

Husband Related Factors Compelling Women to Take Asylum in Sheltered Homes a Case Control Survey in Lahore

Zunirah Asad,¹ Maaz Ahmad²

Abstract

Background: Women in Pakistan are also subjected to domestic violence. Some tolerate for life, but with changing trends some resist, leave home and take asylum in shelter houses. Domestic violence chiefly done by husbands, and there was need to know the factors related to the husbands involved in violence.

Objective: To study the association of husband related factors compelling Women to Take Asylum in Sheltered Homes in Lahore.

Materials and Methods: This case control study was conducted in Darulamans of Yateem Khana and Chouburgi Lahore. 200 Interviews (100 cases, 100 controls) were made, Data was collected on pretested questionnaire and analyzed with in SPSS.

Results: Among cases, most of the husbands had education up to middle or metric i.e. 27%. Where as the occupation of most of the husbands among cases was laborer i.e. 23%. Most significant husband related factors found were physical abuse, extramarital affairs of husbands, doubtful about character of wife, snatching salary of wife, put unnecessary restrictions on wife and enforcing wife in prostitution.

Conclusion: Physical abuse, extramarital affairs of

husbands, doubt about character, and enforcing wife in prostitution are chief violence types due to which women take asylum in shelter homes.

Keywords: Shelter houses, Asylum, abuse.

Introduction

Violence against women is not a new phenomenon occurring only in Pakistan, even in developed and modern European countries, where echoes of freedom and gender equality hover, bitter levels of physical, sexual and psychological harassments against women exist¹. Although Islam, has appreciated women rights as blessed by Allah Almighty as are given to men.^{2,3} Pakistan, principally abide laws of Islam, but practically there is a large group of people who perceive that it is the right of a man is superior, and has the right to beat his wife,⁴ as a result 80% women face domestic violence as reported by Women's Ministry.⁵

There are several socio-demographic and behavioral factors identified in husbands which constitute the basis for this violence e.g. Lack of education, family traits, frustration, sense of dominance, degrading mindset for women^{6,8} extramarital affairs, women's resistance for sex and her resilience for taking her own decisions have also been reported as major factors intolerable for husbands.^{7,9} But problem increases when in spite of all these the parents of female victim would persuade her to stay at the husband's house in any case, to save their reputes in society.^{10,11} Under these circumstances, most of these women continue facing

Asad Z.¹
Department of Community Medicine, KEMU, Lahore

Ahmad M.²
Professor, Department of Community Medicine, KEMU, Lahore

torture throughout their lives. But some women who are either thrown away of their houses by their husbands, or flee when this violence crosses tolerance limits, and are not supported / accepted by parents / family, seek asylum in shelter homes.

Neither correct figures of domestic violence in society are available, nor too many comprehensive studies have been conducted which can show the magnitude of the problem of domestic violence, and explore socioeconomic and cultural factors which ultimately compel women to take asylum in sheltered homes. In this context there was a dire need to conduct a study that can explore husband related factors so that an educational kit can be prepared for counseling the husbands by social scientists. In this context this study was conducted.

Methodology

This case control study was conducted in Darulaman, Yateem Khana and area of Gawal mandi Lahore. Sample size was calculated through Epi-info. At 95% confidence interval and 80% power of test, exposure among controls was found to be 40% and exposure among cases was 55%. 200 adult females were selected; 100 cases and 100 controls according to sample size calculation. Simple random sampling was done to enroll the cases as well as controls. Data was collected using structured and pretested questionnaire that contains personal history, family history and past history of the disease if any. Cases were those who were living in sheltered homes while controls were those who were living in their homes.

Results

In this study a total of 200 subjects (100 cases, 100

controls) were interviewed. When the education of the husbands was studied among the cases, it was found that most of the husbands had middle or matric level education. When occupation was studied, among the cases, it was found that most of the husbands were laborers. Findings are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Socio-demographic profiles of husbands (n = 200).

Factors	Cases	Controls
Education of Husband		
✓ Illiterate	43	43
✓ Primary	2	5
✓ Middle / metric	25	34
✓ F.A/B.A	27	8
✓ Postgraduate	3	0
Occupation of Husband		
✓ Jobless	9	13
✓ Farmer	18	0
✓ Laborer	23	32
✓ Servant	12	15
✓ Businessman	12	10
✓ Job	17	28

Discussion

In our study seventy one women reported that they were physically abused by their husband. Indicating significant association between these two factors. In a similar study it was found 50% of the women in Pakistan are physically battered by their men folk. Another study confirmed that around 80% of women in Pakistan are victims of spousal violence.¹²

In our study fifty three cases reported that their

Table 2: Frequency distribution of husband’s characteristics and husband related factors.

Factors	Cases (n = 100)	Controls (n = 100)	Odds Ratio	Confidence Interval	P-value
Physical abuse by husband	71	50	2.448	1.366 – 4.387	0.002
Husband Involved outside	36	17	2.746	1.416 – 5.327	0.002
Doubtful about character	45	22	2.901	1.567 – 5.369	0.001
Husband applying Unnecessary restrictions	43	18	3.437	1.802 – 6.555	0.000
Husband Snatching Salary	11	31	0.275	0.129 – 0.586	0.001

Husband force for Prostitution	25	2	16.33	3.750 – 71.132	0.000
--------------------------------	----	---	-------	----------------	-------

husbands were involved outside in someone else indicating significant association between these two factors. Similar results were found in a study; according to it 63% females reported that their husbands had sex with sex workers.¹³ In a similar study, extramarital affairs were blamed for 29% of breakups.¹⁴

In our study sixty seven cases told that that their husbands were doubtful about their character indicating significant association. In a study The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan reported that 2002 saw a 25% increase in “honor killings” of women, with 461 women murdered by family members, in 2 provinces (Sind and Punjab) alone.¹⁵ In our study sixty one cases reported that their husband had unnecessarily restrictions upon them. In a similar study, found that 71% of married adolescents had no freedom of mobility. In another study it was found that the proportion of married women who were allowed to go to market or visit a friends were only 13.8%.¹⁶

In our study forty two cases reported that their husband snatch their salary. In a study Statistics on Financial Abuse Women are 7 times more likely to experience severe abuse where their partner controls decisions about money. In 2008 1,900 incidents of financial abuse were reported. Among the controls, 88% of women said that one of the main reasons that they did not leave was that they had no where to go; 77% of women said they did not leave because they were financially dependent on their abuser.^{17,18}

In our study nine women reported that their husband forced them for prostitution indicating significant association between these two factors. In a similar study 15% of the women in prostitution have been found to be sold by their husbands. In another study it was found that women aged 18 and over in one province in Zimbabwe found that 26% of married women reported being forced to have sex when they did not want to.^{19,20}

Conclusion

Through this study we come to know that following husband related factors are playing major role in the creation of the problem of asylum seeking behavior of females. The factors studied were, physical abuse by husbands, husband involved outside in someone else, doubtful about their wives character, unnecessary sanctions, husbands snatching salary and enforcing wives for prostitution. Situation can be improved by enhan-

cing the role of family and by resolving the social and economical conflicts at the onset.

References

1. Macey M. Religion, male violence, and the control of women: Pakistani Muslim men in Bradford, UK. *Gend Dev* 1999; 7 (1): 48–55.
2. Shafaat A. Tafseer of surah an-nisa; Ayah 34, Islamic perspective; 2005.
3. Hadith from Al-Buchari, available at <http://www.theprophetmuhammad.org/life.html#206a>
4. Choi A, Edleson JL. Social disapproval of wife assaults: A national survey of Singapore. *J Comp Fam Stud* 1996; 27 (1): 73–88.
5. Khan AN. Country report – Pakistan. 130th international training course participants’ papers. Online available from http://www.unafei.or.jp/english/pdf/RS_No69/No69_16_PA_Khan.pdf
6. Martin SL, Kilgallen B, Tsui AO, et al. Sexual behaviors and reproductive health outcomes. Associations with wife abuse in India. *JAMA* 1999; 282 (20): 1967–72.
7. Haj – Yahia MM. A patriarchal perspective of beliefs about wife beating among Palestinian men from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. *J Fam Issues* 1998; 19 (5): 595–621.
8. Kulwicki AD, Miller J. Domestic violence in the Arab American population: Transforming environmental conditions through community education. *Issues Ment Health Nurs* 1999; 20: 199–215.
9. Davidson L, King V, Garcia J, Marchant S. ‘What role can the health service play?’. In: Taylor-Browne J. *Reducing Domestic Violence: What Works?* Home Office, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate (forthcoming). 2000.
10. Fox G, Love popcorn Litton. “Love Match and Arranged Marriage in a Modernizing Nation: Mate Selection in Ankara Turkey”. *J Marriag Fam* 1975; 37 (1): 180–93.
11. Hassan Y. *The Haven Becomes Hell: Domestic Violence in Pakistan*. Lahore: Shirkat Gah; 1995: 45-6.
12. Zaman R. Karachi: University Psychiatry Department; Five-year survey (1992 – 1996) Unpublished manuscript.
13. Rates of Divorce for Adultery and Infidelity. Available from: http://divorce.lovetoknow.com/Rates_of_Divorce_for_Adultery_and_Infidelity
14. Rodriguez M, Quirogo S, Bauer H. Breaking the silence: Battered women’s perspectives on medical care. *Arch Fam Med* 1996; 5: 153-8.

15. Kulshrestha P, Sharma RK, Dogra TD. The Study of Sociological and Demographical Variables of Unnatural Deaths among Young Women in South Delhi within Seven Years of Marriage. *Medico-Legal Update* 2004; 4 (1): 5-14.
16. Fernandez R. "A Disguised Plea of Honour." *The Review, Dawn*. Karachi: The Daily Dawn, 16 – 19 February, 2003.
17. Hassan Y. *A Manual of Domestic Violence*. Lahore: Aurat Foundation. 2000: 45-6.
18. Hassan Y. *Women as Individuals – bodily rights. Haven Becomes Hell: Domestic Violence in Pakistan*. Lahore, Shirkat Gah; 2002.
19. Langley H. The health professionals: an overview. In: Bewley S, Friend J and Mezey G. *Responding to violence against women: a specialist's role*. *Edit Hosp Med* 1998; 59 (9): 98-9.
20. Reaves, Jo. *NEWS: Marriage in China Not So Different than in the West*. *Asian Pages*. St. Paul: 1994; 4 (18): 4.