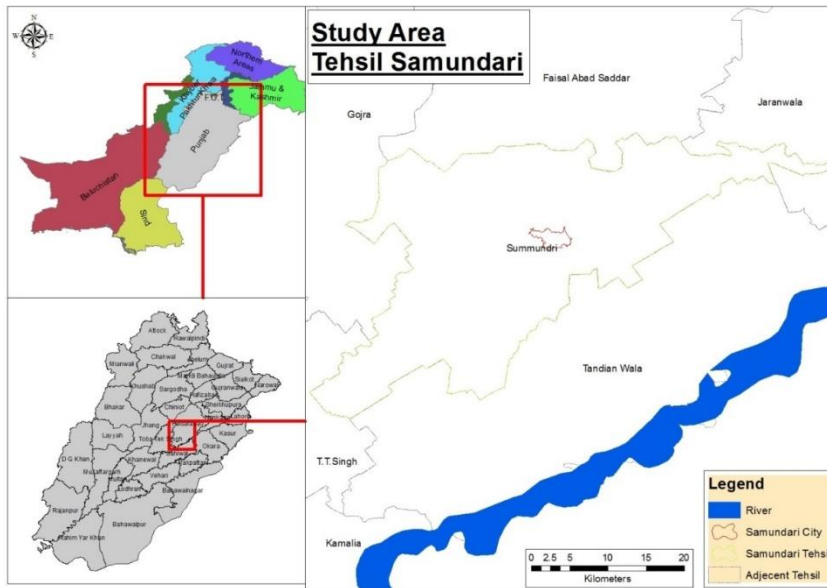
OBJECTIVE

1. To describe the socio-economic role and status of women in their households

2. To assess various socio-economic and health vulnerabilities of women
3. To map various socio-economic vulnerable patterns

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The present study has been conducted in Samundri city, Punjab, Pakistan. It is situated between 30°03'45"N 72°57'15"E (31.063, 72.954), at an altitude of 168 meters.

Through this study, people will get awareness and knowledge about women's status in society. The major benefit of this research is for human welfare. So, it is hoped that this study will give a new vision to society for

women. It could also help and bring a positive behavior of people toward women's status in society.

Figure1: Study area map showing Samundari Tehsil

MATERIAL AND METHOD
Nature and Scope of the Study

The research covered the city area of Samundri, which comprised three union councils. This study formulated to find out the socio-economic problems faced by urban women, almost all married, unmarried, working, and non-working women in Samundri city. It includes all professional sectors like public and private sectors like business, teaching, college, hospital, and banks. A proper sample survey was formulated to analyze the research questions, all women of Samundri city. The questionnaire consisted of 67 questions; all were close-ended, and five "Likert scale" questions; and all were related to women's problems and vulnerabilities. It

was divided into sections according to problems like educational, job, and health problems.

Sources 0f the Data Collection

Data for this research was collected in the month of June 2017. That primary data was collected using a questionnaire-based survey of the selected area of Samundri. Secondary data was also taken from the book of "Punjab development statistic 2015", which was published under the "bureau of statistics government of Punjab." It provided detailed information and statistics about the social, economic, and financial sectors of the district, tehsil, and divisions.

Questionnaire Designing

The questionnaire was divided into different sections for the respondent convenience. The first section of the questionnaire deals with single women's problems, and the second section deals with married women's problems. The questionnaire consisted of close-ended and according to "five Likert Scale." All questionnaires were filled in the English language. Some questions were designed to get information and opinion of the respondent about the problems and issues. The 2nd section covered those variables which were related to married women. Close-ended questions were used to save time, and open-ended questions were designed to get information and exposure as well as personal experience and observation. Total questionnaires were 380, these questionnaires distributed in three UC_S of Samundri city. Questionnaires were distributed among the female respondent by visiting the field. Some of them were sent to the respondents through the mail. But in case of any help, the authors and respondents contact with each other through telephone.

Data Analysis and Geospatial mapping

Through the statistical analysis, five major sector surveys were analyzed by using statistical techniques. Cross tabulation and Chi-Square tests were employed in SPSS to check the relationship between the variables. ArcGIS was used as a tool for mapping. Google earth was used for getting the coordinates of the respondents. Respondent coordinates were plotted on google earth as placemarks. After getting the coordinates, it was converted into a KML file. KML file was imported into ArcGIS and imported to as a shapefile to show the different problems on the map.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Women background and social problems

The questionnaire was filled from 380 respondents. According to the given information, it was divided into three different age groups, which indicated

that 72.9 percent of respondents were in the 16-30 age group, 17.9 percent of respondents were in the 31-45 age group, remaining 9.2 percent respondent were 31-35 years old. The data showed the majority of the respondents, i.e. (72.9 percent) were 16-30 years old because they were younger respondents, and most of the data were collected from them. On the basis of marital status, women were divided into four different status categories. It showed that 63.2 percent of the respondents were single, 34.7 percent of the respondents were married, and 1.3 percent of respondents were widows, and 8 percent were divorced. Data showed that the majority of the respondents were single, which was 63.2 percent indicating societal issues of unmarried or late marriage. 86.6 percent of respondent's family heads were male, whereas only 13.4 percent of respondent's family heads were female.

Data showed that 46.3 percent of respondents were dependent, and the majority of respondents, i.e., 86.6 percent's heads were male, and 27.6 percent out of these labored. Based on education, women were divided into different classes like Illiterate, under Matric, Intermediate, Graduation, Post-graduation, and M.Phil. It showed that 11.1 percent of women respondents were illiterate, 16.6 percent were under matric, 17.4 percent intermediate passed. Likewise, 21.8 percent of respondents' education level was graduated and post-graduated, and only 11.3 percent of, status was M.Phil. The majority of the respondent's education level was graduated and post-graduated, which was 21.8 percent. Respondents of the study area were divided into five major categories that are discussed below.

Educated Unmarried Women Problems (EUMW)

The respondent's education status: 31 percent of respondents were graduated, 29 percent of respondents were post-graduated, and the remaining 22 percent respondent's education status was M. Phil., and 17 percent respondent's education status was intermediate. The data showed the most of the respondent's education status was graduated. According to the finding of the survey, 52 percent of respondents faced decision-making problems. Family systems directly affected the freedom of decision. Overall, 7.1 percent of respondents said that they had to face challenges in wearing the hijab. According to the finding of the survey, the majority of respondents 47 percent had to face problems in getting an education from out of the city due to transport, family restrictions, or harassment problems. Chi-square analysis showed a strong correlation between the respondent's family problems and depression problems, family type, and freedom of movement (Table 1).

Household Unmarried Women (HHUMW)

Gender inequality was noticed in this group at family or home levels, almost 39 percent, and they were dependent on families. Most respondent's *i.e.,* 40 percent, faced much depression due to household income, and lifestyle satisfaction directly relate to it. Most of them were illiterate; hence, they suffered too much social intolerance and faced the problems of movement.

Cross tabulation (Table 2) showed the relationship between the respondent's education status and the reason for not studying. According to that table, the majority of respondent's education status was under matric. Most under matric females did not continue their studies because their parents did not interest in girl's education or due to financial problems.

Table 1. Respondent's Family and Depression & freedom problems

Depression				
		Yes	No	Total
Respondent family problems	Yes	33	14	47
		70.20%	29.80%	100.00%
	No	2	36	38
		5.30%	94.70%	100.00%
	Total	35	50	85
		41.20%	58.80%	100.00%
Freedom of movement				
		Yes	No	Total
Family type	Combine	25	0	25
		100.00%	0.00%	100.00%
	Nucleated	0	60	60
		0.00%	100.00%	100.00%
	Total	25	60	85
		29.40%	70.60%	100.00%

Working Married Women (WMW)

According to this, the total respondents were 70, and most of their education status was post graduated. It was observed that illiterate and under-matric women did not use family planning methods, but it was becoming high at master, MPhil, and MBBS level. Working women's husband's behavior was good with them because their wives were working equally with them to earn money and give them a better lifestyle. Working married respondents were post-graduated, and their marriage-age existed

between 25-28 years might be due to education or some family problems. The finding showed that most of the respondents lived in combined family systems, and they faced depression problems owing to inequality and household environment. Working women mostly also faced child care, in-laws and moderate movement problems.

Table 2. Respondents Education and Reason for not Studying

		Reason for not studying			Total
		Not interested	Parents not interested	Couldn't afford fee	
Respondent education	Illiterate	7	3	4	14
	Under Matric	10	18	3	31
	Inter	7	6	14	27
	Graduation	1	4	4	9
Total		25	31	25	81

Household Married Women (HHMW)
Chi-square showed a significant relationship between the respondent's marital status and the respondent's status. The data showed most respondents were married and depended. Those respondents who lived in combined family systems faced fewer child care problems as compared to the nucleated family system respondents. Most of the combined family systems respondent's household decisions were depended on their families, only 9 of them, whose decisions were depended on their husband's decisions. 11% of respondents' dominant attitude of husbands was the main reason for domestic violence. Data showed the majority of respondent's spouse age variation lay under five years. Data showed the most of the respondent's 55%; husband's behavior was okay. 12% of respondents answered that their in-laws do not allow them to work outside, and 47% of respondents said they couldn't do any job due to less education.

Working Unmarried Women (WUMW)
The finding showed that 41 respondents faced family problems, and 32 respondents faced depression problems. Household environment and less household income could have been responsible for this. Due to workload and household issues, WUMW faced moderate movement problems. Most of the respondents were independent, and 32 percent of respondent's status was dependent.

Women health and different socio-economic problems

According to the Chi-Square, 57 respondents faced health problems, and 28 respondents those who did not suffer any serious health issues. Those respondents who faced health problems also used treatments majority of respondents (63 percent) used homeopathic treatment. Thirty-eight percent of respondents faced the teacher harassment problem in the institution, and 52 percent of respondents were those who did not face this problem. The data finding showed the respondent's health status was excellent and they did not face any health issues. Only 14.8% were suffering from different issues. Like muscle stretch, gynie related, joint problems, and others. 16-30-year-old women faced huge abuse problems in their workplace. 31-45 years old women suffered less workplace abuse as compared to the 16-30 age group women. 46-60 years old women faced no workplace abuse. 42% of respondents were facing workplace problems at the workplace.

A sum of 47.6 % of unmarried respondents felt depression and tension problems in the workplace. The majority of the respondents were doing a job to support their families. The chi-square values also showed a significant association between the respondent's job satisfaction and their head behavior with them. 60% of respondents felt self-respect problems at their workplace, and 32% of respondents did not feel self-respect problems at the workplace. The finding showed that most of the respondent's health status was normal, and there were not issues behind this. Those respondents who have satisfied health status could have suffered from domestic violence and depression. Household environments and lifestyle could have been directly affected the health.

Geospatial analysis

Through this section, the variation between different categories was assessed (Figure 2). The visual representation of map showed that Mohallah Danish Pura, Mohallah Rasool pura and Muhallah Ashrafa Abad were most vulnerable areas for hair loss issues because these areas were far from the city and they were not well-developed areas, the water was a little portable in these areas which effected their hair health. Further, there was not any proper health clinic in these areas due to the respondents did not take appropriate treatment for it; hence this issue is increasing gradually. According to map visualization, the most vulnerable regions for health issues were clear. Here again, Muhallah Ashrafa abad, Qasim bazar and Housing colony were such areas where the majority of respondents suffered from different issues because most of the respondent's socio-economic conditions did not become very strong and unluckily if they were suffering by any disease then the illness prolonged for a month.
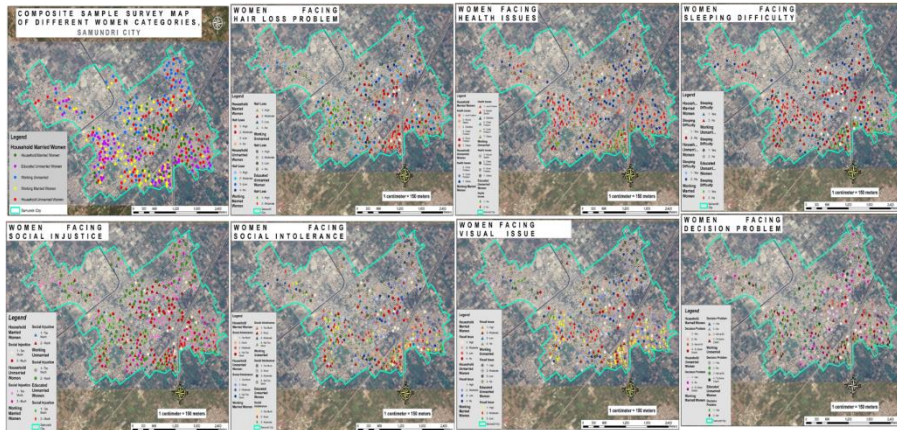
Figure 2. Maps showing variation between different categories of social and health-related problems in women of Samundri

According to map different areas were vulnerable for sleeping difficulty such as Qasim bazar, Latif nagher, Muhallah Ashrafa abad, and Muhallah Rasool pura were at the top position where most of the respondents were suffering from sleeping difficulty because most of WMW lived in combine family system due to which they had to face in laws problems and husband's dominant attitude, this factor increased the anxiety and depression which led the sleeping difficulty.

Results on the map showed that Bismillah Town, Christian Colony, Mehndi Town, New Samundri, Shareefa Abad and Muhallah lslamabad were such parts of the area where most of the respondents felt injustice the significant problems behind this was unawareness regarding women respects and security. Housing colony, Latif nagar, Qasim bazar were the most vulnerable areas for social intolerance. Most people who lived here were labor, and their vision about women was very conservative; even such people did not appreciate such girls who were getting the education and doing some job so the respondents faced much problems of intolerance in these areas.

According to points which were showed on the map that Bismillah Town, Muhallah Danish Pura, Muhallah Rasool Pura, Latif Nagar, Qasim Bazar, Shreefa Abad, and Ashrafa Abad were most vulnerable areas for visual problems because low SES matter a lot and most of the respondent's economic condition in these areas was not very well. The map showed that most of the respondents faced the decision-making problems, but Muhallah Islamabad, Muhallah Danish Pura, Shreefa Abad, Christian

Colony were most vulnerable because most of the respondents were facing their husband's dominant attitude.

The study revealed that working women, household women, married and unmarried faced problems regarding their jobs, household problems, in-laws problem, child care problem, and health issues. The overall results from the present study are concurrent with previous studies where these factors have been associated with women's powerlessness in society. Mostly the developing countries, including Bangladesh, Nigeria, and India with large populations, poor socio-economic backgrounds, and male-dominated cultures, lead women to face domestic and social problems (Asiyanbola, 2005; Yahaya & Lasiele, 1999; Kumari, 2014).

Based on our present results, it is recommended that the Government should conduct self-defense programs and seminars in the institution and workplaces and make in some safety devices and CCTVS cameras at the workplace or institute for the safety of women. Child care facilities and leaves should be provided to married women. Proper time management should be adopted by women to take care of themselves. Women should know about their rights and status in society. There should be some social awareness for men through different programs to change their perspective regarding women empowerment.

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