

Effect of Education on Gender Violence in the Context of Rural Farm Families of Tehsil Dera Ghazi Khan–Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

Both purposive and random sampling techniques were used to select sample women for the study. Tehsil DG Khan was taken as universe; ten villages from the selected tehsil were randomly selected. Fifteen (15) married women were purposively selected from each selected village, thus, making a total of 150 respondents. Data was then analyzed with the help of SPSS. Results of the study showed that 28.0, 24.0, 21.3 and 18.7%, of the respondents reported that they frequently faced verbal violence by their counterparts like threat to divorce, words of abuse, negative criticism, taunting and insulting their family members respectively. Respondents were frequently slapped (21.3%), kicked (18.7%) and punched (14.0%), by their intimate partners (physical violence). There existed positive relationship between education and violence (verbal & physical). The findings of present research study clearly indicated that level of education is helpful in reducing the intensity of different types of violence against women. The study area is already deprived of education, less for men and more for women, which results in unawareness of basic rights on the part of women. Therefore, it is suggested that Government and NGO's, both work together for the increase in level of education through formal and non-formal means.

Key Words: Education; Domestic violence; Physical violence; Verbal violence

INTRODUCTION

The basic unit of community is family and it is formed with the collaboration of man and woman. Almost in whole the world patriarchal type of family system prevails, in which male/man dominates the female/women (Gondolf, 1989). Burki (2004) argued that women are physically and mentally weaker than men. To show the masculinity and ego by man he mainly pressurized his wife by different ways and means. In this process husband/intimate partner uses the power of beating physically, teasing psychologically, restricting mobility, thereby committing act of violence against his wife. Therefore, any act of gender based violence results in, or likely so, physical, sexual, or mental harm, or suffering to women including, threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life encircles the gender based violence (UNO, 1993). WHO (1996) also supported the same by stating that 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.

The UN deceleration (UNO, 1993) cleared that violence against women encircles the physical, sexual and psychological, violence occurring in the family and in the general community including battering, sexual abuse of female children, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices,

harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women, forced prostitution and violence perpetrated or condoned by state.

The above two definitions encompasses the word power in connection with the use of physical force which broaden the sense of violence and act of violence with more obviousness. It includes all types of physical, sexual and psychological abuses, as well as suicide, other self abusive acts and domestic violence.

Domestic violence is a serious and alarming public health problem and prevails in all countries and socio-economic environments. It is characterized as a pattern of coercive behaviours that may include repeated battering, injury, emotional abuse, sexual assault, social isolation, deprivation, harassments and confinements etc. This behavior is perpetrated by someone, who is involved in an intimate relationship with the victim. In most cases men abuse women. For men or women, domestic violence includes pushing, slapping, hitting, throwing objects, forcing or striking the person with an object or a weapon. Unkind and cruel words hurt and are considered as psychological abuse against the victim. Men are more deeply affected by emotional abuse than physical abuse, whereas, women are more likely to be injured, raped or killed, by their current or former partners (Niaz *et al.*, 2002).

Through surveys it was found that 10% to 69% of women separated being physically assaulted by an intimate

male partner at some point in their lives. The victim of violence in previous 12 months varied from 3% or less among women in Australia, Canada and the United States, to 27% of over partnered women in Nicaragua, 38% of currently married women in Republic of Korea and 52% of currently married Palestinian women in the West Bank and Gaza strip (Ellsberg *et al.*, 2000). About 57% women had suffered all three types of abuse i.e. physical, psychological and sexual. In Japan less than 10% of these women had experienced only physical abuse (Yoshihama & Sorenson, 1994).

The results from Zimbabwe show that 32% of women experienced repeated physical abuse by a family, or household member, from the age of 16 (Watt *et al.*, 1997). In India, 18-45% of currently married men acknowledge physically abusing their wives (Narayana, 1996). In Cambodia about, 16% of women repeated being physically abused by the spouse, 8% reported being injured (Nelson & Zimmerman, 1996). The profile of domestic violence from the perspective of men, with a sample size of 70%, in which all respondents admitted to ever verbally abusing their wives and over two third admitted to ever engaging in non-consensual sex, with their wives (Shaikh, 2000).

The physical violence attains more attention, as it is more vivid and calculative in nature. Physical violence against women is a phenomenon that affects almost every country and region in the world. The types of violence range from shoving, slapping, pushing, hitting to more extreme, forms such as torture, rape and murder. Not only is violence against women widespread, deeply entrenched, silently borne and relatively impervious to women's situation, but also attitudes uniformly justify wife beating and few women would opt out of an abusive marriage (Jejeebhoy & Cook, 1997; Jejeebhoy, 1998).

The physical violence always associated with psychological and sexual abuse. In original less than 10% of the women had experienced only physical abuse (Yoshihama & Sorenson, 1994). Therefore, domestic violence means physical or mental assault of women by their male partners or term wife abuse is also often used to mean the same (WHO, 2002).

A study conducted by Mazza *et al.* (1996) in Australia, concluded that out of 28% of sampled women, 6% had been kicked, bitten or hit with a fist, 7% had been hit or their partner had tried to hit with an object, 4% had been beaten up, 4% had been choked, 2% had been threatened with knife or a gun and 1% actually had a knife or gun used against them. In Korea, 18% respondents reported committing physical violence, at least once within past year by throwing something, pushing, grabbing, shoving, or slapping, their wives (Kim & Sung, 2000). They also stated that 63% men committed kicking, biting, hitting, with a fist threatening with a gun or knife, shooting or stabbing. In South Asian countries 65% of the women reported physical abuse (Raj & Silverman, 2002).

It is not the husband alone at whose hands women

suffers violence in silence but also mother-in-laws enjoy a pestilential reputation in Pakistan (Hussain, 2004). Women in Pakistan have been denied the enjoyment of a whole range of rights i.e. economic, social, civil and political. Physical abuse, which includes rape, acid throwing, burning and "honor killing" is widespread in Pakistan (WHR, 1999).

Sheikh (2003) conducted a survey of 216 women respondents. All of them experienced single or complex type of violence with or without pregnancy except 3.2% women, who did not report ever enduring any type of domestic violence including non-consensual sex. The various types of physical violence they experienced while not pregnant were shouting/yelling (75.9%), slapping (55.9%), threatening (48.8%), pushing (40.3%), kinking (39.5%) and using weapon like gun/knife (2.3%).

In physical violence, women are victimized in whole the life span which is clear from study conducted by Mazza *et al.* (1996), who found that 10% of women experienced childhood physical abuse, 3% were severely beaten on one occasion and 7% repeatedly.

Iqbal (2005) in his article stated that US State Department accused Pakistan for domestic violence against women, rape and abuse of children remained serious problem. Honor killing is ongoing besides the Government stiffens the law. Discrimination, against women was widespread and traditional social and legal constraints generally kept women in a subordinate position in society.

This situation of discrimination may be averted by increasing the level of education for both the sexes. Education is a tool, which brings a positive change in the behavior of an individual and is a basic right of every individual. Education is the solution to all of society's ills (Khan, 2005). Education could enable women to take decisions about their bodies, household incomes, social affiliations etc. Literacy is associated with the positive and can provide uninhibited access to knowledge and teach (Khan, 2005). The General Secretary of UNO while addressing for achieving the targets of Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) announced that through providing primary and secondary education for girls, investing in infrastructure beneficial to women and increasing their roles in policy-making may better the present position of women (UNO, 2005).

But the educational system of Pakistan has a segregated, stratified and differentiated properties which plays a poor role in shaping the lives of its citizens, especially girls and ranks number, 142 out of 177 countries on the UNDP's human development index of 2004 (Shehzad, 2005). The low rate of literacy among women limited the efforts of Government against the violence (Mustafa, 2005).

Many women are victims of domestic violence on a daily basis but not much is heard about their agony. It comes into public notice, only when a woman is killed, or seriously injured. Otherwise, it remains hidden behind a veil of secrecy as vivid from Mukhtar-Mai of Meerwala, Alipur

(Mustafa, 2005). A report against violation of human rights in the most neglected and poor areas of the Punjab Multan, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan revealed that within a year 2003, one hundred and ninety-six women were killed. Some 36% of those women fall prey to anguish of their husbands, 27% killed by brothers, 11% by fathers, seven by sons and 11% by others (Staff, 2004).

Keeping in view the above facts it seemed necessary to probe into the matter in depth. Therefore, this study was designed to find out the effect of education on gender violence in the context of rural farm families in tehsil Dera Ghazi Khan.

METHODOLOGY

Both purposive and random sampling techniques were used to select sample women for the study. Tehsil DG Khan was selected as universe. Ten villages from the tehsil were randomly selected. Fifteen (15) married women were purposively selected from each of these villages, thus making a total of 150 respondents. For the data collection a pre-tested interview schedule was developed. The schedule was finalized after making necessary amendments in the light of pre-testing results. The interview schedule was translated into Urdu language in order to facilitate the process of data collection and to ensure the effective communication for getting correct information. Data was analyzed with the help of computer software SPSS. Descriptive statistics and chi-square test were used for interpretation and formulation of conclusion. For the computation of violence, the following procedure was adopted.

Verbal violence. Verbal violence was calculated for each respondent taking into account the number of violence the respondents had faced and the intensity to which the respondents faced each kind of violence. Intensity of violence was measured on a scale of 1 (frequently) to 3 (never). A verbal violence index was then developed; the maximum and minimum scores obtained were 21 and 7. Finally, the scores calculated for each respondent were then statistically divided into three categories i.e. low (7-11), moderate (12-16), and high (17-21).

Physical violence. Similar to the above, physical violence score was calculated for each respondent based on the intensity faced by the respondents by their counterparts. Reported intensity of physical violence was calculated for each respondent on a scale 1(frequently) to 3 (never). A physical violence index was then developed the maximum and minimum determined scores were 8 and 24. The violence scores calculated were then statistically divided into three categories i.e. low (8-13), moderate (14-19) and high (20-24).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Among 150 respondents, 51.3% were up to 25 years of age,

25.3% were >25-35 and the remaining 23.4% were between 35 to 45 years of age. About 40% were illiterate, slightly over one-fourth, (27.3%) of the respondents got education up to primary level, and 17.4 and 14.0% attained education > primary to matric and above matric levels, respectively. About 61.0% of the respondents got married between 15-19 years of age, 26.0% of the respondents were in between > 19 to 29 years, 12.0 and 1.3% were in between >29-39 and above 39 years, respectively.

Verbal violence. The respondents were asked about the verbal violence faced by them from their husbands. It was revealed that 28.0, 24.0, 21.3 and 18.7% of the respondents faced frequent verbal violence by their counterparts like threat to divorce, words of abuse, negatively criticism, taunting and insulting their family members respectively. A negligible number of the respondents were blackmailed by their counterparts. Moreover, 28.0, 25.3, 24.0 and 22.0% of the respondents occasionally faced violence by their husbands like words of abuse, criticism, family insult and taunting respectively. However, 48.0-92.0% of the respondents never faced any kind of verbal violence by their counterparts (Table I).

Physical violence. Table II shows that respondents were frequently slapped (21.3%), kicked (18.7%) and punched (14.0%) by their intimate partners. Occasionally faced physical violence included slapping, kicking and punching by their intimate partners as reported by 27.3, 16.0 and 12.7% of the respondents. Furthermore, above than fifty (54.0%) to an overwhelming (95.0%) majority of the respondents never faced any kind of physical violence.

Relationship between education and violence (Verbal & Physical). Chi-square test was used to find out the relationship between education and violence against women and data in this regard are presented in Table III. Data reveals that there existed a significant positive relationship between education and verbal violence. There was also a significant relationship between education and physical violence. This means that with an increase in the education, there was a decrease in violence against women. Many researchers identified education as an indicator of changing behaviour of the individual (Malik, 1993), which is clearly evident from above findings.

Table I. Distribution of the respondents according to verbal violence they faced by their counterparts

Verbal violence	Intensity					
	Frequently		Occasionally		Never	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Your husband use words of abuse	36	24.0	42	28.0	72	48.0
Your husband taunt you	29	19.3	33	22.0	88	58.7
Your husband threat you for divorce	42	28.0	18	12.0	90	60.0
Your husband threat you for confiscation of children	16	10.7	24	16.0	110	73.3
Your husband insult your family	28	19.7	36	24.0	85	57.3
Your husband blackmail you	03	2.0	09	6.0	138	92.0
Your husband negatively criticize you	32	21.3	38	25.3	80	53.4

Table II. Distribution of the respondents according to physical violence they faced by their counter-parts

Physical violence	Intensity					
	Frequently		Occasionally		Never	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Your husband slap you	28	18.7	41	27.3	81	54.0
Your husband punch you	21	14.0	19	12.7	110	73.3
Your husband kick you	32	21.3	24	16.0	94	62.7
Your husband shove you	04	2.7	07	4.7	139	92.6
Your husband through objects	06	4.0	12	8.0	132	88.0
Your husband threat/attack with weapons	01	0.7	01	0.7	148	98.6
Your husband lock you in/out the house	02	1.3	05	3.3	143	95.4
Your husband threat you for disfiguration	05	3.3	03	2.0	142	94.7

Table III. Relationship between education and violence (verbal & physical)

Education	Verbal violence			Physical violence		
	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Illiterate	25.8	30.6	43.5	24.2	33.9	41.9
Up to matric	43.3	46.3	10.4	37.3	44.8	17.9
Above matric	42.9	33.3	23.8	47.6	33.3	19.0
$\chi^2 = 88.125^{**}$	df = 4		$\chi^2 = 11.665^*$	df = 4		

CONCLUSIONS

The findings of present research study clearly indicated that level of education is helpful in reducing the intensity of different types of violence against women. The study area is already deprived of education, less for man and more for women, which results in unawareness of basic rights on the part of women. Therefore, it is suggested that Government and NGO’s both work together for the increase in level of education through formal and non-formal means.

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