

**The Formidable Scenario:
SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF VARIOUS FACTORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN IN PAKISTAN**

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Abstract: Women in Pakhtun society live in a world, which is structured by strict customary law, religious monopolization, familial disorder and tribal-feudal laws. These discriminatory frameworks tend to women's subjugation and discrimination through severe violence on daily basis. Women's victimization is mostly based on cultural, economic, legal and political factors which are the focus of this research study. The study was conducted in Tehsil Adenzai focusing on its four union councils; namely Khanpoor, Chakdara, Ouch and Badwan, District Dir Lower Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan. The data was collected from 375 respondents including (women victims and men perpetrators) with the help of pre-determined structured interview schedule using purposive sampling technique. A pure quantitative approach is used in order to analyze data with the help of descriptive (uni-variate) and inferential (Bi-variate) statistics. The quantitative analyses reveal that cultural, economic, legal and political factors create severe violence against women in Pakhtun society. However, it has been recommended that legal and judicial system, media, religious scholars, NGOs and local community leaders can play their positive role to decrease violence against women in Pakhtun society.

Key Words: women, domestic violence, cultural factors, economic factors, legal causes, political factors

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women that has led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to hamper women's emancipation and empowerment (Heise et.al, 1994; Benninger-Budel and Lacroix, 1999; Schuler et.al, 1996). Violence against women and girls continues as a global epidemic that kills, tortures, and maims physically, psychologically, sexually and economically (Sen, 1999 and USDJ, 1998). It is one of the most pervasive of human rights violations denying women's and girl's equality, security, dignity, self-worth, and their right to enjoy fundamental freedoms (HRWGR, 1995). Violence against women is prevalent

almost in every society, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. Even though most societies proscribe violence against women, the reality is that violations against women's human rights are often sanctioned under the garb of cultural practices and norms, or through misinterpretation of religious tenets (García-Moreno and Watts, 2000; Asling-Monemi, 1999; Day, 1995). Moreover, when the violation takes place within the home, as is very often the case, the abuse is effectively condoned by the tacit silence and the passivity displayed by the state and the law-enforcing machinery (Kerr, 1996 and Stanko, 1998).

The family is often equated with sanctuary a place where individuals seek love, safety,

security, and shelter. But the evidence shows that it is also a place that imperils lives, and breeds some of the most drastic forms of violence perpetrated against women and girls (Yodanis and Godenzi 1999; Laurence and Spalter-Roth, 1996; Buvinic et. al, 1999). Violence in the domestic sphere is usually perpetrated by males who are, or who have been, in positions of trust and intimacy and power husbands, boyfriends, fathers, fathers-in-law, stepfathers, brothers, uncles, sons, or other relatives (Morrison and Orlando, 1999; Garcia-Moreno, 1999; Poppe, 1999). Domestic violence is in most cases violence perpetrated by men against women. Violence against women is often a cycle of abuse that manifests itself in many forms throughout their lives. Even at the very beginning of her life, a girl may be the target of sex-selective abortion or female infanticide in cultures where son preference is prevalent (Mitra, 1999). During childhood, violence against girls may include enforced malnutrition, lack of access to medical care and education, incest, female genital mutilation, mutilation, early marriage, and forced prostitution or bonded labor (WHO, 1999). Some go on to suffer throughout their adult lives – battered, raped and even murdered at the hands of intimate partners (Ellsberg et. al, 1999). Other crimes of violence against women include forced pregnancy, abortion or sterilization, and harmful traditional practices such as dowry-related violence, sati (the burning of a widow on the funeral pyre of her husband), and killings in the name of honor and in later life, widows and elderly women may also experience abuse (Fikree and Bhatti, 1999; Martin et. al, 1999; Jewkes et. al, 2000). While the impact of physical abuse may be more ‘visible’ than psychological scarring, repeated humiliation and insults, forced isolation, limitations on social mobility, constant threats of violence and injury, and denial of economic resources are more subtle and insidious forms of violence (Van-Der-Straten, 1998; Watts, 1998; Coker, 1998).

The intangible nature of psychological abuse makes it harder to define and report, leaving the woman in a situation where she is often made to feel mentally destabilized and powerless (Curry, 1998). Jurists and human rights experts and activists have argued that the physical, sexual and psychological abuse, sometimes with fatal outcomes, inflicted on women is comparable to torture in both its nature and severity (Martin et.al, 2002; Sen, 2003). It can be perpetrated intentionally, and committed for the specific purposes of punishment, intimidation, and control of the woman’s identity and behavior. It takes place in situations where a woman may seem free to leave, but is held prisoner by fear of further violence against herself and her children, or by lack of resources, family, legal or community support (Shah, 2003; Khan, 2003; Kamal, 2003).

Domestic violence is prevalent in Pakistan at an alarming rate both in rural and urban vicinities. Women are the sufferers and are subject to physical, psychological and sexual abuse in their homes by partners, in-laws and in some circumstances by their brothers and parents (Ikram-ud-Din, 2003 and HRC, 2004). In a study published in *Lancet* in 2002, an estimated 99% of housewives and 77% of working women in Pakistan are beaten by their husbands (HRC, 2003). HRCP’s Annual Report of (2004) presented the percentage of domestic violence in Pakistan as 65% (physical violence), and almost one third (30.4%) of sexual violence often leading to serious injuries, which required emergency medical attention. In 2005, the Domestic Violence in South Asia Fact Sheet brought forward that in Pakistan 32.8% respondents admitted to ever having slapped their wives and 77.1% admitted to ever engaging in a non-consensual sex with their wives (HRC, 1999 and Hassan, 2002). While domestic violence is prevalent across the country, the situation in Punjab is dire. The Aurat Foundation in its Annual Report of 2009 highlighted that of the 608 cases of domestic violence reported in the year, 271 occurred in

Punjab, 134 in Sindh, 163 in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 22 in Baluchistan and 18 in Islamabad (Hassan, 2000).

There are many common precipitating factors, which are responsible for domestic violence in Pakistan. Some example are: domestic violence against women due to daily conflicts, family related problems, disagreements between women and men on any decision, choice preferences, conflicts of the two genders, etc (Fernandez, 2003). In relation to this Faryal (2002) argues that there are some distinguished factors, which make women prone to domestic violence like women's low educational levels, imbalanced empowerment issues between males and females, least participations in political activities due to low empowerment. In addition, the existing misconception about Islamic thoughts and traditional norms, lack of awareness about women rights, falsified beliefs, misuse of women in the name of honor justifying honor killing, low socioeconomic levels and poverty, existence of unjust traditional dowry system in the society, the common beliefs in the inherent superiority of males ignoring the women's autonomy, male dominant social structure and lack of support from the government also add fuel to the fire (Bashir, 1997 and Ahmad, 2002).

Geographically and culturally Pakistan is very diverse, but violence against women is endemic, and widespread, cutting across all differences (Ahmed, 2004). It is found on streets and in homes, in offices and bedrooms. Gender-based violence in Pakistan includes domestic violence, rape, trafficking, honor killings, forced prostitution, public humiliation, incest, child marriages, and sexual harassment. Extreme forms of physical abuse include burning, acid throwing, physical mutilation and female infanticide (Bates et.al, 2004 and Fernandez, 1997). In Pakistan, domestic violence occurs in every third household; up-to 80 per cent of women is subject to one or other form of domestic violence in their lives. Reports by human

rights groups suggest that every second Pakistani woman is a victim of direct or indirect violence, and a report from Karachi states that at least every third married woman in the city has faced violence of one kind or another (Fikree and Pasha, 2004; Fikree et.al, 2005).

THE ARGUMENTS

Several complex and interconnected institutionalized social and cultural factors have kept women particularly vulnerable to the violence (Ghuman, 2002). In this regard Hajjar (2004) argues that factors contributing to the violence against women include: socio-economic forces, the family institution where power relations are enforced, fear of and control over female sexuality, belief in the inherent superiority of males, and legislation and cultural sanctions that have traditionally denied women and girls an independent legal and social status (Haj-Yahia, 1998). Pakhtun culture is among the oldest, traditions-based and customary cultures, and Pakhtuns are among the largest patriarchic lineage group that encompass a vast range of codes to regulate the life patterns of its followers (Naz, 2011; and Khan, 2011). Due to such traditional and patriarchic structure; women have suffered to the extent where at some stages, the cases of minor and major violence have also been reported in the intimate relations. Such a few cases of misdemeanor are mostly based on economic dependency of women as most of the property and income-oriented matters are controlled by men (Khan, 2011). In relation to this Krug et. al (2002) expresses that lack of economic resources underpin women's vulnerability to violence and their difficulty in extricating themselves from a violent relationship. On one hand, the threat and fear of violence keep women from seeking employment, or, at best, compels them to accept low-paid, home-based exploitative labor and further creates violence against women (Koenig et. al, 2006).

Cultural ideologies both in industrialized and developing countries provide 'legitimacy' for

violence against women in certain circumstances (Miller, 1999). In this context Naved et. al (2006) demonstrates that religious and historical traditions in the past have sanctioned the chastising and beating of wives. The physical punishment of wives has been particularly sanctioned under the notion of entitlement and ownership of women. *Pakhtun* culture is patriarchic in nature where most of the authority rests within the hands of male members. Women are mostly restricted to the four walls of house; this perception further creates the scenario of violence against women in *Pakhtun* society. Likewise Shaikh (2000) is of the opinion that male control over property inevitably places decision-making authority in male's hands, leading to male dominance and more men's empowerment.

In *Pakhtun* society the concept of ownership, in turn, legitimizes control over women's sexuality, which in many law codes has been deemed essential to ensure patrilineal inheritance. Traditional norms in the society allow killing of 'errant' daughters, sisters and wives suspected of defiling the honor of the family by indulging in forbidden sex, or marrying and divorcing without the consent of the family. In relation to this Srinivasan and Bedi (2007) demonstrate that the honor of a rival ethnic group or society can be defiled by acts of sexual violence against its women. Apart from these factors, the excessive consumption of alcohol and other drugs has also been noted as a factor in provoking aggressive and violent male behavior towards women and children (Watts, 2002). A survey of domestic violence in *Pakhtun* society revealed that half the cases of physical abuse are associated with the husband's excessive alcohol consumption. In addition, Kapoor (2003) argues that lack of legal protection, particularly within the sanctity of the home, is a strong factor in perpetuating violence against women. Until recently, the public/private distinction that has ruled most legal systems has been a major obstacle to women's rights. In *Pakhtun*

society violence against women is exacerbated by legislation, law enforcement and judicial systems that do not recognize domestic violence as a crime. In many places, those who commit domestic violence are prosecuted less vigorously and punished more leniently than perpetrators of similarly violent crimes against women. In this connection, it may not be wrong to argue that the socio-cultural, economic, legal and political factors have a strong association with the existence of domestic violence against women among *Pakhtuns*.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To investigate various cultural and economic factors of domestic violence against women in *Pakhtun* society.
2. To describe the legal and political causes of domestic violence against women among *Pakhtuns*.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. The cultural and economic factors have strong association and relationship with domestic violence against women.
2. Legal and political shortcomings create domestic violence against women in *Pakhtun* society.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The study was conducted in Tehsil Adenzai focusing on its four union councils namely (*Chakdara, Khanpoor, Ouch and Badwan*) District Dir Lower Khyber *Pakhtunkhwa* Pakistan. It is a population-based study covering both married women (N = 1718) and men (N= 1715) who were actually victims and perpetration from four union councils of Tehsil Adenzai selected through purposive sampling strategy. Interviews were conducted using pre-determined structured interview schedule for women (victimization) and men (perpetration). Women were asked regarding violence committed by their husbands over them while in the same manner men were asked about the

perpetration against their wives. The responses in this context were recorded while keeping the cultural, economic, legal and political factors in view. The sample size i.e. (n=375 respondents) was calculated, based on the available estimated prevalence of domestic violence for the mentioned four union councils. Based on the prevalence of domestic violence, with a confidence level of 95% and absolute precision of 0.05, the samples required were: 85 women from *Khanpoor*, 135 women from *Chakdara*, 80 respondents from *Ouch* 75 respondents from *Badwan*. A triangulated approach has been adapted in the form of descriptive statistics

and inferential statistics with correlation in order to analyze and test the hypotheses.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The current research study aims to quantify and describe the issue under discussion for easy understanding and proper discovery. In this regard, the descriptive statistics (in the form of frequency, percentage, mean, median, mode, variance and standard deviation, skewness, range, percentile and quartile) with the interpretation of numerical values is applied. However, inferential statistics is used with the help of chi-square test, lambda, gamma, and correlation in order to test the hypotheses.

Table-1. CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Cultural and Economic Factors		Frequency	Percentage					
Gender-specific socialization		31	08%					
Cultural definitions of appropriate sex roles		29	08%					
Expectations of roles within relationships		25	06%					
Belief in the inherent superiority of males		30	08%					
Values that give men proprietary rights over women and girls		26	07%					
Notion of the family as the private sphere and under male control		32	09%					
Customs of marriage (bride price/dowry		26	07%					
Acceptability of violence as a means to resolve conflict		23	06%					
Women's economic dependence on men		45	12%					
Limited access to cash and credit		27	07%					
Discriminatory laws regarding inheritance, property rights,		26	07%					
Limited access to employment in formal and informal sectors		22	06%					
Limited access to education and training for women		33	09%					
Total		375	100%					
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS								
Mean	Median	Mode	Variance	Standard Deviation	Quartile	Percentile	Skewness	Range
1.23	1.00	2	3.05	1.47	2.34	1.24	-1.45	12

The quantitative analysis demonstrates the various cultural and economic causes of domestic violence against women in a systematic sequence. The table expresses that gender based socialization is among one

of the dominant cultural factors of domestic violence against women, which contributes as 31 (08%) out of total respondents i.e. 375 (100%). However, cultural definition of appropriate sex roles such as women should

offer the household activities in the form of rearing, caring and washing while man is the bread winner of the family. Such conception further creates domestic violence against women that is supported by 29 (08%) of respondents. In addition 25 and 30 (06%:08%) of the respondents expressed that expectation of roles within relationship and belief in the inherent superiority of male further produce domestic violence in family and community. The numerical data reflects that male biased-values and notions of the family as the private sphere and under male control creates domestic violence in family environment supported by 26 and 32 (07%:09%) respondents sequentially. In addition, some portion of respondents i.e. 26 (07%) argue that customs of marriage (bride price/dowry) is among the major encouraging factor of domestic violence in *Pakhtun* society. However, 23 and 45 (06%: 12%) respondents accordingly, strongly recommends that acceptability of violence as a mean to resolve conflict and women's economic dependence on men instigate domestic violence. Limited access to cash and credit facilities and discriminatory laws regarding inheritance, property rights further encourage domestic violence against women in *Pakhtun* society. In the nutshell, the quantitative analyses demonstrate that

limited access to employment in formal and informal sectors along-with educational opportunities and bring absurdity to women's status at the family and community level. This approach also give rise to domestic violence against women that is strongly supported by 22 and 33 (06%:09%) respondents accordingly.

Apart from discussions of various factors of domestic violence against women with the help of frequency and percentage, descriptive statistics (univariate analysis) has been conducted in order to measure and interpret the numerical data. The data has been analyzed in the form of measure of central tendency and dispersion in relation to symmetric diagram and Skewness. The numerical values of measure of central tendency (mean, 123, median, 1.00 and mode, 2) which are applicable in symmetric diagram and form normal distribution in SPSS with accepted results. However, the measure of dispersion shows (variance, 3.05 and standard deviation, 1.47) both absolute and relative dispersion and fall in the acceptance region of symmetric diagram. In addition, the quartile and percentile values express a best relationship of sample data with 'mean', the Skewness and 'range' further authenticates the results with average and central tendency.

APPLICATION OF CHI-SQUARE TEST (BIVARIATE AND MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS)

Cultural and economic factors	Domestic Violence		Total
	To Low Extent	To Greater Extent	
Gender-specific socialization	02 (06%)	29 (94%)	31 (100%)
Cultural definitions of appropriate sex roles	01 (03%)	28 (97%)	29 (100%)
Expectations of roles within relationships	02 (08%)	23 (92%)	25 (100%)
Belief in the inherent superiority of males	03 (10%)	27 (90%)	30 (100%)
Values that give men proprietary rights over women and girls	01 (04%)	25 (96%)	26 (100%)
Notion of the family as the private sphere and under male control	02 (06%)	30 (94%)	32 (100%)
Customs of marriage (bride price/dowry)	01 (04%)	25 (96%)	26 (100%)
Acceptability of violence as a means to resolve conflict	03 (13%)	20 (87%)	23 (100%)
Women's economic dependence on men	04 (09%)	41 (91%)	45 (100%)
Limited access to cash and credit	02 (07%)	25 (93%)	27 (100%)

Discriminatory laws regarding inheritance, property rights,	03 (12%)	23 (88%)	26 (100%)
Limited access to employment in formal and informal sectors	02 (09%)	20 (91%)	22 (100%)
Limited access to education and training for women	03 (09%)	30 (91%)	33 (100%)
Total	29 (08%)	346 (92%)	375 (100%)
Chi-square = 5.324 Significance = 0.000**	Lambda = 0.35	Gamma = 0.030	

($P=0.000^{**} < .05$ there is highly significance relationship between cultural and economic factors and domestic violence against women, ($\chi^2 = 5.324$, $D.f=7$)

In addition, inferential statistics with the help of Bivariate and Multivariate has been used in order to test the proposed hypotheses for the study. The responses of respondents were recorded on two point category i.e. to lower extent and to greater extent. Both Bivariate and Multivariate analysis have been used with the help of Chi Square test ($P=0.000^{**} < .05$ there is highly significant relationship between cultural and economic factors and domestic violence against women, ($\chi^2 = 5.324$, $D.f=7$). The value of chi-square test expresses highly significant association and relationship between and among the independent and dependent variables. Further, the Lambda and Gamma authenticates and proves the proposed hypothesis at the confidence interval of ($\alpha=.05$).

Correlation

		Domestic Violence	Cultural and Economic Factors
Domestic Violence	Pearson Correlation	1	0.985**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	375	375
Cultural and Economic Factors	Pearson Correlation	.985**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	375	375

(* Correlation is highly significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed), $r(375) = 0.985^{**}$; $p < .01$. $r^2 = 0.97$)
(Since 97% of the variance is shared, the association is obviously a strong one)

The correlation further authenticates the results in manner (** Correlation is highly significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed), $r(375) = 0.985^{**}$; $p < .01$. $r^2 = 0.97$, since 97% of the variance is shared, the association is obviously a strong one.

Table-2 . LEGAL AND POLITICAL FACTORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Legal and Political Factors of Domestic Violence	Frequency	Percentage
Lesser legal status of women either by written law and/or by practice	32	09%
Laws regarding divorce, child custody, maintenance and inheritance	25	07%
Legal definitions of rape and domestic abuse	23	06%
Low levels of legal literacy among women	32	09%
Insensitive treatment of women and girls by police and	42	11%

judiciary							
Lesser legal status of women	47	13%					
Under-representation of women in power in different professions,	23	06%					
legal and medical professions	24	06%					
Domestic violence not taken seriously	28	07%					
Notions of family being private and beyond control of the state	33	09%					
Risk of challenge to status quo/religious laws	21	06%					
Limited organization of women as a political force	27	04%					
Limited participation of women in organized political system	18	05%					
Total	375	100%					
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS							
Mean	Median	Mode	Variance Range	Standard Deviation	Quartile	Percentile	Skewness
3.45	2.00	2	4.76	2.18	3.56	2.45	2.43

The quantitative analyses demonstrate the legal and political factors of domestic violence against women in *Pakhtun* society. The data shows, that lesser legal status of women either by written law and/or by practice decrease women status in family and creates an environment of domestic violence, the argument is supported 32 (09%) respondents. In addition, 25 and 23 (07%:06%) respondents accordingly. In addition, 23 and 32 (06%:09%) respondents argued that legal definitions of rape and domestic abuse and low level of legal literacy among women further create domestic violence against women in family spheres. The statistical analyses illustrate that major portion of respondents i.e. 42 and 47 (11%:13%) respectively opined that incentive treatment of women and girls by police and judiciary and lesser legal status of women are among the encouraging factors of domestic violence against women in *Pakhtun* society. The sample data expresses that 23 and 24 (06:06%) respondents favored the factors that under-representation of women in different professions such as media, politics etc and legal and medical profession contribute in domestic violence against women. The results and discussion argue that

the customary notions of family being private and beyond control of the state and the traditional approach towards domestic violence further decrease women status; the argument is strongly supported by 28 and 33 (07%: 09%) respondents accordingly. However, risk of challenge to status quo/religious laws, limited organization of women as political force and limited participation of women in organized political system are the determinants of domestic violence against women that contributed in frequency and percentage as 21, 27 and 18 (06%:04%:05%) sequentially.

Beside the prescription of data in frequency and percentage, descriptive statistic has been used in order to interpret numerical data in relation to normal distribution of SPSS. The values of measure of central tendency in the form of mean, 3.45; median, 2.00 and mode, 2; demonstrate positive results and fall in acceptance region in regard of symmetric diagram. However, measure of dispersion has been utilized in order to check the variation and dispersion with the help of range, variance and standard deviation. The numerical value of range, variance and standard deviation fall in the acceptance region and authenticate the results. In

addition, the numerical value of quartile, relationship in relation to normal distribution. percentile and Skewness shows positive

APPLICATION OF CHI-SQUARE TEST (BIVARIATE AND MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS)

Legal and Political Factors	Domestic Violence		Total
	To Low Extent	To Greater Extent	
Lesser legal status of women either by written law and/or by practice	01 (03%)	31 (97%)	32 (100%)
Laws regarding divorce, child custody, maintenance and inheritance	01(04%)	24 (96%)	25 (100%)
Legal definitions of rape and domestic abuse	02 (09%)	21 (91%)	23 (100%)
Low levels of legal literacy among women	03 (09%)	29 (91%)	32 (100%)
Insensitive treatment of women and girls by police and judiciary	04 (10%)	38 (90%)	42 (100%)
Lesser legal status of women either by written law and/or by practice	01 (02%)	46 (98%)	47 (100%)
Under-representation of women in power in different profession	02 (09%)	21 (91%)	23 (100%)
legal and medical professions	01 (08%)	22 (92%)	24 (100%)
Domestic violence not taken seriously	01 (04%)	27 (96%)	28 (100%)
Notions of family being private and beyond control of the state	03 (09%)	30 (91%)	33 (100%)
Risk of challenge to status quo/religious laws	01 (05%)	20 (95%)	21 (100%)
Limited organization of women as a political force	03 (11%)	24 (89%)	27 (100%)
Limited participation of women in organized political system	02 (11%)	16 (89%)	18 (100%)
Total	25 (07%)	350 (93%)	375 (100%)
Chi-square = 5.786 Significance = 0.000** Lambda = 0.24 Gamma = 0.020			

(P=.000** < .05 there is highly significance relationship between legal and political factor and domestic violence against women, ($\chi^2 = 5.786$, D.f=07)

The Bivariate and Multivariate analysis is used with the help of chi-square test in order to test the hypothesis. The values of chi-square test (P=.000** < .05 there is highly significant relationship between legal and political factors and domestic violence against women, ($\chi^2 = 5.786$, D.f=07) at the confidence interval of ($\alpha=.05$) shows that there is strong association and correlation between legal and political factors and domestic violence against women.

Correlation

		Domestic Violence	Legal and Political Factors
Domestic Violence	Pearson Correlation	1	0.945**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	375	375
Legal and	Pearson	.945**	1

Political Factors	Correlation		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	375	375

(**Correlation is highly significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed), $r(375) = 0.945^{**}$; $p < .01$. $r^2 = 0.89$)
(Since 89% of the variance is shared, the association is obviously a strong one)

The correlation further validates the results as (**Correlation is highly significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed), $r(375) = 0.945^{**}$; $p < .01$. $r^2 = 0.89$, since 89% of the variance is shared, the association is obviously a strong one).

CONCLUSION

Domestic violence is a universal phenomenon that is prevalent almost in every society of the world. On the contrary, research studies reflect that the case is little severe in societies that are settled on customary law and traditions. In this regard, the current research study reflects the scenario of domestic violence in a traditional structure of *Pakhtun* society. The empirical analyses show that women are the sufferers and are subjected to physical, psychological and sexual abuse in their home by partners, in-laws and in some circumstances by their brothers and parents due to socio-cultural, economic, legal and political factors. The cultural and economic factors associated with domestic violence in *Pakhtun* society comprises of gender specific socialization, cultural definitions of sex roles, and expectations of role within relationships. In addition, inherited males' superiority, women's economic dependency, lack of awareness about women's rights, male dominant social structure and lack of governmental support are the factors that intensify domestic violence.

Apart from the cultural and economic factors; the legal and political determinants also trigger the ratio of domestic violence. The legal and political policies neglect women's status and thus under-represent their legal and political position. Besides, their access to the law-framing and law-enforcing agencies is not encouraging, which ultimately deprive them from social justice. Resultantly, the research study reaches to the fact that numerous factors are serving as mercenaries

behind the prevalence and intensification of domestic violence against women in the societies that are based on traditionalism and customary law.

Policy Measures

Based on the findings of the current research study; it is recommended that:

- Supportive services in the form of legal interventions and policy that could transparently deal with domestic violence and women's protection and security.
- The legal and judicial system of the country must have harmony and unanimity regarding the punishment and initiative to impede the violence in the form of Special Forces and other law-implementing agencies.
- Awareness programs should be initiated both for women and men utilizing the mass media, schools, colleges, universities and communities as beneficiaries to render facilitation to the victims.
- Religious leaders and their sermons are among the core values of acceptance and intimation that could be elegantly utilized to overcome the issue of women's deprivation in general while domestic issues in particular.

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