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COVID-19 AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN KASHMIR: GENDER VOICES

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Abstract:

Domestic violence has become a global pandemic long before the COVID-19 outbreak. It is claimed that due to covid induced lockdown a continual rise is spotted in the numbers of sick people; growing unemployment, increased anxiety and financial stress, scarcity of community resources etc. Resultantly, these factors are believed to have set the stage for an exacerbated hype in domestic violence cases. Experts have characterized the “invisible pandemic” of domestic violence as a “ticking time bomb” or a “perfect storm”. The connection between physical insecurity and economic insecurity is claimed to be tangible for people who might be less attuned to domestic violence. There is now a unique opportunity to shed light on the economic dimensions of domestic and gender-based violence. Indeed, a thorough examination and deep introspection of the impact of the novel diseases need to be mapped out. However, it needs to be noted down that the present study is limited to the region of Kashmir. At the same time rising domestic violence against women in Kashmir Valley during the pandemic lockdown of COVID-19 is matter of concern and need to be highlighted and simultaneously efforts should be made (on part of Government, NGOs or others) to contain such violence. A detailed study of such pandemic accelerated gender-based violence seems a must. A study which could possibly map out the role of different factors ranging from age, education, job, etc. to others on the acceleration or maximization of domestic violence in Kashmir amidst of pandemic. After taking all those pros and cons into consideration, the present study set itself to examine the relationship between covid-19 and domestic violence in Kashmir. All the ten districts of the Kashmir region were included in study, and among each district a maximum of 21 participants were selected. To reach the desired end and draw the results, the present paper has undertaken an online questionnaire.

Keywords: Women, Exploitation, Hardships, Vulnerability, Conflict

1.0 Introduction and Background:

History changes its course on every day basis. One can't confidently write it in linearity but non-linearity or what Thomas Kuhn calls 'Paradigm shift' can come at any point in time in history. This non-linearity can become a normal mode of writing and doing history within no time. It is none other than the Covid-19 crisis which has brought about a paradigm shift and resurfacing of non-linear history. This pandemic has challenged the 'foundationalist' narratives or what postmodernists like Micheal Foucault, Lyotard, Beaudrillard, Jameson et al call as 'givens' of society (Heywood, 2012; Eagleton, 1996). The final years of the second decade of the twenty-first century

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need to be remembered as a ‘years of destitution and destruction’ in the way of human flourishing and happiness. It will be viewed as a year of disease, death, and enslavement in the annals of human history. All of us—irrespective of gender, religion, caste, race, et al—share a common agreement on the ebullition of a novel deadly disease, named Corona virus, coupled with disastrous consequences for the mental and material well-being of humans of the planet. Indeed, one can count its impact within psychological, social, political, economic, as well as other domains of human life. The novel virus has painstakingly, damaged both domestic and international order in no time and made human life languish across the globe. A crucial theme emerging due to enslavement or confining of human bodies within the restricted zones or homes is domestically instigated violence against women. The reasons for the acceleration of which can be manifold ranging from anxiety over the loss of a job, restricted movement of male bodies, income-related issues, depression, confinement, non-availability of addictive substances, etc. Violence against women is, "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life." (UNDEVAW, 1994). On 6 April 2020, the United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres called for a “Ceasefire” to address the “horrifying global surge in domestic violence” (EPW, 2020). Globally, 243 million women and girls aged 15-19 have been subjected to sexual and physical violence perpetrated by an intimate partner in the last twelve months (UN Women Report, 2020). There are claims across the globe that there has been a surge in the cases of intimate partner violence (IPV) cases around the globe associated with lockdown policies, from the United States and the United Kingdom to France, China, and India. The eagerness to flatten the curve and limit the spread of coronavirus, government-instituted lockdowns endangered the lives of millions of women, particularly in the absence of legal measures against the rising violence against women (Kamadar, 2020).

Taking note of COVID in India, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, on 24 March 2020, announced a nationwide lockdown for 21 days to halt the movement of 1.3 billion of the population. He urged that in due course of time the freedom of movement becomes a source of the spread of the novel deadly virus and hence could become lethal to the country as a whole. After the dissemination of the news about the nationwide lockdown, impacts became tangible within days, the number of domestic violence complaints received by the National Commission for Women (NCW) have doubled (EPW, 2020). It is believed that in India, a woman is subjected to an act of domestic violence every 4.4 minutes, according to the Crime in India Report 2018 by the Indian National Crime Research Bureau (NCRB) (Kamadar, 2020). Union Minister Smriti Irani starved of claims that the corona virus-induced lockdown amplified cases of domestic violence against women. She retorted: ‘It is false. Every state has a police line functioning. We have a one-stop crisis center across every district of every State’ (The Hindu, 2020). She accused ‘Scaremongering’ especially done with some development partners who are in the NGO sector (The Hindu, 2020).

Women of Jammu and Kashmir are primarily vulnerable and most dreadfully hit sections of the society due to armed conflict for the last three decades. They suffer intense humiliation and harassment along with traumatic experiences causing prolonged depression, at times, lead to severe mental disorder. As per official data, thousands of women who have become widows and are bearing the entire responsibility of the household along with the upbringing of their children Kashmir are prone to such vulnerabilities. Besides this because of conflict women are also facing challenges related to physical health, financial instability and incomplete education etc. Since 1990s, Kashmir has become a hub of stresses and strains. However, this new normal is being worked out to date. Off late, a new disease-induced-lockdown took place nationwide and the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is not an exception thereof.

It is claimed that the domestic violence against women by their male-companion and other family members is augmenting across the globe. The victims of such abuse are not just from economically marginal section but educated and financially stable as well (Sharma, 2010). Moreover, this is also observed in urban as well as rural areas of the union territory in one or the other form. 15 percent of married women are physically and mentally being abused (Dabla, 2009). To understand how the lockdown has implicated the lives of the women in Jammu and Kashmir this study is conducted in all districts of Kashmir with 210 participants including twenty-one from each district. Due to conflict their victimhood or domestic violence against them has significantly strengthened its roots both qualitatively as well as quantitatively. To understand the entire gamut involved in the domestic violence and to examine the claims of acceleration of domestic violence during the COVID-lockdown runs as *modus operandi* of the entire study.

2.0 Literature Review:

To understand the background of the COVID-19 crisis, a review of existing literature, on the subject of the investigation was done, which constituted merely scholarly articles, news reports, governmental and non-governmental data related to women of India in general and Kashmiri women in particular. Apart from this, reviews of the recent works related to it were also done to understand its objectives and its progress over the months. Not too much academic and scholarly works about domestic violence in the Kashmiri society have been carried out. However, no study has been carried out so far to study the relation between COVID-lockdown and domestic violence in Kashmir which is the essence of the present study. In practice there are only a few studies/books related to the plight of women in Kashmir which are reviewed momentarily: **Sir W. W. Lawrence**, in his book entitled—*The Valley of Kashmir (1895)*—provides us a detailed account about the situation of women prevalent during the late 19th century. These niceties are sketchy which mirrors severe poverty and largely backwardness and callous conditions of women's life in Kashmir. Bashir Ahmad Dabla had made the first organised scholarly treatment of the topic of the gender situation in the Kashmiri society. His books portray actual gender situation in Kashmir along with a note on gender change with detailed statistical support/evidence. His work on the condition of gender in Kashmir, *Working Women in Kashmir* (1982)—largely remains confined to the role of working women in Kashmir. However, it also focuses on women's changing attitudes, behavior patterns, and problems. It is one of the first books that look into the challenges of women from a sociologist's standpoint with scientific methodology. However, the relevancy of the book is from to understand the condition of women in 1980 in the Valley. *Gender Discrimination in Kashmir Valley* (1988)—is again a sociological staging of these happenings in the Kashmiri society representing both historical and contemporary contexts. In brief, this book presents the nature of gender discrimination and its problems to the governmental and non-governmental organisations. *Multi-dimensional Problems of Women in Kashmir* (2005): - It is based on a research study carried out in the Kashmir and a sponsorship by the Planning Commission of India. It has highlighted six sets of their crucial problems, i.e. economic, educational, social, cultural, discriminations and health problems. For each set of problems, a lot of necessary statistics/data have been provided in support of his propositions and conclusions. *Domestic Violence against Women in Kashmir [2007]* - this book is apt in presenting the domestic issues faced by the women in the valley. Based on scientific methodology, the author has highlighted various aspects of domestic violence, torture, harassment, domination, wife-beating, dowry demand, the threat to divorce, denying economic independence, unjust treatment, and other negative practices in the family. After studying a representative sample of 200 Kashmiri women belonging to the valley through a questionnaire or interview, the author has arrived at certain critical propositions and conclusions regarding gender violence in the home situation. He draws a clear picture in the pre-and post-independence period about the emancipation and empowerment of women in Kashmir. Finally, the author has

formulated certain solid, relevant, and practical suggestions for the government and NGOs to resolve these problems. However, it is important to highlight here that if one wants to understand the present plight of the Kashmiri women, the works of Prof. B. A. Dabla are important to take into consideration. Nyla Ali Khan, a Kashmiri professor in the USA, has produced a book about the Kashmiri women entitled, *Islam, Women, and Kashmir*, where she talks about Kashmiri women's past and the present. The former represents the context of a secular, human, and tolerant culture shaped by the Islamic religious ethos here and the later represents the context of political violence directed against women during the last two decades. The book does not directly deal with the question of gender but advertently it touches upon some core concerns of women in Kashmir. Seema Qazi in her, *Gender and Militarization in Kashmir* (2009), deals mainly with the impact of militarisation on gender in the conflict situation in Kashmir in the last two decades. She has well-documented cases of mass rape, rape, molestation, and intimidation of women by Indian security forces in the last 20 years of armed conflict. Though the book is not directly related to gender inequality, it gives details and an analytical account of the condition of the women in the valley with strong ethnographic research. Though, there seem inconsistencies in the arguments of the aforesaid works. These works have, profoundly in an exhaustive manner, dealt with the gender dimension of conflict and its repercussions on women. These works have socio-politico-economic backwardness of women and the possible ways of its redressal. Covid-19 is a novel phenomenon and it is impacting every nook and corner of society. To halt its spread different nations-imposed lockdown to stop its acceleration. However, the lockdown impacted population in general but women in particular. There are claims across globe that the domestic violence has increased in a vociferous manner. The present study will engage itself with whether COVID 19 induced lockdown has accelerated the domestic violence in Kashmir or not.

3.0 Objectives of the study:

- To study the relationship between Covid-19 and domestic violence on women.
- To study the impact of Covid-19 lockdown on women in Kashmir.
- To examine the support systems in place (Government/Non-government) for dealing with cases of Domestic violence in Kashmir.

4.0 Rationale of the study:

It is important to bear out that domestic violence has become a global pandemic long before the COVID-19 outbreak. However, due to Covid-19, many victims find themselves isolated in violent homes, without access to resources or friend and family networks. Abusers could experience heightened financial pressures and stress, increase their consumption of alcohol or drugs, and purchase or hoard guns as an emergency measure (Vijayalakshmi & Dev, 2020). Experts have characterised an 'invisible pandemic' of domestic violence during the COVID-19 crisis as a 'ticking time bomb' or a 'perfect storm' (US Council for foreign relations, 2020).

It is difficult for states to support the development of alternative reporting mechanisms; expand shelter options; strengthen the capacity of the security and justice sectors; maintain vital sexual and reproductive health services, where domestic and sexual violence victims are often identified and supported; support independent women's groups; finance economic security measures for women workers, especially those serving on the front lines of the pandemic or in the informal economy, and other groups disproportionately affected by the pandemic, such as migrant, refugee, homeless, and trans women; and collect comprehensive data on the gendered impact of COVID-

19. The main reason to state is the failure in the functioning of economies due to covid crisis across globe.

The connection between physical insecurity and economic instability is claimed to be tangible for people who might otherwise have been less attuned to domestic violence. There is now a unique opportunity to shed light on the economic dimensions of domestic and gender-based violence. The present pandemic has the potential to continue marginalization of domestic violence survivors, otherwise, in dire need of support. For survivors, particularly those who are marginalised or underserved, the pandemic could reinforce their mistrust in formal systems and alienate them further. For them, the formal channels to grieve to get were almost absent. A delirium haunted societies and every institution whether social, political, economic, religious etc. was in a state of hibernation. Repairing those relationships would be an egregious challenge that would require an overhaul of conventional approaches to prevention, response, and treatment! Indeed, a thorough examination and deep introspection of the impact of the novel diseases need to be mapped out. At the same time rising domestic violence against women in Kashmir Valley during the pandemic lockdown of COVID-19 is matter of concern and need to be highlighted and simultaneously efforts should be made on part of Government, NGOs or others to contain such violence in general and the claims in particular. There should be a detailed study of such pandemic accelerated gender-based violence. A study which could possibly map out the role of different factors ranging from age, education, job, etc. to others on the acceleration or maximisation of domestic violence in Kashmir amidst of pandemic.

5.0 Research methodology and location:

The study is confined to the Kashmir region of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir which includes ten Districts. The total number of participants from each district is 21 and the total number of participants is 210 within the age group of 18-60. Each of the candidates responded to our online questionnaire and hence the data has been collected through the internet.

The impact of any novel phenomenon cannot be measured within a short time; however, there are certain parameters against which the success and impact of the project can be standardised. The proposed study has followed the mixed approach. A structured-close ended questionnaire has been used to collect the data. The mode for which was online instead of offline as conventional methods would prefer to. The main reason for adopting online mode was simply not to allow the pandemic to make its rapid spread and to follow the government-imposed lockdown rules as a measure to enhance the safety of society. To understand the impact of the COVID induced lockdown on the lives of Kashmiri women, both quantitative and qualitative data were taken into consideration. To understand and document the quantitative outputs of the present project, the following software tool has been utilised: SPSS analysis for empirical data. SPSS Statistics is a software package used for interactive or batched, statistical analysis. Current versions have the brand name: IBM SPSS Statistics. Cross tabs and Chi-square tests were conducted to analyse the data of the present study. However, on the qualitative front, the results of the survey have been supplemented through group discussions, content analysis of statements made by correspondents while filling one open-ended question mentioned at the end of the questionnaire. Besides, the secondary sources of data utilised in the study have been taken from various research papers published in journals, reports from newspapers, NGOs, and the governmental sources in Jammu and Kashmir.

6.0 Hypothesis:

Covid-19 has accelerated the acts of domestic violence against women in Kashmir.

7.0 Main Research Question:

- Has dawn of pandemic accelerated domestic violence against women in Kashmir?

8.0 Secondary questions:

- Has administration taken adequate steps to stop violence against women during pandemic?
- What was the support system in place (Government/Non-government) for dealing with cases of Domestic violence in Kashmir?

8.0 Analysis and results:

The present study undertook an online internet-based questionnaire which was responded by 210 participants. It was a gender-based study in which only married female participants were allowed to fill up the questionnaire. The results of the data are analysed in a thorough and detailed manner. The general composition of the study is highlighted Fig. 1

Age plays a crucial role in sustaining the marriage as a social institution. It is vital for the demographic dividend. So far as the age of the participants is concerned, we have divided them into five age group categories as is shown in the table. From the diagram, it is evident that a majority of participants that is 52.6per cent were between the age group of 20-30, 26.8per cent in the age group of 30-40, 13.6 percent from the age group of 40-50, and only 3.5 per cent were between under the age 20 years and 3.5 per cent were over the age of 50 years. Firstly, it is found that the custom of early marriage was not prevalent in Kashmir because almost all of the candidates studied are falling within the purview of the constitutionally recognised age group. Besides, a chi-square test was performed to examine whether there exists any relationship between age and 'patriarchic acts of men'². These acts are taken as the main constituents of domestic violence in modern societies. However, it needs to be noted down that these patriarchic acts are connected in a single string. It helps us in adding and to generate a single variable i.e. methods adopted in sustaining domestic violence, and aiding out in finding the relationship between the variables of age and domestic violence. The below mentioned table (Table 1) highlights the themes, results and remarks of the tests conducted:

Table 1: Personal Communications, 2020

Themes	Results	Remarks
a. Shouting, screaming, and swearing upon the female partner	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .238, p > .05)$	Insignificant
b. Constant criticism by family members	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .966, p < .05)$	Insignificant
c. Restricted Social Life	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .318, p > .05)$	Insignificant
d. Controlling women bodies by keeping them short of money	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .724, p > .05)$	Insignificant
e. Locking women inside house	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .724, p > .05)$	Insignificant
f. Threatened by fist, hand or foot	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .029, p < .05);$	Significant
g. Threatened by weapons or objects	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .031, p < .05)$	Significant
h. Kicked or things thrown at them	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .444, p > .05)$	Insignificant

i. Threatened to kill children	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .617, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
j. Grabbed, punched and choked	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .016, $p < .05$)	Insignificant
k. Punishing women by hitting children in front of mothers	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .304, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
l. Increase in physical violence against in past years	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .530, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
m. Felt afraid of life partners	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .618, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
n. Monitoring of cell phones	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .050, $p < .05$)	Significant
o. Allowing to dress as they like	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .018, $p < .05$)	Significant
p. Threatened to commit suicide	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .407, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
q. Ignoring of requests constantly	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .979, $p > .05$).	Insignificant

Source: Computed by the authors

In the results, it is found that under the themes of (f, g, n, o), that there is a significant difference or disparity between the variable of age and acts of male dominance—which are hallmark of patriarchy. It denotes that these variables are not independent of each other as the p value is less than 0.05. Therefore, there is a definite relationship between the age and these patriarchic acts/ domestic violence measures grouped under (f, g, n, o) themes. However, after analyzing these themes it comes to fore that different repressive measures like threatening by deadly objects, surveillance and subjecting (in Foucauldian terms) women bodies share a specific relationship with age. Besides, it is found that under the themes (a, b, c, d, e, h, I, j, k, l, m, p, q), these variables are independent of each other, and thereby share an insignificant or non-significant statistical relationship between the variables of age and domestic violence. This states that the institution of patriarchy sustains itself irrespective of the age of a person. It means that the biology of a family member than that of his age is pivotal to sustain the oppressed/oppressor relationship within the families of Kashmir. It also denotes that female dominance is normal mode of behavior in Kashmir ranging from words to deeds of male partners. It supplements the generalization that women are not born but becomes a woman (Scot, 2012). The becoming of women in Kashmir is sustained by unjust rules of patriarchy which are normalized by social roles. The data contributes a clearer understanding of non-reliability of age in domestic violence. Hence, domestic violence can be considered as a general menace running across time and space.

The marital status forms an important base to take different opinions from the participants since the theme of the survey is taken or experienced differently by different people. Marriage itself is a socially documented union linking people called spouses. It establishes rights and obligations between them, as well as between them and their children, and between them and their in-laws. However, its characterization varies around the world among cultures and religions. In general, it is an institution in which interpersonal relationships, usually sexual, are accepted and agreed upon. The majority of the cultures and religions prefer marriage to be obligatory before pursuing any sexual activity. The study found that among 210 respondents 96 per cent were married and were living with their spouses. This group is followed by 3 per cent widows whose spouses had died either due to conflict or otherwise and 1 per cent of women were divorced. However, it is found that the divorce rate in Kashmir is very low. However, many factors like landlocked nature of the region, cultural development, religious forbidding, social disapproval, etc. can be a possible reason. A chi-square test of independence was performed to examine whether there exists any

relationship between marital status of a person and acts of domestic violence. The below mentioned table (Table 2) highlights the themes, results and remarks of the tests conducted:

Table 2: Personal Communications, 2020

Themes	Results	Remarks
Shouting, screaming, and swearing upon the female partner	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .198, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Constant criticism by family members	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .526, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Restricted Social life	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .399, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
(D) controlling women bodies by keeping them short of money	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .617, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
(E) locking women inside house	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .004, $p < .05$)	Significant
Threatened by fist, hand or foot	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .080, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Weapons or objects	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .000, $p < .05$)	Insignificant
Kicked or throwing things	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .004, $p < .05$)	Significant
Threatened to kill children	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .000, $p < .05$)	Significant
Grabbed, punched and choked	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .000, $p < .05$)	Significant
Punishing women by hitting children in front of mothers	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .001, $p < .05$)	Significant
Increase in physical violence against in past years	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .014, $p < .05$)	Significant
Felt afraid of life partners	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .852, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Monitoring of cell phones	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .338, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Allowing to dress as they like	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .033, $p < .05$)	Significant
Threatened to commit suicide	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .000, $p < .05$)	Significant
Ignoring of requests constantly	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .281, $p > .05$)	Insignificant

Source: Computed by the authors

Meanwhile, in the results, it is found under the themes of— (e, g, h, I, j, k, l, o, p)—that there is a significant difference or disparity between the variable of marital status and acts of male dominance. It denotes that these variables are dependent on each other as the p value is less than 0.05. It provides a new insight into the relationship between the marital status and these patriarchal acts, whereby former plays a significant role in female dominance by their male compatriots. Besides, it is found that marital status and the themes of (a, b, c, d, f, m, n, q) are independent of each other; and deductively, the results indicate that there is insignificant statistical relationship between the variables of marital status and aforementioned dependent variables constituting domestic violence. Alternatively, it can be argued that families are vehemently operating on structure of oppressive power sustained by the central principle of hierarchy. This oppressive power sustains itself in social roles and paves way for the female oppression in Kashmiri families. It denotes patriarchy is the mode of behaviour or state of mind in the geographical bounds of Kashmir sustained by the structure of family irrespective of marital status of the people involved.

Education is well thought-out as a significant social institution. It seeks to institute socio-politico-economic equality among citizens. Schooling is designed to instill some common traits and knowledge in each student. It strives to develop a positive attitude among the members of society. Being unequal in terms of education leads to inequality in society at large, seeing that those unable to take up part in higher education are powerless to have a good job. It was found that the educational qualifications of our respondents were: Master's degree: 36 per cent, Bachelors's

degree: 29 per cent, under matriculation 17 per cent, higher secondary 11 per cent, and above masters 7 per cent. Instead of a good academic background, women preferred to be housewives either due to the non-availability of jobs in the state or the social stigmas attached to women in the public sphere. A chi-square test of independence was performed to examine whether there exists any relationship between educational status of a person and patriarchic acts of men. The following (Table 3) were the set themes and these results were taken accordingly:

Table 3: Personal Communications, 2020

Themes	Results	Remarks
Shouting, screaming, and swearing upon the female partner	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .001, $p < .05$)	Significant
Constant criticism by family members	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .140, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Restricted Social life	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .002, $p < .05$)	Significant
Controlling women bodies by keeping them short of money	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .075, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Locking women inside house	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .349, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Threatened by fist, hand or foot	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .349, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Weapons or objects	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .349, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Kicked or throwing things	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .426, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Threatened to kill children	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .176, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Grabbed, punched and choked	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .252, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Punishing women by hitting children in front of mothers	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .044, $p < .05$)	Significant
Increase in physical violence against in past years	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .228, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Felt afraid of life partners	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .073, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Monitoring of cell phones	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .018, $p < .05$)	Significant
Allowing to dress as they like	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .223, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Threatened to commit suicide	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .235, $p > .05$);	Insignificant
Ignoring of requests constantly	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .390, $p < .05$)	Insignificant

Source: Computed by the authors

It is found under the themes of— (a, c, I, l)—that there is a significant difference or disparity between the variable of education and acts of male dominance, which means that these variables are dependent on each other as the p value is less than 0.05. Besides, it is found that educational background of a person and the themes of domestic violence (b, d, e, f, g, h, j, k, m, n, o) are independent of each other. The results indicate that there is an insignificant statistical relationship between the variables of education and domestic violence. However, we can say that the domestic violence operates independently but education can play a vital role in circumscribing its deadly spread. In fact, these results accept the validity and reliability of null hypothesis. The study shows that women with a sound educational qualification don't face major patriarchic acts enlisted under themes (b, d, e, f, g, h, j, k, m, n, o). It is generally argued that the education of the women has a direct impact on the family to which they belong. If we are going to minimise domestic violence, it is better to strengthen the educational background of the women (Friedman: 2011). The result of the present study supplements it. It is found that women with good educational background don't witness horrible acts of domestic violence from their family members.

Employment is the pivot that alters the course of history especially for those who are from marginalized groups like women. The occupation of the spouse of the married respondents plays a significant role in drawing out a conclusion regarding the living standards. Almost the majority of women have been subjected to the inhuman sufferings and atrocious social knots since the dawn of civilization. Besides, the patriarchic mindset is noticeable almost within every family be that father, brother, husband, etc. While studying the employment rate of women in Kashmir it was

found that only a spouse of 31 per cent was employed. It was followed by 22 per cent of women who were employed in offices. It is a clear indication of insufficient availability of jobs in the region followed by a low rate of women employment in the governmental and private sectors. The data clearly shows how much women are trailing instead of good qualifications. Besides, Kashmir is a conflict-hit region since the 1990s and a negligible number of private investors actually can settle the scores of unemployment.

The income structure of the families plays a vital role in the empowerment of women, particularly in the developing world. There is a conventional belief that the more affluent a woman is the more empowered she is. The average income in the family represents the quality of living. Based on average monthly income, the participants are grouped in five categories: 43 per cent were earning less than 10000 per month, followed by 23 per cent were earning Rs.10000-30000, and followed by 22 per cent were earning Rs 30000-50000, followed by 11 per cent were earning Rs 50000-100000, and followed by 1 per cent were earning above 1 lakh. There is a minuscule minority, roughly consisting of 1 percent, from the affluent strata but at the same time majority of the candidates are having a below-average income. It is found that the majority among the women are living their life on too little amount, presumably less than normal, which is again a dangerous factor which can stymie their growth and development. A chi-square test of independence was performed to examine whether there exists any relationship between income of a person and patriarchic acts of men. The following (Table 4) were the set themes and these results were taken accordingly:

Table 4: Personal Communications, 2020

Themes	Results	Remarks
Shouting, screaming, and swearing by the partner	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .001, $p < .05$)	Significant
Constant criticism by family members	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .038, $p < .05$)	Significant
Restricted social life	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .000, $p < .05$)	Significant
Controlling women's movement by keeping them -financially inadequate	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .023, $p < .05$)	Significant
Locking women inside house	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .001, $p < .05$)	Significant
Threatened by fist, hand or foot	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .039, $p < .05$)	Significant
Threatened by weapons or objects	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .049, $p < .05$)	Significant
Kicked or thrown things	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .020, $p < .05$)	Significant
Threatened to kill children	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .015, $p < .05$)	Significant
Grabbed, punched and choked	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .013, $p < .05$)	Significant
Punished women by hitting Infront of their children	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .012, $p < .05$)	Significant
Increase in physical violence in the past years	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .001, $p < .05$)	Significant
Felt scared of life partners	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .006, $p < .05$)	Significant
Monitoring of cell phones	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .016, $p < .05$)	Significant
Allowing to dress as they like	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .001, $p < .05$)	Significant
Threatened to commit suicide	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .014, $p < .05$)	Significant
Ignoring of requests constantly	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .018, $p < .05$)	Significant

Source: Computed by the authors

It is found under the themes of—(a. b, c, d, e, f, g, h, I, j, k, l, m, n, o)—that there is a significant difference or disparity between the variable of education and acts of male dominance, which means that these variables are solely dependent on each other as the p value is less than 0.05. The results of this test supplements general Marxist belief that economy determines the super structure of the society (Harman: 1986). It denotes that male dominance in Kashmir is supported by the economic hardships or unequal economic exchange within the families. Off late, world in general and Kashmir in particular have been hit hard by covid-19 economically. It is found that such

economic receding played and continues to play a vital role in accelerating the domestic violence in Kashmir.

The nature of the family system adopted is related to social, economic, cultural, and political forces. The type of the family represents the ways responsibilities are shared among the different members of the family. Kashmiri society was traditional in content and character wherein it was appreciated to be a member of a joint family. It is found that 66% of women were living in a nuclear family and 34% were living in a joint family. It is found that the nuclear family type has taken increasing sway especially after the dawn of liberalization, privatization, and globalization (LPG) in the 1990s in India. It further clarifies the fact that modernization had made inroads in Kashmir valley besides many odds. Besides, 86% of women were having children or siblings and 14% were without children owing to the nature of family respectively. It is found that people prefer to have siblings as early as possible especially within the age group of 20-30 years. A chi-square test of independence was performed to examine whether there exists any relationship between nature of family and patriarchic acts of men (domestic violence). The following (Table 5) were the set themes and these results were taken accordingly:

Table 5: Personal Communications, 2020

Themes	Results	Remarks
Shouting, screaming, and swearing upon the female partner	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .418, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Constant criticism by family members	$((\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .713, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Restricted Social Life	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .936, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Controlling women bodies by keeping them short of money	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .605, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Locking women inside house	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .063, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Threatened by fist, hand or foot	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .602, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Weapons or objects	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .406, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Kicked or throwing things	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .300, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Threatened to kill children	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .924, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Grabbed, punched and choked	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .786, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Punishing women by hitting children in front of mothers	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .781, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Increase in physical violence against in past years	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .180, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Felt afraid of life partners	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .624, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Monitoring of cell phones	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .349, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Allowing to dress as they like	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .687, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Threatened to commit suicide	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .164, p > .05)$	Insignificant
Ignoring of requests constantly	$(\chi^2 (4, N = 210) = .118, p < .05)$	Insignificant

Source: Computed by the authors

The results show that the all the above-mentioned themes of domestic violence are independent of family type (whether joint or nuclear). It indicates that there is an insignificant statistical relationship between the variables of family type and domestic violence. In fact, these results accept the validity and reliability of null hypothesis. The study shows that women within Kashmir from both types' families face major patriarchic acts of male dominance enlisted under in the aforementioned themes. It is quite apparent that the domestic violence cannot be stopped by changing familial structure as it is believed to be in-built within the institution of family itself (whether joint or nuclear). Family is central in sustaining the domestic violence in Kashmir. However, these results challenge the conventional view that joint family is responsible for male domination and domestic violence against women (Fernandez: 1997).

It is generally argued that COVID 19 and domestic violence are inextricably linked. Also, the present pandemic has accelerated the rate of domestic violence across the globe. However, many academicians and non-governmental organization (NGOs) reports have, by and large, defended this line of thought. Furthermore, there are continuous denials from the state leaders pertinent to

the hike in domestic violence cases amidst of lockdown period. To examine the empirical validity of the aforesaid arguments and others, the present study was conducted in an online mode in 10 districts of the Kashmir. However, a sample of twenty-one participants was taken from each district to represent the entire population of the concerned district. The natural calamities generally have severe impacts on all the domains of the biosphere. The COVID-19 too resulted in the negative impacts on the people in all aspects of their lives. The present study found that seventy percent of families got affected financially by the COVID-19 crisis and forty-one percent families, whose female members or our respondents either themselves or their spouses, suffered job loss. Firstly, it has rendered hundreds of people, especially daily wagers and those working with minor privately owned business units, in all these ten districts jobless and had hit hard the economic structure of the families which constitutes an essential part of normalcy in families. It influenced almost all spheres of life. The economic receding of families naturally hit the women folk residing in these families, either by accelerating the pace of unnecessary arguments between husband and wife or within-laws, finally, culminating in major or minor scuffles or at times abuse and physical violence against women. It can be argued that male partners have become tougher to a great extent since the implementation of lockdown but the present study accepts this argument by showing in figures that 29 percent of male partners shouted, screamed, or at times showed rude behavior towards their female partners in all 10 districts of Kashmir valley which is much higher to pre-lockdown cases. The present study had found that on a routine basis, 28 percent of women face continuous criticism from their husbands or in-laws, and 29 percent of women are living restricted social life in Kashmir. The restriction is mainly secret surveillance by people assigned role by in-laws family, taping of phone calls, frisking by husbands to check out the presence of substance-related to despicable behavior. The study shows that to inflict injury on women folk different methods were adopted either by their husbands or in-laws like: keeping women short of money (28 per cent), locking inside rooms after major scuffles with family (11 per cent), threatened by fist, hand or foot (13 per cent); kicked, punched, grabbed, shoved, choked, strangled, or attacked by throwing things (11 per cent), threatened to kill children's (3 per cent), beating of siblings in front of mothers to cause intense pain (18 per cent), afraid of husband and do not feel safe with them (25 per cent); monitoring calls, messages and social media accounts of wife (22 per cent); not allowed to dress the way they preferred (27 per cent); used 'will commit suicide' as a strategy to tighten their grip over women (8 per cent) and their needs and requests were constantly ignored (14 per cent); consistently abuse as mentally retorted person, ugly, stupid and incompetent person (13 per cent); suicidal thoughts shared by women after facing domestic violence on everyday basis (11 per cent); and most importantly, 45 per cent of women feel that instances of violence against women in general and nature of violence in particular has increased than normal routine since the imposition of covid-19 lockdown.

A chi-square test of independence was performed to examine whether there exists any relationship between financial impacts of pandemic on families and the emergence of patriarchic acts (domestic violence). The below mentioned table (Table no:6) highlights the themes, results and remarks of the tests conducted:

Table 6: Personal Communications, 2020

Themes	Results	Remarks
Shouting, screaming and swearing upon the female partner	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .398, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Constant criticism by family members	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .395, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Restricted Social Life	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .075, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Controlling women bodies by keeping them short of money	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .001, $p < .05$)	Significant
Locking women inside house	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .307, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Threatened by fist, hand or foot	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .010, $p < .05$)	Significant
Weapons or objects	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .498, $p > .05$)	Insignificant

Kicked or throwing things	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .455, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Threatened to kill children	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .411, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Grabbed, punched and choked	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .851, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Punishing women by hitting children in front of mothers	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .005, $p < .05$)	Significant
Increase in physical violence against in past years	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .887, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Felt afraid of life partners	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .066, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Monitoring of cell phones	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .081, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Allowing to dress as they like	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .003, $p < .05$)	Significant
Threatened to commit suicide	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .142, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Ignoring of requests constantly	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .137, $p > .05$)	Insignificant

Source: Computed by the authors

It is found under the themes of—(d, f, k, o)—that there is a significant difference or disparity between the variable financial effects of pandemic on families and acts of male dominance, which means that these variables are dependent on each other as the p value is less than 0.05. These themes show a direct relationship between severe financial loss of families and the increasing acts of dominance like control of women bodies, threats, punishments and not allowing women to wear a dress of their choice. Besides, it is found that financial impact of pandemic and these themes of domestic violence (a, b, e, g, h, l, j, l, m, n, p, q) are independent of each other. The results indicate that there is an insignificant statistical relationship between these variables. It means that these acts of patriarchy were present from earlier within the families of Kashmir. It also states that financial implications of pandemic aren't responsible for accelerating the domestic violence but domestic violence has taken deep roots in the region. The results of the present study challenge the assumption that eagerness to flatten the curve and limit the spread of coronavirus, government-instituted lockdowns endangered the lives of millions of women, particularly in the absence of legal measures against the rising violence against women (Kamadar, 2020).

To examine whether there exists a relationship between job loss and domestic violence in Kashmir. The below mentioned table (Table 7) highlights the themes, results and remarks of the tests conducted:

Table 7: Personal Communications, 2020

Themes	Results	Statistical Significance
Shouting, screaming, and swearing upon the female partner	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .016, $p < .05$)	Significant
Constant criticism by family members	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .098, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Restricted social life	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .160, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Controlling women bodies by keeping them short of money	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .001, $p < .05$)	Significant
Locking women inside house	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .019, $p < .05$)	Significant
Threatened by fist, hand or foot	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .125, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Weapons or objects	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .070, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Kicked or throwing things	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .219, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Threatened to kill children	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .186, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Grabbed, punched and choked	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .617, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Punishing women by hitting children in front of mothers	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .006, $p < .05$);	Significant
Increase in physical violence against in past years	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .777, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Felt afraid of life partners	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .721, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Monitoring of cell phones	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .482, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Allowing to dress as they like	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = 640, $p > .05$)	Insignificant
Threatened to commit suicide	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .025, $p < .05$)	Significant
Ignoring of requests constantly	(χ^2 (4, N = 210) = .864, $p > .05$).	Insignificant

Source: Computed by the authors

It is found under the themes of—(a, d, e, k, p)—that there is a significant difference or disparity between the variable of job loss and acts of domestic violence, which means that these variables

are dependent on each other as the p value is less than 0.05. Besides, it is found that job loss and the themes of domestic violence (b, c, f, g, h, i, j, l, m, n, o, q) are independent of each other. The results indicate that there is an insignificant statistical relationship between the variables of job loss and domestic violence. Again, we get the concrete stuff about the omnipresence of domestic violence irrespective of job loss due to covid-19.

The support systems in place (Government/Non-government) to deal with cases of domestic violence are very rare in Kashmir. However, the government has established too little institutions to cater to the problem of domestic violence. The responses of women were as follows: 55 per cent among women were unaware of the state-sponsored domestic violence eradication cells like women police stations, online helpline numbers, etc. However, among the remaining 45 per cent, who were informed of such governmental facilities, 94 per cent have contacted officials in charge of these stations. It is found that only 62 percent have felt safe to contact concerned authorities. There are social stigmas attached to visiting women to police stations and the presence of conflict in the region also hinders the progress of people to police contacts. It is found that only 42 per cent of women were satisfied with the outcomes of cases. From the above analysis, it is clear that there were societal pressures amongst others which play a vital role in undermining the needs of women, especially, the ones they do need during and aftermath of domestic violence. Different terms are invented to stop women from seeking the help of police or any other organisations in the name of self-respect, respect of your reputed family, the dignity of children, and other social denunciations.

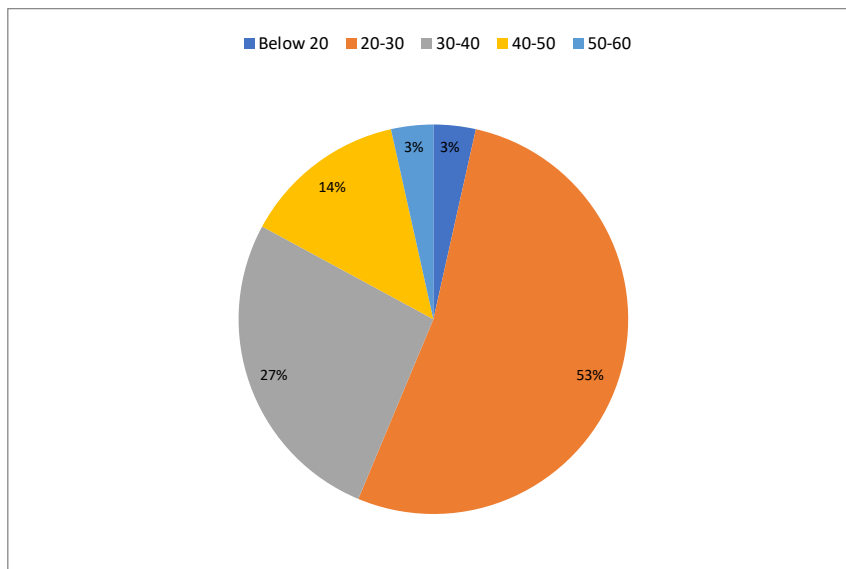


Fig. 1: Age of Respondents (Source: Computed by the authors)

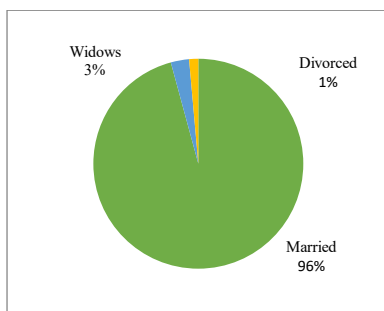


Fig. 2: Marital status
(Source: Computed by the authors)

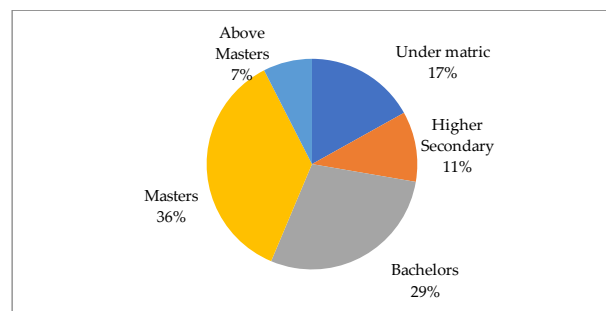


Fig. 3: Educational Qualification
(Source: Computed by the authors)

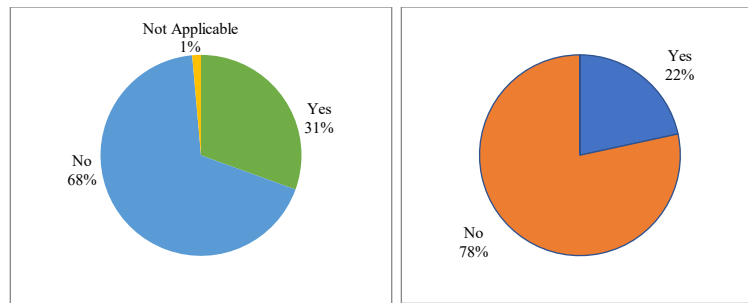


Fig. 4: (a) Employment Status of the spouse (b)Participant's personal employment status
(Source: Computed by the authors)

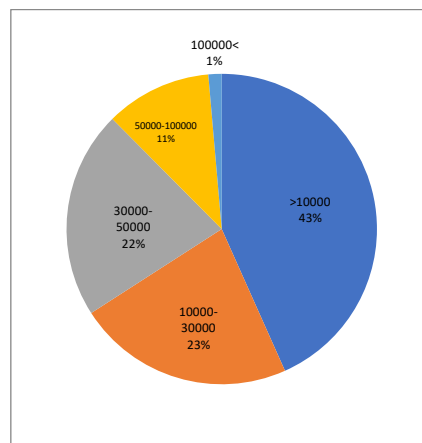


Fig. 5: Income

(Source: Computed by the authors)

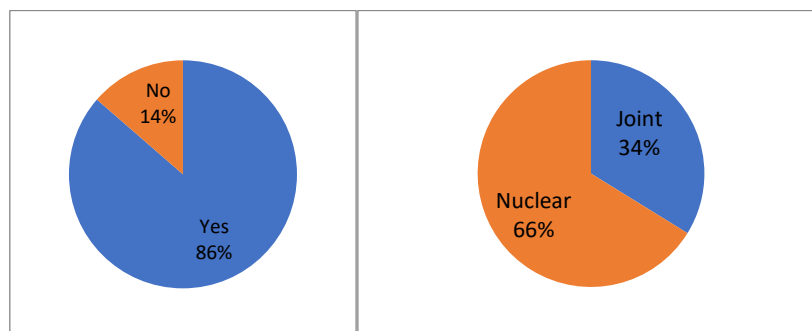


Fig. 6: (a) Children status (b) Family Type

(Source: Computed by the authors)

Civil society organizations are deeply embedded in human civilization and are continuously supplementing the work of governmental agencies. As their involvement at grass root level has been exceedingly cherished. They fulfil a significant role and responsibility in times of natural or other calamities, principally the pace with which they keep themselves to provide quick relief to the human miseries. All this adds to their advantage over governmental agencies. Taking note of civil society organisations/Mohalla Committee, panchayats, or consulting some elderly person, only 9 percent of women have taken recourse to it so far. Here again, it was found that the patriarchic mindset plays a vital role in sustaining the nuisance of domestic violence in Kashmir. On further introspection, it was found that if a woman seeks advice from his fellows or an elderly

person, either she is stopped from acting to be bold in hazardous situations as such or she faces harassment from the people she seeks advice.

9.0 Conclusion:

To conclude, we can say that the lockdown has increased the domestic violence throughout the globe (The Hindu, 2020). In India domestic violence has also taken an upper hand. Jammu and Kashmir, especially Kashmir (a region to which the present study is confined); it is clear from the empirical data that the domestic violence against women has increased manifold since the imposition of the lockdown. People have become jobless which has directly impacted the psychological makeup and economic structure of the families. The economic structure of family has direct correlation with the domestic violence against women. The study has found that the reason behind the acceleration of domestic violence in Kashmir economic receding of families. Women within families are tortured and abused because of the economic anxieties created by COVID 19 crisis. Besides, governmental and non-governmental organizations, which can help the women to come out of the trauma of violence, are very few in number.

10.0 Major Findings:

- It is found that minimum age group is between fewer than 20 and above 50 years i.e. 3% respectively and maximum age group is between 20-30 years i.e. 53%. It means Kashmir is having a good number of adult women populations which could become a significant factor in the economic development and socio-political equality in region.
- It is found that marriage provides a legitimate space for oppression and subjugation of female bodies in Kashmiri family structure.
- It is been found that age is instrumental in creating domestic violence acts like threatened by fist, hand or foot, weapons or objects; monitoring of cell phones and allowing women to dress as they like.
- However, the study also found that many other acts/methods of domestic violence are not dependent on the age of women. These acts are inalienable to patriarchic mindset of society like Kashmir.
- It is has been found that women with good educational background don't witness horrible acts of domestic violence from their family members.
- It can be proposed that in order to minimise domestic violence, it is important to strengthen the educational background of the women, as the latter will strengthen their economic status and the economic stability plays a vital role in halting domestic violence.
- The data supplements the general Marxist belief that economy determines the superstructure of the society. The results suggest that there is a direct relationship between the income structure of families and domestic violence in Kashmir.
- It is found that family (both Joint and nuclear) is central in sustaining the domestic violence in Kashmir which is against conventional belief of joint family as the main institution of domestic violence.
- A direct relationship between severe financial loss of families due to pandemic and the acts of dominance like control of women bodies, threats, punishments and not allowing women to wear a dress of their choice is commonly found in the study.
- It shows that these acts of patriarchy were present in Kashmir before the start of the pandemic.
- It is found that job loss suffered due to covid-19 lockdown lead to increased acts of domestic violence in Kashmir. It has accelerated acts like: shouting, screaming, and swearing upon the female partner; controlling women bodies by keeping them short of

money; locking women inside house; punishing women by hitting children in front of mothers; and threatened to commit suicide.

11.0 Suggestions:

- To avoid the unequal exchange within families, government must provide employment and economic opportunities to the women workforce available in Kashmir. Besides, government of Kashmir needs to implement more schemes like Integrated Child Development Schemes (ICDS), handicrafts, self-help group loans, self-employment schemes, the National Equity Fund Scheme (NEFS), and others. If all of these schemes are implemented properly, it will enhance the economic freedom of women which would automatically strengthen their position in the family. Besides, new schemes need to be approved by the governments which are pro-women in nature.
- The religious, political and other leaders of charisma need to engage to impart education among the masses about the deadly impact of domestic violence.
- State authorities must pass different laws to effect which would provide a reasonable space for the privacy of women. All those who breach privacy must be punished.
- The state needs to strengthen the policing and surveillance measures in every district of Kashmir like installation of a close proximity between people and police, installation of CCTV cameras in all those families of which any member launches a complaint of male-oppression or dominance, to have a close vigil on the activities of family.
- A 24x7 toll free helpline number for these cases needs to be opened up in every district of Kashmir to halt any possible miscarriage in delivering the justice to the women.
- To eradicate the domestic violence, we need to educate women to strengthen their economic position in family.
- Creating public awareness campaigns to raise awareness about the impact of domestic violence on familial stability, mental health and dignity of human beings, is the dire need to look for in Kashmir.
- In every district, mobile courts (like Nayaya Panchayats) specific to domestic violence cases need to be opened up.
- There is absence of some basic facilities which other states of India have opted for. So, the state authorities need to provide some basic income scheme for all those who are out of a job now due to the pandemic as the study shows, at least unless the pandemic ends.
- The government of Jammu and Kashmir needs to collaborate with more non-governmental organisations to educate the masses about the deadly impact of domestic violence.
- The state government needs to make developmental discourse local as those (men or women) who are going to take part in it will safer especially till the end of the pandemic.

12.0 Limitations of the study:

In between the data collection and analysis period, researchers faced many problems which are enumerated below:

- It was difficult to connect to the 21 participants from each district amidst of COVID-19 crisis. However, the researchers connected their university friends who were residing in the district of which samples were taken into consideration made this study feasible.

- Most of the females were not aware of this online survey system which ultimately created a suspicious behavior among them about the study. However, the note mentioned in the inception of the questionnaire was able to fill this void to some extent.
- Any question that they were not comfortable answering was left blank but they were of significant value to the research.
- It was not possible to observe and monitor the behavior of respondents online.
- Most of the respondent's family members assisted the participants in making them understand the authentic connotation of the questions, due to which respondents could not provide accurate information about their problems in a free and fair manner.
- Many of the females were not included in the study to express their views about the problems which they have faced during the lockdown because our respondents comprised of the literate strata of society only.
- State-imposed lockdown affected the work because the husbands or the family members of the participants were staying home to stay safe which made it a bit complicated.
- Some respondents felt it pointless and futile exercise because of the domestic chores which they were busy with.
- The researcher themselves faced too much difficulty because of the non-availability of high-speed internet.
- However, due to the non-availability of cell phones, many women who were willing to answer the questionnaire but were unable to participate.

13.0 Directions for Future Research:

The present study was limited to a great extent because it was confined to the literate class only; consequently, it is found that it needs a thorough study for which data needs to be collected from the field in an offline mode. However, that needs not to be confined to the Kashmir region but must include the Jammu region as well. Besides, field observations needs to be taken care of so that nothing is buried under the carpet.

End Note

¹ Patriarchic acts of men are those acts which a male person does in order to maintain hierarchy of power in family and make females subjugated and subject to him, or in other words, it stands for acts of male dominance in modern societies.

² χ^2 = Chi-square, degree of freedom (df)=number of categories minus one (5-1=4), N=number of valid cases=210, Probability Value (P)= less than 0.05

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