

Connectivity between women employment and domestic violence in Quetta

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Abstract

Gender inequality has plagued the third world as a whole where the underdeveloped and the developing countries of the world have striven to improve the status of women among the male dominated societies; however, domestic violence still remains a huge problem to tackle. Pakistan among the countries where women empowerment is in progress, yet in the major cities like Quetta (which is also case study of the research) have witnessed large scale of domestic violence. The magnitude of domestic violence is directed toward the working women. The interrelationship between domestic violence and those women, married or unmarried, working either in the government sector or the private sector is discussed. The given study explores the connectivity between women employment and domestic violence in the city of Quetta.

Keywords: Domestic violence, Quetta, women, employment, Pakistan, interrelationship, gender equality

Introduction

There is no denying the fact that domestic violence in its literal meaning is the use of force against the weaker factions of the society or weaker genders. There is no denying the fact that domestic violence is very much prevalent in every nook and corner of the world and it has historical roots within it.

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From the very outset of the human civilizations, women were not always considered the weakest force, as a matter of fact, there was a time in the ancient civilizations during the Stone Age period, women were regarded as the chief source of life, therefore, they were held in high esteem and the heads of the families were women. (Muhammad, 2016)

This was called the matriarchic system. In this system, women were not only the heads of the families, but they were respected more than the males. However, when the civilizations began to emerge and the world ushered into the Iron Age and the Bronze Age, the perceptions toward the factions of the society and family began to change due to the conflicts and wars within and with the others. (Dashti, 2013)

Wars and conflicts proved that the stronger physically ought to dominate the social institutions, for the given reason, men took the charge of governance and wars. From then on, women began to be superseded by the men in every aspect of life and they were also treated as lower factions of the society and regarded as servants of the males who were superior physically. (Ahmed, 2010)

Maltreatment of women gave space to domestic violence and it became very much common in every civilization. Women were often treated as slaves and they tended to have less influence over the other affairs of life. Domestic violence can be physical as well as it can be mental. (Pande, 2015)

There are many kinds of domestic violence as of today. The modern definitions demonstrate that the mental kind of abuse is much worse as compared to the physical one as it leads to trauma and women often suffer from depression and anxiety. Some of the types of domestic violence are sexual violence, cultural violence, and psychological violence, verbal, religious and emotional violence. (Hussain, 2018)

In every aspect of life, women remain far behind men and they mostly live under the thumb of their male superiors. Quetta is no exception to that. Even, in spite of the feminist tendencies and movements and larger convections and women rights charters, still women face domestic violence in the West, though, not as largely as they suffer in Asia and Africa. (Baloch, 2012)

Without any doubt, it is something that can never be fully exterminated; however, it can be contained and controlled. Quetta has a

population of over 2 million people and it is a hugely diverse culture and society where people hailing from different backgrounds mingle for mostly in the search of financial opportunities. (Aurat Foundation, 2019)

Quetta being the center of administrative activities of the province of Balochistan attracts people from all corners of the province. For the given reason, the population is mixed and way too diverse. As a matter of fact, women empowerment remains a distant dream in Balochistan and Quetta being the largest city of the province is one of the worst in terms of gender equality. (Suleman, 2020)

Yet the people of Balochistan in general and the people of Quetta in particular have not learnt anything from liberal social media and still pursue their orthodox and conservative methods. When people from different backgrounds come to mingle, they create a very diverse society. In this society, one can find liberals as well as conservatives. (Dashti, 2013)

One can find rightists and leftists and there can be people who just observe others and become opportunists. Quetta is a place where one can find some families who not only educate their daughters, but they also encourage them to do jobs and contribute for empowering their families and the entire society. (Ahmed, 2010)

At the same time, one can find people who not only prevent their females from education; rather, they do not allow them to go to bazaar or to any relative. In such passive minded families, the ratio of domestic violence is very much high. (Pande, 2015)

However, one can also find the middle class families who do encourage women to get education and then also do jobs, but their fate changes after their marriages. Even though, the families are liberal and they want their female children to get education and do jobs, but the spouses may not be that much liberal as the family members are. (Paterson, 2015)

In certain cases, what the spouses do is either they prevent them from doing jobs or if they are doing jobs from before the marriages, then they keep very vigilant watch on them and torture them on slightest pretexts. These all methods are used to discourage them from being independent and come under the servitude of the male spouses. (Bashir, 2013)

The male spouses who discourage the female from doing jobs are not earning that much income, still they fail to realize that preventing the

wives from doing jobs will reduce their family income and increase their miseries. They also impose their fundamentalist perceptions on their spouses and other female members of their families. (Ahmed, 2014)

There is no certain platform to report the issues pertaining to gender violence in our society and there is the need of the hour to prevent further intensification of future cases. These cases have witnessed tremendous surge in the main city of Quetta. The need is stressing for an increase in public awareness regarding this issue at an urgent basis. (Paterson, 2015)

What the research tries to prove is that there is a strong relationship between the employed women and domestic violence in Quetta. Indeed, there is a strong connection. Those women who stay at homes and prefer to become housewives, they tend to face less violence and less peer pressure as compared to those who do jobs. (Suleman, 2020)

Quetta needs instantaneous attention from the government and the mindset of the people needs to be molded to grasp the broader and more liberal and tolerable view of the society and equality. (Hussain, 2018)

Domestic violence with employed women in Quetta

Is it quite ironic that most of the cases of domestic violence take place in Quetta on the basis of the ill-mindset of the male spouses and the other males of the families who tend to develop the suspicion about the characters of the women who do jobs in either the government sector or the private sector? Women on the other hand, have to face dual problems. (Alston, 2017)

They often, if not almost all, face harassment at the offices and the places where they work and at homes they face allegations and torture. The fact cannot be refuted at all that the other women do not face torture or abuse, in fact they do, but the ratio of the women who do jobs facing domestic violence is higher. (Paterson, 2008)

These cases are not that much high before the marriages. The cases of domestic violence increase after the marriages of the women who are already doing jobs. There are male spouses who immediately after the marriage suspend the education of the girls without even considering their wishes and ambitions.

However, there are some spouses who do let them continue their education, but as soon as the education gets completed, they are not allowed to do jobs and they out of fear of their families prefer to become

housewives. The fact of the matter is that the society is still evolving and it is still not that much mature at all. (Rai, 2007)

Factors associated to domestic violence of the employed women

What the government is supposed to do is that the government must implement the standing laws and make sure that the laws pertaining to women are enforced with full vigor. Unless the laws are enforced effectively, there will be no use of knowing that they are useful.

One of the primary reasons behind the pervasiveness of the menace of domestic violence is because of the low level of punishment. The government has to ensure those who violate the laws must get the punishment otherwise without its effective use and the malice of domestic violence will continue to linger around. (Rai, 2007)

There is no use of making or passing laws if they cannot check the crimes. The government ought to bring the civil society and religious intelligentsia in the forefront and make them impart awareness among the people.

They are the key to keeping this malice into check. People in Quetta blindly follow religion and they follow the Ulema and this makes the Ulema very crucial as their role is the defining one. (Kidwai, 2004)

Given these facts, it is the duty of the Ulema to ensure that the Islamic injunctions are not practiced in the wrong manner and the teachings of Allah and the Holy Prophet are not misused because if they do not care about how the teachings are imparted to the public at the first place, there will be hatred toward each other and there will be misinterpretations of the teachings of Quran and Sharia. (Sajid, 2016)

Most of the cases of domestic violence take place in Quetta on the basis of the ill-mindset of the male spouses and the other males of the families because of their wrong perceptions about the opposite gender. (Tariq, 2012)

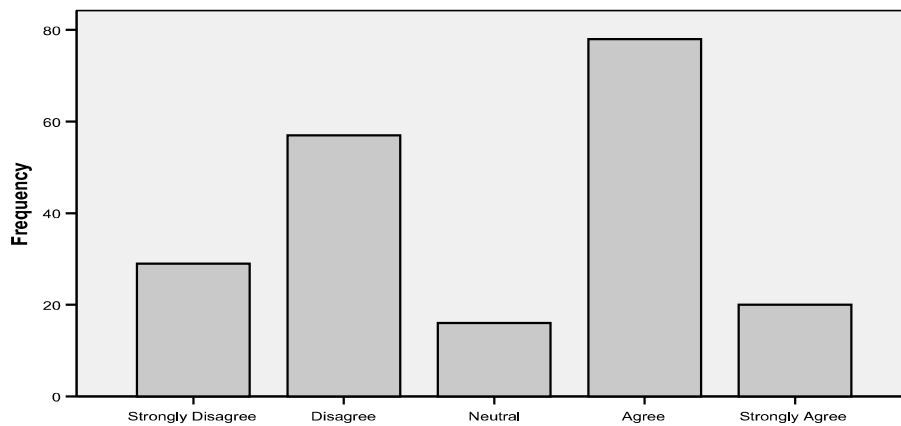
Their suspicions make things worse rather than making them good. They tend to develop the suspicion about the characters of the women who are employed and due to these suspicions; they develop reservations which turn violent. (Jafree, 2017)

Tables

Our society is a predominantly male-dominated society with less social space for women

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	29	14.5	14.5	14.5
Disagree	57	28.5	28.5	43.0
Neutral	16	8.0	8.0	51.0
Agree	78	39.0	39.0	90.0
Strongly Agree	20	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

our society is a predominantly male-dominated society with less social space for women



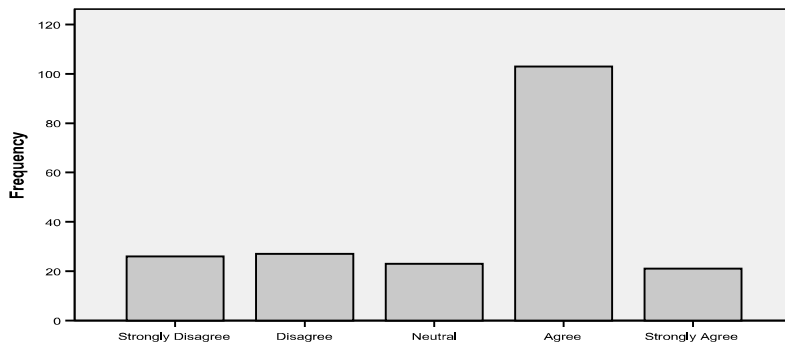
For the question that “Our society is a predominantly male-dominated society with less social space for women” the reasons were given below by them. As far as this question is concerned on the likert scale model, the majority had a tilt toward agreement with the question saying that the society we live in is dominated by the men who mostly want to remain dominant. 29 out of 200 of the respondents strongly disagreed with the question while 57 of them disagreed in a moderate nature and 16 of them did not give their opinion and stood neutral. 78 of them agreed to the

question in point and 20 of them strongly agreed. There is no denying the fact that the Pakistani society, no matter which city is taken as case study, it is highly male dominated. Though, women have freedom to a great extent in cities like Islamabad and Lahore, still they are yet to evolve in cities like Quetta where they are held suspicious of their character if they go out of the homes either for job or for education. Women have certain freedoms, but the social space for them is not as compared to it is in the West.

Women in Quetta are socially restricted and confined to their homes and not allowed social freedom; discouraging them from employment

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	26	13.0	13.0	13.0
Disagree	27	13.5	13.5	26.5
Neutral	23	11.5	11.5	38.0
Agree	103	51.5	51.5	89.5
Strongly Agree	21	10.5	10.5	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

Women in Quetta are socially restricted and confined to their homes and not allowed social freedom; discouraging them from employment

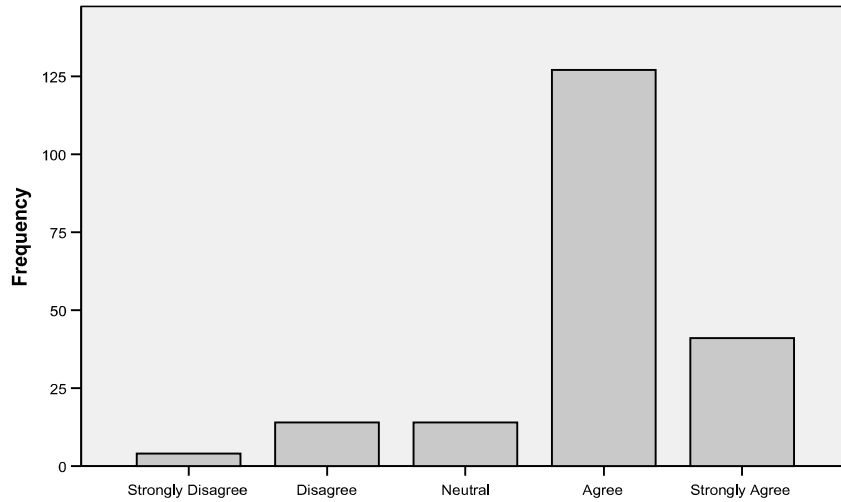


For the question that “Women in Quetta are socially restricted and confined to their homes and not allowed social freedom; discouraging them from employment” the reasons were given below by them. As far as this question is concerned on the likert scale model, the majority had a tilt toward agreement with the question saying that not all families are restricting women, but there are many families like this. 26 out of 200 of the respondents strongly disagreed with the question while 27 of them disagreed in a moderate nature and 23 of them did not give their opinion and stood neutral. 103 of them agreed to the question in point and 21 of them strongly agreed. The ratio of working women in Quetta has grown rapidly, but most of the working women are settlers or they are from the highly educated families. Social space or social restrictions for the middle and lower class remain high. The restrictions may vary from restricting them from employment to education. There are certain families which do not allow female to continue their education after certain age and there are some families which allow female to get education, but they highly discourage doing jobs.

Despite the slogans of women empowerment, they still suffer from domestic violence and negligence on daily basis as their spouses keep unfounded suspicions about their characters

		Freque ncy	Perce nt	Valid Percent	Cumulati ve Percent
V al id	Strongly Disagree	4	2.0	2.0	2.0
	Disagree	14	7.0	7.0	9.0
	Neutral	14	7.0	7.0	16.0
	Agree	127	63.5	63.5	79.5
	Strongly Agree	41	20.5	20.5	100.0
	Total	200	100.0	100.0	

Despite the slogans of women empowerment, they still suffer from domestic violence and negligence on daily basis as their spouses keep unfounded suspicions about their characters



For the question that “Despite the slogans of women empowerment, they still suffer from domestic violence and negligence on daily basis as their spouses keep unfounded suspicions about their characters” the reasons were given below by them. As far as this question is concerned on the likert scale model, the majority had a tilt toward agreement with the question saying that in spite of the slogans of women empowerment, they still suffer from domestic violence and negligence and their spouses keep unfounded suspicions about their characters which made their lives miserable. 4 out of 200 of the respondents strongly disagreed with the question while 14 of them disagreed in a moderate nature and 14 of them did not give their opinion and stood neutral. 127 of them agreed to the question in point and 41 of them strongly agreed. Yes, it is true that women in Quetta; especially the women who do jobs face domestic violence, but the main reason behind is not the freedom of women, but the unfounded suspicions of the males. They remain highly skeptical of the character of the female which is not virtuous in the first place. These suspicions which gain ground in the minds of the male are not mostly realistic, but they are baseless. Still women have

to suffer and they undergo violence of different natures from psychological to physical.

Discussion

The results and findings of the given article bear testimony to the fact that the women indeed face domestic violence in Quetta and there is a deep connectivity between the employment of women and domestic violence. The majority of the respondents for the first question that women do not enjoy much space in this society which is male dominated by all means.

There is no denying the fact that the Pakistani society it is highly male dominated and it affects the women as they do not find enough space for them. Though, women have freedom to a great extent in cities like Islamabad and Lahore, but the cases of domestic violence also pop up from there every now and then.

For a city like Quetta where the society is diverse, but dominated by the fundamentalists, it is yet to evolve in cities like Quetta where they are held suspicious of their character if they go out of the homes either for job or for education.

The overwhelming majority of the women once again agreed to the question that women do not enjoy the freedom of employment and they are restricted to their homes and confined there. The ratio of working women in Quetta has grown rapidly, but most of the working women are settlers or they are from the highly educated families.

Social space or social restrictions for the middle and lower class remain high. The restrictions may vary from restricting them from employment to education and they may also vary from family to family. The last question explored the reasons and factors associated to domestic violence toward those women who are employed.

The question wanted to research the reason that why they are targeted so heavily. The researcher after the results concluded that the main reason behind is not the freedom of women, but the unfounded suspicions of the males. They remain highly skeptical of the character of the female which is not virtuous and this malice sows the seeds of distrust that in the later stages infect their lives.

Conclusion

Domestic violence is often directed toward the weaker factions of the society; women, children and other older people, but for the given topic, domestic violence is associated to gender based violence against women.

Domestic violence in its literal meaning is the use of force against the weaker factions of the society or weaker genders. Since women in Quetta and other parts of Pakistan are not considered equals of men in every aspect of life, they are often treated with discontent and not given the freedom they will.

Domestic violence can be physical as well as it can be mental. In the city of Quetta, as proven from the facts, honor killing is not prevalent, but physical abuse as well as psychological abuse is very much common. This research was based on focusing on the working women. Working women, if not all, mostly face dual nature of problems.

At the office, they tend to face harassment and at homes they face domestic violence and pressure from their spouses and other family members. Some of the types of domestic violence are sexual violence, cultural violence, and psychological violence, verbal, religious and emotional violence.

They are sandwiched between these and they live in such an intolerant society that they cannot change the status quo on their own. Gender inequality has plagued the third world as a whole where the underdeveloped and the developing countries of the world have striven to improve the status of women among the male dominated societies.

Pakistan is well on the top due to religious fundamentalist prevalence. Without any doubt, domestic violence still remains a huge problem to tackle. In spite of many laws and ordinances for the empowerment and protection of women, domestic violence remains in vogue.

Pakistan among the countries where women empowerment is in progress, yet in the major cities like Quetta have witnessed large scale of domestic violence. Conservatism and religious fundamentalism plagued Quetta in the wake of the Afghan war during the 1980's when religious extremism poured into the city and the province of Balochistan due to the movements of the Mujahedeen.

The magnitude of domestic violence is directed toward the working women as they are the weaker faction. Those women who do jobs are more prone to

domestic violence as compared to those women who remain at homes doing their duties as housewives.

The interrelationship between domestic violence and those women, married or unmarried, working either in the government sector or the private sector is discussed and the results and findings show that there is deep connection between domestic violence and working women.

Recommendations

The exhaustive analysis of the research from all possible angles reveals that the working women or those women who are employed no matter in the private sector or the government sector are facing domestic violence.

The intensity of the domestic violence varies from family to family. It is revealed that the domestic violence is taking deep roots in our society in spite of all efforts for uplifting the women and in spite of all the laws and ordinances passed by the federal as well as the provincial governments.

It has plagued the society and it is discouraging the women from doing jobs. It is not prevalent in all families, but in some. What can be done in order to improve the standards of living for women in Quetta is to bring awareness among the people. As long as the people remain ignorant of the rights of the women and their duties toward the women, domestic violence will continue to grow unabated.

This is a very crucial problem. In the second instance, the government has to ensure that the laws pertaining to women are enforced with full vigor and to ensure those who violate the laws must get the punishment otherwise without its effective use, there is no use of making or passing laws.

What the third thing can the government do is to bring the civil society and religious intelligentsia in the forefront and make them impart awareness among the people. People in Quetta blindly follow religion and they follow the Ulema without even knowing or discerning what is wrong or right.

Therefore, it is the duty of the Ulema to ensure that the Islamic injunctions are not practiced in the wrong manner and the teachings of Allah and the Holy Prophet are not misused, but used for the betterment of humanity.

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