

Knowledge and Opinion of Male Students of 4th Year MBBS Regarding the Punjab Protection of Women against Violence Act-2016

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ABSTRACT

Aim: To Judge the opinion of male students of 4th year MBBS regarding the Punjab protection of women against violence (PPWAGV) Act, 2016. most frequent exploitation types of women and their consequences, justification of PPWAGV act and other recommendations to prevent of domestic violence.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional study, we selected male students of MBBS 4th year. We distributed a closed- ended questionnaire to 100 students using non-probability sampling technique. The study duration was 30 days from 1 August 2019 to 30 August 2019. Out of 100 students we received 77 responses within 30 days' period, there were two incomplete-filled questioners that we didn't consider them in the study. There were no ethical issues in the present subject. All the data was entered in Microsoft excel-2016 for data analysis.

Results: A total of 75 students' responded for the questioners, there were 68(88.31%) students know the PPWAGV Act. 2016, 9(11.4%) students were don't know about the PPWAGV Act. The PPWAGV act known 68 students, only 62 (80.52%)students know the approval date of the act. "women's rights in Islam is better than other religion" supported by 72(96%) students and 3(4%) were opposed. The need for the PPWAGV act. 23(30.6%) students mentioned due to fear of losing male dominance and 8(10.6%) mentioned the conservative nature of scholars.

Conclusion: The main purpose of this Act 2016 is to protect women. The dominating nature of the male is the main cause of domestic violence. If Islamic laws are implemented properly then there is no need for this Act.

Keywords: Domestic violence, Punjab protection of women against violence(PPWAGV) Act, Sexual Harassment.

INTRODUCTION

Violence can be defined as physical, emotional, psychological torture and/or sexual abuse. Young women are the most prominent victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence against women exists from time immemorial.¹ Every country in the world has domestic violence against women(DVAW). No nation-state has secured the DVAW. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), DVAW affects women in different phases of lifespan from pre-birth to adulthood.² Sex-selective abortion in pre-birth, mutilation of female genital, child marriage, forced prostitution in childhood, rape, sexual harassment, dowry murders, forced pregnancy, and physical abuse. Worldwide, the ratio of 35% have physical or sexual violence by the spouse or partner, and 38% of the women murdered by intimatepartners³. Most of the time DVAW is under-reported due to social norms and sensitive points from subject^{1,2}. Rape and sexual harassment violence data has been collected from the police station and NGO's survey.

As per the United Nations Organization (UNO) declaration "DVAW is an expression of men power over women and it is one of the forced mechanisms on women to devalue her position in society"⁴. Pakistan as a developing nation has stood at 152th position out of 169 countries(2019) in the gender development index(GDI) with index of 0.560, according to Aurat Foundation survey (2011) reports.⁵ Pakistan, the highest DVAW report has

been recorded in sexual assault cases (49%) followed by acid pitching (37.5%) and honor killing (27%).⁶ In Pakistan, most of the cases the domestic violence offenders were close-relatives of victims. DVAW underestimates women's rights. To avoid domestic violence and protect women's rights, in 2016, Punjab assembly passed "Punjab protection of women against violence PPWAGV) Act"⁷ which provides legal protection to women against domestic, psychological and sexual violence. In Islam women have more rights compare to other religions.

Considering the emotional and physical violence consequences of DVAW, the present study was conducted, to Judge the knowledge and opinion of male students of 4thyear MBBS regarding the (PPWAGV) Act. 2016. Most frequent exploitation types of women and their consequences, justification of PPWAGV act and other recommendations to prevent DVAW.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

This is a cross-sectional study, we called all 4th year MBBS male students. Using of non-probability sampling technique, we distributed a closed- ended questionnaire to 100 students. The study duration was 30 days from 1 august 2018 to 30 august 2018. Out of 100 students we received 77 responses within 30 days' period, there were two incomplete-filled questioners that we didn't consider them in the study. All the data was entered in Microsoft excel-2016 for data analysis.

There were no ethical issues in the present subject, even though we obtained the students consent before data collection. The explanation and objective of the study person name never been disclosed for at any cost, participating student names and confidentiality was ensured.

RESULTS

A total of 75 students' responded for the questioners, there were 68(88.31%) students know the PPWAGV Act. 2016, 9(11.4%) students were don't know about the PPWAGV Act. The PPWAGV act known 68 students, only 62 (80.52%) students know the approval date of the act. There were 51(68%) students who favor the act and 15(20%) students have opposed the act, remained 9(12%) were neutral. In favored students 43(57.1%) were voted for 'the act protect women', 8 (10.9%) students were voted for 'the act gives more rights to women' and opposed 15(20%) students voted for "government needs support from women, so act was implemented". The cause of domestic violence supported by 18(23.7%) students due to joint family issue, dominating nature of males supported by 42(56.6%) and more demanding of females supported by 15(19.7%). The divorce rate increased due to the PPWAGV act mentioned by 50(67.1%) students, 16(21.1%) were mentioned the divorce rate decreased and 9(11.8%) were mentioned no effect with the act. 30(40%) students said 'yes' to 'implementation of the act in male society is good', 45(60%) said 'no' to implement the act. There were 51(68%) students mentioned the purpose of the act was accomplished, 24(32%) were mentioned the purpose was not met. 'Exploitation of situation by women' was agreed by 54(72%) students and disagreed by 21(28%). The exploitation of the situation by women due to harassing the men was supported by 36(47.5%) students, by locking-up him supported by 12(16.4%), by not allowing the male to enter his own house supported by 11(14.8%) and for sake of demanding more money was supported by 16(21.3%) students.

There were 55(73.33%) students supported female employment due to women are equal to men and women can manage budget easily, and 20(26.67%) were opposed due to women must fulfill their duties at home. Affordability of separate accommodation by the offender was supported by 61(81.33%) students, 14(18.67%) were opposed. "women's rights in Islam is better than other religion" supported by 72(96%) students and 3(4%) were opposed. the need for the PPWAGV act. Supported by the 35(46.67%) students and rejected by 40(53.33%) students due to the wrong concept of Islamic ideology by 6(15%), non-implementation of Islamic law 17(42.5%) and unawareness about Islamic knowledge 17(42.4%). 46(61.3%) students mentioned that this act was rejected by Islamic scholars due to the act is against Islamic law. 23(30.6%) students mentioned due to fear of losing male dominance and 8(10.6%) mentioned the conservative nature of scholars (Table 1).

Table-1: Questioner- Answers data.

Question	Participants(n= 75)	
	Yes	No
Knowledge about the act	66(88%)	9(12%)
Approval date of act	60(80%)	15(20%)
Favors and opposition of act 2016	51(68%)	24(32%)
Accomplishment of purpose	51(68%)	24(32%)
Implementation of act in male society	30(40%)	45(60%)
Exploitation of situation by women	54(72%)	21(28%)
Female employment support	55(73.33%)	20(26.66%)
Justification of female employment support and opposition	53(70.66%)	22(29.33%)
Loyal to the govt. servant to their duties	55(73.33%)	20(26.66%)
Acceptability of global positioning tracker	61(81.33%)	14(18.66%)
Affordability of separate accommodation by offender	61(81.33%)	14(18.66%)
Women rights in Islam and other religion	72(96.0%)	3(4.0%)
Need of act in our society	46(61.33%)	29(38.66%)

DISCUSSION

Change is steady and keeping in mind that there is a lot to be wanted with regards to protecting the rights and lives of Pakistani women impressive advancement has been made. Women's participation in politics increased and the landmark legislation for public lives specially protect the women against violence. Violence against women like rape, forced marriages, honor killing, dowry violence, and forced abortions are becoming common in our society. Majority of factors related to domestic violence-related to male companion like childhood experience of his own family⁸. There is a lot of difference between pre-adolescent and adolescence observed violence, the patterns are changing along with the time and anti-social behavior, the anti-social behavior will be different from gender to gender⁹. Acid pitching is also one of serious considering domestic violence, acid pitching usually conducts due to jealousy or take revenge on the victim to temporarily defame her, the consequence is like blindness and permanent scarcity of face. Forced marriages are also including a kind of violence¹⁰, in this violence both the parties get married against their will, this kind of marriage will not stay long, there will be a dispute between families. Honor killing is a different kind of criminal violation, where male family members do crime on women because she violated the honor of the family in society⁶. At present day, domestic violence is considering the most prominent violence against women, domestic violence by spouses is occupying lion share in all kind of violence against women. The predictors of domestic violence are husband alcohol consumption, high authority power of men and unsatisfied annual income.¹¹ Pakistan ranks 152th position out of 169 countries on the gender development index (GDI), which indicates

Pakistan need to do a lot of reforms towards women's rights. The main contribution of domestic violence in Pakistan are lack of education, joint family issues and lack of economic empowerment. In 2016, the Punjab assembly standing committee approved the PPWGAV act, the main purpose of this act to provide safety to any offenses committed against women. The act has given some fundamental provisions to women in case of violence against her such as toll-free helpline number, shelter homes for victimized women under comprehensive family court has to fix the hearing within 7 working days of registered complaint and all complaints to be decided within 90 days and Women are entitled with a certain lump sum of the amount of men's salary during hearing period. PPWGAV act was approved to provided fundamental rights and empowerment to women. Moreover, the present act has been criticized by the religious body for being incompatible with Islam. Since its passage, some conservative religious leaders have considered this Act as being in conflict with Quran as well as Pakistan's constitution. Most religious scholars think that it's an attempt to make Pakistan a Western colony and it will make men insecure.¹² It also sets punishments of up to a year in jail for people who violate court orders related to domestic violence with that period rising to 2 years for the repeat offender.

Our study results show that 88% of MBBS students only know the PPWAGV act. From these results, we can assume common men barely knows about the act. The government has to do PPWAGV act promotion to reach every individual woman. There is a bias between the students towards favor (68%) due to the act that will protect women and opposed (20%) due to it gives more rights to women, which she can misuse it. Most of the students are in favor of this act, most of them want to support female employment. In our results, most of the students accept the global positioning trackers to the offenders during their trial. Most of the students want society to need this act. Finally,

96% of students mentioned that Islam is a great religion that protects women's rights than any other religion does.

CONCLUSION

The main purpose of this Act 2016 is to protect women. The dominating nature of the male is the main cause of domestic violence. If Islamic laws are implemented properly then there is no need for this Act.

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