

STRUCTURAL AND DIRECT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PAKISTAN AND SOUTH KOREA.

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ABSTRACT

Violence against Women (VAW) is a severe problem across the world. Despite its severity, however, some countries do not even have laws to combat VAW, and others have laws in name only. This study investigates violence against women in Pakistan and South Korea, analyzing both structural and direct violence. It examines how systemic factors and direct actions perpetuate gender-based violence. The literature review highlights historical and contemporary perspectives, focusing on cultural, legal, and social frameworks. The study uses a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data from surveys and official statistics with qualitative insights from women interviews and case studies. This research paper provides a comprehensive comparative analysis of structural and direct violence against women in two contrasting socio-cultural contexts: Pakistan and South Korea. The study examines the history, contemporary challenges, and legislative responses to violence against women in Pakistan and South Korea. It highlights issues like honor killings, domestic violence, and gender-based workplace discrimination. The research also highlights the implementation of international conventions like CEDAW and the Beijing Declaration, which are crucial for evaluating women's rights globally. The empirical results demonstrate that an increase in the percentage of women in parliaments leads countries to adopt and implement laws addressing VAW. The findings have implications for policymakers, activists, and scholars working towards gender equality and combating violence in diverse cultural settings. The research aims to guide informed interventions, legislative reforms, and societal transformations. In addition, addressing structural and direct violence against women in Pakistan and South Korea requires a multifaceted approach that includes legal reforms, economic empowerment, education, public awareness, support services, international cooperation, and political commitment.

Keywords: Violence Against Women (VAW), Structural and Direct Violence, Pakistan and South Korea, Gender-Based Discrimination, Legislative and Policy Reforms.

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

The historical context and evolution of gender-based violence in Pakistan and South Korea reveal deep-seated issues rooted in cultural, socio-political, and historical dynamics. In Pakistan, the origins of gender-based violence are intricately tied to the colonial era. During British colonial rule, existing patriarchal structures were reinforced and codified into law, ensuring the subjugation of women. The British administration often upheld and institutionalized traditional customs that limited women's rights, embedding a legacy of gender inequality that persisted post-independence. This colonial legacy set a foundation where patriarchal norms were deeply entrenched in society, influencing the legal and social systems that continued to marginalize women. (Qayyum et al., 2023). Hence, background Violence against women is a global public health and human rights problem with social, economic, and health consequences. Globally, one in three women has experienced physical or sexual violence – mostly perpetrated by a partner. Women living in low and middle-income countries are especially exposed to this form of violence. Several countries, such as Pakistan and South Korea have worked towards preventing violence against women bypassing legislations in response to this global issue (Woo, 2021a). By contrast, South Korea has taken significant steps in addressing violence against women by enacting both omnibus legislation on gender equality and to prevent domestic violence (Seol D. et al, 2007), as well as establishing shelters for victims of GBV. These have gone towards limiting the phenomenon of violence against women in their country (Manderson & Bennett, 2003).

Statement of the Problem

The problem of structural and direct violence against women in Pakistan and South Korea is a critical issue that warrants urgent attention and comprehensive analysis. Structural violence refers to systematic ways in which social structures harm or otherwise disadvantage individuals. Direct violence involves physical harm or the threat of physical harm. In both Pakistan and South Korea, these forms of violence are pervasive and deeply embedded in the societal fabric, manifesting through cultural, legal, and economic inequalities that sustain and propagate gender-based violence (Cheema, 1993).

In Pakistan, the problem is multifaceted and rooted in a combination of cultural, religious, and socio-political factors. Patriarchal norms, deeply entrenched in Pakistani society, perpetuate gender inequality and normalize violence against women.

In South Korea, the rapid pace of modernization and economic development has created a complex landscape where traditional gender norms clash with contemporary expectations of gender equality. Legal reforms, such as the implementation of stricter laws against domestic violence and sexual harassment, are crucial. However, without addressing the underlying cultural attitudes that perpetuate gender-based violence, these reforms are unlikely to achieve their full impact. Public education campaigns, corporate policies promoting gender equality, and stronger enforcement of existing laws are necessary steps in combating this issue.

1. Political Economy of the Implementation Gap in Pakistan

This study aimed to explore why much is written about how laws and policies have been framed in Pakistan regarding violence against women, but little effective, legible action seems to be happening.

2. Factors That Influence Success in Reducing Violence against Women in South Korea

Methods and analyses to provide insights into the factors driving change over time in South Korea. This research focuses on key components of strategies to end VAW as introduced through laws, policies, or campaigns.

3. The Horizon of Structural Violence against Women in Pakistan

It recognizes the gap existing in current literature on structural violence that women experience (in Pakistan).

4. The relationship between laws and cultural norms with social structures

The investigation will uncover intricate relationships among the legal paradigms, social norms, and structural settings in Pakistan as well as South Korea.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The research titled "Structural and Direct Violence against Women. The first research objective is to analyze the historical roots of structural violence against women in Pakistan and South Korea. The second objective is to investigate the current forms of direct violence experienced by women in both countries. The third objective is to compare the legal frameworks in Pakistan and South Korea concerning gender-based violence.

The fourth objective is to assess the socio-cultural attitudes and norms contributing to violence against women, examining cultural norms, gender roles, patriarchal structures, and other contextual factors. The fifth objective is to examine the economic dimensions of structural violence against women. The sixth objective is to evaluate the impact of educational attainment on women's experiences of violence.

The seventh objective is to document the personal narratives and experiences of women who have faced violence in Pakistan and South Korea.

The eighth objective is to identify and analyze the support systems available to women who experience violence. The ninth objective is to compare the public awareness and social attitudes towards gender-based violence in both countries. The tenth objective is to develop policy recommendations based on the findings of the comparative analysis.

Limitations of the Study

This research explores the intricate nature of violence, focusing on structural and direct violence. It highlights the interplay between systematic oppression and immediate aggression, shaping the human experience. The study acknowledges the limitations of existing frameworks, particularly the tendency to treat structural and direct violence as isolated phenomena. Methodological discrepancies can hinder comprehensive analysis, leaving gaps in the literature that require deeper investigation. By addressing these limitations, the research aims to enhance our understanding and promote effective intervention strategies, paving the way for further research and a deeper understanding of violence (Kim & Kim, 2011).

Pakistan and South Korea face significant challenges in addressing structural violence against women, largely due to cultural norms and societal attitudes. Rural violence is often unreported, and victims fear reprisal. Existing legal frameworks, such as Pakistan's Domestic Violence Protection Act and South Korea's Act on the Special Measures for the Protection of Victims of Sexual Violence, are often ineffective due to weak enforcement, implementation challenges, and victim-blaming narratives. A multi-pronged approach is needed to dismantle these barriers and empower women.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The research on structural and direct violence against women in Pakistan and South Korea shows a complex interplay of cultural, societal, and individual factors that contribute to gender-based violence. In Pakistan, deeply entrenched patriarchal norms result in systemic inequality and violence against women across all socioeconomic strata (Iqbal & Zaidi, 2022; Jamshaid & Ayyaz, 2022; Tarar & Pulla, 2014). Studies have shown that violence is often used as a means to maintain patriarchal control, with practices such as honor killings and domestic abuse being prevalent (Hadi, 2017). The Islamic framework is also discussed as offering potential strategies for addressing violence against women (Tahir et al., 2021).

Historical Perspectives on Gender-Based Violence

Examining the historical perspectives by Amnesty International (2019) on gender-based violence in Pakistan and South Korea reveals complex, interwoven narratives of patriarchal dominance, cultural norms, and evolving legal frameworks that have profoundly influenced women's lives in both countries. In Pakistan, the historical roots of structural and direct violence against women can be traced back to the pre-colonial era, where tribal and feudal systems predominated. Women were often seen as property and subjected to stringent controls by male family members, a status reinforced by customs such as honor killings and forced marriages. These practices reflected a deeply entrenched patriarchal order that limited women's autonomy and rights (Jafar, 2005).

Cultural and Societal Norms Influencing Violence against Women

Cultural and societal norms play a significant role in shaping the prevalence and acceptance of violence against women in both Pakistan and South Korea. These norms are deeply embedded in the historical, religious, and social fabric of each society, influencing attitudes, behaviors, and policies related to gender-based violence (Sohn, 2017).

In Pakistan, cultural norms are heavily influenced by traditional patriarchal values, which dictate rigid gender roles and expectations. The concept of honor, or "izzat," is central to Pakistani culture and often places a disproportionate burden on women to uphold family reputation through their behavior and conduct. Violations of these expectations, whether real or perceived, can lead to severe consequences, including honor-based violence. Such acts are not only condoned but sometimes actively supported by communities, reinforcing the structural nature of gender-based violence.

Structural Violence Vs Direct Violence against Women

The historical development of structural and direct violence against women in Pakistan and South Korea presents a complex tapestry of cultural, legal, and societal factors that have shaped the experiences of women in both countries. In Pakistan, the historical context is deeply rooted in patriarchal norms and the intertwining of cultural and religious practices that have perpetuated violence against women (Sadiq, 2017). The literature suggests that Pakistani women have faced a range of violence, from domestic abuse to honor crimes, within a societal framework that often justifies such acts through misinterpretation of religious texts and cultural traditions. The role of the media in Pakistan has been both a platform for awareness and, at times, a perpetuator of negative stereotypes, influencing societal perceptions of violence against women (Shah et al., 2022).

Legal Frameworks and Policies Addressing Gender-Based Violence

The legal frameworks and policies addressing gender-based violence in Pakistan and South Korea have evolved over time, reflecting the socio-political contexts and cultural norms of each country. In Pakistan, the legal framework has been deeply influenced by religious doctrines and colonial legacies. The Hudood Ordinances, introduced in 1979 under General Zia-ul-Haq's regime, represent a significant legal codification of gender-based discrimination. These laws aimed to align Pakistan's legal system with Islamic principles but resulted in severe consequences for women. For instance, the Zina Ordinance criminalized extramarital sex, making it difficult for women to prove rape without risking charges of adultery. This legal framework institutionalized structural violence by embedding discriminatory practices within the judicial system (Zaman et al., 2013).

Economic Disparities and Their Impact on Women's Vulnerability

Economic disparities significantly impact women's vulnerability to violence in both Pakistan and South Korea, with structural and direct violence manifesting in various ways due to economic inequalities. These disparities often limit women's access to resources, employment opportunities, and financial independence, thereby increasing their susceptibility to different forms of violence.

In Pakistan, economic disparities are deeply entrenched and exacerbate the vulnerability of women to violence. The gender wage gap remains substantial, with

women earning significantly less than men for similar work. This economic dependence on male family members often traps women in abusive relationships, as they lack the financial means to leave or seek help. Rural women, in particular, face severe economic challenges, as they have limited access to education and employment opportunities, further compounding their vulnerability to violence (Zaman et al., 2013).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A) Research Context

In the case of "Structural and Direct Violence against Women: A Comparative Analysis of Pakistan and South Korea", research context offers a basic knowledge about structural violence, direct violence against women also helps to structure environments where structural levels are advanced as part (or equivalent) with zero step forwarding. This background is essential to understand the nuances in terms of violence faced by women who live under a more conservative environment and other where things are relatively liberal (Woo, 2021b).

The economic contexts of both countries also play a pivotal role in shaping the experiences of women facing violence. In Pakistan, economic dependency on male family members exacerbates women's vulnerability to violence, limiting their ability to seek help or escape abusive situations. The lack of economic opportunities for women further entrenches their subordinate status. On the other hand, South Korea's highly competitive labor market and gender pay gap create economic pressures that can lead to domestic tensions and violence. Despite higher economic development, the economic empowerment of women remains an ongoing challenge, affecting their ability to combat and report violence (Lee, 2007).

B) Participants

Participants for this study included a diverse group of women who have experienced structural and direct violence in Pakistan and South Korea. The inclusion criteria will encompass women of various ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, educational levels, and marital statuses to capture a broad spectrum of experiences. This diversity is essential for understanding how different factors influence the experiences and responses to violence. The aim is to include participants who have encountered

various forms of violence, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, and institutional discrimination, to provide a holistic view of the issue (Ivanova, 2024).

-Women Survivors of Domestic Violence: This group includes women from various age groups, socioeconomic statuses, and educational backgrounds in both Pakistan and South Korea who have experienced domestic violence. Their insights will provide a deeper understanding of the prevalence and impact of domestic violence within different cultural contexts.

-Women Survivors of Sexual Harassment: Participants in this category are women who have encountered sexual harassment in various settings such as workplaces, educational institutions, or public spaces. Their experiences will shed light on how sexual harassment manifests and is addressed in both countries.

-Women Experiencing Institutional Discrimination: This group consists of women who have faced gender-based discrimination in institutional settings, such as healthcare, legal systems, or workplaces. These participants will help to highlight structural forms of violence and their systemic nature.

-Female Activists and Advocates: Women who are actively involved in advocating for women's rights and fighting against gender-based violence in Pakistan and South Korea. Their perspectives will provide insight into the challenges and successes of activism and advocacy in different cultural and legal contexts.

-Legal Professionals: Female lawyers, judges, and legal scholars who specialize in gender-based violence cases. Their participation will offer a comprehensive view of the legal frameworks, enforcement challenges, and judicial responses to violence against women in both countries.

-Healthcare Providers: Female healthcare professionals who work with survivors of violence, including doctors, nurses, and mental health counselors. They can provide information on the physical and psychological impacts of violence, as well as the healthcare system's capacity to support survivors.

-Social Workers and Counsellors: Women working in social services who provide direct support to survivors of gender-based violence. Their insights will help to understand the effectiveness and limitations of social support systems in Pakistan and South Korea.

-Women from Marginalized Communities: Participants from ethnic, religious, or socioeconomic minority groups who may experience compounded forms of violence and discrimination. Their inclusion will ensure that the study captures diverse experiences and the intersectionality of violence.

-Academics and Researchers: Female scholars and researchers who have conducted studies on gender-based violence in Pakistan and South Korea. Their academic perspectives will contribute to a deeper understanding of the historical, cultural, and social factors influencing violence against women.

-Policy Makers: Female government officials and policymakers involved in developing and implementing policies related to gender equality and violence against women. Their participation will provide insights into the policy landscape, the effectiveness of current policies, and areas needing improvement.

C) Data Collection Instruments

The studies' use of data collection instruments in this "For the study" was important to obtain a complete and reliable picture of violence against women. The instruments selected should be capable of illuminating the composite nature of both structural and direct violence, enabling a comparative analysis to take place. The instruments used in this study appear as follows:

-Surveys and Questionnaires

This study used surveys and questionnaires to collect quantitative data regarding the occurrence, kind of violence against women and its outcomes. They measure the range of violence behaviours (e.g., domestic abuse, sexual harassment) that are a product? (outputs?) of structural violent processes – i.e.class-based societal inequalities and institutional impediments.

Modified design: structured questionnaires with close-ended questions to ensure that they are consistent and can be compared across respondents. Questions asked about respondents' ages, race/ethnicities, and experiences of violence and perceptions of legal services in addition to socioeconomic factors (Ziniakova, 2020).

-Quantitative Methods

Data collection by Statistical Surveys

Quantitative methods, particularly surveys and statistical analysis, were frequently used in the literature to provide empirical data on the prevalence and nature of violence against women. National and regional surveys, such as the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) and the Korean National Survey on Domestic Violence, have been instrumental in quantifying the incidence of various forms of

violence, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, and honor killings. These surveys collect data on demographic variables, types of violence experienced, frequency, and contextual factors (Parkinson, 2022).

A key component of the methodological approach for this PhD thesis was the use of surveys and statistical analysis to gather and analyze data on intimate partner violence and stalking in Pakistan and South Korea. Gender-Based Violence encompasses a range of harmful behaviors directed at individuals based on their gender. In 2022, the survey indicated that approximately 30% of women reported experiencing some form of GBV during their lifetime. This figure highlights the prevalence of such violence in society. Intimate Partner Violence remains a critical issue in South Korea (Figure 3.1). The survey revealed that around 25% of women experienced IPV at some point in their lives.

D) Data Analysis Of Study

This section outlined the methodology for analyzing data collected on structural and direct violence against women in Pakistan and South Korea. The study employed a comparative approach to understand the nature, prevalence, and impact of these forms of violence in both countries. The analysis focused on two primary data sources: quantitative data from official statistics and surveys, and qualitative data from interviews and case studies.

-Quantitative Analysis

Quantitative data were obtained from various sources, including government reports, international databases, and national surveys on violence against women. Quantitative data were analyzed using statistical software to identify patterns and correlations. The analysis involved:

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Globally, violence against women is a serious violation of human rights, taking many different forms and intensities in many cultural and national settings. Johan Galtung's theories of direct and systemic violence offer a thorough framework for examining the ways in which overt and systemic forms of violence combine to maintain gender inequality (Galtung, 1969). This paper, which draws from earlier pertinent research published in international journals, provides a comparative

analysis of structural and direct violence against women in Pakistan and South Korea. The goal of this comparative method is to draw attention to the socioeconomic, legal, and cultural factors that influence how women in these two very different nations suffer violence (Schoenfeld, 2021; Lee, 2022).

Data Analysis and Comparative Insights

The data analysis and discussion of findings in this study provide a nuanced understanding of structural and direct violence against women in Pakistan and South Korea, highlighting the significant differences in how these forms of violence are addressed in each country (Chitrani et al., 2014b). The comparative analysis reveals that while both nations have enacted legal frameworks aimed at protecting women, the effectiveness of these laws is heavily influenced by socio-cultural contexts, institutional capacity, and the level of public awareness and engagement. In Pakistan, despite the existence of multiple legislative measures designed to curb violence against women, such as the Protection of Women Act and the Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Act, enforcement remains weak due to institutional inefficiencies, lack of resources, and pervasive patriarchal norms. The data show that these laws are often not implemented effectively, with many cases of violence going unreported or unpunished, reflecting a broader societal reluctance to challenge deeply ingrained gender norms (Rabbani et al., 2008).

Table 1. Political & Economic Empowerment of Women in Pakistan and South Korea

Name of Country	Female in Parliament (% of total)	Female Legislators, Sr. Officials & Managers (% of Total)	Estimate Earned Income (PPP US\$) Female	Estimate d Earned Income (PPP US\$) Male	Ratio of estimate d female to male Earned Income
Pakistan	21.3	3	1076	3569	0.3
Korea	13.4	8	15781	30143	0.52

Institutional responses to violence against women in Pakistan are often limited by resource constraints and societal attitudes. While there are numerous government and NGO initiatives aimed at providing support to victims, these services are often underfunded, understaffed, and concentrated in urban areas, leaving rural women particularly vulnerable. The lack of coordination between different institutions, such as the police, judiciary, and social services, further undermines the effectiveness of these responses. Moreover, the stigma associated with seeking help can prevent many women from accessing the services they need (Ch et al., 2021).

Table 2. South Korea vs Pakistan: Gender-Based Violence in 2024

Indicator	South Korea	Pakistan
Reported cases of Gender-Based Violence	35,000	80,000
Incidents of Domestic Violence	10,000	35,000
Incidents of sexual violence	6,000	25,000
Incidents of physical assault	12,000	20,000
Incidents of psychological abuse	7,000	20,000
Support services for victims	1,000	700

Data Analysis in Pakistan and South Korea

-Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI)

The GGG Index gives data on how opportunities and resources are allocated and divided between men and women in a nation. It critically analyzed four dimensions of gender inequality: employment opportunities and involvement in the workforce, educational attainment and the resources available to support it, Women's decision-making empowerment and health and survival.

Table 3. General Socio-Economic and Demographic Indicators

GENERAL INDICATOR UNITS	VALUE
GDP Uss Billion	374.7
GDP Per Capita, PPP Contant '17,	5.38

Intl. \$ 1000			
Population Sex Ratio Female/Male, %	0.98		
Population Growth Rate %	1.89		
Indicator Million People	Female	Male	Value
Total Population	116.86	118.96	235.82

-Gender Inequality Index (GII)

The eight (8) categories that comprise the Gender Inequality Index (GII) are Family, Welfare, Public Health, Economic Activities, Decision Making, Education / Vocational Training, Culture / Information, and Safety. The index is based on the difference between male and female in these areas. The labor market, empowerment, and reproductive health are the three dimensions and the five indicators—participation in the labor force, educational attainment (secondary and above), parliamentary representation, adolescent fertility, and maternal mortality—that are taken into account in relation to the male population in order to measure the GII.

Table 4. GI index & GGG Index in Pakistan and South Korea

Name of Country	Rank (total 146)	Global Gender Gap Index	Gender Inequality Index
Pakistan	142	0.570	0.29
South Korea	99	0.68	0.32

Pakistan's ranking as the (142) worst country on the 2022 Global Gender Gap Index is indicative of women's subpar performance in important areas such as political involvement, education, health, and economic opportunities and participation.

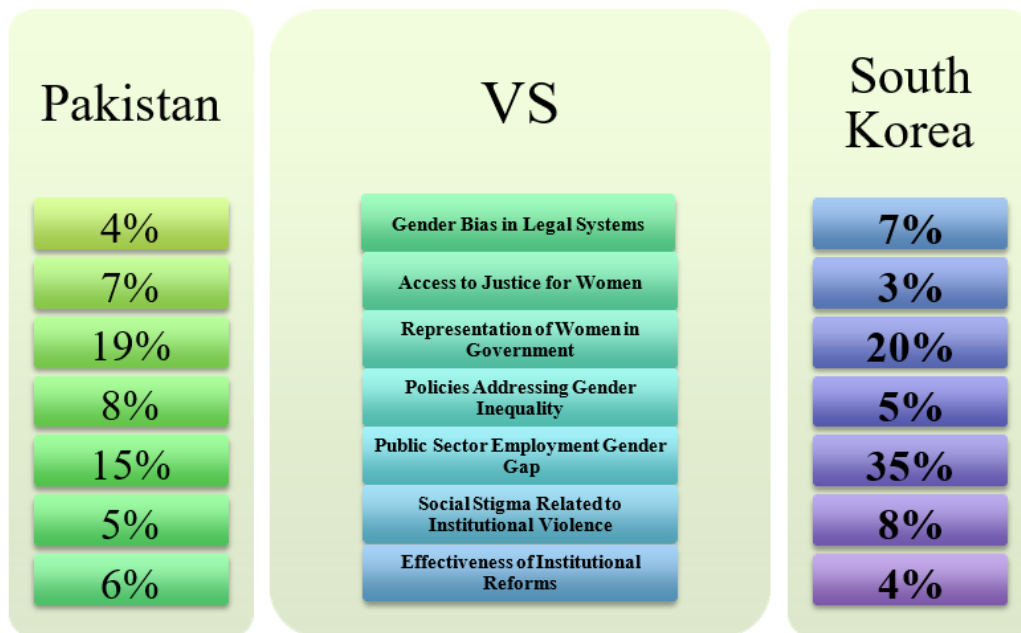


Figure 1. South Korea VS Pakistan Institutional/ Structural Violence against women in 2023.

The enforcement of laws in Pakistan faces significant challenges due to a lack of political will and commitment to the rule of law. Despite having a robust legal framework, the country struggles with effective implementation of laws across various sectors, including corporate governance, environmental protection, and criminal justice (Falt, 1985).

RECOMMENDATIONS, AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES

The thesis explores the complex dynamics of structural and direct violence against women in Pakistan and South Korea, offering a comparative analysis that highlights the successes and challenges faced by each country. Central to this analysis is the examination of how legislative frameworks, enforcement mechanisms, and socio-cultural attitudes shape the prevalence and response to gender-based violence in these two nations. The findings reveal a stark contrast between Pakistan and South Korea, both in terms of legal effectiveness and societal support for women's rights.

In Pakistan, despite the existence of laws aimed at protecting women, such as the Protection of Women Act (2006) and the Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Act (2011), there is a significant gap between legislation and enforcement. This disconnect can be attributed to several factors, including institutional inefficiencies,

lack of resources, and deeply ingrained cultural norms that perpetuate gender inequality. The failure to enforce laws effectively is a critical issue in Pakistan, where institutional weaknesses are further compounded by a lack of political will and public support. The thesis utilizes Plutang's theory of institutional dysfunction to explain how these factors contribute to the persistence of violence against women, despite legal protections being in place. According to this theory, institutions that lack adequate resources, training, and accountability are unable to implement laws effectively, leading to a culture of impunity where perpetrators of violence often escape justice (Notestein, 1967).

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this thesis synthesizes the findings from a comparative analysis of structural and direct violence against women in Pakistan and South Korea, highlighting the critical factors that contribute to the successes and challenges faced by each country. Central to this analysis is the understanding that legal frameworks, enforcement mechanisms, and socio-cultural attitudes play pivotal roles in shaping the prevalence of and responses to gender-based violence.

In Pakistan, despite the existence of numerous laws aimed at protecting women, there remains a significant gap between the legislation and its enforcement. This gap is largely due to systemic inefficiencies within the legal and judicial systems, compounded by deeply ingrained cultural norms that perpetuate gender inequality. The failure to effectively implement laws, coupled with institutional weaknesses such as corruption and inadequate resources, hinders the ability to protect women and prosecute perpetrators effectively. These challenges are further exacerbated by societal attitudes that stigmatize victims, discouraging them from reporting crimes and seeking justice.

Conversely, South Korea has demonstrated significant progress in addressing both structural and direct violence against women through a comprehensive and coordinated approach. The country's success is attributed to its robust legal framework, which is effectively enforced by well-resourced and trained institutions. South Korea's adherence to international conventions and its commitment to integrating gender-sensitive policies have played a crucial role in reducing violence against women. Public education and awareness campaigns have also been instrumental in shifting societal attitudes, making gender-based violence less socially acceptable and encouraging victims to seek help. The judiciary in South Korea has been proactive in supporting victims, resulting in higher conviction rates and stronger legal protections for women.

-Summary of Findings

In examining the structural and direct violence against women in Pakistan and South Korea, the research highlights stark contrasts and surprising similarities. The cultural, legal, and socio- economic landscapes in both countries create unique challenges and barriers for women facing violence. Despite different historical and cultural contexts, both nations struggle with deeply entrenched patriarchal norms that perpetuate gender-based violence. The analysis underscores the critical need for tailored approaches that address the specificities of each country while drawing on universal principles of gender equality and human rights (Ellsberg et al., 2005).

Critical Evolution Of Existing Research

The body of research on structural and direct violence against women in Pakistan and South Korea is extensive, encompassing a variety of disciplines and methodological approaches. This critical evaluation aims to assess the strengths, limitations, and gaps in the existing literature, providing a comprehensive understanding of how these studies contribute to the overall knowledge of violence against women in these two countries (Tripathi & Azhar, 2022).

One of the significant strengths of existing research is the comprehensive data collection through national surveys and official statistics. Studies such as the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) and the Korean National Survey on Domestic Violence provide robust quantitative data on the prevalence, forms, and contexts of violence against women. These large-scale surveys offer valuable insights into trends and patterns over time, contributing to a more detailed understanding of the issue (NIPS & ICF, 2019; KIHASA, 2020).

Research Gap

The primary causes of Pakistan's failures include its lack of clear priorities, a corrupt and inefficient criminal justice system, weak enforcement, inadequate social, political, and educational institutions, the incompatibility of its military establishment with its democratic system, religious extremism, and high illiteracy rates in border regions such as FATA, KPK, rural Sindh, and rural Baluchistan (Ali, 2022). To improve the status of women in Pakistan, it is imperative to amend the constitution to better protect women, revise and enforce current laws effectively, enhance other institutions, and take inspiration from successful models in South Korea and other nations (Hussain, 2023).

In comparison, South Korea has demonstrated significant progress in addressing VAW due to several critical factors, such as its legislative framework, extensive training of law enforcement agencies, community involvement, and adherence to international conventions. However, Pakistan faces significant barriers to effective implementation, including a weak institutional structure, deep-rooted cultural norms and victim-blaming, inadequate training and resources, and lack of political will. These barriers hinder the effective implementation of VAW laws and support victim services (True, 2020b).

Solution Of Problem

Closing the gaps in research, policy, and practice is essential for advancing the fight against violence against women in Pakistan and South Korea. By focusing on cultural change, strengthening legal frameworks, expanding support services, and embracing innovative approaches, both countries can make significant strides toward creating safer, more equitable societies for women (Miller, 2001). The comparative insights gained from this analysis provide a roadmap for future efforts, highlighting the importance of both local and global strategies in addressing this complex and urgent issue (Malik & Courtney, 2011)

To bridge these gaps, Pakistan can learn from South Korea's experience by implementing similar strategies: strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing resource allocation for victim support, and integrating international standards into national legislation. Additionally, comprehensive public education campaigns aimed at challenging and transforming cultural norms are essential for creating a supportive environment for women. By addressing structural factors and adopting a multifaceted approach, Pakistan can improve its efforts to combat violence against women and enhance overall protection and support.

Suggestions For Future Studies

To bridge the implementation gap in Pakistan, solutions include enhancing law enforcement training and resources, establishing robust support services, promoting cultural change, strengthening institutional structures, and ensuring adequate financial and political support. By adopting a multifaceted approach and learning from South Korea's successful strategies, Pakistan

can make significant strides in protecting women's rights and ensuring their safety (UNICEF., 2006).

Looking forward, the research underscores the need for continued efforts to address both structural and direct violence against women. Future research should explore the intersectionality of various forms of violence and how they impact different groups of women. Long-term strategies must be developed to ensure sustainability and effectiveness (Ali & Kramar, 2015). By addressing the root causes of gender-based violence and implementing holistic and context-specific solutions, both Pakistan and South Korea can make significant strides towards a more equitable and safe society for women.

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