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Prevalence of Elderly Abuse among Community Dwelling Older Adults and its Associated Factors

ABSTRACT

The purpose of current research was an attempt to gauge the prevalence of elderly abuse and its associated factors among the elderly population residing in district Lahore. Interview schedule and elderly abuse scale was used as instruments for data collection. Multistage sampling technique applied to take sample size of 200 elderly. Binary logistic regression analysis and multivariate binary logistic regression analysis test have been applied. The major findings of the study depict pervasive prevalence of psychological abuse and neglect among elderly. Regression analysis estimated that family system, area of residence, working status, prevalence of diseases, gender, working status, family behavior, autonomy, financial assault remained statistically significant predictors of elderly abuse and considered as risk factors or associated factors of abuse. Moreover female elderly experienced more abuse than male elderly. Keeping in view results of the study, it has been suggested that elders need urgent attention to increase their respect, wellbeing and integration in the society. Awareness sessions for the family members are needed to be implemented to make them realize the importance of their better adjustment in life that will ensure their successful aging.

KEYWORDS: Elderly Abuse, Prevalence, associated factors, community setting, Neglect, Psychological Abuse

1. INTRODUCTION

The focus of current research was an effort to evaluate prevalence and predictors of elderly abuse among the elderly population in district Lahore. For conducting this study, a survey was carried out with a sample of 200 elderly respondents (either male or female elderly accessible at the time of interview). Globally elderly is emerging a severe elderly massive problem due to non-cooperative behavior of families and society with them. There are many forms of abuse and these forms could be continuing as by intentionally negligence or ignorance toward aged people (Begley & Matthews, 2016). Due to this elderly were facing a major abuse which is directly linked with their mental, physical and psychological well-being. History of elderly abuse could be taken by ancient times; it is past problem of older adult but often it was remaining un-noticed by welfare institutions. Elderly abuse could be intentional or unintentional ignoring of old family member by the custodian. Thus old aged people could be victims of different type of victims including physical slapping to sexual harassment, mentally torching to psychological stress etc. Physical abuse starts from hitting or pushing to severe beatings and warning with wires or chains. When a custodian or other person uses enough power that basis unnecessary pain or injury. Corporeal abuse could be beating, thrashing, pushing, propelling, booting, pinching, burning, or biting. It also contains the improper use of medications and physical fetters and physical sentence of any sort (Macneil et al., 2010).

Psychological or emotional abuse consider such type of abuse in which older people feel distressed, loneliness, aloofness or constant victim of severe mental disturbance (Laumann, Das, & Schumm, 2009). Sexual abuse range from exposition of sensitive parts of elderly toward rape or forcefully harassing toward sex. Thus such type of harassment may arouse feeling of shame, guilty or disrespectful in them. Mostly sexual abuse is done when older adult is unable to protect himself from violation (Ramsey-Klawnsnik et al., 2007). Financial abuse means misusing a person property, assets, income and funds without his/her permission or may called embezzlement of funds. It also includes a diversity of Internet, telephone, and face-to-face scams committed for trading people—or forcing elderly (Loch et al., 1998). As like above other types have been mentioned regarding elderly abuse, neglecting of caregiver toward elderly is also major types of elderly abuse. There are different

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types of risk factors including loss of partner, financial loss, care giver loss/gap or no cooperative behavior etc. Researchers have drawn different reasons for elderly abuse likely as ecological model (Beach, Schulz, Williamson, Miller, & Weiner, 2005). Family stressors indicator includes living pattern of family, historic violent interaction inside the ancestors, joint family members and social isolation among the family members are major factors toward abuse in family pattern. Certain public attitudes may contribute toward elderly abuse and these attitudes and factors continue without finding or involvement. These factors lead toward disturbance and maladjustments in family (Acierno et al., 2010).

Societal and cultural risk factor toward elderly includes devaluation, degradation and lack of respect for older adults. Government out to establish such institution that may deal elderly welfare approaches and also bear all financial expenditures of elderly masses (Anetzberger, 2005). Elderly abuse is being considered inhumane act of human on older human. Its history is traced out from European countries. It is probable that between three and five per cent of the Irish older people experience mistreatment at any one time (Atha, 2002). In Pakistan elderly is also an emerging massive issue there is need to do more researches on ground level. Thus focus of current study was to analyze prevalence and predictors of risk factor of elderly abuse among elderly population. Elderly abuse is emerging as a severe public issue due to non-cooperative behavior of families and society with them. Furthermore, in Asia findings depicts that 11 percent elderly were facing abuse (Help Age international, 2013). The significance of conducting research on this topic was that findings of the present research could be used for formulating policy regarding protection of rights of elderly people. Thus focus of current study was to analyze prevalence and predictors of risk factor of elderly abuse among elderly population. This study analyzes risk factor that are contributing major role in elderly abusing and after completion of this study, its result will be considered helpful regarding corrective measures just to formulating any policy or action to control elderly abuse.

2. METHODOLOGY

The current study gave detailed information about the research procedures, methods and major concepts that have higher role while conducting this research. The target population of current study was such elderly that were living along with families and also it includes such elderly that were living alone in district Lahore. For conducting this study researcher have used multistage sampling technique and simple random sampling technique. A survey was carried from a sample of total 200 elderly people residing Lahore district. Researcher has approached 250 elderly people but he get response by only 200 respondents. Data has been collected through interview schedule from 200 elderly people (both male and female) living with their families or in community. Through close ended and open ended questions, data has been gathered. After ordering data into SPSS sheet data has been processed from inferential statistics for gaining results of the study. Descriptive results are further divided into two categories uni-variate frequencies and valid percentages and bivariate cross tabulation of the study variables. At second level, inferential statistics also included two sub section binary logistic regression analysis and multivariate binary logistics regression analysis. For analysis of data such statistical tests Binary Logistic Regression and Multivariate binary logistic regression were applied on data.

3. FINDINGS

Table No. 1 Prevalence of different types of Abuse among Elderly

	Psychological Abuse	Neglect	Financial Abuse	Physical Abuse
N	200	200	200	200
Percentiles				
25	8.0000	9.0000	2.0000	2.00
50	11.0000	9.0000	3.0000	2.00
75	13.0000	9.0000	4.0000	2.00

This table indicates the nature and extent of various types of elderly abuse. The statistical analysis revealed that in case of Psychological abuse subscale, the value of first quartile is 8, the second quartile corresponds to the value of 11, and the third quartile corresponds to the value of 13. Therefore, the participants who scored below the first quartile i.e., whose score on psychological abuse was < 8 had suffered mild form of psychological abuse, those whose scores ranged between first and second quartile i.e., whose score ranged from 8 to <11 suffered moderate form of psychological abuse, those who scored between second and third quartile i.e., whose scores ranged from 11 to 13 suffered from severe levels of psychological abuse; and finally those who scored above the third quartile i.e., whose score was > 13 suffered from very severe form of psychological abuse. This

shows that psychological abuse and neglected were reported moderate and severe form of abuses while the prevalence of financial and physical abuse was estimated of mild extent.

Table 2 Intensity of facing different types of elderly abuse among the elder;

Variable	Verbal abuse	Emotional Abuse	Financial Abuse	Neglect
Age				
60-80	43.8%	83.3%	100.0%	70.0%
81-100	56.3%	8.3%	0%	30.0%
101-120	0%	8.3%	0%	0%
Gender				
Male	50.0%	66.7%	75.8%	70.0%
Female	50.0%	33.3%	24.2%	30.0%
Qualification				
Primary	43.8%	16.7%	18.2%	30.0%
Middle	0%	8.3%	6.1%	0%
Matric	0%	8.3%	0%	10.0%
Illiterate	56.3%	66.7%	75.8%	60.0%
Monthly income of elder				
3000-20000	37.5%	16.7%	30.3%	10.0%
21000- 40000	0%	0%	6.1%	0%
41000-60000	0%	0%	6.1%	0%
61000-80000	0%	0%	0%	10.0%
81000-100000 and above	0%	0%	15.2%	0%
Having no income, dependent	62.5%	83.3%	42.4%	80.0%
Family income				
4000-20000	18.8%	50.0%	72.7%	50.0%
21000-40000	62.5%	25.0%	27.3%	50.0%
41000-60000	18.8%	25.0%	0%	0%
Marita status				
Married	31.3%	41.7%	57.6%	30.0%
Unmarried	0%	0%	0%	10.0%
Widow	68.8%	58.3%	42.2%	60.0%
Family System				
Nuclear	62.5%	41.7%	39.4%	50.0%
Joint	31.3%	50.0%	36.4%	10.0%
Extended	6.3%	8.3%	24.2%	40.0%
Area of residence				
Urban	100.0%	91.7%	93.9%	90.0%
Rural	0%	8.3%	6.1%	10.0%

The majority of the respondents aged 60-80 years facing physical and financial abuse (100%). In addition, the majority of the respondent aged 81-100 years are verbal (56.3%) and neglect (30%) and the majority of the respondents aged 101-120 years are facing emotional abuse. The majority of the male elders and financial abuse (75.8%) while the majority of the female respondents are facing verbal (50%) and emotional abuse (33.3%). The elders who are primary educated are facing financial abuse, the respondents with middle are facing financial (6.1%) and emotional (8.3%), elders having complete matriculation reported neglect and emotional abuse (8.3%) and the majority of the illiterate elders are facing all type of elderly abuse. Verbal and financial abuse is faced by the majority of respondents having income (2000-3000 rupees), only financial abuse is faced by the respondents having income ranging from 2100-6000 rupees, neglect is faced by majority of elders having 6100-8000 and the majority of the respondents having no income are facing all types of income with highest share of emotional abuse (83.3%) and neglect (80%). The majority of the respondents who reported family income 3000-20000 are facing emotional, financial and neglect while the majority of the elders having family income 20001-40000 are facing verbal and neglect and the majority of the respondents reporting family income above 40000 are facing emotional. The majority of the married elders are facing financial (57%) and on the other hand, widows are facing verbal abuse (68.8%), emotional abuse (58%). Data also found that the majority of the elders living in nuclear family system are facing verbal abuse (62.5%) while the majority of the elders living in joint family system are facing emotional abuse. Data revealed that the elders living in urban areas are facing every type of elderly abuse i.e. verbal (100%), emotional (91.7%), financial (93.9%) and neglect (90%) while the elders living in rural families are facing neglect (10%), emotional abuse (8.3%) and financial abuse (6.1%).

Table 3 binary logistic regression analysis of socio-demographic characteristics and elderly abuse

Variables	Sig.	Odds Ratio
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Age		
60-80	.000**	.105
81-120	1	
Gender		
Male	.037**	.686
Female	1	
Qualification		
Primary	.998	2.164
Middle	.319	2.872
Matric and above	.997	1.236
Illiterate	1	
Income		
3000-20000	.960	.963
21000 and above	.938	.936
Having no income,	1	
Family income		
4000-20000	.979	.981
21000-40000	.411	1.843
41000 and above	1	
Marital Status		
Married	.637	.760
Unmarried	.025**	.060
Widow	1	
Living status		
Alone	.335	.582
Partner	1	
Family behavior		
Polite	.001**	2.840
Rude	1	

Significant level at 0.05=**

Table 2 presents the binary logistics regression analysis of socio-demographic characteristics and outcome variable elderly abuse. Odds of elderly abuse are found significantly lower (α .000 OR .105) among the respondent who reported their age ranging from 60-80 as compared to the reference category of the respondents belonging to the age group 81-120 years of age. Odds of experiencing elderly abuse are found significantly lower among male respondents (α .037 OR .686) as compared to the reference category of female elders. Qualification of the elders, personal per month income, family income per month and living status of the elders are significant predictors of elderly abuse. Data found that the marital status and family behavior with elders are significant predictors of elderly abuse. Odds of experiencing elderly abuse are significantly lower among unmarried respondents as compared to the widows. In addition, the odds of experiencing elderly abuse is found significantly lower among the elders who reported their family behavior polite as compared to the respondents who reported their family behavior rude.

Table 4 Binary logistic regression analysis of socio-demographic characteristics and elderly abuse

Variables	Sig.	Odds ratio
Family system		
Nuclear	.000**	7.800
Joint	.000**	8.937
Extended	1	
Area of residence		
Urban	.017**	1.410
Rural	1	
Number of children		
No children	.156	.392
1-3	.934	1.047
4-7	.480	.699
8-12	1	
Current working status		
Yes	.001**	.656
No	1	
Source of earning		
Own business	.001**	.150
Pension Holder	.021**	.850
Any other	1	
Financial support		
Son	.139	.792
Others	1	
Suffering from disease		
Yes	.002**	.296

No	1
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Significant level at 0.05=**

Table 3 presents the binary logistic regression analysis of socio-demographic characteristics and elderly abuse. Data indicated that family system, area of residence, current working status, source of earning and prevalence of diseases are found significant predictors of elderly abuse. Odd of experiencing elderly abuse are significantly higher (α .000 OR 7.800) among nuclear family system as compared to the respondents living in extended family system. Similarly, odd of elderly abuse are higher among respondents living in joint family (α .000 OR 8.937) as compared to the reference category living in extended family system. Binary logistics regression analysis also found that the odd of elderly abuse are found significantly lower (α .017 OR .410) among urban elders as compared to rural elders. Number of children is significantly associated with elderly abuse. The odds of experiencing elderly abuse are found significantly lower (α .001 OR .656) among the working elders as compared to the reference category of the non-working elders. Odd of experiencing elderly abuse are significantly lower (α .001 OR .150) among respondents who are running their own businesses. Similarly, elderly abuse is also found significantly lower (α .021 OR .850) among pension holders as compared to the reference category. Odds of experiencing elderly abuse are significantly higher (α .002 OR 2.296) among the respondents suffering from any disease as compared to the respondents who are not suffering from diseases.

Table 5 Binary logistic regression analysis of explanatory variables and elderly abuse

Variables	Sig.	Odds ratio
Autonomy		
Lower	.034**	.891
Higher	1	
Financial assault		
Lower	.053*	.357
Higher	1	
Emotional assault		
Lower	.136	.368
Higher	1	
Physical assault		
Lower	.000**	.063
Higher	1	
Sexual assault		
Lower	.165	.152
Higher	1	

Significant level at 0.05=**

Table 4 presents the binary logistics regression of outcome variable elderly abuse and explanatory variables autonomy, financial, emotional, physically and sexual assault. It is found that the odd of experiencing elderly abuse is found lower (α .034 OR .891) among the elders who reported that lower autonomy as compared to the reference category of higher autonomy. On the other hand, odds of elderly abuse are found significantly lower (α .053 OR .357) among the respondents who reported lower financial assault as compared to the reference category of the elders who reported lower financial assault. The odds of experiencing elderly abuse are found significantly lower (α .136 OR .368) among the respondents who reported lower emotional assault as compared to the respondent who reported higher emotional assault. Furthermore, the odds of elderly abuse are found significantly lower (α .000 OR .063) among the respondents who reported lower physical assault as compared to the reference category of the respondents who mentioned higher physical assault. On the other hand, sexual assault and elderly abuse are not found significantly associated.

Table 6 Multivariate binary logistic regression analysis of significant explanatory variables and elderly abuse

Variables	Sig.	Odd Ratios	Variables	Sig.	Odd Ratios
Age			Current working status		
60-80	.742	.747	Yes	.048**	.343
81-120	1		No	1	
Gender			Source of earning		
Male	.020**	.208	Own business	.237	.239
Female	1		Pension Holder	.765	.192
Family behavior			Any other	1	
Polite	.018**	.431	Suffering from disease		
Rude	1		Yes	.049**	1.238
Family system			No	1	
Nuclear	.951	.943	Autonomy		

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Joint	.252	.260	Lower	.002**	10.544
Extended	1		Higher	1	
Area of residence			Financial assault		
Urban	.999	.238			
Rural	1		Lower	.014**	.159
Physical assault			Higher	1	
Lower	.002**	.074			
Higher	1				

Table 5 presents the results of the multivariate binary regression analysis of the variables found significant in binary logistics regression analysis. The variables included in the multivariate binary regression analysis are elders' gender, age, family behavior, family system, area of residence, current working status, source of earning, prevalence of disease, autonomy, financial and physical assault. In multivariate binary regression analysis of the significant predictors of elderly abuse, age, family system, area of residence and source of earning lost the significance in relation to other variables. Odds of experiencing elderly abuse are found lower (α .020 OR .208) among male elders as compared to female elders regardless of the effects of age, family behavior, family system, area of residence, current working status, source of earning, prevalence of disease, autonomy, financial and physical assault. The odds of experiencing elderly abuse are found significantly lower (α .018 OR .431) among the respondents who mentioned polite family behavior as compared to the respondents who reported rude family behavior regardless of the effects of the gender, age, family system, area of residence, current working status, source of earning, prevalence of disease, autonomy, financial and physical assault. In addition, the odds of experiencing elderly abuse are also found lower among the working elders as compared to the non-working respondents regardless of the effect of gender, age, family behavior, family system, area of residence, source of earning, prevalence of disease, autonomy, financial and physical assault. Table also presents the results of the prevalence of disease and elderly abuse. The odds of experiencing elderly abuse are found higher (α .049 OR 1.238) among the respondents who are found suffering from disease as compared to the reference category of respondents who are found suffering diseases regardless of the effect of gender, age, family behavior, family system, area of residence, current working status, source of earning, autonomy, financial and physical assault. Data also found that the odds of experiencing elderly abuse is found higher (α .002 OR 10.544) among the respondents who reported lower level of autonomy as compared to the reference category of respondents who reported higher level of autonomy. Interestingly these odds of elderly abuse are not found affected by elders' gender, age, family behavior, family system, area of residence, current working status, source of earning, prevalence of disease, autonomy, financial and physical assault (Table 4.7).Odds of experiencing elderly abuse are found significantly lower among the respondents who reported lower level of financial assault as compared to the respondents who reported higher level of financial assault. Moreover, this association is not found affected by the elders' gender, age, family behavior, family system, area of residence, current working status, source of earning, prevalence of disease and physical assault. Results of the multivariate binary regression analysis of the data found that odds of experiencing elderly abuse are found significantly lower among the respondents who reported that they are being assaulted physically as compared to the reference category of the respondents who are not being assaulted physically. The association between physical assault and elderly abuse are found affected by the elders' gender, age, family behavior, family system, area of residence, current working status, source of earning, prevalence of disease, autonomy and financial.

4. DISCUSSION

The current section discusses the findings of the current study in relation with previous literature related to elderly abuse from their family members. Researcher analyzed the predictors of elderly abuse using binary and multivariate logistic regression analysis. Researcher only discussed the significant predictors of elderly abuse. There are a number of the studies conducted on elderly abuse among senior citizens which found that elderly abuse is found affected by a lot of factors including their socio-demographics characteristics, social, economic and psychological factors (Bazaadut, 2014 ;Keigher et al., 200;Tanaka et al., 2011). The findings of the current study are both in consistent and in contrast with previous findings. Findings confirmed that socio-demographic characteristics, social, psychological and physical variables affected the level of elderly abuse in Pakistan as well.

The current study findings regarding the more percentage of elderly abuse among female elderly have been confirmed with the study findings that female are experiencing more elderly abuse in Pakistani society (Blazer&Wu, 2009). In patriarchal societies, women have less decision making power and they are forced to live their lives in accordance with the conditions imposed by dominant family members. In addition, male family members decide the role and position of women in household. Male family members exercise their

powers to minimize women' autonomy. Women are facing abuse in both workplace and in household also (Young, 2009).

The current study suggests that elderly abuse is significantly lower among the people who are being treated politely by their family members as compared to the elders who are being treated rudely by their family members. This implies that family values and norms are important determining factors of elderly abuse (Krug et al., 2002). These findings of the current study are found replicated by both national and international studies conducted in most of the patriarchal societies (Tam&Neysmith, 2007).

The results of the current study confirmed that elderly abuse is found higher among the elders who reported lower level of autonomy as compared to the elders who reported higher level of autonomy in their family and financially independent (Dong et al., 2009; Lowenstein et al., 2007). According to the results of the current study, elderly abuse is significantly lower among the elders who were facing lower physical assault as compared to the respondents who are found facing higher level of physical assault by their family members (DeLiema et al., 2012). This implies that the elders who are facing real or perceived physical harm by their family members indicated higher level of elderly abuse. In addition, the association between physical assault and elderly abuse are found positively associated (DeLiema et al., 2012).

In addition, economic characteristics such as working conditions and financial independence strongly affected the prevalence of elderly abuse(Cho et al., 2008; Edwards et al., 2003; Tjaden & Thoennes, 2009). It is also found that family dynamics such as family behavior positively influence the level of elderly abuse(Ho et al., 2003;Tam&Neysmith, 2007). The role of social factors cannot be ignored for controlling elderly abuse. For example, higher level of autonomy(Dong et al., 2009; Lowenstein et al., 2009) , financial assault (Lachs & Pillemer, 2004; Dong et al., 2009) and physical assault (Edwards, Henwood, & Kannan, 2003; Yan & Tang, 2001) significantly affected the level of elderly abuse. Physical illness or prevalence of disease also strongly affected the level of elderly abuse in Pakistani patriarchal society.

5. CONCLUSION

Results of the study found that gender, working status, family behavior, and prevalence of disease, autonomy, financial assault and psychological assault remained statistically significant associated factors of elderly abuse regardless of the effect of age, family system, area of residence and source of earning. This analysis of the variables generated adjusted predictors of the elderly abuse while controlling the effect of other intervening variables. There are different factors responsible for higher level of elderly abuse among the elders in Pakistan. Elderly abuse is affected by personal abilities and personal characteristics of the elders. The current study generated many new research questions and opened the doors of scientific investigation for the researcher and theorists to incorporate their ideas and findings to explore describe and explain the phenomenon. Female are more victims of elderly abuse therefore it would be very novel to explore the gender dynamics of the elderly abuse and devise any model to make elder women more empowered.

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