



RESEARCH PAPER

**A Sociological Review of Domestic Violence during Covid-19
Pandemic**

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence is a universal phenomenon across the world even in normal times. However, in times of health emergency, like COVID-19, the possibility of domestic violence increased as all the family members were compelled to stay at their homes. Besides, the crisis also brought other possible complications for the people. This study aims to know the impacts of COVID-19 in connection to domestic violence from a sociological point of view. The study is designed as qualitative. The content analysis of research articles was made. The data for this study is searched from the database of Google, Google Scholar, and Doaj.org. The time period of this search is from the outbreak of COVID-19 till 30th April 2022. A total of four themes were developed from the collected literature. The study revealed that during the period of the coronavirus crisis, domestic violence increased by 70% throughout the world. In Pakistan, as per an estimate, out of four women, one woman has faced some level of sexual, physical, and emotional violence.

KEYWORDS COVID-19, Domestic Violence, Pandemic, Sociological Review

Introduction

A behavior pattern that involves force in any relationship and is used to acquire and maintain a hold over a person is called domestic violence. The behavior of such type is regarded as abusive as the same is unwarranted and unwanted by the abused person. There are many forms of domestic violence as it occurs in psychological, financial, physical, and sexual manners, such violence affects negatively the victims. In other words, through violence, a person is humiliated, accused falsely, frightened, intimidated, and threatened. Domestic violence doesn't have a relationship with gender, age, and race. Secondly, the attainment of a socio-economic position cannot resist domestic violence. This violence is often connected with adults, most particularly with married young people. However, it has a probability of occurring between children and adults (National Domestic Violence Hotline, n.d.). There are some situations wherein domestic violence has a probability to increase. In the case of family, situations like emotions, stress, economic factors, drug abuse, disappointment, bad conditions of a house, etc., increase the chances of domestic violence. Besides, this type of violence increases in cases of emergencies and epidemics as well. According to Muldoon et al (2021), domestic violence has the chance to enhance in conditions of uncertainty, emergency, and natural calamities. The chances of domestic violence further multiplied in the crisis of health. As the incidents of domestic violence enhanced during the health crisis of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Corona Virus pandemic in 2019. Boserup et al (2020) have analyzed the negative impacts of remaining at home during COVID-19. They observed that remaining at home during the pandemic had an impact on controlling the spread of the virus. However, it has rendered consequences in the shape of psychological, financial, and other losses. It has also enhanced the vulnerabilities, particularly the cases of domestic violence that have increased (Boserup et al., 2020). The eruption of COVID-19 has been proven to be a universal health issue. It is

also a threat to the health of the public (Das et al., 2020). This crisis of health originated in China and with speed spread across the world in a very short time (Campbell, 2020). The countries affected severely adopted many measures to prevent and fight this public health crisis. They imposed lockdowns, prohibited travel, issued strict directions to wear masks, and kept social distancing in public places (Nigam, 2020). The purpose of the lockdowns and remaining at home were imposed with the objective of not stressing the public health care system, but it rendered unintended social results and proved to increase domestic violence. Hence, such consequences proved to be recognized as essential health and social effects of COVID-19 (Bright et al., 2020).

The impact of domestic violence is severe. It affects individually as well as collectively. It has effects on women, children, and the whole family from many dimensions. The abused family members of the domestic violence suffer numerous mental and physical problems. The fear of isolation and other negative impacts may prevail among the victims of domestic violence. Medical implications are also included in the impacts of domestic violence. The psychological as well as emotional impacts of domestic violence are more effective than the effects of physical abuse. The affected victims of domestic violence utilize further violence for the resolution of their problems when they become young. As violence affects children's health and personality both. The most significant impact of domestic violence on children is that they personally witness such conflicts taking place at their homes (Van der Kolk, 2017). Researchers have declared domestic violence as one of the deadliest violence children observe in their lives (Christian et al., 2015 as cited in Noble-Carr et al., 2019). Domestic violence causes psychological trauma among the victims. Especially, children are prey to this effect as they witness violence committed in front of them against their mothers (Widom & Wilson, 2015). In this context, this study has objectives to: 1) identify the influences of COVID-19 on domestic violence from a sociological point of view, 2) know the prevailing ratio of domestic violence in different countries of the world in the days of COVID-19, 3) recommend the measure to be taken for preventing the incidents of violence against women especially domestic violence in situations of emergencies. However, the study has a significance of creating literature and a general debate about the sociological impacts of COVID-19. This study will fill the gap from the sociological perspective on the influences of COVID-19 regarding domestic violence. The study will be helpful for the government and the policymakers to frame a mechanism that may prevent women from violence in situations of emergency, particularly health emergencies. Moreover, the public at large especially the women will be benefited from the findings and recommendations of this study.

Literature Review

Many research studies have identified the sociological impacts of COVID-19 in the context of domestic violence. Among these studies, some focused the further sociological investigation of domestic violence in the days of COVID-19. Few provided that staying at home is the main cause of domestic violence in the days of the pandemic. A few studies provided social evils and economic instabilities in the days of COVID-19 enhanced the chances of domestic violence.

In the inception of 2020, many critical studies about the impacts of COVID-19 have been conducted from the virological, medical, and epidemiological points of view. There is a need to conduct sociological studies about the social implications of COVID-19. An empirical and theoretical framework must be provided by sociologists to highlight the impacts of the pandemic-19 (Ward, 2020). Domestic violence throughout the world increased as lockdowns were implemented. However, few scientific studies have been conducted to know the impacts of lockdowns and COVID-19 on Domestic Violence. Moreover, domestic violence is also an essential issue that possibly increased in the days of COVID-19 (Das et al., 2020). Besides, Prifti (2020) stated that in the last many decades, governmental as well as international organizations have expressed their interest in highlighting the different aspects of domestic violence. The

study of McLaren et al (2020) recommended that more scientific studies should be conducted to know the full and direct implications of COVID-19 related to women's issues including domestic violence (McLaren et al., 2020).

Malathesh et al (2020) in a study about COVID-19 and domestic violence identified the social evil of using alcohol as the cause of domestic violence. This study identified that COVID-19 has enhanced the incidences of domestic violence. The economic instability caused stress among the public and as a consequence, the usage of alcohol increased. In the times of the pandemic, the alcohol shops were closed, resultantly the women faced violence from their alcohol user partners. Taub (2020) stated and quoted a sociologist from Bristol University that resections of COVID-19 were imposed to minimize the chances of the spreading of the virus, but it left many effects in abusive relationships. Furthermore, domestic violence has the tendency to increase in the times when families live together even during summer vacations and Christmas ceremonies. The lockdown compelled the families to live together in their homes, consequently increasing the domestic violence incidents which the governments tried to address effectively. Hsu and Henke (2021) analyzed the effects of rates of domestic violence due to remaining at home on account of COVID-19. They utilized the crime data and police dispatch of 36 sheriffs and police departments. Besides, they also used tracking data of mobile devices as well. They identified that domestic violence increased more while staying at home. They observed a 5% increase in the cases of domestic violence due to remaining at home in the days of COVID-19. This study moreover endorsed the "theory of exposure reduction", when abusers and victims are staying together at home are more probably to fight.

COVID-19 in the history of human beings has left many impacts from a sociological point of view. Including the impacts in the shape of increasing domestic violence as well as an increase in poverty. In this context, Sultan et al (2022) conducted a study from the Pakistani perspective and observed the increase in poverty due to COVID-19. The study recommended formulating strong policies for the eradication of the poverty caused in the days of COVID-19, as in these days socio-economic and income-generating activities remained suspended. Nair and Banerjee (2020) said that like COVID-19 pandemic, not only causes issues from the perspective of public health but also causes social and psychological implications as well. The lockdowns and process of social distancing of COVID-19 changed the structure of living and responses of the behavior. Eventually, the social evil of domestic violence which was already has occurrence increased due to this changing pattern of the behavior.

Material and Methods

The content analysis method has been employed in this study. The content analysis of research articles, news reports, editorials, and internet sources relating to the 14 countries has been made for the purpose of this study. The literature for this analysis was searched from the databases of Google, Google Scholar, and Doaj.org. The time period of this search is from the outbreak of COVID-19 till 30th April 2022. All the content which is pertaining to this study has been searched keeping in view the aims and objectives of this study. A total of 41 research articles from different databases were searched and used in this study.

Results and Discussion

Mainly this study identifies the impacts of COVID-19 from the perspective of domestic violence from a sociological point of view. Hence, keeping this point in mind the literature has been searched from different databases. A total of four themes have been identified from the data. The same are mentioned below.

1. Increase in domestic violence in the days of the pandemic COVID-19.

2. Prevailing conditions of domestic violence in the days of the pandemic COVID-19 in different countries of the world.
3. Identifying sociological influences of the pandemic COVID-19 from the perspective of domestic violence across the world.
4. Identifying sociological impacts of the pandemic COVID-19 from the perspective of domestic violence in Pakistan.

Table 1
Revealing the Increase of Domestic Violence in the days of COVID-19 throughout the World

Study	Year	Findings
Emezue	2020	The domestic violence increased thrice in the world in the period of COVID-19
World Health Organization, 2020 as cited in Ashraf et al.,	2021	During the period of emergency of COVID-19, this figure enhanced to 70%

Emezue in a study has first provided the ratio of domestic violence. It was stated that before the disease of COVID-19, globally out of 3 girls and women, 1 was globally victimized by their intimate partners. While, the pandemic of COVID-19 has multiplied the number and increased domestic violence. Now this has been increased to thrice when the same is compared with last year. The last year means the year 2019 (Emezue, 2020). The selected studies of this category revealed that during the times of crisis of COVID-19 across the world vulnerable groups especially women were more disturbed. This feeble group of society faced violence and threats at home and outside of their homes as well. World Health Organization (WHO) reports that violence as gender-based (GBV) and sexual violence is a universal scenario. Already during their life, 35% of women have experienced such type of violence against them. On the other end, during the period of emergency of COVID-19, this figure enhanced to 70% (World Health Organization, 2020 as cited in Ashraf et al., 2021a). This does mean globally domestic and sexual abuse of women has increased in the days of the COVID-19 health crisis. This is an alarming sign for the world. The whole world should devise a plan to cope with the violence against women during the conditions of the crisis, especially the health crisis.

Table 2
Revealing the condition of Domestic Violence in the days of COVID-19 in Different Countries of the World

Study	Year	Country	Findings
Piquero et al.,	2021	USA	The analysis of the articles from the perspective of the USA showed that domestic violence in the USA has also increased during the days of the COVID-19
Leslie & Wilson	2020	USA	The calls related to domestic violence increased by 7.5%
Bradbury-Jones & Isham	2020	Spain, United Kingdom, Cyprus, and Brazil	The helplines in Spain received increasing calls of domestic violence ranging from 20% to 25%, in the United Kingdom and Cyprus the increasing calls were 40%. However, such types of the calls increased in Brazil by 50%
The Tribune; Das et al.,	2020	India	In India during the crisis of COVID-19, crime related to women increased by

			21%. Out of this ratio, the number of crimes of domestic violence was 700
Manusher Jonno Foundation as cited in Sifat	2020	Bangladesh	The survey findings revealed that children and women in number 456 and 4, 249 respectively experienced incidents of domestic violence during the month of April 2020
Graham-Harrison et al, as cited in Roesch et al., a	2020	China	In February 2020 police reported that they had received tripling domestic violence reports as compared to February 2019
Grierson, as cited in Roesch et al., b	2020	U.K	Due to domestic violence deaths were reported to doubled (to 16) ranging from March 23 to April 12
McLaren et al.,	2020	Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Malaysia and Australia	During times of crisis, all burdens of women increase including the burden of domestic violence
Yari et al.,	2021	Islamic Republic of Iran	This study revealed that 26.6%, 26.1%, and 21.2% of participants faced physical; emotional; and sexual abuse in the days of the COVID-19 health crisis respectively.
Adibelli et al.,	2021	Turkey	The study identified that the occurrence of domestic violence was higher in the women who were literate
United Nations, n.d. as cited in Press release of the French National Academy of Medicine	2020	France	30% rise in Domestic Violence occurred in France during the early days of COVID-19

A research was conducted to identify the incidence of domestic abuse during the early days of COVID-19 in the USA. It was revealed by this study that domestic violence increased due to remaining at home because of the lockdowns. This study was based on the studies that were carried out in various cities, provinces, and countries across the world. In this study, 18 studies were utilized out of 37 estimated studies. The significant finding of this study showed that all the under consideration studies exposed an increasing rate of domestic violence in the early days of the pandemic COVID-19. The analysis of the articles from the perspective of the USA also showed that domestic violence in the USA has also increased during the days of COVID-19 (Piquero et al., 2021). Another study from the perspective of the USA was conducted to measure the effect of the COVID-19 crisis on the calls to police regarding the incidences of domestic violence. The police received increased calls pertaining to domestic violence by 7.5%. The period of these calls was March to May 2020. Such calls enhanced during the initial five weeks of imposing the lockdowns and social distancing (Leslie & Wilson, 2020). A research study was conducted by Bradbury-Jones and Isham and collected data relating to calls of domestic abuse received in the times of crisis of COVID-19. They found that starting reports revealed that domestic violence has increased at alarming rates throughout the world. The helplines in Spain received increasing calls of domestic abuse having range from 20% to 25%, in the United Kingdom and Cyprus the increasing calls were 40%. However, such types of calls increased in Brazil by 50% (Bradbury-Jones & Isham, 2020). In India during the crisis of COVID-19, crime related to women increased by 21%. Out of this ratio, the number of crimes of domestic violence was 700. The general increase in crimes against women was ranging from 4,709-5,695.

However, domestic-related violence crimes increased from 3,287 to 3,993 (The Tribune, 2020; Das, et al., 2020). Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) a human rights organization in Bangladesh conducted a survey in 27 districts. The survey findings revealed that children and women in number 456 and 4, 249 respectively experienced incidents of domestic abuse during April 2020. However, 1,672 and 424 women and children respectively experienced domestic abuse very first during their lifetimes. More findings of the study are that physically abused women were 2,085, mentally abused were 4,947, number of sexually violated women was 404, and 3,589 women experienced economic crises being inflicted on them (Manusher Jonno Foundation, 2020 as cited in Sifat, 2020). Regarding China, in a study, it was revealed that in Jianli (a county of Hubei province of China) in February 2020 police provided that they have received tripling domestic violence reports as compared to February 2019. The estimate was made that such incidents increased by 90% due to COVID-19 (Graham-Harrison et al, 2020 as cited in Roesch et al., 2020a). In a study conducted in the United Kingdom (UK), it was identified that due to domestic abuse deaths were reported doubled (to 16) ranging from March 23 to April 12. This rate was compared to the average previous 10 years' rates (Grierson, 2020 as cited in Roesch et al., 2020b). A research study was conducted from the perspective of Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Australia to know burdens on the women during times of crisis. The study focused on the triple burden and theorized the division of labor. The study revealed that the problem of women has been increased also during the emergency of COVID-19. Along with other burdens, the domestic violence burden has also been suffered by the women (McLaren et al., 2020). A study carried out in the Islamic Republic of Iran identified the impacts of COVID-19 on domestic violence. This study revealed that 39.9 was the mean of domestic violence among the respondents of this study. Further findings of this study 26.6%, 26.1%, and 21.2% of participants faced physical; emotional; and sexual violence in the days of the COVID-19 health crisis respectively. Apart from these findings relating to COVID-19, the study also identified the lower age of the victim, previous marriages, marriages without consent, and illiteracy are furthermore risk elements for incidents of domestic violence (Yari et al., 2021). 332 women participated in a research study conducted to know the occurrence of domestic abuse in Turkey. The study identified that the occurrence of domestic abuse was higher in literate women. The categories of violence that occurred among such women were verbal and emotional violence. The score of emotional violence when they and their husbands were not working during the days of the pandemic was $p < 0.05$ (Adibelli et al., 2021). During the early days of the containment of COVID-19, the incidences of violence against women increased by 30% (United Nations, n.d. as cited in Press release of the French National Academy of Medicine, 2020).

Table 3
Revealing General Impacts of COVID-19 from the Perspective of Domestic Violence across the world

Study	Year	Findings
Pentaraki and Speake	2020	Domestic Violence increases in the conditions of the emergency
Sacco et al.,	2020	Restriction enhanced the chances of the DV during the COVID-19 Psychological, social, and economic stress was also one of the factors that increased the incidents of domestic violence
Gama	2020	It was revealed that 13.7% of participants reported that they experienced violence at their homes
Malkani	2020	Poverty and dependency of women increased during the days of crisis of pandemic and become a cause of the violence

UNWOMEN	n.d.	All types of the violence against women intensified particularly the domestic violence found to be in a greater ratio
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The conditions of emergency like the pandemic have the tendency to enhance domestic violence which creates challenges for the practices (Pentaraki & Speake, 2020). The restrictions during the pandemic proved to be dangerous for increasing domestic violence incidents. Moreover, such elements like close contacts of the abuser with the victim, the time and space that is shared likely enhanced the chances of domestic violence. Additionally, psychological, social, and economic stress was also one of the factors which increased the incidents of domestic violence. One more finding that proved in increasing the incidents of violence is the lacking of the contacts with outsiders (Sacco et al., 2020). All types of abuse related to women intensified especially domestic violence found to be in a greater ratio (UNWOMEN, n.d.). It was revealed that 13.7% of participants reported that they experienced violence at their homes. However, out of a total of 1,062 participants 138, 11, and 10 experienced psychological, sexual, and physical abuse respectively. The study identified that in general people of lower age experienced more violence (Gama, 2020). During the days of COVID-19 the homes were modified in the place where fear was common, it raised economic problems, hurdled the movement, and empowered the perpetrator. The dependency and poverty of women have made her weak and she is vulnerable to abuse. Such poverty and vulnerability were exacerbated during the days of the crisis of COVID-19 (Malkani, 2020).

Table 4
Revealing General Impacts of COVID-19 from the Perspective of Domestic Violence in Pakistan

Study	Year	Findings
World Economic Forum as cited in Ashraf et al.,	2021	According to an estimate, 1 out of 4 women in Pakistan during the days of COVID-19 has experienced violence in terms of sexual, emotional, and physical abuse
Ali et al.,	2021	During the lockdowns of COVID-19 days, the women were completely controlled by the preheaters and the homes were showing the look of a place where the women were insecure
Soharwardi	2020	Mental health professionals informed that domestic violence has increased
Huma	2020	Gender and Child Cell to address the child victims of domestic violence
Baig et al.,	2020	In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in the days of lockdowns, 399 women were murdered

The above-mentioned table no. 4 reveals the findings related to the effects of COVID-19 on domestic abuse in Pakistan. There are few studies which have identified that COVID-19 has an influence on domestic violence and the same are described as under.

According to an estimate, 1 out of 4 women in Pakistan in the days of COVID-19 has experienced violence in terms of sexual, emotional, and physical abuse. Throughout the whole country, 8 million women approximately during the imposition of lockdowns faced violence. World Economic Forum on Global Gender Gap Index out of 153 countries placed Pakistan at 151. As per WHO, in Pakistan murders at the hands of close partners of women committed are 38% (World Economic Forum, 2020 as cited in Ashraf et al., 2021a). A study by Ali et al revealed that Domestic violence is an issue of social concern. During the lockdowns of COVID-19 days, the women were completely controlled by the preheaters and the homes were showing the look of a place where the women were insecure. However, other contributing factors to domestic violence were economic constraints, inadequate

social service and supporting groups, and the lacking of social security (Ali et al., 2021). The health professionals, especially the professionals related to the mental profession provided that in the days of lockdowns, the cases of domestic abuse in Pakistan increased. Therefore, the Ministry of Human Rights in order to redress the grievances of the victims established a National Domestic Abuse Helpline (Soharwardi, 2020). On the other end, the National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan established "Gender and Child Cell" to address the child victims of domestic violence (Huma, 2020). In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in the days of lockdowns, 399 women were murdered. It was a significant finding of this study that such a great number of murders had been committed but only 25 calls were received by the police on the hotline (Baig et al., 2020).

Discussions

This research was conducted with the aim of identifying the prevailing conditions of domestic violence in the days of COVID-19. The content analysis of the previous literature on the topic reveals that generally the whole world experienced different problems in the days of the crisis of COVID-19 and the increase of domestic violence was one of them. Studies showed that during these days in the whole world, domestic violence increased thrice. While, the study by the World Health Organization revealed that the figure of domestic violence in the world has risen to 70% (Emezue, 2020 and World Health Organization, 2020 as cited in Ashraf et al., 2021).

This study very interestingly identified that research studies related to the effects of COVID-19 on domestic abuse have been conducted in Asian countries, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and European countries as well. Significantly, more studies were conducted in the United States of America from the American perspective. The data of this study further identified that almost all the studies have revealed that domestic violence during the days of crisis of coronavirus has increased in different countries of the world. A 7.5% increase in the cases of domestic violence was reported in the USA. Additionally, the helplines in Spain received increasing calls of domestic violence ranging from 20% to 25%, in the United Kingdom and Cyprus the increasing calls were 40%. However, such types of the calls increased in Brazil by 50%. In India during the crisis of COVID-19, crime related to women increased by 21%. Out of this ratio, the number of crimes of domestic violence was 700. The survey findings in Bangladesh revealed that children and women in number 456 and 4, 249 respectively experienced the incidents of domestic violence during the month of April 2020. In February 2020 police in China provided that they had received tripling domestic violence reports as compared to February 2019. In the United Kingdom due to domestic violence deaths were reported doubled (to 16) ranging from March 23 to April 12. In Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Australia respectively during the times of the crisis, all burdens of the women increased including the burden of domestic violence. About the Islamic Republic of Iran, it was revealed that 26.6%, 26.1%, and 21.2% of participants faced physical; emotional; and sexual violence in the days of the COVID-19 health crisis respectively. The study in Turkey identified that the occurrence of domestic violence was higher in the women who were literate. 30% rise in Domestic Violence occurred in France during the early days of COVID-19.

Regarding the general impacts of COVID-19 on domestic violence different studies provided different impacts. One study by Pentaraki and Speake (2020) stated that domestic violence increased in the conditions of the emergency. Restriction enhanced the chances of the DV during the COVID-19. Psychological, social, and economic stress was also one of the factors which increased the incidents of domestic violence (Sacco et al., 2020). It was revealed that 13.7% of participants reported that they experienced violence at their homes (Gama, 2020). Poverty and dependency of women increased during the days of crisis of pandemic and became a cause of violence (Malkani, 2020). All types of violence against women intensified particularly domestic violence found to be in a greater ratio (UNWOMEN, n.d.).

Five studies from the perspective of Pakistani society were identified in this study which revealed that domestic violence increased during the days of COVID-19 in Pakistan. These studies discussed that 1 out of 4 women in Pakistan during the days of COVID-19 has experienced violence in terms of sexual, emotional, and physical abuse (World Economic Forum, 2020 as cited in Ashraf et al., 2021a). During the lockdowns of COVID-19 days, the women were completely controlled by the preheaters and the homes were showing the look of a place where the women were insecure (Ali et al., 2021). Mental health professionals informed that domestic violence has been increased (Soharwardi, 2020). Gender and Child Cell to address the child victims of domestic violence (Huma, 2020). In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in the days of lockdowns 399 women were murdered (Baig et al., 2020).

Application of Sociological Theories

Domestic violence affects the victims from different perspectives among them Martin et al include physical, economic, and psychological well-being (Martin et al., 2022). In sociology, domestic violence is considered as a social problem. Hence, it has good importance in sociological thought as well. All three major sociological paradigms describe domestic violence in their own way. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the increase in domestic violence is the functional failure of the institution of the family. As Lawson states that in sociological theory the violence of intimate partners is being described as a function of the social structure (Lawson, 2012). It is the functional failure of the social institution, as they could not engage people during these days of the pandemic. This caused psychological, social, and economic stress among the people which in consequence enhanced the rate of domestic violence. This fact has been endorsed by Sacco et al (2020). As UNWOMEN (n.d) mentioned that including domestic violence, all types of violence enhanced during the COVID-19 period against women. These finding also highlights the functional failure of social institutions including family, education, economics, politics, and religion as well. Family members especially the intimate partners could not create cohesion in the times of the emergencies. The economic institutions could not meet the economic needs of the individuals which as a result created psychological disorders among the individuals.

In the conflict theory, the violence is the main focus. This theory describes violence including institutional and other types of violence more effectively. So, domestic violence can interestingly be explained in this theory as well. Conflict theory as propagated by Karl Marx seeks to analyze violence, struggle, and competition. Besides, inequality and discrimination are also the favorite topics of this theory. The results of this study show that during the days of COVID-19, dependency and poverty of women increased. This consequently, increased domestic violence (Malkani, 2020). Here, the conflict theory of sociology intervenes in the perspective of the inequality of economic opportunities or the deprivation of economic opportunities for women during times of crisis. This deprivation of economic opportunities became the cause of the infliction of violence and exploitation of women in society. Ali et al (2021) in their study have revealed that in Pakistan during the COVID-19 pandemic, women were completely controlled at home. Women were revealed insecure in their homes. The findings of Ali et al (2021) in the Pakistani perspective also attract to the intervention of the conflict theory of sociology. Which can be understood in terms of exploitation and fewer opportunities.

Conclusion

This study aims to identify the impacts of COVID-19 in connection to Domestic Violence from a sociological point of view. The study is designed as qualitative. The content analysis of research articles was made. The data for this study is searched from the databases of Google, Google Scholar, and Doaj.org. The time period of this search is from the outbreak of COVID-19 till 30th April 2022. The study revealed that during the period of the coronavirus crisis, domestic violence increased by 70%. In Pakistan, as per an estimate, one out of every four women has confronted some level of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.

This study significantly identified that research studies about the impacts of COVID-19 on domestic violence have been conducted in Asian countries, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and European countries as well. Significantly, more studies were conducted in the United States of America from the American perspective. The data of this study further identified that almost all the studies have revealed that domestic violence during the days of crisis of coronavirus has increased in different countries of the world. Regarding the general impacts of COVID-19 on domestic violence different studies provided different impacts. Five studies from the perspective of Pakistani society were identified which revealed that domestic violence increased during the days of COVID-19 in Pakistan.

Recommendations

The study recommends that more studies about the impacts of COVID-19 on domestic violence should be conducted both in qualitative and quantitative manners from a Pakistani perspective. The government should specifically know the rates of domestic violence against women during a situation of health emergency. As this study has identified that during times of emergencies such types of violence increase because women are one of the vulnerable groups. More, special departments and help lines during the emergencies of health or any other should be established for the help of the women. Women should be made aware of the rate of incidents of domestic violence during COVID-19. Hence, in this way, they should be trained on how to cope with such type of violence in the days of crisis. This can be possible involving the institutions of education. As Zehra et al (2023) state that educational institutions play a very important role in developing the sense of people. Such knowledge of domestic abuse in the days of the health crisis should be imparted at level of primary, secondary, and higher educational institutions.

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