

Empowering the Runaway Women: A fight against Violence

Empoderando a las mujeres fugitivas: una lucha contra la violencia

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the factors behind the runaway women and the untapped phenomenon of family structures where such incidents are reported. We used broader concept of women empowerment to explore the runaway causes through the provision of living, wage jobs, education, medical and health facilities in targeted population. The respondents are selected from the shelter homes of Punjab province in Pakistan where data are collected through in-depth interviews from the Runaway women and the management of different shelter homes. The transformation of data is conducted through thematic analysis. Our result indicates that domestic violence, physical & sexual abuses, life threats, and forced marriages are the reasons behind women's runaway. The shelter homes' management added that illiteracy and perceived destructive role of media are the additional causes in runaway incidents. Our results provide important insights on backdrop of women runaways in developing societies. Accordingly, there is an immediate need for the government and social policy agencies to take cohesive measures to support socially affected women at their door step in order to minimize such social violence.

Keywords: Empowerment, Runaway, Women, Violence, Abuses

RESUMEN

Este artículo investiga los factores detrás de las mujeres fugitivas y el fenómeno sin explotar de las estructuras familiares donde se informan tales incidentes. Utilizamos un concepto más amplio de empoderamiento de las mujeres para explorar las causas fugitivas a través de la provisión de vida, empleos asalariados, educación, servicios médicos y de salud en la población destinataria. Los encuestados son seleccionados de los hogares de acogida de la provincia de Punjab en Pakistán, donde se recopilan datos a través de entrevistas en profundidad de las mujeres fugitivas y la gestión de diferentes hogares de refugio. La transformación de los datos se realiza mediante análisis temático. Nuestro resultado indica que la violencia doméstica, los abusos físicos y sexuales, las amenazas a la vida y los matrimonios forzados son las razones del fugitivo de las mujeres. La administración de las casas de acogida agregó que el analfabetismo y el papel destructivo percibido de los medios son las causas adicionales de los incidentes fugitivos. Nuestros resultados proporcionan información importante sobre el contexto de las mujeres fugitivas en las sociedades en desarrollo. En consecuencia, existe una necesidad inmediata de que el gobierno y las agencias de política social tomen medidas cohesivas para apoyar a las mujeres socialmente afectadas en su puerta para minimizar dicha violencia social.

Palabras clave: empoderamiento, fugitivo, mujeres, violencia, abusos

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1. Introduction

Women in Pakistan are the victims of honor killing, life threats, domestic violence, acid attacks, forced marriages, rapes and sexual harassments. Gender based abuses have become the hot issue. Where the people on media are talking about the empowerment of women, we are still trying to resolve the violence and abuses cases in Pakistan. A man made society of Pakistan is the clear picture of gender inequality. Due to illiteracy, women could not be independent and illiterate women have to depend on their husbands, brothers and fathers in every matter of life (Tonsing & Barn, 2017). The situation gets worst when the females start to face different kinds of abuses from their intimate partners. And as the violence becomes unbearable they have no choice except to run out of the critical situations.

Women had been facing a lot of discrimination and are the victims of violence in different nations. The feminist theories of violence in different ages explains that males have been playing the dominating role in the society from past till now without any unknown reasons and they use to abuse the women physically & sexually under his different mental states of mind like unemployment pressures, legal matters, depression, marital distortions and use of drugs. According to the (Strauss, 1994) huge difference in social inequalities, income inequalities and greater rate of assault is present among the 50 states of USA. Yudanis (2004) in his research empirically tested the feminist theory and showed that the gender inequality is positively associated with the violence against women and also explained that the male role of dominancy is considered natural and male use his role in controlling the woman like his subordinate and the woman fear adds necessary role in this whole process of dominancy.

Runaway is not an easy target for a woman in male dominant society. To put even a one step out of her home for a woman is really a crucial step especially in the countries like Pakistan. Mostly women are dependent on their intimate relations due to the patriarchal culture prevailing in the Pakistan, which is considered as the 3rd most threatening country in case of women (Hadi, 2017). The social status of such runaway women lost as they leave homes. The "Home" for the women has worth meaning, some say home is the collaboration of responsibilities, some feel great satisfaction and comfort at home but on the dark side, the meaning of home for the runaways is center of violence and place of sexual assault (Mendelson, Turner, & Tandon, 2010).

The girls usually left their homes due to certain reasons that may be oppression at home, family dysfunction and parent neglect. The 60% of boys and 45% of girls use to run away from their homes due to sexual abuse whereas the runaway decision victimize them more rather their safety (Edinburgh, 2012). The strict behaviors and punishments from parents to the teens are also the cause of running away from homes. One of the main considerations of runaway among American runaway women incorporates abusive behavior at home. Role of family infrastructure and parenting is worth important in forming the bonding between parents and children, if this bond gets weak, this usually affect the mental health of the children and cause disturbance and insecurity among them.

Empowerment of woman in positive meaning, strengthen her. Women needs empowerment in every aspect either it is legal, economical or social. In the Third world countries the women are deprived from their basic rights and even they are the victims of gender inequality. The Chad, Yemen and Pakistan are the countries which are in the top of the list of gender gaps and lies in the bottom of Gender gap index in the world's economic forum (Samarakoon & Parinduri, 2015). The runaways need a proper physical and psychological health care services as well as the economic and legal protection but in this era where normal human being is under the crises and living in the rented houses the incidents of runaways are increasing day by day and the shelter homes have shortage of capacities (Aratani, 2009)

Now a day's every woman is talking about her strengths and right the why not the homeless women? They need rights protection more as compared to normal resident women, more education to develop self esteem and more jobs to stabilize their lives and more physical and psychological health care's. The run away or homeless individual are always at more health risk (James, Farrow, Robert & Deisher, 1986). Women empowerment and economic development are interrelated to each other (Dufflo, 2012). Runaway women needs more help in standing back in the society which could be possible through empowering them by providing them confidence to earn, confidence to fight back and even the confidence to stand alone in the society

Pakistan is ranked 3rd in the world in case of women violence (HRC Pakistan, 2015) increasing the incidence of their exploitation and abuse, and violence against them. However, 2015 also turned out to be a year of many firsts for women in Pakistan: the first fire fighter; the first truck driver; the first female rickshaw driver; the first speakers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan assemblies; and the first UN Goodwill ambassador from Pakistan, among many others. Economic and social rights (Opportunities and challenges but fewer studies are addressing the problems of runaway women. Shelter homes in Punjab, Pakistan are allowed to keep only 50 women whereas due to shortage of capacity the administration tries to reconcile them with their families to adjust more intakes. This process of reconciliation creates more frustration among women rather than solution of their problems. So

to empower women is much important rather than reconciliation. The critical theory (Marxist and neo-Marxist and feminist theory) is the basis to give possible solutions to stand the runaways against the social constraints (Horkheimer, 1982). The focus of the study is (1). To explore the factors of violence due to which the incidents of runaways are escalating and (2). To explore the established patterns to empower the runaway women

2. Literature Review

The gender bases abuses could be better understandable by reading out the ecological framework of violence against women. The ecological framework provides the necessary conditions on the bases of which the partner abuses happened often and also help in understanding that why the woman is the victim always. According to the (Heise, 1998) in ecological framework of violence against women the males play the dominant role in the society and whenever he is under pressure either due to the use of alcohol, due to job stress, poverty, couple arguments or due to his own psychological dominance behavior he used to physically abuse her life partner. The runaway incident is spreading worldwide now having multidisciplinary issue, this is highlighted when the minor under 18 years left his home without the permission of her parents (G & Gadkar, 2015).

The runaway is an umbrella which covers the all women who are living without nuclear families, they are usually runaway by themselves or thrown away from homes by relatives (Ausikaitis, 2014). Mostly cases of runaway women complain about gender violence which include sexual harassment, sex trafficking and prostitution etc Women use to run away from home due to forceful marriages and sometimes due to gender abuses (Wimpelmann, 2017). The runaway male and females usually get rejections from their families care takers and etc and sometimes they are abused by someone that's the reason they are suffering from severe mental illness, obviously the mental status of the youth living with family and the youth with family rejections will be different. Sometimes the marriages without the consent of the females cause the runaway of that female, in some regions there is tradition of marriage on the consent of parents and the parents of male bring their daughter in law not for their son but for the happiness of the whole family as she will do households work and the family would be satisfied, this phenomenon creates disturbance for the women and they prefer to leave home rather than to marry that person to whom she doesn't like (Butt, 2001) .

The reasons of running away in Japan's wives are the difference in their dreams, expectations and actual practical life. The highly qualifies women often feel disgusting in washing dishes and changing diapers and even after giving many years to her family she use to quit and try to run away from this situation (Gordon, 2015). The slave house maids or servants also use to run away from homes due to oppressions or high burdens of household work at home. Kurth (2016) briefly explain that in the Hudson valley Africa the Negro slaves are use to live for in the houses for household work they include the both genders male and female and they are black and usually runaway from the home of the owner due to oppression and violence and also stole some goods for this purpose.

The runaway from home is very critical issue because woman is sensitive by nature and usually depend upon family brothers, father and husband, even to travel alone in the Asian countries is not safe for women then it's quite impossible to run away without any solid reason (Yang, Khoo-Lattimore& Arcodia, 2018) this study explores how Asian women perceive and negotiate the risks of travelling alone and the meanings of these processes. The lived experiences of 35 solo female travellers from 10 East and Southeast Asian countries were analysed using constructivist grounded theory. The findings reveal that Asian solo female travellers were concerned about gendered (e.g. sexual assault and street harassment. According to the report of (Minnesota Department of Human Services, n.d.) the Minnesota Runaway and Homeless Youth Coalition was formed in 1998 in USA foster the empowerment of runaways and homeless youth the major goals of this center are to create such services that these runaways could return to their families, to establish the employment opportunities, medical facilities and education to the run away so that they could get independency and to promote the government and private sectors in establishing the shelter houses for such run away community

Jibeen (2014) explained in her article that in Pakistan the concept of runaway is different than the western economies, the child below age 18 years (minor) if spends one day out of his home then it would be considered as runaway but in Pakistani economy the woman even at the age of 40 if leaves her home due to any reasons it would be considered a runaway woman. In an Asian country like Pakistan to leave the home for a girl or woman is considered as shameless attitude and society does not accept such women with these allegations. Yodanis (2004) empirically test the feminist theory of violence against women and not only validate the feminist theory but also clearly proved the relationship between gender inequality and physical and sexual abuse. So the matter is how such women would be able to stand against such inequalities without bearing such abuses.

Unlike the other literature on runaway which focus on the reasons and factors behind their runaway, our focus is mainly how such women could be empowered with all those violence they have faced before their runaway. We want to present the complete picture of the whole scenario, reasons before runaway and the possible solutions to fight against violence by empowering the runaway women. The way how to criticize the current social

phenomenon (what is right and what is wrong) and then providing the practicable solutions to stand against such social constraints is based upon critical theory (Horkheimer, 1982). For this purpose authors selected the Punjab which is the 2nd largest province of Pakistan in area ranking whereas it is also highly populated and can best represent the scenario of the whole country.

3. Research Methodology

Thematic analysis is done by using the qualitative approach to disclose the multiple realities. The selected population is the runaway women from the shelter homes of Punjab, which is the largest populous province of Pakistan and also considered as the province having the population with liberal social attitudes. Purposive sampling technique is used to target the sample of runaway women from the shelter homes of three adjacent cities of Punjab, Lahore, Sheikupura and Gujranwala (Tongco, 2007). The in-depth interviews were taken from 18 runaway women aged 14 to 35 and simultaneously from the management of the three shelter homes.

4. Findings

4.1. Domestic Violence against Women for Giving Birth to the Daughters

The violence by the husband is a matter of common in lower communities. These tools are inborn in lower community males. The Pakistani society is male dominating society. The matter of violence is now getting publicized by the media but still this problem exists. The male's genes are responsible for the birth of daughters but due to the lack of awareness and illiteracy the male denied to accept these ground realities. And one of the reasons of physical abuse on women is giving birth to the daughters (S. Ali, 2018)

"My husband was older than me and he used to beat and abuse me every time, this was his 2nd marriage to me and he always said why you have been giving birth to the daughters (3 daughters), I need a son" (Nergis)

"I have no kids since 10 years then I was conceived and gave birth to a daughter, my husband denied to accept her, he said that she is not mine, she is from someone else i.e., legitimate" (Mumtaz)

4.2. Physical Abuse

Unfortunately the domestic violence is considered as private matter (Ali & Gavino, 2008). But the families of the husband in the lower societies are also involved in physical violence and the victim is even not familiar with any law related to physical violence

"The brothers of my husband used to abuse me physically, when I complained about them to my husband, he remained silent and my mother in law said to me there is custom in our family that brothers in law can beat the wife of his brother and also said if they (brother in laws) can support your family financially they have a right to beat you as well" (Tasneem)

In the marriages where the husband's family is financially more secure as compared to the wife's family the respect of female is almost equal to zero:-

"My husband physically abused me often even he started to beat me from the 3rd day of my marriage. My parents did not support me because my father and brother are drugs addicted and my husband supports them financially" (Shiza)

4.3. Sexual Abuse

Our eastern society and Islamic views urge the women to obey her parents, brother and husband, the roots of Patriarchal system are embedded in our culture (Hadi, 2017) and women are following all that but the negative use of these roots are immoral, women are suppose to do whatever her husband, brothers or parents ask them to do:-

"My mother, uncle and younger brother forced me to do sex with the unknown persons, I also did whatever they forced me to do but now I have exhausted and when I refused to do further, they forced me to sign the stamp paper that you will further have no relation with our family and excluded me from my property rights" (Maryam)

In Pakistan the primary and lower middle class's society the males are usually accused of illegal relationships or extra marital affairs on their wives. The existence of marital rape is also observed (Painter, 1991)

"My husband used to beat me and abused me sexually every time even during menstrual cycle he has no control, he asked me to masturbate him, if I cannot do sex with him; I got exhausted from his attitude. He always said I am not fair in relationship with him and accused me that I am involved in sexual relations with the owner of home" (Nergis)

The women are victims of love sometimes; they run away from homes in love and trapped by her lover.

"I left my home in love with the brother of my sister in law (bhabhi), he said he will marry me but he did my rape along with his three friends and ran away. I am here through court. I am 8th month pregnant now and has filed suit against them, I cannot go out due to life threats" (Shumaila)

The pregnancy is another trauma on a women psychology after rape. There is 1% chances of women pregnancy after rape not because of woman biology but due to the rapist's preferences of sexual intercourse (Mahoney & Williams, 1998)

4.4. Forced Marriages

Islam gives the lesson that whenever the parents are going to take the marital decision of their child do asks from him/her and takes proper permission but in traditional systems gender biasness exists. Hadi (2017) Gender biasness always weaken the women status in the society.

"I love my neighbor but my mother was not agreed to marry me there so I ran away from home and married him, I have no regret" (Malaika)

Forced marriages are common factor in the society. The girls are usually forced emotionally or threatened to marry with the person she does not like

"I was in love with a Muslim guy but my parents sent him to the jail by taking false and by force statement from me in court that he tried to kidnap me, so that I could not marry him because I am Christian but after this they forced me to marry the person of their choice so I ran away from home and now I want to be Muslim and marry with the same boy" (Estel)

4.5. Life Threats and Honor Killing

The concept of honor killing is very common now, every year hundred of women are killed by their brothers, father due to honor breach (S. Ali, 2018). And if anyone save she run away from home due to fear and feel herself save in shelter home

"I said my mother I wanted divorce from my first husband and request her let me marry with my cousin but she did not agree and my brother tried to kill me by giving pills and locked the door from outside, my mouth was bleeding due to swallowing of pills and the whole floor was spoiled with the bleeding of my mouth entirely but Allah saved me from death" (Mumtaz)

4.6. Divorce is Considered as Shame

The divorce is the right of the woman when she is not satisfied with her relation. But the society does not accept such women as respectful women, the act of divorce is considered as shameful act (Tonsing & Barn, 2017).

"I applied for divorce from shelter home but my husband killed the owner of the home due to my court case to whom he accused me to have affair and the sons of owner of the home murdered my husband, now I am widow. I cannot go out because my life is in danger" (Nergis)

The information about the participants is given in the table#01 below

Table#01

Data bout Participants included in the study

Sr#	IDENTITY NAMES	Ages (years)	Qualification	Religion	Period of stay (Weeks)
1	NERGIS	35	Illiterate	Islam	32 weeks
2	MUMTAZ	25	Primary education	Islam	28 weeks
3	TASNEEM	32	Primary education	Islam	12 weeks
4	ESTLE	19	Secondary education	Christianity	2 weeks
5	SALMA	28	Illiterate	Islam	8 weeks

6	SHIZA	18	Secondary education	Islam	3 weeks
7	NUSRAT	20	Secondary education	Islam	12 weeks
8	SAMINA	26	Illiterate	Islam	4 weeks (2 nd time runaway)
9	KALSOOM	20	Secondary education	Islam	4 weeks
10	MARYAM	18	Intermediate	Islam	1 week
11	MARIA	21	Graduation	Islam	1 week
12	SHUMAILA	14	Primary education	Islam	04 weeks*
13	MALAIKA	17	Secondary education	Islam	1 week
14	SIDRA	23	Illiterate	Islam	4 weeks
15	SAMIA	20	Secondary education	Christianity	2 weeks
16	MADIHA	25	Illiterate	Islam	12 weeks
17	ASMAT	24	Illiterate	Islam	1 week
18	ASMA	16	Secondary education	Islam	1 week

* All the mentioned names are pseudo so that the privacy of the participants could be maintained

*Pregnant (8th month). She was under observation from 9 months in rehabilitation center.

Now sent to the shelter home 1 month ago (Multiple Rape case)

In the above mentioned table about 78% of the Participants falls within the age between 14-25 years and the remaining 22% falls between 25-35 years. The 89% of the runaway women out of the sample belong to the religion Islam whereas the 12% belongs to Christianity. The 33.33% women are illiterate even cannot write their own names whereas the 17% women have primary education. The secondary education is obtained by the 39% women whereas the 11% of the total sample having education more than secondary school. The maximum period of stay in shelter homes in Punjab is 12 weeks but in some cases the residents can stay more according to the orders of court but not permanently

Table#02

Data about Management's Participants included in the study

Sr#	city	Pseudo names	Identity names	qualification	designation
1	Labore	Ms Irum	M1	M.Phil	Head of the shelter home
2	Gujranwala	Ms Mehmaz	M2	M.Phil	Head of the shelter home
3	Sheikupura	Dr Saiqa	M3	Ph.D	Head of the shelter home

The above mentioned participants are the heads of their institutes BPS#17 and running the shelter homes. The qualifications of the heads are PhD and M.Phil simultaneously. The summary of findings is given in table#03

Table#03

Summary of findings

Sr#	Domestic violence against birth of daughters	Physical abuse	Sexual abuse	Forced marriages	Life threats/honor killings	Divorce is considered as shame
%age of cases	11%	72%	17%	28%	44%	33%

The summary given in the above table shows that the mostly cases belongs to physical abuse or physical violence

which are about 72% of the data collected and the life threats to the runaway women are 44% which hinders them in self supporting whereas the right of divorce is considered as shame and parents, usually brothers forced the runaway women not to get divorced and ask them to reconcile with the same person due to whom she already left her home. For unmarried girls or women the mostly cases belongs to the forced marriages in which parents are involved and without considering the likings and love of their daughter they supposed to forced them to marry with the person of their choice, such cases are the 28% of the total sample. The cases of sexual abuse are 17% and domestic violence due to giving birth to the daughters is 11% of the selected sample

5. Reasons behind Runaway in the Eye of Administration

5.1. *Weak Family Structures*

Management of all three shelters homes gives their opinion that the women who used to run out of their homes are the victims of weak bonding within the families like:-

“Family structures are being weakened day by day and we are not tolerating and supporting each other’s that’s why women run out of the situations”(M1)

Similarly the other said;-

“Bonding among the families are weakening, parents have no time for their daughters to listen them and to understand them” (M3)

5.2. *Perceived destructive Role of Media*

The girl who use to come here are usually illiterate and are impressive from media and perceived it destructively and want to get everything in her life in a day. Illiteracy is one of the cause of runaway causing influenced from media and on the other hand domestic violence is also the consequences of illiteracy (S. Ali, 2018)

“Media is playing very destructive role in spoiling the youth and parents have no idea what their daughters are watching on TV and mobile phones” (M3)

The woman makes the home but if she has forgotten her duties and tradition then the society get spoiled

“Now the women are leaving their traditions and forgetting the difference between the right and wrong instead of constructivism they are creating destruction. Every woman wants that she becomes rich in a day, she can get bungalow car and everything and in order to fulfill these purposes she is leaving behind her customs and this is just because of media. Every society gets destructive when it leaves its roots, we are Muslims but we have forgotten” (M 2)

5.3. *Illiteracy among Women*

Low literacy rate in Pakistan is one of the causes of domestic violence. Women bear violence because she cannot earn. Researcher said as compared to educated males the uneducated males are more involved in domestic violence cases in north Pakistan (S. Ali, 2018).

“As you have taken interviews, mostly women are illiterate, they are totally dependent upon their husbands, father and brothers but when they faced violence from their side they leave their home in search of new life partner and think that new life partner may be able to secure them”(M3)

Table#04 Summary of findings

Sr#	Weak family structure	Influential role of media	Illiteracy among women
%age of cases	100%	28%	55%

**Illiteracy= illiterate and primary education*

The all above mentioned cases are the picture of weak family structure whereas the 28% girls are influenced by the media and runaway for love marriages and 55% women are considered as illiterate among the sample

6. Discussion

The runaway stories highlighted that women are the victims of abuses and that is just because of gender discriminations existing in the society. This proves the feminist theory of violence against women that the social inequalities are positivity associated with the violence on women. Women in our culture are weak in every perspective. They have no proper education to stand up even no trainings to earn. They are totally dependent upon husbands, brothers and father for fulfilling their basic needs. Whenever women face violence from their partner, they do not get any support from their parental families and they reach to shelter homes. The shelter homes of Punjab have the capacity of accommodating just 50 women at a same time but the number of women who are willing for shelters are 70 per day. But when the women get shelter the problems of them never solved rather increased. The story never ends here, such women remains restless, they have life threats, they are the mothers feeling pain for their kids. Shelter homes are just providing them temporary shelter for 3 months and after that duration they have no safety. The administration of the shelter homes said that family systems are weakening day by day due to the less tolerance. The women have no tolerance so they leave homes whereas the young girls have love affairs and that is just because of perceived negative effects of media. Physical violence cases are more as compared to the other cases in runaway women while the forced marriages are the least.

In 2017 the Punjab government designed the Punjab's women protection authority under act 2017 which included the four chairperson including two females, the purpose of the authority was to protect the women rights, rehabilitate the victims etc. There are various laws made by the government for the protection of women rights but the hurdles in the implementation of these laws still exist even domestic violence is not well defined in the law. Women are totally unaware of their legal rights. They don't file the suit against their husbands for physical and sexual abuses.

They don't even file a FIR against their brothers for life threats and even do not demand for legal property rights. When the woman approaches the shelter home, a legal advisor is provided to her for the solution of her legal matters but still they are not agree to file a suit against any violence. The mostly legal cases which are handled in shelter homes are related to divorce matters. The returning back to their homes spread the fear in women. They are not mentally prepared to go back and reconcile. The cases of extramarital affairs usually file a divorce others wait for reconciliation and for betterment of their husbands. The women are mentally and physically weak even they have poor in religious knowledge

7. Conclusion and Recommendation

Runaway women are the victims of delayed justice under the improper and weak law enforcements. Nobody cares, nobody is here to serve the community and working for humanity just formalities are fulfilling. According to the global Gender Gap the Pakistan is ranked 143 out of 145 countries. And according to the World Bank report which title is "Women, business and Law 2016" claimed that Pakistan has 14 laws which hinder the economic empowerment of women. The Pakistani society is still working under feudal system and tribe system and there is an urgent need to understand the violence dynamics for a policy makers so that it could be properly planned and practically implemented (Ali & Gavino, 2008). Being abused to the women is really a humiliating behavior for her. The supportive responses towards abusive women help her to uplift herself again (Tonsing & Barn, 2017). The organization must execute the policies made by the government for the protection of the women. Government grants are few and mostly shelter homes are running on donation to facilitate the system of protection. Women protection clause in the annual budget is recommended to be introduced.

The pattern of social inequalities must be changed to control the women violence (Dobash & Dobash, 1979). Media should play the positive role by spreading awareness to the women about their rights rather than playing its destructive role. Awareness related campaigns must be promoted through media (Khan & Ahmed, 2016). Family matters of family should be resolved within the premises of home (Rashid, 2016). The runaway women could be empowered through self help policies which mean that they should be properly trained in such a way that they gain experience and could be able to earn in future. The employment provision projects of homeless must effective that women could earn under safe environment (Tanekenov, 2013). There must be regular legal awareness session with legal support whenever any women need of it in shelter homes

Lack of education and awareness are the major reasons of violence which can be reduced by awareness and dialogue raising programs introduced by the institution like NGOs, implementation of legal reforms against the women violence should be properly administered (Karmaliani,Asad,Khan,Bawani,Ali, Jones,Gupta,Allana,Maqbool & Walker, 2107) . Proper education system is no doubt a difficult task for government but all runaway women do not fall under the over age problems, some teens are also present in shelter homes, so the proper education system must be introduced even the schools of “*Taleem Balghan*” could be promoted there. Role of education could be done by starting awareness campaign through media and different NGOs (S. Ali, 2018).

No doubt the women are facing domestic violence but along with it they are also facing external barriers in reporting the domestic violence (Kurien, 2001). All the social evils against women are existing in Pakistan and there is a huge gap between the laws and practice in Pakistan (Mustafa, 2017). The men, who are the responsible for such violence must be psychologically counseled as well, there must be proper sentenced for such males. There is no proper FIR system against sexual violence by the intimate partner under the women protection law. The government should provide free legal facilities or aids at district level to facilitate the victims (Pakeeza, 2015). The act of women running away from homes represents the weak social, cultural and legal system prevailing in Pakistan, there is no proper laws especially for runaway women (Hussain, 2014). The parents psychological training programs should be introduced (Jibeen, 2014). Overall approaches used by the government for the empowerment are insufficient as the government shelter homes are far less than the input. Permanent shelters are to be recommended as compared to the temporary 3 months shelter. Another study conducted in USA also recommended that Government should provide the victims from temporary shelter to permanent shelters for survival (Perl et al., 2015). Further research could be done on the barriers in implementation of the women protection law and services. The (Ali & Gavino, 2008) has given the intrinsic as well as socio-cultural factors involved in the violence against women but there they left the room for further deep studies that why the violence is not going to be eliminated why the gender discrimination is not overcoming, they point out the policy makers to make policies but do not refer any policy.

Ethical Consideration

All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee. The Authors considered the avoiding of their participants from any type of psychological harm, social harm and financial harm (DiCicco &Crabtree, 2006). One of the psychologists from the shelter homes were accompanied the authors for the psychological well being of the participants.

The women involved under the study were agreed in sharing their data and written informed consent was signed by the organization's heads as well as the all participants

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