

# KNOWING ABOUT THE MALES' PERSPECTIVE REGARDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: A QUANTITATIVE APPROACH

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## Abstract

*Domestic violence is a common phenomenon. Men and women are perpetrators and victims of domestic violence in varying nature that are relative to families, situations, culture and society. Keeping this notion in view, this study aimed to investigate about the men's perspective about domestic violence in District Dir Lower, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan Based on methodology this research is quantitative in nature whereas based on purpose it is descriptive. This research is deductive in nature. District Dir Lower was selected as universe of the study. The target population of the study were male portion of the population and women were not included in the study. Stratified random sampling procedure was used to select samples from the population. The study sample size consisted of 384 respondents. Sample size was drawn through proportional allocation method of inquiry while utilizing the Sakaran design of population. Due to low socio-economic status of women, men believe that deserves to threaten, beaten or controlled. Men considers themselves as superior on sexual basis and perceives themselves to be economically independent leading to domestic violence. Women's physical weakness is also a cause that makes men to think that they can abuse and threat women. The coercive control is one way on which men dominates women leading to cases of domestic violence such as controlling women through abuse, threatening, and making them economically dependent.*

**Key words:** domestic violence, Men, Masculinity, Coercive

## 1. Background of the Study

Domestic violence encompasses range of behaviors and acts, for example, to Macionis (2012) it is a pattern of coercive and assaultive behaviors that include physical, sexual verbal and psychological attacks and economic coercion that adult/ adolescence used against the intimate partner. Often it is associated with women, for example, women are the only victims that is wrong. In general, often women are also perpetrators in domestic violence while the men are victims; however, in general women are the victim while men are perpetrators. Keeping in view the definition of Macionis (2012) this study defines domestic violence as any act or behavior that is coercive and or assaultive pertaining physically, economically, or psychologically harming the intimate partner, for example, husband being perpetrator and women being victim or otherwise.

Masculinity is embedded in culture whereby it is the demand of masculinity to have control over women and men have meet these cultural expectations as supported by (Johnson and Ferraro, 2000). Johnson and Ferraro assert that husbands tend to control wives in certain manners, for example, guiding their behavior to do few things and to avoid few things. Kelly & Johnson (2008) adds that couples tend to adopt to certain behaviors in order to have control over the behaviors of each other whereby to some extent it is fine but, in many cases, it leads to coercion. There is evidence that men often apprehend about the relationship of wives with office mates and may tend to adopt ways in which the wife is told to not talk or negotiate with office mates. It depends upon the situations as well such as in case of disagreement with the family of wives, husbands tend to control their behaviors. Johnson (1995) labels this type of coercion among couples as intimate terrorism whereby in majority of cases and usually it is done by the husband or the male partner in relationship. The basic motive behind this coercive behavior is notion of domination and male are culturally motivated to be dominant in intimate relationships.

The coercive control theory sheds light on the issue of domestic violence from coercion and control point of view. Masculinity is embedded in culture whereby it is the demand of masculinity to have control over women and men have meet these cultural expectations as supported by (Johnson and Ferraro, 2000). Johnson and Ferraro assert that husbands tend to control wives in certain manners, for example, guiding their behavior to do few things and to avoid few things. Kelly & Johnson (2008) adds that couples tend to adopt certain behaviors in order to have control over the behaviors of each other whereby to some extent it is fine but, in many cases, it leads to coercion. There is evidence that men often apprehend about the relationship of wives with office mates and may tend to adopt ways in which the wife is told to not talk or negotiate with office mates. It depends upon the situations as well such as in case of disagreement with the family of wives, husbands tend to control their behaviors. Johnson (1995) labels this type of coercion among couples as intimate terrorism whereby in majority of cases and usually it is done by the husband or the male partner in relationship. The basic motive behind this coercive behavior is notion of domination and male are culturally motivated to be dominant in intimate relationships.

## 2. Objectives and Hypotheses of the Study

- To know about men's perspective of women's socio-economic status paving way for domestic violence
- To research about ways in which men use coercive control methods leading to domestic violence

**Hypothesis One:** low socio-economic status of women is strongly correlated with prevalence of domestic violence

**Hypothesis Two:** coercive control over women is strongly correlated with prevalence of domestic violence

## 3. METHODOLOGY

Based on methodology this research is quantitative in nature whereas on the basis of purpose it is descriptive. A deductive approach is used whereby the justification of using deduction in this research is embedded in the fact that domestic violence is widely prevailing phenomenon that has been observed at some point in time in each family in different forms. The issue of domestic violence has been specified to its causes and consequences in male's perspective and the consequences of it. District Dir Lower was selected as universe of the study. According to the census report 2017 there are 37 union councils and seven tehsils in Dir (lower) and inhabits 797,853 populations. Stratified random sampling procedure was used to select samples from the population. This study was conducted in tehsils of District Dir (Lower) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan. The study sample size consisted of 384 respondents. Sample size was drawn through proportional allocation method of inquiry while utilizing the Sakaran design of population. A sample size of 384 is enough sample size to generalize the results to any number of populations with 0.05 confidence level. Details of the strata are as under:

**Table Break-up Sample size**

S. No	Tehsils	Population	Sample Size
1	Timergara	94000	138
2	Adnezai	86000	126
3	Balambat	82000	120
4	Total	262,000	384

Source; Population statistic 2017

As the issue is related to general population; therefore, within strata convenient sampling was used. The questionnaire was an appropriate tool for data collection and was be used for educated respondents while for uneducated respondents an interview schedule was used. This study didn't use pre-designed questionnaire; therefore, to ensure reliability and validity the questionnaire will be tested through Crobach's alpha. The collected data was analyzed through using statistical techniques

i.e., univariate, and bivariate level respectively. Chi-square test as well as regression analysis were applied to known relationship among variables. Chi-square test has been applied to judge the association among variables through cross-tabulation method whereas regression has been applied to judge the correlation (along with the degree of correlation such as small, moderate, and high degrees) among variables. The significance level for both tests is 0.05.

#### 4. Data Analysis

##### 4.1. Descriptive Analysis

Table no. 01: The status of women domestic violence

S. No	Statements/items	Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean
1	Men believe that the status of women is such that she deserves to threaten, beaten or controlled	109 (27.8 %)	202 (51.66 %)	39 (9.97 %)	26 (6.64 %)	15 (3.83 %)	2.07
2	Men are given prestigious status in terms of sexual characteristics and therefore they can subjugate women	100 (25.57 %)	196 (50.12 %)	54 (13.81 %)	21 (5.37 %)	19 (4.85 %)	2.14
3	Women must not be empowered to become economically independent, and violence is one way to control women	119 (30.43 %)	226 (57.80 %)	25 (6.39 %)	13 (3.32 %)	8 (2.04 %)	1.89
4	Men perceive that religiously they have been given the authority to beat or suppress women	143 (36.57 %)	212 (54.21 %)	15 (3.83 %)	11 (2.81 %)	10 (2.3 %)	1.80
5	Men's perception of women's physical weakness is linked with inferior social position leading to domestic violence	180 (46.03 %)	183 (46.8 %)	17 (4.34 %)	6 (1.53 %)	5 (1.3 %)	2.16
6	Men perceive that women are dependent on them and therefore they can treat them as they want	57 (14.6 %)	296 (75.7 %)	21 (5.4 %)	10 (2.6 %)	6 (1.5 %)	2.01

Table no. 03 is illustration of the status of women in the society and how it is linked with men's perception leading to cases of domestic violence. In this context, 109 (27.8 %) respondents strongly agreed that men believe that the status of women is such that she deserves to threaten, beaten or controlled whereas as high as 202 (51.66 %) of the respondents agreed with it. 39 (9.97 %) of the respondents had no opinion about it while 26 (6.64 %) of the respondent disagreed that men believe that the status of women is such that she deserves to threaten, beaten or controlled. 100 (25.57 %) and 196 (50.12 %) respondents respectively strongly agreed and agreed with the statement that men

are given prestigious status in terms of sexual characteristics and therefore they can subjugate women while 54 (13.81 %) had no opinion about it. A small number of the respondents i.e., 21 (5.37 %) and 19 (4.85 %) disagreed and strongly agreed with the mentioned argument. 119 (30.43 %) and 226 (57.80 %) respondents respectively strongly agreed and agreed with the statement that Women must not be empowered to become economically independent, and violence is one way to control women but 25 (6.39 %) respondents had no opinion about it while 13 (3.32 %) disagreed to the statement. A significant majority of the respondents, for example, 143 (36.57 %) and 212 (54.21 %) marked strongly agreed and agreed to the statement that Men perceive that religiously they have been given the authority to beat or suppress women while only 15 (3.83 %) had no opinion about it. 180 (46.03 %) and 183 (46.8 %) of the respondents respectively strongly agreed and agreed with the statement that men's perception of women's physical weakness is linked with inferior social position leading to domestic violence while 17 (4.34 %) respondents didn't opined about it. 57 (14.6 %) respondents strongly agreed that men perceive that women are dependent on them and therefore they can treat them as they want whereas as high as 296 (75.7 %) of the respondents agreed with it. But 21 (5.4 %) had no opinion about it while 10 (2.6 %) of the respondents disagreed with the statement.

**Table no. 02: Controlling the women: the coercive control**

S. No	Statements/items	Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean
1	The use of verbal and emotional abuse is important to have control over women	107 (27.36 %)	196 (50.12 %)	57 (14.57 %)	20 (5.11 %)	11 (2.81 %)	2.01
2	Men do not allow women to do political participation as it poses threat to the authority of men; this control makes women weak and vulnerable to domestic violence	170 (43.47 %)	181 (46.29 %)	19 (4.85 %)	20 (5.11 %)	1 (0.3 %)	1.72
3	Men do not allow women to do job making them dependent on men leading to domestic violence	119 (30.43 %)	226 (57.80 %)	25 (6.39 %)	13 (3.32 %)	8 (2.04 %)	1.89
4	It is the demand of masculinity to have control over women and men have meet these cultural expectations	181 (46.29 %)	174 (44.5 %)	21 (5.4 %)	14 (3.58 %)	1 (0.3 %)	1.68
5	It is important to beat and threat women to ensure that she feels weak	114 (29.15 %)	201 (51.4 %)	11 (2.81 %)	34 (8.69 %)	31 (7.92 %)	2.15

Table no 04 provides a detailed description that how men use coercive techniques (leading to domestic violence) to control women. in this regard, majority of the respondents, for instance, 107

(27.36 %) and 196 (50.12 %) marked strongly agreed and agreed against the statement that the use of verbal and emotional abuse is important to have control over women. 57 (14.57 %) respondents had no opinion about, but 20 (5.11 %) respondents opted for disagree. 170 (43.47 %) and 181 (46.29 %) of the respondents respectively strongly agreed and agreed with the statement that men do not allow women to do political participation as it poses threat to the authority of men; this control makes women weak and vulnerable to domestic violence while 20 (5.11 %) respondents disagreed. Further, 119 (30.43 %) and 226 (57.80 %) of the respondents respectively strongly agreed and agreed with the statement that men do not allow women to do job making them dependent on men leading to domestic violence whereas 25 (6.39 %) had no opinion about it. Similarly, majority that is 181 (46.29 %) and 174 (44.5 %) respondents opted for strongly agree and agree respectively that it is the demand of masculinity to have control over women and men have meet these cultural expectations; 21 (5.4 %) respondents had no opinion about it while 14 (3.58 %) respondents disagreed. Lastly, 114 (29.15 %) and 201 (51.4 %) of the respondents respectively strongly agreed and agreed with the statement that it is important to beat and threat women to ensure that she feels weak; however, 34 (8.69 %) and 31 (7.92 %) of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

#### 4.2 Chi-square Test

The Chi-square test is applied to check the association among variables. Chi-square test is widely used to check the association among variables that are qualitative. The significant level for the Chi-square test is 0.05.

##### Low Socio-economic Status of Women \* Prevalence of Domestic Violence

Chi-Square Test		
	Value	Exact Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	4.055	0.000

a. 636 cells (97.7 %) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.00.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

With the value of  $p=0.000$ , the chi-square test result showed a significant result. This shows that there is association between Low Socio-economic Status of Women and Prevalence of Domestic Violence.

##### Coercive control \* Prevalence of Domestic Violence

Chi-Square Test		
	Value	Exact Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	3.35	0.000

a. 512 cells (97.2 %) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.00.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

With the value of  $p=0.050$ , the chi-square test result showed a significant result. This shows that there is association between Coercive control and Prevalence of Domestic Violence.

#### 4.3 Regression Analysis

##### Low socio-economic status of women and Prevalence of domestic violence

###### Variables Entered/Removed<sup>b</sup>

Model	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
1	LOW SOCIO-ECO STATUS <sup>a</sup>		. Enter

a. All requested variables entered.

Variables Entered/Removed<sup>b</sup>

Model	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
1	LOW SOCIO-ECO STATUS <sup>a</sup>		. Enter

b. Dependent Variable: Prevalence of domestic violence

In the above table low socio-economic status of women is entered as independent variable and prevalence of domestic violence as dependent variables. Therefore, it was hypothesized that socio-economic status of women is strongly correlated with prevalence of domestic violence.

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.954 <sup>a</sup>	.909	.909	1.73330

a. Predictors: (Constant), LOW SOCIO-ECO STATUS

The above table includes the  $R$  and  $R^2$  values whereby the  $R$  value is 0.954 (in the "R" Column), which indicates a high degree of correlation between socio-economic status of women and prevalence of domestic violence. The  $R^2$  is 0.909 which is large in this case showing a high degree of correlation among socio-economic status of women and prevalence of domestic violence.

ANOVA<sup>b</sup>

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	11697.742	1	11697.742	3.894E3	.000 <sup>a</sup>
	Residual	1168.682	389	3.004		
	Total	12866.425	390			

a. Predictors: (Constant), LOW SOCIO-ECO STATUS

b. Dependent Variable: Prevalence of domestic violence

The significance value is  $p=0.000$ . This indicates a significant correlation among socio-economic status of women (as an independent variable) and prevalence of domestic violence (as dependent variable). The data is good for fit.

Coefficients<sup>a</sup>

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	4.840	.225		21.549	.000
	LOW SOCIO-ECO STATUS	1.069	.017	.954	62.399	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Prevalence of domestic violence

The Coefficients in the regression analysis provides a statistically significant relationship among socio-economic status of women (as an independent variable) and prevalence of domestic violence (as dependent variable).

#### 4.15 Coercive control and Prevalence of domestic violence

Variables Entered/Removed<sup>b</sup>

Model	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
1	COERCIVE CONTROL <sup>a</sup>		. Enter

a. All requested variables entered.

b. Dependent Variable: Prevalence of domestic violence

In the above table coercive control is entered as independent variable and prevalence of domestic violence as dependent variables. Therefore, it was hypothesized that coercive control over women is strongly correlated with prevalence of domestic violence.

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.942 <sup>a</sup>	.887	.887	1.93322

a. Predictors: (Constant), COERCIVE CONTROL

The above table includes the  $R$  and  $R^2$  values whereby the  $R$  value is 0.942 (in the "R" Column), which indicates a high degree of correlation between coercive control and prevalence of domestic violence. The  $R^2$  is 0.987 which is large in this case showing a high degree of correlation among coercive control and prevalence of domestic violence.

ANOVA<sup>b</sup>

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	11412.601	1	11412.601	3.054E3	.000 <sup>a</sup>
	Residual	1453.824	389	3.737		
	Total	12866.425	390			

a. Predictors: (Constant), COERCIVE CONTROL

b. Dependent Variable: Prevalence of domestic violence

The significance value is  $p=0.000$  which indicates a significant relationship between independent variable that is coercive control and dependent variable that prevalence of domestic violence. The data is good for fit.

Coefficients<sup>a</sup>

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	5.448	.243		22.418	.000
	COERCIVE CONTROL	1.302	.024	.942	55.260	.000


a. Dependent Variable: Prevalence of domestic violence

The Coefficients in the regression analysis provides a statistically significant relationship between independent variable that is coercive control and dependent variable that prevalence of domestic violence.

#### 4.4. Discussion

The findings as per this study shows that domestic violence prevails in the study's local due to low socio-economic status of women. Men's perception is significant in this regard, for instance, men





believe that the status of women is such that she deserves to threaten, beaten or controlled as well as men considers themselves as prestigious on the basis of sexuality. Further, women must not be empowered to become economically independent, and violence is one way to control women is also a commonly prevailing perception about women leading to incidences of domestic violence. Religion has been found as a significant contributing factor in the construction of men's perception about women leading to domestic violence as men perceives that religiously they have been given the authority to beat or suppress women. Men's perception of women's physical weakness is linked with inferior social position leading to domestic violence is also evident as a significant contributing factor in the construction of men's perception about women leading to domestic violence. Similarly, it is also evident that men perceive that women are dependent on them and therefore they can treat them as they want which paves way for women to be vulnerable to domestic violence. Women empowerment is obviously a concern in Pakistan since its independence. Mahmood (1999) found a direct correlation between low women empowerment and domestic violence in Pakistan. But it is imperative to pin down that the overall socio-economic status of women is connected to low women's empowerment, for example, the low educational and economic profile of women. There are many domains of low women's empowerment in Pakistan; first, they are not part of mainstream decision-making process in the family (at micro level). We can extend this discussion through different indicators such as women cannot take their decision to get married. In this case they are weak, and weakness makes them vulnerable to be the victim of domestic violence. Second, Mahmood found that many incidences of domestic violence occur due to stress because of poverty whereas poverty was resulted from greater number of children. Women are not empowered enough to take decision and any effort to be a part of decision-making process can lead to domestic violence (Shaikh, 2000).

The current study shows that controlling the women such as the coercive control is one way on which men dominates women leading to cases of domestic violence. In this connection, men are of the opinion that the use of verbal and emotional abuse is important to have control over women along with ensuring to not allow women to do political participation as it poses threat to the authority of men; this control makes women weak and vulnerable to domestic violence. Masculinity is embedded in culture whereby this study shows that it is the demand of masculinity to have control over women and men have meet these cultural expectations. It has also been found that men perceive that it is important to beat and threat women to ensure that she feels weak. Johnson and Ferraro (2000) assert that husbands tend to control wives in certain manners, for example, guiding their behavior to do few things and to avoid few things.

## 5. CONCLUSION

men believe that the status of women is such that she deserves to threaten, beaten or controlled; the feelings of men being prestigious based on sexuality leads to domestic violence. Men think that they are economically independent and the perception among men that religiously they have been given the authority to beat or suppress women. Women's physical weakness is also a cause that makes men to think that they can abuse and threat women.

The coercive control is one way on which men dominates women leading to cases of domestic violence. The use of verbal and emotional abuse is important to have control over women. Men do not allow women to do job making them dependent on men. It is the demand of masculinity to have control over women and men have meet these cultural expectations and therefore it is important to beat and threat women to ensure that she feels weak.

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