



## Socioeconomic Factors Causing Domestic Violence Against Women and Its Legal Consequences: A Study of Quetta, Pakistan

Ajmal Khan Mandokhail<sup>1</sup>, Wali Khan Mandokhail<sup>2</sup>, Ali Raza<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lecturer Sociology, Govt Boys Degree College Zhob, Balochistan, Pakistan

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Director at Divisional Directorate Education Department Zhob Davison, Pakistan

<sup>3</sup> M.Phil. Scholar in Sociology, BZU Multan/ Educator in School Education Department

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### ABSTRACT

Due to the impunity, concealment, stigma, and shame surrounding it, violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of the most pervasive, ongoing, destructive, and systemic human rights abuses in our time. This paper describes the phenomenon and factors of domestic violence among women living in Balochistan. The current research was carried out on the studies and cases related to Quetta, Balochistan, Pakistan. For this study, secondary data has been organized and analyzed by systematic review analysis technique to present a concise picture of domestic violence in Quetta. The study concludes that violence generally takes the form of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, including intimate partner violence (battery, psychological abuse, marital rape, femicide), sexual violence and harassment (rape, forced sexual acts, unwanted sexual advances, child sexual abuse, forced marriage, street harassment, stalking, and cyber-harassment). It occurs everywhere, regardless of a person's age, race, religion, or socioeconomic level. There is a strong desire to mobilize society's sectors to formulate domestic violence policy. Both women and men need to promote non-violent relationships in private and public life. Moreover, there is a need to assure the implication of The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act of 2012 in related institutions to avoid violence against women.

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**Corresponding Author's Email:** [mandokhail56@gmail.com](mailto:mandokhail56@gmail.com)

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### Introduction

Domestic violence is most widespread in low- and middle-income countries and affects millions of women and girls globally. Because financially dependent women are less likely to leave violent situations, economic inequality and poverty can potentially increase the likelihood

of domestic violence. Many nations lack domestic abuse awareness and response training for healthcare professionals, which results in lost chances for early intervention and assistance. Children who watch or experience domestic violence in their homes may suffer behavioral issues and a higher likelihood of engaging in violent conduct in the future. Domestic violence's long-term impacts might include persistent physical and mental health issues, poverty, and social isolation, leading to a cycle of violence and suffering (World Health Organization, 2020). However, power-based violence is a form of violence with a primary motivator: assertion of power, control and/or intimidation to harm another. This includes relationship/partner violence, rape/sexual assault, stalking, and other uses of force, threats, intimidation, or harassment of an individual (University of Missouri, NCADV, 2021). Around 47,000 (58%) of the 81,000 women and girls who died in 2020 globally did so at the hands of an intimate partner or family member. This equates to one murder every 11 minutes on average (Desai & Mandal, 2022).

As Muslims, using force and violence as a means of domestic control constitutes oppression and is not allowed and appreciated in Islam. In the Islamic culture, marriage indicates calm, comfort, serenity and safety. Any kind of abuse is contrary to the bedrock principles of marriage. Any defense of abuse runs counter to what Allah (swt) has exposed and the teachings and example of the Prophet Muhammad. Sura 30 Ayat 21, "And among His signs is this: He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquillity with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): Verily in that are signs for those who reflect." Sura 9 Ayat 71, "The Believers, men, and women, are protectors one of another: they enjoin what is, and forbid what is evil: they observe regular prayers, practice regular charity, and obey Allah and His Messenger. On them will Allah pour His mercy: for Allah is Exalted in power, Wise". Sura 16 Ayat 90, "Allah commands justice, the doing of good, and liberality to kith and kin, and He forbids all shameful deeds, and injustice and rebellion: He instructs you, that ye may receive admonition."

These verses from the Qur'an clearly show that violence and abuse have no place in Muslim marriages. Despite this, reported domestic abuse within the Muslim community has increased recently. This presents a problem not only for the individuals involved but also for the wider community and its understanding of what constitutes a genuinely Islamic marriage. In light of this, it is crucial to examine why domestic abuse occurs in Muslim marriages and find ways to address and prevent it. This research aims to contribute to the ongoing conversation on domestic abuse in Quetta by providing a deeper understanding of the issue and exploring possible solutions. The study will gather data through secondary sources of data and will analyze the results in light of the law, human rights, and Islamic teachings and practices. By bringing attention to this issue and providing practical recommendations for prevention and intervention, this research hopes to positively impact the lives of individuals and families in Quetta.

## **2. Literature Review**

According to recent research (Rollè, Ramon & Brustia, 2019), 61% of women (15–49 years old) report experiencing physical violence from an intimate relationship at least once. Domestic abuse affects people of all ages, genders, sexual orientations, and cultural or economic backgrounds. Nevertheless, the primary reasons DV is not more widely reported are fear of

retaliation from the offender; hope that DV will cease; embarrassment; loss of social standing due to negative media coverage; and the feeling of being stuck with nowhere to turn. According to the US Department of Justice (2017), Domestic Violence (DV) significantly negatively influences the family, friends, and those in the victim's social networks. Young children who endure DV may, in this aspect, suffer severe emotional trauma (Gregory, Feder, Taket & Williamson, 2017). According to the European Commission, domestic abuse affects one in four women in EU member states (DG Justice) (Latcheva, 2017). DV victims experience serious repercussions, including low self-esteem, guilt, shame, trouble expressing negative feelings, hopelessness, and helplessness (Keynejad, Bitew, Mulushoa, Howard & Hanlon, 2023; Loke, Wan & Hayter, 2012; Reed & Enright, 2006). As a result, it can be difficult for them to use appropriate coping strategies.

Financially dependent women are less likely to leave violent situations. Economic inequality and poverty can significantly increase the likelihood of domestic violence (Rezwana & Pain, 2021; Kiamanesh & Hauge, 2019). In many countries, healthcare providers are not trained to identify and respond to domestic violence cases, leading to missed early intervention and support opportunities (Hegarty et al., 2020). Domestic violence can also significantly impact women who witness or experience violence in their homes, leading to behavioral problems and an increased risk of future violence (Tarzia et al., 2021; Alhalal, 2020). The long-term effects of domestic violence can include chronic physical and mental health problems, poverty, and social isolation, leading to a cycle of violence and suffering (World Health Organization, 2020). At least 155 nations have domestic abuse laws in place, while 140 have laws against workplace sexual harassment (World Bank Group, 2020). Yet, there are still difficulties in executing these laws, which restricts the access of women and girls to protection and justice. Violence is frequently not penalized when it occurs and not enough is done to stop it. Women who experience violence are less able to participate fully in society and experience negative effects on their general well-being. It has an effect on their families, their neighborhood, and the nation as a whole. It has significant costs, involving increased pressure on the health care system, litigation fees, and productivity losses (United Nations, 2022).

Sadly, every type of familial violence promotes other types of violence that are connected. Children who have been subjected to abuse frequently continue the "cycle of abuse" into adult relationships, and then into caring for the elderly. Domestic and family violence covers a variety of abuse against children, adults, and elderly, including financial, emotional, sexual, physical and psychological exploitation. Domestic and family violence is thought to cost the country more than \$12 billion yearly. More people are anticipated to be afflicted, which would result in a growth in the old population over next 20 years (Huecker et al., 2022)

Sindh and Punjab both have the highest reported rates of domestic violence. However, the low percentages in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa and Balochistan are not always due to the low violence rate. They may also involve a lack of reporting because of socio-cultural restrictions. According to the survey, the husband, father, and brother of the sufferer are the most customarily the perpetrators of Violence (Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, 2018). The Domestic Violence

(Prevention and Protection) Act, 2012, was passed in Pakistan, intending to provide protection and preventive measures against domestic violence. The act defines domestic violence as any act committed by a family member, whether physical, psychological, sexual, or economic, that causes harm or injury to another family member. In 2021, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) government proposed a new bill known as the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Amendment Bill 2021. The bill aims to strengthen the provisions of the 2012 act further and provide more comprehensive protection to victims of domestic violence in the KPK province (Zahoor & Qayum, 2021). The proposed amendments include provisions for establishing protection centers for victims, increased penalties for offenders, and measures for the rehabilitation and support of victims. The bill also seeks to establish a domestic violence complaint cell within the police department and provide for the appointment of protection officers to assist victims in obtaining legal and medical aid (Mukherjee, 2022).

The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Amendment Bill 2021 is a positive step toward addressing the issue of domestic violence in the KPK province and providing better protection to victims. The act provides a legal framework for protecting and preventing domestic violence and outlines the responsibilities of various government agencies and organizations in addressing this issue. However, despite the act's provisions, the law's implementation and enforcement have been inadequate in many cases. Many domestic violence victims are unaware of their rights under the act, and even when they are, they face many barriers to accessing justice. This can include a lack of access to legal aid, the social stigma associated with reporting abuse, and a slow and insensitive justice system. In addition, many law enforcement agencies and government officials do not have the necessary training and resources to effectively implement the act's provisions, leading to a lack of enforcement in many cases (Deeba, Akhter & Khan, 2022; Zahoor & Qayum, 2021).

### **3.0 Methodology**

The study's methodology employed a qualitative research design and relied on secondary data sources. The study aimed to contribute to the understanding of the factors that contribute to domestic violence in Quetta city and provide recommendations for future research. The research design was qualitative, and secondary data sources were utilized to explore the factors of domestic violence against women living in Quetta city, Balochistan. The data was collected through a comprehensive review of existing literature and reputable sources, including academic journals, government reports, newspaper articles, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

The secondary data were analyzed for patterns, trends, and themes related to domestic violence in Quetta. The data were carefully examined, and the relevant information was extracted and synthesized. The themes that emerged from the data were then used to identify the factors contributing to domestic violence against women in Quetta. The secondary data sources used in this study covered a wide range of topics related to domestic violence, including the causes, consequences, and prevention of domestic violence.

Here is a systematic review table based on all consulted data:

#	Source	Type	Number of Articles/Reports Reviewed	Results
1	Research Articles/papers	In-text citations+Consulted	25	Domestic violence and socioeconomic factors are directly interlinked, but The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act of 2012 fails to implicate them.
2	Case Studies	Consulted	5	Most cases have the same patterns of violence living/lived in Quetta.
3	Research Reports	In-text citations+Consulted	20	Domestic violence has been increasing every year.
4	International websites	In-text citations+Consulted	15	Even though legislations and acts are present, more laws are enacted but failed in execution.

This systematic review summarizes the results of four studies comprised of 65 different articles, research papers, reports, and international website data.

#### 4.0 Results

The systematic review of the studies helped to accumulate useful information about the condition of women facing domestic violence in Quetta and the purpose of its establishment. Khan (2009) defined the structure when he conducted his study on the females living in Quetta. The females who faced domestic violence go to shelter homes called Dar ul Amans where the accused women get shelter along with others who have been indulged in any FIR or legal case. This is under the control of the Social Welfare Department of provincial governments. Usually, the females who need protection are placed in it by the local court order. The initial purpose of such shelter homes is to organize compromise conditions between disputed parties and provide medical or legal aid as per their need. The study further mentioned that only one supported shelter for women in Balochistan. "However, unfortunately, this shelter home in Quetta lacks financial and technical resources, short-term projects, and volunteer worker turnover, which are the main obstacles to its successful working (Khan, 2009). Despite difficulties, unsatisfactory situations, and not being up to mark in the standard of it, the women who faced unfavorable situations at home in far-off districts of Balochistan tried to come here. Otherwise, they have no option other than to suffer from domestic violence (Counting the Law, 2017). Another report by Zafar (2017) also confirmed that there was no health, learning handcrafts, education or other learning facilities in Quetta Dar ul Aman.

While talking about the factors contributing to domestic violence against women in Quetta,

it has been found that studies reported male dominance and ego as the main components of violating against women at home. The females felt insecure at home when they faced or saw their female house members bearing physical torture. The males easily blamed them for being wrong in character and doing sexual business. Such thinking urged them to murder the females and created a sense of insecurity in other females who preferred to escape from home and live in shelter homes for shelter (IG News, 2022).

Women were ignorable objects and ultimately denied all social, political, economic, and educational access. Female was broad-spectrum impressed as compared to men in our community. Therefore, females in this regard are solely fit for household management and child nurturing (Alizai, Lohana & Talpur, 2020). The study's findings illustrate the far-reaching impact of domestic violence on not only individual victims but also on families and communities (Benazir, Bashir, Zarar, Ahmed & Farooq, 2021). The studies demonstrate that children who witness domestic violence are at a higher risk of experiencing behavioral and emotional problems and exhibiting violent behavior in adulthood. In patriarchal and joint family systems like those in Quetta, as in Pakistan, the family environment plays a critical role in shaping the attitudes and behaviors of both men and women towards each other (LaBore, Ahmed, Rizwan-ur-Rashid, & Ahmed, 2021; Chaudhry, Khan, Shumaila, Amer, Khalid & Chaudhary, 2021).

The findings elaborate on the Learned Behavior Theory, which suggests that men who engage in domestic violence have often witnessed or experienced similar behavior in their own families. At the same time, women are taught to be submissive to men. Such attitudes and behaviors violate women's fundamental rights and perpetuate a cycle of violence. The patriarchal character of Pakistani culture also promotes men's sense of superiority. This superiority complex contributes to women's oppression and the persistence of many forms of violence against them. The concept perpetuates this patriarchal mindset that an individual can only genuinely be a man if he can effectively rule women, preventing women from achieving empowerment and leaving them susceptible to violence. Quetta has a female population percentage of 47.6% (PCCP, 2017). The research highlights the substantial costs of domestic violence to society, including lost productivity, higher healthcare costs, and worse living standards for both people and communities. While there is the highest value of physical violence in Balochistan compared to other provinces of Pakistan (Chaudhry et al., 2021).

In District Quetta, Balochistan, Pakistan, it was discovered that poverty is a significant socioeconomic element causing domestic violence against women. Children and women are frequently the most vulnerable to poverty and its impacts, making them more prone to abuse and violence. At the same time, it was stated in a previous Statista study that in comparison to 236 million males, 247 million women aged 15 and above would be living on less than \$1.90 per day globally in 2021. Since women will continue to constitute the overwhelming majority of the world's extremely poor, the gender poverty gap is predicted to widen by 2030 (Statista, 2020). This indicates that women are particularly susceptible to poverty and reliant on their male partners, which can result in violent relationships. According to the learned helplessness theory, women

who feel powerless and dependent on their male partners for necessities frequently accept domestic violence. Marxist feminists believe this is a product of capitalism's demand for women to perform unpaid domestic work and have children for male industrial employees. In contrast, radical feminists believe it results from a patriarchal society where women are repressed and denied equal rights. In both cases, poverty makes it more likely that women will experience domestic abuse since it makes them more reliant on their male partners and limits their access to services and assistance.

Domestic violence against women and poverty are related because the former makes it harder for women to leave abusive situations since poverty raises stress levels and restricts access to services and assistance. The results of earlier research are consistent with those of this study, showing a high correlation between poverty and domestic abuse of women. For instance, according to research by the World Health Organization (WHO), poor women are more likely to face domestic violence, such as physical and sexual abuse, than those who are more affluent. Similarly, research by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) discovered that women living in poverty were more likely to face economic abuse and physical, sexual, and psychological violence. In addition, a poorer household may experience more severe and frequent domestic violence. According to National Institute of Justice (NIJ) research, women who live in poverty are more likely than those who do not to encounter more severe types of violence, such as sexual assault and bodily harm (Dekeseredy, 2020).

The study's results indicate that education level significantly influences the frequency of domestic violence against women. In contrast, according to the Pakistan Alliance for Girls Education, 77% of boys and 69% of girls aged 6 to 15 do not attend school. Dropouts are also a concern in Quetta at the elementary and intermediate school levels (Alliance for Girls' Education in Pakistan, 2021). In Quetta, the literacy rate for women is 44.53%, compared to 67.27% for men. The findings are consistent with other research, which showed a complicated and multifaceted association between education level and domestic violence against women. The socioeconomic importance of education in Quetta's domestic violence against women problem is widely acknowledged. Despite its well-known campaign for women's empowerment, Pakistan came at the bottom in the World Economic Forum's 2022 Global Gender Gap Report. This results from poor health infrastructure for women and low levels of female engagement in the economy and sectors requiring education. It will be difficult to eradicate the problem of domestic abuse until a suitable framework to guarantee women's full involvement is in place. Another study pointed out that the females' complaint that working on women's rights awareness, especially in the legal process and cases, is incomplete without counseling support, while the women need assistance and supportive services in shelter homes to cope with the violent situation faced due to family members (Khan, 2009).

Education level refers to the amount of formal education an individual has received. This includes both primary and secondary education, as well as higher education. On the one hand, higher levels of education can empower women and give them more control over their lives,

reducing their risk of experiencing domestic violence. On the other hand, women with higher levels of education may be more likely to enter into abusive relationships because they are more likely to be economically independent and have fewer social support networks (Soomar & Soomar, 2022; Khan, Akhtar & Zaman, 2017). The World Health Organization (WHO) study found that women with lower levels of education were more likely to experience physical and sexual violence from their intimate partners.

Similarly, some studies found that women with lower levels of education were more likely to be married at a young age and to have less control over their lives, which increased their risk of experiencing domestic violence. Women with lower levels of education were less likely to seek help or support in the aftermath of domestic violence. This was attributed to a lack of awareness of their rights and the availability of resources and support. These findings suggest that education level plays a significant role in the prevalence of domestic violence against women (Nawaz, Kiran, Shabbir, Koser & Zamir, 2022).

Due to tribal barriers still challenging to overcome, women in Quetta mightily struggle to find employment and support. The female literacy ratio is less than the male. In contrast, 96% of educated women are unemployed (Bibi & Tobawal, 2022). The study results show that one of the critical variables impacting domestic violence against women in the area is work status. Women's financial independence and stability are directly impacted by unemployment and underemployment, making them more susceptible to domestic abuse (Clarke, 2019).

Conversely, women with greater levels of education and employment tend to encounter less domestic abuse. This is because they have exceptional financial stability and independence thanks to their work and education, providing them more control over their lives and the means to leave violent situations. An investigation by the International Labour Organization (ILO) revealed that women with greater levels of education and employment were less likely to experience domestic violence (Brohi, Khattak & Sarwar, 2014).

The study underlines the significance of power dynamics in domestic violence against women and the effect of work positions. According to the survey, men in the area frequently abuse their female partners emotionally and threaten them with divorce or separation if they do not give in to their demands. This is a result of their dependency on money and the economy, which makes it challenging for people to stand up for themselves and leave violent situations. Men also frequently deceive women by making false promises while preying on their ignorance and ignorance. The Power and Control Wheel hypothesis, which emphasizes the requirement that males exercise exclusive power in relationships, can help to explain this (Chauhan, 2004).

The results of this study show that drug misuse significantly increases the risk of domestic abuse against women in Quetta. Alcohol and narcotics are among the psychoactive substances that may be used harmfully or dangerously and negatively influence people, families, and communities. It frequently leads to various negative results, such as domestic violence. According to studies,



substance misuse is a substantial risk factor for domestic violence against women. Addiction to drugs or alcohol can occasionally make aggressive behavior worse, resulting in physical or emotional abuse. For instance, research by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) discovered that males who were alcohol dependent had a higher likelihood of committing domestic violence. The fact that alcohol and other substances may impair judgment and lower inhibitions makes people more likely to engage in violent behavior (Bernhardt, 2020).

Additionally damaging to the dynamics of a relationship, substance misuse can make couples tenser and at odds with one another. This is because substance addiction may result in more stress, monetary difficulties, and mental instability, increasing the likelihood of violence. Addiction to drugs or alcohol can also make it more difficult for women to escape violent partners. Women in relationships with substance-abusing partners may feel guilty about their partner's behavior and be hesitant to leave them out of concern that they would not have any support. In addition to causing financial and emotional burdens, substance addiction can make it more challenging for women to leave abusive situations (Abbas, Iqbal, Sher & Waseem, 2022; Grant, Darby, Shapiro, Farris, Maiorino & Redlener, 2005).

The results demonstrate that drug addiction significantly contributes to the cycle of domestic violence. The following is how the process of violence theory explains the domestic violence pattern: When faced with too many pressures, a guy may turn to violence towards his female spouse as a way to cope. Afterward, he could feel bad and apologize, temporarily bringing back the pre-violence dynamic. The cycle, however, keeps repeating when the male utilizes the woman's financial dependency and subordination as a tool of control rather than his fake benevolence. If the marriage breaks down in divorce, the woman has to struggle to maintain her children on her own without the help of her male spouse (Zafar, 2013). According to the psychopathic view, domestic violence is the outcome of psychological problems in the offender, who then deliberately inflicts pain before trying to atone, creating a vicious cycle that repeats itself. Although drug misuse may not always result in psychiatric illnesses, it can exacerbate the signs of pre-existing disorders, making it significantly harder to stop the cycle of violence (Bazai, Panezai & Qasim, S. (2021; Perveen, Shahzad & Baber, 2012).

The findings of this research on the socioeconomic variables influencing domestic violence against women in Quetta, Balochistan, Pakistan, indicate the crucial part that resources and assistance play in domestic violence prevalence. Women are more likely to experience domestic violence if they have less access to resources and support networks, including financial resources, social support networks, and legal and medical facilities. The study also discovered that women who are poor or socially isolated are more vulnerable to domestic abuse. This is because they may lack the means or assistance to leave violent situations (Jan, 2021; Barrech, Bashir, Baloch & Safdar, 2019).

Furthermore, the study shows that women who do not have access to legal services are more likely to experience domestic violence. This is because they cannot seek protection from

abuse or act against their abuser, leaving them trapped in abusive relationships. This lack of legal services further exacerbates the situation, making it more challenging for women to escape and receive the necessary support and care (Khan, Dar & Zaman, 2019; Shah, 2012; Khan, 2009).

The study's findings highlight that domestic violence is a complicated problem brought on by various variables, including personal, interpersonal, social, and communal concerns. A history of abuse, childhood trauma or violence, substance misuse, and mental health conditions, including melancholy, anxiety, and difficulty with anger control, are all personal variables that contribute to domestic Violence (Dank et al., 2015). In addition, some studies indicate that those with narcissistic or antisocial personality characteristics are more prone to commit violent acts (Walters et al., 2013). Relational factors contributing to domestic violence include power imbalances in the relationship, financial dependence, lack of social support, and high levels of conflict and stress (Dank et al., 2015). In some cases, domestic violence may be perpetuated by cultural or societal norms that condone or excuse abusive behavior, such as attitudes that support male privilege and control over women (Walters et al., 2013). Community-level factors contributing to domestic violence include poverty, lack of access to resources such as safe housing and healthcare, and limited support services for survivors of abuse (Dank et al., 2015). A culture where violence against women is accepted or promoted can also be attributed to societal reasons like sexism and gender-based discrimination (Walters et al., 2013).

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Impact on Domestic Violence Against Women</b>
<b>Patriarchal culture</b>	Increases domestic violence against women
<b>Poverty</b>	Increases domestic violence against women
<b>Education level</b>	Can both increase or decrease domestic violence against women
<b>The young age of marriage</b>	Increases domestic violence against women
<b>Male superiority complex</b>	Increases domestic violence against women
<b>Learned behavior theory</b>	Increases domestic violence against women
<b>Dependence on male partners for necessities</b>	Increases domestic violence against women

Source: Researchers’ cumulative analysis

Note: The information in the table is based on finding various studies in Quetta, Pakistan, but is representative of the situation in other regions or countries.

It is alarming how prevalent domestic violence against women is in Quetta, Pakistan. According to a report from the Human Rights Commission, women in Quetta experience domestic violence, including being thrown on stoves or subjected to acid attacks over petty issues such as dowry. Physical violence is a common form of abuse, and honor killings only add to the extensive list of violence that women face. Some common forms of physical abuse in the domestic sphere include scratching, grabbing, shaking, slapping, twisting, punching, and even using weapons. The

absence of education and adequate awareness have prevented women from asserting their rights and claiming what is rightfully theirs, leading them to obey without question blindly. This lack of education and awareness only exacerbates the problem, as women cannot recognize and seek help for domestic violence (Noor, 2004).

The study's objective was to comprehend the socioeconomic elements contributing to domestic abuse of women in Quetta, Balochistan, Pakistan. The study's conclusions showed that domestic violence in the area was highly influenced by poverty, low levels of education, and a lack of economic possibilities. The study also discovered that cultural ideas supporting gender inequality and conventional patriarchal standards have a crucial influence on maintaining domestic violence. The study's conclusions demonstrate the need for a multifaceted strategy to address domestic violence against women in Quetta. To address the socioeconomic causes of domestic abuse and advance gender equality, the government, religious leaders, and the larger society must collaborate. This may be accomplished by giving women access to education and employment opportunities, raising public awareness, and striving to eradicate cultural norms and patriarchal practices that support domestic violence. To protect women from domestic abuse and ensure that those who commit it are held accountable, the court system must also take a more active part in these efforts.

## **5.0 Conclusions**

This research presented a cohesive elaboration of domestic violence and its legal consequences for females facing it. Shockingly, domestic violence is increasing in the Balochistan region of Pakistan. To address this serious problem, several initiatives are being conducted with the assistance of government officials, NGOs, and social activists. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act of 2012 was also passed and applied to avoid domestic violence and act against such negative behavior. However, its practical implication is very rare due to the influence of family restriction, male dominant society, females' hesitation and action/justice delay. The study disclosed that females majorly face violence by their intimate partner due to several reasons (character assassination of females, disobedience, the feeling of inferiority of males, dependency of females on their partner, unbearable independence by getting an education etc.). Domestic violence must be closely monitored at all levels. The perpetrators of such crimes ought to be subjected to exemplary punishment. It is urgently necessary to mobilize all facets of society to create a clear policy on domestic abuse. Men and women should consider advocating for non-violent relationships in their private and public lives. It will need persistent social, political, and criminal measures to change the rigid violence against females. Community development networks must paint for the benefit of the victims of violence and their care. Early marriage, forced conversion, gender discrimination, conservative attitude, uneven financial resources, legal system, poor fitness care, etc., must be addressed for females also to symbolize happy and inventive lifestyles in the province.

## **5.1 Limitations of the Study**

This research was mainly limited to Quetta city. The study's findings do not determine

whether the related dynamics add up to the domestic violence against women in other districts of Balochistan. Due to the traditional sense of the issue, researching such a severe topic took much work for the researcher. The respondents may avoid expressing their views freely for fear of self-respect and confidentiality, which may undermine the research findings and desired results. Pursuing this research on secondary qualitative data also limited the results' implications on a vast scale. Further research can be pursued using primary and first data for validation and more practical research.

## 5.2 Recommendation

- The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act of 2012 is a step in the right direction in addressing the issue of domestic violence in Pakistan; more needs to be done to ensure that the law is effectively implemented and enforced. This can include increased public awareness and education, improved access to legal aid and support services, and more significant investment in training and resources for law enforcement agencies.
- Domestic violence must be declared a social evil, and the perpetrators must be dealt with iron hands to ensure well-timed justice and safety of the victims, decreasing the time to resolve the issue.
- Complaints and helpdesk cells have to be increased at police stations to make sure the grievances of the sufferers are.
- In educational institutions, material concerning removing gender-based violence toward girls should be part of the syllabus. Additionally, to ensure the sufferers' protection, it requires gaining the assistance of non-secular pupils.
- Awareness campaigns need to be started at a countrywide level to cope with the issue. The authorities need to ensure their healthcare packages and rehabilitation facilities are on a need basis.
- Economic rewards and microfinance schemes have to be given to empower women and less their dependency on men to avoid family stress and violence.
- Recreational and other societal applications must be advanced by using the government where girls and their family members can refresh.

## 5.3 Policy Implications

This research is helpful to get an overview of the women living in shelter homes and check the management needs advancement, modification and alteration to provide better living, legal and protective facilities to victim females. The research findings can help the policymakers to revise the law's influential and implicating agencies to strengthen their system for practical acts of enforcement to prevent domestic violence in Balochistan as well as in other parts of Pakistan.

**Ajmal Khan Mandokhail:** Data Collection, Writeup

**Wali Khan Mandokhail:** Literature search, Methodology

**Ali Raza:** Drafting and data analysis, proofreading and editing

## Conflict of Interests/Disclosures

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest w.r.t this article's research, authorship, and/or publication.

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