

Educated people's perceptions regarding causes of persisting crime against women in Pakistani society

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to explore educated people's perception regarding different social, legal and institutional causes of long persistence of crime against women in Pakistan. It further intends to explore the association between the perceptions regarding patriarchy (defined as domination of men over women in all aspects of life) with perceptions regarding other identified causes of crime against women in Pakistan. The research is based on data collected through a questionnaire based survey. The collected data was statistically analyzed and the results were shown in the form of tables. The causes of persisting crime against women explored in this research for investigating the patterns of perceptions among educated people include patriarchy (male domination), anti women social practices, women's segregation in home, unfavourable attitude of police towards women victims, practice of not reporting the crime committed against women to police, insufficient laws, marginal number of women in parliament, and lack of education and awareness among women. Majority of the respondents agree that these all factors are responsible for long persistence of crime against women in Pakistan. It was found that educated people's perception regarding patriarchy (as a source of crime against women) is significantly associated with their perception regarding all other reasons of the crime against women identified here.

Keywords: Crime, Women, Pakistan, Male dominant society, Police reporting.

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Pakistani women, despite all progress in their social and legal status in the country still are facing a variety of crime and violence. Pakistani society has a patriarchal structure and culture. Men dominate women in all aspects of social life in the country. Women are ascribed a lower status than men. They lack education and exposure. Illiteracy rate is higher among women than men and the situation gets worse in case of rural women and girls. This led to barriers in development of their social capital and empowerment. The victimizing socio-cultural practices and discriminatory laws prevailed and persist throughout Pakistani history. These victimizing or anti women socio-cultural practices are the outcomes of patriarchal, feudal and tribal culture of the country. Women are excluded from the public sphere and the politics that is stereotypically and traditionally established as men's sphere. Women's absence from public sphere and public decision making councils leads to frequent discriminatory and biased procedures and institutions. Similarly women's absence from law making institutions leads

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to not incorporating their voice in legislative formulation and a greater chance for promulgation of discriminatory laws. A patriarchal society with prevailing anti women cultural norms, insufficient laws and gender insensitive legal procedures & institutions provide a congenial environment to condone a variety of crimes and violence against women in Pakistan. Women are not able to sufficiently protect themselves against these violations due to their lack of education, awareness and exposure to available resources, and overall lower status ascribed to them in society.

This paper explores the perceptions of educated people regarding causes behind long persistence of crime against women in Pakistan. The organization of the paper is as follows: this introductory section follows a brief review of related literature and description of methodological considerations. Next section deals with the data, its presentation and analysis. Finally, the paper lists main findings of this study along with the recommendations provided for improvement in the existing conditions of crime against women in Pakistan.

Objective of Study

The two main objectives of the study are: 1) to explore educated people's perception regarding causes behind persisting crime against Pakistani women and 2) to investigate the association between educated people's perception regarding patriarchy (defined as domination of men over women in all aspects of life) and different social, legal, and institutional factors as source of crime against women in Pakistan. For this purpose, the paper aims to explore perceptions of educated people regarding the social factors such as patriarchy (epitomize as domination of men over women), anti women socio-cultural practices, women's segregation in home, customary to not report crime committed against women to law enforcing agencies for their potential in fostering crime against women. It also intends to identify the legal causes such as insufficient Pakistani laws for persisting crimes against women in Pakistan. The institutional cause such as unfavourable attitude of police towards women victims is also focused on to analyse the patterns of perceptions among educated people regarding its potential in creating barriers for curbing crimes against women in the country.

Significance of the Study

Crime and violence against women are still a dark aspect of Pakistani society. This kind of disadvantage and victimization of one group within society is not without its cost on development of overall society. True development and progress is impossible without development and empowerment of all groups living within society. Women comprises almost half of country's population have equal rights to social, legal and political resources for the free and maximum development of their human and social potential. This end can be served only if the real social, legal, political and institutional causes working to reduce Pakistani women as marginalized, disadvantaged, and subordinate group within society are identified. The identification and advocacy regarding these causes may help the policy makers to take precautionary measures and formulation of gender sensitive policies for protection of women from further victimization. Such studies may help the legislature to be educated in respect of gender based violence and formulate better laws and their implementation procedures.

Hypotheses

1. Perception about patriarchy as cause of crime against women is associated with perception about women's lack of education as a cause of crime against them.

2. Perception about patriarchy as a cause of crime against women is associated with perception about not reporting the crime to law enforcing agencies as cause of crime against them.
3. Perception about patriarchy as a cause of crime against women is associated with perception about unfavourable attitude of law enforcing agencies as cause of crime against them.
4. Perception about patriarchy as a cause of crime against women is associated with perception about socio-cultural practices as cause of crime against them.
5. Perception about patriarchy as a cause of crime against women is associated with perception about women's segregation in home as a cause of crime against them.
6. Perception about patriarchy as a cause of crime against women is associated with perception about insufficient Pakistani laws as a cause of crime against them.
7. Perception about patriarchy as cause of crime against women is associated with perception about less representation of women in law making institution as cause of fostering crime against them.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Women in Pakistan frequently face a variety of crimes committed against them. Several reports are depicting the situation of different crimes against women in Pakistan (Azhar, 2012; Perveen, 2013). The different types of crime and violence against women prevalent in Pakistan include domestic violence, murder, kidnapping, rape, gang rape, dowry, Watta Satta, Walwar, Honour Killing, Marriage with Quran, Wannu, Sawara, etc. (Abbas & Riaz, 2013; Ali, Árnadóttir & Kulane, 2013; Bukhari, 2010; Gulzar et al., 2012; Jilani & Ahmed, 2004; Perveen, 2013; The Commission of inquiry for women, 1997).

Dowry is defined as "property or money brought by a bride to her husband" (Thompson, 1997). Watta Satta is an exchange marriage in which a woman is given in marriage to a man condition of exchanging another woman from that man's family in marriage to the man in first woman's family (Jilani & Ahmad, 2004). Walwar is a social custom being practiced in Baluchistan referring to selling girls in marriage for money (Zai, 1998; Jilani & Ahmed, 2004). Honour killing can simply be defined as killing a person in the name of family honour. Wannu and Swara are the tribal customs of exchanging women for settling disputes among men (Abbas and Riaz, 2013). Women's marriage with the holy book Quran is a practice done to protect the transfer of property in tribal and feudal families expected by the marriage of women member of the family. Such types of crimes against women are found persistent throughout Pakistani history.

There are several socio-cultural factors that create conducive environment for long persistence of crime against women in the country. Pakistan is a patriarchal society (Ahmad & Zia, 1991; Shaheed, 1991), where men dominate all aspect of society (Johnson, 1997; Millett, 1970). Women are considered as subordinate to men in all spheres of socio-political life. They have less autonomy and decision making power to take independent actions and protect themselves from crime and discriminatory social practices legitimized by feudal and tribal cultural norms.

Socio-cultural, tribal and feudal traditional practices like honour killing, wanni, sawara, walwar, marriage with Quran, Watta Satta, etc. are prevalent all around the country and continue to benefit masculine ends and victimize women in different ways (Jilani & Ahmed, 2004). The female literacy rate in Pakistan lags behind than that of men (Pakistan Census Organization, 1998a, 1998b). The results of last census conducted in 1998 show that female literacy ratio in country is only 32% (PCO, 1998a). This figure becomes worse in case of rural women as only 20% (PCO 1998b). Besides literacy, women also lag behind men in formal education sector. The overall number of educational institutions provided for schooling of girls is less than that of available for boys (National Education Management Information System, 2011).

The lack of education along with socio-cultural restrictions on women's mobility led to lower labour force participation rate of women in the country. According to 1998 census, only 2% of Pakistani women are participating in labour force while the figure is much lower for rural women (1.8%) (PCO, 1998c). It is a fact that women's education and their participation in paid labour force outside home are positively related to each other. When women lack education and have less opportunity to work outside home and earn for themselves and their family, this whole condition effects the growth of their maximum potential and social capital. This led to their segregation in home, as they are economically and socially dependent on their male patriarchs.

Similar to women's labour force participation in the country, their participation in formal politics that is traditionally considered as men's domain has also remained marginal for long time (Syed & Tabassum, 2014; Syed, Tabassum & Afzal, 2013). Women were marginally represented in legislative forums from 1947 to 2000 (Syed & Tabassum, 2014; Syed, Tabassum & Afzal, 2013). Women were not able to achieve more than 3% representation in national and provincial legislatures during 1997 to 2000. Latter, their representation increased with the legislative measures of quota reservation for women at all levels of politics improved this situation after 2002 and gave women 17% representation at national and provincial assemblies, and senate along with 33% representation at local government level (Bano, 2009; Shirkat Gah 2009; Weiss, 2012). Despite improvements, still women are not equally represented in these law making forums in the country.

When a group is absent from decision making process then it is a fact that they lose the chance to include their voice in the formulations of law to protect their rights (Bryjak & Soroka, 1997). It is also evident that for long women have been facing discriminatory laws and victimized by these anti women laws and procedures of implementation formulated during their absence or marginal representation in the legislative forums (Mumtaz & Shaheed, 1987; Zia, 1991; Syed, Tabassum & Afzal, 2013).

Besides the formulation of discriminatory laws, there are several barriers that stop women from reporting the crime committed against them. Andersson, et.al (2010) in their research study identify that women do not report violence against them to anyone. The victim woman avoid reporting the abuse done to her to anyone even within the family because it may bring bad name and dishonour to her (Andersson, 2010). They further identify that women consider that reporting such abuse may worsen the problem and women may risk seperation, divorce and losing children custody (Andersson et al., 2010). Reporting abuse outside the family

is avoided on the account that it may bring dishonour to family members (Andersson, 2010). The attitude of legal, judicial and law enforcing agencies is a barrier for women victims in reporting the crime and finding justice. The exploitation of victims by police is also a well known factor that forces victim women to avoid reporting the crime (Burney, 1999; Chadbourne, 1999; Jilani & Ahmed, 2004; Marcus, 1993; Weaver, 2007). There is sufficient evidence that a very negligible number of women ever report violence or abuse to law enforcing agencies or authorities such as only 14 (0.2%) out of 7,897 physically abused women report the incidence to police (Andersson, 2010). The above discussed factors are responsible for providing a congenial environment for continued crime in the history of Pakistan.

It is also observed that it is men's domination over women in all aspects of life that leads to their deprived and disadvantaged conditions in all walks of life. There are links between patriarchy and discriminatory structures, procedures, institutions and laws within any society. The explorations to identify this association patriarchy with different social, legal and institutional causes behind persisting crime against women can be very enlightening to the roots of problem.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This paper intends to explore the social, legal and institutional causes behind long persistence of crime and violence against women in Pakistani society. The research is based on primary data collected from educated respondents through a survey conducted with the help of a questionnaire. The questionnaire was developed by researcher and comprises of 27 items. The questionnaire was pre-tested by administering it with 30 people and accordingly improved before it was administered with the respondents sampled from the population.

The criteria for selection of respondents was set as any adult educated person (having at least intermediate level of education) as the technical information required regarding laws and political participation of women in the research were not possible to be obtained from relatively younger and less educated participants. The total number of research participants was 212 male and female respondents randomly selected from different walks of life such as students, teachers, researchers, NGO workers, employed in government and private sectors, unemployed people and etc.

The data was statistically analyzed with the help of SPSS 11.5 version. The descriptive statistics in the form of percentages are used to identify the patterns of perceptions among educated people regarding different causes of crime against women. Additionally cross-tabulation along with the Chi-Square test for association was performed to test the hypotheses stated earlier. The results of data analysis are presented in the form of tables.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

It is to identify the major causes that serve as barriers to women's protection against crime in the country. The first section deals with the descriptive statistics showing patterns of educated people's perceptions regarding causes behind persisting crime against women.

Causes of crime against and victimization of women in Pakistan

One of the objectives of this research was to explore perception regarding different causes of crime against women in Pakistan. Therefore, the prevailing perceptions about possible causes behind persistence of crime against women are explored among educated people. The explored causes include: 1) patriarchy (i.e. defined as domination of men over women), 2) Socio-cultural practices (e.g. Dowry, Watta Satta, Wannu, Swara, Walwar, Honour Killing, etc.), 3) women's segregation in home, 4) Unfavourable attitude of law enforcing agencies towards women victims, 5) customary of not reporting the cases of violence and crime against women to law enforcing agencies (e.g. police), 6) insufficient Pakistani laws, 7) women's less representation in law making institutions (e.g. parliament), and 8) lack of education and awareness among women in Pakistan.

The descriptive statistics (percentages) presented in Table 1, shows that majority of the respondents agree that all of the above mentioned reasons are valid and responsible for long persistence of crime against women in Pakistan. It is observed that the highest number of respondents (i.e. 94.3%) agreed that lack of education among Pakistani women is the basic reason behind persistence of crime against them in the country. It is followed by the reason that mostly cases of crime against women are not being reported to police accepted by 89.6% of the respondents explaining women's continuous victimization in Pakistan.

Table 1: Educated people's perception regarding causes of crime against women in Pakistan (Percentages)

Reasons for persisting crime against women	Agree	Do not know	Disagree
Lack of education among women	94.3	0	5.7
Not reporting the crime against women to police	89.6	6.6	3.8
Unfavorable attitude of police to women victim	84.9	1.9	13.2
Anti women social practices	82.1	9.4	8.5
Domination of men over women (Patriarchy)	80.2	6.6	13.2
Women's segregation in home	71.7	15.1	13.2
Insufficient Pakistani laws	71.7	8.5	19.8
Less number of women in parliament to make laws	68.9	8.5	22.6

Unfavourable attitude of police towards women victims is considered by 84.9% of the respondents as a source of fostering crime against women. The socio-cultural practices like dowry, watta satta, wannu, swara, honour killing, and walwar were agreed by more than 80% of participants as a valid reason for fostering crime against women in Pakistan. Patriarchy or domination of men over women is considered by 80.2% of the participants as a reason for persisting crime against women in the country. Women's segregation in home and existence of insufficient laws, both the reasons, were identified by 71.7% respondents as elements responsible for long persistence of crime against women in Pakistan. Similarly, women's less representation in parliament for making law is attested by more than 68.9% respondents for persisting crime against women in Pakistani society.

Association of patriarchy with other reasons of persisting crimes against women

One of the main objectives of the paper is to explore the association between educated people's perceptions regarding patriarchy and other identified reasons of persisting crime against women in Pakistan. The cross-tabulation of the data for educated people's perception regarding patriarchy and other reasons of crime is presented in Table 2. It is observed that majority of the respondents agreeing that patriarchy is a reason for fostering crime against women are also agreeing that anti women social practices, insufficient laws, women's segregation in home, unfavourable attitude of police, not reporting of crime to police, less representation of women in parliament and the lack of education among women are reasons for long persistence of crime against women in Pakistan.

Table 2: Cross-tabulation of patriarchy with other reasons for persisting crime against women in Pakistan (percentages)

Reasons for persisting crime against women	Patriarchy			Total	
	Agree	Do not know	Disagree		
Lack of education & awareness among women	Agree	77.4	3.8	13.2	94.3
	Do not know	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Disagree	2.8	2.8	0.0	5.7
Not reporting crime against women to police	Agree	73.6	3.8	12.3	89.6
	Do not know	3.8	2.8	0.0	6.6
	Disagree	2.8	0.0	0.9	3.8
Unfavorable attitude of police	Agree	69.8	5.7	9.4	84.9
	Do not know	0.0	0.9	0.9	1.9
	Disagree	10.4	0.0	2.8	13.2
Anti women Social practices	Agree	69.8	3.8	8.5	82.1
	Do not know	6.6	0.9	1.9	9.4
	Disagree	3.8	1.9	2.8	8.5
Women's segregation in home	Agree	65.1	3.8	2.8	71.7
	Do not know	9.4	2.8	2.8	15.1
	Disagree	5.7	0.0	7.5	13.2
Insufficient Pakistani Laws	Agree	62.3	2.8	6.6	71.7
	Do not know	5.7	0.9	1.9	8.5
	Disagree	12.3	2.8	4.7	19.8
Less representation of women in parliament	Agree	62.3	3.8	2.8	68.9
	Do not know	5.7	0.9	1.9	8.5
	Disagree	12.3	1.9	8.5	22.6

The data analysis presented in Table 2 shows that 77.4% of the research participants consider lack of education and awareness among women and patriarchy as simultaneously serving as barriers to curb crime against women in Pakistan. Not reporting the crime committed against women to police along with patriarchy is considered by 73.6% respondents as reasons for persistence of crime against women. Almost 70% of respondents identify both patriarchy and unfavourable attitude of police as reasons behind persisting crime against women. Similarly, 69.8% respondents agree that patriarchy and anti women social practices are reasons behind persisting crime against women in Pakistan.

More than 65% of the respondents consider that patriarchy and women's segregation in home are serving as reasons behind persisting crime against women in Pakistan. More than 62% of research participants agreed that patriarchy and insufficient Pakistani laws are simultaneously serving as reasons behind long persistence of crime in Pakistan. Similar, number of respondents (i.e. 62.3%) respondents agreed that patriarchy and less representation of women in parliament for law making are the causes of crime against women.

It is observed that educated peoples' perception regarding patriarchy (as reason for persisting crime against women) seems related with perceptions regarding other identified reasons for persisting crimes against women in Pakistan. The data analysis presented in Table 3 shows that educated people's perception regarding patriarchy as a crime is significantly associated with perceptions regarding lack of education among women, not reporting crime against women to police, unfavourable attitude of police towards women victims, anti-women social practices, women's segregation in home, insufficient Pakistani laws and less representation of women in parliament as reasons for continuing crimes against women in Pakistani society.

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Table 3: Association between educated people's perception regarding patriarchy and other reasons of persisting crime against women in Pakistan (Results of Chi-Square test)

	Reasons for persisting crime against women	Pearson Chi-Square (Value)	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) (p value)
1	Lack of education among women	39.400	2	.000
2	Not reporting the crime to police	33.805	4	.000
3	Unfavorable attitude of police	22.698	4	.000
4	Anti women social practices	18.998	4	.001
5	Women's segregation in home	69.192	4	.000
6	Insufficient Pakistani laws	15.452	4	.004
7	Less number of women in parliament to make laws	39.121	4	.000

df=Degree of freedom

In accordance with the second objective of this research was identification of association between educated people's perception regarding patriarchy and different other social, legal, and institutional factors as source of crime against women in Pakistan. To ascertain these associations between different variables as mentioned in the stated hypothesis, researcher adopted Chi-Square test. The result of the Chi-Square test performed to test the association between educated people's perception regarding patriarchy with their perceptions regarding lack of education among women is found significant with Chi-square value (39.400), degree of freedom as 2 and p-value as (.000). Rejecting the null hypothesis, the alternative hypothesis 1 safely accepted. The similar test was performed to ascertain the possible association or independence predicted in Hypothesis 2. The results of this test presented in the table showed that educated people's perception regarding patriarchy is found statistically significant for its association with their perception regarding practice of not reporting crime committed against women to police. It shows a chi square value as 33.805 with 4 degree of freedom and p-value as (.000). It means hypothesis 2 stated safely accepted.

The possible association predicted in hypothesis 3 between educated people's perception regarding patriarchy with their perception regarding unfavourable attitude of police towards women victims as causes for long persistence of crime against women was also tested through Chi-Square test. The result of the test showed a significant association between perceptions regarding the two reasons of crime against women. The test showed a Chi-square value as (22.698) with degree of freedom as 4 and p-value as (.000). Therefore, Hypothesis 3 is also accepted. Similarly, the Chi-Square test was also performed for testing the possible association stated in hypothesis 4 between educated people's perception regarding patriarchy and prevalence of anti women social practices as reasons of crime against women. The result showed a statistically significant association between the two reasons of crime against women. It shows a Chi-square value as (18.998) with 4 degree of freedom and p-value as (.001). Therefore, Hypothesis 4 is also accepted.

The Chi-square test regarding the possible association stated in hypothesis 5 between perceptions about patriarchy and women's segregation in home as causes of crime against them also resulted in statistically significant association between perceptions regarding the two reasons of crime. The Chi square value as (69.192) with degree of freedom as 4 and p-value as (.000) shows the significant association of two variables. Therefore, Hypothesis 5

is also accepted. Hypothesis 6 stated also shows a possible association between perceptions regarding patriarchy and existence of insufficient Pakistani laws as reasons of crime against women. The results of a Chi-Square test showed a significant association between the perceptions about the two reasons of crime against women. The results appeared with a Chi square value as (15.452) with degree of freedom as 4 and p-value as (.004). Therefore, Hypothesis 6 is also accepted.

Hypothesis 7 predicting the association between perception regarding patriarchy and less number of women in parliament as reasons of crime against women was also tested by applying the Chi-square test. It showed a significant association between the perceptions regarding the two reasons of crime against women. The results calculated by SPSS were showing a Chi-square value as (39.121) with 4 degree of freedom and p-value as (.000). Therefore, Hypothesis 7 is also accepted.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This paper focused on educated people's perception regarding causes of persisting crimes against women in Pakistan. In respect of first objective mentioned, the study explored perceptions regarding several causes that help to retain women's lower status and victimization by fostering a favourable environment for crime against women in Pakistan. Following are the main findings of the research:

- ❏ The pattern that emerged from the data analysis shows that majority of respondents are considering all the eight reasons (i.e. Patriarchy (defined as men's domination over women), anti women social practices (such as Dowry, Watta Satta, Walwar, Wani, Swara and Honour killing, etc), women's segregation in home, unfavourable attitude of police, not reporting the crime to police, insufficient Pakistani laws, women's marginal representation in law making, and lack of education and awareness among women) explored here as valid causes for fostering crime against women in Pakistan.
- ❏ Lack of education and awareness among women is confirmed by 94% of the respondents as cause for persisting crimes against women in the country.
- ❏ It is agreed by 89.6% of the respondents that crime against women continue because most of such crimes are not reported to police.
- ❏ The unfavourable attitude of police is also considered by 84.9% of the research participants as a reason behind crime against women in the country.
- ❏ Anti women social practices are considered by 82.1% of the respondents as cause of crime against women.
- ❏ Domination of men over women in society (patriarchy) is considered by 80.2% research participants as one reason for persisting crime against women.
- ❏ Women's segregations in home and insufficient Pakistani laws are two reasons of persisting crime identified by 71.7% of respondents.
- ❏ Women's less participation in parliament for law making is considered as a cause of crime against women in Pakistan by 68.9% respondents, respectively.

In order to reach the second objective of the study, the cross tabulation and chi-square test results have been presented. Cross tabulation of the data about educated people's perception regarding patriarchy (as a reason of crime against women) with all other causes of crime identified here shows that most of the respondents agree that patriarchy and the other reasons of the crime work simultaneously to foster crime against women in the country.

- ⁱ Patriarchy and lack of education among women are simultaneously considered as cause of fostering crime against women by 77.4% of the respondents.
- ⁱ Patriarchy and the practice of not reporting crime against women to police are simultaneously considered as cause of fostering crime against women by 73.6% of the respondents.
- ⁱ Patriarchy and unfavourable attitude of police towards women victims are simultaneously considered as cause of fostering crime against women by 69.8% of the respondents.
- ⁱ Patriarchy and anti women social practices are simultaneously considered as cause of fostering crime against women by 69.8% of the respondents.
- ⁱ Patriarchy and women's segregation in home are simultaneously considered as cause of fostering crime against women by 65.1% of the respondents.
- ⁱ Patriarchy and insufficient Pakistani laws are simultaneously considered as cause of fostering crime against women by 62.3% of the respondents.
- ⁱ Patriarchy and less representation of women in parliament for law making are simultaneously considered as cause of fostering crime against women by 62.3% of the respondents.

On the basis of above cross tabulation results of educated people's perception regarding patriarchy and other identified reason of crime against women, chi square test was performed to identify the statistical significance of the association between perceptions regarding patriarchy and the perceptions regarding each of other identified reasons of persisting crime against women in the country. The test results show that educated people's perceptions regarding patriarchy are found significantly associated with the perceptions regarding lack of education among women, practice of not reporting crime against women to police, unfavourable attitude of police towards women victim, prevalence of anti women social practices, women's segregation in home, insufficient Pakistani laws, and less number of women present in parliament to make laws as a cause of long persisting crime against women in Pakistan.

In short, it is inferred that patriarchy (male domination), anti women social practices, women's segregation in the private sphere of home, unfavourable attitude of police towards women victims, not reporting of the crime against women to law enforcing agencies, insufficient Pakistani laws, women's less representation in legislative forums, and the lack of education among women are all valid reasons for long persistence of crime against women in Pakistan. Perceptions on patriarchy are significantly associated with the perceptions regarding all other reasons of the crime against women in the country.

The paper extends following suggestion and recommendation for prevention of crime against women in future:

- Illiteracy is in itself a great evil that makes a person unaware and socially poor. Much attention should be focused on increasing literacy rate among women especially in rural areas of Pakistan. Government should make policy and provide facilities to increase women's access to free education in all parts of Pakistan. The positive ideologies should also be promoted among masses for universal education among women.
- Legal and constitutional amendments should be made to increase women's representation in Pakistani legislative forums as equal to that of men.
- The gender sensitive laws should be formulated and their effective implementation should be ensured.

CONCLUSION

Pakistani women are facing a variety of crimes and violations committed against them throughout the independent history of the country. The paper explores educated people's perceptions regarding various causes behind continuous crimes committed against women in Pakistani society. The paper explored patriarchal domination of men over women, anti women social practices, women's segregation in the private sphere of home, unfavourable attitude of police towards women victims, practice of not reporting of the crime against women to police, insufficient and discriminatory laws, women's absence from legislative forums and the lack of education and awareness among women as the possible causes responsible for creating a congenial environment for continuous crime against women in Pakistani society.

The collected data was statistically analyzed to see the broader pattern through frequencies, percentages, cross-tabulation, and chi square test of independence and association between variables. Data analysis shows that majority of the respondents (not less than 68.9% of the respondents for each case) considered all the explored causes as valid for fostering crime against and victimization of women in the country. The two main reasons attested by 90% respondents were lack of education among women and practice of not reporting of the crime committed against women to police.

Majority of the respondents also identify patriarchy and all other causes of crime against women identified here as simultaneously fostering crime against women in the country. The chi square test results also show a significant association between perceptions regarding patriarchy and other identified elements as reasons for persisting crime against women in Pakistan.

It is recommended to increase women's participation on equal basis in the law making institution, formulation of gender sensitive laws, positive change in the attitude of law enforcing agencies, and facilitation and ease provided to victim by making the legal procedures simple and quick can help to improve the conditions by curbing the long persisting crimes against and victimization of Pakistani women.

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