EXPLORING THE ROOTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN PAKISTAN

By

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Abstract

Family is a place of mutual respect among the members. However, more often than not it has become a place of living of unequal members with especially a wrongly assumed lower status attached to the women in the family and the household. This ill treatment is a reflection of the society in which we live. More alarming is the fact that in some cases this situation results in female members of the household not just being divorced but subject to physical violence including torture and even being killed. The main purpose of this qualitative research paper is to identify some of the key factors including literacy rates/educational levels of women and the socio-economic status including low income of men that result in domestic violence. Primary research was conducted to examine and analyse detailed case studies of twelve victims of various forms of abuse such as, bride selling, sex trafficking, forced marriages and domestic violence.

According to Human Rights Commission Pakistan Reports, reported domestic violence which would only reflect a small proportion of the actual situation increased significantly over the period 2010 to 2015 from 211 cases to 256 registered cases.

This thesis aims to analyse the current status of women in Pakistan based on our detailed case studies given the existing socio-economic conditions and the existing laws and their implementation as well as new legislation being introduced to tackle this serious situation and whether it would have the potential to make a difference. An important contribution of the thesis is to establish and identify some of the root causes of domestic violence prevailing in our society. Throughout this paper, the terms 'domestic violence' and 'domestic abuse' are used interchangeably.