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A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF GROUNDS AND AFTERMATH OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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Abstract

Domestic Violence (DV) poses a complex and enduring social dilemma, profoundly affecting individuals across various dimensions, from physical to psychological realms. In the context of Pakistan, a country witnessing a consistent rise in domestic violence cases, the COVID-19 lockdowns intended for containment inadvertently led to a surge in DV incidents. This study aims to unravel the driving forces behind DV and comprehend its profound impacts on the affected individuals. The research, conducted through online surveys with 125 women who were either victims or witnesses of DV, unfolded critical findings. Economic dependency emerged as a significant driver of DV, particularly when women were financially reliant on their partners. Post-COVID-19, financial constraints further intensified DV cases. The study revealed a substantial impact of DV on anxiety and Fear, with participants highlighting severe repercussions on their mental health. Shockingly, nearly 50% expressed contemplation of self-harm due to DV. The study underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions addressing economic disparities and financial constraints exacerbated by the pandemic. It illuminates the pressing requirement for comprehensive strategies to alleviate the pervasive impact of DV on mental health, emphasizing the gravity of the issue for both immediate and long-term societal well-being.

Keywords: Aftermath, Domestic Violence, Grounds.

Introduction

Women across societies often face various forms of violence, including verbal, physical, and sexual abuse, making it a global concern. Statistics reveal that one in seven women experiences physical abuse from their partners (Ashraf & Abrar-ul-Haq, 2017). This pervasive issue begins in childhood, leading to adverse effects on mental and physical health. The repercussions extend to their lives and children, threatening societal well-being (Lombard & Mcmillan, 2013). In Pakistan, where societal norms often limit women's rights, the prevalence of violence is particularly critical, especially in rural

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areas where a significant portion of the female population resides (Ashraf & Abrar-ul-Haq, 2017).

According to the World Bank, domestic violence poses a more serious threat to women's health and well-being than cancer, traffic accidents, and malaria combined. The long-term impact includes physical disability, mental health issues, drug and alcohol dependence, and depression. Pakistan has implemented a comprehensive legal framework, including the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2012, to address and criminalize violence against women (Zakar & Zakar, 2016).

Research Scope

The scope of this research is to understand the constituents that are playing its role in amplifying domestic violence and the aftereffects of it on the physical and mental prosperity of the victim; this also includes the role of COVID-19, whether it has a positive or negative impact on the relationship between the cause and the reason along with its aftermath.

The study will be conducted by surveying the victims and witnesses of domestic violence through pre-developed questionnaires incorporating various constituents of domestic violence. After testifying all the results obtained by victims and witnesses, recommendations will be provided to help other researchers who will take this research further by incorporating or changing its conceptual framework.

Research Gap

Despite extensive research on domestic violence, a gap exists in understanding the grounds and aftermath comprehensively within a single study. This study aims to contribute by exploring the intricate relationship between the root causes and the consequences of domestic violence. Additionally, the research introduces a novel perspective by incorporating COVID-19 as a moderator to illustrate the strength of the relationship between dependent and independent variables and its impact on the aftermath of domestic violence.

Research Questions

The study seeks to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the grounds behind the occurrence of domestic violence?
2. What are the consequences domestic violence could have on women?
3. Has COVID-19 played a role in exacerbating the condition of domestic violence?

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Research Objectives

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

- Identify the driving factors of domestic violence.
- Determine the impact of financial issues on the prevalence of domestic violence.
- Analyze the moderating role of COVID-19 in household violence.
- Study the aftermath of domestic violence on the mental and physical well-being of women in Pakistan.

Research Hypotheses

The study examines the following hypotheses:

H_1: Domestic Violence is dependent on financial constraints.

H_2: Domestic Violence is related to Economic Dependency.

H_3: Victims of DV have anxiety and Fear issues with their partners.

H_4: Mental Health is worsened due to Domestic Violence.

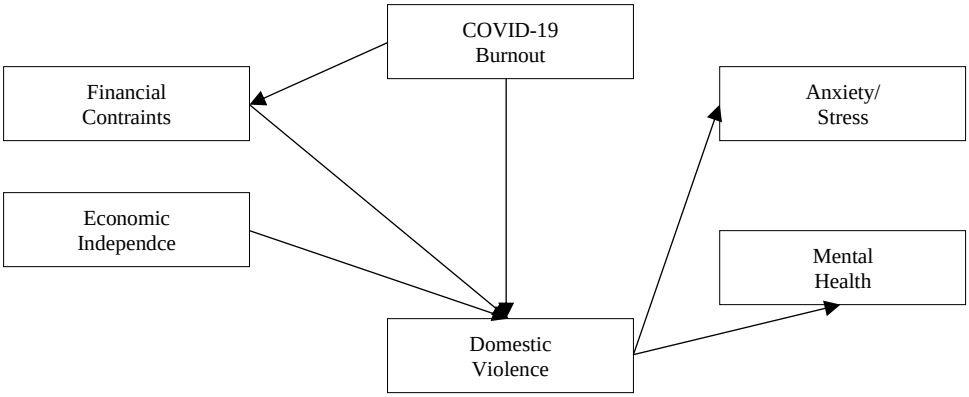
H_5: COVID-19 has further deteriorated the condition of DV and has surged the cases.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of this study is based on several established theories and points of view regarding the causes and manifestations of domestic violence (DV). The study applies social and psychological theories to comprehend the intricate dynamics of domestic violence and its aftermath. According to Bandura's (1977) Social Learning Theory, people pick up behaviors—including aggressive ones—by imitating and observing others. According to the theory of domestic violence, violent behavior may persist in people who have witnessed violence in their families or the community. While acknowledging the gendered aspect of domestic violence, feminist theory, as presented by Hooks (2000), emphasizes power disparities and cultural norms that support the victimization of women. It offers guidelines for looking into economic dependence and financial hardships as potential sources of domestic violence. The theory of strain, which is based on Merton's 1938 research, asserts that social structures and injustices can lead to stress, which can then cause people to act in ways that are inconsistent with their character. Relationship tension and potential domestic violence can result from financial constraints and other economic factors. Ecological Systems Theory (Bronfenbrenner, 1979) attempts to explain how various factors affect the incidence and consequences of domestic violence by considering the interaction between people and their surroundings. Health Belief Model (Rosenstock, 1974): Research on the psychological effects of domestic violence, such as anxiety and Fear, follows this model,

which is applied in public health studies. The notion of intersectionality, first proposed by Crenshaw in 1989, helps to understand how factors like gender, economic status, and the COVID-19 pandemic intersect with the experience of domestic violence. The study attempts to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex aspects of domestic violence (DV) by integrating these theoretical perspectives and examining the underlying causes, immediate effects, and subtle interactions between various contributing factors.

Conceptual Framework



Research Significance

Domestic violence is a fact that has been prevalent for ages and has its deepest roots in the sub-continent. People usually do not want to speak much about this, further intensifying this act. Due to this, the significance of this research increased to demonstrate the cause with all possible grounds and aftermath and to provide the result to that sector trying to develop a law and procedures to reduce and discourage this erroneous act. This can only be done by deeply understanding the root cause and what led to mental burnout, developing such practices, and casting out the probable causes that may play a catalytic role.

Furthermore, in this modern era where many new factors have come into play a role, the current trend of economic independence has been boosted in the minds of females, and they struggle to get independence, which sometimes becomes a major problem which, subsequently, led into violence upon not achieving the desired outcome. Considering this, the significance of this study has greatly increased to relate modern lifestyle and modern trends to domestic violence.

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Literature Review

Domestic Violence

"Domestic Violence (DV)" includes the violence committed by an intimate partner or a family member towards another member of the same family. The majority of the current global evidence emphasizes "Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), which is known to be a subset of DV. (Hawcroft et al., 2019). As stated in the study of Jura & Bukaliya (2015), DV can be defined as power abuse in relationships exhibited through exertions of verbal, sexual, physical, emotional, and psychological control. This sort of attitude is seen to repeat itself in several events, and if it is not controlled through professional interventions, it could become uncontrollable within some period. (Jura & Bukaliya, 2015).

DV has disproportionately affected women, with about one in every three women victimized either through sexual or physical means over their life period. (Devries et al., 2013). It is an issue having epidemic proportions and having severe and far-reaching adverse impacts on the victims and the society in which it is carried out. DV or IPV can result in serious injury or mental disorder, and in some severe cases, it may result in death. The lethal consequence of DV is evident tragically in the media reports, which explain the steady homicide stream against the victims or the person who is trying to save them. (Ganley, 2010). As per estimation, about 70-90% of the women in Pakistan have been subjected to DV.

Domestic Violence Forms

DV can be expressed in several ways, and some general forms are described here. The most commonly reported form of DV is physical abuse. It is referred to as an abuse form that causes injuries to individuals. (Kapur, 2020). Thus, it can be stated that physical violence is any intentional contact that may result in discomfort, pain, or injury. It can have short-term and long-term effects. (Dubowitz, 2012). In comparison, sexual violence encompasses any sexual contact without obtaining consent from the partner or the victim. (Jura & Bukaliya, 2015).

Sexuality largely identifies the character of an individual as a person, and when the person is attacked sexually, it can affect the character of the victim. Sexual abuse because of cultural aspects (that does not allow a person to discuss the spouse's intimacy) is often less reported than physical abuse. Other forms of DV include financial abuse (in which the partner controls the victim's financial activities) and social abuse (restricting the victim from making or meeting friends). Stalking and Harassment are also considered to be forms of DV, as these attitudes result in harmful and adverse results for the victims. (Jura & Bukaliya, 2015). Some common forms of DV that are practiced in Pakistan's society include honor killing, acid attacks, harassment, marital rape, physical abuse, and cases of burning. (Ali & Gavino, 2008).

Risk Factors Behind Domestic Violence

There exists an extensive amount of external and internal factors affecting the occurrence of domestic violence. However, the course and development of several factors cannot be described accurately. It has been observed that besides external factors, internal factors participate substantially. The factors, either internal or external, are generally examined over the aggressor's side. Though, sometimes, the behavior of the victim also plays a role in the occurrence of domestic violence. Here, it is essential to differentiate between other crimes and domestic violence. In the case of "Domestic Violence (DV)," two life paths are confronted that are interlinked with comparatively deep bounds. Factors can be categorized broadly into individual, social, relationship, and community factors (Tittlová & Papacek, 2018).

According to a study conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (2017), financial issues can exacerbate domestic violence. They can participate in increasing the frequency and severity of this abuse. DV is three times more likely to happen when the couples are going through severe financial strain. However, it is essential to note that economic stress is not the real factor behind domestic violence. However, the need for the abuser to employ power and control the partner is the real cause of DV (White & Postl, 2010). As stated in the study of Tittlová and Papacek (2018), alcoholism also proves to be a risk factor behind domestic violence. It assists in the formation, escalation, and development of DV and averts its effective solution.

Apart from this, there has been an important external risk factor for violence against women, which is the lower educational level (Hossain N & Khan S, 2015). There is an inverse relationship between educational level and violence against women; the lower the educational level, the higher the rate of being exposed to violence. Where one out of every two women with a lower education background experience violence, only one out of every five women with a higher degree of education face violence (Uzun Go, 2015). Thus, increasing their educational level will help develop personal skills and employability, improve their socio-economic levels, and decrease their risk of being exposed to violence (Lee FH & Yang YM, 2015).

Impact of COVID-19 on Domestic Violence

The word coronavirus was first used in 1966 by Tyrell and Bynoe; these are enveloped, single-stranded large RNA that affects humans and infects a wide range of animals. It is an air-borne disease that can easily spread from one living thing to another. Its symptoms include pneumonia-like diseases (Meyer, 2020). The current coronavirus outbreak started in 2019 in the Hubei province of the Republic of China. Then, it spread all around the globe, creating anarchy and state emergency in various countries worldwide. On 30th January, WHO declared this a pandemic and global health emergency. Countries like the United States of America and India were greatly affected by this pandemic, killing thousands of people daily. To curb the transmission of Covid-19, government-imposed lockdowns halted all international and domestic activities in many countries. (Meyer, 2020)

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The forced lockdown of several families globally has signified a real "Emergency in an Emergency." The statistical data globally at the end of isolation measures have shown an increase in the frequency of domestic abuse, specifically for the women who had to live forcefully with an abusive partner. Forced isolation/lockdown inside small apartments, such as in China or any Developing country, caused great psychological harm and stress (Sacco et al., 2020). Lockdown has specifically led to the occurrence of first-time abuse in families where there was no history of domestic violence (McCrary & Sanga, 2021). COVID-19-led lockdowns enhanced household tensions, decreased independence, affected the roles of genders, caused less access to supportive services, and caused economic/financial strain on families (Usta et al., 2021).

Past studies also show that exposure to natural disasters or other extreme events (such as COVID-19) plays a catalytic role in increasing domestic violence. The occurrence of domestic violence multiplied, post any major disaster, due to such situations, loss of income, precisely for ma male-led them to lesser control over their economic security, which, eventually, play its part in exerting excessive control over their partners. (Mansi vora, 2020)

Consequences of Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence can have severe adverse effects on the victim's psychological, physical, and seven sexual health, regardless of the violence type that was experienced. Studies have signified that the adverse effects of domestic violence can last for a long time after the violence/abuse is over (Ellsberg et al., 2008). Fear, anxiety, and stress because of DV can lead to more severe health issues, for instance, chronic pain, gastrointestinal disorders, and central nervous system disorders (Poutiainen & Holma, 2013). In another recent study conducted by Malik et al. (2021) in Pakistan, it was observed that whether the DV is psychical, sexual, emotional, or even verbal, it results in severe mental health issues and affects the quality of life for women. It was demonstrated that domestic violence entails a positive and strong relationship with stress, depression, and anxiety (Malik et al., 2021).

It was found in the research of Al Dosary (2016) that the domestic violence consequences are extreme, extending from the individual level to affecting the well-being of the whole community. In this research, 421 women participated in the survey, and it was observed that women suffering from DV reported more somatic and insomnia complaints. In another study by Mohammad Alghzawi (2016), in which pregnant women were targeted, it was found that domestic violence not only affects the health of women but also affects the health of the unborn baby. Women who are victims of DV are most likely to have mental and physical disorders in comparison with the women who are safe from DV (Mijatović-Jovanović, 2020).

A recent study by Hussain et al. (2020), in which they examined the factors and health consequences of women in the Pakistan region, found that women facing DV reported deprived mental health. Moreover, the victims also reported a lower level of psychological well-being and satisfaction in their lives (Hussain et al., 2020). Rahmani

studied DV-associated aspects of the attempt of suicide by married women. In that study, it was observed that women living in peace and protection from DV were not reported to attempt suicide. Whereas higher levels of suicide attempts were seen in women facing DV due to the adversely affected mental health (Rahmani et al., 2019).

Methodology

Research methodology refers to the techniques or approaches used to conduct a study (Kothari, n.d.). Two main categories of methodologies are quantitative and qualitative research. Quantitative research focuses on measuring quantity and is structured, while qualitative research deals with non-numerical data and involves in-depth analysis (Kumar & Ranjit, 2011).

Research Philosophy

Research philosophy encompasses beliefs about knowledge development. Four main philosophies include realism, pragmatism, positivism, and interpretivism (Saunders et al., 2012). Realism explores real independence, while positivism seeks law-like generalizations from observable social reality. Interpretivism emphasizes subjective, historical, and culturally situated knowledge.

Selected Philosophy

Positivism aligns with the study's focus on domestic violence in Pakistan, where social norms influence actions. Quantitative research is chosen due to its structured nature, making it suitable for large-scale data analysis (Formplus, 2020).

Collection Technique

Data can be collected through various methods, with surveys suitable for large populations. Primary and secondary data are differentiated: Primary data is firsthand, and secondary data comes from existing studies. This research collects primary data through interviews, focus groups, surveys, and archival records.

Selected Data Collection Approach

A survey with 34 close-ended questions is structured for online administration. Online questionnaires are cost-effective and time-efficient, making them suitable for reaching a diverse audience affected by domestic violence.

Sampling

Sampling involves selecting a subset from a larger population. Purposive sampling, a non-probability method, is used to target women who have experienced or witnessed domestic violence. The sample size is 125 individuals.

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Data Analysis Technique

Data analysis includes descriptive and inferential analyses. SmartPLS and SPSS are employed for statistical modeling and analysis, with SmartPLS using Partial Least Squares (PLS) for simultaneous relationship analysis.

Ethical Considerations

Given the sensitivity of domestic violence issues in Pakistani society, ethical considerations include obtaining informed consent, ensuring confidentiality, maintaining participant anonymity, and communicating the research purpose to all participants. Personal information is not collected to protect participant privacy.

Results and Analysis

Analyzing the results of this research is integral for addressing the research question and achieving the set objectives. The initial step involves assessing outer loadings to identify and eliminate unwanted data, ensuring the reliability and validity of constructs. Subsequently, three different techniques are employed to validate and ensure the reliability of the constructs. Following the establishment of construct validity and reliability, the study utilizes four distinct methods to examine the interplay between the constructs through the structural model. Smart PLS serves as the statistical tool for the analysis of results.

Participant Demographics

Table 01 outlines the demographic characteristics of the participants, providing insights into the age and education distribution among the study's contributors. Age categories range from 18 to 40+, while educational backgrounds vary from intermediate to postgraduate levels.

Table 01: Participant Demographics

Demographics	Criteria	Percentage
Age	18-25	32.5%
	25-30	35.1%
	30-35	10.4%
	35-40	14.3%
	40+	7.8%
Education	Intermediate	16.9%
	Undergraduate	33.8%
	Postgraduate	40.3%
	No Degree	9.1%

Outer Loadings

Outer loadings, crucial for reflective models, indicate the latent variable's trajectory concerning observed variables. These loadings demonstrate the contribution of each item or observable variable to describing the latent or construct variable. Acceptable values for loadings are often considered as 0.7 or higher for high satisfaction, and variables with loadings of 0.4 or above are included in the study, as per established standards (Taylor & Geldenhuys, 2019).

Table 02: Outer Loadings

	Anxiety /Fear	Covid Moderator	Domestic Violence	Economic Independence	Financial Constraints	Mental Health	MOD_CV _FC_DV
AF-1	0.733						
AF-2	0.841						
AF-3	0.85						
AF-4	0.796						
CV-1		0.91					
CV-2		0.84					
CV-3		0.726					
CV-4		0.466					
DV-1			0.698				
DV-2			0.836				
DV-3			0.764				
DV-4			0.821				
ED-1				-0.26			
ED-2				0.699			
ED-3				0.819			
ED-4				0.801			
ED-5				0.786			
FC-1					0.458		
FC-2					-0.519		
FC-3					0.803		
FC-4					0.833		
MH-1						0.619	
MH-2						0.818	
MH-3						0.097	
MH-4						0.84	
Financial Constraints * Covid Moderator							1.74

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The above table is coded in three colors. The green coded values are highly satisfactory, as they lie in that range. Meanwhile, shaded values are the least satisfactory, and the red-coded constructs are removed from this study as their value is below 0.4. We added the constructs with va values above 0.4, and the values before 0.4 were rejected. In the last row and column, we have included a moderator in the research.

Construct Reliability and Validity

In examining construct validity and reliability, this study employs three key measures to ensure the consistency and accuracy of the variables under consideration. Composite reliability is utilized to assess the internal consistency of a variable, with a recommended threshold of at least 0.70 for satisfactory reliability. Cronbach's Alpha, a widely used statistical tool, is employed to determine the internal reliability of scales or tests in the study, where a value equal to or exceeding 0.70 is considered minimally satisfactory. The third measure, Average Variance Extracted (AVE), gauges the true variance represented by a construct about the total examined variance, providing insights into convergent validity. These measures collectively contribute to a robust evaluation of the construct reliability and validity in this study, ensuring the accuracy and trustworthiness of the research findings.

Table 03: Construct Reliability & Validity

	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite Reliability	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)
Anxiety/Fear	0.819	0.881	0.65
Covid Moderator	0.73	0.834	0.57
Domestic Violence	0.786	0.862	0.611
Economic Dependency	0.781	0.859	0.605
Financial Constraints	0.505	0.751	0.516
Mental Health	0.674	0.812	0.592
mod_cv_fc_dv	1	1	1

As per the results attained from our surveys, the data shows construct reliability and validity. Except in the case of Cronbach’s Alpha, the financial constraint value is below 0.7, which is not considered a satisfactory construct value. However, in the other composite reliability and validity tests, all constructs are in satisfactory range.

Discriminant Validity

A discriminant validity assessment aims to ensure that a construct has the most convincing relationship with its indicators compared with any other construct (Hair et al., 2017). Our research examined discriminant validity through three techniques: Heterotrait-Monotrait Ratio of Correlation, Forner Lacker, and Cross Loadings.

Heterotrait-Monotrait Ratio of Correlation

The heterotrait-monotrait discriminant validity method is regarded as superior based on a Monte Carlo simulation study, demonstrating higher specificity and sensitivity rates (around 97 to 99%) compared to Fornell-Lacker and the cross-loading criterion (Ab Hamid et al., 2017). This method uses the Heterotrait-Monotrait (HTMT) criterion, with a value closer to 1 indicating a lack of discriminant validity.

Table 04: Heterotrait Monotrait

	Anxiety /Fear	Covid-19 (Moderator)	Domestic Violence	Economic Independence	Financial Constraints	Mental Health	Mod _CV_ FC_dv
Anxiety/Fear							
Covid-19 (Moderator)	0.884						
Domestic Violence	0.99	0.804					
Economic Independence	0.914	0.756	0.827				
Financial Constraints	0.96	1.149	0.98	0.975			
Mental Health	0.474	0.575	0.507	0.58	0.433		
Mod_CV_FC _dv	0.549	0.682	0.624	0.468	0.735	0.152	

The table below displays the HTMT values for different constructs, including Anxiety/Fear, Covid-19 (Moderator), Domestic Violence, Economic Independency, Financial Constraints, Mental Health, and Mod_CV_FC_dv. The values in the cells represent the HTMT between pairs of constructs.

The study sets a predetermined threshold for discriminant validity at 0.85. If the HTMT value exceeds this threshold, it suggests a lack of discriminant validity, indicating collinearity problems or multicollinearity among constructs.

Table 04 indicates a discriminant validity problem according to the HTMT (0.85) criterion. Specifically, the constructs of Anxiety/Fear and Financial Constraints show issues with Domestic Violence, Economic Independence, and Financial Constraints. This suggests that there is overlapping perception among respondents regarding these constructs, indicating potential collinearity issues in the measurement model. In simpler terms, it implies that respondents perceive certain items within these constructs similarly, impacting the ability to distinguish between them.

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Forner Lacker

The second method used for examining the discriminant validity between the constructs is the Forner-Lacker method. In this technique, the square root of "Average Variance Extracted (AVE)" is compared with a correlation of other latent constructs (Ab Hamid et al., 2017). A latent construct must demonstrate much better variance with its indicator than some other construct's variance. Hence, the square root of the AVE of each construct needs to be of higher value than the correlation of other constructs (Hair et al., 2021). With this method's help, an individual can easily examine if any correlation exists between different latent constructs. This method is quite useful to identify that the latent construct is unique. The higher the value of the former lacker criterion, the greater the ability to measure the occurring phenomena (Prawesty, 2021). The following table shows the Forner Lacker criterion of this study.

Table 05: Forner Lacker

	Anxiety/Fear	Covid-19 (Moderator)	Domestic Violence	Economic Independence	Financial Constraints	Mental Health	Mod_CV_FC_dv
Anxiety/Fear	0.806						
Covid-19 (Moderator)	0.704	0.755					
Domestic Violence	0.795	0.618	0.782				
Economic Independence	0.734	0.599	0.653	0.778			
Financial Constraints	0.631	0.635	0.633	0.645	0.718		
Mental Health	0.388	0.447	0.396	0.448	0.224	0.77	
Mod_CV_FC_dv	0.492	0.585	0.545	0.417	0.505	0.054	1

Table 05 displays the Forner Lacker matrix, assessing the discriminant validity among the latent constructs. Discriminant validity is confirmed when the values below the diagonal are less than 0.7 (Hair et al., 2021). Upon examination, it is evident that the matrix exhibits discriminant validity, as all the values highlighted in green are greater than the corresponding values in their respective columns and rows. This signifies that the tests designed to measure distinct concepts within the study are not strongly correlated, reinforcing that the latent constructs are distinct and unique in their measurement. The results affirm the validity of the constructs used in the study and provide confidence in the ability to differentiate between the variables under investigation.

Cross Loadings

Cross-loading is the term used to describe an indicator that loads more heavily on one construct than another. This method involves looking at several items to see which have high loadings on the target construct and which may load significantly on multiple constructs (Henseler et al., 2015). The efficacy of cross-loading can be determined by comparing the indicator value over the intended construct with values over other constructs.

Table 06: Cross Loading

	Anxiety /Fear	Covid-19 (Moderator)	Domestic Violence	Economic Independence	Financial Constraints	Mental Health	Mod_CV _ FC_dv
AF-1	0.733	0.57	0.589	0.581	0.389	0.363	0.488
AF-2	0.841	0.545	0.686	0.61	0.612	0.236	0.309
AF-3	0.85	0.66	0.649	0.609	0.475	0.452	0.473
AF-4	0.796	0.499	0.634	0.568	0.547	0.207	0.329
CV-1	0.673	0.91	0.525	0.546	0.533	0.366	0.549
CV-2	0.637	0.84	0.585	0.556	0.484	0.633	0.5
CV-3	0.437	0.726	0.391	0.459	0.474	0.182	0.324
CV-4	0.283	0.466	0.298	0.142	0.458	-0.035	0.36
DV-1	0.563	0.499	0.698	0.453	0.34	0.239	0.486
DV-2	0.642	0.482	0.836	0.489	0.598	0.347	0.403
DV-3	0.634	0.489	0.764	0.532	0.41	0.288	0.546
DV-4	0.642	0.469	0.821	0.563	0.603	0.354	0.293
ED-2	0.584	0.493	0.498	0.699	0.338	0.284	0.398
ED-3	0.631	0.52	0.577	0.819	0.446	0.481	0.366
ED-4	0.572	0.505	0.467	0.801	0.601	0.214	0.31
ED-5	0.482	0.331	0.473	0.786	0.643	0.389	0.21
FC-1	0.283	0.466	0.298	0.142	0.458	-0.035	0.36
FC-3	0.505	0.411	0.505	0.592	0.803	0.203	0.345
FC-4	0.531	0.525	0.525	0.552	0.833	0.244	0.405
MH-1	0.135	0.245	0.197	0.215	0.133	0.671	0.035
MH-2	0.268	0.203	0.271	0.393	0.12	0.788	-0.108
MH-4	0.414	0.505	0.395	0.392	0.237	0.84	0.149
Financial constraints * covid moderator	0.492	0.585	0.545	0.417	0.505	0.054	1

In table 06, the cross-loadings for different constructs are presented. Each row

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represents a specific item, and the values in the columns represent the loadings on different constructs. For example, AF-1 has loadings on Anxiety/Fear, Covid-19 (Moderator), Domestic Violence, Economic Independency, Financial Constraints, Mental Health, and Mod_CV_FC_dv.

The cross-loading values are considered good if the indicator value over its intended construct is higher than other constructs. The presented results show the cross-loadings for various items across different constructs, indicating the relationships between the items and the constructs in the study.

Analyzing the cross-loadings, it can be inferred that this case has discriminant validity. Discriminant validity implies that each construct's test is distinct from the tests of other constructs. In this study, the cross-loading values for each construct are relatively low, indicating better discriminant validity. This suggests that the constructs in the study are unique and not strongly correlated, supporting the reliability of the measurement model.

Structural Model

The structural model implies the relationships between the latent variables and permits the researcher to examine the degree of correlation (Beran & Violato, 2010). This part will examine this study's structural model through four different methods. With the help of structural modeling, we could examine the relationship between variables and accept or nullify the hypothesis under examination in this study.

Coefficient Path

The coefficient path specifies the direct impact of the variable supposed to because over some other variable presumed to be an impact. These are known to be standardized as they are approximated from correlations. Correlation can be defined as a statistical device that assists in examining the covariation of two or more two variables. This test assists in examining the relationship between dependent and independent variables (Khan & Dar, 2010). The following table shows the coefficient path analysis of the given study.

Table 07: Coefficient Path

	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics (|O/STDEV|)	P Values
Covid Moderator -> Domestic Violence	0.166	0.151	0.15	1.105	0.135
Domestic Violence -> Anxiety/Fear	0.795	0.794	0.046	17.404	0
Domestic Violence -> Mental Health	0.396	0.409	0.121	3.28	0.001
Economic Dependency -> Domestic Violence	0.334	0.328	0.111	3.01	0.001
Financial Constraints -> Domestic Violence	0.21	0.225	0.143	1.465	0.072
MOD_CV_FC_DV -> Domestic Violence	0.117	0.119	0.058	2.017	0.022

In Table 07, the analysis of coefficient paths reveals key insights. The P-values and T-values are scrutinized, expecting that P-values should be less than 0.05 and T-values greater than 1.64 (Hair et al., 2017). However, two statements in the table about the impact of the COVID moderator on domestic violence and the influence of financial constraints on domestic violence do not receive support due to their higher P-values. Additionally, the T-value for the relationship between financial constraints and domestic violence approaches the minimally satisfactory level. On the contrary, the remaining four statements, including the links between domestic violence and anxiety/Fear, mental health, economic dependency, and COVID-19 coupled with financial constraints, find support in the analysis. These results highlight the nuanced associations between the variables under examination, shedding light on the complexity of factors contributing to domestic violence.

Specific Indirect Effect

The specific indirect effect implies the predictor's impact on the outcome, which is intervened by either single or multiple variables serially operating (Perera, 2013). The emphasis of SIE is on a specific behavioral or psychological pathway through which predictors impact the outcome. The overall indirect effect signifies the sum of SIE in the structural model (MacKinnon, 2008).

Table 08: Specific Indirect Effect

	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics (|O/STDEV|)	P Values
Economic Independence -> Domestic Violence -> Anxiety/Fear	0.265	0.263	0.094	2.819	0.003
MOD_CV_FC_DV -> Domestic Violence -> Mental Health	0.046	0.046	0.022	2.131	0.017
Financial Constraints -> Domestic Violence -> Anxiety/Fear	0.167	0.177	0.109	1.523	0.064
MOD_CV_FC_DV-> Domestic Violence -> Anxiety/Fear	0.093	0.095	0.045	2.045	0.021
Economic Independence -> Domestic Violence -> Mental Health	0.132	0.14	0.07	1.896	0.029
Covid Moderator -> Domestic Violence -> Anxiety/Fear	0.132	0.121	0.121	1.093	0.137
Financial Constraints -> Domestic Violence -> Mental Health	0.083	0.085	0.055	1.513	0.065
Covid Moderator -> Domestic Violence -> Mental Health	0.066	0.071	0.075	0.873	0.192

Table 08 presents the analysis of specific indirect effects, focusing on the P-Values and T-Statistics. Acceptance criteria include a P-value greater than 0.05 and a T-Statistics value exceeding 1.64. Notably, several indirect effects are nullified in this analysis, indicated by the highlighted instances in red. These findings suggest that

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certain pathways or relationships among the variables may not exhibit a statistically significant impact, contributing to a nuanced understanding of the complex dynamics involved in the interplay between economic factors, the Covid moderator, domestic violence, and the effects on anxiety/Fear and mental health. Identifying non-significant indirect effects underscores the need to examine the intricate mechanisms in the studied relationships comprehensively.

Confidence Interval

A confidence interval is a value range containing an unspecified population parameter. It signifies the probability that the parameter of the population would fall in between the range of values for a specific proportion of times. CI examines the uncertainty or certainty degree in the method of sampling. Through this method, researchers can examine the uncertainty available in the sample variable (Hayes, 2021).

Table09: Confidence Interval

	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	5.00 %	95.00 %
Economic Independence -> Domestic Violence -> Anxiety/Fear	0.265	0.263	0.094	0.4
MOD_CV_FC_DV -> Domestic Violence -> Mental Health	0.046	0.046	0.011	0.08
Financial Constraints -> Domestic Violence -> Anxiety/Fear	0.167	0.177	0.003	0.352
MOD_CV_FC_DV -> Domestic Violence -> Anxiety/Fear	0.093	0.095	0.021	0.169
Economic Independence -> Domestic Violence -> Mental Health	0.132	0.14	0.035	0.261
Covid Moderator -> Domestic Violence -> Anxiety/Fear	0.132	0.121	-0.077	0.319
Financial Constraints -> Domestic Violence -> Mental Health	0.083	0.085	-0.001	0.173
Covid Moderator -> Domestic Violence -> Mental Health	0.066	0.071	-0.029	0.207

Coefficient of Determination R Square

It can be described as a statistical analysis with the help of which differences in one of the variables can be demonstrated with the difference in the other variable while guessing the result of a given event. It is generally known as R-squared, which examines how robust or strong a linear association/relationship could be between the variables (Bloomenthal, 2021). Several studies have signified using R-squared instead of other analyses and have identified it as a standard technique for evaluating regression analyses in different domains (Chicco et al., 2021).

Table 10: Coefficient of Determination R Square		
	R Square	R Square Adjusted
Anxiety/Fear	0.631	0.628
Domestic Violence	0.564	0.549
Mental Health	0.157	0.15

Table 10 presents the Coefficient of Determination (R Square) and Adjusted R Square, offering insights into the goodness of fit for the model. The R Square values indicate the proportion of variance in the dependent variables that the independent variables can explain. A value above 0.5 suggests a strong impact, while a value below 0.2 indicates a weak impact. In this analysis, it is evident that there is a robust impact on anxiety/Fear and domestic violence, signifying that financial constraints and economic dependency significantly contribute to domestic violence. Conversely, the impact on mental health appears to be less pronounced. This implies that the experience of domestic violence has a substantial effect on anxiety and Fear among affected women, with a relatively modest impact on their mental health. The findings highlight the varying degrees of influence these factors exert on different dimensions of the well-being of individuals experiencing domestic violence.

Discussion

H_1: Domestic Violence is dependent on financial constraints.

The findings of this study support the hypothesis that financial constraints influence domestic violence. The correlation between economic difficulties and increased instances of domestic violence is evident. Individuals facing financial challenges may experience heightened stress, which, in turn, can contribute to domestic conflicts. Economic strains can exacerbate pre-existing tensions within households, potentially leading to an escalation of violent behaviors.

H_2: Domestic Violence is related to Economic Dependency

The research findings affirm the hypothesis suggesting a connection between domestic violence and economic dependency. Individuals who are economically dependent on their partners may be more susceptible to abusive behaviors. Power dynamics within such relationships may be skewed, creating an environment where abusive patterns can manifest. Economic dependency can serve as a contributing factor to the occurrence and perpetuation of domestic violence.

H_3: Victims of DV have anxiety and Fear issues with their partners.

The study's results align with the hypothesis proposing that victims of domestic violence experience anxiety and Fear issues with their partners. The psychological

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impact of domestic violence extends beyond physical harm, affecting the mental well-being of victims. Anxiety and Fear are prevalent emotional responses, indicating the profound psychological toll that abusive relationships can have on individuals.

H_4: Mental Health is worsened due to Domestic Violence.

The research findings strongly support the hypothesis that domestic violence is linked to worsened mental health. Victims of domestic violence are more likely to experience mental health challenges, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. The enduring psychological effects of domestic violence underscore the need for comprehensive support and intervention strategies to address the mental health repercussions.

H_5: COVID-19 has further deteriorated the condition of DV and has surged the cases.

The study's outcomes substantiate the hypothesis that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the condition of domestic violence, leading to a surge in cases. The unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic, such as lockdowns and economic uncertainties, have heightened household stressors. These external pressures, combined with restricted access to support services, have created an environment conducive to increased incidents of domestic violence. The findings emphasize the urgency of addressing the intersection between public health crises and the prevalence of domestic violence.

Conclusion

DV is a long-standing and complex social concern. However, public awareness of this concern has transformed profoundly in the last couple of decades. DV can be termed as a moral and social dilemma with fundamental healthcare obligations. These surging occurrences of DV in our community need to be carefully examined. The development in research regarding the factors behind DV has led to a greater interpretation of procedures, which eventually leads to domestic violence. Generally, the studies need to move further towards generating a much more robust theoretical interpretation of the risk factors behind domestic violence and the adverse impact that it could have on the affected individuals.

The results of this quantitative study demonstrate severe health concerns due to these incidents. As per the analysis of our study, it was found that financial constraints have had little impact on domestic violence. However, after the occurrence of COVID-19, the financial constraint has increased the cases of domestic violence. Thus, it has proved to be one of the factors behind domestic violence post-Acid-19. In addition to this, economic dependency was found to be a fundamental factor behind the cases of domestic violence. The economic dependency of women over their partners has resulted in the occurrence of these cases.

Regarding the aftermaths of DV, it was found that DV has a significant impact on anxiety and Fear. More than 55% of the respondents demonstrated that their partner

sometimes looks at them in a way that causes them fear. It was also found that more than 50% of the respondents reported that they had been in sexual relationships without wanting it. Apart from anxiety and Fear, deprived mental health was also found to be associated with domestic violence. It was observed that more than 60% of the respondents have shown that their mental health and self-love have been affected by domestic violence. Even around 50% of the victims stated that they have thought of ending their lives as well due to DV.

Education was also found to be one of the factors behind domestic violence. Almost 60% of the respondents who stated that they have just studied still intermediate ended up being victimized by domestic violence. Though, due to a shortage of time, we could not evaluate the impact of education on domestic violence. Thus, the multi-faceted factors' nature that affect DV signify the need for multiple sectorial responses, which integrate the development actives, containing enhanced access to education, spreading public awareness with an initiative to alter gender attitudes and norms and address previous abuse histories. COVID-19 is a drastic shock that has significantly affected the occurrence of DV all over the world. Though no one ever predicted such a rise in these cases, it is the period for governing bodies to step forward to develop effective strategies to decrease the adverse impacts of DV. Hence, all other hypotheses were accepted. Only hypothesis one is rejected in this study.

Recommendations

Following the completion of the study, several recommendations emerged as critical to tackling the pervasive issue of domestic violence (DV) and mitigating its detrimental effects on those affected. Above all, effective DV prevention programs need to be created and implemented. These initiatives should contribute to a comprehensive strategy to minimize negative effects and reduce occurrences by addressing risk factors and underlying causes in addition to the immediate intervention.

To educate the public about the significance of putting an end to domestic abuse, regulatory bodies must also take the initiative. It's critical to launch campaigns to inform people about the consequences of these incidents and to support the idea that violence in families is never acceptable. Regulations should be strengthened to better protect people from domestic violence (DV), especially for women, men, and children. This calls for upholding robust legal frameworks to discourage and prosecute offenders, strengthening safeguards, and providing readily available support services.

To eradicate or significantly reduce domestic violence, community education initiatives are essential. Organizing awareness campaigns in the neighborhood can inspire a team effort to put an end to domestic abuse. Education programs should cover gender attitudes, societal norms, and how to build wholesome relationships.

Recognizing that impacted people are reluctant to discuss their experiences, creating online support groups freely is essential. These platforms can serve as confidential spaces where victims can seek guidance, connect with support networks, and access resources to cope with the aftermath of domestic violence.

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In addition, more research should be done by academics to improve our comprehension of the underlying causes of domestic violence. Thorough research will make it easier to create intervention programs that are more focused and successful. Scholars will be able to significantly impact ongoing efforts to address and prevent domestic violence by gaining insight into the underlying causes.

Research Limitations

The study encountered several limitations that should be acknowledged to provide a comprehensive understanding of its scope and potential impact on the findings. These limitations include:

Limited Sample Size due to Time Constraints

One significant limitation of this study was the constrained sample size. Time limitations restricted the ability to include a larger and more diverse set of participants. The sample size directly influences the generalizability and external validity of the study's findings. A larger sample would have allowed for more robust statistical analyses and increased the reliability of the results.

Inability to Consider Other Driving Factors

Another limitation was the inability to consider all potential driving factors behind domestic violence comprehensively. Domestic violence is a complex issue influenced by various social, economic, cultural, and individual factors. Due to the scope of the study and resource constraints, certain relevant factors may not have been included in the analysis. Future research endeavors should explore a broader range of variables to present a more nuanced understanding of the dynamics at play.

Challenges in Collecting Data from Affected Women

A notable challenge faced during the study was the difficulty in collecting data from women who have experienced domestic violence. The sensitive nature of the topic and the potential reluctance of victims or witnesses to share their experiences posed a significant hurdle. The reliance on online surveys as the data collection method might have excluded those who were uncomfortable or unable to participate through this medium. This limitation could introduce a selection bias, as those who chose to respond might not be representative of the broader population affected by domestic violence.

Potential Bias in Online Survey Responses

The use of online surveys, while convenient, may introduce bias into the data. Respondents comfortable using online platforms may differ in characteristics from those not, potentially skewing the results. Additionally, the self-report nature of the surveys might be subject to social desirability bias, where respondents may provide answers they believe are socially acceptable rather than reflecting their true experiences.

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