

CAUSATIVE FACTORS PUSHED WOMEN INTO DAR-UL-AMAN: A CASE STUDY OF DAR-UL-AMAN DISTRICT GUJRAT, PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of the present research was to explore “the causative factors which forced the women to join Dar-ul-Aman in Gujrat, District Gujrat. Mostly the women in Dar-ul-Aman faced a number of issues, family pressure, personal choice, fear, personality issues and some other family related issues. For the present study, nine cases were sampled from targeted population through the purposive sampling technique and interview guide was administrated by the researchers consisting on the following parts; a) Identification of respondent, b) demographic characteristics, c) Family factors, d) Relatives factors, e) Societal factors and Psychological factors. Case study method was used as a technique of data collection. Thematic analysis was done after the collection of actual data from the field. The major findings showed that the respondent’s women were forced to join Dar-ul-Aman due to less parental support, family pressures, in-laws pressure, relatives, fear and threat. There should be equal participation of women in their life decisions and they also have certain parental, in-laws support for her better living.

Keywords: Identification, Demographic, Characteristics, Psychological, Societal, factors.

INTRODUCTION

Dar-ul-Aman is basically an institution that protects the women who are deprived of family support due to some reasons. Its purpose is to rehabilitate needy women either by arranging, settlement or marriages after the decision of the cases or to help in their certain life affairs. In Pakistan, there are number of Dar-ul-Aman in each District and almost all of them remains over crowded by victimized women. In each Dar-ul-Aman the number of women exceeds to its actual capacity. For example, Multan’s Dar-ul-Aman is made for 30 women but there are more than 80 of them while in Sahiwal space for 15 is filled with 35 inmates. The same situation is in Lahore Dar-ul-Aman and in other cities. (Hahmi, 2012)

Women find peace in Dar-ul-Aman escaping the daily violence of their husbands or family, the last resort of Pakistani refuge in Dar-ul-Aman and wait for being able to become reintegrated in society. In Pakistan, around 80% of women suffered physical, sexual and psychological violence during their married or family life. Those women who can’t live with their husbands due to any reason and demanded for divorce but are destitute then find a protection for a while inside in Dar-ul-Aman. (Eshraghi, 2006)

There is no age distinction of women to come there in Dar-ul-Aman. Women come from every age group when they feel help and security and have any threat by family or society. A report was prepared by “Canadian Resource Center for Victims of Crime” “Spousal Abuse”. This study was conducted on the Canadian society. Spousal abuse is a problem which embedded in every society. Mostly women are the victims of spousal abuse. It is showed in this report that women were more than twice as likely as men report being beaten (25% versus 10%), five times more likely to report being choked (20% versus 4%) and almost twice likely to report being threatened by, and having a gun or knife used against them (13%

versus 7%). All types of violence are serious and the nature of violence which women were faced more brutal than faced by men. The effects of being abused are lifelong and cannot be easily overcome. Research suggests that effect on children of violence among the parents can be serious and children may become the victims of numerous behavioral, emotional and developmental problems. Battered women leave their houses and come into the shelters. Now the ratio of shelters increased in Canada and more battered women were enrolled in shelters.

The women admitted in Dar-ul-Aman by different ways. Some women come thereby own way and some by court order. Women cannot leave Dar-ul-Aman on their own without court order and if they wish to do so they give in the hands of family who were the primary cause of leaving their homes. Many women found Dar-ul-Aman as a safety place as they are already frightened of their parents or spouses who have declared them “kari” and want to kill them. (Pakistan Press Foundation, 2008).

There is a massive strength of teenage or unmarried women who come in Dar-ul-Aman. Adulthood and teenage is a particularly important period for individuals. At this time period negligence or any other detract them. The most important issue is to development of mental emotional relationship with opposite sex and start expecting in a different way. Most of the time in Pakistani societies, their behavior perceived deviant and they did not allow to fulfill their wish. In such circumstance, many young girls leave their homes and consequently come to Dar-ul-Aman for help and security as they have so many threats by family and society. Eloping, forced marriages, affair before marriages and poverty are the causes stated by a research. (Idrees, 2012)

Janice Humphreys, (2010) et al. conducted a research on “the psychological and physical distress of the sheltered bettered women”. Findings of that research was that sheltered bettered women which were younger and less educated, had less household, accessible income and did not have value spiritual beliefs experienced more symptoms of distress than did the women who were older, more educated and more financially secure and who placed a higher value on spiritual beliefs. McLaughlin, (2009) conducted a study on “women and homelessness: understanding risk factors and strategies for recovery”. The aim of this study was to examine the reasons for homelessness reported by the women using the women’s shelter in relation to the pathways to homeless and was to identify the needs of women who reside at the shelter as well as their overall satisfaction with the programming and configuration of the shelter. This study found that domestic violence, disability or substance abuse, changes in family status, divorce, death of a parent or partner are associated with homelessness among women. They found that women valued having a safe place separate from the men. Women expressed great concern with the shelter homes.

Saeed Ahmed Watto, et al. conducted a study on “women perceived helpfulness of police and shelter homes and their tolerance towards male violence”. The main purpose of this study was to explore the extent of women’s perceived helpfulness of the state institutions (e.g. police and shelters) against the domestic violence. The results of this study showed that there is a significant association between the levels of women’s perceived helpfulness of police and duration of their tolerance towards male domestic violence. Sylvia Novac (1996) et al. conducted a study on “No Rooms of her Own: A literature Review on Women and Homelessness. Findings of this study showed that when women housing made unsafe by men’s violence then the homelessness strategy is used by some to maintain their safety. Women seek the shelters to protect them from men which were creating harm for them. Sometime they take the protection of other men. Violence, fear, domesticating social control appears to be more characteristics of women’s shelters. Women in Patriarchy society suffering by number of problems /insecurities and consequently these problems may become

severe and women finally took step to leave their homes and preferred to stay at such welfare organized places e.g. Dar-ul-Aman.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present was aimed to explore the causes and factors which may become the reason behind women joining Dar-ul-Aman in Pakistani society. To fulfill research requirements Dar-ul-Aman Gujrat selected. Sample of nine women extracted by purposive sampling technique and used interview schedule as a data collection tool and selected those women who spend their 6 months in Dr-ul-Aman. Enough and reliable data collected by respondents through this technique. Pre-testing involved to in-depth interviews to test the reliability of interview guide. 2 or 3 respondents selected randomly for this purpose. Pre-testing was proved very helpful for the data collection and on the basis of result of pre-testing, certain changes incorporated in interview guide. Researchers conducted qualitative research and done thematic analysis after writing number of verbatim that was taken by the different respondent to analyze data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The present study aimed to explore certain causes behind joining women Dar-ul-Aman. Researchers gathered reliable and quality data which was comprises on family issues, relative's factors and societal factors that how these factors influence and play role in their life.

In family factors researcher carried out certain causes, reasons related to respondents stay over there in Dar-ul-Aman. Respondent shared her parental family as well as in-laws that how they become the reason. Parents have great influence on their children decision in our society. They assume themselves all in all in all spheres of life.

According to respondent parents were the main reason behind came in Dar-ul-Aman. She said that her parents never bother her consent about any life decision. She had no involvement in her life decisions at all. By analyzing the data, the results showed that parents become the major cause to send their females in Dar-ul-Aman. Data indicated different causes which directly leads to respondents parents by which they became the part of Dar-ul-Aman. children in many cases accepts their parents decisions which they implement forcefully on their children but after time when those children particularly women in our society can't adjust with that enforced decision and they don't blame their parents directly to parents and consequently be a part of such welfare places like Dar-ul-Aman.

Results indicate that women abused from the spouses and families of spouses. There were different reasons behind the violence against women from the in-laws which forced them to join the Dar-ul-Aman.

Current data suggested that in-laws are also a major behind this phenomenon. As parents decides their life decisions without their consent and they can't develop their mental compatibility with in-laws and consequently conflicts emerged in their families and women's parents neglect issues after their daughter marriage with this argue that now this is your own responsibility to handle your problems with in-laws. Sometimes in-laws demanded property by her daughter in-laws parents which is also not possible in our societies. By this reason in-laws enforce her and parents also neglect and can't fulfill their demands so at that women by coated from both families and join Dar-ul-Aman because they don't found any other option except this.

Psychological factors basically are related to mental satisfaction / disturbance or any flaw in one's own personality which may become the cause to push her in Dar-ul-Aman. Data collected by respondents indicated that there is no any psychological issue with them. Mostly they are illiterate and don't have enough mental approach to tackle their issues. As they don't be a part of in-laws family with their consent/willingness so they assumed already that they will face such sufferings by them. Sometimes torture, physical beat and certain stereotypes affected their minds and they become mentally ill. After emerging these situations they feel better to leave their home and be a part of Dar-ul-Aman.

Data indicated that societal negligence also can be a reason behind women joining Dar-ul-Aman and different other places which are established by society as well but as individual's issue there is no proper mechanism to sort out that particular individual's issue. There is no worth of women argue or demand in our society. Sometimes parents even enforce their decisions on daughters due to societal pressure. Because they want to maintain their respect, ego in society.

To sum up above discussion it is claimed that there are number of factors forcing women to join Dar-ul-Aman in which parental, in-laws maltreat is predominant and discrimination on the basis of gender also the major cause to create problems for women. Other factors emerged after these two factors. Mainly these are the main causes.

CONCLUSION

To sum up current research it is concluded that mostly women are pressurized by family, society, relatives and certain factors directly or indirectly attached to women by families and societies. They feel insecurity, threat, disrespect by family and society members and they need protection, security for their better survival. Women badly hit by parents, in-laws and face entirely negligence by them. Women need security, certain help by legal codes (Court) so they join Dar-ul-Aman because they think that it all will be provided at Dar-ul-Aman. The major findings showed that the respondent's women were forced to join Dar-ul-Aman due to personality disorganization, family pressures, in-laws pressure, relatives and fear and threat. There should be proper mechanism to socialize girl child by family members, relatives and some other agents of socialization. There should be no discrimination on the basis of gender while pre-vailing rights, property and inheritance.

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