

INTRODUCTION

While we at Aurat Foundation are pleased to present the first of our Quarterly Reports under our national programme “Policy and Data Monitor on Violence against Women”, we are certainly not happy at the incidents of violence against women in Pakistan during the first quarter of the 2008, i.e. from January to March. We are rather saddened by the fact that violence against women is continuing to increase at an alarming pace, and unfortunately, nothing concrete is being done to stop these gruesome violations of women’s fundamental rights to life, security and freedom to make independent choices in private and public arenas.

We believe that the primary responsibility to address the issue of growing violence against women rests with the government. We, however, feel that civil society organisations and committed activists, as well as conscientious citizens of the country, wherever they are – in legal or medical professions, in academia or in media or in government services – bear equal responsibility to contribute in whichever manner they can, to eliminate gender-based violence from Pakistan, particularly domestic violence, in all its horrific forms .

We have undertaken this national initiative to address the issue of violence against women from different angles and through a number of interventions. One of its dimensions is the collection of nationwide statistics on incidents of violence against women (VAW) from now onward on a permanent basis; and the presentation of this data through quarterly reports of each of the four provinces and the federal capital, culminating in a national report by the end of each year.

We also plan to undertake other actions under the same initiative to address the issue of VAW, including inputs towards policy and law reform, as well as lobbying and advocacy for more positive and stronger legislation on the issue, particularly the issue of domestic violence and sexual harassment at the workplace. We are encouraged by the fact that Aurat Foundation has formed Violence against Women Watch Groups, comprising dedicated and committed rights activists, in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta to lead and coordinate this action.

One purpose of this data collection exercise and its subsequent dissemination is to constantly remind the decision-makers and all others stakeholders about the gravity of the situation and to make them realize the urgency of an all-out concerted effort, at all levels, to combat and eliminate gender-based violence in Pakistan.

Such an effort must include strong and effective administrative, political and legislative actions in addition to social awareness campaigns on the issue, to be jointly undertaken by citizens’ groups and the media to create and ensure ‘**zero tolerance for violence against women**’ in society, both in rural and urban areas.

We also believe that the availability of such data would also enable the academia, researchers, policy-makers and development practitioners to further analyse and draw conclusions about the prevalence and nature of gender-based violence and; thereby to support the formulation and devising of effective policies, laws and strategies for combating it.

Realizing the sensitivity of the subject and the problematic nature of accurate data collection on it, we have relied mostly on the reported incidents of violence against women through newspaper scanning and scrutiny. Since, we have also been collecting data from police and medico-legal reports of urban public sector hospitals, as well as from government and private women's shelter homes and crisis centres, special care has been taken to avoid duplication, because the main source of information for reported cases of physical violence is the police and most of it is reproduced by the print and electronic media.

Since, Aurat Foundation is signatory to the Code of Ethics and Guidelines for the Protection of Dignity and Rights of the Survivors of Violence, developed by Rozan, an NGO working on the issues of VAW, we have decided not to reveal the names of the victims/survivors of violence in our reports, in accordance with the 'confidentiality' clause of the said code of ethics.

Thus, we recognize that by collecting data of the reported cases only, we are seeing just the tip of the iceberg, especially regarding domestic violence and VAW in the rural areas and smaller towns. The staff of Policy and Data Monitor on Violence against Women (PDM-VAW) in all offices of the Aurat Foundation deserves all credit for collecting, compiling and producing this report with a deep sense of commitment to the cause of women's development.

We are pleased that the Trocaire, an international NGO, working on the issue of gender-based violence in Pakistan among other issues, is our partner and supporter in this national initiative on ending violence against women in the country.

We are also grateful to police departments in the federal and provincial capitals, medico-legal centres in a number of public hospitals and government, as well as public and private crisis centres/shelter homes across the country.

We would also like to express our deepest gratitude and admiration for the brave mediapersons, working against all odds in the field as investigative reporters, who report these incidents of violence against women with commitment and courage, even in the face of death threats, intimidation or attempts at bribery or coercion, as well as their editors, who take up the challenge of publishing these reports.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate that the reported cases in this report, as well as the number of cases in similar quarterly reports being simultaneously released by other offices of Aurat Foundation, present just a small number of the proportion of the actual incidents of violence against women, particularly the cases of the domestic violence, which are never permitted to be reported outside the domestic sphere. Our goal should be to reach out to those women or to enable them to reach out to the public and private institutions working to provide them justice and relief, which they deserve as equal and respected citizens of Pakistan.

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Summary of the Main Findings of the Quarterly Reports on the Incidents of Violence Against Women in Pakistan

The statistics on incidents of violence against women in Pakistan during the first quarter of 2008, i.e. January to March, as reflected in the sequential order in the attached data sheets of Islamabad, Punjab, Sindh, NWFP and Balochistan, has been collected by all five offices of the Aurat Foundation (in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta). The present report, in fact, has been prepared on the basis of the quarterly reports of all five AF offices.

The process of data-collection, its compilation and presentation has been undertaken by the Policy and Data Monitor on Violence against Women Project of the Aurat Foundation to highlight the issues of violence against women with the purpose of eventually eliminating these horrific crimes from the society by undertaking a number of other advocacy, policy and law reform and enforcement measures, in collaboration with other like-minded civil society organisations, groups and committed activists.

The data has been collected from different sources, though one of the main sources was daily newspapers in Urdu and English that published from different parts of the provinces. In the provinces, regional press has also been carefully scrutinized.

Since most of the cases are collected from media which by and large gives coverage to incidents which have been lodged with the police, and also since the other data is also gathered from state institutions, e.g. police, hospitals and government-run shelter homes, the majority of these cases are ‘reported cases’ of violence against women. These cases mostly relate to ‘physical’ nature of violence or abuses against women.

The cases collected from government-run or private shelter homes/ crisis centres mostly relate to offences of domestic violence, which women usually do not report to police for several reasons, including constraints on mobility, lack of support in the family and the label of ‘shame’ attached to these crimes or the refusal by the police to recognize them as ‘offences’, considering them a ‘private affair’ within the family.

The present report has categorized incidents of violence on the nature of violence. These have been categorized as murder, abduction (kidnapping) domestic violence, hurt and body injury, suicide, beating, trafficking, burning, forced marriage, rape, torture, ‘honour’ killing, harassment at work place (physical and sexual) and any other kind of violence.

The tabulation of the attached statistical report has been undertaken through a specially-designed software. The format of the report is of comprehensive and includes detailed description of the offence and motive behind the crime as well as the status of FIR. However, these are not reflected as separate columns in the present report. We would like to add in these columns in the next reports.

We are presenting below the overall and province-wise data on the incidents of violence against women, in addition to the data of incidents in the federal capital, Islamabad.

Overall Data & Situation of Violence against Women in Pakistan

The present report has shown that a total number of 1321 incidents of violence against women occurred in the four provinces of Pakistan and in the federal capital, Islamabad (546 in Punjab; 298 in Sindh; 282 in NWFP; 151 in Balochistan and 44 in Islamabad), between January 01 and 31 March 2008, as far as Aurat Foundation has been able to gather data in this regard from the above-mentioned sources. In addition to these incidents, 30 men in Sindh and one man in Balochistan also lost their lives in the incidents of 'honour' killing in the same period.

Number & Percentage of Cases in Pakistan (1 January - 31 March 2008)

Category of Crime	Total Number of Cases	% of Cases of the Total
Murder	366	27.7
'Honour' killing	90	6.8
Attempt to murder	25	1.9
Abduction (kidnap)	246	18.6
Hurt & body injury	179	13.5
Domestic violence	119	9.0
Suicide	66	5.0
Attempted suicide	11	0.8
Rape	60	4.6
Gang-rape	19	1.4
Sexual assault	34	2.6
Custodial violence	24	1.8
Burning	16	1.2
Acid throwing	3	0.2
Trafficking	6	0.5
Miscellaneous	57	4.3
Total	1321	99.9

Out of a total of 1322 cases of violence against women in Pakistan, there were:

- **366 cases of murder:**
(130 in Punjab; 110 in Sindh; 95 in NWFP; 25 in Balochistan; 6 in Islamabad);
- **90 cases of 'honour' killings:**
(11 in Punjab; 35 in Sindh; 8 in NWFP; 36 in Balochistan);
- **25 cases of attempt to murder:**
(13 in Punjab; 7 in Sindh; 5 in Balochistan);
- **246 cases of abduction:**
(177 in Punjab; 38 in Sindh; 16 in NWFP; 4 in Balochistan; 11 in Islamabad);
- **179 cases of hurt and body injury:**
(56 in Punjab; 32 in Sindh; 44 in NWFP; 42 in Balochistan; 5 in Islamabad);
- **119 cases of domestic violence:**

- (34 in Punjab; 30 in Sindh; 46 in NWFP; 7 in Balochistan; 2 in Islamabad);
- **66 cases of suicide:**
(27 in Punjab; 24 in Sindh; 8 in NWFP; 4 in Balochistan; 3 in Islamabad);
- **11 cases of attempted suicide;**
(10 in Balochistan; 1 in Islamabad);
- **61 cases of rape:**
(34 in Punjab; 14 in Sindh; 9 in NWFP; 3 in Balochistan; 1 in Islamabad);
- **18 cases of gang-rape:**
(8 in Punjab; 10 in Sindh);
- **34 cases of sexual assault:**
(13 in Punjab; 6 in Sindh; 10 in NWFP; 3 in Balochistan; 2 in Islamabad);
- **34 cases of custodial violence:**
(10 in Punjab; 14 in Sindh);
- **16 cases of burning:**
(4 in Punjab; 6 in Sindh; 1 in NWFP; 4 in Balochistan; 1 in Islamabad);
- **3 cases of acid throwing:**
(2 in Punjab; 1 in Sindh);
- **6 cases of trafficking:**
(4 in Punjab; 2 in NWFP) and;
- **57 cases of violence were of miscellaneous nature** in the four provinces and Islamabad.

The percentage of the cases of murder of women among all these recorded/reported cases is the highest, i.e. 27.7%; followed by the abduction (kidnapping) of women (18.6%); hurt or body injury (13.5%); domestic violence (9%); ‘honour’ killing (6.8%); rape/gang-rape (6%); suicide (5%), offences of miscellaneous nature (4.3%); sexual assault (2.6%), attempt to murder (1.9%); custodial violence (1.8%) and; burning/acid throwing (1.4%).

Nearly 99% perpetrators of these incidents of violence against women were male, either relative or non-relative, according to the reading and scrutiny undertaken by the staff of Aurat Foundation of these cases.

In most of the incidents of murder of women, the motives cited or reported were accusations of ‘illicit’ sexual relations, domestic quarrels, blood feuds, land disputes, lure of property and personal enmity. Sometimes, the crimes of this nature were committed over minor and trifling issues in a sudden outburst of anger, as claimed by the accused. Gender bias or an intolerant and inhuman behaviour towards women, however, turned out to be the real motive in most of these cases.

Though domestic violence, which often has lethal consequences for women, is widespread in Pakistan, it has not been as widely covered in this report as it should have been, for reasons of inaccessibility of the data from most of the government-run shelter homes/crisis centres and; most importantly because the violence usually committed within the home is neither recognized as an offence in the law nor women mostly get an opportunity to reach out to public or private institutions to report these cases, particularly in the rural areas.

However, according to a limited number of cases reported in the media and registered with the police show that the motive behind such offences is grounded in the conviction of many men that women are their property and obliged to fulfill men's needs and wants without question and without fail. Mostly, the violence occurred due to a family dispute and resulted in physical and mental abuse, rape, burning, acid throwing, burning and killing. It has also been reported that women were kicked, slapped, beaten or sexually abused when husbands were dissatisfied by their cooking or cleaning, or when the women had 'failed' to bear a child or had given birth to a 'wrong' gender child.

The figures about increasing incidents of abductions, 'honour' killings, suicides and rape are alarming. There were 246 women who were abducted; 90 women were killed in the name of so-called honour (*karo-kari*), particularly in Sindh and Balochistan. Similarly, the most horrifying fact that 66 women took their own lives and 11 attempted to commit suicide in a span of three months and; 61 women were subjected to rape, the most ignominious of all crimes, and 18 were gang-raped, show the extent of suppression and violence creeping into the lives of ordinary women, where either they do not find any recourse to a decent living or are humiliated and disgraced through violent acts by men.

One astonishing finding from the reports of all the provinces and Islamabad is that the incidents of violence happened almost in equal number in urban areas, with the exception of incidents of 'honour' killing and the province of Balochistan, which is predominantly rural or tribal.

There are a number of other issues relating to availability of data with police, medico-legal centres and shelter homes/crisis centres for women, the registration of FIRs etc. which are discussed below in the brief data reports of Islamabad and the four provinces as main findings of the quarterly reports released by Aurat Foundation's offices in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta:

Punjab: Incidents of Violence against Women:

In Punjab, a total number of 546 incidents of violence against women occurred in 35 districts of Punjab between 01 January and 31 March 2008.

Of the total of 546 cases, there were 141 cases of murder, of which 11 cases were of 'honour' killings; 177 of abduction (kidnap); 56 of hurt and body injury; 42 of rape, of which 8 incidents were of gang-rape; 27 cases of suicide; 34 cases of domestic violence; 13 of sexual assault; 13 of attempt to murder; 10 cases of custodial violence; 6 cases of burning, of which 2 cases were of acid throwing; 4 cases of trafficking; 3 cases of threat to violence; and 20 incidents of violence were of miscellaneous nature.

The percentage of the cases of kidnapping is highest, i.e. 32%, among these recorded cases; followed by the percentage of murder (26%), body injury or hurt (10%); rape/gang-rape (8%); domestic violence (6%); suicide (5%), sexual assault (2%), attempt to murder (2%), custodial violence (2%), burning/acid throwing (1%), trafficking (1%), threat to violence (1%) and miscellaneous cases were 4%.

Of the total number of 130 incidents of murder of women, the main motive has been domestic disputes in 47 cases; followed by 'illicit' relations in 30 cases, as claimed and registered by the police or reported by the media; property disputes in 7 cases. The motive was described as unknown or had not been ascertained so far in 20 cases. In the cases of murder and manslaughter men were the perpetrators.

Of the 11 incidents of 'honour' killings, the motive according to relevant sources or the FIR has been 'illicit' relations in 8 cases; and in 2 cases the choice marriage had been cited as the motive. In the case of 'honour' killings most of the accused were immediate family members of victim/survivors, for example, husbands, brothers, fathers, brothers-in-law and cousins.

In the incidents of suicides committed by 27 women; 15 took their lives due to cruel habits of their husbands or in-laws; 6 due to family suppression, including parent-scolding and denial by them to let the girls marry on their own will; and in 2 cases women committed this act due to property dispute. In one case the cause was unknown and in one case the cause was illness that was not being sympathetically taken care of by the family. Out of the 3 cases of suicide by women in Rawalpindi district; two women, committed suicide because they were scared after excesses by their husbands and; one woman, took her life because of forced marriage.

Out of the 34 domestic violence cases, 24 cases related to physical violence by husbands and in-laws in the family, and in 10 cases the motive was emotional or psychological violence. The main motives behind these offences was the suspicion of 'illicit relationship', dispute over property with husbands and in-laws, quarrel over petty matters, little dowry and forced marriages.

Of the 42 incidents of rape in which 8 cases were of gang-rape, the relationship with the accused showed that 11 were powerful people of the locality or colleagues or work partners of women at the workplace; and 3 men were close relatives. 3 cases of rape were reported in Rawalpindi district, out of which one case was of gang-rape.

- A 25-year-old woman, in her statement recorded by the police, said that her husband quarreled with her on mobile phone. In morning when she was preparing breakfast, her husband came into the kitchen, doused her with kerosene oil and tried to show a match stick. However on hearing her screams, her brother-in-law and his wife rushed to the kitchen. She said that after she saw them coming, her husband left the scene but came back after some time and set her on fire. (*Daily The News Rawalpindi; 12 January 08*)
- In one case a two-year-old girl was gang-raped by her uncle, cousin and a friend of her cousin. As the result the child died before getting any treatment. The child's mother caught the offender while committing the crime, however, he was able to run away from the scene. (*Daily The News Lahore; 14 February 08*)
- A brother confined sister in a room and shot her dead on suspicious of 'illicit' relations. (*Daily The Nation, Lahore; 19 January 08*)
- An unidentified woman tortured, gang-raped and then strangled by unknown assailants. Her body was thrown into an empty plot of a posh locality in Lahore. (*Daily The Post, Lahore; 12 February 08*)

- A step son murdered his step mother over a property dispute. (*Daily The Post, Lahore; 11 January 08*)
- A 19-year-old girl resident of mohallah Hokum Dad, committed suicide on 26 January 2008 by hanging herself with a ceiling fan over a family dispute in the limits of Waris Khan police station. Police officials said she ended her life because she was unhappy with her husband. (*Daily Jinnah, Islamabad/Rawalpindi; 27 January 08*)
- In Kahutta, a man ordered her wife to make breakfast for him at about in the early hours of morning (3:00am). She woke up and started making breakfast but as it took some time for her to prepare it, the husband got furious and killed her wife with an axe. (*Daily Jinnah; Islamabad/Rawalpindi; 3 January 08*)

275 cases of violence against women occurred in urban areas with the 50 percentage of the total cases while 186 cases occurred in rural areas i.e. 34%. In rest of the cases, the locality was not named. The collected information in Punjab reflects that majority of the violence cases have taken place in the urban areas.

402 incidents of violence got registered in the police stations out of 546 cases i.e. 74%, whereas 134 incidents were not registered with the police and there was no information about FIR status in 10 cases.

Sindh: Incidents of Violence against Women:

In Sindh, a total number of 298 incidents of violence against women occurred in 35 districts of Sindh between 01 January and 31 March 2008.

Of the total of 298 incidents, there were 110 incidents of murder; 7 of murder attempt, 32 of body injury; 38 of kidnapping; 35 of 'honour' killings, 14 of rape; 10 of gang rape, 24 incidents of suicide; 30 cases of domestic violence; 06 of burning; custodial violence cases were 14, sexual assault 06, acid throwing one and one incident of violence was of miscellaneous nature. 30 men were also killed in the incidents of 'honour' killings along with women in the same period.

Out of these 328 incidents of violence against women, 326 cases have been collected from newspapers and TV channels and other from Aurat Foundation's Citizens' Action Committees.

The percentage of the cases of murder is highest (33.5%), honour killing (19.8%) among these recorded cases; followed by the percentage of body injury or hurt (9.7%); domestic violence (9.1%) kidnapping and abduction at (11.8%) rape (7.3%), suicide (7.3%), custodial violence at (4.2%).

Of the total number of incidents of murder of women, the main motive has been karo-kari in 35 cases; followed by matrimonial, domestic conflict, property and other issues. The cases where the motive was described as unknown or has not been ascertained were 127.

In the incidents of suicides committed by 24 women; 10 took their lives due to domestic violence; 10 due to domestic conflict, one due to forced marriage and 3 women committed this act due to poverty.

Of the 30 domestic violence cases, 11 were related to physical violence and 19 to threat, emotional or psychological violence. Three to four women were sold in the name of marriage.

Of the 24 incidents of rape & gang rape, the relationship with the accused showed that 5 men were close relatives; 2 were powerful men of the tribe, 2 were fathers, one father-in-law, 2 police personnel and 12 were non-relatives.

The status of FIR registered in these cases is about 50% and in rest of the 50% cases the FIR was not registered or no information could be gathered in this regard.

According to collected data most of the accused were male members like husbands (48), 16 were close relatives, 7 were brothers, 4 were cousins, 7 uncles, 2 fiancées, 3 fathers-in-law, 5 landlords, 8 police personnel and the rest were neighbourers, same caste persons, or other near relatives.

The incidents of VAW, particularly 'honour' killings mostly occurred in rural areas. A number of cases of murder also occurred in urban areas, as well as, a majority of physical violence cases were reported from urban areas. While rape and gang rape incidents were reported from towns and rural areas but it could not be reported in urban areas. Mazar-e-Quaid rape case remained high profile as a case in an urban locality..

Three women were sold in the name of marriage in Thull (Jacobabad), Shahdadkot and Qambar and Badin. At least 5 women/girls were given as compensation through Jirga decisions in Pano Aaqil (Sukkur), Thull, Warah and Sobho Dero (Khairpur Mirs). In Sukkur, a woman was tortured by her ex-husband, who shaved her hair and eye-brows.

It is observed that the 99% cases of murders were registered but 90% reported cases of domestic violence against women could not be registered. There have been Jirgas held even on the incidents of murders and rape cases. In Qazi Ahmad (Nawab Shah district) two policemen were fined Rs 50,000 by the Jirga in a gang-rape case. However, eventually the case was withdrawn as per the Jirga decision.

It is also gathered from the media reports that women were murdered with gun shots, axe, baton (*danda*); poison, rope, iron rod and; in some cases kalashnikov was used by the accused persons.

The data regarding violence against women at the research section of the police headquarters and shelter homes was available. However, the main problem is that the cases are documented and tabulated in a general format which show the number of cases occurred in the respective district e.g. 80 murders, 25 kidnapping cases in a district etc. This data does not reflect the specific area or locality where the case has occurred, the names of victim and accuser, relationship or motive behind the offence. Same thing happened with the data of shelter homes. Therefore the said data was not added in this report to avoid the duplication.

NWFP: Incidents of Violence against Women:

In NWFP, a total number of 282 incidents of violence against women occurred in 24 districts of NWFP between 1 January and 31 March 2008.

Of the total of 282 cases, there were 95 cases of murder; 44 of body injury; 16 of kidnapping; 8 of 'honour' killings, 9 of rape; 12 of firearm; 8 cases of suicide; 10 of harassment at work place; 46 cases of domestic violence, including 22 cases of beating; 2 of trafficking; 2 of forced marriage; 2 of torture; 1 of burning; 1 of poisoning and 17 incidents of violence were of miscellaneous nature.

Out of these 282 cases of violence against women, 107 cases have been collected from the newspapers, 114 from the police headquarters, 49 from the hospitals, 8 from a private women crisis center (*Mera Ghar*) and 4 from an NGO (Noor Education Trust), which is dealing with such cases.

The percentage of murder is the highest (34%) among these recorded cases; followed by the percentage of body injury or hurt (16%); beating (8%); domestic violence (9%) and kidnapping and harassment at 6% and 4%, respectively.

Of the total number of 95 incidents of murder of women, in 58 cases the main motive behind the murder is not known whereas in the rest of the cases the motives were different: family dispute in 11 cases, property dispute in 8 cases and marriage refusal in 8 cases. In 37 cases out of 44 body injury cases the reason is not known and in rest the reasons are family or property dispute and robbery.

In the cases of domestic violence, there are multiple reasons like family dispute, custody of children, second marriage of the husband etc. Of these 24 cases, 3 are related to physical violence and 3 to emotional or psychological violence, while in 18 cases the victim is subjected to both physical and psychological violence.

In the incidents of suicides committed by 8 women; 3 took their lives due to family dispute; one due to mental shock caused by her husband's death; in another case a woman committed this act due to mental sickness and in 3 cases the cause was unknown or not revealed by the police.

Of the 9 incidents of rape and 8 incidents of 'honour' killings the relationship with the accused has not been mentioned in the record taken from the police headquarter.

The status of FIR in these case of violence is 71%. In some 47 cases the FIR was not registered and in 27 cases there is no information whether FIR has been registered or not.

In 168 of 282 cases (excluding cases from police headquarter), the accused were close relatives like either husband, father, brother, son, step son, parents, cousin or neighbour. In only 2 cases the accused were women i.e. mother-in-law and daughter.

Of 24 districts of NWFP Kohistan is the only district from where only a single case of violence against women (suicide) has been mentioned in the newspapers. No case from Kohistan is registered in the police during the quarter (Jan – March 2008). 27% of the cases are from district

Peshawar. Mardan is the second district on the index of high percentage of reported violence cases.

There are three major hospitals in Peshawar, namely Lady Reading Hospital (LRH), Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) and Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC). The Aurat Foundation team visits each hospital in the first week of every month to collect data of the previous month.

A proper printed format register to keep the record of medico legal report is in place only at KTH, whereas in the other two hospitals i.e., LRH and HMC the record of the cases are kept in ordinary registers. The information in the medico legal record contains the name, age, date of incident, area (with locality), nature and kind of injury. The name and relationship with the accused and motive behind the incident are not usually available in the record.

It is observed that most of the cases registered in HMC are about firearm injuries. The reason behind this is that the HMC is very close to the Khyber Agency (tribal area) with hardly a distance of three kilometers from the unsettled area where the use of weapons especially kalashnikov is very common. The rival tribes make excessive use of blind bullets against each other for the purpose of harassment. Due to this regular exchange of aerial firing, women and children while having no part in the disputes, fall victim of this use of firearms for being in the open at their houses.

It has also been observed by the team that since no woman police personnel is present at the police post at the emergency wards the victims are always hesitant to describe the reason behind their injury.

The data regarding violence against women at the research section of the police headquarters is inclusive of all districts of the province and it is computerized. However, the main problem is that the cases are documented in tabulated form and only reflect the number of cases occurred in the respective district e.g. 15 murders, 4 rape cases in a district etc. This data does not reflect the specific area or locality where the case has occurred, the names of victim and accuser, relationship or motive behind the offence.

Also, in the data gathered from police headquarter murder and beating both have been placed in the category of domestic violence. It has been observed from this collected data that due to non-existence of any clear definition of domestic violence in any existing law of Pakistan, the authorities who keep record of cases regarding violence against women do not know which offence comes under the category of domestic violence.

The cases that are registered in the medico-legal reports at the hospitals, filed under section 337, are not mentioned as domestic violence cases; instead the nature of offence is mentioned as blunt or grievous. As compared to that the injury cases that are recorded at the private crisis center are registered under domestic violence.

The collected information in the present report reflects that majority of the violence cases have taken place in the rural area but FIR against these cases have not been launched. As compared to

that the cases occurred in the urban area are registered (FIR launched) and usually these cases get coverage in the newspapers.

Balochistan: Incidents of Violence against Women:

In Balochistan, a total number of 151 incidents of violence against women occurred in 20 districts of the province Punjab between 01 January and 31 March 2008. Five men also lost their lives in the incidents of 'honour' killing in the same period.

Out of the total 151 cases, there were 42 cases of hurt and body injury; 36 of 'honour' killings; 25 cases of murder; 10 cases of attempted suicide; 07 cases of domestic violence; 05 cases of attempt to murder; 04 of kidnapping; 04 of burning; 04 cases of suicide; 03 of rape, including one case of gang-rape; 03 cases of assault; 01 case of Hadd (theft); 01 of harassment at work place; and 02 incidents of violence were of miscellaneous nature.

Out of these 151 cases of violence against women, 36 cases have been collected from the newspapers, 54 from the police headquarters, 62 from the hospitals (Medico Legal Cell) and 05 from Government Shelter Home (Darul Aman). During the collection of data it was compared with different sources in order to avoid duplication.

The percentage of the cases of hurt and body injury is the highest (28%) among these recorded cases; followed by the percentage of 'honour' killings (24%); murder (17%); attempt to suicide (7%); domestic violence (5%); the percentage of attempt to murder, kidnapping, burning, rape, assault and suicide is at 4% for each category.

In 37 cases of 'honour' killings, 36 women were killed and 5 men were also reported to be murdered. The analysis of the cases of murder shows that all the cases of 'honour' killing are reported from the districts of Jafferabad, Naseerabad, Jhal Magsi, Sibi, Bolan and Dera Bugti. These are the border districts of Balochistan with Sindh province. The other cases of murder with unknown reason are reported from the districts of Quetta, Mastung, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Lasbela and Khuzdar.

In the incidents of suicides and attempted suicide, all the victims and affected persons were women. In most of these cases the reason behind was domestic violence and family disputes.

7 cases of domestic violence were reported during the quarter. The motive behind all these cases was family disputes. In six out of 7 cases, husbands were the main accused and in one case brother of the woman was an accused. These cases were reported from districts Naseerabad and Quetta. All cases were of physical violence.

- In an incident of gang-rape, out of 3 cases of rape, a female worker of an NGO was gang-raped by her colleagues in Tehsil Gandawah of District Jhal Magsi. The other 2 cases were reported from district of Sibi.
- In Tehsil Dera Murad Jamali of district Naseerabad, three women including a girl committed suicide on International Women's Day. After this incident they were admitted

in the hospital for medical treatment. According to details, a 10-year-old girl resident of ward No. 7, a 20-year-old woman of Bolan Shakh and 22-year-old woman of Rabi Canal took poisonous medicines to end their lives against inhuman behavior of their family members and torture. (*Daily Asaap, Quetta*).

- In District Quetta, a newly-married couple was shot dead in Sariab area. According to details, the murdered couple got married without the permission of the elders of their families. They went to Karachi for court marriage. On the assurance of their family members the couple returned to Quetta. At night, some armed men entered into their house and opened indiscriminate firing killing the couple. Armed men escaped from the scene later. (*Daily Balochistan Times, Quetta*)

Out of the total of 151 cases, the FIR was registered in 138 cases and it was not registered in 14 cases.

The urban-rural divide in Balochistan is very sharp. Main population of interior lives in tribal setup. Quetta and a few other cities are urban areas. The district headquarters are better facilitated with basic amenities. The cases of violence occurred mostly in the interior or in rural/tribal areas away from district headquarters, but there have been a number of cases in urban areas also.

There are two major hospitals in Quetta, namely Civil Hospital, Quetta and Bolan Medical Complex (BMC). Aurat Foundation team visits each hospital in the first week of every month to collect data of the previous month from Medico Legal Cell.

There are no proper printed format registers to keep the record of medico legal report. Record of the cases is kept in ordinary registers in hospitals. The information in the medico legal record contains the name, age, date of incident, area (with locality), nature and kind of injury. The name and relationship with the accused and motive behind the incident are not usually available in the record. It is observed that most of the registered cases come to Civil Hospital Quetta, because it is located in the center of city.

The data regarding violence against women at the research section of the Crimes Branch in Police Headquarter is inclusive of all districts of the province and it is computerized. However, the main problem is that the cases are documented in tabulated form. This data does not reflect the specific area or locality where the case has occurred, the names of victim and accused, relationship or motive behind the offence.

Islamabad: Incidents of Violence against Women:

In the federal capital, Islamabad, a total number of 44 incidents of violence against women occurred between 1 January to 31 March 2008.

Out of the total of 44 cases, there were 11 cases of abduction; 6 cases of murder; 5 of body injury; 4 of threat to violence; 3 of suicide; 2 of domestic violence; 2 of sexual assault; 1 of suicide attempt ; 1 of burning; 1 of rape; and 8 incidents of violence were of miscellaneous nature.

The percentage of the cases of abduction is the highest (25%), followed by the percentage of murder (14%); body injury (11%); threat to violence (9%); suicide (7%); domestic violence (5%); sexual assault (5%) ; attempted suicide (2%); burning (2%); rape (2%) and; the ratio of the miscellaneous nature cases was 18%.

Out of the total number of 6 incidents of murder of women, the motive behind the crime was domestic quarrels. Motive behind 2 cases of domestic violence was family dispute. In the single case of rape reported in the federal capital the woman was raped by her friend's friend.

Killing women/girls, usually wives, through so-called 'stove burn' accidents have been rampant in the country some years ago, and they still happen. In such incidents, the woman sitting before the stove for the purpose of cooking in her kitchen or in open supposedly catches fire due to stove-burst and gets killed or seriously burnt. Sometimes, the murder of women in the home is carried out by throwing kerosene on them and setting them alight. In Islamabad, at least, one woman died in such circumstances.

Of the 3 cases of suicide by women in Islamabad, all three women killed themselves because of domestic dispute. One of them committed suicide after a quarrel with her mother.

In 9 out of 44 cases, the accused were close relatives like husband and father; in some cases the accused were friends, lawyer and employer. In several cases, the relationship with the accused was not revealed.

The Status of FIR in these cases of violence is 86%, i.e. the FIR of 38 cases was registered while 03 cases were not registered and in 03 cases there is no information whether FIR has been registered or not.

As for as occurrence of cases in rural and urban areas is concerned, 10 cases of violence were reported from rural areas and 34 from semi-urban and urban areas.

- A newly-married 20-year-old girl committed suicide by hanging herself with the ceiling fan as a protest against her forced marriage. She was not happy with her husband and had expressed her opinion to her parents, but they were not ready to listen to her. (*Daily Times, 19.1.08*).
- A car pulled up near a woman when she was going to a wagon stop. The occupants of the car tried to force her into the car but she resisted, at which one of the occupants slapped her and ripped her clothes apart. (*Daily The Post 1.2.08*)
- A father-in-law murdered his daughter-in-law with the help of his family members after she was doused with kerosene oil and set on fire. Later, the family claimed that the girl had committed suicide. (*Daily Jinnah 4.3.08*)

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