DOMESTIC PROBLEMS FACED BY FEMALE MINORITIES IN SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PAKISTAN

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Abstract:

This study is about domestic problems faced by female minorities in South Asian countries specifically Pakistan. The study focused on racial, caste and religious minorities, focused on domestic issues like forceful change of religion and other domestic problems. There is no disputing the reality that men are given preferential treatment over women in a variety of situations. The questionnaire of this research revealed some critical results regarding domestic problems faced by the female minorities in Pakistan. The research revealed that verbal violence is more dominant among the forms of domestic violence faced by minority women and that women do face these problems because they belong to a minority.

Keywords: Domestic problem, Minorities, Female, South Asia.

Introduction

As per researches from throughout the globe, females from ethnic & minority communities endure disproportionately greater levels of violence and are victims of peace and conflict scenarios (Minority Rights Group., 2021). As a consequence of prejudice towards minorities across the world, women are frequently subjected to physical assault. Indigenous & minority women are particularly susceptible since they generally reside in rural places and come from low social classes. They have restricted access to the courts and, in many situations, the courts as well as law enforcement agencies discriminate against them because of their femininity as well as minority statuses. Women minorities' plight is not unique to a particular nation; religious minorities in South Asia have long endured geopolitical, societal, as well as cultural exclusion, as well as domestic issues (Minority Rights Group., 2021). As a consequence

of their sexuality, caste, & social rank, Dalit Indian women endure varied degrees of violence. As per a paper on Dalit Indian women, they face everyday rape, murders, gang rape, as well as torturing in detention centers all over the world. According to the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), women in the Dalit caste been raped 3,486 times in 2019. (Equality Now., 2020). Minority & indigenous women, like the majority of women, are subjected to abuse in their communities and households. Because of poverty, low literacy, & socioeconomic marginalization, domestic abuse is more widespread amongst minorities & indigenous populations. As Dalit women are really a minority, they bear a "triple weight of inferiority" caste based, class, as well as sexuality. Due to a mix of institutional circumstances, Dalit women are subject to some of the most heinous types of physical assault.

Because Dalits continue to have a poor position among India's general public, officials frequently overlook or downplay violence against them. For Dalit Indian women, homicide, rape (often gang rape), torture in jail, and later stripping as well as parading are all typical events. The principal culprits of sexual and physical abuse are males from the ruling caste, and also personnel of the India police service, men in other social leadership positions & authority, plus males from the Dalit community. Although law exists in India to safeguard Dalits as well as other minorities from prejudice, poor access to justice & pervasive social marginalization render legal routes of justice mostly ineffectual for Dalits who have been victims of violence (Minority Rights Group, 2021). Domestic abuse and generalized violence towards women have grown tenfold (in excess of 3000) over a duration of time, as per statistics from the State Commission for Women in Jammu and Kashmir, a dissolved government entity created to defend the rights of women and girls and ensure quick prosecution. Previously, in 2016 through 2017, there was a crackdown. In Pakistan, Hindus are also targeted for violence. Muslim males abduct Hindu females, many of whom are minors, then compel them to convert to Islam & marry their captors in Sindh. They are exposed to verbal and physical abuse, as well as being pressured to abandon friendships (Justice.gov., 2020). In Pakistan, authors, reporters, & human rights organisations who defend minority rights & freedom of speech while also espousing liberal viewpoints are increasingly restricted. Small and large media outlets, as well as freelancing journalists, have been increasingly harassed, intimidated, and criminalized (Justice.gov., 2020).

In 2018, Afghan girls and women were imprisoned for "moral offences," such as "running away" from house as well as performing or trying to commit Zina (sex outside marriage). Aggressive anal & vaginal exams by Afghan government physicians, ostensibly to assess if a girl or woman is a virgin, were also undertaken by police & attorneys, despite scientific evidence to the contrary (Human Rights Watch, 2019).

Despite a 2017 Ministry of Public Health policy prohibiting government health personnel from participating in these examinations and a 2018 change to the Penal Code requiring a court warrant or authorization from the individual under inquiry, these tests continue to be performed. This practice is still going on, according to the "Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)." The AIHRC has surveyed 129 females who have undergone so-called "virginity tests" since the Penal Code was updated. As per the research, in 92 percent of the cases, there was no permission or court ruling (Barr, H., 2020). According to four respondents, the inquiry was carried out by a male, which is against Afghanistan's Criminal Procedure Code. This study is about domestic problems faced by female minorities in South Asian countries specifically Pakistan. The study focussed on racial, caste and religious minorities, focused on domestic issues like forceful change of religion and other domestic problems.

Literature Review

According to a research by Prabha, R., and Manjula, A., 2018, social media is playing an authoritarian role in the domestic problems of Dalit Indian women, constituting the most disregarded and least cared vulnerable groups. The mainstream press did not place an emphasis on explaining domestic abuse towards women or providing a venue for them to share their issues. Nevertheless, social media is the sole prominent place for first-generation Dalit pupils to express their worries. The paper is based on a qualitative evaluation of the available evidence on the issue. The most contemporary research is focused on the politicization of crimes against women in general, but also against Dalit women, in modern India, and also the portrayal and coverage of topics on social media. Social networks, a relatively new innovation, play a vital role in the globalization of communication, but they also serve a role in the development of fanaticism. The media treats the crimes and issues of Dalit women in the same way and does not give them priority publicity. The report's strength is in demonstrating how social media has benefitted women in India's Dalit minority. The study's failure might be due to a lack of media narratives explaining why Dalit concerns are not being addressed.

Minorityrights.org's recent report of 2020, which examines the situation of shared environment for minorities in South Asia (particularly ethnic minority females), is an important and persuasive example of how civil society and rights groups have been attempting to fill the hole created by the lack of a regional human rights structure and a regional structure of intergovernmental cooperation in this territory. The research is based on a qualitative primary and secondary analysis of the subject's findings. The research focuses on doing a desk study as well as examining resources and papers on civic space for minorities in each locale. It examines the guidelines and laws that regulate public

space, as well as the legislation proposals that have been proposed through the years and depict the government's overall attitude toward civil society, particularly minorities, through time. An online poll of specialists was used to gather primary data on public perceptions of minority civic space in India, Afghanistan, Nepal, as well as Pakistan. Despite the fact that equivalent surveys were done in both nations, the pandemic, as well as other factors, resulted in a small number of responses, casting doubt on the findings. The study's merit is that it allows regional states to reform incorrect laws towards minorities using evidence-based, well-researched, and illuminating data. The purpose of this research is to provide a venue for conversation between civil society groups, international institutions, civil & minority democratic human rights advocates, and humanitarian organizations in order to enlighten and inform the public as well as provide advice on regional policies and programs. The study's sole drawback was that, because to the epidemic, content was limited to Internet-based tools.

According to a research by Maheshwary, S., 2020, Hindu minority women of the scheduled caste confront safety, societal, & cultural challenges, and their religious heritage further hampers their life. The silence is deafening when it comes to abuse against women and girls. "Hindu women" face "gender abuse" in both community and their homes. In the employment, Hindu women face more hurdles than males in similar roles, as they are frequently subjected to gender discrimination and abuse in many forms based on their religious identity. Of course, regulations and regulations alone will not be adequate to prevent religious minorities' females in Pakistan from being abused. The study is quantitative, with primary tests such as interviews being used. This study looks at the lives of underprivileged Hindu women in Karachi, Pakistan's Sindh provincial capital, and evaluates perceptions about them, many of whom work in low-wage manual labor. The study's major goal is to learn more about impoverished Hindu women's perspectives and how they differ from those of other "non-Hindu women as well as poor Hindu males." It demonstrates how impoverished Hindu women in Pakistan differ in their everyday lives from males of the same religious ancestry. Hindus & females from other ethnic groups are outnumbered in national and municipal governance. Furthermore, when minorities have quotas, only men are elected. As a result, the study's merit was the collecting of quantitative data on the topic. The information gathered does not constitute a thorough scenario analysis since the focus groups do not represent a big and diversified sample of the public. Instead, they reveal info about Hindu women and children's lives and perspectives in Sindh, which is generally overlooked.

Methodology

The research was conducted in a qualitative manner. Qualitative research design, as per Merriam, S. B., and Grenier, R. S. (Eds.). (2019), is superior at acquiring knowledge regarding attitudes, beliefs, as well as intentions. This sort of design, according to a study, allows the researcher to gather data on numerous elements in a systematic manner while without limiting the respondents' ability to supply the information needed for the study. The study utilized questionnaire method for analysis of findings. The study utilized SPSS for chi square testing for hypothesis and analysis of questionnaire.

Research Questions

Q1: What kind of violence you have faced or facing?

Q2: Do you think you face these problem because you belong to a minority?

Q3: Do you think lack of awareness regarding basic rights is on the rise?

Discussion & Analysis

Q1. Are you aware of domestic violence?

Of the total respondents, 39.2% said that they are aware of domestic violence, 28.1% said no, and 32.7% said may be.

Q2. Have you ever faced Domestic Violence?

Of the total respondents, 32.7% said that they have faced domestic violence, 30% said no, and 37.3% said may be.

Q3.How often have you been a victim of domestic abuse?

Of the total respondents, 29% said that they have been victims of domestic abuse twice, 33.2% said once, and 37.8% said more than that.

Q4.What generally is the reason of domestic violence?

Of the total respondents, 29% said that not listening to the male members is generally the reason of domestic violence, 40.6% said being a minority was the reason, and 30.4% said being a female was the reason.

Q5. How this effects you?

Of the total respondents, 28.6% said that the violence affected them socially, 43.8% said it affected them psychologically, and 27.6% said it affected them physically.

Q6. Would you like to stop violence against female minority?

Of the total respondents, 37.3% said that they would like to stop the violence against female minority, 31.8% said no, and 27.6% said may be.

Q7. What kind of violence you have faced or facing?

Of the total respondents, 33.6% said that they faced verbal violence, 31.3% said physical, and 35% said both.

Q8. How do you see your future?

Of the total respondents, 27.6% said that they see self-realization as their future, 32.3% said they will remain same as before, and 40.1% said they hope of change.

Q9. Do you think you face these problems because you belong to a minority?

Of the total respondents, 40.6% said that they face these problems because they belong to a minority, 33.2% said no, and 26.3% said may be.

Q10. Do you think lack of awareness regarding basic rights is on the rise?

Of the total respondents, 38.7% said that they think lack of awareness regarding basic rights is on the rise, 30% said no, and 31.3% said may be.

Q11. Have you ever been given awareness regarding basic rights?

Of the total respondents, 37.8% said that they have been given awareness regarding basic rights, 33.2% said no, and 29% said may be.

Q12. Have you ever thought of converting from being a minority to a majority?

Of the total respondents, 50.7% said that they have thought of converting from minority to a majority, 24% said no, and 25.3% said may be.

Discussion

There is no disputing the reality that men are given preferential treatment over women in a variety of situations. Unofficial hiring rules exist in both private and public organizations, as it is often assumed that women will either get married and depart, or take time off or leave throughout their maternity periods. This is outright discrimination, and it deprives women of many good chances, putting them at a disadvantage in societies of South Asia including Pakistan. The questionnaire of this research revealed some critical results regarding domestic problems faced by the female minorities in Pakistan.

As a result of qualitative questionnaire, of the total 217 respondents, 39.2% said that they are aware of domestic violence, 28.1% said no, and 32.7% said may be. Of the total respondents, 32.7% said that they have faced domestic violence, 30% said no, and 37.3% said may be. Of the total respondents, 29% said that they have been victims of domestic abuse twice, 33.2% said once, and 37.8% said more than that. Of the total respondents, 29% said that not listening to the male members is generally the reason of domestic violence, 40.6% said being a minority was the reason, and 30.4% said being a female was

the reason. Of the total respondents, 28.6% said that the violence affected them socially, 43.8% said it affected them psychologically, and 27.6% said it affected them physically. Of the total respondents, 37.3% said that they would like to stop the violence against female minority, 31.8% said no, and 27.6% said may be.

Of the total respondents, 33.6% said that they faced verbal violence, 31.3% said physical, and 35% said both. Of the total respondents, 27.6% said that they see self-realization as their future, 32.3% said they will remain same as before, and 40.1% said they hope of change. Of the total respondents, 40.6% said that they face these problems because they belong to a minority, 33.2% said no, and 26.3% said may be. Of the total respondents, 38.7% said that they think lack of awareness regarding basic rights is on the rise, 30% said no, and 31.3% said may be. Of the total respondents, 37.8% said that they have been given awareness regarding basic rights, 33.2% said no, and 29% said may be.

Hypothesis 1:

H_0 = Women have faced only a specific form of violence more than others..

H_1 = Women have faced both verbal and physical forms of violence.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Both	76	35.0	35.0	35.0
	Physical	68	31.3	31.3	66.4
	Verbal	73	33.6	33.6	100.0
	Total	217	100.0	100.0	

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	13.441 ^a	6	.037
Likelihood Ratio	14.416	6	.025
N of Valid Cases	217		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 16.29.

$p = 0.350$

$P - \text{value} = 0.37$

Hence hypothesis H_1 is rejected. Verbal violence is more dominant among the forms of domestic violence faced by minority women.

Hypothesis 2

H_0 = Women face these problems regardless of their minority status.

H_1 = Women face these problems because they belong to a minority.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	May be	57	26.3	26.3	26.3
	No	72	33.2	33.2	59.4
	Yes	88	40.6	40.6	100.0
	Total	217	100.0	100.0	

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	6.407 ^a	6	.379
Likelihood Ratio	6.581	6	.361
N of Valid Cases	217		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 13.66.

$p = 0.406$

P – value = 0.379

Hence, proved that hypothesis H_1 is true. Women do face these problems because they belong to a minority.

Hypothesis 3

H_0 = Women do not think lack of awareness regarding basic rights is on the rise

H_1 = Women think lack of awareness regarding basic rights is on the rise.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	May be	68	31.3	31.3	31.3
	No	65	30.0	30.0	61.3
	Yes	84	38.7	38.7	100.0
	Total	217	100.0	100.0	

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	4.346 ^a	6	.630
Likelihood Ratio	4.507	6	.608
N of Valid Cases	217		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 15.58.

$p = 0.387$

P – value = 0.630

Hence, hypothesis H_1 is rejected.

Conclusion

As a consequence of prejudice towards minorities across the world, women are frequently subjected to physical assault. Indigenous & minority women are particularly susceptible since they generally reside in rural places and come from low social classes. They have restricted access to the courts and, in many situations, the courts as well as law enforcement agencies discriminate against them because of their femininity as well as minority statuses. Women minorities' plight is not unique to a particular nation; religious minorities in South Asia have long endured geopolitical, societal, as well as cultural exclusion, as well as domestic issues (Minority Rights Group., 2021). There is no disputing the reality that men are given preferential treatment over women in a variety of situations. The questionnaire of this research revealed some critical results regarding domestic problems faced by the female minorities in Pakistan. The research revealed that verbal violence is more dominant among the forms of domestic violence faced by minority women and that women do face these problems because they belong to a minority. The study will be of great help for researchers students and academics regarding this topic of domestic problems faced by minority females of South Asia in particular Pakistan.

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