

Ayesha Serfraz*, Sara Rehan Ansari**, Ahmed Muneeb Mehta***, University of Punjab

FACTORS AFFECTING SOCIAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN PAKISTAN AND ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS

Abstract

The present study unfolds the lack of research about various methods of violence against women and the causes behind those cruel acts. Also, it tries to figure out the social as well as impact of different acts of violence such as domestic abuse, rape, honour killings and all forms of discrimination. This study tries to explore that why women are considered inferior creature since the time of their birth, why they are denied the right to education and inheritance, why they are not allowed to work, why they have to take orders and so on. Most importantly, why the reaction of society is not emphatic towards victim in majority of cases and why people do not bother about devising policies for reducing crimes. Later, the whole economy observes negative effects; lack of access towards education leads to low participation in work force further leading to low national income. In addition, many working women face violence at home and harassment at workplace but they remain silent which reduces their productivity. Some even leave their jobs which leads to unemployment. To sum, all forms of violence destroy the very basis of every society and economy.

Purpose:

The purpose of this study is to analyse different forms of violence against women in Lahore and reaction of society against those barbaric acts. In addition, how economy is affected, is also included in aims and objectives of this study.

Design/Methodology/Approach:

Semi-structured interviews have been carried out using purposive sampling. Stratification of society has been done on the basis of three classes; elite class, middle class and poor class. Responses have been analysed qualitatively and discussed in detail.

Findings/result:

The findings are investigated on the basis of classes. Male dominancy, poor policies of government and misinterpretation of Islamic values have been identified in responses from all three classes

***Research Implications:** future research can be carried out if interviews are conducted over a large scale, i.e., covering more areas of Pakistan. In addition, as violence also exists in developed countries, same research can be carried out to find the social and economic situation of violence in developed countries. To put cherry on top, a comparison between developed and developing countries will provide a very good research.*

Keywords: Violence, attitudes, society, economy, Lahore

Introduction

Regardless of enormous efforts for educating people and societies, it can be observed that violence against women has increased. Undoubtedly, many policies have been implemented, yet the situation is getting more depressed in case of Pakistan especially Lahore, despite being one of the most educated cities of Pakistan. Many people do not consider violent acts as crime since they believe that women are inferior creatures as compared to men so they can be treated like puppets. Many are of the view that they are for entertainment purpose and a household object who has to complete all domestic tasks without leaving four walls of so-called house where they are instructed and majority acts on given directions without complaining based on two reasons, firstly they also believe that they hold a low position in Islam and secondly they are dependent on men so they do not even think that they are being mistreated. Then there are those who believe in fighting for their rights like education, equity and equality,

* Ayesha Serfraz, University of the Punjab

** Sara Rehan Ansari, University of the Punjab

*** Ahmed Muneeb Mehta, University of Punjab

right to inheritance, right to choose their own life partner, right to have a career and right to say no to maltreatment. Many people in Pakistan call these women rebellious and some even label them as characterless.

Talking about figures in economic terms, in a society having 220 million people (out of which half are women), only 23% are participating in labor force out of 23%, 17% work in agricultural sector and rest of the females, which represent a very small number are indulge in other professions like doctors, engineers, teacher etc. The statistics stated above are appalling and simultaneously they indorse the position of Pakistan as 151 out of 153 countries in World Economic Forum , Global Gender Gap Index 2020'. (UNDP, 2020)

Literature Review

A society comprises of people or cluster of people who help each-other in carrying out routine undertakings. People belonging to a particular society influence each other but there is no consensuses among the type of influence. Society consists of a give-and-take activities in which different groups interact with each other to help them accomplish daily tasks.

Cultural and social practices are incredibly persuasive with regards to molding person's conduct, including the use of violence (WHO, 2009). Social practices of good behavior can provide protection against brutality/violence but it does not confirm that there would be zero violence as the behaviors vary even within a society. Normal practices can ensure against brutality, yet can likewise advance the utilization of it in the everyday lives. Likewise, vicious conduct is intensely affected by social values in addition to daily practices. It is additionally apparent that prevailing difficulties/assumptions impact individual's conduct towards such brutal acts. According to WHO, there are several cultural norms which support diverse sorts of violence such as (i) "child maltreatment", (ii) "intimate partner violence", (iii) "Suicide and self-harm", (iv) "sexual violence", (v) "youth violence", and (vi) "community violence".

There are many concepts/definitions of violence but one given by World Health Organization (WHO) is normally used by researchers:

"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, mal-development or deprivation." (Imran Ahmed Sajid, 2010).

It has been widely accepted that social, cultural, economic and political factors of a country have a huge impact over people's behavior towards violence especially when it comes to gender (Nayak et al 2003). Similarly victim's responses to the acts of brutality also define how a society would act towards violence (Flood & Pease, 2009).

VOILENCE AND PAKISTAN

Pakistan is a highly male dominant society, and it was not easy to implement laws for protection of women against violence as majority of policy makers are also males. Therefore these protection regulations were implemented after a long time. Protection laws which include restructurings like Women's Protection Bill, Safety against Harassment at the Workplace Act, the Acid and Burn Crime Bill, the Hindrance of Anti-Women Practices Act, the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, and the Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offences in the name or pretext of Honor) Act of 2016, planned to defend women and accuse 'honor killings', have come into law (Rashid 2019)

It is an ordinary and repetitive story of pretty much every home in Pakistan where ladies are fighting for their civil liberties and tolerating the improper behaviors for the sake of principles. Ladies consistently go through some restrictions and jingles in the general public which gives rise to prejudice and dividing society into segments. The biased behavior comes from not allowing girls to schools and work (those who are educated). They get married at early age leading to early pregnancies which bring along many physical and mental issues which make them depressed and unable to do anything else except submission to males in the house. Around Pakistan Millions of ladies are limited to household activities by certain social standards and customs which incorporates outrageous submissions to husband, brother, father and other relatives. Regardless of the pressing factor of numerous worldwide associations and attention to online media, the restraint has additionally expanded as violent punishments and in some cases, even loss of life. (ULLAH, 2010) The consequences of

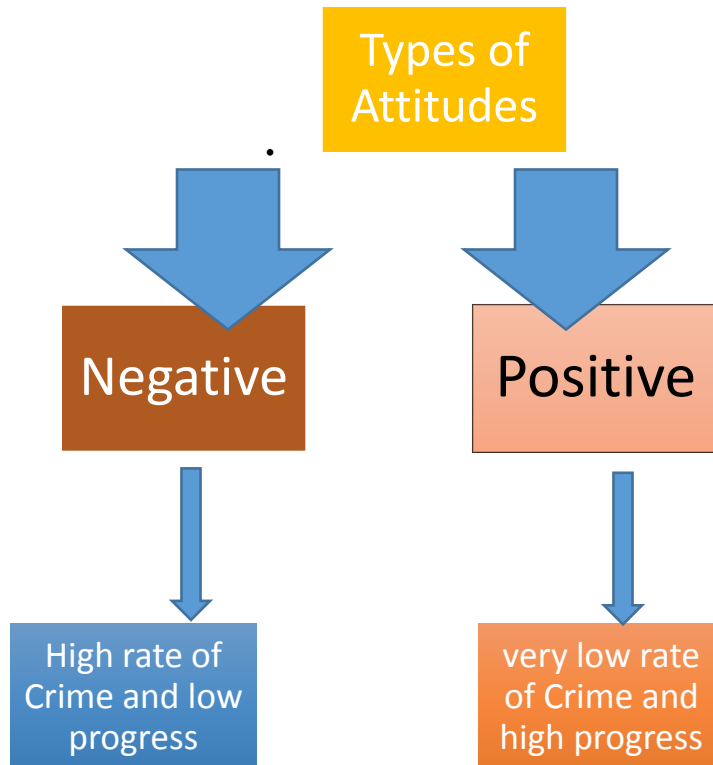
fixed restrictions mutually at home and near the general public makes obstructions in the peaceful practical/working life of females as well.

These restrictions do not allow the women to leave home and deny them of basic human rights.

Importance of Social Attitudes

Social attitudes are very important for shaping a society but they need all individuals to act as one otherwise a society goes astray if there is a fight among individuals of a society. Figure- 1 demonstrates how social behaviors make a society

FIGURE -1 TYPES OF SOCIAL STRUCTURES



A pessimist society with extreme restrictions especially related to religion faces many issues which hurt social, cultural and traditional norms of society. An example of such a segregation of social structure in Pakistan is a society of people where males decide everything about their female family members like the most famous case of Malala Yousafzai, which shows a very rigid social structure where luckily she managed to escape but many became victim of traditions set by the egos of tribal heads. On the other hand, there are social structures where parents send their daughters to foreign countries for higher education. They are given a free choice to choose a husband of their choice and lead a happy and healthy life.

Society and Economy

For future turn of events, the development of monetary and social policies are essentially significant. The importance of social elements depends on a massive idea. Since ages the financial and money related strategies focuses on expanded national income, leading to high national advancement and growth. With regards to creating and developing nations, it is important to eliminate all kind of factors that are hindering economic growth (Ana-Maria, 2012).

The investigation of social issues encourages the comprehension of human behavior related to saving, investment, and consumption, spending and related factors which are the building blocks of any economy. (Ronald, 2000).

If social structure is broken then individuals are not capable of making their economy healthy. Optimistic, happy, productive, progressive and mature minded people make a strong economy. Therefore, a good social structure is a pre-requisite of healthy economy.

Unfortunately, Pakistan has many high slogans which speak in favor of women protection but they have not been executed in their right essence. The statement that the Article (34) of the Constitution of Pakistan stresses and “*directs the state to take appropriate measures to enable women to participate in all spheres of life and social activities*”. (Bayeh , 2016).

In addition, women are not getting proper rights to participate in workforce. The political circle of the nation is, all things considered, saved for men alone. The social norms do not allow a woman to go outside the four walls of home and work but this fact cannot be ignored that women are participating more than men in the form of providing all leisure’s of life to men that enables them to concentrate on work like getting food on time, clean house, clean clothes, taking care of children etc. if women refuse to do so, men won’t be able to concentrate on jobs. This shows the commitment and capacity of a female to complete her tasks. Even working women also manage their homes well. Therefore, if women are given right to education and enter skilled labor force, economic activities can see a boom as well. Figure -2 shows the relationship between society and economic activities.

FIGURE-2 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

The figure demonstrates that if the social system is poor, it will have spillover effects over economic activities. When less females are given the opportunity to study, there will be a low participation rate. Also, if the working woman is mentally tensed, her productivity will be affected leading to low economic activities and low national income.



METHODOLOGY

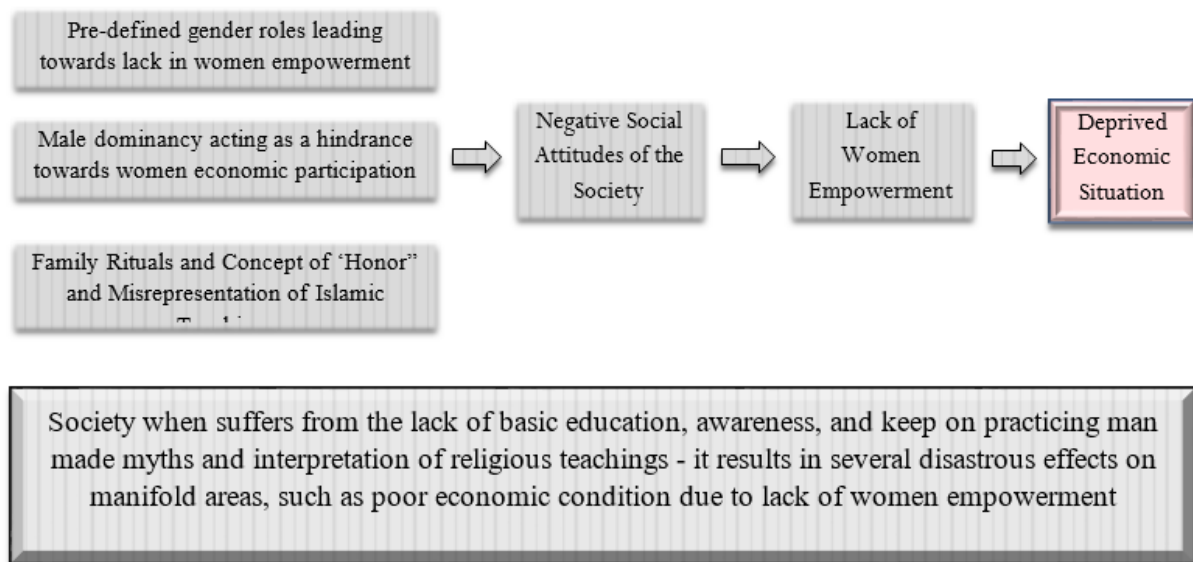
This study uses qualitative methodology to find results. Semi-structured interviews have been carried out using purposive sampling. Population has been classified into 3 sections of society; Top class, intermediate class and deprived class. Their responses have been analyzed using thematic analysis. Succeeding table embodies the utmost common and identical answers determined after thematic analysis:

TABLE-1 **RESPONSES**

Research Questions	Common Answers		
	Elite Class	Middle Class	Poor class
What are reasons of negative social attitude towards violence against women?	Lack of Implementation laws/Policies Male Dominancy Zero knowledge of Islam	Male dominancy Lack of women empowerment Misrepresentation of Islam	Violence as social norm Male dominancy Lack of awareness Poor government policies
What are the implications of negative attitude against women's violence on women's empowerment?	Poor Effects on Mental Health Lack of productivity	Women being rebellious Women low productivity	Women become submissive Loss of confidence Lack of women empowerment

The above figure shows the known facets of two main queries. The explanations explaining the bad demeanor headed for women are; Male supremacy, twisting of Islamic lessons, and already set gender characters are the main known replies from the participants. In situation of effects on women empowerment, she not only faces bad behavior in professional routine but goes through intolerable attitude of people and still remains silent. It can be seen from the table that every class has its own meaning and concept of violence. Which can be summed up in Figure-2

FIGURE-2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION



Limitations

This examination is simply led in the city of Lahore, and it didn't permit the analyst to commute to any other city in view of a few explanations, comprising of security reasons. It was impractical for the researcher to accumulate the necessary information and encounters from the people in question or their family members who experienced extraordinary savage occurrences, for example, Rape, Acid Attacks, Honor Killing, and so on Individuals were some way or another not ready to share their encounters straightforwardly as they were hesitant to lose their reputation.

The researcher likewise confronted gender issues, as individuals were not ready to work together appropriately and it made blocks, including individuals were non-responsive just as the researcher couldn't get the necessary information due to male predominant issues. (Guys didn't permit their ladies to share the information/talk with, males didn't permit the scientist to move outside of set premises).

CONCLUSION

Attitudes toward violence against women are shaped by different variables at numerous stages of the social norms. The examination pulled out the motives which led to negative mentality of the society towards violence against women. The elements, together with the transformation in the bringing up of boys and girls, the absence of legitimate comprehension of Islamic lessons/suggestions, the masculine prevailing values, and the absenteeism of teaching influences austere on the economic and social state of the country. The worst reason found during the whole process of the research was, people unintentionally tolerating incorrect as right and both culprit and victim agree to practice violence in the name of "NORMS". Notwithstanding, the issues should be finished at numerous levels. Government should provide free and quality education at all level especially beginning standards of high school. Social media must play its role as it is the strongest medium to make your voice heard at large scale within minimum time period. It should assume its solid part to create strong understandings against the merciless standards, and the appropriate missions and projects ought to be moved to advance and install the correct lessons of Islam.

Women of Pakistan need to enter the labor force and flourish openly and have economic independence. Investment in human resources, sensitive policies related to gender and bringing a positive transformation in flexible social norms can bring a very positive change in women's economic participation and put the country towards the path of development. Without expanding ladies' cooperation, Pakistan can't meet its advancement targets or sensibly hope to turn into a solemn state and society in the 21st century.

Recommendations:

At individual level: parents should give proper attention in bringing up of their children so they can be good humans who can contribute both towards society and economy.

At Social Level: NGOs should be established to help females who have been a victim and protect those can be potential victims (living alone)

At Government Level: government should device and implement policies for protection of females so that they can feel safe while going out for studying or job.

Future Perspectives:

- If the study is conducted at wide level (provincial and state level), better results can be obtained.
- Confidentiality should be ensured by data collecting agencies in order to help them and also keep their identity confidential.
- Research can be conducted at international level to get good results and then make comparisons among countries.

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