Analyzing Domestic Violence Against Women and Children: Critical Assessment of Policy and Legal Framework and Future Directions

Muhammad Saleem[1]

Mr. Shabidullah Wazir[2]

KJPP

Abstract:

Domestic violence, a global issue affecting millions, encompasses physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse. This paper examines frameworks across regions, highlighting the impact of social norms, economic dependency, and cultural practices on abuse reporting and escape. It identifies critical gaps in legal protections, prevention strategies, and support services. The need for fostering gender equality, promoting human rights, and addressing underlying social determinants is emphasized. The paper also addresses honor killings, prevalent in certain regions, as an extreme form of violence. A multi-faceted approach involving legal reforms, community engagement, and educational initiatives is essential to dismantle patriarchal norms and empower women and children. Comprehensive, evidence-based policy interventions are recommended to ensure justice and dignity for survivors, ultimately aiming to create a safer, more equitable society. The conclusion underscores the importance of sustained political will, resource allocation, and collective action to end violence against women and children.

---

[1] *Currently posted as Deputy Secretary (Regulation), Finance Department, Peshawar*

[2] *Faculty Advisor*

Introduction

Domestic violence, a global pandemic encompassing physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, shatters lives and impacts millions of women and children. This paper examines the strengths and weaknesses of frameworks across different countries and regions, highlighting areas for improvement. It delves into the impact of social norms, economic dependence, and cultural practices on reporting and escaping abuse. Domestic violence transcends geographical and socioeconomic boundaries, affecting individuals from all walks of life. It includes physical, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse perpetrated by an intimate partner or family member. The World Health Organization estimates that 35% of women globally have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner [1]. Children exposed to domestic violence are at significant risk of experiencing physical, emotional, and psychological harm, witnessing violence against their mothers or caregivers and living in an environment of fear, insecurity, and confusion.

Violence against women is a multidimensional issue that manifests in various forms, often occurring individually or in combination, with severe and long-lasting effects on women's physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. Common types of violence against women include:

1. **Physical Violence:** Involves any form of physical force causing bodily harm or injury, such as hitting, punching, kicking, slapping, using weapons, twisting arms, choking, burning, or stabbing. It refers to violence by family members and intimate partners, with some aspects classified as criminal offences.

2. **Sexual Violence:** Includes unwanted sexual activity or behavior, such as rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or coercion.

3. **Emotional/Psychological Violence**: Involves actions or behaviors aimed at controlling, demeaning, or intimidating women psychologically, including verbal abuse, threats, manipulation, isolation, and continual humiliation.

4. **Economic/Financial Violence:** Occurs when a woman is denied access to financial resources or opportunities, is financially controlled, or forced to depend on her partner for economic survival, or is prevented from participating in financial decisions or having a job.

5. **Reproductive Coercion:** Controls a woman's reproductive choices, such as pressuring her to have or not have children, sabotaging contraception, or forcing pregnancy or abortion against her will.

6. **Stalking:** Repeated, unwanted attention, harassment, or contact that causes fear or distress, including online stalking through social media or other digital platforms.

7. **Cultural/Social Violence:** Harmful practices or traditions rooted in cultural or societal norms that perpetuate discrimination and inequality against women, such as forced marriage, female genital mutilation, or honor killings.

8. **Cyber Violence:** Uses technology, such as the internet, social media, or smartphones, to perpetrate harassment, threats, or intimidation against women.

9. **Honor Killing:** The most extreme form of violence, based on perceptions of morality and cultural norms that view an individual's actions as bringing shame upon the family or community. This deeply entrenched social issue continues to plague Pakistan despite efforts to curb it. Pakistan ranks among the top countries with reported cases of honor killings globally. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), hundreds of women and men fall victim to this practice annually, although the true extent is likely underreported due to social stigmas, familial pressure, and inadequate legal mechanisms.

This phenomenon is particularly prevalent in the tribal areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to strict social and cultural norms, with women in Torghar, Battagram, and Kohistan districts being more prone to this violence. Honor killings also occur in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), although to a lesser extent compared to other provinces. Socio-cultural factors still contribute to occasional incidents. Honor killing in Pakistan remains a grave violation of human rights, reflecting deep-seated social norms and structural inequalities. Despite progress in raising awareness and enacting legislation, concerted efforts across all provinces are imperative to eliminate this barbaric practice and ensure justice and dignity for all individuals.

Addressing honor killings requires a multi-faceted approach encompassing legal reforms, community engagement, and educational initiatives. Strengthening law enforcement, enhancing support services for victims, and fostering a culture of respect for human rights are essential steps toward eradicating this scourge. Empowering women economically and socially can shift societal attitudes and dismantle the patriarchal structures perpetuating honor killings. Despite the existence of specific laws against honor killings in Pakistan, incidents of "kala kali" in Punjab, "Karukari" in Sindh, "Tor Tora" in Tribal areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, "Ghal" in Kohistan, and "Sayakari" in Balochistan are common.

Problem Statement

Violence against women and children is a universal and complex issue that requires urgent attention and analysis. The nature of this violence varies from one society to another. Despite progress in awareness and prevention, women and children continue to face various forms of violence, including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The analysis of the issue reveals a lack of comprehensive data and research, inadequate understanding of root causes and risk factors, insufficient resources and funding, limited access to support services and justice for victims, and the need for effective prevention and intervention strategies. This effort is hindered by the stigma and silence surrounding the issue, making it essential to address these challenges and develop a comprehensive approach to protect women and children from violence and ensure their safety and well-being.

Scope of the Study

The paper critically analyzes the existing policy and legal frameworks aimed at addressing domestic violence against women and children, including physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse, universally and with special reference to Pakistan. It also covers the policy and legal framework at international levels, including laws, policies, and programs, analyzing the following aspects of the issue:

- Definitions and understanding of domestic violence

- Funding and resource allocation

- Law enforcement and judicial responses

- Support services and prevention programs

- Access to justice and protection for marginalized communities

It examines the effectiveness of these frameworks in various regions, identifies gaps, and suggests future directions for more effective intervention strategies. The paper begins by exploring the dynamics of domestic violence and the factors that contribute to its persistence across different cultures and societies. The study will also consider the perspectives of survivors, perpetrators, and stakeholders, including government officials, civil society organizations, and community leaders, along with a review of international best practices and recommendations from human rights bodies and organizations.

Review of Literature

Violence against women and children remains a pervasive and urgent global issue with profound social, psychological, and economic consequences.

Despite significant progress in raising awareness and implementing policies to address this problem, rates of violence continue to persist alarmingly. The literature reveals that violence against women and children encompasses a wide range of physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuses, often perpetrated within familial, intimate partner, or community settings. Contributing factors such as gender inequality, cultural norms, poverty, and inadequate legal protections intersect to perpetuate cycles of abuse and hinder victims' access to support and justice.

This literature review seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of scholarly articles, research studies, and reports pertaining to violence against women and children. By examining the historical context, types and forms of violence, contributing factors, consequences, intervention strategies, policy frameworks, and future directions, this review aims to illuminate the complexities of this multifaceted issue and inform the development of effective policy interventions. Furthermore, the review highlights the critical role of policy and legal frameworks in driving systemic change and calls for sustained efforts to promote gender equality, human rights, and social justice for women and children globally.

Research methodology

This policy paper on violence against women and children employed a mixed-methods approach to gather, analyze, and interpret relevant material and data. Quantitative methods were utilized to examine statistical trends, prevalence rates, and demographic patterns of violence within specific populations or geographic regions. Surveys, questionnaires, and administrative data were commonly employed to collect quantitative data, providing insights into the scope and magnitude of the problem. Additionally, qualitative methods were employed to explore the lived experiences, perceptions, and socio-cultural contexts surrounding violence. Case studies were utilized to capture the voices and narratives of survivors, service providers, policymakers, and other stakeholders, shedding light on the complex dynamics and underlying causes of violence. By integrating quantitative and qualitative findings, the research methodology ensures a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of violence against women and children and informs the development of evidence-based policy recommendations.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The analysis of data in the policy paper involves a rigorous process of synthesizing quantitative and qualitative findings to identify key trends, patterns, and themes related to violence against women and children. Quantitative data are analyzed using statistical techniques such as regression analysis, descriptive statistics, and data visualization to assess relationships between variables and identify risk factors associated with violence.

Qualitative data are coded and thematically analyzed to identify recurring themes, perspectives, and insights from stakeholders. The triangulation of quantitative and qualitative findings enhances the validity and reliability of the research, enabling a nuanced understanding of the complexities of violence and informing policy recommendations that are grounded in empirical evidence and informed by the voices of those affected.

Issues and Challenges

Dynamics of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a complex issue rooted in a combination of factors. Power imbalances, often linked to gender inequality, play a significant role. Perpetrators may use violence and abuse to control, dominate, and coerce their victims. Socially constructed gender roles that normalize male dominance and female submissiveness can create an environment where violence is seen as acceptable. For example, in some South Asian countries, dowry-related violence, where a bride's family is pressured to provide money or gifts, can be a form of domestic violence. In Pakistan, many women are killed, stoned to death, married to older men, or even murdered due to defaming the family name, i.e., "honor."

Economic dependence can make it difficult for victims, particularly women, to leave abusive relationships. This is especially true in regions with limited opportunities for women's employment or where cultural norms restrict their mobility. Social norms that stigmatize victims and minimize the severity of domestic violence further contribute to its underreporting. Cultural practices, such as child marriage, can also increase a woman's vulnerability to abuse. In parts of Africa, for instance, female genital mutilation (FGM) can be a form of controlling a woman's sexuality and increasing her subservience within a relationship.

In many cases, violence against women, especially domestic forms of violence, is largely unreported. Often, it is not considered an act of violence by families, communities, and individuals in Pakistan's dominant male society. Many incidents are reported as routine news and are not given much attention. The issue and cases of violence against women show strong sociopolitical and economic factors. For instance, in the cases of love and eloped marriages, the family, community, tribe, and caste determine the crime of violence to preserve "Izzat" and use masculine power and authority. Violence against women in Pakistan is rampant and has become a chronic social and public policy issue. It is not limited to a particular region, ethnic group, class, age, or gender, but it is widespread in society. However, women and girls are the most affected due to gender-based violence. The traditional tribal structures and codes of culture and ethics that justify the legitimacy of violence against women need to be dismantled. Officials of state and law enforcement agencies require training using a gender lens, such as gender-

sensitive courses, workshops, seminars, and conferences. Universities and civil society forums should incorporate gender-sensitive and gender-justice pedagogy in their teaching, learning, and community advocacy programs, especially by taking guidance from religious clerics.

Impact on Women

Domestic violence can have profound and long-lasting effects on women, both physically and psychologically. Women who experience domestic violence often suffer physical injuries ranging from bruises and cuts to broken bones and traumatic brain injuries. These injuries can have both short-term and long-term consequences for their health. The emotional toll of domestic violence can be devastating. Women may experience fear, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This can affect their ability to function in daily life and can lead to issues such as low self-esteem and feelings of worthlessness. Abusers often use tactics such as isolation to maintain control over their victims. Women who experience domestic violence may become isolated from friends, family, and support networks, which can exacerbate feelings of loneliness and helplessness. Domestic violence can also result in financial dependence on the abuser, especially if the woman is prevented from working or accessing resources. This can make it difficult for women to leave abusive situations and regain independence. Children who witness domestic violence may suffer from emotional and behavioral problems, and the cycle of violence can continue across generations. Women who are victims of domestic violence may also face challenges in parenting and may struggle to protect their children from harm. Domestic violence has been linked to a range of health problems, including chronic pain, gastrointestinal disorders, and substance abuse. The stress of living in an abusive environment can also weaken the immune system and increase the risk of chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes. Women who experience domestic violence may face barriers to seeking help, including fear of retaliation, shame, and lack of resources. Cultural and societal norms may also discourage women from speaking out or seeking assistance. Domestic violence can have legal and social consequences for women, including involvement with the criminal justice system, loss of housing, and discrimination. These consequences can further exacerbate the trauma of the abuse and make it harder for women to rebuild their lives. Overall, the impact of domestic violence on women is profound and multifaceted, affecting every aspect of their lives and well-being. Addressing domestic violence requires a comprehensive approach that includes support services, legal protections, and efforts to change cultural attitudes.

Impact on Children

Children exposed to domestic violence are not simply bystanders; they are deeply affected by the abuse they witness or experience directly. Witnessing violence between parents can be just as traumatic as physical abuse itself. Children may experience emotional and behavioral problems, including

anxiety, depression, aggression, and difficulty concentrating in school. Exposure to domestic violence can also have long-term consequences for children's physical and mental health. They may be at increased risk for substance abuse, self-harm, and suicidal ideation in adulthood. Furthermore, children raised in violent homes are more likely to become perpetrators or victims of violence in their own future relationships.

A study conducted in the United States found that children who witnessed domestic violence were twice as likely to be involved in a violent relationship as adults. In regions with limited access to mental health services, the long-term consequences of childhood exposure to domestic violence can be particularly severe.

Policy and Legal Frameworks: A Global Perspective

Numerous policies and legal frameworks have been established globally to address domestic violence. These frameworks take various approaches, with specific considerations for cultural contexts:

- Criminalization: Many countries have enacted laws that criminalize specific acts of domestic violence, such as assault, battery, and stalking. This approach holds perpetrators accountable and serves as a deterrent. However, enforcement can vary significantly across regions. For example, in some European countries, police have the authority to make temporary arrests for domestic violence offenses, while in other regions, police intervention may be limited unless a serious injury occurs.

- International Conventions: Policy and legal frameworks aimed at addressing domestic violence against children vary across jurisdictions but generally include legislation, regulations, and initiatives at the national, regional, and local levels. These frameworks typically encompass child protection laws, family law provisions, criminal statutes, and social welfare policies. Additionally, many countries have ratified international conventions and treaties, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which obligate states to protect children from violence, abuse, and exploitation.

- Protection Orders: These orders are civil court rulings that prohibit the abuser from contacting or approaching the victim or their children. They can also mandate the abuser to leave the shared residence. However, the effectiveness of protection orders relies heavily on enforcement mechanisms. In some Latin American countries, for instance, a lack of resources and training for law enforcement can hinder the proper enforcement of protection orders, leaving victims vulnerable.

- Victim Support Services: These services, often provided by shelters and advocacy organizations, offer victims a safe space, counseling, and legal

assistance. However, access to these services can be limited in many regions, particularly in rural areas or developing countries.

- Pakistan's Initiatives: Pakistan has taken steps to address domestic violence through policy and legal measures, including the enactment of the Protection of Women (Criminal Laws Amendment) Act 2006, Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill 2012, Punjab Protection of Women against Violence Act 2016, Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010, and ICT Child Protection Act 2018.

While these initiatives are commendable, the policy and legal framework faces challenges such as limited implementation and enforcement, inadequate resources and infrastructure, societal resistance and stigma, and limited access to justice and support services.

Critical Assessment

While existing policies and legal frameworks represent crucial steps towards addressing domestic violence, they have limitations that vary depending on the specific region:

Limitations of the Criminal Justice System

- Underreporting: Many domestic violence cases remain unreported due to fear of retaliation, shame, and a lack of trust in the legal system. This issue is particularly prevalent in regions with strong patriarchal norms or limited access to legal aid.

- Inadequate Law Enforcement Response: Law enforcement officers may lack training in recognizing and responding to domestic violence cases effectively. This can result from insufficient training budgets or cultural biases that minimize the seriousness of domestic violence.

- Challenges in Prosecution: Gathering evidence and securing convictions can be difficult, particularly in cases of emotional or psychological abuse. This issue is further complicated in regions with limited forensic resources or a backlog of court cases.

- Inadequate Protection Orders: Protection orders can be ineffective if not properly enforced. In some regions, cultural norms that prioritize family unity may discourage victims from seeking protection orders, or communities may be reluctant to intervene in domestic disputes.

Limitations of Support Services

- Limited Resources: Shelters and support services are often underfunded and overwhelmed, leading to waiting lists and limited accessibility, particularly in developing countries.

- Lack of Culturally Competent Services: Services may not be culturally sensitive or cater to the specific needs of diverse communities. For instance, shelters in immigrant communities may struggle to provide services in multiple languages or may not be sensitive to religious or cultural practices.

- Limited Support for Children: Existing support systems may not adequately address the unique needs of children exposed to domestic violence. This can be due to a lack of specialized training for counselors or a shortage of resources dedicated to children's mental health services.

Future Directions

To effectively address domestic violence on a global scale, a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach is necessary, with specific considerations for regional needs:

Enhanced Prevention Efforts

- Public Awareness Campaigns: Develop and implement public awareness campaigns that challenge harmful gender norms and promote healthy relationships. These campaigns should be culturally sensitive and tailored to resonate with diverse audiences. For example, campaigns in regions with high rates of child marriage may focus on empowering young girls and delaying marriage until they are mature.

- Education Programs: Integrate comprehensive domestic violence education into school curriculums to empower young people to identify and prevent abuse. This education should be age-appropriate and address issues of consent, healthy relationships, and bystander intervention.

- Community-Based Interventions: Implement community-based programs that promote healthy masculinity and positive conflict resolution skills. These programs can be particularly effective in regions with strong patriarchal norms, where traditional ideas about male dominance may contribute to domestic violence.

Strengthening the Legal System

- Improved Training for Law Enforcement: Provide specialized training for law enforcement officers in recognizing domestic violence, conducting thorough investigations, and interacting with victims sensitively. This training should be culturally appropriate and address regional challenges, such as language barriers or specific types of domestic violence prevalent in the area.

- Streamlined Prosecution Processes: Develop faster and more efficient prosecution processes for domestic violence cases. This may involve

dedicated domestic violence courts or specialized prosecutors to expedite cases and improve conviction rates.

- Enhanced Enforcement of Protection Orders: Allocate resources to ensure effective enforcement of protection orders, including mandatory offender tracking and swift responses to violations. This may involve collaboration between law enforcement, social services, and victim support organizations.

Expanding Support Services

- Increased Funding: Increase funding for shelters and support services to ensure greater accessibility for victims. This funding should be allocated strategically, considering the specific needs of different regions.

- Culturally Competent Services: Develop culturally competent services that cater to the specific needs of diverse communities. This may involve providing services in multiple languages, hiring staff from diverse backgrounds, and ensuring cultural sensitivity in all aspects of service delivery.

- Comprehensive Support for Children: Create specialized support programs for children exposed to domestic violence, including individual and group therapy, trauma-informed interventions, and educational support. These programs should address the specific needs of children at different age groups and consider factors such as witnessing violence, experiencing direct abuse, and living in a dysfunctional home environment.

- Economic Empowerment Programs: Implement programs that support victims' financial independence, facilitating their ability to leave abusive relationships. This may involve job training, microloans, or childcare assistance. Economic empowerment programs can be particularly crucial in regions with limited opportunities for women's employment.

Two critical issues and challenges require effective intervention and prevention strategies. First, cultural and social norms perpetuate attitudes that condone or justify violence against women and children, hindering efforts to change behaviors and create a culture of respect and equality. Deeply ingrained gender stereotypes, patriarchal power dynamics, and societal expectations often discourage survivors from speaking out and seeking help, while also enabling perpetrators to act with impunity. Addressing these entrenched norms requires targeted interventions that challenge harmful beliefs, promote gender equality, and engage communities in dialogue and advocacy for change.

Secondly, underreporting of violence remains a pervasive challenge, fueled by fear of retaliation, shame, and mistrust in the justice system. Many survivors hesitate to disclose their experiences due to concerns about safety, privacy, and the potential consequences of speaking out. Furthermore,

marginalized and vulnerable populations, including Indigenous communities, racial minorities, and persons with disabilities, face additional barriers to reporting and accessing support services due to intersecting forms of discrimination and systemic inequalities. Overcoming underreporting requires the implementation of survivor-centered approaches that prioritize confidentiality, safety, and autonomy, along with efforts to build trust in support services and strengthen legal protections for survivors.

Conclusion

This policy paper on violence against women and children underscores the urgent need for comprehensive, evidence-based policy interventions to address this pervasive and complex social issue. Drawing on a multidisciplinary approach and integrating both quantitative and qualitative findings, the paper highlights the interconnectedness of individual, relational, community, and societal factors contributing to violence. It emphasizes the importance of promoting gender equality, human rights, and social justice as fundamental pillars of effective prevention and response efforts. Furthermore, the paper calls for a holistic approach that addresses the root causes of violence, provides comprehensive support services for survivors, strengthens legal and policy frameworks, and fosters collaboration among stakeholders at all levels. Ultimately, the conclusion underscores the imperative of sustained political will, resource allocation, and collective action to end violence against women and children and create a safer, more equitable society for all.

Recommendations

Policymakers can work towards creating a society free from violence, where women and children are empowered to live with dignity, autonomy, and safety by implementing the following recommendations:

1. **Strengthen Legal Protections and Enforcement**: Implement and enforce comprehensive legal frameworks that criminalize all forms of violence against women and children, including domestic violence, sexual assault, child marriage, workplace abuse, trafficking, and honor killing. Ensure effective implementation of laws, hold perpetrators accountable, and provide survivors with access to justice through specialized courts, legal aid services, and victim support programs.

2. **Enhance Prevention and Education Initiatives**: Develop and implement evidence-based prevention programs and educational initiatives aimed at challenging harmful gender norms, promoting healthy relationships, and building skills for conflict resolution and bystander intervention. Integrate gender-sensitive education curricula into schools and community settings to raise awareness about the root causes and consequences of violence and empower individuals to take action.

3. **Expand Access to Support Services**: Increase funding and resources for essential support services for survivors of violence, including crisis hotlines, shelters, counseling, medical care, and legal assistance. Ensure that services are accessible, culturally sensitive, and tailored to meet the diverse needs of women and children, including those from marginalized communities.

4. **Empower Women and Girls**: Invest in programs and initiatives that empower women and girls economically, socially, and politically, including access to education, employment opportunities, financial resources, and leadership positions. Promote women's rights and agency through targeted interventions that address intersecting forms of discrimination based on gender, age, ethnicity, and socio-economic status.

5. **Foster Multi-Sectoral Collaboration**: Strengthen collaboration and coordination among government agencies, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector to develop holistic, multi-sectoral responses to violence against women and children. Establish inter-agency task forces, partnerships, and networks to share information, resources, and best practices and ensure a cohesive approach to prevention, intervention, and advocacy efforts.

6. **Address Structural Inequalities**: Tackle the root causes of violence by addressing structural inequalities and social determinants of health, such as poverty, unemployment, housing insecurity, and lack of access to essential services. Implement policies and programs that promote gender equality, economic empowerment, social inclusion, and human rights for all, with a particular focus on marginalized and vulnerable populations.

7. **Monitor and Evaluate Impact**: Establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of policy interventions, track progress towards achieving key objectives, and identify areas for improvement. Collect disaggregated data on violence prevalence, service utilization, and outcomes to inform evidence-based decision-making and resource allocation.

8. **Amplify Voices of Survivors**: Center the voices and experiences of survivors in policy development, implementation, and evaluation processes. Create avenues for meaningful participation and representation of survivors in decision-making forums, advocacy campaigns, and programmatic initiatives to ensure that policies are responsive to their needs, preferences, and priorities.

References

1. World Health Organization. (2021). Global health estimates 2021: Data tables. https://www.who.int/data/global-health-estimates
2. Felitti, V. J., Anda, R. F., Nordenberg, D., Rutledge, C. F., & Giles, W. H. (1998). Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the risk factors for adult-onset diseases. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 14(4), 245-258. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0749-3797(98)00017-8
3. Caspi, A., Moffitt, T. E., & Silva, P. A. (1993). Environmental moderation of the relationship between childhood maltreatment and later violence: From childhood to young adulthood. Developmental Psychology, 29(4), 700-708. https://doi.org/10.1037/0012-1649.29.4.700
4. Hughes, H. M., & Silverman, D. N. (2003). Intimate partner violence and mental health: A review of evidence. Violence and Victims, 18(1), 117-139. https://doi.org/10.1891/vv-v18n1-117
5. Koenig, M. A., Lutjens, L., & Dhawan, S. (2013). Domestic violence in South Asia: A review of the literature. Violence Against Women, 19(10), 1204-1232. https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801213502176
6. United Nations Population Fund. (2020). Female genital mutilation/cutting: A global concern. https://www.unfpa.org/female-genital-mutilation
7. National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. (2023). Facts and statistics on domestic violence. https://ncadv.org/
8. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. (2014). Violence against women: A comprehensive overview. https://fra.europa.eu/en/content/introducing-fra
9. Senate Secretariat. (n.d.). ICT. https://mohr.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/ICT
10. National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. (n.d.). Retrieved August 1, 2024, from https://ncadv.org/
11. National Domestic Violence Hotline. (n.d.). Retrieved August 1, 2024, from https://www.thehotline.org/
12. Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network. (n.d.). Retrieved August 1, 2024, from https://www.rainn.org/about-rainn