



Why women suffer Domestic Violence in silence: Web-based responses to a Blog

Salima Farooq

Senior Instructor, AKUSONAM

Outline of Presentation

- Study Back ground
- Purpose
- Methodology
- Study Findings
- Limitations and Recommendations

Background

Domestic violence is a violent behavior committed by family members, especially by partner

Reference :Rozina, K, Irfan, F, Bann, C,M, McClure, E,M, Moss,N, Pasha, O, Goldenberg, R, L. 2008. Domestic violence prior to and during pregnancy among Pakistani women. *Acta Obstetricia et Gynecologica*, 1-8.

- In some part of the world, DV is believed by both men and women to be a normal behavior therefore, women do not challenge it.
- Attitude of tolerance makes it easier for perpetrators to continue their violent behavior

Reference :Gracia E.& Herrer J. (2006). Acceptability of domestic violence against women in the European Union: a multilevel analysis *J Epidemiol Community Health* 2006;60:123–129. doi:

10.1136/jech.2005.036533

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Prevalence of Domestic Violence Worldwide

Countries	Prevalence	Authors
Worldwide	life time prevalence of DV is 16 –71% for women	Garcia-Moreno, Jansen, Ellsberg, Heise, & Watts (2006)
USA	8-12%	(Bornstein, 2006)
Canada	17%	Gage (2005)
Sri Lanka	32%	Naveda, , Azimb, Bhuiyaa & Perssonc, (2006
South Africa	25 to 50%	(Ely et al., 2004)
Pakistan	70-90%	Ali & Gavino, 2007

Research Purpose

The aims of study were :

1. To explore factors as to why women suffer domestic violence silently
2. To propose recommendations & approaches to overcome domestic violence

Methodology

Study Design:

Qualitative descriptive study

Study Setting:

Data were collected from discussions on the Urban Women Health Collaborative (UWHC), an internet-based social networking site created in conjunction with the ICOWHI 2010 Conference <https://pennlpscommons.org/uwh>

Study Population:

400 members registered on the website, of whom 42 participated in the blog discussion on domestic violence including fellows

- **Data collection:**

“web-based discussion” was generated in the form of blogs in the month of March 2011 on topic “Domestic Violence among women : factors and solutions “

- **Language of Discussion:**

English

- **Data Analysis :**

Thematic Analysis

Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion Criteria

1. visited the website
<https://pennlpscommons.org/urbanwomenshealth>
2. Registered for membership on the website; and
3. Willing to participate in the discussion

Findings

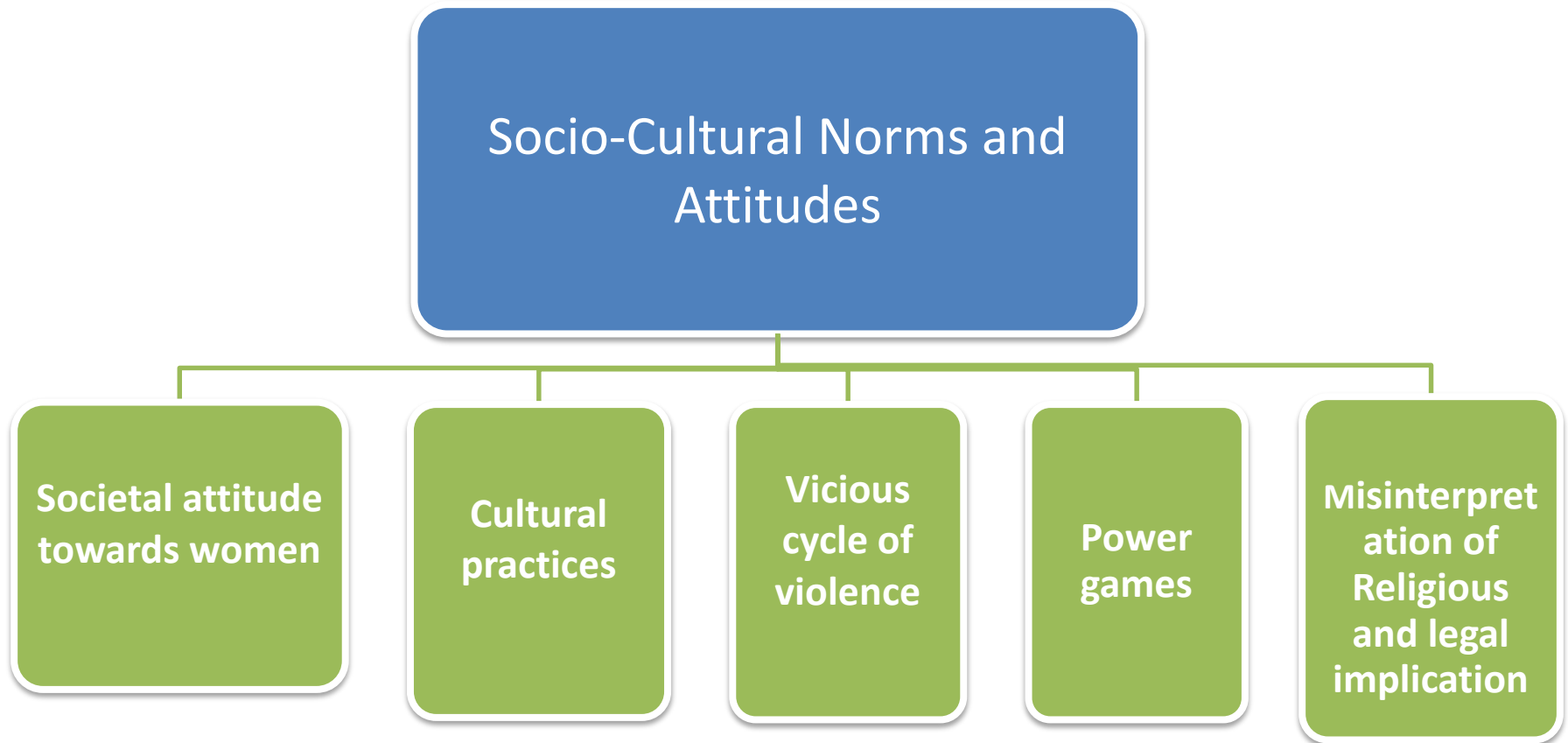
- Theme 1:

Socio - cultural norms and attitudes

- Themes 2:

Way forward of Changing society's attitude towards DV against women

Theme 1



Socio - cultural norms and attitude accepting tolerance of domestic violence against women

Categories	Sub-categories
Societal attitude towards women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preference to marry uneducated women• Women as Victim of Blaming• Gender inequality• Lack of freedom• Oppressed behavior• Both educated and uneducated women suffer DV
Cultural Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suppression of women• Uneducated women do not raise their voices to express themselves• Lack of respect• Accepting male aggressive behaviour• Gender Bias

Categories	Sub-categories
Vicious cycle of violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Hiding violence • Fear of losing family dignity • Learned behavior • Lack of support • powerlessness
DV is power game	Power game between man and woman to control women
Misinterpretation of legal and religious practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DV as considered as a family matter • Lack of role from law enforcement agencies • Misinterpretation of Religion/Using religion as an excuse or a tool for committing DV

Society attitude towards women

Blaming Attitude

- “...She gets the blame for any thing wrong happening with in the family. ... If her husband divorces her, she is held responsible for it . Even when men die, their wives find it hard to escape being held responsible for their deaths. But when a woman dies..., it is her 'sins' that killed her. ...

Society attitude towards women

Preference over
uneducated
women for
marriage

“....some men preferred to marry uneducated women who will not answer back nor insist on their rights....”.

Cultural Practices

Suppression of women

- In some cultures, women are considered as the property of men (whether it's her father, husband or son). It's a male dominant society and males have the right to decide what women should do. It's also expected from women to accept whatever the decision is made for her. If she raises her voice then she has to face the consequences and bear the punishment.

Vicious cycle of violence

Silence against DV

“women become silent while facing domestic violence. Women do not raise voice against DV due to fear of receiving comments from society that "She is not an obedient wife/ daughter/ daughter-in-law" etc and Fear of breakdown of their own relationships ”

Role Modeling

- “...Monkey see, Monkey Do" Son sees father beat mom, he is going to beat his wife..”

DV is a Power Game

Power game
(men and
women and
women and
women)

“The DV is a power game and it is not only between opposite sex but rather between two similar sexes as well....like husband and wife or sister-in-law and daughter in law.

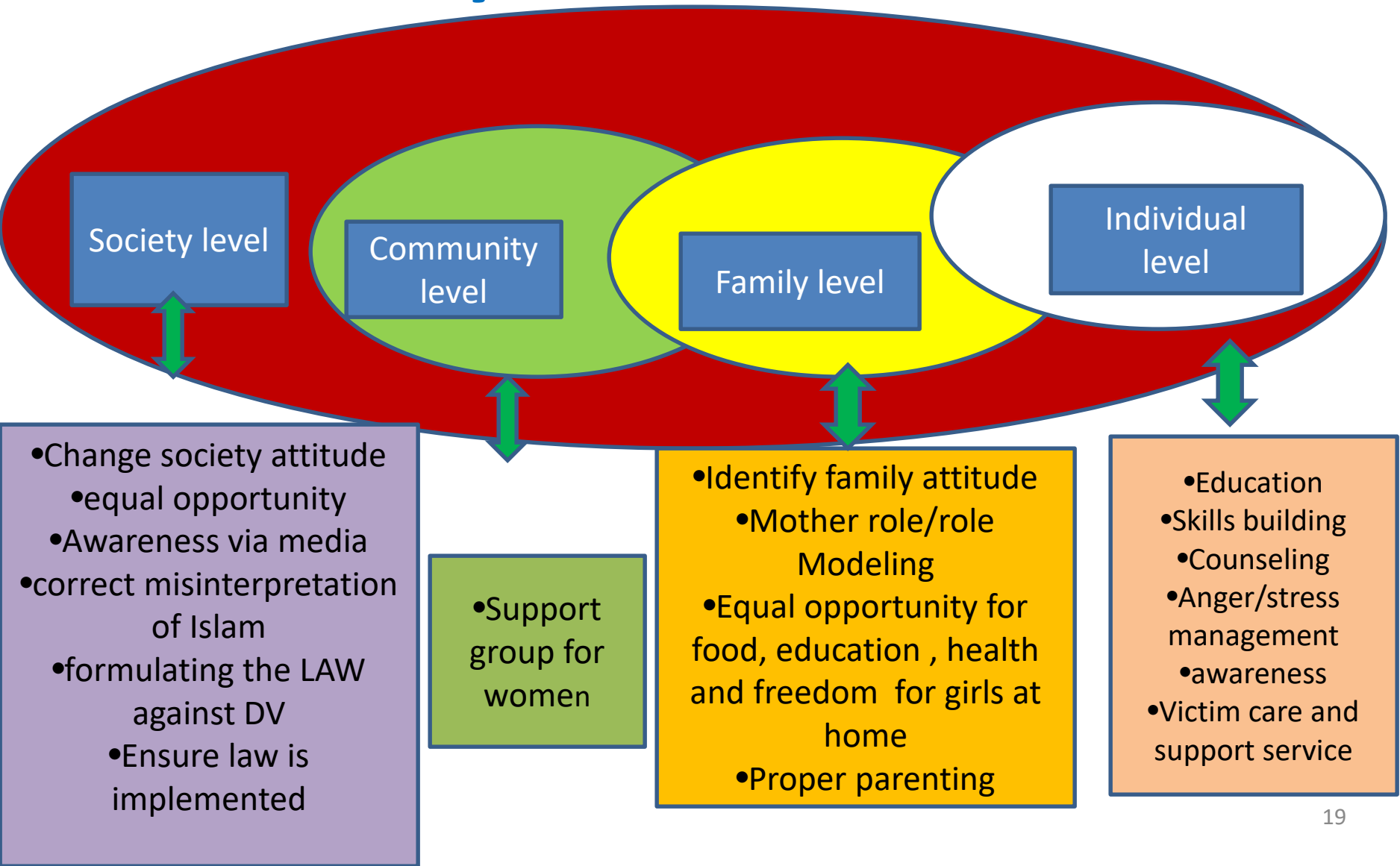
Legal and Religious Practice

Misinterpretation of religious and legal implications

“...It is perceived that Religion (Islam) allows husband to beat his wife...”

“...Not just making a law would be enough but it should be implemented as well...”

Theme :2 A way forward in Change society attitude toward DV



Participants Reflections

Individual level

- “...counseling session should be arranged for individual male and female how to deal with their positive coping skills...”
- “...Support services for abusive women should be available ...”

Family level

- “...mothers should teach their sons while still young about the evil of wife beating - physical or emotionally, is crucial in helping to stem the tide of DV. If mothers keep on emphasizing the ugliness of DV before their sons leave home, many boys may grow up to become loving husbands and hopefully vocal activists against DV....”

Change society attitude toward DV

Society level

- “.....engage men in DV program to change harmful norms around women “
- “...It is not only enough to make any law, it is indeed necessary to ensure that law is implemented.”
- “...seminars and open dialogue should be conducted via religious leaders to correct there misinterpretation regarding women rights in Islam. ...”
- “...it can be reduced through media by highlighting such issues in the form of debates and real stories of women gone through domestic violence...”
- “...Its parents, school teachers and religious leaders responsibility to teach male child to respect women and tolerance for difference in opinion...”
- “...Women should be given equal access to resources and opportunities (such as education, health, land and employment). ...” “...Teach them strong men is one who love respect and care for his wife....”

Discussion

- Our study identified that cultural and religious norms constrained women to accept and tolerate violence from their husbands and family.
- Researchers also have reported that Pakistani society understands domestic violence against women as a normal phenomenon. (Ali, Krantz, & Mogren, 2011; Fikree, Razzak, & Durocher, 2005; Jewkes, 2002; Rabbani, Qureshi, & Rizvi, 2008)

Discussion

- Participants also expressed that a culture of silence among women served as a major contributor for domestic violence and thus made it easier for perpetrators to continue their violent attitudes and behavior.
- Similar findings have been reported by other studies (Ali, et al., 2011; Douki, Nacef, Belhadj, Bouasker, & Ghachem, 2003; Fikree & Bhatti, 1999; Gracia, 2004).

Discussion

- Our study also found that the experience of DV was uniform irrespective of women's educational and economical status.
- Research in North India by Khosla, Dua, Devi & Sud, (2005) also found that economic independence did not shelter women from DV.

Discussion

- DV is a power game which is practiced by any gender to gain control. Similar studies where power is exercised by women against women have been reported for Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. (Ali, et al., 2012; Kaur & Garg, 2010; Khosla, Dua, Devi, & Sud, 2005)
- In our study, religious misinterpretation was also identified as the key underlying reason for DV. Our findings are consistent with those of other studies (Ali & Khan, 2007; Ali, et al., 2011; Macey, 1999).

Strengths

- Our study is one of its first kind that was carried out via virtual discussion from participants all over the world
- The result from this study provided significant/valuable information regarding factors associated with DV and their possible solutions.
- This information can be utilized for conducting a quantitative study in future so that larger population can be covered

Limitations

- Findings are not generalizable because:
 - Smaller sample size
 - Limited access to the internet users only
 - Participants were mostly female
 - There is a possibility that respondents may have provided selected or socially desirable information as the data was collected using the social media.

Conclusion

- Women face DV due to social cultural practices and inequities in society. This implies that effective interventions are needed at several levels -- individual, family, and community -- to prevent the violence and to provide a safe and respectful environment for the women in the society.
- Awareness need to be created among both men and women through media and other sources. Mass media has an important role to curb this suffering at family and societal levels. International organizations need to participate in the women empowerment.

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Authors contributions

- **Salima farooq RN, BScN,**

Identifying the topic and managing the UWHC page, gathered the data, reading of the transcription, coding, discussion of dissimilar done by first and second author, categorization and emerging of themes, preparation of manuscript draft and presentation. Incorporate feed back of second and third author

- **Tazeen Saeed Ali RN, BScN, MSc Epidemiology ,PhD,**
- **Yasmin Parpio, BScN, MSc Epidemiology**

Reading of the transcription, coding, categorization and emerging of themes, narration of result , feed backs on manuscript and presentation.

- **Nasreen Suleman BScN, MScN**

feed backs on manuscript

- **Marjorie Muecke RN, PhD, FAAN**

overseeing the UWHC page and the Rockefeller-Penn Fellows, and in giving feedback upon manuscript and presentation