

The Intersection of Age, Marital Status, and Abusive Dynamics in Females: A Sociocultural Perspective

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the intersection of age, marital status, and abusive dynamics among women in Bahawalpur, Pakistan, through a sociocultural lens. Domestic violence, including physical, emotional, financial, and control abuse, is a widespread issue affecting women in various age groups and marital statuses. The research utilized a survey conducted with 150 women from diverse backgrounds to understand the prevalence and patterns of abuse in the region. The findings revealed that 62% of participants had experienced some form of abuse, with emotional abuse being the most commonly reported. The analysis indicated no statistically significant differences between married and unmarried women regarding the types or severity of abuse, suggesting that marital status does not influence the occurrence of domestic violence. However, the study found that age plays a significant role in the type of abuse experienced. Younger women, particularly those in the 14-25 age group, were more likely to experience physical and emotional abuse, while older women (aged 26-40) reported higher instances of financial abuse. These findings highlight the need for a deeper understanding of how different sociocultural factors, such as age and marital status, shape women's experiences of abuse. The study underscores the importance of localized interventions, policies, and support systems tailored to address the unique needs of women in different life stages and marital conditions. Such efforts are critical in creating effective strategies for preventing and responding to domestic violence, ensuring that all women, regardless of their age or marital status, have access to appropriate support and protection.

1. Introduction

Domestic abuse and violence against women are global concerns that have detrimental effects on individuals, families, and communities (World Health Organization, 2019). Pakistan, like many other countries, faces significant challenges regarding gender-based violence, including abusive behavior against females (Bano et al., 2019).

In Pakistan, female domestic violence is an endemic social issue in cities and rural areas, increasing at an alarming rate due to the misuse of social and cultural values and religious norms. 51% of urban Pakistani women experienced verbal, physical, or sexual abuse in the six months prior to and/or during pregnancy, with factors like young maternal age, unemployed husbands, and prior pregnancies being significant predictors (Tahir, 2017).

Violence affects women of all ages, but the type and frequency can vary significantly. Older women may be more vulnerable to domestic and intimate partner violence, often facing isolation and lack of support. Younger women might experience different forms of abuse, such as cyberbullying or dating violence, which are more prevalent in their social contexts.

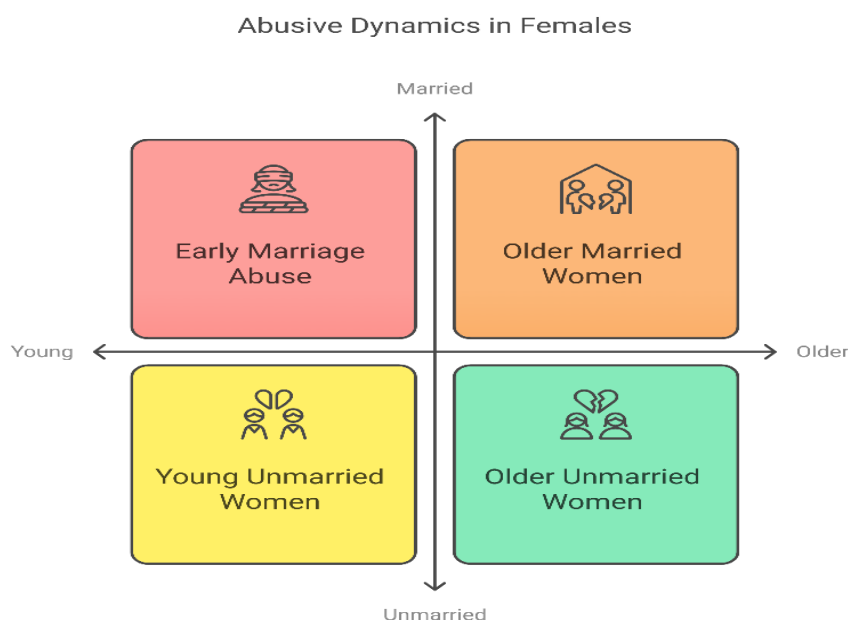


Figure 1: Abusive Dynamics in Females

Likewise, there are marital status factors to examine: does a single woman experience and expose herself more to abuse than a married, divorced, or widowed woman? Although divorced or widowed women may face financial or emotional abuse, married women are vulnerable to intimate relationship violence.

A sociocultural lens allows for a deeper understanding of how societal norms, gender roles, and systems of power foster abusive behavior. This perspective examines how people's behaviors and relationships are influenced by their social and cultural environment. It explains the reasoning behind the abusive behavior of some individuals. These intersections are equally important to address, as they provide a framework for more focused programs, policies, and support systems that consider the diversity of women's experiences, leading to more effective prevention and intervention efforts. The District of Bahawalpur (in the province of Punjab) is not immune to these problems. This research is imperative in Bahawalpur District to know the extent and nature of abusive behavior so that the local intervention, support services, and policies can be developed accordingly. In Pakistan, there have also been research studies that have explored the same topic,

thus providing insights into domestic violence and the various factors leading to it (Abbasi et al., 2021; Sabir et al., 2018). But localized research in District Bahawalpur is required to assess and understand the context and issues of women in this area.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

As understanding the extensiveness of abusive behavior is essential, the topic "The Intersection of Age, Marital Status, and Abusive Dynamics in Females: A Sociocultural Perspective" was selected. The experiences of women who have encountered abuse do not look the same and depend on several factors, including their age and marital status. These two are factors affect the nature and extent of abuse and society's perception of the victim significantly. Hence, in many ways, this study aims to bring to light these patterns which highlight the necessity of a more extensive approach towards understanding the sociocultural constructs leading to abusive behavior in women. It would study how sociocultural factors, such as age and marital status, can affect the engagement of women in abusive behaviors, particularly focusing on societal cajolements or reshapes which drive these behaviors at home.

1.2 Research Objectives

The research objectives at:

1. To establish the prevalence and the dynamics and patterns of abuse directed at females.
2. To examine the association of offenders and female victims.
3. The role of marital status in the shaping of vulnerability to abuse.
4. To explore and analyze the patterns and dynamics of abuse associated with various life stages of women.

1.3 Significance of the Study

1. This research holds significant value for academics, researchers, policymakers, social workers, and community organizations.
2. This study will add to the literature on the abusive actions towards females in the District of Bahawalpur and give an idea about the frequency with which they occur, the type of abuse faced, and the outcome.
3. The study will contribute to awareness of the issue and the adoption of evidence-based interventions and policies by generating localized evidence.
4. Policymakers can use the research findings to develop initiatives, legislation, and support services for women in the District of Bahawalpur.
5. This will also be useful for the researchers and academics who will be encouraged by the findings which will help them to continue their research in this area of gender-based violence and its impact on individuals and the whole community.
6. Social workers and community organizations will gain valuable information on the barriers confronted by females in the district, strengthening their responses to advocate and support survivors of abusive behavior.
7. Broadly this study will contribute to the discourse around intersectionality by illustrating how age, marital status, and social factors shape experiences of abuse and will also provide global insights about gender-based violence that can assist with designing strategies and interventions aimed at reducing such violence.

1.4 Scope and Limitations of Study

This study was conducted to learn about abusive behavior in women from a specific geographical region (District of Bahawalpur, Punjab, Pakistan). This study followed a quantitative research design. Survey questionnaires were utilized to collect data from a diverse group of female respondents in the district. Nevertheless, the study has some limitations.

1. First, the study is based on self-report data, which could be affected by social desirability bias and underreporting as it is a sensitive topic.
2. Second, the results may not apply to other districts or regions in Pakistan.
3. The study seeks to shed some light on the nature of abusive behavior against females in District Bahawalpur despite the limitations. The findings will guide evidence-based treatments, assistance programs, and regulations to address this problem.

2. Research Methodology

A quantitative research methodology was used for this research to collect the data and measure the magnitude, scenario, and consequences of abusive behavior against females in the District of Bahawalpur. A systematic questionnaire was incorporated, with closed-ended questions. Likert-scale items were created to obtain data from participants.

Respondents were guaranteed secrecy and anonymity when completing the questionnaire in person. Statistics for the data analysis and deduction. Population

The study focused on the female population living in District Bahawalpur, Punjab, Pakistan. The research sought to encompass women of all age ranges, socioeconomic statuses, and marital statuses. The research studied both married and unmarried women with a history of abuse.

2.1 Sample

The population comprised females from the District of Bahawalpur of various demographics. A sample size of 150 was chosen based on statistical considerations, including target levels of precision and confidence interval. Sampling was done using probability sampling methods to ensure. To ensure a diverse knowledge of women's experiences with abusive conduct in the region, a purposive sample of women from various socioeconomic backgrounds was chosen.

Table 1 displays the respondents' distribution of qualifications. With respondents or 29.33% of the total, "MATRIC" makes up most of the qualifying group. "FA" (41 respondents, 27.33%) and "MA" (19 respondents, 12.67%) are the next highest categories. There are 15 respondents (10.00%) with a "BS" qualification in the table, and 8 respondents (5.33%) with both a "MIDDLE" and a "BS" qualification. Other qualifications such as BA, BSC, MSC, MCS, and M. PHILL are represented by smaller percentages.

2.3 Demographic Table of Qualification of Respondents.

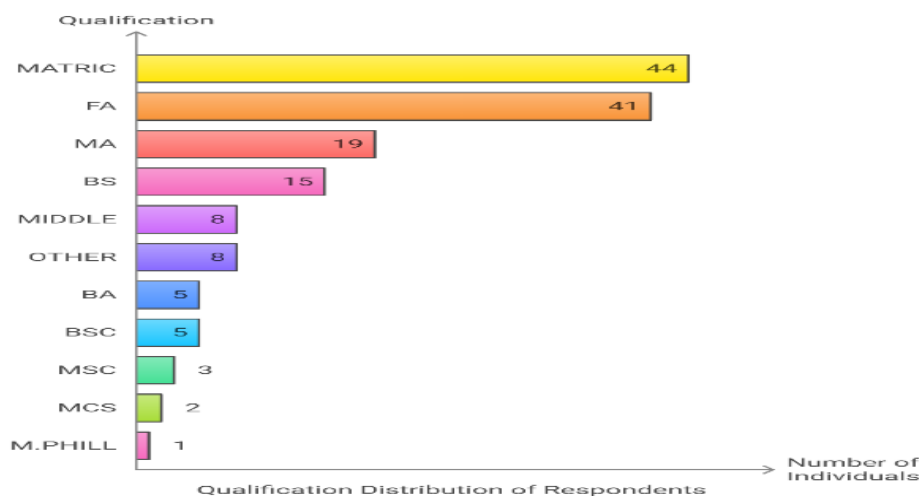


Figure 2: Graphical presentation of qualification of the respondents

3. Literature Review

The abusive behaviors, defined as any action or conduct with an intention of bringing harm, control or fear to the victim (World Health Organization, 2013). According to the WHO, intimate partner violence, a common type of abusive behavior, is defined as “any behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse, and controlling behaviors” (World Health Organization, 2019).

3.1 Preventing Psychopathology & Abusive Behaviors

Research from Pakistan indicates worrisome rates of abusive behavior towards women. The evidence base on intimate partner violence (IPV) in Pakistan is still limited and PDHS 2017-2018 data can be used to reflect insights on IPV in Pakistan. Physical violence against women is common in Punjab (the province of the District of Bahawalpur) as per PDHS data show that nearly 27% of married women living in Punjab reported ever experiencing physical violence (National Institute of Population Studies, 2018). Also, 42% of married women in Punjab reported emotional or verbal abuse at the hands of their husbands. These figures indicate the extent to which women in the region are subjected to abusive behavior.

A few localized studies in Pakistan also depict a similar trend of abusive behavior. One such study was conducted by Bano et al. Huma and Niamat 2019 in Punjab reported about 34% of women experienced physical violence as a result of their spouses. Similarly, a research work by Niaz et al. (2019) reported 35% of women in Sindh province experience violence. Sexual violence against women is a major problem in Pakistan, according to these studies in multiple regio

As a caveat, underreporting of abusive behavior makes prevalence data difficult to obtain.[5] For several reasons, such as fear, stigma, or socio-cultural factors that prevent women from reporting the abuse (Khan et al., 2019). Furthermore, social norms which discourage the discussion of personal matters beyond the family household may also play a role in the hiding of abuse (Saeed et al., 2016). This means that the reported prevalence may not truly reflect abusive behavior in the District of Bahawalpur and other areas of Pakistan.

Counsel students on why social and cultural factors can hinder women from reporting abusive behavior. These include normalization of violence, social pressure to protect family honor, unawareness about available support services, and restricted access to justice (Khan et al., 2019; Sabir et al., 2018). Other reasons for underreporting include social norms and patriarchal structures which continue to sustain gender inequality (Ali et al., 2020). Strategies to reduce underreporting must include initiatives to engage communities, raise awareness, and provide safe and discreet ways for individuals to report abuse.

3.2 Dynamics and Patterns of Abusive Behavior

According to the United Nations (2017) violence against women is considered as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women". This definition acknowledges that abusive behavior is based on power imbalances between genders and seeks to recognize the distinct experiences and risks encountered by women. These definitions reflect the enormous variety and fluidity of behaviors that could be classified as abusive -- the phenomenon is complex and varied. It is crucial to understand that such behaviors happen in all socio-cultural environments and are not unique to any age, relationship or demographic and geographic area.

Emotional abuse consisted of using tactics to exploit the victim's self-esteem, manipulate their emotions, or induce psychological suffering (Stark, 2013) This may entail threats, insults, humiliation and pervasive criticism (Jewkes et al., 2015). By words, actions, or behavior to crush

a person self-respect, dignity, and psychological well-being is called Emotional abuse. It includes a variety of behaviors such as relentless criticism, humiliation, insults, threats and intimidation, as well as controlling acts that are used to establish dominance and control over the victim (Devries et al., 2013). The survivor may suffer severe mental health issues, such as suicidal thoughts, PTSD, low self-esteem, and depressive episodes (García-Moreno et al., 2019).

Economic control is the exercise of power over the victim's ability to manage financial resources, control financial access, and use independent financial choices (Vives-Cases et al., 2019). This type of abuse occurs in several ways, including controlling the victim's access to money, forbidding them from working or withholding their means of access to basic resources (Bhandari et al., 2011). Through economic control, the abuser protects their power over the victim by restricting their independence and ability to exit an abusive relationship, or to support themselves and their children. Economic abuse is an example of abusive behavior which helps to maintain control over us through finances. This may include monitoring the victim's spending, restricting their access to bank accounts, or forcing them to surrender control over their finances (Stark, 2013). The women faced with economic control, suffer severe economic harm which ultimately results in financial dependency, poverty and further exposure to abuse (Sullivan, 2017).

Under this form of abuse, there are many different forms of physical violence that can happen in close relationships. These include hitting, slapping, kicking, punching, strangulation, and objects (Devries et al., 2013). The impact of each of these forms of physical violence is potentially different on the physical and mental health of the victim.

There are many reasons why physical violence occurs, and they can be different in different relationships and situations. Specific factors might include cultural norms that support or seem to tolerate violence, gender inequality, substance abuse, socioeconomic stressors, and an exposure to violence in childhood (Ali et al., 2020; García-Moreno et al., 2019)

Others highlight the power and control aspects of abusive behavior. According to Johnson (2018), coercive control is a pattern of behavior through which an abuser systematically dominates and subjugates their partner through a myriad of means. This often involves isolating the victim, surveilling their whereabouts, and stripping them of their autonomy and independence. Coercive control recognizes that abusers use manipulative tactics to exert control at a distance in addition to physical violence.

3.3 Factors lead to the abuse

3.3.1 Individual Factors

30 Childhood abuse, mental health disorders, such as antisocial personality disorder, and substance abuse have been associated with a higher risk of becoming abusive. Another factor contributing to violence in relationships is low self-esteem, lack of impulse control, unresolved trauma, and anger (Holtzworth et al., 2000). Beliefs that endorse violence, strict gender roles, and entitlement are correlated with abusive behavior (Dutton et al., 2006).

3.3.2 Relational Factors

Dynamics in relationships that involve power differences, control and discontent can increase the risk of abuse. Poor communications and relationship conflicts heighten the tension to the point that violence is adopted as a method of control. The cycle of abuse is perpetuated and worsened by a history of family violence and exposure to community-wide violence (Dobash & Dobash, 2004).

According to the World Health Organization (2019), there are various factors that can contribute to domestic violence. These are the inability to pursue education, an antisocial or overly aggressive personality, heavy drinking, gender discrimination, cultural values, biological behaviors, house

contents, selfish personality, dissatisfaction with marriage, and family values. Harsh Normative Societies The exact reason why this is occurring is multifaceted, but cultural and societal context matter in significant ways to the attitudes, perceptions, and behavior regarding abusive behavior toward females. The disadvantaged position of women and the power over them is commonly held in patriarchal societies (García-Moreno et al., 2019). Ingrained gender roles and expectations that uphold the dominance of males over females can serve to normalize abuse and make it more socially acceptable (Casey et al., 2017). Attitudes towards abusive behavior and responses to abusive behavior can be shaped by cultural beliefs and practices. Lay belief systems that stress the importance of male authority, family honor or the necessity of preserving harmony in relationships may discourage victims from reporting or seeking help (Jewkes, 2002). Socioeconomic elements like poverty and unemployment can raise pressure and stress in relationships which in turn can be a factor to abusive behavior (Holtzworth-Munroe et al., 2000).

3.4 Age and Marital Status

The prevalence of abusive behavior is a crucial aspect, and it's essential to examine how they intersect; that women of more marginalized backgrounds experience multiple types of discrimination and violence. An intersectional perspective reveals how differing aspects of identity, including race, ethnicity, socio-economic status and disability intersect with gender in experiencing abuse (Crenshaw 2009). Hence, definitions of abusive behavior must reflect the diverse experiences and vulnerabilities of women across the social context. Differences in risk based on marital status have also been shown with divorced, separated or remarried women at an increased risk of domestic violence (Asghar & Mumtaz, 2024). Bernards (2013), noted that marital status was associated with lower levels of physical aggression, with married couples having lower rates than those who lived together and those who are separated/divorced across most countries. According to Szmodis (2020), remarried women are at greater risk of suffering from both physical and emotional violence than women in their first union or women who are divorced/not in union. Older women who experience domestic violence report more emotional abuse and fewer services than their younger counterparts, though both groups experience similar outcomes. (Lunday 2009). Intimate partner violence is associated with a self-reported poor health and poor health conditions during the last 4 weeks especially for women aged 15–49 years (Ellsberg, 2008).

3.5 The Pitfalls of Harassment

Women who encounter abuse in their lives suffer tremendous physical, psychological, and social consequences.

Victims of toxic behavior can also develop serious physical reactions, from choiceless body trauma to life-threatening diseases. Physical violence by the perpetrator may lead to broken bones, damage to internal organs, head trauma, and long-term disabilities (Campbell et al., 2002). Furthermore, the psychological effects can make it difficult for survivors to seek help or leave the abusive relationship, as they may feel a sense of learned helplessness and dependency on their abuser (Coker et al., 2002). The damage it does to someone in a psychological sense can be lasting and cannot be undone, the complaining witness said. Survivors exhibit common mental health symptoms, such as high levels of anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), self-esteem, and suicidal ideation (Campbell et al., 2002).

A woman that is being abused also suffers socially. An abuser may attempt to discredit their victim, spread untrue information about them or turn others against them, which causes the breakdown of family and social relationships. Such behavior will serve only to compound the victim's isolation, making it harder for them to establish their social connections and support networks (Sabir et al., 2018). This cycle of violence can transcend generations, with children who

grew up in households where there is abuse being more likely to either become a victim of violence or perpetrate it themselves in the future (Dutton et al., 2012).

3.6 Support services and interventions

Prevention Programs

C Level: Prevention Programs Prevention programs are at the forefront of both ending abusive behavior and helping potential abusers dismantle the underlying structures that maintain abusive cycles. Many of these programs also emphasize awareness raising, challenging gender norms and educating individuals on the consequences of abusive behavior (Casey et al., 2017). Efforts have included school-based programs, community initiatives, and public campaigns that aim to promote respectful relationships, conflict resolution skills, or encourage bystanders (DeKeseredy et al., 2017). Prevention programs work at both individual and community levels to promote a culture of non-violence and gender equality.

Policy and Legal Measures

The law and policy serve an important function addressing abuse and the rights of victims. Key are laws and regulations criminalizing domestic violence, enforcing protection orders and providing legal remedies for survivors (United Nations, 2017). Which help to prevent offenders, provide safety for victims and most importantly, those that can provide proper support and services (Sullivan et al., 2017). Effective implementation and enforcement of comprehensive policies that tackle abusive behavior require collaboration among governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community stakeholders.

4. Results

In a survey of 150 females regarding their experiences with domestic violence, 93 respondents (62.0%) reported having faced abuse such as slapping, punching, hitting, kicking, or pushing. Meanwhile, 42 respondents (28.0%) stated they had never experienced such violence, and 15 respondents (10.0%) were unsure. The average score for the females was 1.82, with a standard deviation of 0.59, indicating that, on average, females have encountered domestic violence.

Frequency of abusive behavior or domestic violence experienced by women

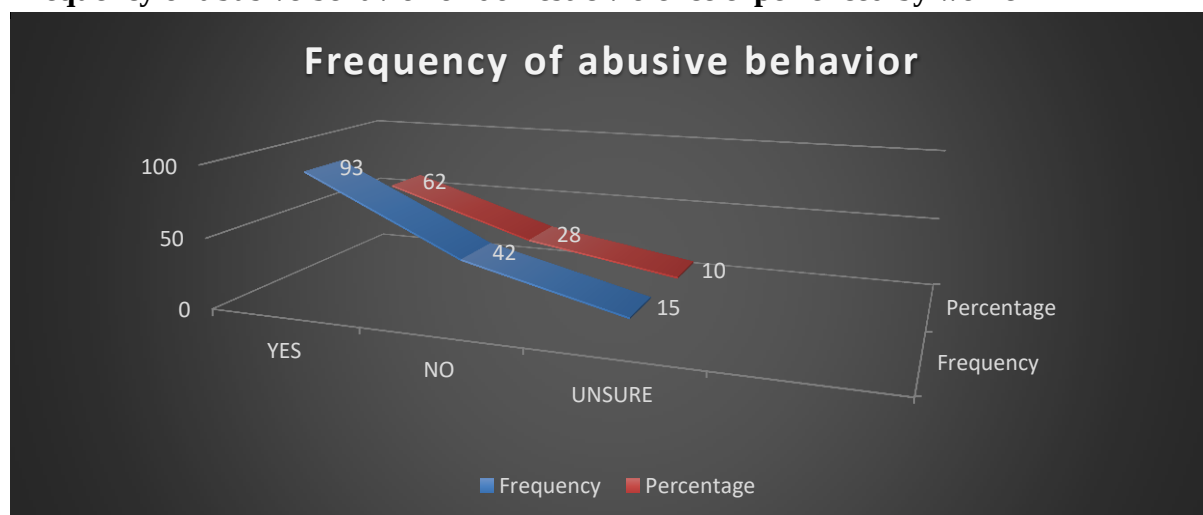


Figure 3: Underlying dynamics and patterns of abusive behavior directed towards females.

Table 1: Dynamics of Abusive Behavior

Dynamics of Abusive behavior	Statements	Responses			Mean	Std. Deviation
		Yes %	No %	ST %		
Emotional Abuse	Have you ever been in a situation where someone abruptly ended a discussion and made decisions without considering your input?	64.0	32.0	4.0	1.40	0.57
Physical Abuse	Have you ever been physically assaulted, such as being slapped, hit, or punched?	31.3	64.0	4.7	1.73	0.54
Financial Abuse	Has anyone ever controlled your access to money and prevented you from using it for your own needs?	27.3	46.7	26.0	1.99	0.73
Control and Manipulation	Has anyone ever tried to prevent you from engaging in activities you wanted to do, like going out with friends/family or attending meetings/events?	39.3	52.7	8.0	1.69	0.61

Data was obtained from the ages 14 to 55 years old and married and unmarried females with the various responses. 64.0% of respondents experienced emotional abuse situations where discussions were abruptly ended without their input, and 31.3% reported being physically assaulted, such as being slapped or hit. 27.3% faced financial abuse that someone controlled their access to money, preventing them from using it for their own needs and 39.3% experienced control and manipulation attempts to prevent them from engaging in desired activities, like socializing or attending events.

To investigate the relationship between offenders and female victims

Relationship between offenders and female victims

A significant number of female victims, specifically 75, reported that their offender was their husband or intimate partner. Smaller groups included parents (9), siblings (11), and in-laws family members (28) as offenders. While (27) female victims responded no person victimized them ever.

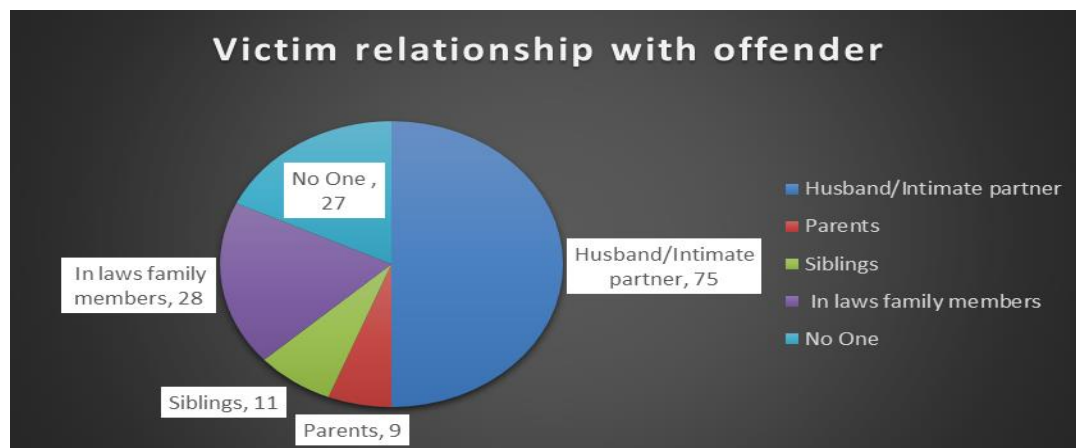


Figure 4: Victim relationship with offender

ANOVA Test

Table 2: The role of marital status in shaping vulnerability to abuse

Domestic Abuse subscales	Marital Status	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	p-value
Emotional Abuse	Married	1.92	0.372	3.66	0.058
	Unmarried	1.80	0.390		
Financial Abuse	Married	1.90	0.33	3.29	0.072
	Unmarried	1.79	0.40		
Physical Abuse	Married	1.84	0.21	2.81	0.096
	Unmarried	1.78	0.25		
Control & Manipulation	Married	1.78	0.28	1.34	0.249
	Unmarried	1.73	0.33		

The table shows the results of an ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) test comparing the means of different subscales of domestic abuse (Emotional Abuse, Financial Abuse, Physical Abuse, Control & Manipulation) between married and unmarried individuals. In this case, none of the p-values are below the typical threshold of 0.05, suggesting that there are no statistically significant differences between married and unmarried individuals on these subscales of domestic abuse.

ANOVA Test

Table 3: Patterns and Dynamics of abuse linked to different age stages of females. (AGE GROUP 14-25 YEARS)

ANOVA (AGE GROUP 14-25 YEARS)						
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Emotional	Between Groups	564.965	11	51.360	6.591	.000
	Within Groups	420.793	54	7.792		
	Total	985.758	65			
Financial	Between Groups	37.698	11	3.427	4.418	.000
	Within Groups	41.893	54	.776		
	Total	79.591	65			
Physical	Between Groups	117.457	11	10.678	2.661	.008
	Within Groups	216.664	54	4.012		
	Total	334.121	65			
Control	Between Groups	52.861	11	4.806	1.736	.090
	Within Groups	149.457	54	2.768		
	Total	202.318	65			

In this ANOVA analysis, four distinct factors are examined: Emotional, Financial, Physical, and Control, all within the age group of 14-25 years. Each factor's analysis comprises three fundamental components: Between Groups, within Groups, and Total. The ANOVA test shows very low p-values (e.g., .000) for the Emotional, Financial, and Physical factors, indicating statistically significant differences between the means of these groups in the 14-25 years age range. In contrast, the Control factor has a p-value of 0.09, suggesting no significant difference in outcomes for this age group.

Table 4: ANOVA TEST (AGE GROUP 26-40 YEARS)

ANOVA (AGE GROUP 26-40 YEARS)						
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Emotional	Between Groups	789.393	14	56.385	8.631	.000
	Within Groups	391.994	60	6.533		
	Total	1181.387	74			
Financial	Between Groups	49.768	14	3.555	4.084	.000
	Within Groups	52.232	60	.871		
	Total	102.000	74			
Physical	Between Groups	160.371	14	11.455	3.659	.000
	Within Groups	187.815	60	3.130		
	Total	348.187	74			
Control	Between Groups	69.118	14	4.937	2.088	.025
	Within Groups	141.869	60	2.364		
	Total	210.987	74			

The table provides comprehensive results from an Analysis within the age group of 26-40 years, focusing on four key factors: Emotional, Financial, Physical, and Control. The associated Significance (p-value) is crucial; in this case, notably low p-values (e.g., .000) for all factors imply that significant mean differences exist among these groups within the 26-40 years age range.

Conclusion

In summary, the ANOVA outcomes underscore substantial variations in the Emotional, Financial, Physical, and Control factors within this specific age group, signifying the impact of these factors on the analyzed data.

AGE 26 to 40 years faced more Emotional, Financial, Physical, and Control abusive dynamics of abusive behavior

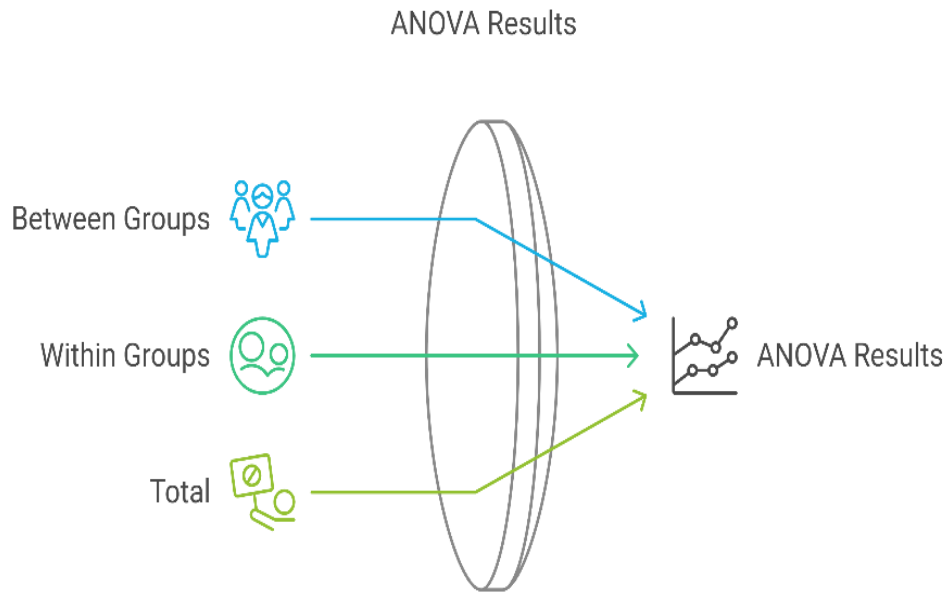


Figure 5: ANOVA Results graphical presentation

Table 5: ANOVA TEST (AGE GROUP 41-55 YEARS)

ANOVA (AGE GROUP 41-55 YEARS)						
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Emotional	Between Groups	34.250	5	6.850	.301	.896
	Within Groups	136.667	6	22.778		
	Total	170.917	11			
Financial	Between Groups	11.500	5	2.300	2.548	.143
	Within Groups	5.417	6	.903		
	Total	16.917	11			
Physical	Between Groups	17.083	5	3.417	.435	.811
	Within Groups	47.167	6	7.861		
	Total	64.250	11			
Control	Between Groups	1.750	5	.350	.117	.984
	Within Groups	17.917	6	2.986		
	Total	19.667	11			

The table presents the outcomes of an Analysis in the age group of 41-55 years, the p-values for all four factors (Emotional, Financial, Physical, and Control) are notably high (e.g., .143, .811, .984), suggesting that there are no statistically significant differences in means among these groups within the specified age range of 41-55 years. In essence, the ANOVA analysis indicates that these factors do not exhibit significant variations within this particular age group.

5. Findings

- From the 150 females 93 revealed that they have experienced domestic violence, including forms of abuse like slapping, punching, hitting, kicking, or pushing. The average score of 1.82 suggests that, generally, these females have faced domestic violence.
- A substantial proportion of respondents 64% reported emotional abuse and circumstances in which discussions were abruptly terminated without their input.
- A significant number of female victims, specifically 75, reported that their offender was their husband or intimate partner.
- This study revealed that none of the p-values are below the typical threshold of 0.05, suggesting that there are no statistically significant differences between married and unmarried individuals on these subscales of domestic abuse.

Age 14-25

The ANOVA test reveals very low p-values (e.g., .000) for Emotional, Financial, and Physical factors, indicating significant differences among means for ages 14-25. The Control factor shows a p-value of 0.09, indicating no significant differences.

Age 26-40

Notable differences were observed in Emotional, Financial, Physical, and Control factors among the 26-40 age group emphasizing the presence of abusive behaviors in these areas.

Age 41-55

No significant mean differences exist among groups in the 41-55 age range, indicating factors show no variations

5.1 Discussion

1. Rate, Prevalence of abusive behavior

This study aimed to explore the frequency and underlying dynamics and patterns of abusive behavior directed towards females. The findings of the study revealed that most females experienced different forms of domestic violence including slapping, punching, striking, kicking, and pushing. Accordingly, women have experienced domestic abuse on average. This finding is somewhat like the study of Nawaz (2022), who also found that domestic violence in Pakistan includes beating, killing, abducting, assault, actual attack, and acid throwing, with men dominating society and controlling domestic affairs and studies by Bostock (2009) The prevalence of domestic abuse against women is estimated as high as one in four.

1.2 Emotional abuse

The study also identified that a substantial proportion of respondents reported emotional abuse and circumstances in which their viewpoints were abruptly terminated without their input. This finding is supported the Ellsberg (2008) that women who experienced partner violence at least once in their life reported significantly more emotional distress, suicidal thoughts, and suicidal attempts than non-abused women and the study of Akyuz (2012) that the women exposed to emotional domestic violence have worse health conditions and benefit less from health services than others.

2. Abuser/relationship

The study found that a significant number of female victims reported that their offender was their husband or intimate partner. This finding is supported by Rehman (2016) who discovered that domestic violence in Pakistan is prevalent, with women being subjected to physical, psychological, and sexual abuse in their homes by partners and in-laws, often due to money-related issues;

educational level, wealth, and type of marital relationship are associated with a higher likelihood of experiencing physical or emotional violence from a husband in Pakistan (LaBore,2019) and In 2010, around 1,790 women were murdered in Pakistan, with 1,076 being slain by their spouses, fathers, siblings, children, in-laws, and other families (Abbas,2022).

3 Abusive behavior in married and unmarried groups

The findings reveal that there are no statistically significant differences in the experiences of domestic abuse between married and unmarried individuals. This suggests that both groups face similar levels of abuse across various subscales, indicating that marital status does not influence the prevalence or severity of domestic abuse. The finding of the study is opposite of the Turk (2017) that married women experienced domestic violence, primarily committed by their husbands, due to factors like financial problems, lack of education, and lack of love and respect; married women experienced domestic violence committed by their partner in India Mondal (2021).

4. Abusive behavior in different AGEs.

This study revealed the different age levels affected by abusive dynamics. It found that, while Emotional, Financial, and Physical factors show meaningful effects, the Control factor does not significantly influence outcomes in the 14-25 age range, it also identified that substantial variations were found in the Emotional, Financial, Physical, and Control factors among groups in the 26-40 years age range. The findings are in favor of Stöckl (2014) that adolescent and young women face a substantially higher risk of experiencing intimate partner violence than older women; women aged 40-49 are protective against domestic violence, while alcohol consumption, husbands who drink alcohol, and polygamous marriage are risk factors Lasong (2020).

No significant mean differences exist among groups in the 41-55 age range, indicating factors show no variations. This finding contrasts with the similar to Tobiasz (2014) that poor psychological health, chronic conditions, emotional and social loneliness, and lack of social support significantly increase the risk of domestic violence in older citizens.

5.2 Conclusion

- Most females have faced some form of domestic violence, as the average score suggests a significant issue.
- The forms of domestic violence that women have experienced include slapping, punching, striking, kicking, and pushing indicating that women have experienced domestic abuse on average.
- A significant number of respondents reported experiencing emotional abuse. This type of abuse can include behaviors that harm a person's self-esteem or emotional well-being. Additionally, many respondents indicated that there were situations where conversations were suddenly ended without their ability to contribute, which can further contribute to feelings of powerlessness and isolation. This highlights the impact of emotional abuse on individuals' ability to communicate and express themselves effectively.
- This statistic highlights the prevalence of domestic violence within intimate relationships. It suggests that many women face violence from those they trust the most, indicating a serious social issue. The data emphasizes the need for targeted interventions and support systems for women in these situations to help them escape abusive relationships.
- The data suggests that being married or unmarried does not significantly affect the levels of domestic abuse reported. The findings reveal that there are no statistically significant differences in the experiences of domestic abuse between married and unmarried individuals. This suggests that both groups face similar levels of abuse across various

subscales, indicating that marital status does not influence the prevalence or severity of domestic abuse. Consequently, it highlights the need for broader awareness and intervention strategies that address domestic abuse regardless of relationship status, as both married and unmarried individuals may be equally vulnerable to such experiences.

- Emotional, Financial, and Physical factors show meaningful effects, the Control factor does not significantly influence outcomes in the 14-25 age range. In summary, the results imply that age plays a crucial role in how these factors are experienced or reported within this specific age group. This suggests that there is insufficient evidence to conclude that the Control factor has a meaningful impact on the outcomes for this age group of 14 to 25 years.
- Age 26 40 Substantial variations were found in the Emotional, Financial, Physical, and Control factors among groups in the 26-40 years' age range. This is evidenced by notably low p-values for all factors analyzed. Substantial variations were observed in the Emotional, Financial, Physical, and Control factors. These findings highlight the impact of these factors on the data analyzed for this specific age group.
- Age 41 55 No significant mean differences exist among groups in the 41-55 age range, indicating factors show no variations. In summary, the statement tells us that when looking at people aged 41 to 55, the researchers found that they behave or respond in similar ways regarding the variables they studied. This information is useful for understanding this age group better and can help in planning programs or services that fit their needs.

5.3 Recommendations

The survey indicates a significant issue of domestic violence among females, reporting experiences of abuse. In summary, the results show that Emotional, Financial, Physical, and Control factors significantly affect the data for a specific age group and these findings emphasize the need for increased awareness and intervention strategies. Additionally, many women either have not experienced violence or are unsure, reflecting a complex understanding of domestic abuse. Overall, the results highlight the necessity of providing support and resources for victims to help them effectively manage their situations. Understanding these factors can lead to better insights and improvements in people's lives.

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