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# Domestic Violence among Married Women with Special Reference to Slums Areas of Karachi

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Domestic violence is the most common form of gender-based violence. The declaration on the elimination of violence against women, adopted by the United Nation General Assembly in 1993 defines violence against women as "Any act of gender based violence that results, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life." This research was conducted to know that what are the causes and situations which result in domestic violence, with special reference to slums areas of Karachi. In this study the researcher tried to focus on domestic violence on women's by their husbands. In this study the researcher selected the slums area of North Karachi Town as universe and the married women of the slums area of North Karachi Town were the respondents. The researcher selected randomly 364 married women (respondents). The data is collected through the interviewing schedule.

**Keywords:** domestic violence, physical violence, awareness, socio-economic condition.

#### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The issue of violence against women is not new but the regretfully, female victims of violence had not been given much attention as a social problem. The attitude of indifference and negligence can be attributed to factors like lack ofawareness of seriousness of the problem, general acceptance of man's superiority over women because of which violent act against women were not viewed as violent or deviant and the denial of violence by women themselves owing to their socio-cultural values and attitudes.

Domestic violence and its history starting around the 8th century BC through to the 20th century, it is both astonishing and shocking that as a society we had ever functioned that way. It took until the 19th century for domestic violence to become a social issue. In the 20th century it became a rescue mission and in the 21st century in the here and now it has become a desperate situation. The issue of violence against women has been transformed from a private issue into a public problem. The term 'domestic violence' is used to describe a variety of actions and omissions that occur in different relationship. The term is used narrowly to cover incidents of physical attack, when it may take the form of physical and sexual violations such as punching, choking, stabbing, throwing boiling water or acid and setting on fire. The result of which can range from bruising to killing, which may often start out as apparently minor attacks can escalate both in intensity and frequency. (Miranda: 1994)

The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life." (UNO: 2013)

Some people use the term 'Domestic Violence' to include psychological or mental violence which can consist of repeated verbal abuse, harassment, confinement and deprivation of physical, financial and personal resources. Here, Domestic Violence means physical or mental assault of women by their male partners. In many countries the term 'wife assault' is used for this type of behavior. (Miranda: 1994)

The definition developed by the Oregon Domestic Violence Council is "A pattern of coercive behavior used by one person to control and subordinate another in an intimate relationship. These behaviors include physical, sexual, emotional, and economic abuse. Tactics of coercion, terrorism, degradation, exploitation, and violence are used to engender fear in the victim in order to enforce compliance".(Margi Laird: 2008)

Domestic violence is a serious problem around the world. It violates the fundamental human rights of women and often results in serious injury or death. While statistics vary slightly, women are victims of domestic violence in significantly greater proportion than men.

Intimate partner violence refers to behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression and psychological abuse and controlling behaviours.

A 2013 report of the World Health Organization (WHO) entitled, Global and Regional estimates of violence against women "Prevalence and Health Effects of Intimate Partner Violence and Non-Partner Sexual Violence", found that intimate partner violence affects 30% of womenworldwide and in the most prevalent type of violence against women.

The WHO estimates that 38% of all women murdered are killed by their intimate partner, although recognizes this is likely an underestimation. It also reports that 42% of women who had been sexually or physically abused by their partner were injured. (WHO: 2013)

After the creation of Pakistan, women's groups and feminist organizations lead by prominent leaders like Fatima Jinah spearheaded campaigns to eliminate social injustices against women in Pakistan. The resent Women Rights Movements have been dedicated to the promotion of women's political representation and accommodation between Muslim family law and democratic civil rights. During the regime of Zia ul-Haq (1977-88)urban women formed groups to protect their rights against apparent discrimination under Zia's Islamization program.

It was this continued pressure from women civil rights groups that Pakistan acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women(CEDAW) on 29 February, 1996, being the 174th State-Party. Nevertheless, the vast gap between declarations of rights and actual practice turns out to be a common pattern. Even declarations explicitly aimed at women's rights, such as the Universal Declaration of Women's Rights (1967) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) - have been signed and even ratified by the countries like Pakistan but the laws or the prevailing practices are far from fulfilling the provisions of these conventions. The problem is that existing theories and prioritizations of human rights have been constructed after a male model. Some generally recognized human rights abuses have specifically gender-related forms that were not typically recognized as human rights abuses before. These abuses are prepared by more powerful family members against less powerful ones. For example, slavery is generally recognized as a fundamental violation of human rights.

But parents giving their daughter in marriage in exchange for money or even selling her to a pimp have not typically been seen as an instance of slavery. If a husband pays a bride price for his wife or marries her without her adult consent; if he confines her to their home, forbids her to work for pay, or appropriates her wages; if he beats her for disobedience or mishap; these manifestations of slavery would not be recognized as violations of human rights in many parts of the world. In countries like Pakistan these acts would be regarded as quite within the limits of normal, culturally appropriate behavior by parents or husbands, again turning our attention towards the incidence of violence against women in Pakistan. According the annual report Aurat Foundation published on February 17, 2011. Out of a total 4514 cases of violence against women in Pakistan, the offence-wise and province-wise breakdown is as follows. There were 691 cases of murder (393 in Punjab, 135 in Sindh, 111 in KPK, 26 in Baluchistan, 26 in Islamabad), 293 cases of honor killing (119 in Punjab, 132 in Sindh, 0 in KPK, 41 in Baluchistan, 1 in Islamabad), 1046 cases of abduction/kidnapping, (901 in Punjab, 79 in Sindh, 31 in KPK, 4 in Baluchistan, 31 in Islamabad) 332 cases of domestic violence, (149 in punjab, 75 in Sindh, 93 in KPK, 7 in Baluchistan, 8 in Islamabad), 37 cases of store burning, (24 in Punjab, 8 in Sindh, 3 in KPK, 1 in Baluchistan, 1 in Islamabad), 27 case of acid throwing, (21 in Punjab, 6 in Sindh, 0 in KPK,0 in Baluchistan, 0 in Islamabad), whereas 1086 cases of violence were of miscellaneous nature (vanni/swara, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted murder, suicide in the four provinces and Islamabad. (Legislative watch: 2011)

# **Types Of Domestic Violence**

There are many types of domestic violence such as; physical violence, sexual violence, emotional violence and verbal violence.

1. *Physical abuse* is abuse involving contact intended to cause feelings of intimidation, pain, injury, or other physical suffering or bodily harm.

Physical abuse includes hitting, slapping, punching, choking, pushing, burning and other types of contact that result in physical injury to the victim. Physical abuse can also include behaviors such as denying the victim of medical care when needed, depriving the victim of sleep or other functions necessary to live, or forcing the victim to engage in drug/alcohol use against his/her will. If a person is suffering from any physical harm then they are experiencing physical abuse. This pain can be experienced on any level. It can also include inflicting physical injury onto other targets, such as children or pets, in order to cause psychological harm to the victim.

- 2. **Sexual abuse** is any situation in which force or threat is used to obtain participation in unwanted sexual activity. Coercing a person to engage in sexual activity against their will, even if that person is a spouse or intimate partner with whom consensual sex has occurred, is an act of aggression and violence.
- 3. *Emotional abuse* (also called <u>psychological abuse</u> or mental abuse) can include humiliating the victim privately or publicly, controlling what the victim can and cannot do, withholding information from the victim, deliberately doing something to make the victim feel diminished or <u>embarrassed</u>, isolating the victim from friends and family, implicitly <u>blackmailing</u> the victim by harming others when the victim expresses independence or happiness, or denying the victim access to money or other basic resources and necessities. Degradation in any form can be considered psychological abuse.
- 4. *Verbal abuse* is a form of emotionally abusive behavior involving the use of language. Verbal abuse can also be referred to as the act of threatening. Through threatening a person can

blatantly say they will harm you in any way and will also be considered as abuse. It may include profanity but can occur with or without the use of expletives.

#### **Impacts of Domestic Violence:**

Domestic violence has both short and long term effects on the individual. Short-term effects of domestic violence may include emotional or physical injury or disability, interference with role function, economic difficulty and homelessness. Long-term effects may include continued physical or mental disability, loss of role identity, loss of family ties and support systems, loss of employment, homelessness and in the most severe cases, death may ultimately occur. Most studies looking at the health effects of domestic violence only address the immediate, acute effects; studies that explore the long-term consequences related to disability are needed.(Chistine: 2001)

Violence against women has few decades before acknowledged as a human rights concern with profound impacts on the physical and mental well –beings of those affected by it as well as their broader socio-economic effects on development. It also explores the relationship between violence and other pressing issues, such as, maternal mortality, health care utilization, child survival, AIDS and socio-economic development. (World Bank 1994)

The presence of violence cannot be attributed to a single factor, as biological and personal factors, relationship quality, and community context all play major roles. For intimate partner violence, or domestic violence, the most consistent marker is marital conflict or discord in the relationship. Economic conditions are also causes and effects of violence. Poor people disproportionally account for the public health burden of violence in almost every society. "Strong associations have been found between domestic violence and low household income, low educational level of husband, consumption of alcohol and drugs and witnessing domestic violence during childhood. Researchers have also identified an inverse relationship between a woman's educational attainment and domestic violence."

Though some studies have shown that increased status and increased control over resources for women is protective against domestic violence, recently many others have found that employment and increased status "do not necessarily reduce domestic violence and may in culturally conservative areas increase it. As a study in South India concluded, "programme strategies and policy recommendations often assume that helping women to empower themselves, particularly through female education, vocational training and employment will provide women with resources that will in turn decrease their risk of adverse reproductive health outcomes. However, there is a growing recognition that these strategies may conflict with prevailing social norms and expectations that are relatively slow to change, and may instead result in increased violence against women. It is therefore not surprising that a study in India found that 75% of working respondents reported being abused because of their employment status.(Krug, E, & Merry, J: 2011)

Though poverty, education level, and consumption of alcohol and drugs are all associated with domestic violence, the most significant root of domestic violence is gender inequality. The links between gender-based power and domestic violence are widely recognized, with violence being viewed both as a manifestation of deeply entrenched gender power inequities as well as a mechanism by which such inequities are enforced. For example, indigenous men often say they feel entitled to use sexual, physical, and/or psychological violence to control their partners' behavior if they suspect them of having an affair or believe them to be a "bad" wife. This has led to alarming rates of domestic violence and consequently mental health problems.

Growing unemployment combined with high fertility rates hinder the ability of men to fulfill their role as financial provider, and violence is reported to give them an opportunity to reaffirm their masculinity.

Since domestic violence tends to be culturally engrained, or derived from culturally-based gender roles, many women are tolerant of the abuse they face. Their belief that the welfare of their children was dependent upon keeping their family together often led them to tolerate the abuse.

In Asia, many women believe that they would bring shame upon themselves, their families, and their communities by disclosing their abusive situation to a medical provider. In addition, they were embarrassed by their husband's behavior and believed it reflected poorly on them. A study on domestic violence in India reflected this sentiment and found that "among the women who reported violence, 29% had never received medical care after domestic violence, and 10% had never told a health worker about being abused. Only 5% of the women reported speaking to the health worker about problems of violence at home. (Chandraskaran. V, Krepp. K: 2007) Women in Pakistan face the threat of multiple forms of violence. The most endemic form of violence faced by women is violence in the home. For 1997, HRCP reported that domestic violence remained a pervasive phenomenon. The supremacy of the male and subornation of the female assumed to be part of the culture and even to have sanction of the religion mode violence by one against the other in a variety of its forms, an accepted and pervasive feature of domestic life. Estimates of the percentage of women who experienced domestic violence in Pakistan range is up wards of 90 percent. In the majority of cases, husbands and in –lows were responsible for the murders (Khalid: 2003)

The family systems perspective views domestic violence from an interactive and relational perspective. It focuses on the nature of family structure to understand the origin of domestic violence, and gender does not constitute a major focus of examination because women are found to be as violent, as men. Violent behaviors are usually part of a pattern of escalating retributive strategies used by the couple to resolve differences. Characteristics that make a family prone to violence include legitimizing violence by using corporal punishment, accepting violence as one solution to family conflict, providing basic training in the use of violence through physical punishment, and creating a link between love and violence. The semi involuntary nature of family member-ship makes family socialization a powerful force in shaping individuals' behaviors because a family violence perspective emphasizes the mechanisms that maintain domestic violence in general and does not focus on violence against women. It has been heavily criticized by feminist as neglecting the role of patriarchal beliefs and structures in maintaining violence against women, discarding empirical evidence that 90% to 95% of victims in domestic violence are women and diverting resources from assisting women victims.

The domestic violence literature suggests following twelve indicators that aid in identifying abuse.

- Depressive symptoms;
- Suicidal ideation or attempts;
- Anxiety symptoms;
- Chronic pain in back, neck;
- Unexplained traumatic injury;
- Fractures in various stages of healing;
- Somatic disorders, such as sleep disturbance, appetite disturbance, and gastrointestinal problems;

- Alcohol or drug abuse;
- Chronic use of pain medication or sleeping pills;
- o Child abuse, by either parents;
- o Alcohol abuse or depression or antisocial personality disorder in husband;
- o History of abuse in either partner (Gerlock: 1999, Keller: 1996).

Women in our culture, mostly highly dependent on their male members both economically and socially, went it comes to their livelihood, security and other dependencies. They are also facingsocio-cultural burdens around 'honor' and 'shame' which affects many women at a deep psychological level.

Quran highlighted clearly the relationship between husband and wife.

"The nobler among you in the sight of God is the most righteous(kindest to their wives) among you" (Quran; 49: 13)

Live with them in kindness; even if you dislike them, perhaps you dislike something in which Allah has placed much good. (Quran; 4: 19)

One of the most often cited verses in this context is verse 4; 34 entitled Surah Al-Nisa the solution of domestic violence teaches clearly and categorically

"Husband should take full care of their wives; with [the bounties] God has given to some more than others and with what they spend out of their own money. Righteous wives are devout and guard what God would have them guard in the husbands' absence. If you fear high-handedness from your wives, remind them [of the teaching of God] then ignore them when you go to bed, then hit them. (Lightly) If they obey you, you have no right to act against them. God is most high and great".

An explanation of verse 4:34 according to the various interpretations is necessary as all of the above-cited interpretations are potentially misleading. First, men, by their very physical nature, are enshrined with the task of providing material support to their wives. Women are not burdened with the duty of nursing or directly caring for children and supporting the family financially, therefore this injunction is prescribed to men. Second, the verse ordains women to be virtuous and to act obediently in relation to what Allah prescribes in the Qur'an. It requires Muslim women to guard their modesty, chastity and property while their husbands are, for example, at work. However, obedience is only required in relation to the dictates of Islam.

### **Objectives**

- o To know the socio-economic background of respondents.
- o To find out the causes of domestic violence.
- To find out the level of awareness about domestic violence and their rights among respondents.
- o To know the impacts of domestic violence on respondents and children.

# **Hypotheses**

- The causes of the violence on less educated respondents due to economical problem.
- Majority of the respondents are unaware about their rights' so they does not report the domestic violence.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The present study is an exploratory research. In this study the researcher selected the slums area of North Karachi Town as universe and the married women of the slums area of North Karachi Town were the respondents.

Researcher obtained a list of slums(katchi abadies) of north Karachi town from the office of Sindh Kachi Abadies Authority, every 3<sup>rd</sup> slum was selected as sample through systematic sampling, therefore, total 5 slums were selected as sampled for the research. The population of respondents was 7000. The sample size was determined using table of random number, (S.Sarantakoz:2005), which turned out to be 364. Then these samples of 364 respondents were selected through simple random sampling. The survey method was used in the present study. The data was collected using a structured interview schedule. The method of interview involved reading and explaining questions to the respondents and recording their answer on the sheets. After collecting data researcher developed tally sheets and then used (simple frequency distribution tables to obtain simple frequency and percentages and chi-square test was applied to verity the relationship between two variables and to support either the experimental or null hypotheses.

FINDINGS

TABLE # 1: Distribution Of The Respondents According To Age Group

Ago	Frequency	Percentage
Age	<b>(F)</b>	(%)
Less than 20 years	31	8.5
21 to 30 years	199	54.67
31 to 40 years	101	27.7
Above 40 years	33	9
TOTAL	364	100

Table 1 indicates the highest percentages of the respondents are within 21 to 31 years of age group, which is 54.67%. The second highest numbers of respondents are in the range of 31 to 40 years of age group which is 27.7%. The third highest respondents are 9%, which is in the range of 40 years age group, and where the least percentage of the respondents is is 8.5%, who are in the group of less than 20 years age.

**TABLE # 2:Distribution Of The Respondents According To Educational Status** 

Educational status	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)	
Uneducated	141	38.73	
Madarsah	03	0.82	
Primary	50	13.73	
Secondary	67	18.40	
Intermediate	61	16.75	
Graduation	36	9.89	
Past graduation	06	1.64	
TOTAL	364	100	

Table 2 indicates the highest percentages of the respondents are Uneducated, which is 38.73%. The second highest numbers of respondents are Secondary, which is 18.40%. The third highest percentages of the respondents are Intermediate, which is 16.75%. The fourth highest percentages of the respondents are primary, which is 13.73%. The fifth highest percentages of

the respondents are Graduates, which is 9.89%. The sixth highest percentages of the respondents are Post graduate; which is 1.64%, where the least percentages of the respondents are belong to Madarsah(Islamic religious institutions), which is 0.82%.

Table # 3: Distribution Of The Respondents According To Family Status

Family status	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Nuclear	114	31.31
Joint	250	68.6
TOTAL	364	100

Table 3 show the highest percentages of the respondents live in the joint family, which is of 68.6% and where the least respondents live in the structure of the Nuclear family that is 31.31%.

Table # 4:Distribution Of The Respondents According To Total Monthly Income Of Family

Total monthly income of family.	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Less than 3000	16	4.3
3001 to 6000	130	35.71
6001 to 9000	106	29.12
Above 9000	112	30.76
TOTAL	364	100

Table 4 show thatthe highest percentages of the respondents are 35.71% in the total monthly income of family, who are in the range of 3001 to 6000. The second highest number of respondents are above 9000 the total monthly income of family, who are 30.76%. The third highest percentages of the respondents are 29.12% the total monthly income of family, who are in the group of 6001 to 9000 and where the least frequency of the respondents are less than 3000 the total monthly income of family, who are 4.3%.

Table # 5: Distribution Of The Respondents According To Reasons Of Violence

Basic reasons of violence.	Frequency	Percentage	
	(F)	(%)	
Illiteracy	106	29.12	
Economic problems	120	32.96	
Having no male child	39	10.71	
Lack of dowry	23	6.31	
Others	76	20.87	
TOTAL	364	100	

Table 5shows that the highest percentages of the respondents face violence because ofeconomic problem that is 32.96%. The second highest respondents face violence because illiteracy, that is 29.12%. The third highest percentages of the respondents face violence because of other reason that is 20.87%. The fourth number of respondents faces violence because of having no male children, which is 10.71% and where the least percentages of the respondents faceviolence because of lack of dowry that is 6.31%.

Table # 6:Distribution Of The Respondents According To Submitting Of Report Against Violence

Submitting report	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Yes	39	10.71
No	325	89.28
TOTAL	364	100

Table 6shows that the highest percentages of the respondents have not submitted reports, which are 89.28% .Where the least frequency of the respondents, have submitted report, which are  $10.71\,\%$ .

Table #7:Distribution Of The Respondents According To Awareness Regarding Their Rights As A Wife

Awareness of basic rights	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)	
Yes	200	54.94	
No	164	45.05	
TOTAL	364	100	

Table 7 indicates the highest numbers of respondent's are aware about their basic rights which are 54.94% and where the least percentages of the respondents are not aware about their basic rights, which are 45.5%.

Table # 8: Distribution Of The Respondents According To Knowledge About Laws Regarding Violence

Knowledge about lows regarding violence.	Frequency	Percentage
Miowicuge about iows regarding violence.	(F)	(%)
Yes	41	11.26
No	323	88.73
TOTAL	364	100

Table 8 shows that the highest numbers of respondent's says "NO" they don't know any low implemented in Pakistan regarding violence, which is 88.73% and where the least percentage of the respondents say "YES" they knows about low who are 11.26%.

**Table # 9:** Distribution Of The Respondents According To Change In Behavior Due To Domestic

violence				
Change in behavior	Frequency	Percentage		
change in behavior	(F)	(%)		
Yes	359	98.62		
No	05	1.37		
TOTAL	364	100		

Table 9 indicates the change in behavior due to domestic violence. The highest percentage of the respondents says "YES" that is 98.62% and the least of respondents say "NO" that is 1.37%.

Table # 9.1:Distribution Of The Respondents According To Yes, Then Nature Of Change In Behavior

Nature of change in behavior	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Aggressiveness	140	31.67
Depression	149	33.71
Hopelessness	51	11.97
Negative thoughts	102	23.7
TOTAL	442	100

**NOTE:** Respondents are 359 the answers are multiple.

Table 9.1 shows that the highest percentages of the respondents are 33.71%, who got engaged in depression. The second highest numbers of respondents are 31.67%, who got engaged in aggressiveness. The third highest respondents are 23.67%, who got engaged in negative thoughts and where the least percentages of the respondents are 11.53%, who are hopelessness.

# RESULT OF HYPOTHESES: HYPOTHESES # 1

# THE CAUSES OF THE VIOLENCE ON LESS EDUCATED RESPONDENTS DUE TO ECONOMICAL PROBLEM

**Null Hypothesis** There is no relation between less education and economic problems.

**Table Education And Economical Problems** 

Table Education And Economical Floblems					
Education	Economic Problems				Total
Ludcation	Yes	No	Total		
More Education	62 <sub>(56)</sub>	108(114)	170		
Less Education	58(64)	136(130)	194		
Total	120	244	364		

 $X^2 = 1.79$  **df** = 1

Table value at 1 df at 0.05 level of significance = 3.841.

As calculated value is lesser than tabulated value, we reject our hypothesis and accept our null hypothesis.

#### **HYPOTHESES #2**

# MAJORITY OF THE RESPONDENTS ARE UNAWARE THEIR RIGHTS SO THEY DOES NOT REPORT THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Null Hypothesis** There is no relation between unawareness of rights and report.

**Table Basic Rights And Report** 

Table basic Rights find Report				
	Submitted report			
Awareness of rights	Yes	No	Total	
Yes	30(21)	170(179)	200	
No	09(18)	155(146)	164	
Total	120	244	364	
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 $X^2 = 9.35$  **df** = 1

Table value at 1 df at 0.05 level of significance = 3.841.

As calculated value is bigger than tabulated value, we reject our null hypothesis and accept our hypothesis.

#### **CONCLUSION**

On the basis of the data collection it can be pointed out that the Domestic violence has become a part of our society. Its occurrence has become so common that, mostly the women are the victims of violence. This means challenging the social attitudes and beliefs that undergird men's violence and renegotiating the meaning of gender and sexuality and the balance of power between women and men at all levels of society. Any strategy to combat violence must attack the root causes of the problem in addition to fretting its symptom.

A variety of from oral tradition to formal educational and legal systems can secure and define standards of acceptable behavior for man and women. Peer pressure, community institutions, religious institutions, educational institutions and the mass media can play vital role in this regard. Islam teaches us that husbands should treat their wives with respect, love, care and prohibits all forms of physical or emotional abuse.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- o Parenting education must for all couples having Islamic content to promote gender equality and gender understanding to all levels in health department.
- Electronic and print media should conduct meaningful, rational and open minded dialogue in order to gain deeper understanding of the living realties that exist regarding domestic violence.
- Domestic violence protocols should be developing for intervening with effective families of domestic violence.
- Legal system should make possible interventions including responses by law enforcement personnel to calls of domestic violence, probation services for batterers, prosecution of criminal cases and court decision making.
- Media should also play its role for the awareness about the respect and dignity of women and their basic rights. Media should telecast these types of programs by which they should aware the public about the respect and dignity of women. In the same way, the print media should also play its role for this purpose.

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