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Socio-Demographic Determinants of Intimate Partner Violence in Pakistan: The Role of Alcohol Consumption

Saira Irfan[1], Asma Javed[2], Asma Muzaffar[3], Umbreen Khizar[4]

[1] Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Psychology, University of Sahiwal, Pakistan.
Email: sairairfan@uosahiwal.edu.pk
[2] Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Institute of Southern Punjab, Multan, Pakistan.
Email: asmajaved477@gmail.com
[3] M.Phil. Scholar, Department of Psychology, Institute of Southern Punjab, Multan, Pakistan.
Email: asmamuzaffar14@gmail.com
[4] Department of Psychology, Institute of Southern Punjab, Multan, Pakistan. Email: umbreenkhizar@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a major public health issue that is more evident in societies that are dominated by Patriarchal cultures. Some Males' alcohol may lead them to develop aggressive behaviors, and this may lead to domestic violence. The present work aims to examine the association between alcohol use and IPV in ever-married women of Pakistan. Cross-sectional data from PDHS 2017-18 was used with a sample of 171 ever-married women whose husbands consumed alcohol to determine socioeconomic and demographic factors associated with IPV. Data reveals that 61.4% of women reported experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV), with increased frequency among those in lower socioeconomic strata. Research indicated that women from lower-income households were more susceptible to violence, with those in the lowest wealth groups demonstrating markedly higher prevalence rates. The multivariate logistic regression analysis yielded adjusted odds ratios (AOR) that indicated significant findings. Women with the lowest levels of wealth were 4.93 times more likely to experience intimate partner violence compared to those with higher levels of wealth (AOR = 4.93; 95% CI: 1.13-21.47). The likelihood of intimate partner violence (IPV) was also elevated for women from families classified as middle-income (AOR = 3.63; 95% CI: 1.02-12.91) and affluent (AOR = 4.46; 95% CI: 1.12-17.71). Moreover, residing in urban areas was associated with an increased likelihood of intimate partner violence (AOR = 3.14; 95% CI: 1.42-6.93), underscoring the socio-environmental complexities of violence. Based on these findings, it is imperative to call for effective prevention and intervention programs that focus on alcohol use and IPV in Pakistan, especially amongst low-income women.

Corresponding Author's Email: sairairfan@uosahiwal.edu.pk

1. Introduction

Tobacco, alcohol and drug use are becoming a significant factor in domestic violence all over the world, and this is also the case in Pakistan. Despite the ban on the consumption of alcohol in Pakistan due to religious regulations, this substance is still consumed by specific groups of people, particularly male folks. Alcohol is prohibited in Pakistan under the Sharia Law of the Islamic Republic, but it is secretly consumed most of the time because of various occasions, parties or celebrations or because of the availability of banned spirits (Zafar et al., 2013). This social paradox results in people concealing alcohol use, and thus, little discussion is made on the impacts of alcohol, especially on the probability of intimate partner violence (IPV). Husband-to-wife violence, especially when supplemented with alcohol consumption, has been established as a major public health issue in most societies, including Pakistan. Alcoholism is not an individual problem; it takes it a step further, bringing it into the family home and adding more aggression,

lack of control, and violence. Research has it that alcohol use is a factor that influences IPV, which shows that partners who use alcohol are most likely to use force and be abusive to their spouses (Amir-Ud-Din et al., 2021). Another study that was conducted in South Asia revealed that men who used alcohol were more likely to engage in wife abuse, saying that alcohol reduces self-control and increases aggression (Jewkes et al., 2017).

Although there is a lack of national data on alcohol consumption due to cultural and legal restraints, there is a growing body of evidence and small-scale research that shows that alcohol consumption and male aggression are directly related to violence against women, which in turn causes substantial psychological and physical abuse to the women (Farooq et al., 2019). Substance abuse, particularly alcohol, leads to social vices that impact not only the personal lives of the users but also the family and the community. Its misuse has the likelihood of causing violence within households, hence creating a cycle of violence that is hard to escape. It causes loss of reason, hinders communication, and also creates an atmosphere of instability, thus endangering the lives of women and children in the household by increasing their chances of being abused physically or emotionally. A study conducted in Pakistan shows that women who are married to men who take alcohol are more likely to face violence than ones married to non-drinking men (Fikree & Bhatti, 2020). This is a major concern in public health since domestic violence has long-term effects on women's mental health, quality of life and financial stability. Alcohol consumption in Pakistan is still lower than that of Western countries because of religious and legal restrictions; however, its impact on domestic violence is not any less. Pakistan society, especially, is a patriarchal one and hence, domestic violence is more rampant and a part of the culture. Women are usually hesitant to report cases of violence because of social ostracization, being threatened with more violence, or because they financially rely on the perpetrator. Furthermore, the lack of victim-supporting institutions and limited legal rights are the causes that contribute to the issue (Ashiq, 2023). Some women never even report the incidents of abuse to anyone since they may be shunned by their families or even the community. This leads to a cycle of violence within closed doors; therefore, it is hard to estimate the real situation.

The latest PDHS (2017-18) is a precious few in providing a window on the use of alcohol and its association with IPV. This national survey offers important information on the health and demographic status of Pakistan with specific reference to the status of domestic violence and its correlates. The PDHS data reveals that there is a positive association between alcohol consumption by husbands and an increased rate of IPV. Although the specific statistics regarding alcohol consumption in the country remain unknown because drinking in Pakistan is considered a covert activity, the data presented demonstrate the necessity of developing new programming to address the connection between alcohol use and domestic violence. In international society, the relationship between alcohol and domestic violence is becoming one of the severe social vices affecting society. Studies conducted in low and middle-income countries indicate that alcohol use is a robust predictor of IPV (Abramsky et al., 2011). Alcohol eradicates individuals' ability to restrain themselves and also makes them act on the spur of the moment. Thus, the element of violence comes into play. Research conducted in countries that have similar socio-cultural backgrounds, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, reveals that alcoholism is a leading cause of spouse battering and male partners who regularly take alcohol are more likely to use force on their wives (Fulu et al., 2013; Koenig et al., 2006). These findings echo the position in Pakistan wherein alcohol use is correlated with spouse abuse, and that further exacerbates the delicate socioeconomic circumstances of women.

Women in Pakistan, especially those who are confined to subordinate positions in the family unit, are likely to be abused when their husbands drink alcohol. Other socioeconomic factors including poverty, illiteracy and lack of legal and psychological assistance, further compound this. Most women are financially vulnerable, and this makes them to be captured by their husbands; hence, they cannot walk out of abusive relationships (Rizvi et al., 2019). The traditional family system, further compounded by societies' expectations of women to be obedient and submissive, makes women suffer in violent marriages. The present research also seeks to analyze the level of domestic violence experienced by women whose husbands are alcohol consumers using PDHS 2017-18. The research also seeks to establish other socioeconomic and demographic factors that might affect this relationship. However, even though there are several cross-sectional studies conducted across the world on the relationship between alcohol use and partner violence (Heise & García-Moreno, 2002), there is a dearth of literature in the context of Pakistan. Given the limited research on this issue within the country, there is

an urgent need to address these gaps in the literature and provide empirical evidence to inform policies aimed at reducing domestic violence and supporting victims.

1.1. Research Objectives

The primary objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To examine the prevalence of domestic violence among ever-married women in Pakistan whose husbands engage in alcohol consumption.
2. To identify the contribution of the area of residence of the respondent to the likelihood of domestic violence.
3. To analyze the impact of household wealth status on the probability of experiencing domestic violence.
4. To assess the adjusted odds of experiencing domestic violence by considering the age of the husband of the victim.

1.2. Significance of the Study

This study holds significance in multiple dimensions. First, it adds to the growing body of literature on the role of alcohol consumption in intimate partner violence within a socio-cultural context that discourages substance abuse. Second, the study focuses on ever-married women in Pakistan, an under-researched population group in the domain of domestic violence and alcohol use. Lastly, the study has policy implications, as the findings could help inform interventions aimed at reducing alcohol-related domestic violence in Pakistan. Policymakers, healthcare professionals, and social workers need a more nuanced understanding of how alcohol consumption intersects with domestic violence to devise targeted prevention strategies and support services for victims.

1.3. Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is limited to a sample of 171 ever-married women whose husbands have a known history of alcohol consumption. The data were collected from the PDHS 2017-18, which has adequate information about the health and demographic indicators in the country. Some control variables include the wealth status of the household, the area of residence, whether rural or urban and the respondent's occupation. This makes it possible to have an enhanced understanding of how factors such as socioeconomic and demography influence domestic violence with an emphasis on alcohol use. As such, the present study findings are context-specific to Pakistan; however, they may be useful in understanding other comparable socio-cultural environments in which, though alcohol drinking is taboo, its consumption is persistent.

2. Data and Methodology

2.1. Data Source

This study uses data from PDHS 2017-18, a cross-sectional nationally representative survey that offers a wide range of health and demographic data, including IPV and substance use as one of the most important sources of information on Pakistan PDHS is a major tool for identifying trends in health, family planning, domestic violence, and other demographic characteristics. It is being conducted by the National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS) with international partners like the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and ICF International. The most recent PDHS conducted in 2017-18 also included questions on alcohol consumption, even if such responses are likely to be underreported because of cultural taboos. The availability of this dataset makes it possible to explore the relationship between alcohol use and IPV. The sample for this study is therefore restricted to 171 ever-married women respondents whose husbands are reported to consume alcohol. These women were a subsample from the PDHS sample according to the inclusion criteria connected with alcohol use and domestic violence. This sample size is deemed sufficient to conduct a robust analysis, particularly given the cultural and legal sensitivities surrounding alcohol use in Pakistan. The PDHS collected data on domestic violence, health status, socioeconomic conditions, and other demographic indicators, providing the necessary variables to explore the research objectives.

2.2. Study Design

This study employs a cross-sectional design, which is suitable for examining associations between alcohol consumption by husbands and domestic violence experienced by wives at a single point in time. Cross-sectional designs are commonly used in public health research to

identify potential risk factors and prevalence rates, providing a snapshot of the population's health and socioeconomic conditions. While this design limits the ability to infer causality, it is well-suited for this study's descriptive and associative goals.

2.3. Variables

The dependent variable for this study is intimate partner violence (IPV), which is measured through the incidence of self-reported physical violence by the respondents whose husbands consumed alcohol. Socioeconomic and demographic factors considered as explanatory variables in the analysis are:

2.3.1. Respondent's Occupation status

Working status is a critical socioeconomic factor influencing women's autonomy and exposure to IPV. Employment may provide women with better resources and social networks to protect themselves from violence as compared to the unemployed.

2.3.2. Area of residence

Urban versus rural residence is a key demographic variable. IPV may differ based on access to services, legal recourse, and community norms.

2.3.3. Household wealth status

PDHS classifies households into five wealth quintiles: poorest, poorer, middle, richer, and richest. Wealth status is expected to influence IPV, with lower-income households potentially experiencing higher rates of violence due to stress and economic insecurity.

2.3.4. Respondent's husband's age

This is a continuous variable included to control for the influence of age-related factors on the risk of IPV. Age differences between spouses may affect the dynamics of power and control within a marriage.

3. Analytical Approach

The primary analytical method used in this study is binary logistic regression, which is appropriate for modelling a dichotomous dependent variable (IPV: Yes or No). Finally, logistic regression provides the chances or the probability that a certain woman has been subjected to IPV using the predictor variables. These include crude odds ratio (COR) and adjusted odds ratio (AOR), which estimate the strength of IPV association with their predictors under the influence of covariates in the model. Spearman's correlation test is also used in association with the continuous and the category variables to understand the extent and the direction of the variable connection. This non-parametric test is appropriate for the use of ordinal data as well as data that are not normally distributed and which can include demographic and survey data. To ensure the robustness of the findings, several diagnostic checks are conducted: To ensure the robustness of the findings, several diagnostic checks are conducted:

Multicollinearity tests: Finally, the variance inflation factor is checked to check if there are issues like multicollinearity whereby the independent variables are too closely related. Thus, a VIF value greater than 5 indicates that there is a presence of a high degree of multicollinearity.

Model fit: Therefore, the goodness-of-fit of the logistic regression model is measured using the Cox & Snell R^2 and Nagelkerke R^2 values that give information on the extent of the variance expunged by the model.

3.1. Ethical Considerations

This research is based on the secondary data of PDHS 2017-18, and interview data was obtained by obtaining consent from the respondents. The survey guarantees the respondents' social and identification confidentiality, which is consistent with the ethical practices for conducting surveys among human beings. Respondents are usually protected from harm in cases where questions relating to domestic violence and alcohol use are asked. The PDHS is very careful about the procedures followed to complete questions on these sensitive issues: interviews are strictly done privately, and questions on violence and alcohol use may be withdrawn if the respondent does not want to answer them. This study adheres to the same ethical principles, as the analysis is based on anonymized data with no direct involvement of the study participants.

3.2. Limitations

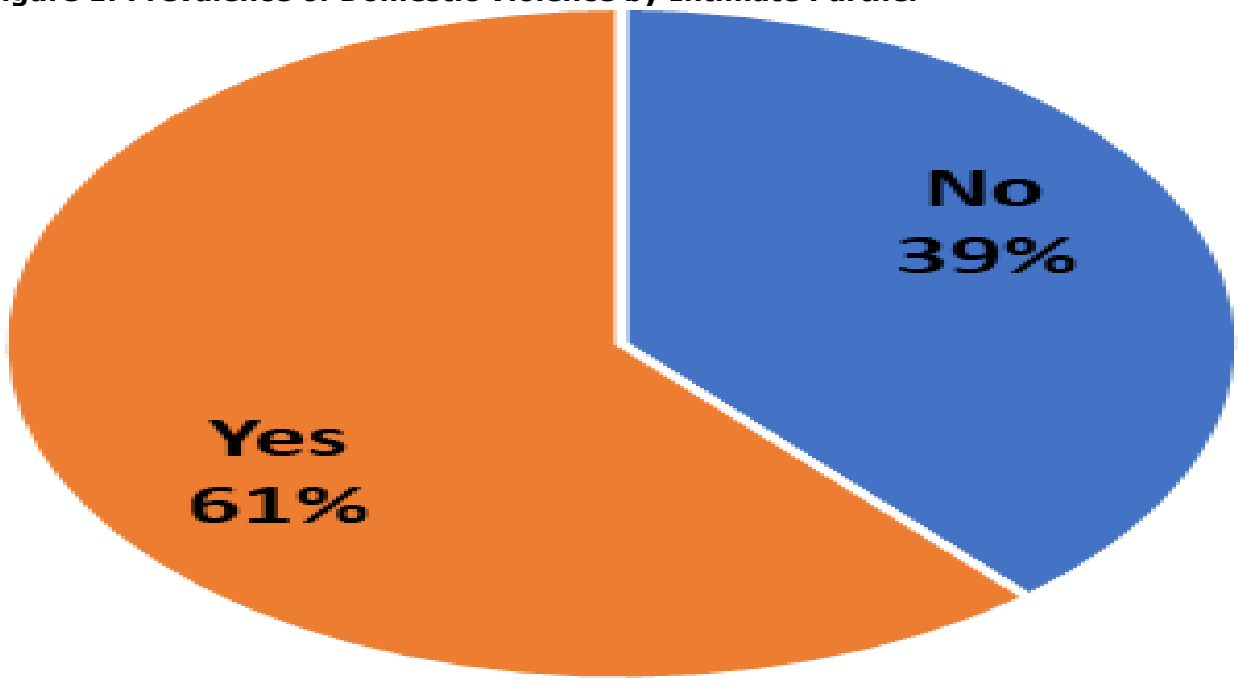
Several limitations should be acknowledged. First, due to the cross-sectional design, the study cannot establish causality between alcohol consumption and IPV. The results should be considered in terms of claiming a direct relationship between variables rather than a correlation. Second, it is probable that the current study is also faced with underreporting of both alcohol use and experience of domestic violence because of cultural influences that make both issues taboos in Pakistani society. This may result in the current statistics presenting a low figure of the actual rate of alcohol-fueled IPV. Lastly, the PDHS is not descriptive enough in the measures of the amount of alcohol consumed, whether as a frequency or quantity, thus precluding any analysis of dose-response curves for alcohol use and IPV. Still, the study provides significant findings for understanding the interconnections between substance use and the occurrence of domestic violence in Pakistan, as well as for the practical recommendations for the policy and support services to minimize IPV and help women exposed to risky conditions.

4. Results

4.1. Descriptive Statistics

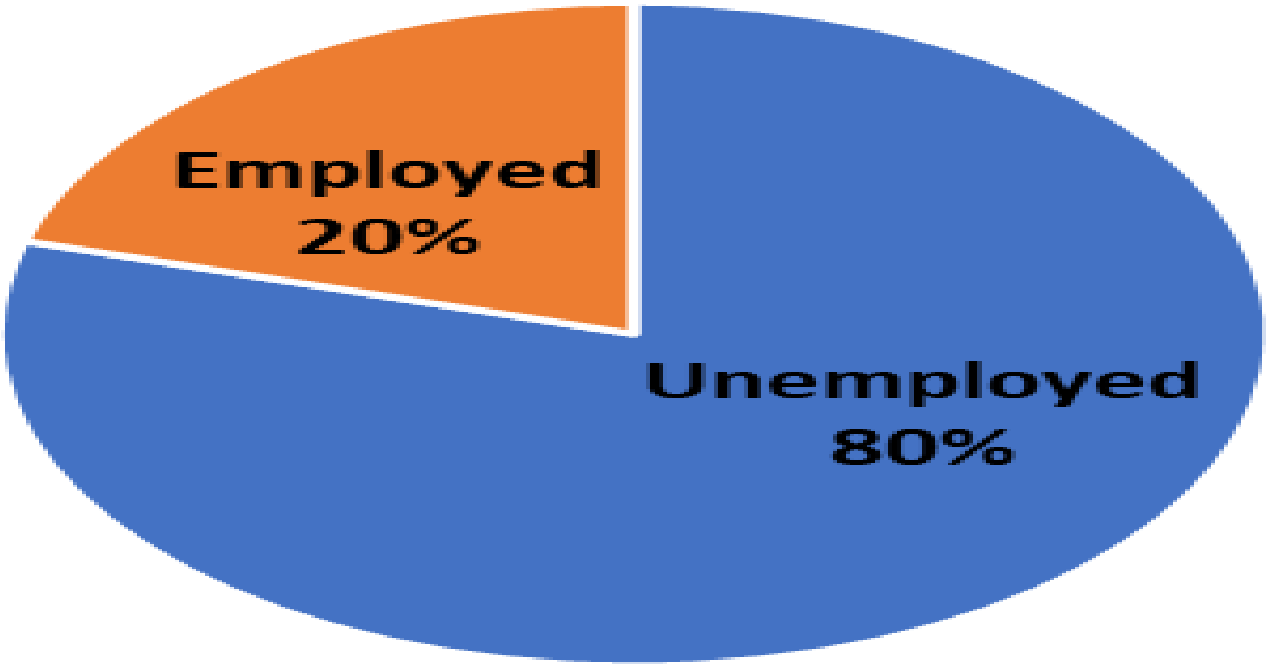
The following figures (1 to 6) depict categorical data regarding intimate partner violence (IPV) and its determinants in 171 ever-married women with alcohol-consuming husbands. The frequency distribution of the sociodemographic variables and that of the main dependent variables are given in this section. A little over one-third of women (38.6%)reported not experiencing intimate partner violence, while a significant majority (61.4%) of women reported experiencing intimate partner violence. This high percentage suggests a strong prevalence of IPV among women whose husbands consume alcohol, aligning with research suggesting a link between alcohol consumption and aggressive behaviour in intimate relationships. This indicates that IPV is a severe issue in the sample population (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Prevalence of Domestic Violence by Intimate Partner



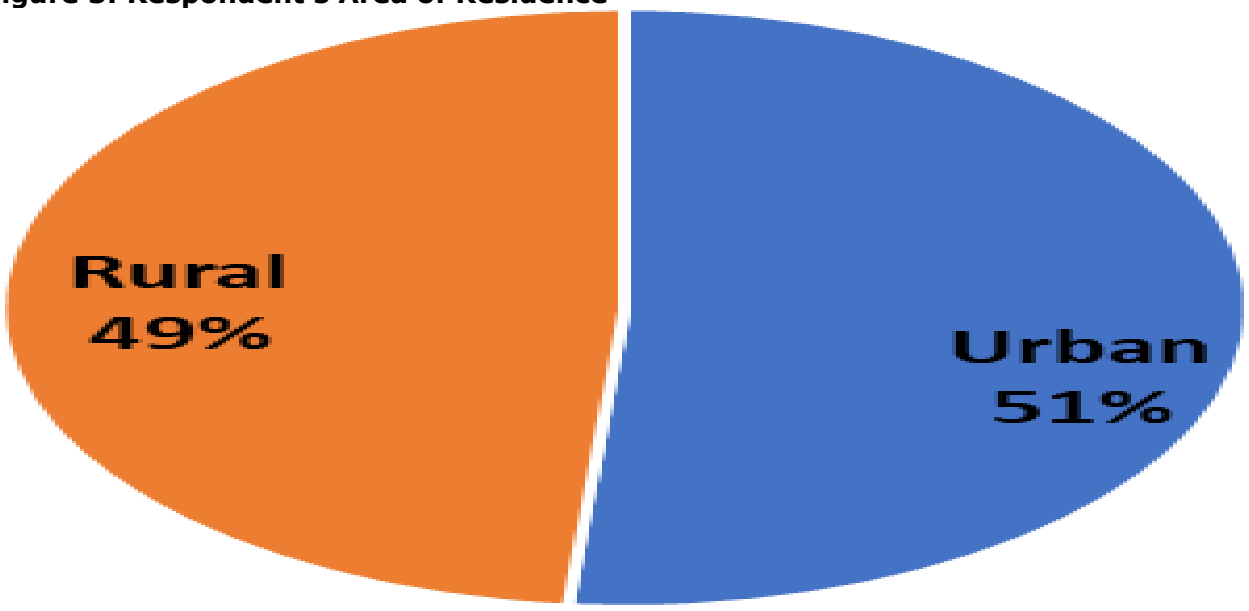
Most women (79.5%) in this sample are unemployed, making up almost 80% of the respondents. This is important because unemployment can contribute to IPV due to increased economic dependency on the husband. Only 20.5% of women are employed (see Figure 2), which may provide them with some financial independence, potentially affecting their ability to cope with or leave violent situations. The high unemployment rate among women may perpetuate cycles of abuse, as financial dependence on a violent spouse limits the available options for leaving the relationship.

Figure 2: Respondent's Employment Status



Just over half of the respondents (51.5%) live in urban areas, where there may be greater access to resources like shelters, legal aid, or counselling services. However, IPV may still be prevalent despite these services. Nearly half (48.5%) live in rural areas (see Figure 3), where patriarchal norms may be more entrenched, and access to support services is more limited. Rural women may also face additional barriers in reporting IPV due to cultural norms, family honour, and social stigmas. The urban-rural split is almost even, highlighting that IPV is a widespread issue across different geographic settings in Pakistan, albeit with different challenges based on locality.

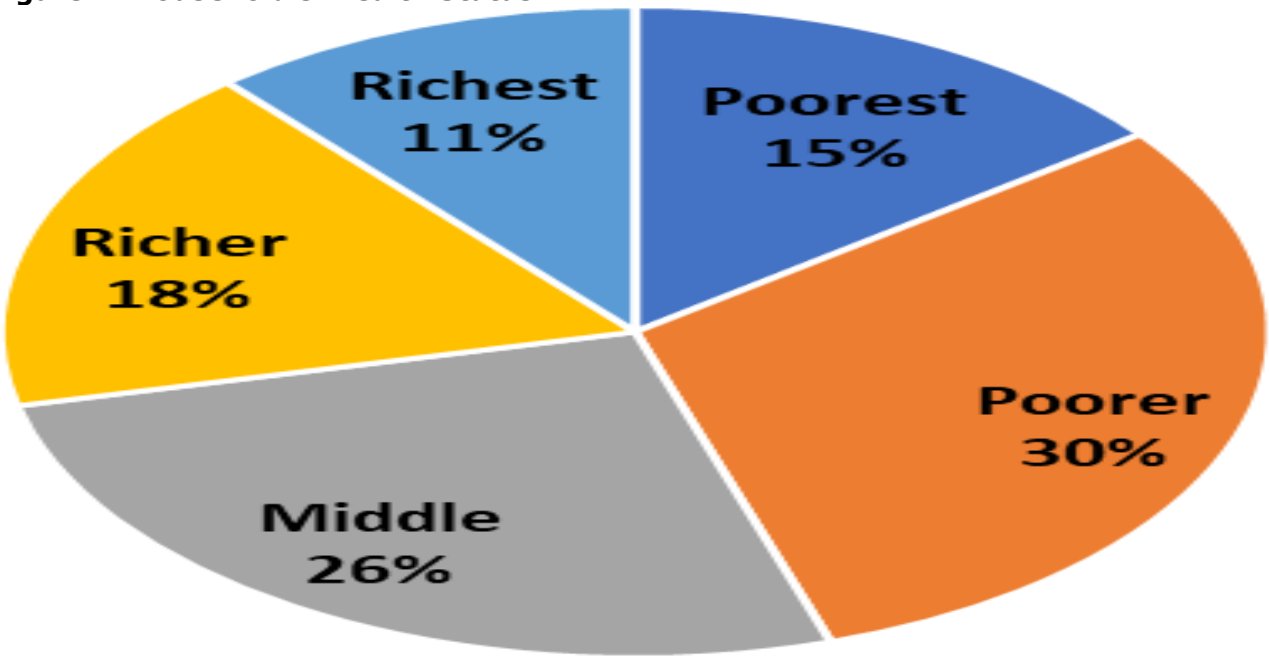
Figure 3: Respondent's Area of Residence



Wealth seems to play a role in IPV, with poorer households showing higher percentages of IPV, but even wealthier groups are not immune, illustrating the complexity of the issue. A smaller percentage of women (14.6%) come from the poorest households, although economic hardship can exacerbate stress and violence (see Figure 4). The largest proportion of respondents (30.4%) falls within the "poorer" wealth category, suggesting that lower-income households might be at a greater risk for IPV, possibly due to stress, economic insecurity, or lack of resources for seeking help. A significant number (26.3%) of women come from middle-income households, suggesting that IPV is not just limited to low-income groups but is a pervasive issue across different wealth strata. A smaller portion (17.5%) belongs to the richer wealth index group, but

IPV still affects them, indicating that wealth does not necessarily protect women from violence. A smaller group (11.1%) belongs to the richest households. Although IPV might be less reported in these households due to social prestige or fear of public scandal, this group is still affected.

Figure 4: Household's Wealth Status



Husbands in their twenties (20 to 29 years) make up a relatively small proportion (16.9%) of the sample, but this age group is still prone to IPV, possibly due to immaturity or alcohol-fueled aggression (see Figure 5). The majority (35.7%) of husbands are in their thirties, an age group where alcohol consumption and related aggression might be at their peak due to economic pressures, work stress, and familial responsibilities. Husbands in their forties also constitute a large group (38.3%), potentially reflecting longer histories of alcohol consumption and its cumulative effects on marital relationships. Fewer husbands (7.1%) are in their fifties, although alcohol-related IPV can persist in middle age, potentially exacerbated by health or mid-life crises. Husbands over sixty (≥60 years) make up the smallest portion (1.9%) of the sample, with IPV possibly diminishing in frequency due to changes in physical strength, health, or relationship dynamics as couples age. The data suggest that IPV is most prevalent among women with husbands in their thirties and forties, a period often marked by significant social, financial, and personal stressors.

Figure 5: Husband's Age

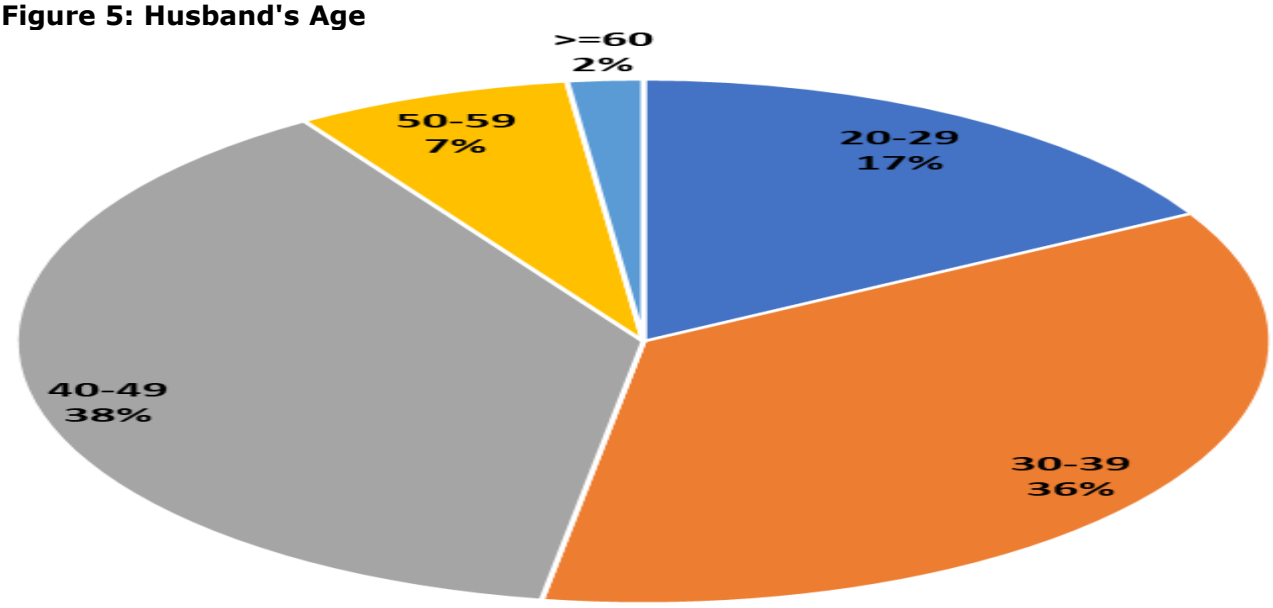


Table 1: Correlation Matrix

Correlation Matrix	1	2	3	4	5
1 Respondent's Occupation	1.000	-.116	.098	.134	.015
2 Respondent's Area of Residence	-.116	1.000	-.431**	-.054	-.191*
3 Household's Wealth Status	.098	-.431**	1.000	.010	-.011
4 Husband's Age	.134	-.054	.010	1.000	.087
5 Violence Experienced by the Respondent	.015	-.191*	-.011	.087	1.000

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). *. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

This table shows Spearman's correlation matrix among the independent variables used in your binary logistic regression model. Correlations measure the strength and direction of the linear relationship between two variables, ranging from -1 (perfect negative correlation) to +1 (perfect positive correlation). A value of 0 indicates no correlation. A high correlation between two variables (above 0.7 or 0.8) might indicate multicollinearity, affecting the regression analysis results. The significant negative correlation (−0.431**) suggests that urban residence is associated with lower wealth status, a notable finding. The negative correlation (−0.191*) suggests that urban residents are slightly less likely to experience domestic violence, though the relationship is weak. Wealth status and area of residence have the most significant relationship, with urban respondents tending to be less wealthy. Area of residence also has a small but significant negative association with experiencing domestic violence. Other correlations, particularly between respondent's occupation, husband's age, and violence experienced, are weak and not significant. These results indicate that, in this dataset, area of residence seems to be an important factor both in terms of wealth status and the likelihood of experiencing domestic violence. However, the other factors show minimal correlation with violence.

Table 2: Prevalence of Domestic Violence: Crude Odds Ratios (COR)

Explanatory Variables	B	S.E.	Wald	df	p-Value	Crude Odds Ratio (COR)	95% C.I. Lower	95% C.I. Upper
Respondent's Occupation: unemployed (ref. cat. Employed)	-.078	.392	.039	1	.843	.925	.430	1.993
Respondent's Area of Residence: urban (ref. cat. Rural)	.797	.321	6.172	1	.013	2.218	1.183	4.159
Household's Wealth Status (ref. cat. Richest)			7.533	4	.110			
Household's Wealth Status: Poorest	.944	.627	2.271	1	.132	2.571	.753	8.784
Household's Wealth Status: Poorer	.928	.553	2.817	1	.093	2.531	.856	7.484
Household's Wealth Status: Middle	1.134	.568	3.977	1	.046	3.107	1.020	9.468
Household's Wealth Status: Richer	1.729	.642	7.243	1	.007	5.633	1.600	19.835
Husband's Age	.018	.019	.955	1	.328	1.018	.982	1.056

This table shows the results of a binary logistic regression analysis, with the dependent variable being the prevalence of domestic violence (a binary variable). The independent variables include the respondent's occupation, area of residence, household wealth status, and husband's age. The regression model yields the B coefficients, standard errors (S.E.), Wald statistics, significance levels (Sig.), crude odds ratios (COR), and the 95% confidence intervals for the odds ratios (EXP(B)). Here is the interpretation of the table. The odds of domestic violence are 0.925 times for unemployed respondents compared to employed ones, but the effect is not statistically significant. The finding implies that the employment status of the respondent (unemployed vs. employed) does not significantly affect the odds of domestic violence in this model. The odds of domestic violence are 2.218 times higher for those living in urban areas compared to those in rural areas, implying that living in an urban area significantly increases the odds of experiencing domestic violence compared to living in a rural area. A household's wealth status has multiple categories than the reference category (richest households).

The overall Wald test for this variable indicates the joint significance of all wealth categories. Households in the poorest category are 2.571 times more likely to experience domestic violence compared to the richest category, but the effect is not statistically significant. Households in the "poorer" category are 2.531 times more likely to experience domestic violence compared to the richest category, but the result is marginally non-significant. Households in the "middle" wealth category are 3.107 times more likely to experience domestic violence compared to the richest category. That is, being in the middle wealth category significantly increases the odds of domestic violence compared to being in the richest category. Households in the "richer" category are 5.633 times (and significantly) more likely to experience domestic violence compared to the richest category. Each additional year of the husband's age slightly increases the odds of domestic violence, but not significantly. Husband's age does not significantly affect the odds of domestic violence in this model. The respondent's area of residence (urban vs. rural) and household wealth status (middle and richer households compared to the richest) are significant predictors of the likelihood of experiencing domestic violence.

4.2. Goodness of Fit

This table provides the goodness of fit statistics for four different models used to estimate the crude odds ratios for the dependent variable, the prevalence of domestic violence. The table includes the -2 Log Likelihood statistic and the Cox & Snell R Square and Nagelkerke R Square values, which indicate how well the models explain the variability in the outcome. Model 1 (Respondent's Occupation) has no explanatory power. Model 2 (Area of Residence) and Model 3 (Household's Wealth Status) are the best models in terms of explaining the variance in domestic violence, although their predictive power is still relatively low (Nagelkerke R^2 values of 4.9% and 6.3%, respectively). Model 4 (Husband's Age) has the best fit in terms of likelihood but explains almost none of the variance in domestic violence. This suggests that factors such as area of residence and wealth status play a role in explaining the prevalence of domestic violence, while occupation and husband's age contribute little to the explanation. However, even the best models explain only a small portion of the variance in the outcome, implying that other important factors are at play.

4.3. Prevalence of Domestic Violence: Adjusted Odds Ratios (AOR)

This table presents the adjusted odds ratios (AOR) from a binary logistic regression analysis, where the dependent variable is likely the prevalence of domestic violence (binary). Below is an interpretation of the key findings based on the coefficients (B), statistical significance (Sig.), and adjusted odds ratios (AOR) with their confidence intervals (C.I.).

Table 1: Regression Analysis

Explanatory Variables	B	S.E.	Wald	df	*p*-Value	Adjusted Odds Ratios	95% C.I.for EXP(B) Lower—Upper
Respondent's Occupation: unemployed (ref. cat. Employed)	.526	.483	1.183	1	.277	1.691	.656—4.362
Respondent's Area of Residence: urban (ref. cat. Rural)	1.143	.404	7.995	1	.005	3.137	1.420—6.929
Household's Wealth Status (ref. cat. Richest)			6.009	4	.198		
Household's Wealth Status: Poorest	1.595	.751	4.514	1	.034	4.929	1.132—21.472
Household's Wealth Status: Poorer	1.132	.644	3.094	1	.079	3.102	.879—10.954
Household's Wealth Status: Middle	1.289	.647	3.968	1	.046	3.630	1.021—12.906
Household's Wealth Status: Richer	1.494	.704	4.506	1	.034	4.457	1.121—17.713
Husband's Age	.024	.020	1.503	1	.220	1.024	.986—1.065
Constant	-2.662	1.114	5.706	1	.017	.070	

Unemployed respondent women have 1.69 times higher odds of experiencing domestic violence compared to employed respondents, but this result is not statistically significant ($p = 0.277$). This suggests that occupation status might not be a strong predictor of domestic violence in this sample.

Respondent women living in urban areas have 3.14 times higher odds of experiencing domestic violence compared to those living in rural areas, and this relationship is statistically significant ($p = 0.005$). This indicates that living in an urban area is a significant predictor of domestic violence. The overall test for wealth status as a predictor is not statistically significant ($p = 0.198$), suggesting that, as a group, household wealth status may not strongly predict domestic violence. However, individual categories of wealth status show more detailed insights. Respondents from the poorest households have 4.93 times higher odds of experiencing domestic violence compared to the richest households, and this relationship is statistically significant ($p = 0.034$). This suggests a strong association between being in the poorest wealth category and the likelihood of domestic violence. Those in the "poorer" category have 3.10 times higher odds of experiencing domestic violence compared to the richest households, but this result is not significant ($p = 0.079$), indicating a weak association.

Respondent women in the middle wealth group have 3.63 times higher odds of experiencing domestic violence compared to the richest households, and this is statistically significant ($p = 0.046$). Those in the "richer" category (but not the richest) have 4.46 times higher odds of experiencing domestic violence compared to the richest households, and this is statistically significant ($p = 0.034$). For each one-year increase in the husband's age, the odds of experiencing domestic violence increase by 2.4%, but this result is not statistically significant ($p = 0.220$). This suggests that the husband's age does not have a strong influence on the likelihood of domestic violence in this sample. The intercept indicates the baseline odds of domestic violence when all predictor variables are at their reference categories. The adjusted odds ratio of 0.070 means that when all independent variables are at their reference values, the baseline odds of domestic violence are very low. This is statistically significant ($p = 0.017$), indicating that the baseline model is meaningful. The adjusted odds ratios provide insights into the strength of the relationships between the explanatory variables and the likelihood of domestic violence. The significant variables indicate important socioeconomic factors affecting domestic violence risk in this study. Individuals in urban areas and lower wealth categories (especially the poorest and richer groups) have higher odds of experiencing domestic violence. The respondents' occupations and husbands' ages are not significant predictors of the current study.

5. Discussion of Findings

The results, therefore, of this study show that 61. 4% of the women whose husbands consumed alcohol stated that they had been subjected to IPV, consistent with other studies, which established that alcohol abuse is associated with aggression and violence at home (Khalid & Agha, 2020). As mentioned in that particular study, alcohol is an important factor that statistically explains IPV, whereby "boys and men who are under the influence of alcohol are likely to resort to violence against their wives". Similarly, the conclusion from related research by (Farooq et al., 2019) unveiled that alcohol consumption pointed to a higher prevalence of violence in Pakistan. Socioeconomic status is highly significant regarding the nature and proportion of IPV in Pakistan.

According to the study, poor women had a four-and-a-half increased chance of IPV as compared to women of a higher wealth class. This is following other studies done in other countries defining poverty as the leading cause of IPV, whereby pressures in the family compound are likely to increase violence (Abramsky et al., 2011; Jewkes, 2002). The economic structure of these societies entangles women in the bond of economic dependence on male partners, particularly in low-income households, and this makes them more vulnerable to violence as they lack the required resources or options to flee violent relationships (Rizvi et al., 2019). The adjusted odds ratio is three, which shows that patients suffering from ten different diseases are three times more likely to have read developer content. 14, and lastly, the study reveals that women who live in urban areas are more vulnerable to IPV than those in rural areas. This is in contrast to (Koenig et al., 2006), where other research has indicated that rural women are more prone to domestic violence as the result of social isolation and lack of resource access. In Pakistan's urban area, pressure has been made from the economic front, social constructs, and availability of alcohol, and violence may intensify in homes.

6. Conclusion

IPV is a universal public health problem, where alcohol consumed by certain segments of the male population has a significant contribution to aggressive behaviours and domestic violence. By utilizing data from the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) 2017-18,

a sample of 171 women whose husbands consumed alcohol was examined to understand the socioeconomic and demographic determinants of IPV, and the study explores the relationship between alcohol consumption and IPV among ever-married women in Pakistan. The findings of the study reveal that the majority of the women experienced IPV, with a higher prevalence among women in lower socioeconomic strata. Women from poorer households were more likely to experience violence, with those in the poorest and poorer wealth categories showing significantly higher risks. The multivariate logistic regression analysis indicated significant findings from adjusted odds ratios. Residing in urban areas was associated with higher odds of IPV, highlighting the socio-environmental complexities of violence. The findings of the study emphasize the critical need for targeted interventions addressing alcohol abuse and IPV in Pakistan, particularly among socio-economically disadvantaged women.

6.1. Policy Suggestions

Socioeconomic factors, particularly poverty, are closely linked with IPV; policies aimed at empowering women economically (by giving them access to education and vocational training for women) could reduce their vulnerability to violence. Rehabilitation programs for men struggling with alcohol addiction should be expanded to reduce the occurrence of IPV linked to substance abuse. Moreover, enforcement mechanisms should be strengthened to curb the illicit alcohol market. According to the study's findings, urban women face a higher risk of IPV, highlighting the need for urban-specific interventions. Programs in urban areas should focus on creating safe spaces for women, offering legal assistance, and providing shelters for IPV survivors. In addition to the above proposals, legal frameworks should be strengthened to protect women from IPV, ensuring better enforcement of existing laws.

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