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Violence Against Women in Pakistan
A qualitative review of statistics 2010



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Violence against Women in Pakistan: A qualitative review of statistics for 2010

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List of Acronyms

AF	Aurat Foundation
AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
CBO	Community Based Organization
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
GBV	Gender-based violence
HIV	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IEC	Information and Education Campaign
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PDM-VAW	Policy and Data Monitor on Violence against Women
PATA	Provincially Administered Tribal Areas
UN	United Nations
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
WHO	World Health Organisation

Local Glossary

Kala-kali: Balochi and Seraiki term literally meaning disreputable man-disreputable woman (who have brought disgrace to the family or clan), a 'crime' that allows culturally condoned killing in the name of honor of a man or woman charged with an illicit relationship.

Karo-kari: Sindhi term literally meaning disreputable man-disreputable woman (who have brought disgrace to the family or clan), a 'crime' that allows culturally condoned killing in the name of honor of a man or woman charged with an illicit relationship.

Ghairat: Loosely translated as honor but is considered a chivalrous adherence to tradition and culture in the context of social relations.

Jirga: An assembly of male elders, usually tribal, who make decisions regarding social issues; an informal body for resolving disputes. The term is Pushto but the practice exists across Pakistan. Jirgas were banned by the Sindh High Court but they continue to function. They are dominated by influential members of the community who are usually conservative and patriarchal. Decisions taken by them are known to be anti-women.

Swara: A Pashto word denoting a child marriage custom in tribal areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. This custom is tied to blood feuds between different tribes and clans where young girls are forcibly married to members of the enemy clan in order to compensate for a crime committed against a member of that clan (always by a male) and to end a feud.

Vanni: A child marriage custom in tribal areas of Pakistan, also widely prevalent in Punjab. This custom is tied to blood feuds among the different tribes and clans where young girls are forcibly married to members of opposing clans in order to resolve feuds or compensate for a crime. Vanni can be avoided if the girl's clan agrees to pay blood money, called *Diyat* (ديت). Otherwise the young bride may be forced to spend her life paying for a crime committed by her male relatives.

Watta Satta: A tribal custom in Pakistan of exchanging brides between two families. Both families must have a daughter and a son, and be willing to betroth them to the daughter and son of the other family. That is to say, in order for a family to marry off a son to a daughter of another family, it must have a daughter to marry off in return to the same family.

Global Glossary: a selected list of certain concepts and terms to ensure consistent understanding for readers outside the circle of development practitioners

1. **Dowry death:** Murder of a woman whose family failed to pay sufficient dowry at the time of marriage, prevalent in some countries of Asia.
2. **Dowry killing:** The homicide of women whose dowry, the payment in cash or/and in kind by the bride's family to the bridegroom's family along with the giving away of the bride in marriage, was not considered sufficient by her husband or in-laws. Most such incidents are reported as burning accidents in the kitchen or disguised as suicide.
3. **Honour killing:** A customary practice where male family members kill female relatives in the name of family 'honour' for sexual activity outside marriage, either suspected or forced, even when they have been victims of rape. Often young teenage boys are chosen to perform the crime because their sentences are generally lighter than those for adults. The practice is deeply rooted in patriarchal/tribal traditions where males are looked upon by society as the sole protectors of females; and because of this duty conferred on the man, he has complete control over the female. In case the man's protection is violated through the perceived immoral behaviour of the woman, the man loses his honour in society, as it is interpreted, as a failure either to protect the woman adequately or to educate her properly. These crimes are widespread all over the world, although they are more prevalent in countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and other Mediterranean and Gulf countries. Cases have also been reported in India, Brazil, Ecuador, Israel, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom, etc.
4. **Stove death or stove burning:** The murder of a wife by setting her ablaze, often disguised by the perpetrator as a suicide. It has been reported mainly in Pakistan. Causes vary, but the main reasons are failure to give birth to a son, the desire to marry a second wife without having the financial means to support the first, and long-running animosity with mothers-in-law.
5. **Sexual assault:** Non-consensual sexual contact that is often obtained through coercion or the use or threat of force, as an expression of power, control and domination over another person. Coercion can cover a wide range of behaviour, including intimidation, manipulation, threats of negative treatment, and blackmail.
6. **Sexual harassment:** Unwanted and offensive sexual advances, sexual favours and other sexual behaviour, verbal or physical either outside or in the work place, when acquiescence to such acts is aimed at explicitly or implicitly affecting an individual's continued employment, promotion or satisfactory job assessment, or where it creates a hostile environment. The victim and the harasser may be a woman or a man, though the normal pattern shows women to be victims and men to be harassers. Most often, it happens in hierarchical positions where a superior or colleague harasses through suggestive language, humiliating sexual inquiries, sexually offensive messages, signs and innuendoes, cartoons, literature or photographs.
7. **Sexual violence:** Any violence, physical or psychological, carried out through sexual means or by targeting sexuality, including rape, forcing a person to strip naked in public, forcing two victims to perform sexual acts together or harm one another in a sexual manner, mutilating a person's genitals or women's breasts, and sexual slavery. Such acts

are often intended to inflict severe humiliation on the victims and to intimidate the larger community, particularly in the context of armed conflict.

8. **Slapping:** The most common act of physical violence identified in intimate partner violence (IPV) research, followed by being struck with a fist. When ranking the severity of the act according to its likelihood of causing physical injuries, researchers considered moderate acts to include being slapped, pushed, or shoved; and severe acts to include being hit with a fist, kicked, dragged, threatened with a weapon, or having a weapon used against the female partner.
9. **Torture:** An act of severe physical or mental pain intentionally inflicted on a person, by a public official, for the purpose of obtaining information or confession, punishment or intimidation. Torture is prohibited by international law in all circumstances. Recent developments of international humanitarian law have recognized sexual violence in armed conflict as a form of torture.
10. **Violence against Women (VAW):** Any act or threat of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. This includes physical, sexual and psychological violence such as wife beating, burning and acid throwing, sexual abuse including rape and incest by family members, female genital mutilation, female feticide and infanticide, and emotional abuse such as coercion and abusive language. VAW does not only occur in the family and in the general community, but is sometimes also condoned or perpetuated by the State through a variety of policies and actions.
11. **Gender:** The term gender has now transcended its earlier "grammar-based" usage of classifying nouns as male, female and neuter. It is not used to describe the biological sexual characteristics by which we identify females and males but to encompass the socially defined sex roles, attitudes and values, which communities and societies ascribe as appropriate for one sex or the other. In this specific sense, it was first used as a phrase, "the social relations of gender", for which gender has become a kind of shorthand. The social relations of gender seeks to make apparent and explain the global asymmetry which appears in male/female relations in terms of sex roles in power sharing, decision-making, the division of labour, both within the household and in society at large. The phrase directs our attention to all the attributes acquired in the process of socialization; our self and group definitions, our sense of appropriate roles, values and behaviour and, above all, expected and acceptable interactions in relationships between women and men.
12. **Patriarchy:** Comes from Greek (pateri, meaning father, and archy, meaning rule) and is a family, government or society controlled by senior men. In general, the term is often used to mean societal control by men. In feminist theory, it has been employed to mean a gender hierarchy in which men dominate women.

Acknowledgement

For last 25 years Aurat Foundation has been ensuring to raise the voice for and on behalf of women of Pakistan. We are struggling for the cause along with many allies. We would like to acknowledge support and help of all our partners, friends, activists and women of Pakistan.

AF is grateful to women legislators from across all political parties, Federal and provincial women ministers in all four provinces Gilgit Baltistan and AJK have been supporting our efforts through law and policy reforms, administrative actions and when and where required through raising their voices.

It would be simply impossible for us to plan and carry out activities and interventions without active support of Women Centers, Police Departments, Medico legal Surgeons and NGOs. Violence Against Women Watch Groups in Islamabad, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta play the vital role for contribution in eliminating VAW from society.

Print media has always been our vital partner as on one hand print media is one of the major sources of information for incidents of VAW and on the other hand it highlights women related issues. We acknowledge the support of all mainstream and regional newspapers published in Urdu, English, Sindhi and Pashto languages.

Preface

Aurat Foundation feels encouraged by the fact that it has been able to effectively highlight the state of violence against women (VAW) in Pakistan through the consecutive launch of three reports since 2008 under its national programme “Policy and Data Monitor on Violence against Women”, nevertheless, the bitter reality of increasing trend of violence against women is extremely discouraging and alarming for us.

It would not be wrong to say that it gives us no pleasure at Aurat Foundation to present this qualitative review of statistics for VAW in Pakistan during 2010. Despite continuing struggle of women’s rights activists, the analysis depicts the same increasing tendency of VAW as established by the two earlier reports.

This national study is a compilation of the four regional reports put together by our four provincial offices, in addition to the report from Islamabad covering ICT. The credit for compilation of statistical data goes to the dedicated staff of AF’s regional offices under “Policy and Data Monitor on VAW” and the team at head-office in Islamabad led by Rabeea Hadi, which put together regional reports and undertook quantitative analysis.

The comprehensive review of data and qualitative analysis is done by Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen, an eminent human rights campaigner, who has years of experience in research, training and advocacy on issues of public health, gender and social communication, in addition to her skills and passion for documentary film making, literature and poetry. Her analysis shows that Dr. Rakhshinda has an instinctive response to issues of violence emanating from her inner feminist self in harmony with the most rational reflections on these issues springing from her sound intellectual being.

We believe that data which does not contribute to planning and decision-making is useless heap of figures devoid of any vision, direction and empathy that is particularly required in the case of statistics of violence. Data must lead to thinking and action. We hope that this report will help decision-makers in realizing the urgency to undertake concerted efforts at all levels to combat and eliminate gender-based violence in Pakistan.

While releasing this report, we feel let down and dismayed by our national legislature for its failure to adopt Domestic Violence Bill (DVB) which was initially passed by the National Assembly in August 2009; later it lapsed in the Senate; and since then, almost two years have passed, no one exactly knows what happened to it after that, what is its current status; and what would be its fate?

There are different perspectives, particularly after the adoption of landmark 18th Constitutional Amendment by the Parliament in April 2010, which resulted in the devolution of around 40 federal subjects to provinces from the concurrent list after its abolition. Some say that provinces are the appropriate forums and provincial legislature could do legislation on domestic violence; some are of the opinion that the DVB which had expired in the Senate and returned to the National Assembly could still be moved before the joint sitting of Parliament or this could be

presented to Parliament through the Council of Common Interests.

We at Aurat Foundation remain determined that we would continue to pursue and find ways for the adoption of DVB at the federal legislative level; however, at the same time, our regional offices in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa are seriously striving in collaboration with concerned legislators and governments to facilitate the introduction and enactment of domestic violence bills in provincial legislatures.

We had two major setbacks to the women's rights movement and struggle for elimination of VAW in recent months. In one of its decision, the Federal Shariat Court struck down Sections 11, 25 and 28 of the Protection of Women (Criminal Laws Amendments) Act 2006, which as seen by the women's rights organisations would increase obstacles in the way of women accessing justice. It is believed that the discrimination against women which was curtailed to some extent by Protection of Women Act, would resurface and lash out at women again. Aurat Foundation, HRCP and Women's Action Forum, Lahore, have gone into appeal against judgment.

Secondly, in an unexpected move, the Supreme Court gave verdict against gang-rape victim Mukhtaran Mai. Her case was taken as a test case for advocates of women's rights as they knew that the decision was going to have a long lasting impact on women's rights movement in general and in the context of provision of justice to survivors of violence. The SC decision shocked and dismayed civil society organisations. Aurat Foundation in collaboration and in solidarity with other organizations is doing and will continue to do its utmost in supporting Mukhtaran Mai.

Unfortunately, violence in all its forms has struck Pakistan in the most brutal manner during the last year and in recent months. The scale of this violence is so huge that it has even shaken the confidence of many in the sustainability of our institutions. We think that all of us are required to reach, as soon as possible, at least on one primary consensus that the war against violence, terrorism and extremism is our own battle; and that it could only be won if we have faith in our people and institutions. We must uphold the banner of human rights in the most steadfast manner whatsoever may come in our way.

Only zero tolerance for violence; zero tolerance for violence against women and children; commitment to peace and democracy and strengthening of our political and democratic institutions can save us and; only we can save ourselves from enemies within. With this resolve, I would like to express my gratitude for the staff of PDM-VAW for their devotion in gathering the data and compiling their reports; and to the Trocaire, our partners in this initiative, for their commitment to the cause of elimination of violence against women in Pakistan and their continuous support to realize this objective.

Naeem Ahmed Mirza
Chief Operating Officer
Aurat Foundation
June 2011, Islamabad.

Executive Summary

The present report is the third in the series *Violence Against Women (VAW) in Pakistan*, published by Aurat Foundation, presenting a qualitative review of VAW statistics for the year 2010. This publication, like its predecessors which came out in 2008 and 2009, is part of the Aurat Foundation's "Policy and Data Monitoring on Violence against Women" project. The project is particularly oriented towards data-collection, analysis and dissemination to highlight VAW issues prevalent in Pakistani society. The present report forms part of the actions undertaken by Aurat Foundation for providing momentum to its efforts for advocacy, policy and law reforms for enforcement of measures in collaboration with other like-minded civil society organizations, groups and activists.

Aurat Foundation has constantly worked to dispel the notion that the unequal status of genders in a society is a natural phenomenon, and that women are predestined to be subservient to men. The present work also establishes the fact that a patriarchal mindset leads to a misogynist set of social and cultural norms, where women too, consciously and/or sub-consciously, come to believe in their 'natural' lower status in society.

Needless to emphasize that these notions are not only harmful for the optimum development of the personality of women in particular, but have a deeply damaging effect on the overall development of the society in general. The great 12th century Muslim scholar Ibn Rushd had pointed out that a society that does not extend equal status to its women and treats them only as child-bearing and child-rearing creatures, eventually causes its own poverty.

The objective of all Aurat Foundation initiatives is to create awareness of the prevailing situation of women in Pakistan, and point out the glaring inhuman treatment meted out to the female population that transcends social classes and permeates all strata. Its particular focus is on gender-based violence, which hurts a woman not simply at a physical level but at the mental, sexual, psychological and emotional levels as well.

It may be unpalatable but the bitter truth is that, as shown in the 2010 Global Gender Gap Index, Pakistan has slipped from 127th in 2008 to 132nd place in 2010, just above the last two, Chad and Yemen. It only underlines the need for the urgency with which the issues surrounding the out of balance empowerment equation of genders in Pakistan should be addressed. With the growing gap, food insecurity has also increased during the same period, further reinforcing the correlation between the two.

The methodology used in obtaining the data as well as constraints and limitations faced by the data collection teams of Aurat Foundation are discussed in detail in the Annexure. However, as in previous years, all five offices of Aurat Foundation collected the statistics on VAW in Pakistan during the 2010 calendar year from January to December. Not only were the four provinces – Punjab, Sindh, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan – covered; data was also collected for the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). The main source of data was the print media in Urdu, English as well as in regional languages. Therefore, the present study presents only 'reported' crimes, and does not reflect the social, psychological, cultural and the consequent economic dimensions of

gender-based violence that have devastating effects on society as a whole.

According to the statistics collected, the total number of the reported VAW offences in Pakistan were 8000 during 1st January to 31st December 2010, coming down somewhat from the 2009 figure of 8548 reported incidents of VAW, showing a surprising decline of 6.85% in the total number of VAW cases. Should it be taken as a harbinger of palpable change in attitudes or an extreme case of under-reporting?! The year 2010 saw unprecedented floods affecting all the provinces of Pakistan, which caught the administration and the people pathetically unprepared. Having no record of dealing adequately with disaster situations, as evidenced in the 2005 earthquake, the administration seemed almost paralyzed even to handle basic relief and rescue operations, leave alone paying attention to helpless VAW victims who were at the mercy of their tormentors, unchecked and unbridled!

What strikes, and at the same time confirms the feeling that the period during and post-floods aggravated the VAW situation, was the rising number of abductions and kidnappings recorded, which jumped from 1986 in 2009 to 2236 during the year under review, depicting an increase of 12.59%. The unfortunate victims fell prey mostly to the prostitution and human trafficking mafia.

Murder, 'honour' killing and suicide that deprive a woman of her basic Right to Life, are probably the most inhuman aspects of VAW. The three categories taken together reported 2626 offences in 2010 as against 2673 cases during 2009. The small decrease is negligible and does not show any real improvement in the plight of women in Pakistan, long considered an easy target and an expendable item of property sacrificed at the altar of the false notions of family 'honour,' inter-clan and tribal vendetta.

The frequency of rape and gang rape has remained at 928 reported cases, as in 2009. This shameless act, in particular gang rape, which defies all moral and cultural values and traditions of this 'Islamic' society can only be explained by a primitive psyche which thrives in a violence-prone region. Rape leaves the victim with a stigma of shame for life, sometime leading her to commit suicide, and if rejected by her own family, ending up in prostitution dens. What remains puzzling is the quasi-silence of our religious circles, who defend with all their might the distortion and misuse of clear Islamic injunctions as in the infamous *Hudood Ordinance* of a military dictator. They blame this 'immoral' trend on the exposure of society to western influences, and conveniently forget that the overwhelming majority of such cases occur in our rural areas, which are comparatively 'safer' from the 'evil' influences of modernity.

Domestic violence was another major category of VAW reported in 3-digit figures: a total of 486 cases reported in 2010 as against 608 incidents in 2009, showing a decrease of 20%. In the absence of any conclusive evidence, it can safely be surmised that perhaps in the absence of private space in the camps of flood affected people, there were fewer chances and opportunities for inflicting domestic violence by intimate partners and/or family members. But it may have increased when the affectees went back and male bread-earners found their homes and sources of livelihood destroyed. In an exploitative economic system, the oppressed male victims almost always vent their frustration by inflicting harm on the female members of the family.

When the pattern of violence is analysed on the basis of provinces, Punjab, the majority province with a 56% share in the total population of the country, stands out, its VAW crime ratio, in most cases, exceeding that of other provinces in proportion to its population. The most prosperous, industrialized and developed province of the country takes an appalling lead in abductions and kidnappings with an incredible 82.32% of total reported cases, and 79.08% of total rape and gang rape offences reported by the media. Sindh, however, is at the top for the heinous crime of honour killing, with 266 reported offences out of a total of 557 cases, or 47.50% against its 23% proportion in the population. These atrocities continue thanks to the obsolete tribal notions of 'honour' and a parallel 'justice' system of tribal and *biradari* institutions known as *jirga* or *panchayat*, where the elders in the community decide the fate of the unfortunate victims declared *kara* or *kala andkari* or *kali* making their murder acceptable.

Another major collective category is of 'miscellaneous' crimes includes *Vanni*, *swara*, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, and attempted karo kari. Also included are attempts to murder or rape along with failed attempts at suicide. About one-fifth, or a total of 1580(19.75%) of the total registered VAW crimes have been placed in the category of miscellaneous crimes that took place during 2010. Here also, following the pattern, Punjab reported 1108 offences or 70.13% of the national total. Islamabad Capital Territory, which falls within the territorial boundaries of Punjab, follows a similar pattern claiming 1.59% of total VAW crimes against its meagre 1% share in the population; and this in spite of its reputation as Pakistan's best managed city with the tightest security measures and a supposedly alert reporting and redress mechanism monitored by its reputable Capital City Police.

Apart from the above, this report also covers crimes under individual categories that are as heinous and insulting to humanity but are reported less frequently. These include sexual assault, acid throwing and stove burning.

Adding to the extreme under-reporting of VAW crimes is another lamentable fact which must be addressed: our reporting mechanisms remain faulty and fail to register all reported crimes. The failure or incompetence bordering on unwillingness is evident by the fact that out of the 8000 crimes reported, FIRs were registered for only 6105 cases, or 76.31% of the total. The remaining almost one-fourth cases were either not registered or no information could be obtained about them.

Every activist is fully cognizant of the fact that mere collection and publication of statistics is not enough. Only a meaningful and valid interpretation of data and its widest possible dissemination will guarantee its access to the target audience: the most important being the common Pakistani women herself who mostly remains unaware of her rights under law and religion; the policy makers and decision takers in society who alone can bring about reforms and promulgate laws to change centuries old patriarchal notions and misogynist attitudes; and last but not least, fellow civil society activists working for similar goals with the purpose of transforming Pakistan into a progressive and humane society, where every citizen is assured of his or her fundamental rights to life, livelihood and respect as an equal human being.

Gender-based violence and VAW are manifestations of complex issues at deep psychological,

social and emotional levels. Addressing them at our earliest is the need of the hour. Gender stereotypes must be challenged and adequately addressed. Men, and particularly growing boys, must be made to understand that giving their women their due rights and dignity will not rob them of their masculinity, but will contribute to a better home and a better society for all. This report is being published with the strong belief and hope that it is possible to bring about meaningful change in attitudes and behaviour by providing authentic information that can guide decision makers and development practitioners and sensitize public opinion about the unacceptable and ongoing violence being perpetrated against women in the country.

Section One:

Context: State, Society and History

Situated on the northwestern flank of the South Asian Region, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan straddles a strategically important geo-political part of Asia, with the Arabian Sea in the south, sharing borders with Iran and Afghanistan in the west and India in the east. In the north, the narrow Wakhan strip joins it with China. Itself the cradle of the Indus Valley civilization, Pakistan connects the Indian sub-continent with the Middle East and Central Asia.

Over the centuries, even before the arrival of the Aryans, this area has welcomed new people and new ideas, absorbing them in its own rich culture. These migratory populations came more than often with invading armies. There were relatively shorter periods of peace in the area that now comprises Pakistan between one invasion and the next, and its people have witnessed many turbulent times. The invaders from the north-west, and from 16th century onwards, the growing influence of colonizing European nations, particularly the English who came in the guise of merchants, had started corroding the body-politic of the sub-continent. The culture of the Mughals and the Maharajas could not stand up against the mercantile and industrial culture of the East India Company. As the world crumbled around them the people sought solace in Sufism, which propagated a message of love, compassion, tolerance and universal brotherhood. Sufism seems to have become a defence mechanism, a shield to protect civilized life from the rigours of living under the scourge of both political tyranny as well as its supporting religiosity¹.

Side by side with Sufi teachings, there was another mindset which developed in this part of the world, one that is common to most war prone regions where the physically strong dominates the weak, when vendetta and feuds between warring tribes and clans become the norm while woman becomes simultaneously a symbol of honour and, as a consequence, a weapon of dishonouring the enemy, the target of release of frustration in home and a valuable item while settling disputes.

Pakistan came into being as a separate state on 14 August 1947, after almost a century of British colonial rule. The partition of the Indian sub-continent was justified on the basis of providing a country to safeguard the rights of the Muslims, rights that they feared would be denied to them in an undivided India where an overwhelming majority was Hindu. The founder of the country, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, wanted a country where all religious faiths would live in harmony and the matters of state and religion would not be intermixed, as stated by him in clear terms in his famous speech of 11 August 1947. But in the following years, Pakistan evolved into an ideological state where Islam became the state religion and the population was almost exclusively, 98%, Muslim.

A patriarchal and misogynist mindset interpreted Islamic injunctions affecting women in a narrow parochial manner weighing heavily in favour of men, despite constitutional guarantees of fundamental human rights, including equality of status and opportunity before the law. Here it seems relevant to refer to the 12th century Islamic Philosopher and thinker Ibn Rushdⁱ, known to

¹ Shahid, Yousuf, 'Wandering with the Indus', Ferozesons, 1995

the West as *Averroes*, and proclaimed as the *Second Master* (Aristotle being the first), who claimed that women were equal to men in all respects and possessed equal capacities to excel in peace and war, and cites examples of female warriors among the Arabs, Greeks, and Africans. To support his case, he quoted examples of notable female Muslims from early Islamic history who fought during the Muslim conquests and Fitna (civil wars) as soldiers or generals, such as Nusaibah bint Ka'b al-Muzayniyyah, Aisha, Khawla and Um Umarah.

Habeeb Salloum, in his article *Ibn Rushd-The Great Muslim Philosopher Who Planted the Seeds of European Renaissance*, quotes from Jan Read's work *The Moors in Spain and Portugal* citing from Ibn Rushd's commentary on the status of women: "Our society allows no scope for the development of women's talents. They seem to be destined exclusively to childbirth and the care of children, and this state of servility has destroyed their capacity for larger matters. It is thus that we see no women endowed with moral virtues; they live their lives like vegetables, devoting themselves to their husbands. From this stems the misery that pervades our cities, for women outnumber men by more than double and cannot procure the necessities of life by their own labors²."

It is interesting and thought provoking that in the nine centuries since Ibn Rushd, not much has changed as far as the status of women is concerned in most Muslim countries. In Pakistan religiosity is on the rise. The tensions with India on the east since the birth of Pakistan on the one hand, and with Afghanistan on the west, particularly since the invasion of that country in 1989 by the Soviet forces on the other, have been rising. It has led to an era of violence in our country. Heavy militarization along with acquiring of the status of a nuclear state have not helped Pakistan much in dealing with the outbreak of *jihadi* violence in the uncontrollable semi-autonomous tribal areas bordering Afghanistan.

With Pakistan's involvement in the Afghan war, the country gradually became a transit route for Afghan drugs, including heroin, opium, morphine, and hashish, mainly for markets in Iran, the Gulf States, Africa, Asia, Europe and America. The increasing incidence of financial crimes related to drug trafficking, terrorism, corruption and smuggling has aggravated the sense of social insecurity. The situation has been further compounded with the free flow of arms and weapons, giving birth to what is called the *kalashnikov culture*. Violence in general is on the rise for settling scores, not only in ideological skirmishes but for personal issues as well.

Ibn Rushd believed that exclusion of half of humanity prevented a country from achieving its full potential. It has now been proved that leaving out women from participating in a society's development, particularly education has far a reaching detrimental effect on all aspects of national development. Worldwide research bears testimony to the fact that inclusion of women in education and other social activity, including economic activity, can and does play a major role in reducing child malnutrition and poverty.

The Global Gender Gap Index 2010 shows Pakistan slipping from 127th place in 2008 to a dismal 132nd position among 134 nations, followed only by Chad and Yemen. With this growing

² <http://www.aljadid.com/classics/0422salloum.html>

gap, food insecurity has also increased during the two mentioned years,³ proving a close correlation between the two.

Today's world is said to be a global village. The electronic media has magnified the exposure to modernization and globalization to an extent which was unimaginable before. But in Pakistan, this has not been accompanied with a corresponding increase in investment in social development, as is the case in emerging market nations. This situation has given rise to unfulfilled desires for greater material comforts and facilities. Some apparent signs of modernization appear to be selective and disproportionate and seem more of a façade, and on close examination the patterns and forms of violence against women and girls across the class and geographical divides are disquieting. They point to a weakening of moral fibre and of the social fabric.

The eradication of Violence Against Women (VAW) is a declared priority of the Pakistan Government. Removing discrimination against women, including VAW, is one of the gender policy objectives of the state. It recognizes violence as a key factor obstructing women from exercising their basic rights and obtaining social and economic equality.

The United Nations General Assembly defines VAW as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.” Therefore, VAW on the whole refers to violent acts that are “primarily or exclusively committed against women”, states the United Nations. It is considered akin to a hate crime. The 1993 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of VAW also noted that VAW might be perpetrated by assailants of either gender, family members and even the State itself.

The World Health Organization (WHO) maintains that VAW puts “an undue burden on Health Care services, with women who have suffered violence being more likely to need health services and at higher cost, compared to women who have not suffered violence”. The link between maltreatment of women and international violence has been substantiated by studies. Scholars have established that “one of the best predictors of inter and intra-national violence is the maltreatment of women in the society”.

The 1993 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of VAW states that VAW is “a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women and to the prevention of the full advancement of women, and that VAW is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men.” A UN resolution has designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of VAW.

The international recognition of violence against women as a human rights violation was the culmination of years of dedicated campaigning by women's rights activists and survivors of violence. The Vienna World Conference on Human Rights finally recognized that women's rights are human rights, a position that has been reaffirmed at all subsequent world summits. Since the Vienna conference, violence against women is no more considered an issue in the private domain

³ http://www.peacewomen.org/portal_resources_resource.php?id=1049

and has entered the arena of public debate as a recognized issue. A multitude of initiatives all over the world have raised awareness and helped bring about legal reforms that support the survivors of abuse and punish the perpetrators.

Violence against women and girls is a violation of fundamental human rights. It is a global issue. As Rashida Patel says, “It goes back to the Stone Age. Historically, the physical weakness of women, their child bearing function and their economic dependence combined to assign men the role of protectors and providers of women, evolving a superior status of the male over the female, and a culture of violence against women. As a result women have suffered the trauma of hurt and pain. Even though the present day challenges of life are no longer the same as those that prevailed in the Stone Age, gender-based violence continues, often unreported.” Further on, she comments, “Simple physical strength does not control life today. Knowledge and science rule the world. Women are just as capable of moving the gear of destruction or development as men are. Despite this, millions of women around the world suffer from discrimination and violence because of their gender⁴.”

Statistics imply that violence against women is all pervasive. Generally, it is assessed that one in three women worldwide will suffer some form of gender-based violence within the course of their lifetime. Forms of abuse include beating, rape, assault, trafficking, murder, humiliation, restriction of social contacts and mobility, harassment or being forced to undergo so-called “harmful practices” (UN Commission on the Status of Women, 2/28/00). The rising trend of violence against women is the worst manifestation of social stress existing in a society. A rise in VAW is a reflection of the debasement of the culture in a society where women are not only cultural minors but their number is reportedly less than men (according to UNDP data, women constitute 48.5% of the population).

Violence against women and girls can no more be perceived as a private issue and as isolated individual cases. In fact, a cursory view of the observational data presents a very disturbing picture. Abuse of women costs the whole society heavily in social and economic terms and places a heavy burden, hampering development and progress. The World Bank estimates that violence against women is as serious a cause of death and incapacity among women of reproductive age as cancer, and is a bigger cause of ill health than traffic accidents and malaria put together⁵.

The long-term effects of VAW on the health of those assaulted are multifarious. In addition to psychological trauma, sexual violence in particular, can lead to gynecological disorders, unwanted pregnancies, premature labour and birth, and an increase in sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Exposure to sexually transmitted diseases increases as a result of rape and fear or inability to negotiate safe sex. Violence during pregnancy is also an enormous problem, as it can quadruple the risk of low birth weight babies and double the risk of miscarriage. All these factors combined contribute heavily towards post-natal infant mortality.

⁴ Patel, Rashida, “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Pakistan”, OUP, 2010).

⁵ Heise, L. et al. Violence Against Women: The Hidden Health Burden. World Bank Discussion Papers No. 155. Washington (DC), 1994.)

It is not only the assaulted woman who bears the cost of VAW individually, but the whole of society pays an exponentially high price in terms of increased health care expenditure, demands on courts, police and schools, and losses in educational attainment and productivity. A survey in India showed women lost an average of seven working days after each incident of violence. The cost of VAW is exacerbated in developing countries where women often have lower status than men.

VAW directly affects educational attainment. Where VAW leads to fear of participation in schooling or economic activity, it is possible that it may be a major impediment to development. We need to use our human capital effectively to promote economic growth. A long-term commitment and strong social and political will to protect and promote human rights is needed to change deep-rooted attitudes, tribal customs and a feudal mindset that condones or tolerates VAW. It is a challenging task but it must be done for the overall human development of the Pakistani society.

Approaches that effectively address VAW range from changing laws, working to strengthen the response of law enforcement agencies, educating women about their rights, and working with the community. Legal reform can be ineffective if there are insufficient capacity and resources to implement the changes. Empowering women through activities that promote income generation can assist them to recover from violence. However, this can be undermined if broader measures to address VAW are not in place.

It has been shown that domestic violence increases during wartime and after conflicts due to combatant trauma and the influence of a militaristic culture of violence. Also known is the fact that exposure to modern ideas and attitudes make young people more open to changing their views about the acceptability of violence than are adults. Some historians believe that the history of VAW is tied to the history of women being viewed as property and a gender role assigned to be subservient to men and also other women.

Violence against women takes a number of other, less obvious forms, including harmful traditional practices. These have been committed against women in some societies for so long that they are considered part of acceptable cultural practice. Harmful traditional practices in Pakistan include 'honour' killings, dowry murder, early marriage and customs like *vanni* and *swara*.

Besides being a fundamental violation of human rights, violence against women represents one of the most critical public health and development challenges, and is a major factor contributing to poverty. Consequently, to achieve most of the UN Millennium Development Goals, violence against women and girls must be prevented and substantially reduced.

VAW reflects a deep intra-society injustice that prevails across culture, social class, education, income, ethnic groups and age differences. Reducing poverty amidst the injustice reflected in VAW is simply not possible. The inter-linkages between poverty reduction, development and the promotion of human rights in the Development Policy clearly establish that empowering women

and strengthening their rights must be key priorities for our national development policy. A strong political commitment to women's human rights expressed and anchored in our various policies to Combat Poverty must be translated into sincere action is positive change is to take place.

Simultaneously, a culturally sensitive approach must be adopted which aims to develop strategies from a local perspective. One must engage traditional and religious institutions in the country, besides political players and civil society. Only local ownership, acceptance and sustainability of the reform processes in our state and society can put an end to Violence Against Women.

Section TWO:

Overview of VAW Cases in Pakistan:

A figure that catches attention at first glance when comparing data on number and percentages of VAW in Pakistan for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010, is that while the total number of cases increased from 2008 to 2009 by 13%, the figures for 2010 show a surprising decline of 6.41% when the sum total of cases is taken in account. In 2010, 8000 cases of VAW were reported against a total of 8548 in 2009. Has there been a real improvement or is it a case of under-reporting? Methodology, constraints and limitations of the data for 2010 are given in the annexure, but the subject also merits a deeper look.

This question can be analysed taking into consideration the disastrous floods in 2010, which were unparalleled in the recent history of Pakistan, affecting the most populated areas of the country in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh. The 2010 Pakistan floods began in late July 2010, resulting from heavy monsoon rains in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan regions of Pakistan and affected the Indus River basin. Approximately one-fifth of Pakistan's total land area was under floodwaters. According to official data the floods directly affected about 20 million people, mostly by destruction of property, livelihood and infrastructure, with a death toll of close to 2,000.

Barriers to reporting increase in the event of widespread damage, and though little data is available but some indicators suggest that VAW increases under disaster situations, as research shows that sexual and domestic violence are often identified as issues for women refugees in temporary camps. Reports of natural disasters point towards increased incidence of VAW all over the world, from the massive 1998 ice storms in Quebec and Ontario, Canada, to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami affected Sri Lanka⁶.

According to general perception, in Pakistan too VAW increased during the floods and in the post-flood scenario, because males were jobless and under severe stress, and as is the norm, the weaker sections of society, most obviously women, became easy victims of the stress. VAW increased more among those flood affectees who went back to their homes, because it was easier for men to batter or torture their wives at home than in the camps. But it is also a known fact that during and after the floods, the state mechanisms for reporting and redress also broke down in the flood affected areas.

⁶ www.gdnonline.org/.../VAW%20in%20Disasters%20Fact%20Sheet%202006.doc

Table-1 below compares different categories of various forms of overt offences, number of offences, and the percentages reported and recorded in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Table 1: Number & Percentages of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during 2008-2010

Categories of Crime	Number of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during January to December 2009 to January to December 2010						Grand Total	Percentage increase/decrease in vaw cases between 2009-2010
	Year 2008	%	Year 2009	%	Year 2010	%		
Abduction/Kidnapping	1,784	29	1,987	33	2236	27.95	6,007	12.53%
Murder	1,422	33	1,384	32	1436	17.95	4,242	3.76%
Domestic Violence	281	20.36	608	44.05	486	6.075	1375	-20.06%
Suicide	599	31.21	683	35.59	633	7.9125	1915	-7.32%
Honor Killing	475	28.98	604	36.85	557	6.9625	1636	-7.78%
Rape/Gang Rape	778	29.43	928	35.11	928	11.6	2634	0.00%
Sexual Assault	172	30.28	274	48.23	74	0.925	520	-72.00%
Acid Throwing	29	24.57	53	44.91	32	0.4	114	-39.62%
Burning	61	39.61	50	32.46	38	0.475	149	-24.00%
Miscellaneous	1,970	35	1,977	36	1580	19.75	5,527	-20.08%
Total	7,571		8,548		8000		24119	-6.41%
Percentage%	31.10%		35.10%		33.17%		100%	

A detailed, category by category, analysis shows that an increase was reported in the categories of Abduction/Kidnapping from 1987 cases in 2009 to 2236 in 2010, a rise of 12.53%, and Murder with 1436 cases reported in 2010 against 1384 in 2009, showing an increase of 3.76%. All the rest of the categories depict a declining trend, highest being in Sexual Assault, from 274 incidents in 2009 to a mere 74 in 2010, or a fall of 72%, followed by 32 Acid Throwing cases in 2010 compared to 53 in 2009, showing a decline of 39.62%. Next is the decrease in Burning cases, a total of a mere 38 incidents reported in 2010 against 50 reported in 2009, or a decline of 24.00%. Domestic Violence with 486 cases reported in 2010 against 608 in 2009, show a fall of 20%. Miscellaneous crimes against women also indicate a downward trend of 20%, from 1977 cases in 2009 to 1580 in 2010.

Table-2 summarizes instances of VAW in Pakistan during the reporting year along with percentageranking of the acts of violence targeting women.

Table 2: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in Pakistan during 2010

Category of Crime	Total Number of Cases	%age of the Total (%)
Abduction/Kidnapping	2236	27.95
Murder	1436	17.95
Domestic Violence	486	6.08
Suicide	633	7.91
Honor Killing	557	6.96
Rape/Gang Rape	928	11.6
Sexual Assault	74	0.96
Acid Throwing	32	0.40
Burning	38	0.48
Miscellaneous	1580	19.75
Total	8000	100.00%

Data for 2010 shows Abduction/Kidnapping, Suicide, Murder, Domestic Violence and Honour Killing remain the most prevalent forms of violence against women with an alarming total of 66.85% of these forms of violence out of 8000 cases recorded.

The incidence of abductions and kidnappings remains the highest for the third consecutive year, with 2236 cases constituting more than a quarter or 27.95% of the total VAW crimes. The rise in abduction and kidnappings may partially be explained in the context of during and post-flood scenario. In the aftermath of the earthquake on 8 October 2005 in northern Pakistan, the cases of abduction/prostitution were on the rise; the human trafficking mafia becomes overactive in disaster situations, taking benefit of the separation of families, general panic and the breakdown of law and order.

Rape and gang rape incidents remained at the same level with 928 cases, constituting 11.6% of the total tally of VAW crimes. Rape is a deplorable crime, which destroys the victim's body and soul, the trauma and shame living on even after her death. While gang rape is a crime that generally takes place in war situations, in Pakistan it is blatantly used as a measure to dishonour and punish a weaker enemy. And every woman does not get the same attention as Mukhtaran Mai. It is also paradoxical that religious circles, who become all active when any suggestion to amend and improve the *Hudood Ordinance* is made, remain quiet at such cases. It is only through the media that these crimes come to public notice, and when the protest reaches a certain level, only then the Authorities swing into action, belatedly and unconvincingly. (The infamous *Hudood Ordinance* was enacted by the military dictator General Zia-ul-Haq during whose regime Pakistan jumped into the Afghanistan war, Taliban were raised and Islam was exploited for supporting, aiding and abetting a war in another country between two super powers, making the gullible citizenry believe that it was not a normal war but a *Jihad* against the powers of *kufir* which is incumbent on every Muslim to support. To please and gain the support of the extreme

right religious parties, he promulgated many draconian laws in the name of Islam, distorting Islamic injunctions to appease a misogynist, patriarchal mindset.)

The three categories of Suicide, Murder and Honour Killing, which deprive a woman of her basic right to life, together constitute 32.82% or one third of the total incidents of violence against women. Suicide is included in this group as it is nothing short of indirect murder. When the conditions of living become utterly unbearable, only then a person chooses suicide as the last resort.

The category of ‘Miscellaneous’ includes cases of *vanni*, *swara*, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted murder, as reported from all the four provinces and Islamabad during the year 2010. These lumped together comprise an alarming one fifth of all violence against women. In previous years, they were one fourth of the total.

Table-3 below depicts the picture of the country with province-wise breakdown of major VAW offences in 2010.

Table 3: Offence-wise / Province-wise breakdown of major offences out of 8000 cases of VAW in Pakistan

No. of Cases	Nature of Crime	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Baluchistan	ICT
2296	Abduction/Kidnapping	1890	246	77	2	21
1492	Murder	758	308	328	15	27
491	Domestic Violence	246	136	89	4	11
633	Suicide	424	140	54	8	7
560	Honor Killing	233	266	22	36	0
937	Rape/Gang Rape	741	157	5	6	19
74	Sexual Assault	39	34	0	0	1
32	Acid Throwing	20	3	1	5	3
43	Burning	33	0	3	1	1
1580	Miscellaneous	1108	362	71	2	37

Out of 2296 cases of Abductions and Kidnappings, some 1890 cases occurred in Punjab, or 88.32% of the total for this particular offence. Sindh with 246 cases is the second highest or 10.71% of the total, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) with 77 cases or 3.35% of the total, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) with 21 or 0.91%, and Balochistan with only 2. This pattern is repeated for other VAW offences. Out of a total of 1492 Murder cases, 758 occurred in Punjab (50.80%), 308 in Sindh (20.64%), 328 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (21.98%), ICT 27 cases (1.49%), and in Balochistan 15 incidents (1.00%) were reported. For Honour Killing, the statistics show: 560 for whole of Pakistan, Punjab reported 233 cases (41.61%), Sindh 266 (47.5%), Balochistan 36 (6.43%), and KP 22 (3.73%). Rape and Gang Rape crimes numbered 937, of which in Punjab there were 741 cases (79.08%), in Sindh 157 (16.76%), in KP 5 (0.53%), in Balochistan 6 (0.64%), and in ICT (2.03%). For Suicide again Punjab leads with 424 out of 637 incidents reported or 66.56% of the total; Sindh follows with 140 cases (21.98%), KP 54 (8.48%),

Balochistan 8 (1.26%), and ICT with 7 cases (1.1%). Domestic violence figures show 491 cases for the whole country: Punjab 246 cases (50.10%), Sindh 136 (27.70%), KP 89 (18.13%), Balochistan 4 (0.81%), and ICT 11(2.24%). In the ‘Miscellaneous’ category, total 1610 crimes were recorded: Punjab 1108(68.82%), Sindh 362(22.48%), KP 71 (4.41%), Balochistan only 2 (0.12%), and ICT 37 (2.30%).

According to the Population Census, the latest estimates (2011) for the total population of Pakistan are 176,480,486. Province-wise percentage break-up is: Punjab 56%, Sindh 23%, KP 13%, Balochistan 5% and ICT 1%.

Keeping these figures in mind, a most disturbing fact comes out on further analysis. In conformity with the preceding years, Punjab, the most populous, prosperous and developed province of Pakistan, leads in the major VAW offences in most categories, disproportionate to its percentage in the total population of the country. Abductions and kidnappings, rape and gang rape, suicide and miscellaneous crimes are the offences in which Punjab is at the top. Do these findings reflect a particular mindset, treating women as a tool of vengeance, an object to be traded? In Sindh the high incidence of Honour Killings is out of proportion to its population, for which the abominable custom of *karo kari* prevalent in that province can be blamed. Islamabad, geographically a part of Punjab, also presents an alarming picture for Murder, Rape and Gang Rape, Domestic Violence and Miscellaneous Crimes. Is this because of better media coverage? Or conformity of pattern with the rest of Punjab province?

2.1. Territorial Distribution of VAW in Pakistan:

Table-4 below showing overall statistics with percentages of VAW cases, further corroborates the above analysis. The data collected and presented below in tabular form shows more than two-thirds of the total cases of VAW occurred in Punjab. The province reported 5,492 cases out of a total of 8000 cases of VAW recorded from all over the country. This gives the largest province a manifest lead with 68.65 % of all the known cases of VAW. Sindh followed Punjab with 1652 or 20.65% of the total, maintaining its last year’s level. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa reported only 650 or 8.13% of the total. In Balochistan, the total number of VAW offences is 79 or only 0.98% of the overall statistics. Islamabad, alarmingly enough, again reported 127 cases, contributing 1.59% to the national total of cases of VAW. The capital city of Pakistan is known for its high security environment, urban facilities and a concentration of support and judicial services. Still, the ugly incidence of VAW to this best managed city of the country was out of proportion, keeping in mind its small area and size of population.

As was the case in 2009, a greater number of VAW cases were recorded in the first half or bi-annual of 2010, when there were 4069 reported cases in Pakistan. Of these 2690 took place in Punjab; 940 in Sindh; 342 in KP; 56 in Balochistan, and 41 in Islamabad.

In the second bi-annual of 2010, another 3931 cases of VAW were recorded. Of these, 2802 were in Punjab, 712 in Sindh, 308 in KP, 23 in Balochistan, and 86 in Islamabad.

Table 4: Total Number & Percentages of Cases by Territory and bi-annual 2010

Province	1st Bi-annual (Jan- June2010)	%	2nd Bi-Annual (July - Dec 2010)	%	Percentage increase/decrease in cases of VAW during the 1st and 2nd half of the year 2010
Punjab	2690	66.24%	2802	71.28%	4.16%
Sindh	940	22.95%	712	18.11%	-24.25%
KP	342	8.42%	308	7.83%	-9.94
Baluchistan	56	1.38%	23	0.58%	-58.93
ICT	41	1.01%	86	2.19%	109.76
Grand Total	4069	100%	3931	100%	-3.20

However, as in previous years, it might be missing the point to just point out that the ratio of VAW in Punjab was higher than other territories. Punjab is the largest province in demographic terms. When the prevalence of cases of VAW is seen in comparison to population, it follows that the 68.65% crime rate in Punjab has slightly decreased compared to 2009 figures to its 56% share in the total population of the country. Nonetheless, the trend does not augur well for this province when the situation of cases of VAW continues exceed its demographic proportions. Figures indicate that Sindh has reduced its share in the total VAW offences. The province is home to 23% of the country's population while its VAW crime rate is 20.65%. In view of the levels of rural poverty and known cultural biases against women, however, the issue becomes worth investigating whether or not the reported percentage of cases bear resemblance to the actual occurrence of crimes in the province. As far as KP is concerned, it has already been observed that there appears to be an apparent under-reporting of cases. The province has a 13% share in population while its reported VAW crime rate is only 8.13% despite the overbearing context of an ongoing war in the area. In Balochistan, the same situation of under-reporting VAW appears to repeat itself. The reported crime rate is only 0.98%, which is less than one-fifth of its 5% share in the population of Pakistan.

The trends of under-reporting are further reinforced in the instance of VAW statistics from Islamabad that stand at 1.59% of the total as compared to 2.01% of the total for 2009. Since the Islamabad Capital Territory is one of the most secure living areas with manifestly better police and justice services, this crime rate for VAW, though showing a reduction is still more than its share of 1% of the total population, perhaps indicating a truer rate than data from the provinces!

It has been earlier commented that 2010 floods created unprecedented disaster conditions in the country, particularly in the provinces of Punjab, Sindh and KP. Also, the ongoing 'war on terror' reached new heights in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Both factors combined made reporting and recording of VAW cases a daunting task. The tribal traditions prevailing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, too, inhibit reporting, which is seen as a public declaration of a shameful incident against their women folk.

Punjab and Islamabad stand out showing an overall increase, though lower than previous years, whereas other provinces show a decline in VAW crimes, with Balochistan and Sindh showing considerable reduction of 58.93% and 24.25% respectively. This unlikely downward trend needs

to be carefully investigated, whether it is a case of under-reporting or of real relief.

2.2. Highest rate of VAW in 15 districts:

Lahore, otherwise known as the city of *Zinda Dilan*, or lively-hearted people, has retained its unenviable lead as the district with the highest VAW crime rate. In terms of VAW incidents, there occurred some 1089 cases (910 in 2009) out of a total of 8000 cases for all of Pakistan or 13.61% of the total! Thus, Lahore maintains an unenviable place as the VAW crime capital of the country. It had the same ranking in 2009 and 2008.

Industrialization and urbanization contribute to material well being of a society, but inequitable distribution of wealth and an unjust social system make these developing patterns a bane instead of a boon. The industrialized districts showed a greater trend for cases of VAW proving research observations that urban stresses, especially the rising costs of living, take their toll on the most vulnerable sections of the population, women. Lahore's unpalatable distinction of 1089 cases stays even in data for Punjab province that reported a total of 5492 cases. Lahore was followed by Faisalabad with 787 cases, and Sargodha with 374 VAW crimes, maintaining their ranking of 2009. Next in line were Sheikupura (323), Rawalpindi (289), Peshawar (245), Kasur (227), Okara (208), Multan (179), Sialkot (173), Khairpur (171), Gujranwala (156), Chakwal (154), Sahiwal (150) and Toba Tek Singh (142).

Karachi, the economic, financial, commercial and industrial capital of the country, is conspicuous by its absence from the list of top 15 districts for VAW crimes. This could be explained by the high literacy rate compared to the rest of the country, vocal presence of social activists, higher awareness and exposure to a vigilant media. Otherwise, Karachi is no stranger to murder and violence, in particular of a political nature. Table 5 and Figure 2 below illustrate these facts.

Table 5: Top 15 districts for VAW Crimes

Sr. No.	District Names	Abduction/Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape/Gang rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Stove Burning	Miscellaneous	Grand Total
1	Lahore	521	2	28	110	19	109	7	76	3	214	1089
2	Faisalabad	343	3	25	128	22	82	8	41	5	130	787
3	Sargodha	146	1	21	49	18	36	2	15	2	84	374
4	Sheikhupura	132	1	8	51	8	46	22	14	0	41	323
5	Rawalpindi	114	0	25	21	2	52	8	21	16	30	289
6	Peshawar	54	0	61	1	4	87	0	10	1	27	245
7	Kasur	75	0	5	47	14	42	3	18	3	20	227
8	Okara	69	1	5	35	11	24	10	12	0	41	208
9	Multan	50	1	16	21	6	13	0	4	2	66	179
10	Sialkot	54	1	7	23	5	26	4	8	0	45	173
11	Khairpur	40	1	6	10	19	29	2	16	0	48	171
12	Gujranwala	17	1	7	33	9	38	0	22	0	19	156
13	Chakwal	32	1	14	9	0	20	5	40	9	24	154
14	Sahiwal	34	0	2	10	17	27	1	33	0	26	150
15	Toba Tek singh	13	3	5	23	11	23	6	14	1	43	142

2.3. Major Categories of VAW Prevalent in Pakistan:

The most prevalent categories of VAW in Pakistan include murder, 'honour' killing, abduction and kidnapping, domestic violence, suicide, rape and gang rape, sexual assault, stove burning and acid throwing. These are distinct from the minor categories for which there is little segregated data available. These are reported as crimes of "miscellaneous nature" and include cases of *vanni*, *swara*, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment and attempted murder as reported from all the four provinces and Islamabad during the year 2010. Below is an elaboration of the major categories and the reported cases of VAW in these categories from the year under review.

2.3.1 Murder:

There were a total of 1492 cases of murder recorded all over the country in 2010 categorized as cases of violence against women, compared to 1384 in 2009. Out of these, 758 or 50.80% occurred in the province of Punjab. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the second highest with 328 cases or 21.98% of the total murder cases in the whole of the country. Sindh ranked third with 308 murder cases reported or 20.64%; Islamabad reported 27 murder cases, claiming 1.81%; and

Balochistan, the smallest province population-wise, was last in the list with 15 cases only. What is evident at first glance is that in KP The number of murder cases registered were way out of proportion to the size of its population in the country. This should be viewed in the light of the escalating ‘war on terror,’ which is destroying the material and social fabric of that most affected province, as well as the continuously rising threat of extremist forces. Murder cases in Islamabad outnumber those in Balochistan this year, which is very disturbing, considering that it is the country’s capital and has the best security arrangements, urban facilities and support and judicial services.

The highest frequency of murder cases which come under VAW, again as in the two previous years, were reported from Lahore, which leads in this category with 127 incidents. Partner violence globally accounts for large numbers of deaths among women. Studies show that between 40 to 70 per cent of female murder victims were killed by their partners around the world. Lahore appears to be no exception.

Lahore is followed by Peshawar with 87 women reported murdered in 2010, closely followed by Faisalabad where 82 women were murdered; Mardan and was at fourth position with 58 murders reported. Karachi also recorded 58 murder cases, but seen in proportion to the population in this mega city, the number is much less alarming than the situation in Mardan. Rawalpindi witnessed 52 murders of women, while 46 cases were reported from Sheikhpura, 42 from Kasur, 38 from Gujranwala, and 36 from Sargodha.

Table 6: Top 10 Districts for Murder during 2008-2010

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Lahore	149	Lahore	96	Lahore	127
2	Peshawar	87	Faisalabad	91	Peshawar	87
3	Karachi	64	Peshawar	72	Faisalabad	82
4	Faisalabad	61	Rawalpindi	53	Mardan	58
5	Gujranwala	48	Larkana	52	Karachi	58
6	Rawalpindi	46	Sargodha	49	Rawalpindi	52
7	Sheikhpura	46	Gujranwala	49	Sheikhpura	46
8	Kasur	39	Sukkur	46	Kasur	42
9	Sahiwal	37	Islamabad	39	Gujranwala	38
10	Quetta	35	Jacobabad	38	Sargodha	36

2.3.2. ‘Honour’ Killing

A total of 557 persons were killed in the name of ‘honour’ (*karo kari*) all over Pakistan during 2010 as compared to 604 cases in last year, showing a slight decline of 7.78%. Sindh again was the lead offender in this particular genre of violence against women. Out of the 557 reported cases from across the country, some 266 or 47.76% of the total took place in the territories of the Sindh province. Punjab did not lag much behind Sindh in this particular brand of VAW with 233 cases or 41.83% of the total crimes reported during the year. Balochistan also reported 36 cases,

bringing down its share to 6.46%, somewhat proportionate to its population in the country. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also reported 22 cases claiming a 3.95% share in national statistics. There was no case of 'honour' killing reported in the Islamabad Capital Territory this year.

Table 7: Top 10 Districts for 'Honour' killing during years 2008-2010

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Ghotki	36	Jacobabad	36	Jacobabad	42
2	Lahore	34	Sukkur	32	Ghotki	37
3	Naseerabad	34	Khairpur Mirs	32	Larkana	33
4	Jacobabad	32	Larkana	31	Faisalabad	22
5	Larkana	32	Faisalabad	26	Kashmore	21
6	Khairpur Mirs	31	Lahore	23	Lahore	19
7	Sukkur	26	Ghotki	24	Khairpur Mirs	19
8	Nausheroferoz	24	Lahore	23	Sargodha	18

'Honour' killing is higher in rural and tribal areas where *jirgas* and *panchayat* systems still hold sway, overriding the law of the land and undermining formal institutions of conflict resolution.

2.3.3. Abduction/Kidnapping:

In contrast to 'honour' killings largely committed in Sindh, the highest instance of abduction of women cases occurred in Punjab. In fact, this appears to be the major VAW crime in Punjab with 1890 incidents out of a total of 2296 cases reported from all over Pakistan during 2010. The frequency of this particular genre of crime in this province has increased as compared to last year's national data. This comes to a high rate of more than five women reportedly abducted everyday on an average in the province. This is 82.32% of the total figure for abduction and kidnapping cases of women from the whole country.

The figures for Islamabad, though down from last year, still remain alarming. This is higher than what obtains from the province of Balochistan where law enforcement is comparatively weaker and social traditions are not conducive to women's emancipation.

According to cases monitored and recorded by the Aurat Foundation teams some 21 cases of women's abductions took place in Islamabad, which is almost one percent of all the cases in Pakistan during 2010. Balochistan came up with the improbable figure of only 2 abduction cases during the year under study, while KP registered 77 such cases.

Lahore leads the notorious trend of abductions with 521 cases followed by 343 from Faisalabad. The pattern continues with 146 from Sargodha, 132 from Sheikhpura, 114 from Rawalpindi, 75 from Kasur, 69 from Okara, 54 from Sialkot, 50 from Multan, and 30 from Islamabad. The remaining cases were reported from different areas of KP, Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan.

Table 8: Top 10 Districts for Abduction/Kidnapping during years 2008-2010

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Lahore	397	Lahore	372	Lahore	521
2	Rawalpindi	218	Faisalabad	265	Faisalabad	343
3	Faisalabad	171	Rawalpindi	169	Sargodha	146
4	Sheikhupura	118	Sargodha	140	Sheikhupura	132
5	Multan	82	Sheikhupura	88	Rawalpindi	114
6	Islamabad	79	Kasur	80	Kasur	75
7	Kasur	61	Multan	64	Okara	69
8	Sahiwal	51	Peshawar	56	Sialkot	54
9	Gujranwala	26	Islamabad	52	Multan	50
10	Peshawar	14	Jacobabad	41	Sahiwal	30

There have been suggestions that in some districts of Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab, heavily mired in tribal and patriarchal values of controlling women's lives and bodies, there has been a manifest preference to 'kill' women for "honour", rather than abduct them. This is further compounded particularly if she bears the stigma of having been abducted or raped or marrying, or even wishing to marry, out of her own choice. This is reflected in the higher ratio of murder and 'honour' killing in these areas and a proportionally low ratio of abductions and rape or gang-rape reported. The so-called custodians of harmful customs and traditions in these tribal societies routinely inflict sheer humiliation on their women denying them the dignity of choice. 'Honour' killings are the worst form of this control and the most shameful manifestation of VAW in Pakistan.

2.3.4. Suicide:

Why call a person who decides to end her or his own life a victim? It would be illuminating here to resort to a dictionary for the definition of the word *victim*. According to Webster, it is: "Someone or something killed, destroyed, injured, or otherwise harmed by, or suffering from, some act, condition, agency, or circumstance." It is the ultimate stage when a woman reaches the ultimate threshold of bearing the suffering meted out to her mostly by her own people, and decides to end the misery forever. It could be interpreted as her last reply to, and final revolt against her tormentors, escaping their clutches at last.

Violence against women is the main driver behind female suicides. The total cases of reported suicide were 633 in 2010, a slight decrease as compared to the figure of 683 in 2009, according to media scanning by the Aurat Foundation teams. Maintaining again the same pattern of abductions, the highest numbers of suicide cases were reported from Punjab, followed by Sindh and KP. With 424 women committing suicide, Punjab's share in this particular brand of VAW was 66.98% in 2010. Sindh reported 140 or 22.12% women's suicide cases; some 54 women committed suicide in KP, that is 8.53%; while among the provinces, Balochistan recorded the lowest number, 8 or a mere 1.26% of the total suicides committed by women in Pakistan. Islamabad reported 7 cases during the year or 1.11% of the total, again disproportionate to its

share in the total population of the country.

Table 9: Top 10 Districts for Suicide during 2008-2010

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Lahore	67	Gujranwala	76	Lahore	76
2	Sahiwal	37	Lahore	65	Peshawar	54
3	Faisalabad	36	Faisalabad	32	Faisalabad	41
4	Gujranwala	35	Sargodha	30	Khairpur Mirs	40
5	Sheikhupura	34	Sheikhupura	26	Chakwal	40
6	Karachi	19	Sukkar	25	Sahiwal	33
7	Peshawar	18	Larkana	21	Dadu	23
8	Kasur	15	Toba tek singh	18	Gujranwala	22
9	Rawalpindi	14	Jacobabad	14	Rawalpindi	21
10	Multan	10	Kasur	10	Naushero Feroze	21

2.3.5. Rape/Gang Rape:

Rape and its worst form, gang rape, is a crime, which destroys the victim physically, socially, psychologically and spiritually. The stigma of rape is worse than death for a woman. Her life becomes nothing less than experiencing hell on this earth.⁷ Perhaps that was the reason that in Rajput clans up until the 16th century, when defeat was imminent against the Khiljis and Tughlaqs, the women of the losing tribe committed the ritual of *jauhar* –collective suicide – preferring an honourable death to disgrace at the hands of the enemy. In this 21st century, it is a matter of shame for the whole nation that rape continues to be perpetuated against women despite a lot of judicial activism and manifest government support to punish this heinous form of VAW in Pakistan. The number of rape and gang rape incidents forms a very high proportion of all VAW crimes. A total of 937 rape and gang rape incidents occurred in 2010 all over Pakistan, maintaining a similar frequency as compared to last year. Women continue to be victimized with this most heinous crime that ruins their lives and brings shame to their family and children for the rest of their lives. The situation is not helped when most victims are unable to find justice.

Punjab takes the lead in this national shame. Not only were the highest number of rapes and gang rapes committed in Punjab, but the proportion in national statistics show that women in the most densely populated province of our country face conditions of grave insecurity. Out of a total of 937 reported cases from all over the country, 741 took place on the soil of Punjab. This amounts to 79.08% of the national total and stands in total contrast to the 56% share of the province in our population. Quite obviously the justice system in Punjab has failed to arrest this heinous crime spelling insecurity for women across its territories.

Sindh also shows a high prevalence of this demeaning offence with 157 reported cases amounting to 16.76% of the total cases of rape and gang rape across the country. Tribal codes and a tradition of open vendettas probably limit these crimes in KP and Balochistan, and

⁷ <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/301632/jauhar>

significantly fewer cases, five and six respectively, are reported from these two provinces. However, since rape is increasingly used as a weapon of war as violent conflicts proliferate, it has been said that worldwide an estimated one in five women will be a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime. Since protection and support for women survivors of conflict are meager, the low reporting of rape cases from KP and Balochistan may be yet another manifestation of suppressed reality.

Islamabad shows a frightening rise and appears to have become a new hot spot for rape in Pakistan with 19 incidents reported during 2010, compared to 9 cases last year. Also during this year Lahore replaced Faisalabad and earned the shame of reporting the highest rape incidents among major cities of Pakistan with 110 cases reported during 2010. Faisalabad followed closely with 100 reported cases, Sheikhupura retained its number three position with 51 cases, Sargodha came next with 49 reported offences, Kasur 38, Okara 35, and Rawalpindi and Nankana Sahib 24 each. There were 23 cases reported each from the districts of Sialkot and Gujranwala. The glaring fact the hits the reader is that all the top districts reporting this heinous genre of VAW were from the province of Punjab.

Table 10: Top 10 Districts for Rape/Gang Rape during years 2008-2010

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Faisalabad	102	Faisalabad	151	Lahore	110
2	Lahore	82	Lahore	73	Faisalabad	100
3	Sheikhupura	62	Sheikhupura	46	Sheikhupura	51
4	Multan	46	Multan	41	Sargodha	49
5	Karachi	43	Kasur	41	Kasur	38
6	Jhang	28	Sargodha	40	Okara	35
7	Vehari	28	Gujranwala	36	Rawalpindi	24
8	Kasur	35	Vehari	31	Nankana sahib	24
9	Okara	23	Jhang	27	Sialkot	23
10	Kahniwal	18	Okara	26	Gujranwala	23

2.3.6. Acid throwing:

Disfiguring a person's face and body in an ultimate form of exacting revenge, depriving the victim of a normal human appearance and damaging her appearance and, in most cases, her sight forever. Acid throwing is perhaps the most ignominious of all gender-based crimes. It is a form of extreme violent assault. Perpetrators throw acid at women, usually on their faces with the intent to mutilate their faces forever. The attack leads to severe burning and badly damages skin tissues often exposing and sometimes even dissolving the underlying bones. The consequences of these attacks include blindness and permanent scarring of the face and body.

A total of 32 cases of acid throwing were registered across Pakistan in 2010, showing a decline from 53 cases recorded last year. Punjab witnessed 20 cases or 62.50% of all reported cases, and takes the highest ratio in terms of population. Out of the total 32 cases, 20 were reported from

Punjab, 3 from Sindh, 5 from Balochistan, 1 from KP and 3 from Islamabad.

Table 11: Top 10 Districts for Acid throwing during years 2008-2010

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Multan	6	Faisalabad	10	Faisalabad	3
2	Lahore	4	Multan	7	Toba Tek Singh	3
3	Rawalpindi	3	Rawalpindi	3	Jhelum	2
4	Islamabad	2	Vehari	2	Rahim yar khan	2
5	Karachi	1	Lahore	2	Karachi	2
6	Faisalabad	1	Gujranwala	1	Lahore	2
7	Sheikhupura	1	Sheikhupura	1	Chakwal	1
8	Kasur	1	Jacobabad	1	Sargodha	1
9	Gujranwala	1	Toba Tek Singh	1	Gujranwala	1
10	-----	-----	Islamabad	1	Sialkot	1

2.3.7. Stove burning:

Punjab again maintained the lead with 33 stove burning crime of VAW from a national total of 43 cases registered during 2010. Sindh, however, reported no stove burning case during the year under review, while only one incident each was registered in Balochistan and Islamabad. KP witnessed three acts of such violence.

This year, Rawalpindi topped the list of major districts and major cities reporting 16 burning cases or nearly half of the provincial total. Next came Chakwal with 9 reported cases, Faisalabad with 5, Lahore, Nankana Sahib and Kasur with 3 recorded cases each. Jhelum witnessed 2 such crimes along with Sargodha, Hafizabad and Multan.

Table 13: Top 10 Districts for Stove burning during years 2008-2010

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Lahore	9	Rawalpindi	9	Rawalpindi	16
2	Rawalpindi	6	Gujranwala	3	Chakwal	9
3	Quetta	6	Multan	3	Faisalabad	5
4	Karachi	3	Lahore	2	Lahore	3
5	Gujranwala	2	Faisalabad	2	Nankana sahib	3
6	Multan	2	Sargodha	2	Kasur	3
7	Peshawar	2	Islamabad	2	Jhelum	2
8	Faisalabad	1	Jacobabad	1	Sargodha	2
9	Sheikupura	1	Peshawar	1	Hafizabad	2
10	Islamabad	1	-----	-----	Multan	2

Though, no district from the other three provinces of Sindh, KP and Balochistan was included in the list of top districts reporting this particular category of VAW, but incidents were reported from several districts of KP, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan. Burning of women is always disguised as accidental death from the bursting of malfunctioning kerosene stoves. The motivation in the majority of cases is reported to be domestic conflict or husband's desire to remarry. Demand for greater dowry is also a major cause of this particular crime, perpetrated in most cases by the in-laws, especially husband of the victim. Most targeted victims in 2010 were young married women.

2.3.8. Domestic Violence:

Domestic violence could perhaps be the most under-reported form of VAW in Pakistan. Domestic violence or wife beating is widespread all over the world, including in the developed countries. In the Pakistani context, many believe that wife beating is permitted in Islam. This is the result of the contentious translation of the verse 4.34 of the Holy Quran and its controversial interpretations. Many scholars, including Ahmed Ali, do not agree that this verse permits men to beat their wives. However, the patriarchal and misogynist mindset prevailing in Pakistan prefers the interpretation that gives the husband a higher status. Hence domestic violence has been on the rise across the country. Some 486 cases of domestic violence were recorded in 2010. Among these, 246 crimes took place in Punjab, 136 in Sindh, 89 in KP and 4 in Balochistan. Another 11 cases were registered in Islamabad.

Table 13: Top 10 Districts for Domestic Violence during years 2008-2010

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Peshawar	39	Peshawar	110	Peshawar	61
2	Rawalpindi	34	Sargodha	39	Lahore	28
3	Quetta	18	Lahore	30	Faisalabad	25
4	Lahore	11	Multan	29	Rawalpindi	25
5	Islamabad	7	Rawalpindi	24	Sargodha	21
6	Faisalabad	3	Jacobabad	23	Sukkur	17
7	Gujranwala	3	Sukkur	21	Multan	16
8	Karachi	3	Faisalabad	18	Chakwal	14
9	Kasur	2	Islamabad	18	Dadu	14
10	Sahiwal	2	Gujranwala	9	Attock	13

When the top districts reporting domestic violence are considered, Peshawar maintains its lead for the third consecutive year with 61 crimes recorded under this category. Lahore comes at second place with 28 cases, followed by Faisalabad and Rawalpindi with 25 offences each. Sargodha follows closely with 21 incidents, Sukkur 17, Multan 16, Chakwal and Dadu 14 each, and Attock with 13 reported cases.

2.3.9. Sexual Assault:

Sexual assault is yet another form of violence against women. It is a crime when a person knowingly causes another person to engage in an unwanted sexual act by force or threat, including attempted rape. It is another category, which goes grossly under-reported. All in all, an improbably low figure of 74 was reported during 2010 as compared to 274 cases reported in 2009. The majority of sexual assault cases were reported from Punjab with 39 offences, and Sindh with 34 cases. There was no case recorded in KP or Balochistan, which could be attributed to the particular culture and traditions that disapprove reporting and making public such incidents. Only one case was reported from Islamabad.

Table 14: Top 10 Districts for Sexual Assault during years 2008-2010

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Faisalabad	20	Faisalabad	37	Sheikhupura	22
2	Rawalpindi	15	Sargodha	32	Okara	10
3	Lahore	14	Lahore	23	Faisalabad	8
4	Sheikhupura	11	Kasur	14	Rawalpindi	8
5	Islamabad	8	Vehari	12	Lahore	7
6	Kasur	6	Sheikhupura	11	Toba Tek Singh	6
7	Multan	5	Multan	8	Sanghar	6
8	Peshawar	3	Gujranwala	7	Chakwal	5
9	Sahiwal	2	Toba tek singh	5	Sialkot	4
10	Karachi	2	Larkana	2	Attock	3

An analysis of the districts reporting the highest frequency puts Sheikhupura on the top with 22 crimes. Okara comes next with 10 offences, followed closely by Faisalabad and Rawalpindi with 8 reported cases each, Toba Tek Singh and Sanghar witnessed 6 incidents each, Chakwal 5, Sialkot 4, and Attock 3.

2.3.10. Miscellaneous:

Vanni, swara, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted Karo Kari are included in this category of cases of VAW across Pakistan. Also included are attempts to murder or rape along with failed attempts at suicide. About one-fifth or a total of 1580, or 19.75% of total registered VAW crimes were put under the category crimes of miscellaneous nature which took place during 2010 in the four provinces and Islamabad.

Keeping the now familiar pattern, Punjab reported 1108 offences or 70.13% of the national total, Sindh witnessed 362 or 22.91 crimes, KP 71, and Balochistan recorded only 2 cases. Islamabad again has registered a frighteningly high number of 37 cases under this lumped together category.

Table 15: Top Districts for Miscellaneous crimes during years 2008-2010

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Rawalpindi	35	Lahore	224	Lahore	196
2	Lahore	21	Sargodha	125	Faisalabad	120
3	Islamabad	17	Faisalabad	110	Sargodha	116
4	Quetta	16	Sukkur	78	Multan	66
5	Gujranwala	9	Gujranwala	65	Toba Tek Singh	53
6	Faisalabad	8	Rawalpindi	58	Khairpur Mirs	48
7	Peshawar	6	Peshawar	56	Sialkot	45
8	Multan	6	Larkana	56	Okara	41
9	Sheikhupura	5	Vehari	51	Sheikhupura	41
10	Kasur	3	Multan	51	Gujranwala	39

Under this heading also, Lahore has taken the lead this year again as in 2009. In 2010 a total of 196 cases of miscellaneous crimes were reported in Lahore. Faisalabad followed with 120 cases. Coming a close second was Sargodha with 116 incidents. These three districts were also on the top in 2009. Multan was next with 66 offences, then Toba Tek Singh with 53, Khairpur Mirs with 48; Sialkot with 45; Okara and Sheikhupura reported 41 offences each, followed by Gujranwala, which registered 39 cases.

2.4. FIR Status of VAW Cases:

The figures presented in Table 16 below present a dismal commentary on the performance of the law enforcing agencies. In all provinces of Pakistan, the combined data shows that only 76.31% of all reported cases were registered by the police under what is called a 'First Information Report;' 15.11% cases were not registered; and for the remaining 8.58%, no information was available. This pattern is repeated in all provinces with the exception of Balochistan, where the FIR rate was 96%. In a civilized society, it would be unthinkable that the police would be unwilling to register any complaint by the citizens, but it happens so in Pakistan. At times, one has to use some influential person's assistance or *sifarish* to register an FIR. Perhaps it is because registering a complaint would necessitate some action, which is not the *forte* of our civil administration in general.

TABLE 16: Number of FIRs registered province-wise

FIR Status	No. of FIR Registered Province wise					Total	% of the total
	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Baluchistan	ICT		
Registered	4804	653	495	76	77	6105	76.31
Not Registered	177	937	71	3	21	1209	15.11
No. Information	511	62	84	-	29	686	8.58
	Total					8000	100

2.5. Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in VAW Cases in Pakistan:

A total of 8000 cases were reported from all over Pakistan of crimes committed against 9228 victims. There was no information given about the marital status of 1376 of the victims of reported VAW crimes. Excluding these, 4545 women victims were married and 3095 were unmarried. The number of widowed victims was 123, while 89 were divorced women.

Table 17: Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in VAW cases in Pakistan:

Marital Status	Province wise break down of marital status of VAW survivors/Victims					Total	% of the total
	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Baluchistan	ICT		
Married	3261	763	407	49	65	4545	49.25
Unmarried	2395	461	194	11	34	3095	33.53
Widow	109	12	-	-	2	123	1.33
Divorced	79	7	-	-	3	89	0.96
No. Information	520	697	107	19	33	1376	14.91
						Total	9228
							100

2.6. Age-Group of VAW Victims:

Of the total number of 8000 cases of VAW recorded from all over Pakistan, the number of victims or survivors was reported to be 9228 in 2010. However, there was no information available about the age of some 6577 victims in the reported cases of VAW. An analysis of the data available showed that 1414 women victims fell in the age group of up to 18 years; another 976 were in the 19 to 36 years age group; and the remaining 261 were 37 years or above.

Table 18: Ages of VAW Survivors/Victims Recorded in Pakistan

Age group	Ages of VAW Survivors/Victims Mentioned					Total	% of the total
	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Baluchistan	ICT		
0-18years	1002	296	97	0	19	1414	15.32
19-36 years	494	369	83	0	30	976	10.57
37 and above	110	122	25	0	4	261	2.82
No. Information	4758	1153	503	79	84	6577	71.27
						Total	9228
							100

Section Three:

Overview of VAW Incidents in Punjab:

The Indus Valley Civilization spanned much of what is today Pakistan and eventually evolved into the Indo-Aryan civilization. This civilization shaped subsequent cultures in South Asia and Afghanistan. In history and pre-history, Punjab occupies an important place as part of the Indus Valley Civilization, with the city of Harappa being an important citadel around 4000 BC. Punjab is the most populated, prosperous, industrialized and urbanized province of Pakistan. Its people are characterized by their outgoing, industrious and initiative-taking nature. Its strong agricultural base sustained by a sophisticated irrigation system gave birth to a feudal economy that is still largely intact. It was Punjab that constituted the last frontier of the South Asian sub-continent and faced the onslaught of invaders from Central Asia through centuries. As a result, it became a melting pot of races. In the face of constant periods of turmoil, intermittent with relatively short period of peace, its people have developed many skills for survival, many praiseworthy and many not so praiseworthy. Among such traits is the particular attitude towards women, who are often considered a property item and less important than cattle. This was demonstrated during the unprecedented 2010 floods when many preferred to save their cattle over their women when rescue teams reached.

Punjab has been known as the "Land of the Five Rivers" since ancient times. The name Punjab literally translates from the Persian words *Panj*, meaning five, and *Aab* meaning water. The province is the most fertile region of Pakistan situated along river valleys and has been named after the five rivers of Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej. With about 56% of Pakistan's total population Punjab is the country's most populous province.

Punjab has been the cradle of civilization since times immemorial. The ruins of Harappa show an advanced urban culture that flourished over 8000 years ago. Taxila, or Takshashila of olden times is another historic landmark, and also stands out as a proof of the achievements of the area in learning, arts and crafts in bygone ages. The great Indian scholar of 4th century B.C. and the author of the famous treatise on diplomacy and statecraft, *Arthashastra*, Chanakya, also called Kautilya, hailed from Taxila. The ancient Hindu Katasraj temple and the Salt Range temples are testament to its history.

Punjab is Pakistan's second largest province at 205,344 km² (79,284 mi²) after Balochistan and is located at the northwestern edge of the geologic Indian plate in South Asia. The provincial capital is Lahore, which is also the largest metropolis in northern Pakistan. Other important cities include Multan, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Jhelum and Rawalpindi.

It is the only province in Pakistan that has contiguous borders with all the provinces. The federal capital Islamabad, which is treated as federal territory, lies within the territories of this province in its northern part. The region also contains the Cholistan desert. Agriculture continues to be the largest sector of Punjab's economy. The province is the breadbasket of the country. Since there has been no large-scale redistribution of agricultural land, most rural areas are dominated by a

small set of land-owning families. Its canal irrigation system established by the British is the largest in the world.

Despite the absence of a coastline, Punjab is the most industrialized province of Pakistan. Since the 1950s, Punjab industrialized rapidly, and new factories came up in Lahore, Multan, Sialkot and Wah. In the 1960s the new city of Islamabad was built near Rawalpindi. Starting in the 1980s large numbers of Punjabis migrated to the Middle East, Britain, Spain, Canada and the United States in search of better economic opportunities.

3.1. Overall Cases of VAW in Punjab:

An Aurat Foundation study has shown that a total number of 5,492 incidents of VAW took place across the 35 districts of Punjab during the year from the beginning of January to the end of 2010, as compared to 5,722 cases for the corresponding period in 2009.

Of these 5492 cases, there were:

- 1890 cases of abduction/kidnapping
- 1108 cases of violence of miscellaneous nature
- 758 cases of murder
- 741 cases of rape/gang rape
- 424 cases of suicide
- 246 cases of domestic violence
- 233 cases of 'honour killing'
- 39 cases of sexual assault
- 33 cases of stove burning
- 20 cases of acid throwing

The table below shows abduction and kidnapping to be the most frequent form of VAW in Punjab, being 34.41% of all the reported cases from the province in the year 2010, thus showing an alarming percentage increase from 29.68% in 2009. Murder has the second highest frequency, showing that 13.80% reported cases of VAW related to women who were murdered in the province. Rape and gang rape constituted the third most frequently committed VAW crime in Punjab with a ratio of 13.49% of reported cases. And suicides by women accounted for 7.72% of all reported cases reflecting the abject helplessness and grim reality of women's lives in our most thickly populated areas.

Domestic violence claimed 4.48 % of total VAW victims; and women still remain the target of 'honour' killing in the province despite its comparatively higher state of development than that in the rest of the country, as some 4.24% of all cases constitute this shameful crime. Sexual assault appears to show a decline with 0.71% of all crimes in that category, conforming to the pattern for the whole country for the year under review. Stove burning is alarming at 0.60% and acid throwing remains at 0.36%.

The remaining 20.17% cases comprising miscellaneous crimes include 62 cases of attempted

abductions and kidnapping, which is 1.11% of the total. It is a relief that 100 attempts to murder did not succeed and the women survived! Attempted suicides 198 in number have been reported, and add up to 3.6% of the total. Some 177 cases of attempted rape, that is 3.22% of the total were reported from the province and should be taken seriously.

There were 11 cases reported for early marriages of girls constituting 0.2% of the total. Another 8 women, 0.14%, were forced into marriages against their will in the province of Punjab. Harassment incidents numbered 71 during 2010 and constituted 1.3% of the total reported VAW cases. and illegal custody was suffered by 23 women, that is 0.4%.

Incest was seen to be disturbingly on the rise, as 24 cases compared to five cases in 2009, showing a high incidence at 0.44%, were reported. Some 171 women reported being physically injured, making this the highest form of violence in the miscellaneous category with a prevalence rate of 3.11%. Threats to life were hurled at 46 women, which translate to some 0.8% under this particular category. Trafficking of women in the province remained constant at 40, being 0.73% of all VAW offences in the province. Torture appeared to be rampant with 151 cases making up to 2.75% of all VAW cases reported; and Vanni and Watta Satta crimes were reported to be 18 (0.33%) and 2 (0.036%) from across the province respectively

Data shows that Punjab deprived the most number of women of their right to life in the year 2010, maintaining the trend from previous years. The number and percentage of murder and honour killing of women has been the highest in all of the country, with 991 reported cases. This highlights the terrifying reality that 18% of all cases of VAW in Punjab comprised the most heinous crime known to man.

Capital crimes were followed by abductions or kidnapping of women with an alarming rise of 1890 cases in 2010 as compared to 1698 reported cases in 2009, making this the largest category of VAW crimes in Punjab at 34.4% of the total. Rape and gang rape cases numbered 741 or 13.49% maintaining more or less the previous year's level. Suicides showed a slight decline, as 424 women (448 in 2009) were forced to take their own lives, amounting to 7.72% cases according to news reports.

Other forms of VAW also appear to be rather high with 246 or 4.47% cases of domestic violence, and 39 cases of sexual assault or 0.71% of the total reported during the year under review. Stove burning and acid throwing, which are forms of attempted murder, had a high prevalence with 33 (0.6%) and 20 (0.36%) cases respectively recorded from the province.

Another 1108 cases reported from the area comprised miscellaneous offenses showing a prevalence of 20.17% of all VAW during the year in Punjab.

Table 20: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in Punjab during 2010

Category of crime	Total Number of Cases	% of the Total
Murder	758	13.8%
Honour killing	233	4.24%
Abduction/ Kidnapping	1890	34.4%
Domestic violence	246	4.47%
Suicide	424	7.72%
Rape/ Gang rape	741	13.49%
Sexual assault	39	0.71%
Stove burning	33	0.6%
Acid throwing	20	0.36%
Miscellaneous	1108	20.17%
Break-Up of Miscellaneous		
Attempt to kidnap	62	1.13%
Attempt to murder	100	1.82%
Attempt to suicide	198	3.6%
Attempt to rape	177	3.22%
Attempted Karo kari	2	0.04%
Child marriages	11	0.2%
Forced marriages	8	0.14%
Harassment	71	1.3%
Illegal custody	23	0.4%
Incest	24	0.44%
Injury	171	3.11%
Threat to life	46	0.8%
Torture	151	2.75%
Trafficking of women	40	0.73
Vanni	18	0.33%
Watta satta	2	0.036%
Fraud	--	0
Land encroachment	4	0.07%
Total	5492	100

3.2. Number and Prevalence of VAW by Districts and Offence in Punjab:

If the statistics for VAW offences committed and reported in Punjab are considered on a bi-annual basis for the year 2010, then contrary to the previous year, the second half of the year shows a slightly rising trend: 2690 offences were recorded in the first six months of 2010 as compared to 2802 VAW crimes reported in the second half of the year.

Table 21 below depicts the bi-annual distribution of VAW cases in Punjab during 2010.

Table 21: Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in Punjab:

Bi-Annual	Total
First six months	2690
Second Six months	2802
Total	5492

On a percentage basis, the Jan-June 2010 period witnessed 49% of all VAW crimes during the calendar year, while the July-Dec 2010 period recorded 51% of offences.

The districts with the highest number of VAW have already been discussed above. However, the districts with single digit number of crimes should also be mentioned. Layyah stands out as the district with the least number of reported crimes with only 8 offences, followed very closely by Rajanpur with 9 cases. It is interesting to note that both the districts are part of the so-called *Seraiki Belt* in the southern part of the province which has, inexplicably, reported less number of crimes as compared to the more developed central and northern part of the province.

Table 22 presents the frequency and distribution of VAW cases on a district-wise basis in all the 36 districts of the province.

Table 22: District-wise Data on VAW in Punjab in 2010.

Sr. No	District Name	Abduction/Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Honor Killing	Murder	Rape/ Gang Rape	Sexual Assault	Stove Burning	Suicide	Miscellaneous	Grand total
1	Attock	17	0	13	4	24	7	3	2	3	9	82
2	Bahawalnagar	11	1	-	7	14	16	-	1	6	8	64
3	Bahawalpur	4	1	4	2	7	4	-	-	4	10	36
4	Bhakkar	10	-	2	1	3	3	-	1	2	4	26
5	Chiniot	14	-	-	5	11	4	-	-	5	7	46
6	Chakwal	32		19	3	20	9	5	2	40	24	154
7	D.G.Khan	16		2	3	5	9				18	53
8	Faisalabad	343	1	22	21	82	128	3	5	41	136	782
9	Gujranwala	17	1	8	14	38	23			22	39	162
10	Gujrat	17		2	5	17	5	1		12	4	63
11	Hafizabad	5			1	13	7		2	8	9	45
12	Jhang	24		6	12	19	21	2		6	31	121
13	Jhelum	5				17	6	2	3	2	6	50
14	Kasur	75	1	11	13	43	47	2	2	18	21	233

15	Khanewal	25	1	6	7	12	16			3	30	100
16	Khushab	3		3	4	8	2			3	11	34
17	Lahore	521	2	21	21	126	110	2	3	76	201	1083
18	Layyah				1	2	3				2	8
19	Lodhran	16	1	8	1	3	14			2	25	68
20	Mandi Bahauddin	2			3	5	4			11	3	28
21	Mianwali	2	1	3	4	6	3	1		6	11	37
22	Multan	50		15	6	13	21		2	4	66	177
23	Muzaffargarh	26		1	1	4	13	1			19	55
24	Nankana Sahib	36		1	3	9	24		3	4	20	100
25	Narowal	1				5	1			4	2	13
26	Okara	69	1	7	9	24	35	3		12	54	214
27	Pakpattan	20		2	2	7	6	1		2	9	49
28	Rahimyar khan	9	2		2	5	5		1	7	11	42
29	Rajanpur			1	2	2					4	9
30	Rawalpindi	114		34	7	52	21	8	2	21	30	89
31	Sahiwal	34		3	16	27	10	10		33	27	150
32	Sargodha	146	1	18	19	36	48	1	2	15	86	372
33	Sheikhupura	132		5	10	40	51	1		28	47	314
34	Sialkot	53	3	10	7	26	23	2		9	46	179
35	Toba Tek Singh	13	3	6	13	23	23		1	14	49	145
36	Vehari	28		6	4	10	19	1	1	1	29	99
	Grand Total	1890	20	246	233	758	741	39	33	424	1108	5492

3.3. Prevalence of Major Categories of VAW in Punjab:

Punjab appears to be becoming the most dangerous province for women in Pakistan. The number of cases of VAW has been on the rise in the province. This is especially true in the case of abductions and kidnappings during 2010, as was the case in 2009. As many as 1890 women (1698 in 2009) were abducted across the province in one year, or an increase of 11.3% over the previous year. In fact, the top five districts reporting this genre of VAW in 2010 were all from Punjab. The highest reported incidence was from Lahore, with 521 cases. Faisalabad reported 343 women kidnapped, and Sargodha registered 146 cases. Sheikhupura recorded 132 abduction cases, followed by Rawalpindi, with 114. Kasur reported 75 kidnappings, Okara 69, Sialkot 54, Multan 50, Sahiwal 34, and 32 from Chakwal. The remaining cases occurred in the other areas of Punjab.

The figures are frightening. It becomes hard to believe the shameful reality that more than 36 women were kidnapped in an average week. This comes to more than five women kidnapped per day in the province during the year under review. As mentioned in Aurat Foundation's 2009 report, the alarming and improbable figures for abductions of women from Islamabad remain high. They are higher than what obtains in the province of Balochistan where law enforcement is comparatively weaker and social traditions are strongly anti-women. According

to cases monitored and recorded by the Aurat Foundation teams some 21 cases of abductions of women took place in Islamabad, as compared to 2 abductions reported from Balochistan, and 77 from KP. These numbers continue to perplex in view of the fact that the capital of Pakistan is perhaps the best managed and most secured city in the country.

Abductions and kidnappings continue to be the biggest VAW crime in Punjab, and as pointed out earlier, the province also leads the rest of the country in the total number of VAW crimes committed, 1890 incidents out of a total of 2236, in proportion to population size. As commented in Aurat Foundation's report for 2009, one reasonable explanation for the high figures can be police malpractice. It is commonly known that family honor is considered at stake if a woman goes away of her own will with someone with the intention to get married. This is often converted into an abduction case by the police at the family's behest. Almost all cases of marriage without family consent where the judiciary has extended relief to newly married couples show that police has registered abduction cases against the man involved.

This probability is further strengthened when we see that the highest reported cases of abduction of women are from the some of the major cities of Pakistan where urban life makes it difficult to take someone away against their will. Lahore leads the trend of abductions with 521 cases, followed by 343 from Faisalabad. The pattern continues with Sargodha witnessing 146 cases, 132 offences from Sheikhpura, 114 from Rawalpindi, 75 from Kasur, and 69 from Okara.

According to the data collected, murder maintains its unenviable place as the second highest form of reported VAW offence in Punjab. Statistics reveal murders mostly happening in urban centers of the province. Of the total 758 cases from Punjab, the highest reported crime rate was reported from Lahore with 109 murders, followed by Faisalabad that saw 82 women killed. Rawalpindi, Sheikhpura, Sargodha, Kasur, and Gujranwala also reported a high frequency of this crime.

Predictably, in a majority of cases, like last year, the murderers were close male relatives of the women killed. On the average, slightly more than two women were murdered in Punjab every day during 2010.

Besides other murders, Punjab also reported an alarming incidence of 'honour' killings with a total of 233 cases of VAW in this category in 2010, showing a slight decrease over 2009 figures. Most cases of honour killing were reported from the rural and tribal regions of the provinces where *jirgas* and *panchayat* systems still hold sway. On an average, more than four women were killed in the name of honour across Punjab every week. However, the concentration of 'honour' killings is once again seen in the bigger cities, although the majority did take place in far flung rural and tribal areas. Faisalabad and Lahore appear to be really troubled cities as far as women are concerned, despite their advanced industrial and urbanized society – or perhaps because of it — with 21 reported 'honour' killings of women each. High numbers were also reported from Sargodha, Sahiwal, Gujranwala, Toba Tek Singh, Kasur, Jhang and Sialkot. Of course 'honour' killings were reported from the less urban areas of the province as well, like Rahim Yar Khan, Rajanpur, Vehari, Okara, Nankana Sahib, Layyah, D.G Khan, Chakwal and Attock.

Another 424 women took their own lives in the Punjab province. Cases of suicide by women were highest in Lahore where 76 women killed themselves in 2010. Faisalabad and Chakwal were next, where 41 and 40 women took their own lives respectively, and Sahiwal, Sheikupura and Gujranwala were the other three prominent districts in the Punjab province for women's suicides.

The data for suicide remained more or less at the 2009 level, and on an average more than 8 deaths by suicide occurred per week in the province during 2010. Other districts of Punjab also reported instances but the numbers were not as high and alarming as in these bigger cities. However, the majority of the suicide cases were reported from the rural areas as compared to the urban areas.

Punjab continues to shock observers when it comes to VAW. Little wonder that Punjab also took the lead in rape and gang rape with a total of 786 cases reported. Faisalabad registered 128 cases, which is the highest number in the province. Lahore also recorded a higher number of cases, 110, than in the previous year. A total of 51 shameful incidents occurred in Sheikupura, 48 cases were reported from Sargodha, closely followed by Kasur with 47 cases. Elsewhere in the province, it was the same miserable situation with 35 cases in Okara, 24 in Nankana Sahib, and 23 each from Gujranwala, Sialkot and Toba Tek Singh.

A total number of 20 acid throwing cases were reported from Punjab, showing a considerable decline over the previous year (42 cases). Of these, 3 each were reported from Sialkot and Toba Tek Singh, 2 from Lahore and Rahim Yar Khan, and 1 each from Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Kasur, Khanewal, Lodhran, Mianwali, Okara, and Sargodha.

In another category, maintaining previous year's level, 33 cases of stove burning were reported in the province, showing that women in this province continue to suffer at the hands of their in-laws and callous husbands. The highest number i.e. five incidents occurred in Faisalabad, followed by three each reported from Jehlum, Lahore and Nankana Sahib. The districts of Attock, Chakwal, Hafizabad, Kasur, Multan, Rawalpindi and Sargodha witnessed two stove burning incidents each. Domestic violence registered a small decline in the province of Punjab with a total of 246 cases in 2010, as compared to 271 cases recorded the previous year in 36 districts of the province. During the year under review, Rawalpindi took the lead in domestic violence, with 34 incidents recorded; Faisalabad was second, with 22 reported cases; and Lahore followed closely with 21 cases. Another 19 cases were reported from Chakwal, 18 from Sargodha, and 15 from Multan. 11 incidents were recorded in Kasur and 10 occurred in Sialkot. The remaining incidents took place in other districts, including Gujranwala, Lodhran, Okara, Jhang, Khanewal, Toba Tek Singh and Vehari.

Besides cases in the major categories, another 1108 miscellaneous crimes were reported across Punjab. These pertained to *vanni*, *swara*, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted murder, suicide and rape.

3.4. FIR Status of Cases of VAW:

As the Aurat Foundation report for 2009 noted, it is a sad reflection on the criminal justice system and governance in the province that formal police complaints were not registered against all the VAW offenses reported. Every police station in charge is obliged under the law to register a First Information Report (FIR) upon learning of a crime having taken place in the area. The data compiled by field survey teams shows that out of the 5,492 cases reported in 2010, only 4,804 cases were recorded in FIRs. This means that the police recorded only 87.5% of the total VAW crimes in the province and ignored the rest. Some 3.2% or 177 cases were never registered by the police. Normally, the press reports the lodging of FIRs diligently, yet, there was no evidence found in media reports on the FIR status of some 511 cases or 9.3% of all the reported instances of VAW in Punjab province. Nevertheless, this shows a certain improvement over the previous year's record of 78%, and both of last two figures showed slight improvement with increased rate of FIR registration.

Table 23: FIR status of cases of VAW in Punjab:

FIR Status	1 st Bi-Annual	2 nd Bi-Annual	Total
Registered	2349	2455	4804
Not Registered	86	91	177
No. Information	255	256	511
Total	2690	2802	5492

3.5. Marital Status of women suffering VAW:

There were a total of 5492 VAW cases reported in Punjab during 2010, but the number of victim women was 6364. This fact alone reveals that each VAW offence affects the lives of more than one woman, and it is important to note that every instance of VAW often involves more than one woman.

Among these 6,364 victims and survivors of VAW crimes, the majority, or 3261 women were married. Another 2395 women were reported to be unmarried, indicating the growing trend to target younger women in society. Among the rest, 109 victims were widows while 79 were divorced. No information was available on the marital status of the other 520 victims in cases of VAW across Punjab in 2010.

Table 24: Marital Status of women suffering VAW in Punjab:

Marital Status	Total
Married	3261
Un married	2395
Widow	109
Divorced	79
No. Information	520
Total	6364

3.6. Age Groups of Victims/Survivors of VAW:

The 5,492 reported VAW crimes from Punjab in 2010 involved 6364 victims and survivors. Among them 1002 victims were between the age group of below 18; 494 were from the 19-36 age group; 110 were of 37 years and above. No information could be ascertained of remaining 4758 cases.

Table 25: Age Group-wise distribution of VAW Victims/Survivors in Punjab:

Age-Group	No. of Victims/Survivors
0-18years	1002
19-36 years	494
37 and above	110
No. Information	4758
Total	6364

Section Four:

Overview of VAW Incidents in Sindh:

Geographically, Sindh is the third largest province of Pakistan, stretching about 579 km from north to south and 442 km (extreme) or 281 km (average) from east to west, with an area of 140,915 square kilometres (54,408 sq mi) of Pakistani territory. Sindh is bounded by the Thar Desert to the east, the Kirthar Mountains to the west, and the Arabian Sea in the south. In the centre is a fertile plain around the Indus River. Sindh is located on the western corner of South Asia, bordering the Iranian plateau in the west. The neighbouring regions of Sindh are Balochistan to the west and north, Punjab to the north, Gujarat and Rajasthan to the southeast and east, and the Arabian Sea to the south. The coast of Sindh boasts the two major ports of Pakistan, Karachi and Port Qasim, which handle the quasi-totality of Pakistani trade.

Sindh is the cradle of the Indus Valley Civilisation. As Hamida Khuhro, the Sindhi historian comments, “Sind’s is an ancient civilization, one of the oldest in the world. A contemporary of Sumer and Akked in Mesopotamia, it is a corner of the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent where the ancient Sindhi had created a powerful culture, which centred on Moenjodaro in upper Sind and its periphery which extended north to Kashmir and south to Gujerat. A highly sophisticated urban system existed with a flourishing trade with its contemporary civilization in Mesopotamia and and further afield. The Indus civilization flowered approximately two thousand years ago before the Aryans invaded northern India with their primitive tribal and pastoral culture⁸.”

The 1998 Census of Pakistan indicated a population of 30.4 million. However, in 2011 the population, is estimated at 40,589,003 according to Population Census Organization, but many dispute this estimate and consider it to be above 52 million. In fact, the lack of correct and reliable statistics in the absence of regular census distorts all planning and economic decisions. Just under half the population are urban dwellers, mainly found in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Mirpur Khas, Nawabshah District, Umerkot and Larkana. Sindhi is the sole official language of Sindh since the 19th century. According to the 2008 Pakistan Statistical Year Book, Sindhi-speaking households make up 59.7% of Sindh's population; Urdu-speaking households make up 21.1%; Punjabi 7.0%; Pashto 4.2%; Balochi 2.1%; Seraiki 1.0% and other languages 4.9%.

Agriculture is very important in Sindh with cotton, rice, wheat, sugar cane, bananas, and mangoes as the most important crops. Sindh is the richest province in the natural resources of gas, petrol, and coal. Endowed with coastal access, Sindh is a major centre of economic activity in Pakistan and has a highly diversified economy, ranging from heavy industry and finance centered in and around Karachi to a substantial agricultural base along the Indus. Manufacturing includes machine products, cement, plastics, and various other goods.

Sindh has the second largest economy in Pakistan. Historically, Sindh's contribution to Pakistan's GDP has been between 30% to 32.7%. Its share in the service sector has ranged from 21% to

⁸ Khuhro, Hamida, ‘Sind through the Centuries’, OUP, 1981

27.8% and in the agriculture sector from 21.4% to 27.7%. Performance wise, its best sector is the manufacturing sector, where its share has ranged from 36.7% to 46.5% [15]. Since 1972, Sindh's GDP has expanded by 3.6 times.

4.1. Overall Cases of VAW in Sindh:

A total of 1652 VAW incidents were recorded from the 23 districts of Sindh from January 01 to December 31, 2010, showing a slight decline over the 1762 cases reported in 2009.

Segregation of data on the 1652 cases of VAW in Sindh shows:

- 362 cases of miscellaneous nature
- 308 cases of murder
- 266 cases of 'honor' killing
- 246 cases of abduction and kidnapping
- 157 cases of rape/gang rape
- 140 cases of suicide
- 136 cases of domestic violence
- 34 cases of sexual assault
- 3 cases of acid throwing

During the year under review, Sindh took the ignominious lead in 'honour' killing, surpassing other provinces. Of the total of 1652 incidents, there were 266 cases of killing women for "family honour" in Sindh's rural areas. This shows women to be victims of patriarchal codes that condone killing women in the name of 'honour'. Another 308 cases of murder of women were also reported from the province in the year 2010. The high prevalence of the capital crime in the province speaks volumes about the social turmoil in its advanced industrial and backward agrarian and tribal social areas. 'Honour' killing of women mostly occurs in the tribal cultural belts bordering Balochistan.

Other forms of VAW in Sindh are also a matter of concern. Abductions and kidnappings show an alarming rise with 246 reported cases. This depicts a 53.8% increase over 160 abductions and kidnappings reported in 2009. As mentioned earlier, the distressing situation prevailing because of the devastating floods provided the human trafficking and prostitution mafias with unusual opportunities. The year under review also witnessed a shocking climbing curve in rapes and gang rapes with 157 reported crimes, or an increase of 28.7% over the 2009 figure of 122 incidents. It needs to be analyzed and studied whether this situation was a one-time phenomenon during and post flood scenario or signifies a worsening environment for women in Sindh. The stress faced by women is reflected in the 140 incidents of suicide reported from the province. Some 136 women fell victim to domestic violence, while another 34 reported sexual assault. Another three brutal incidents of acid throwing were reported by the media. The largest number of VAW incidents was miscellaneous in nature with a tally of 362 cases reported in the print media from different parts of the province. However, there was no case of stove burning reported from Sindh in 2010.

The table below shows murder to be the highest VAW crime in Sindh with 18.64% of simple murder and 16.10% 'honour' killings. Taken together, murder and 'honour' killings show a shocking proportion of more than one-third or 34.70% of all the cases of VAW reported from the province.

The percentage ratios of other VAW cases show kidnapping and abduction recurring with a 14.90% frequency. Suicide has a high incidence, comprising 8.47% of all cases. Rape and gangrape are high at 9.50%, and domestic violence appears to be on the rise with 8.23% of all cases of VAW falling in this category. Sexual assault represents 2.06% of the total of VAW offences in the province.

Though on a decline from the previous year, 'Miscellaneous' VAW crimes still form a large chunk of the whole, being 21.91% of the total number of cases. Looking at the ratios of this category in Sindh, we find 106 cases of custodial violence, which should ring alarm bells for the custodians of law and order. This category forms 6.4% of the total VAW crimes in the province or 39.80% of the 'miscellaneous' category. There were 78 attempts to murder, or 29.30%; while attempted suicide with 37 cases depicted a decline over the previous year (141 cases) forming 13.90% of the total number of miscellaneous crimes. Threats of violence also showed a decline, at 38 or 14.3%, compared to 117 incidents in 2009. Vanni and other customary practices are on the rise, and make up the rest with a contribution of 103 cases or 38.70% under the miscellaneous crimes heading.

Table 26: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in Sindh during 2010

Category of crime	Total Number of Cases	% of the Total
Murder	308	18.64%
Honour killing	266	16.10%
Abduction/ Kidnapping	246	14.90%
Domestic violence	136	8.23%
Suicide	140	8.47%
Rape/ Gang rape	157	9.50%
Sexual assault	34	2.06%
Stove burning	--	--
Acid throwing	3	0.18%
Miscellaneous	362	21.91%
Break-Up of Miscellaneous		
Threat to violence	38	2.3%
Attempt to murder	78	4.7%
Attempt to suicide	37	2.2%
Custodial violence	106	6.4%
Vanni/ Customary practices	103	6.2%
Total	1652	100%

4.2. Number and Prevalence of VAW by Districts and Offence in Sindh:

Table 27 below presents the recorded percentage of the cases of VAW in the first and second Bi-Annuals in 2010, and shows that the first half of the year saw a greater percentage of crimes with 56.9%, while the second six months recorded 43.1% of the total.

Table 27: Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in Sindh:

Bi-Annual	Total
First six months	940
Second six months	712
Total	1652

Table 28 below shows comprehensive data on VAW incidents in all the 23 districts of Sindh province during the year 2010.

Table 28: District-wise Data on VAW in Sindh 2010:

Sr. No.	Districts	Abduction / Kidnaping	Acid Throwing	Domestic violence	Honour Killing	Murder	Rape / Gang Rape	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Burning	Miscellaneous	Grand Total
1	Badin	9	-	5	4	6	11	1	7	-	13	56
2	Dadu	23	-	14	5	15	9	2	8	-	33	109
3	Ghotki	13	-	10	37	24	10	3	5	-	29	131
4	Hyderabad	19	-	13	6	16	11	1	4	-	20	90
5	Jacobabad	12	-	2	42	18	8	1	2	-	37	122
6	Jamshoro	5	-	4	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	17
7	Karachi	5	2	2	11	58	12	2	17	-	17	126
8	Kashmore	3	-	4	21	6	1	-	-	-	3	38
9	Khairpur Mirs	40	1	6	19	29	10	2	16	-	48	171
10	Larkana	9	-	13	33	20	7	-	5	-	17	104
11	Matyari	6	-	3	6	7	4	1	3	-	3	33
12	Mirpur Khas	17	-	3	3	12	8	2	16	-	7	68
13	Naushero Feroze	21	-	6	11	11	6	2	4	-	18	79
14	Nawabshah	13	-	8	12	8	6	3	5	-	9	64
15	Qambar Ali Khan	4	-	4	4	11	3	2	3	-	7	38
16	Sanghar	20	-	8	13	12	11	6	20	-	26	116
17	Shikarpur	3	-	4	17	19	2	-	1	-	28	74
18	Sukkur	11	-	17	13	10	20	3	7	-	34	115

19	Tando Allah yar	2	-	2	1	3	2	1	1	-	2	14
20	Tando Muhammad Khan	3	-	2	1	5	5	-	4	-	3	23
21	Tharparkar	4	-	1	-	3	4	-	7	-	1	20
22	Thatta	2	-	2	3	3	2	1	2	-	6	21
23	Umerkot	2	-	3	2	7	5	1	3	-	-	23
	Grand Total	246	3	136	266	309	157	34	140	-	361	1652

4.3. Prevalence of Major Categories of VAW in Sindh:

As the Aurat Foundation Report on VAW for 2009 noted, conflicts between tradition and modernity are responsible for taking the lives of a large number of women in Sindh. During 2010, murder of women has been the highest recorded VAW offence in Sindh with 308 cases. This is closely followed by 266 cases of 'honour' killing reported from the province. Both murder and 'honour' killing are acts of intentional denial of Right to Life to women. The only difference is the motivation behind the two. 'Honour' killing is distinguished from plain murder solely on the grounds of tradition and cultural practices that condone murder to save family 'honour' in a rural or tribal patriarchal culture. It is a serious point to be noted that the two types of murder add up to a ratio of 34.70% or above one-third of the total VAW crimes committed in 2010 in the province of Sindh. This year, the megapolis of Karachi reported the highest number of cases of murder, with 56 women killed in one year. This was followed by Khairpur Mirs with 29 women losing their lives, and Ghotki where another 24 were murdered. But the ration of the murder cases reported from Karachi if seen in proportion to its population, which is estimated to be around 17.5 million inhabitants, is far less than say for the 20 murders that were committed in Larkana, or 19 in Shikarpur, or 18 in Jacobabad, that are small towns in terms of population.

Sindh appears to have retained its unenviable lead in killing women in the name of 'honour' and 'honour' killing remains a major crime in the province, as is evident from the VAW data obtaining from the year 2010. The heinous crime for the sake of misguided family 'honour' has the second highest percentage of occurrence of all reported cases in the province. Tribal traditions and the continuing hold of the archaic *jirga* and *panchayat* systems, and the practice of declaring any women a *kari* – the man involved is declared *karo* - who dares to marry or show the intention of doing so according to her own choice, are behind the murder of 266 women killed in the name of honour during the year.

The geographical location of these VAW crimes is the same tribal belt that witnessed most of the cold-blooded murders committed in the name of 'honour' during 2009. The main places of occurrence for these 'honour' killings were the bordering districts of Sindh and Balochistan. As many as 42 cases were reported from Jacobabad, 37 from Ghotki, 33 from Larkana, another 21 from Kashmore, and 19 from Khairpur Mirs during 2010. The observation made in the 2009 report holds good for 2010 too: **'If ever there was a need for behavioral change interventions for social good, these are the districts that must be focussed for effective and lasting changes in worldviews.'**

The rate for suicides is also alarmingly high in Sindh, with 8.47% or a total of 140 cases of women having committed suicide in the province out of a total of 1652 cases of VAW in Sindh during 2010. The highest reported instances of suicides by women were in Sanghar where 27 cases were registered. Another 17 cases were reported from Karachi and, 16 cases each were reported from Khairpur Mirs and Mirpur Khas. Dadu recorded 8 cases, and 7 suicide cases each were reported from Badin, Sukkur and Tharparkar.

The heinous crime of rape and gang rape increased considerably during 2010. Out of the 928 cases of rape and gang rape reported from across the country, 140 crimes took place in the province of Sindh. There appears to be a correlation between the crimes of rape and gang rape on the one hand and murder and ‘honour’ killings on the other, as the highest number occurs in the same belt in most cases.

Mercifully, there were no cases of stove burning reported from the province of Sindh in 2010, though 136 women were reported to be targets of domestic violence from the province. The highest number of cases was reported from Sukkur with 17 cases; a further 14 instances were reported from Dadu; and 13 cases each from Hyderabad and Larkana. Ghotki registered 10 instances; Nawabshah and Sanghar each came up with 8 cases; and 6 domestic violence offences were reported from Khairpur Mirs and Naushero Feroze.

Vanni, swara, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted murder, suicide and rape cases adding up to a total of 362 were reported under the miscellaneous category. These cases were recorded from all over the province of Sindh in 2010.

4.4. FIR Status of Cases of VAW:

The analysis of the registration of FIRs in the Sindh province reveals the same sorry state of affairs as prevailing in the rest of the country. Table 29 below presents the FIR status of VAW offences. Out of a total of 1652 reported crimes of VAW in the media, the police registered FIRs for only 39.50% or 653 cases. The majority, i.e. 937 or 56.7%, were not registered, and no information could be obtained about the remaining 62 cases.

Table 29: FIR Status of Victims/Survivors in Sindh:

FIR Status	Total
Registered	653
Not Registered	937
No Information	62
Total	1652

4.5. Marital Status of Women suffering VAW:

As observed in the case of Punjab, several VAW crimes affect more than one female victim. So the number of VAW victims and survivors is always greater than the number of cases reported. A look at Table 30 presented below shows that out of a total of 1940 survivors, 763 or 39.30% were

married women, while the proportion of unmarried victims was 23.8%. No information could be obtained about 36.90% or 716 victims.

Table 30: Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in Sindh:

Marital Status	Total
Married	763
Unmarried	461
No Information	716
Total	1940

4.6. Age Group of Victims/Survivors of VAW:

Table 31 gives a break down by age group of the victims and survivors of VAW offences in Sindh. Again, what strikes the observer is the astonishing lack of information, even taking into account the number of FIRs registered. There was no information available about the age group of 1153 victims. 296 victims were up to 18 years of age, 369 belonged to the 19-36 years age group, while 122 victims were of 37 years or above.

Table 31: Age Group-wise distribution of VAW Victims/Survivors:

Age-Group	Total
0-18years	296
19-36 years	369
37 and above	122
No Information	1153
Total	1940

Section Five:

Overview of VAW Incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

In April 2010, the name of the North West Frontier Province was changed to "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" by the Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Act, 2010, which was unanimously passed by both houses of Parliament, namely the National Assembly of Pakistan and the Senate of Pakistan, and received the assent of the President of the country on 19 April 2010.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa borders Afghanistan to the northwest, Gilgit-Baltistan to the northeast, Azad Jammu & Kashmir to the east, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) to the west and south, and Punjab and the Islamabad Capital Territory to the southeast. The principal language is Pashto and the provincial capital is Peshawar.

KP is divided into three administrative regions areas: Settled Areas, the Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA), and the Federal Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The famous Khyber Pass links the province to Afghanistan, while the Kohala Bridge is a major crossing point over the Jhelum River to Azad Kashmir in the east. The province has an area of 28,773 square miles (or 74,521 square kms.) and includes Hazara Division, the western point of the Karakoram Highway. The region varies in topography from dry rocky areas in the south to forests and green plains in the north. The climate can be extreme with intensely hot summers to freezing cold winters. Despite these extremes in weather, agriculture remains important and viable in the area.

According to the 1998 census, the population of KP was approximately 17 million, of whom 52% are males and 48% are females. However, the Population Census Organization estimates that the population has grown to 23,659,639 in 2011, contributing 13% to the total population of the country. Some manufacturing and high tech investments in Peshawar have helped improve job prospects for locals, and trade occupies a significant place in the economy of the province. The bazaars of KP are known throughout Pakistan, mainly because of the availability smuggled goods from Afghanistan and beyond.

5.1. Overall Cases of VAW in KP:

A total number of 650 incidents of VAW occurred in 28 districts of KP and FATA during the period January to December 2010. Their breakdown is given under:

- 328 cases of murder
- 89 cases of domestic violence
- 77 cases of abduction/kidnapping
- 71 cases of miscellaneous nature
- 54 cases of suicide
- 22 cases of 'honour' killing
- 5 cases of rape

3 cases of stove burning
01 case of acid throwing

Murder remained the most frequently committed crime, and murder cases added up to more than half, or 50.46% of all reported VAW cases from the province in 2010. Much like in 2009, domestic violence also showed a high rate of occurrence at 13.69% in 2010 too, clearly pointing to the domination of Pashtun society by males. Women are often not allowed outside the home, not even in emergencies, if she is not accompanied by a male member of the household. Abductions and kidnappings have increased in number and their proportion in the total VAW offences came to 11.85%. This should be seen in the context of the geographical location of KP as the area bordering war torn Afghanistan, and hence subjected to conflict over many years, hosting large numbers of refugees, and in 2010 suffering the worst floods in a century. Suicide rates are also high, and have almost doubled as compared to the data from 2009, accounting for 10.92% of all VAW cases reported from the province. Added to the troubled times, conflicts between the traditional local culture and the Pakhtun code of honour, *Pakhtunwali*, with modernity, were perhaps responsible for the even higher incidence of 'honour' killings than last year, which were 3.39% of all VAW crimes in the province. The same traditions and honour code, however, probably limited the crime of rape, as 5 cases were reported. There were 3 cases of stove burning and only 1 of acid throwing. The remaining cases constituting the category of miscellaneous crimes added up to 10.92% of the total during the year.

Table 32: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in KP during 2010

Category of crime	Total Number of Cases	% of the Total
Murder	328	50.46%
Honour killing	22	3.38%
Abduction/ Kidnapping	77	11.85%
Domestic violence	89	13.69%
Suicide	54	8.30%
Rape/ Gang rape	5	0.76%
Stove burning	3	0.46%
Acid throwing	1	0.15%
Miscellaneous	71	10.92%
Break-Up of Miscellaneous		
Attempted murder	33	5.07%
Attempted suicide	2	0.31%
Treat to violence	4	0.61%
Hurt and Body Injury	15	2.31%
Vanni/ Customary practices	6	0.92%
Sexual harassment	1	0.15%
Women trafficking	2	0.31%
Attempted kidnapping	8	1.23%
Total	650	100%

Table 33 below presents the bi-annual distribution of VAW instances reported during the two halves of the year under review. The first half of 2010 witnessed a greater share or 50.62% of the total VAW cases reported in 2010; while the second half from July to December accounted for 47.38% cases.

Table 33: Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in KP:

Bi-Annual	Total
First six months	342
Second Six months	308
Total	650

5.2. Prevalence of VAW by District and Offence in KP:

Table 34 below presents a district-wise distribution of VAW crimes in the province.

Table 34: District-wise data of VAW crimes in KP:

Sr. NO	District Name	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Gang Rape	'Honour' Killing	Miscellaneous	Murder	Burning	Suicide	Sexual Assault	Grand Total
1	Abbottabad			1			2	1			1	5
2	Bajour Agency (Fata)							1				1
3	Bannu						2	13				15
4	Battagram						1					1
5	Buner							3		1		4
6	Charsadda	1	1	2			1	17		4		26
7	Chitral						1	1		7		9
8	D.I.Khan	3		1	1	1	5	7		1		19
9	Hangu						1	3				4
10	Haripur	2		4		3	1	12		4		26
11	Karak			1		1	1	8		1		12
12	Khyber Agency (Fata)			1		1	2	2				6
13	Kohat	1		3		1	2	14	1	4		26
14	Kohistan						1	1				2
15	Lakki Marwat	1								2		3
16	Lower Dir	2		1		2		4		1		10
17	Malakand p.a	1				1	1	8		3		14
18	Mansehra				1		2	17		3		23
19	Mardan	9		4	1	3	11	58		6		92
20	Mohammed Agency(Fata)							2				2
21	Nowshera	1		2		1	3	23	1	4		35
22	Peshawar	54		61	1	4	27	87	1	10		245
23	Shangla						1	3		1		5

24	Swabi	1		6	1	1	1	26				36
25	Swat			2			3	11		2		18
26	Tank						1					1
27	Upper Dir	1				3		6				10
	Grand Total	77	1	89	5	22	70	328	3	54	1	650

5.3. Prevalence of Major Categories of VAW in KP:

The data collected by Aurat Foundation teams in 2009 found murder of women to be the most prevalent VAW crime in KP, and true to the pattern, in 2010 too it retained its position, however with increased intensity. Figures showed that murder of women increased to a most disturbing 50.46% of the total VAW incidents. Not only is this figure more than half of all VAW offences committed in KP, it is also much higher than the percentage in any of the other provinces.

Peshawar, the capital and largest city in KP remained the most violent urban centre in the province, and witnessed an increase in the frequency as well as proportion of murder cases in KP in 2010. There were 85 murder cases reported from Peshawar in 2010, compared to 72 in 2009. Mardan also retained an ignominious second place with 58 murders. It appears that Mardan was perhaps even more violent than Peshawar for it is much smaller in population. Swabi reported 26 murders, while Nowshera claimed 23 incidents. Charsadda and Mansehra reported 17 murders each. In Kohat, Bannu, Haripur and Swat 14, 13, 12 and 11 cases of murder of women were reported respectively in the year 2010.

Suicides of women were also a matter of concern, and KP reflected similar trends with the rest of the country. The highest reported cases of suicide from the major cities in KP included 10 cases from Peshawar, 7 from Chitral, 6 from Mardan, 4 each from Charsadda, Haripur, Kohat and Nowshera, and 3 cases from Malakand and Mansehra each.

Abduction of women is not as frequent in KP compared to Punjab, nevertheless there were 77 cases of abduction and kidnapping reported in 2010, increasing slightly over 64 cases in 2009. In the province Peshawar remained on top again with the highest concentration of abductions and kidnappings, and 54 cases were registered in the city in the last year. Mardan reported 9 instances, and D.I. Khan another 3 cases. As for rape and gang rape, as stated earlier the Aurat Foundation research team recorded 928 cases this year from all over the country. Only 5 of these crimes were reported from KP. One incident each occurred in the districts of D.I. Khan, Mansehra, Mardan, Peshawar and Swabi. As the 2009 report noted: 'One plausible explanation for this appreciably low occurrence is perhaps the tribal orientation of local culture where blood vendettas are feared, and hence effectively shield women from this shameful crime.'

Domestic violence is much more strictly a private and family matter, which must remain within the four walls of the home in KP, than is the case in the provinces of Punjab and Sindh. Therefore, it can be said with a reasonable degree of confidence that domestic violence cases are grossly under-reported from the province of KP. The total segregation of women in Pashtun culture, and a traditional license to men allowing them rights to chastise their women should be taken just an indicator of a much higher instance than that reflected in the 89 cases reported in 2010, as against 163 offences reported in 2009. The most instances of domestic violence

were reported in Peshawar with 61 cases. Six cases took place in Swabi, and 4 each in Haripur and Mardan. Kohat, Charsadda, Nowshera, Swat and some other districts also reported cases of domestic violence, albeit in low numbers.

Only 71 incidents of miscellaneous crimes surfaced in the KP during 2010, as against 93 cases reported in 2009. These crimes included vanni, swara, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted murder, suicide and rape. A break up of recorded miscellaneous cases showed that attempted murder of women claimed the largest proportion of this category with 33 incidents or 46.48%, while women hurt or beaten in 15 VAW crimes is the second most committed offence in the miscellaneous category at 21.13% of the total. There were 8 attempts at kidnapping or 11.27%, and 6 cases of violence on the name of customary practice, which comes to a ratio of 8.45% in the sub-category respectively. There were 4 incidents of threat to violence, and 2 instances each of attempted suicide and trafficking were also reported, adding up to 5.63% and 2.82% respectively of the total miscellaneous crimes reported from the KP in 2010.

5.4. FIR Status of Cases of VAW in KP:

Table 35 shows the FIR status of VAW crimes in KP. A total of 495 cases or 76.15% were issued FIRs, 71 or 10.92% incidents went unreported, and no information could be obtained about the remaining 84 cases or 12.92%. The figures show that there was no improvement in the performance of the police over last year.

Table 35: FIR Status of cases of VAW in KP in 2010:

FIR Status	Total
Registered	495
Not Registered	71
No Information	84
Total	650

5.5. Marital Status of Women suffering VAW:

Table 36 shows the marital status of VAW victims and survivors. Here again, it can be observed that the number of VAW victims and survivors, 708, was greater than the 650 offences reported, each crime affecting more than one woman. Out of these the majority, 407 victims or 57.49%, were married women, while 194 or 27.40% were unmarried. No information was available about the marital status of 107 or 15.11% victims and survivors.

Table 36: Marital Status of women suffering VAW:

Marital Status	Total
Married	407
Un married	194
No. Information	107
Total	708

5.6. Age Group of Victims/Survivors of VAW in KP:

If an analysis of the age group distribution of VAW affectees is undertaken, as shown in Table 37 below, it can be observed no information could be obtained about an overwhelming majority, or 71.05% of the total number of cases. This may be attributed to the typical neglect of record keeping of data in Pakistan, as well as to the specific nature of Pakhtun culture, which inhibits revealing details about their women. For those for whom this information was available, 97 or 13.70% belonged to the under 18 years age group, whereas 83 or 11.72% belonged to the 19-36 years age group. Some 25 women or 3.53 were of 37 years age or above.

Table 37: Age Group-wise distribution of VAW Victims/Survivors in KP:

Age-Group	Total
0-18years	97
19-36 years	83
37 and above	25
No Information	503
Total	708

Section Six:

Overview of VAW Incidents in Balochistan:

Judged by its surface area, Balochistan is the largest of the four provinces of Pakistan at 347,190 square kms, or 134,051 square miles, which comprises approximately 44% of the total land mass of Pakistan. However, the population density is very low due to the barren mountainous terrain and scarcity of water. The Population Census Organization estimates for 2011 show the population of Balochistan to be 8,775,048, or approximately 5% of the total population of the country. According to the 2008 Pakistan Statistical Year Book, households whose primary language is Balochi represent 54.8% of Balochistan's population; 29.6% households speak Pashto; 5.6% speak Sindhi; 2.5% speak Punjabi; 2.4% speak Seraiki; 1.0% speak Urdu; and 4.1% speak other languages. Balochistan is not only the largest province of Pakistan, but it is also the poorest and least populated. The southern region is known as Makran. The central region is known as Kalat.

The capital city, Quetta, is located in the most densely populated district in the northeast of the province. It is situated in a river valley near the border with Afghanistan, with a road to Kandahar in the northwest. At Gwadar on the coast of the Arabian Sea, the Pakistani Government has built a large port with Chinese help.

Balochistan culture is primarily tribal, deeply patriarchal and conservative. Baloch society is dominated by tribal chieftains called *Mirs*, *Sardars* and *Nawabs*, who are the ruling elite of the province. 'Honour' killings are commonplace but discouraged by the majority of the population. In one recent incident in August 2008, the Asian Human Rights Commission reported that in a remote village five women, including three teenagers, had been beaten, shot and buried, some reports said alive, in a ditch for the crime of wanting to choose their own husbands. One of the tribesmen allegedly involved was the younger brother of a provincial minister, and local police therefore refused to take any action. After human rights activists brought the case to national and international attention, some prominent Baloch leaders and politicians defended the killings. A Parliamentarian was quoted as saying, "These are centuries-old traditions, and I will continue to defend them. Only those who indulge in immoral acts should be afraid."

But many ordinary Baloch expressed their abhorance at the horrific crime. According to the majority of Baloch, the person or tribal head responsible for the crime should be brought to justice and must be punished. Many Baloch deny that *Karo Kari* is part of Baloch culture. They claim that it was a nomadic cultural practice, which was stopped many years ago, but because of poor administration by the Pakistani government such acts are now taking place.

The economy of the province is largely based upon the production of natural gas, coal and minerals. Balochistan's share of the national economy has ranged between 3.7% to 4.9%. Since 1972, Balochistan's economy has grown in size 2.7 times. Balochistan is rich in mineral resources and is the second major supplier of natural gas after the Sindh province. It is located at the southeastern edge of the Iranian plateau. It strategically bridges the Middle East and

Southwest Asia with Central Asia and South Asia, and its coastline is the closest oceanic link for the land-locked countries of Central Asia. The Sulaiman Mountains dominate the northeast with the Bolan Pass providing a natural route into Afghanistan towards Kandahar. Much of the province south of the Quetta region is sparse desert terrain with pockets of towns mostly near rivers and streams.

6.1. Overall Cases of VAW in Balochistan:

The study data compiled a total of 79 incidents of VAW that occurred in all the 28 districts of Balochistan between 1 January and 31 December 2010. This figure is much less than the previous year's reported 237 cases. It is, however, disputable whether the real crime graph has actually fallen, or if it is a case of gross under-reporting!

Of a total of 79 cases of VAW in Balochistan, there were:

- 36 cases of 'honour' killing
- 15 cases of murder
- 08 cases of suicide
- 6 cases of rape
- cases of acid throwing
- 04 cases of domestic violence
- 02 cases of abduction and kidnapping
- 1 case of stove burning
- 02 cases of miscellaneous nature

Deeply steeped in ancient customs and ruled by tribal chieftains, the province has a depressing record of oppressing its womenfolk. Out of a total of 79 VAW incidents reported in the press during 2010 an overwhelming number, 36 women, were murdered on the pretext of safeguarding family 'honour'. This figure assumes greater significance when it is seen that the next most common VAW crime in the province was murder, with 15 women killed during the year. Added together this brings the number of women murdered in Balochistan to 51 in just one year. This figure is more than two-thirds, or 64.56% of the total VAW crimes reported. Add to this the 8 cases of suicide, which was the next crime, and the picture gets even bleaker.

The province of Balochistan has suffered from neglect ever since it joined Pakistan. The State of Pakistan left the province in the hands of the local chieftains and Nawabs to run their fiefdoms as they pleased, following their ancient tribal customs. Women have no rights under the Baloch cultural codes and are considered the property of their men. Most crimes are decided and punished by councils of elders, all males, who generally follow patriarchal cultural traditions in total contrast to modern notions of justice and equality. Little wonder then that many women are deprived of their most basic right to life in this backward and extremely under-developed region of Pakistan.

Other major VAW crimes recorded from the province included 6 cases of rape or gang rape, 5 cases of acid throwing and 4 offences of domestic violence. During 2010, only 2 cases of

abductions and kidnapping came to light, and only 1 case of stove burning was reported. The remaining 2 cases were of miscellaneous crimes.

Analyzing this data shows us that the percentage of 'honour' killing is the highest, 45.75%, among all recorded cases of VAW from the province. This is followed by murder at 18.99% of the total number of incidents. Suicide is next major concern with 10.13% of all cases reported. The heinous crime of rape/gang rape was perpetrated in 6 cases at 7.59% of the total; acid throwing was next with a percentage share of 6.33%; domestic violence constituted 5.06%; abductions and kidnappings were another 2.53%, followed by stove burning at 1.26%. Miscellaneous VAW crimes figured 2 cases only at 2.53% of all the instances recorded in 2010. Of the 2 cases of miscellaneous crimes recorded, one was an attempt to murder, and the other was a threat to violence.

Table 38: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in Balochistan during 2010

Category of crime	Total Number of Cases	% of the Total
Murder	15	18.99%
Honour killing	36	45.57%
Abduction/ Kidnapping	2	2.53%
Domestic violence	4	5.06%
Suicide	8	10.13%
Rape/ Gang rape	6	7.59%
Sexual assault	--	0%
Stove burning	1	1.26%
Acid throwing	5	6.33%
Miscellaneous	2	2.53%
Break-up of Miscellaneous		
Attempted murder	1	1.26%
Custodial Violence	--	0%
Threat to violence	1	1.23%
Total	79	100%

6.2. Number and Prevalence of VAW by District and Offence in Balochistan:

The occurrence of cases of VAW in Balochistan during the year was greater during the first Bi-annual recording 56 incidents. In the second six months' period, another 23 reports were registered across the province. The percentage of cases of VAW in the first Bi-annual came to 70.89%, and stood at 29.11% in the second Bi-annual.

Table 39: Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in Balochistan:

Bi-Annual	Total
First six months	56
Second Six months	23
Total	79

The district-wise break up of VAW crimes is presented below in the table 40.

Table 40: District-wise Data on VAW in Balochistan in 2010:

Sr. No.	District Names	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape/Gang rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Stove Burning	Miscellaneous	Grand Total
1	Awaran											
2	Barkhan											
3	Bolan			2		6	2					10
4	Chagi		2									2
5	Dera Bugti											
6	Gwadar						1					1
7	Jaffarabad			1	3	8	1					13
8	Jhal Magsi					4	1		1	1		7
9	Kalat		3									3
10	Kech											
11	Kharan											
12	Khuzdar				1							1
13	Killa Abdullah					2						2
14	Killa Saifullah											
15	Kohlu											
16	Lasbela											
17	Loralai			2		1						3
18	Mastung					1						1
19	Musakhel											
20	Naseerabad					10	6		2		2	20
21	Noshki						1					1
22	Panjgur											
23	Pishin											
24	Quetta	1	-	1	1	2	4	-	2	-	-	11
25	Sibi	1				1						2
26	Washuk											
27	Zhob				1	1						2
28	Ziarat											
	Grand Total	2	5	6	6	36	16		5	1	2	79

6.3. Prevalence of Major Categories of VAW in Balochistan:

At the outset, one should reiterate the suspicion alluded to earlier about the sharp fall in reported VAW crimes in Balochistan during the year under review, which suggests an extreme case of under-reporting. This is not surprising in the light of the perpetual political turmoil, terrorist activities, kidnappings and political murders in this troubled provinces rendering law and order agencies even more disorganized than usual. Keeping this in mind, the incidence of 36 cases of 'honour' killing of women out of the total some 560 cases reported from across Pakistan seems to be in proportion to Balochistan's extremely low demographic data. However, considering the warlike situation, the prevalence would suggest a much higher increase over the rest of the areas comprising Pakistan.

The crime of 'honour' killing remains widespread in some districts of Balochistan. Not surprisingly, most of these cases are found to be concentrated in rural and tribal areas where the jirga system and customary law take precedence over constitutional law. Districts Naseerabad and Jaffarabad reported the highest number of 'honour' killing with 10 and 8 cases respectively in 2010. Another 6 incidents took place in Bolan district; 4 in district Jhal Magsi; and 2 cases each were reported in districts Killa Abdullah and Quetta. Over and above 'honour' killings, murder too has come up as a major VAW crime in Balochistan. There were as many as 15 registered cases of murder in 2010 across Balochistan. The highest incidence was reported from Naseerabad, where 19 women were killed during the year. Quetta reported 4 cases, and Bolan 2 cases of women murdered.

Abduction of women, rape and suicide remained on the lower side of the crime graph in Balochistan as compared to Punjab. Out of 8 reported cases of suicide in the province, 2 each took place in Quetta and Naseerabad and 1 in Jhal Magsi. Only 2 abduction cases were reported from Balochistan. Of these, 1 took place in Quetta and 1 in Sibi. As for rape cases, as many as 6 offences occurred, with 3 in Jaffarabad district and 1 each in Khuzdar, Quetta and Zhob.

The incidence of acid throwing reappeared this year, and 5 cases were reported in 2010 against none during 2009. Of these, 3 were reported from Kalat and 2 from Chagi. Stove burning remained minimal at only 1 case reported from Jhal Magsi. Domestic violence also kept a low profile according to reports with only 6 incidents recorded in the province. Two incidents each were reported from Bolan and Loralai and 1 each from Jaffarabad and Quetta districts.

Only 2 cases under the category of miscellaneous VAW crimes were reported from the whole of Balochistan during 2010: 1 case of attempted murder and 1 of threat to violence.

6.4. FIR Status of Cases of VAW:

The number of total VAW crimes reported was unbelievably low, but a positive factor was that almost all crimes were registered and FIRs were filed. The overwhelming majorities of 76 out of 79 VAW offences, or 96.20%, were registered, and only 3 cases (3.80%) remained unregistered. Table 41 below presents the FIR status of VAW in Balochistan.

Table 41: FIR Status of cases of VAW in Balochistan 2010:

FIR Status	Total
Registered	76
Not Registered	3
No Information	-
Total	79

6.5. Marital Status of Victims/Survivors:

Table 42 below depicts the marital status of VAW survivors. Following the pattern in the rest of the country, the majority of victims and survivors were married women, with 49 or 62.03% falling in this category; 11 victims or 13.92% were unmarried; and no information could be found about 19 or 24.05%.

Table 42: Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in Balochistan:

Marital Status	Total
Married	49
Un married	11
No Information	19
Total	79

6.6. Age Groups of Victims/Survivors of VAW in Baluchistan:

A look at table 43 concerning distribution according to the age group of victims brings to light the astonishing fact that no information at all was available in this regard. This again reconfirms earlier observations that in the tribal regions of Pakistan, social norms and customs continue to seriously inhibit efforts to obtain information and data about women.

Table 43: Age Group wise distribution of VAW Victims/Survivors in Baluchistan:

Age-Group	Total
0-18years	0
19-36 years	0
37 and above	0
No Information	79
Total	79

Section Seven:

Overview of VAW Incidents in Islamabad Capital Territory:

Islamabad is the capital of Pakistan. It is located in the Potohar Plateau in the north of the country, within the Islamabad Capital Territory. The region has historically been at the crossroads of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. The city was built during the 1960s to replace Karachi as Pakistan's capital. It is the tenth largest city in Pakistan and was home to an estimated population of 1.74 million in 2009. Islamabad is one of the greenest and most well planned cities of South Asia, and is considered the cleanest city in Pakistan.

The capital area of Islamabad city is 906 square kilometres (350 square miles). A further 2,717 square kilometres (1,049 square miles) is known as the Specified Area, with the Margalla Hills in the north and northeast. The southern portion of the city is an undulating plain. It is drained by the Kurang River, on which the Rawal Dam is located.

Besides the Federal Government Secretariat and military establishments, most of Pakistan's state-owned companies are also based in Islamabad. Whilst only 0.8% of the country's population lives in Islamabad, it contributes 1% to the country's GDP.

7.1. Overall Cases of VAW in ICT:

There were a total of 127 incidents of VAW in Islamabad during 2010. Below is a brief breakdown of these cases into different categories of VAW crimes:

- 37 cases of miscellaneous nature
- 27 cases of murder
- 21 cases of abduction/kidnapping
- cases of rape
- 11 cases of domestic violence
- 7 cases of suicide
- 3 cases of acid throwing
- 1 case of sexual assault
- 1 case of stove burning

A glance at the different categories of VAW crimes shows that murder occupies the highest ratio among the total crimes reported from Islamabad with a share of 21.26% in 2010. Cases of abduction and kidnapping are next at 16.54%; while torture recorded a 7.66% prevalence rate. Rape cases showed a phenomenal rise, as 14.96% of all VAW crimes committed in the capital territory during 2010 were of rape. Domestic violence also contributed 8.66% to the total VAW crimes in ICT. A total of 7 women committed suicide, which is 5.51% of the total during 2010. Three cases of acid throwing were reported during this period and 1 case each of sexual assault and stove burning.

The majority of VAW offences reported in the Islamabad Capital Territory during 2010 can be lumped together under the ‘Miscellaneous’ category, contributing 29.13% of the total 127 reported cases. Of these, threat to life constituted the largest proportion or 32.43, followed by hurt and physical injury with 24.32%. Harassment and harassment at the work place together constituted 13.51%; while the remaining miscellaneous VAW offences comprised torture, attempts to murder, kidnapping, fraud and fraudulent marriage and land grabbing. There was 1 incident of incest recorded.

Table 44 presents the detailed break up of VAW in ICT.

Table 44: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in ICT during 2010

Category of crime	Total Number of Cases	% of the Total
Murder	27	21.26%
Honour killing	--	0%
Abduction/ Kidnapping	21	16.54%
Domestic violence	11	8.66%
Suicide	7	5.51%
Rape/ Gang rape	19	14.96%
Sexual assault	1	0.78%
Stove burning	1	0.78%
Acid throwing	3	2.36%
Miscellaneous	37	29.13%
Break-Up of Miscellaneous		
Hurt & body Injury	9	7.09%
Torture	3	2.36%
Attempt to kidnap	1	0.78%
Attempt to murder	1	0.78%
Harassment at work place	1	0.78%
Threat to life	12	9.44%
Deception	2	1.57%
Harassment	4	3.15%
Land encroaching	2	1.57%
Fraudulent marriage	1	0.78%
Incest	1	0.78%
Total	127	100%

7.2. Bi-annual distribution of VAW Offences in ICT:

Table 45 presents the bi-annual distribution of VAW incidents. According to the information collected, the first six months witnessed a lower occurrence of VAW with 41 reported cases contributing 32.28% to the total; whereas the rest 86 or 67.72% were committed in the second bi-annual.

Table 45: Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in ICT:

Bi-Annual	Total
First six months	41
Second Six months	86
Total	127

7.3. Prevalence of Major Categories of VAW:

The high incidence of VAW crimes reported from Islamabad in proportion to its small population should be a matter of worry and shame for the concerned authorities as this city claims to be the best managed metropolitan area in the whole country with a tight administration, highest security arrangements with irritatingly frequent checkings, constant surveillance, and a much boasted about Capital Police. With the exception of 'honour' killing and stove burning, Islamabad surpassed by far the VAW incidents in Balochistan, for example. The number of rapes and gang rapes was more than the combined total in the provinces of KP and Balochistan. And all this happened despite the high level of security and efficient policing that the Federal Capital is known for. The lame justification is offered that most of these crimes were committed in the surrounding areas of the city, but this is perhaps noexcuse and shows a willful ignorance of the actual facts in the lives of people.

As it happens, murder of women was the most frequently committed VAW crime in the Federal Capital during 2010 with 27 instances. As observed in the 2009 report, the pattern of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) continued with most of the perpetrators being husbands of the women murdered. The most frequent motivation cited for these crimes of murder was 'suspicions about the character' of the woman. In one incident, a woman was slaughtered on unfounded allegations of an illicit relationship. As in 2009, most of these cases were reported from suburban settlements like Barakau, Tarnol, Shahpur, and Shehzad Town.

Abductions and kidnapping were the second highest crime with 21 occurrences. Ashocking increase in rape and gang rape cases, which amounted to 19 reported during the year, was observed and presents a sharp contrast to the secure image of the Federal Capital. Seven women committed suicide in ICT during 2010, while 3 acid throwing incidents along with 1 each of stove burning and sexual assault were reported.

Besides these major VAW crimes, another 37 cases of miscellaneous crimes were recorded in Islamabad. Of these, threats to life constituted the majority with 12 reported cases contributing 32.43% in this category. Hurt and physical injury followed with 9 offences with 24.32%; while 4 incidents of harassment and 1 of harassment at work place were also reported. The remaining miscellaneous VAW offences included torture, attempts to murder and kidnapping, general fraud and fraudulent marriage and land grabbing. There was 1 incident of incest.

7.4. FIR Status of Cases of VAW:

The FIR status of VAW crimes in ICT is another worrisome surprise with only 77 or 60.63% cases being registered by the police; 21 offences or 16.54% of total were not registered. There was no information obtainable about the remaining 29 or 22.83% cases. Table 46 gives below the details.

Table 46: FIR Status of cases of VAW in ICT 2010:

FIR Status	Total
Registered	77
Not Registered	21
No Information	29
Total	127

7.5. Marital Status of Victims/Survivors:

According to details about the marital status as depicted in Table 47, the majority of VAW victims and survivors were married women with 70 or 55.12% of the total; 34 victims or 23.77% were unmarried; and even in the capital metropolis, no information could be obtained about the marital status of 33 or 25.98% of VAW victims and survivors.

Table 47: Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in Islamabad

Marital Status	Total
Married	70
Un married	34
No Information	33
Total	127

7.6. Age Group of Victims/Survivors of VAW:

Table 48 presents the distribution of the VAW victims in the ICT according to age group: 19 victims were of 18 years of age or under; 30 belonged to the 19-36 years age group; and 4 were of 37 years and above. However, for the overwhelming majority of 87 victims forming 68.50% of the total, no details about their ages were available.

Table 48: Age Group distribution of Victims/Survivors in ICT:

Age-Group	Total
0-18years	19
19-36 years	30
37 and above	4
No Information	84
Total	127

Conclusion

Pakistan has experienced widespread socio-political and economic instability in recent years; amid declining foreign exchange reserves and currency depreciations, rampant inflation and unemployment, an ever-deteriorating security situation, and widening developmental disparities between rural and urban populations and between rich and poor. Currently ranked 141 out of 177 countries assessed in the UNDP Human Development Report, Pakistan achieved 2 percent economic growth during 2008-2009; just keeping pace with an equitable level of population growth.

Although some progress has been made towards meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the country is still confronted with worryingly poor human development indicators. An estimated 36 percent of the population continues to live below the poverty line and almost 50 percent are illiterate, including two-thirds of all women. Infant mortality rates are as high as 97 per 1,000 live births, and maternal mortality stands at about 600 deaths per 100,000.

A 2008 UN joint assessment⁹ estimated that 45 million people across the country are severely food-insecure, reflective of a mounting and multifaceted food security crisis. Despite easing in global markets, the impact of food price hikes witnessed in 2008 continues to reverberate throughout Pakistan, risking further entrenchment of food insecurity across large swathes of the population. Recurrent natural and man-made emergencies exacerbate underlying problems; including debilitating drought, earthquakes, floods and other natural hazards, as well as conflict and related displacement.

According to a statement of the World Food Programme Director in Pakistan¹⁰, Mr. Wolfgang Herbinger, Pakistan's government has pushed food prices too high for its impoverished population and malnutrition is rising despite crop recovery after the floods. Malnutrition levels in the southern province of Sindh have reached 21 to 23 per cent, according to the agency. "That is well above African standards. The emergency standard is 15 per cent"

In the wake of these harsh and hostile realities, VAW as a gender issue of legitimate relevance to Pakistan may appear as a misplaced priority even to the instructed and enlightened minds, as may be evidenced by the silence of the vast majority of the legislators, politicians, policy makers and other stakeholders regarding the condition and position of women and girls. The need of the hour is to build a consensus among all stakeholders on the implication of the low status of women and girls, unjust and insensitive attitudes to their legitimate concerns and their socio-political marginalization. An integrated strategy can lead to multiple but matching solutions for the complex problem of violence and abuses against women and girls in Pakistan.

It seems befitting to end this report by reverting to the great Muslim thinker Ibn Rushd who, nine centuries ago, had the wisdom to observe that depriving women of empowerment and equality renders a society poorer. What he said about the 12th century Muslim societies seems

⁹ www.wfp.org

¹⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/2011/03/24/pakistan-food-prices-too-high-un.html>

prophetically true for 21st century Pakistan: “They¹¹ (women) are therefore placed at the service of their husbands and (relegated) to the position of procreation, for rearing and (breast) feeding. But this undoes their (other) activities. Because women in these states are not being fitted for any of the human virtues. It often happens that they resemble plants. **That they are a burden upon the men in these states is one of the reasons for the poverty of these states.**”

¹¹ <http://casalinopierluigi.blog.it/the-position-of-women-in-ibn-rushd-averroes.html>

Annexure

Methodology, Constraints & Limitations

All five offices of the Aurat Foundation collected the statistics on VAW in Pakistan during the 2010 calendar year from January to December. Not only were all the four provinces – Punjab, Sindh, Khyber-Pakhtunkhawa and Balochistan – covered, but data was also collected for Islamabad Capital Territory. Quarterly reports followed incidents and trends. These are compiled in this national report is an effort to organize all the data collected into a comprehensive volume. All five AF offices have also recently released their respective geographically defined data compilations in their respective cities.

The data presented in this annual report has been collected from different sources. The main sources were daily newspapers in Urdu and English published from different parts of the provinces and ICT. In the provinces, the regional press was also carefully monitored. Cases were collected from the print media and from state institutions, such as the police, hospitals and government shelter homes. Thus the majority of VAW cases are ‘reported cases’ and mostly relate to only ‘physical’ violence or physical abuses against women. The social, psychological, cultural and economic dimensions of VAW are, therefore, understandably not reflected in this data.

The cases collected from government run or private shelter homes and crisis centers mostly relate to offences of domestic violence that women do not report to police for several reasons. These include constraints on mobility and lack of support in the family. The label of ‘shame’ attached to these crimes, or the refusal by the police to recognize them as ‘offences’ – most of the time these are considered a ‘private affair’ of the family – also goes a long way in discouraging women from making formal complaints for justice and redressal.

For the present study, the incidents of violence reported in 114 districts – 35 in Punjab; 23 in Sindh; 26 in KP; 29 in Balochistan and the ICT — were monitored for data gathering. Random Sampling techniques were deployed to select newspapers for data sourcing. English, Urdu and regional language newspapers were all included to cover maximum districts across the country. Data from medico legal surgeons was regularly secured to circumvent some of the limitations in relying solely on printed media reports. This effort was further strengthened with regular data collection from all police departments and shelter homes for women in the areas covered by this study. The study period was one year starting from January 01 and ending on the 31st of December 2010.

Tabulation of statistics was undertaken using custom-designed software and databases. Reporting formats were designed to be comprehensive including detailed description of offences and motives. Status of recording First Information Reports (FIR) was included in the tabulation of categories.

The data analysis is intended to summarize observations in a manner yielding answers to

research questions. For the qualitative analysis of the data the simple percentage and frequency distribution method has been used.

Many limitations were imposed on our data collection and analysis since the data is based on reported cases only. Therefore, not much information is available about the victims and abusers beyond what has been formally reported. Also, the data does not cover unreported incidents of violence against women anywhere in Pakistan. Another key element missing in the data are the ages of victims and survivors. The relationship between victim and offender and motives behind offences are also mostly missing in reported cases.

Other limitations faced by the study teams arose out of the security situation in some districts of KP and Balochistan that made access to data on cases of VAW difficult and, in some cases, impossible. It is also noteworthy that cases of domestic violence are often not reported. This is primarily because there are no laws or social mechanisms in place for redressal. Well-entrenched patriarchal structures at all levels of society and governance also lead to largely insufficient and sometimes total absence of data on the denial of women's fundamental right to life and dignity in the domestic sphere. Absence of penal laws covering domestic violence also hampers recourse to justice for victims and survivors of cases of domestic violence.

Not only do strong feudal and conservative lobbies resist and block positive legislation on crucial women's right issues, many socio-economic factors, especially poverty, also aggravate the situation of violence against women. Coupled with extremely poor levels of law enforcement inherent weaknesses in our criminal justice system further compound these problems. This situation lends encouragement to informal dispute resolution mechanisms, such as '*jirgas*' and '*panchayats*' that are inherently patriarchal and anti-women.

Since collection of data – irrespective of the fact of how comprehensive and valid the methods—alone cannot achieve the realization of women's human rights, dissemination becomes key to success. Increasing and initiating the awareness process among poorly educated and marginalized women, who constitute more than 95% of our rural women, has the potential to bring about positive change.

ⁱ Abu al-Walid Muhammad ibn Ahmad ibn Rushd (1126—1198), better known in the Latin West as Averroes, lived during a unique period in Western intellectual history, in which interest in philosophy and theology was waning in the Muslim world and just beginning to flourish in Latin Christendom. Just fifteen years before his birth, the great critic of Islamic philosophy, al-Ghazzali (1058-1111), had died after striking a blow against Muslim Neoplatonic philosophy, particularly against the work of the philosopher Ibn Sina (Avicenna). From such bleak circumstances emerged the Spanish-Muslim philosophers, of which the jurist and physician Ibn Rushd came to be regarded as the final and most influential Muslim philosopher, especially to those who inherited the tradition of Muslim philosophy in the West.

His influential commentaries and unique interpretations on Aristotle revived Western scholarly interest in ancient Greek philosophy, whose works for the most part had been neglected since the sixth century. He critically examined the alleged tension between philosophy and religion in his *Decisive Treatise*, and challenged the anti-philosophical sentiments within the Sunni tradition sparked by al-Ghazzali. This critique ignited a similar re-examination within the Christian tradition, influencing a line of scholars who would come to be identified as the “Averroists.”

Ibn Rushd contended that the claim of many Muslim theologians that philosophers were outside the fold of Islam had no base in scripture. His novel exegesis of seminal Quranic verses made the case for three valid “paths” of arriving at religious truths, and that philosophy was one if not the best of them, therefore its study should not be prohibited. He also challenged Asharite, Mutazilite, Sufi, and “literalist” conceptions of God’s attributes and actions, noting the philosophical issues that arise out of their notions of occasionalism, divine speech, and explanations of the origin of the world. Ibn Rushd strived to demonstrate that without engaging religion critically and philosophically, deeper meanings of the tradition could be lost, ultimately leading to deviant and incorrect understandings of the divine.

Source: <http://www.iep.utm.edu/ibnrushd/>