

ANNUAL REPORT

2013

Situation of Violence
Against Women
in Pakistan

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Preface

Committed to its cause of highlighting the issues related to violence against women (VAW), Aurat Foundation (AF) has been making strides in Pakistan since 1986. This publication is AF's sixth consecutive Annual Report on Situation of Violence against Women and a continuing attempt to draw attention towards more serious and broader issues that ultimately hinder much-intended improvement in the overall situation for women in Pakistan.

Statistics, gleaned by AF on VAW, reveal newer and severe dimensions of violence. Increasing sectarian and religious violence is one such form that spelt tragedy for hundreds of women in 2013.

During the same year, women were the ultimate sufferers in incidents like suicide attack on Peshawar church and attack on Ashura procession in Rawalpindi, which not only deteriorated the law and order situation but also worsened the overall situation for women and children.

Efforts to ensure women rights also took a backseat with the change in political leadership after the General Elections in May 2013. Each Provincial Assembly is now led by a different party, necessitating change in lobbying strategies. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf led the polls whereas Balochistan National Party carried the day in Balochistan. Pakistan Muslim League-N secured majority both in Punjab and Federation to rule the country.

Consequently, government policies and commitments largely differ at national and provincial levels. On the positive side, the provincial governments have announced some important interventions to protect women rights like promising property rights, increase in women quota and age limit for employment in government departments and 30 per cent representation of women in Board of Directors and Governors of government departments in Punjab, and approval of progressive laws like Domestic Violence Bill in Balochistan and Sindh.

On the down side, the merger of Ministry of Human Rights with Ministry of Law demonstrates the priority of the government towards human rights. The latest edition of the cabinet features only two women Ministers. Government structures such as National Commission on the Status of Women, Sindh Human Rights Commission and Gender Crime Cells are struggling to survive.

Another challenge for civil society organizations working on women rights is the arrival of a large number of new faces on reserved seats for women in national and provincial assemblies. Rising difference in number of the women contestants and the ultimate legislators has opened up new avenues for devising innovative interventions for women's political participation.

Aurat Foundation, in collaboration with Gender Concerns International (GCI), launched its Gender Election Monitoring Mission (GEM) for Pakistan and rigorously monitored the 2013 elections despite security issues in Karachi and KP. It was encouraging to note that a large number of women contested the elections for national and provincial seats contrary to the trend observed at the previous 2008 elections.

The figures of general elections 2013 show upward trend in all respects. For instance, 61 women contested elections on party tickets in 2013 as compared to 41 in 2008 elections. Similarly, women who contested as independent candidates in 2013 elections were 74 while only 31 could dare the same in 2008. It is worth mentioning that a significant number of women who contested elections on general seats were part of Aurat Foundation's advocacy initiatives at different levels.

On the other hand, only 119 women were selected on general seats in the national assembly amongst which only two are appointed as Federal Ministers. There are a total of 211 women in the National and Provincial assemblies; 70 in the National Assembly, 141 in all four Provincial Assemblies, whereas 17 are in the Senate.

Overall representation of women in the parliament is 228 out of 1170 i.e. 19.5 per cent. During 2002-2007 and 2008-2013 it was 19.9 per cent. Since 2008, there has been a decrease of 6 in the National Assembly, 1 in the Senate, but an increase of 1 in Sindh province. Of the 228 women, 205 are on reserved seats for women; 21 have won on general seats and 2 have come on reserved seats for non-Muslims.

Another important dynamics of the latest elections with regard to women political participation is that an overwhelming number of new entrants joined the national and provincial assemblies on reserved seats for women. This development emphasizes the need to develop the capacity of those who have reached the assemblies for the first time.

An initial survey conducted by Aurat Foundation reveals that there are 141 newcomers out of a total number of 211 women elected on reserved seats in national assembly and four provincial assemblies. The percentage of newcomers is around 66.8 per cent of the total number of women parliamentarians.

An analysis of the legislative assemblies and its final formation upon the culmination of by-elections provides an overall picture of women representation. Simultaneously, it becomes imperative to revisit some of the principles of women political participation in order to remind ourselves of the importance of women's political participation, expectations of women in politics as well as identify obstacles they face.

Beside this, we cannot overlook the fact that the newly elected government has different approach towards women issues, very much reflected by the decision of merging Ministry of Human Rights in Ministry of Law.

Contrary to the preceding democratic government with momentous history of legislation for women, this newly inaugurated government seems more inclined towards the development projects. Adding to that situation is the draft 'Foreign Contribution Bill 2013' which can be passed by the government any time. It is speculated that this legislation, in its present form, could become a strong tool in government's hands to control the civil society of Pakistan.

Against such backdrop, a certain kind of restiveness exists among civil society members. It is considered a high time to put up some extra effort and devise more effective strategies to take this government on board as far as women rights are concerned.

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Author s' Note

Violence against women is a perennial issue. Though much of this violence has specificity for women's gender, it emanates from general unequal power structures in society while still other forms are spillovers of oppressive social and economic environments. In the context of Pakistan, where one finds women towards the lower end of highly structured patriarchy, violence against women is a norm of pandemic proportions. Here, many stories of resilience, confrontation and open subversion are also found albeit sometimes with deadly consequences.

The resistance to VAW on a global level can be identified with changes in Western thinking in the 17th century which assumed equality of all men and women as quintessential to the ideals of liberalism. Though resistance can be traced back earlier in history, rising consciousness in the form of popular global movements were closely tied to the fallout of the industrial revolution and its impact on women, notwithstanding subsequent feminist skepticism towards socialist regimes in advancing the interests of women.

Operationalization of liberalism, however, is not only a function of social, economic and moral liberalisms alone, although their impact may be significant in countries like Pakistan where poverty is one of the root causes of many injustices, including VAW. Instead, closure to freeing of individuals may be attained with cumulative advancements in social, economic, political, legal, environmental, educational and technological guarantees, along with freeing of speech, movement and other civil liberties. It will also necessitate freedom from oppression and arbitrary punishment, where individual justice is necessary to advancement towards a just society.

To track whether a society is just, vigilance is needed against regression in precious gains for women's right- specifically in individual cases. Individual and group emancipation may, however, remain elusive when justice becomes a patriarchal construct or when opposing arguments are equally 'justified' within a narrow reading of both laws and events. This is not to say that VAW is justified, rather customary subjugation of women has the power to punish victims if their actions can be shown to lie outside a perceived sense of morality or honour by those manning the justice systems. One may look at the treatment meted to only a handful of VAW cases from Pakistan to get a sense of that severely misplaced morality that often misdirect the cause of justice.

Additionally, as women's interest may be broader than those of their gender, they may continue to be influenced by class, ethnicity, race, religion, social positioning and personal choices driven from instinctive or strategic self-preservation or the preservation of the status quo. This has the potential to confound any singular argument on what is in women's interest and how it may sometimes seem at odds with gender progress. It is true that some privileged women may score well within stifling conditions for their gender, especially when societies undergo class-based conflict. This also has adverse implications for their participation in the struggle for gender equality, when class identity supersedes gender.

The answer to women's emancipation may by this means lie at an intersection of these essential liberalisms, where indeed congruence may never be achieved in the tussle between multiple individual

and group interests and identities. Progress can then be celebrated in individual wins within the diversity of gender.

Further, while individuals and groups may strive towards egalitarian principles of coexistence, system justification for VAW [whether against an individual or the collective], may flout gender concerns and function to minimize manifest injustice instead of promoting maximum good. Affirmative action may then need to address legal as well as structural and cultural impediments to justice with a keen, understanding of gender homogeneities and peculiarities.

Statistical data on VAW is helpful in providing a snapshot into the prevalence of violence committed against women, despite the limitations it carries in terms conveying dynamics and foretelling future trajectory. Also, as incidence is a subset of prevalence and does not automatically convey how common a certain issue is, it nevertheless indicates towards a problem which may be taken in isolation if meaningful extensions can be drawn- such as 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence and 70% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime from an intimate partner¹.

This publication is Aurat Foundation's sixth annual report on VAW cases reported across Pakistan. It comprised statistical information and analysis of reported cases of VAW in 2013. Data on VAW is being collected by Aurat Foundation since 2008 from 4 English, 20 Urdu & 2 Sindhi daily newspapers², in addition to various regional papers. Data from state institutions like the police, hospitals, medico-legal cases and government-run shelter homes are also included in the report, where available.

For the present report, data has been from 114 districts of Pakistan: 35 in Punjab; 23 in Sindh; 26 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; 29 in Balochistan, and from Islamabad Capital Territory and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas [FATA].

There are ten broad categories of crimes used for organizing the data, including abduction/ kidnapping, murder, domestic violence, suicide, honour killing, rape/ gang rape, sexual assault, acid throwing and burning, while the category 'miscellaneous' constitutes eleven forms of violence: hurt and bodily injury, torture, attempt to kidnap, attempt to rape, attempted murder, attempted suicide, threat to life, wanni³, sexual harassment, women trafficking, watta-satta⁴. Data is also presented on ages of victims of VAW and the number of First Information Reports [FIRs] lodged with the police. The Report presents 41 tables and 46 figures a list of which has been provided in the preceding section. Following each table and illustration, an analysis has been made of what can be construed from available information.

It is hoped that individuals and organizations working for the advancement of gender and human rights find this report useful in terms of understanding trends in VAW in Pakistan and more areas for statistical exploration can be opened through discourse based on the contents of this report.

¹ See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures#sthash.01sxsIEN.dpuf>

² Newspapers include: Daily Jang; Intekhab (Balochistan); Mashriq (Balochistan & KP); Azadi (Balochistan); Baakhabar (Balochistan) Daily Express; Daily Aajkal; Daily Khabrain; Daily Ausaf; Daily Nawa-i-Waqt; Daily Azkar; Daily Jinnah; Kawish (Sindhi); Ibrat (Sindhi); Daily Khabrain (Multan edition); Daily Khabrain (Lahore Daak edition); Daily Express (Sargodha edition); Daily Express (Faisalabad edition); Daily Jang (Lahore Daak edition alternate); Daily Jang (Multan edition alternate); Aaj (Balochistan); Daily Jinnah (Daak edition Lahore); The News; Dawn; The Balochistan Times; and Century Express (Balochistan)

³ Compensation marriage of women to settle a civil or criminal liability between opposed parties

⁴ Exchange marriage of women where two sisters may be married to two brothers, etc., to strengthen ties between two families or to attain marital protection by forging close ties between two families.

Executive Summary

Statistical and analytical information based on reporting of media is a good albeit inconclusive source of VAW incidence determination. It is nevertheless, a good starting point to assess what kinds of cases may be capturing public attention, thereby shaping public opinion and possibly influencing policy. It also provides meaningful basis for dialogue on VAW by establishing visibility of certain forms of violence that may be inflicted on women purely on the basis of their gender and lowered status in society, including honour killing, rape, gang rape and acid attacks.

In Pakistan, many forms of VAW are not reported in media or even disclosed to family members because of shame, guilt, social taboos and limited access to or hope for justice /reparation. Lack of support systems also keeps a considerable number of women from coming forward. Reporting is further reduced when competing news tend to draw out cases that may otherwise be of human interest or relevant to the general state of human rights in the region. In recent years [more precisely after Pakistan became an ally to the war on terrorism], spiraling conflict, terrorism, petty politics and tales of corruption in the government sector have tended to reduce spaces within media that would form the basis of consistent dialogue on VAW in Pakistan. Additionally, VAW is also often viewed by editorial teams as mere fillers to occupy empty spaces and spots in newspapers and television channels, with little insight offered on why VAW continues to be perpetrated and condoned with impunity across the country. This is validated by the thousands of media stories that were reviewed and included in this report, where no mention was made regarding the ages and marital status of survivors or whether their case was registered by the police for investigations. Lack of follow-up reports also lends credence to the idea that media may be selling news of VAW without a cerebral understanding of how it may reflect on deeper inequities in society.

In 2013, 7,852 cases of violence against women (VAW) were reported across Pakistan, bringing up reported incidence of 4.47% compared to the previous year. Significant fluctuations were seen in the frequency of different types of cases reported across districts as compared to preceding years. While a major reduction was seen in the number of domestic violence cases reported in 2013 (almost half of those reported in the previous year), acid crime went up over 50 percent. Significant reductions can also be seen in burning (-40 percent) and sexual assault cases (-34.5 percent) while uncategorized crimes against women went up by 47.1 percent.

A vast majority of the total reported cases were those of abduction and kidnapping (2,026), comprising 26% of all reported cases, followed by a large number of uncategorized crimes (1,669 – 21 %), and murder (1,425 – 18%). Over the years, abduction and kidnapping of women has been the most prevalent form of violence against women, with 11,729 cases reported during the past 5 years [2008-2013], followed by murder (8,987) and rape/ gang-rape (5,239) over the same period.

The least number of reported cases in 2013, within categorized forms of VAW, include burning, acid throwing and sexual assault, over which the number of cases reported against remaining categories, increase dramatically. It cannot, however, be construed that these are the least reported form of VAW in Pakistan as a large number of cases have been lumped under the miscellaneous or uncategorized unit.

While sexual assault cases have reportedly gone down, the number of rapes and gang-rapes cases increased by 16.2 percent compared with the previous year. Women were attacked with acid or burnt in almost equal numbers in 2012, although burns cases comprised about 60 percent of the cases reported in 2012- a decrease by approximately 40 percent.

In terms of territory, most VAW cases were reported from district Faisalabad in 2013, which made up for 13 percent of cases reported in from all districts. Islamabad and Toba Tek Singh had the lowest share of reported cases, with the exception of acid crimes, which were the highest for Toba Tek Singh amongst the districts. Most cases of domestic violence were reported from Peshawar (73), whereas there was only 1 case reported from Gujrat during the year.

Sex crimes were mostly reported from Faisalabad (200), which constituted about 21 percent of the total 956 cases reported across Pakistan (table 1).

A total of 8,987 women were reportedly murdered between 2008 and 2013 in Pakistan. Although a decrease of 18.3 percent was recorded between year 2012 and 2013, reporting trends have continued to stay high on the list of VAW reported across the country.

Provincially, Punjab had the largest share of women murdered in 2013. Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were close in terms of the number of reported cases, whereas Balochistan and Islamabad were towards the bottom end.

Between 2008 and 2013, a total 3,472 cases of domestic violence were reported in Pakistan, with 2012 seeing the highest number of reported cases. Between 2012 and 2013, reported cases of domestic violence have seen a drastic reduction of nearly 50 percent

With 3,916 cases of suicide reported over the past 6 years, the year 2013 saw an increase of 16.2 percent in the number of reported suicides, with 668 cases reported in 2013, compared with 575 cases in 2012.

District Lahore had the largest share of reported suicides amongst women with 80 cases reported in 2013 (see table 11 below), constituting 12 percent of all suicide cases reported in the country. Although the number of reported cases was slightly lower than 2012 (89), Lahore maintained top position for the 6th consecutive year, followed by Faisalabad (57), which saw an increase of 78 percent compared with the previous year.

Most honour killings were reported from Punjab in 2013, with Sindh's districts making an appearance at the fourth position in the list of top ten districts [Jacobabad]. Most honour killings were reported from Lahore [29] for the second consecutive year, with Faisalabad following close at its heels [28] in 2013.

In totality, 956 cases of rape and gang-rape were reported across Pakistan in 2013.

District-wise, though Faisalabad was not in the list of top 10 districts for sexual violence in 2012, 200 cases were reported from the district in 2013 with a sharp increase of 200 percent compared with the previous year and constituting about 21 percent of all cases reported in the country. Following Faisalabad, other districts had substantially less reporting of sex crimes, with the second highest number being 50 cases from Sargodha [25 percent of those reported in Faisalabad].

There was a 34.48 percent decrease in reported cases of sexual assault in Pakistan [, with the highest number reported from Faisalabad [7].

A reduction of 50.81 percent has been seen in reporting of acid attacks against women in 2013 as compared with the previous year. Over the years, there has been an upward trend in acid crimes, which have dropped drastically in 2013.

Most offences under the category of miscellaneous crimes against women, including attempt to kidnap, attempt to murder, attempt to rape, attempt to suicide, child marriages, custodial violence, forced marriages, harassment, hurt and bodily injury, illegal custody, incest, honour killing, sexual harassment, threat to life, threat to violence, torture, wanni⁵, watta-satta⁶, and trafficking, were reported from district Faisalabad [219], followed by Lahore [163] and Sargodha [105]. If a comparison is made between reported number of miscellaneous crimes between 2012 and 2013, a marked increase can be seen, with the exception of Rawalpindi, where incidence of reporting spiked in 2012 [136 cases] before reducing to 63 cases in 2013.

No First Information Reports [FIR] were been registered in 11 percent [or 828] cases, while 73 percent of cases reported in the media were lodged with the police. No information was available regarding 16 percent [or 1,264] of VAW cases as to whether an FIR was lodged or not.

Married women were most targeted for violence in 2013 [42%], followed closely by un-married women [40%]. There was no information for 1,386 cases [16%], whereas violence against widows and divorcees was substantially low [1% for each]. In terms of provincial breakup, Punjab was most dangerous for unmarried women, followed by Balochistan and ICT. In Sindh and KP, married women were more frequently targeted.

In terms of ages of victims, the most vulnerable group was aged between 0 and 18 [15%], whereas no information was available for 73 percent of the cases reported in media. In Sindh and KP, violence against women was targeted more frequently towards women aged between 19 and 36 years, whereas in Punjab, ICT and FATA, women aged between 0-18 were more frequently targeted.

⁵ Compensation marriage where women [often [often under-age girls] of a family are given in marriage to settle a criminal or civil liability towards another family, such as murder or as payment for a debt.

⁶ Exchange marriage, where two people from one family may be married to two persons from another family

Section 1: Pakistan - Historical Outlook and Overview of Cases of VAW

1.1. VAW in Pakistan - the Historical Outlook

Achievements in the field of women's rights in Pakistan have been marred by recurring and often serious setbacks. Different governments have pursued different interests in their time and few can claim a reduction in gender-based violence against women committed every day across the country with astonishing impunity.

Women's political participation was first achieved by Pakistani women in the early '70s when jobs were opened up for them local and foreign services. Around the same time, women were allowed to contest election on general seats and in 1975, an official delegation from Pakistan participated in the first world conference on women in Mexico, which led to the constitution of the first women's rights committee in Pakistan.

The women's rights movement in Pakistan, which was confined till then to agitation against general social problems during Field Marshal Ayub Khan's and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's regimes, took a more radical turn when regressive and discriminatory laws were promulgated between 1978 and 1988 by President General Zia-ul-Haq under his Islamization program. Many contradictory and discriminatory policies were pursued during this time including the establishment of the first commission on the status of women and membership for women in the parliament (sans executive powers) on the one hand, and the promulgation of Hudood Ordinances in 1979 on the other, that sent thousands of women to languish in jail for crimes they did not commit and for which they could not make bail. Ironically, the Hudood ordinance promulgated the same year as the passage of the Convention for Elimination of all Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW) which Pakistan subsequently ratified in 1996, with a declaration making compliance subject to its constitution under article 29, para 1 (NCHD, NCJP, 2007)).

Subsequent governments have continued to take small steps to enhance social and legal protections for women, such as the setting up of women's police stations, the first women's bank, improving women's political representation, establishing schools to improve girls' access to education, etc., but none have been able to address the gender power play which keeps the VAW in flux across the country in numerous forms.

The time between 2009 and 2014 is an important chapter in the country's history as it saw the first democratically elected Government complete its full tenure. By observing a politics of reconciliation, the Government was able to navigate numerous pressing concerns such as militancy, extremism and a withering of the State's writ without military takeover.

Numerous journalists were attacked and some were killed, while freedom of information suffered serious blows with the blocking of social networking sites and a popular video sharing website in the country.

Massive floods in 2010 and 2011 put more pressure on an already dilapidated infrastructure, with thousands of schools destroyed and tens of millions displaced or left in horrifying conditions. The Government machinery moved too slowly in some parts, while land-owners, the privileged class protected its assets and interests as crops and homes of the poor and defenseless were flooded.

During this period, the State also enjoyed an uneasy relationship with parallel judicial systems, whereas a ruling by the Sindh High Court declared informal tribunals (jirgas) illegal, and the Supreme Court

accepted a petition by the national statutory body on women in 2012, they continue to be the preferred method of dispute resolution in most parts of the country due to limited access to formal systems and distrust towards the results they produce. The Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) also took notice of various human rights violation in the country with uneven results for women litigants. The SCP verdict in Mukhtaran Mai's case in 2011 was a particular low point in women's rights in the country.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan also passed the National Judicial Policy in 2009, [revised in 2010] which called for expeditious trials of cases classified under various offences and the Police was mandated to submit its findings along with supporting evidence within 14 days, while trials now have to be concluded within 6 months to a year. On the one hand, this policy was aimed at reducing pendency in cases and on the other, it was expected to make dispensation of justice quicker. In reality, some argue that this policy's first casualty has been justice itself

Sectarian and religiously motivated attacks reached a high point in 2012-13, resulting in deaths and mass exodus of different communities through Pakistan. Many human rights defenders and prominent political figures also lost their lives in targeted attacks, where most murderers were never brought to book.

Despite the odds, the Government managed to pass an unprecedented number of pro-women legislations during its five-year term. Most legal protections were secured for women through cross-party alliances between women leaders of different political parties (women's caucuses).

Beginning with 2004, the following major national legislations related to violence against women were passed in the country:

- ☒ The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2004 (pertaining to honour crimes)
- ☒ Protection of Women (Criminal Laws Amendment) Act, 2006 (pertaining to rape)
- ☒ Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2010 (pertaining to sexual harassment)
- ☒ The Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010
- ☒ Prevention of Anti-Women Practices (Criminal Law Amendment) Act, 2011 (pertaining to forced marriages and inheritance deprivation in the name of custom)
- ☒ The Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2010
- ☒ The Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act, 2011

These laws are applicable to all provinces of Pakistan except the Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) where political agents appointed by the Federal government act as complainants, judge and jury in disputes between tribes and individuals. Provinces have also taken to drafting and passing legislation after the devolution of power in 2010. Amongst these and the Domestic Violence (Prevention & Protection) Act, 2013, in Sindh and lesser-known laws such as the Elimination of Custom of Ghag Act, 2013, Child Protection and Welfare Act, 2010, Preventive Health Act, passed in 2012 from KP.

Notwithstanding the passage of these laws women in Pakistan continue to suffer grave injustices because of government failure to check rampant corruption and systemic incompetence leading to a breakdown in rule of law. Annual statistical reports of agencies like Aurat Foundation reveal steady increase in the number of reported cases of violence against women each year, while a report of the Supreme Court of Pakistan claims that the conviction rate in criminal cases tried at all the tiers of judiciary was less than ten percent.

While the underlying causes of weak implementation stem from the same basic institutional, structural and cultural impediments, the general tendency of law-makers working to address VAW in Pakistan has been to neglect the strengthening of existing instruments of justice, such as the police, medico-legal services, State prosecution and the judiciary at large. A keen study of these instruments working under

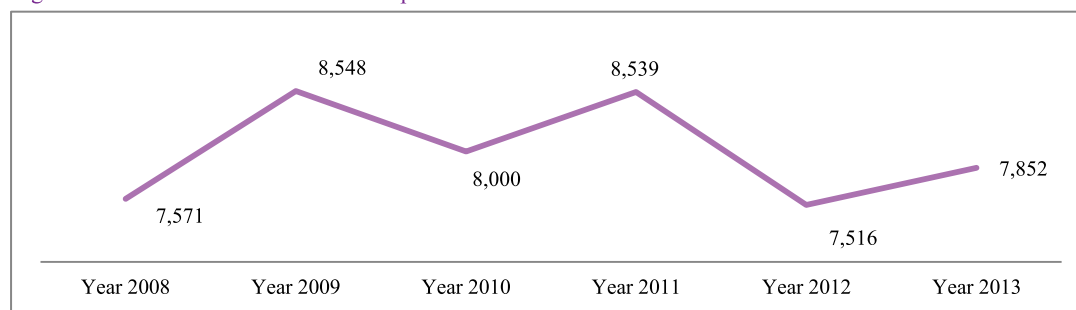
other social, political and economic influences could help in gaining some perspective into why laws fail to act as deterrent and do not serve justice. It could also facilitate implementation through the institutionalization of monitoring systems that could inform amendments or policy decisions. With improved implementation of law, basic deterrents against VAW may be set in place.

Although this report presents a grim picture for women in Pakistan [especially when one connects the number of crimes with the slim chance at justice that each case has, legal protection for women is the first step for any practical argument of rights and entitlements for women. We should let these numbers remind us of the tasks that lie ahead and the work remaining to be done.

1.2. VAW Highlights of 2013

A total 7,852 cases of violence against women (VAW) were reported in 2013, bringing up reported incidence by 4.47% compared with the previous year. Significant fluctuations were seen in the types of cases reported. While a major reduction was seen in the number of domestic violence cases reported in 2013 (almost half of those reported in the previous year), acid crime went up over 50 percent. Significant reductions can also be seen in burning (-40 percent) and sexual assault cases (-34.5 percent) while unclassified crimes against women went up by 47.1 percent. Figure 1 below depicts overall reporting trends in VAW from beginning of 2008 to end 2013.

Figure 1: Linear trends in VAW cases reported in Pakistan between 2008 and 2013



Abduction/kidnapping had the highest number of cases (2,076) during the year, and miscellaneous category was second (1,669), with murder at number three (1,425). Cases of burning were the least (42), and acid throwing was just one case above it (43). The ratios of reported forms of VAW in 2013 can be seen from figure 2 below:

1.3. Organization of the report

The report has five Sections, including the Introduction providing historical background on VAW in Pakistan. Section 2 provides an overall picture of the VAW in Pakistan from the year 2008 – 2013. It seeks to explore trends in reporting of VAW over the past 5 years and make sense of some of the boons and banes that have typically characterized reporting in the past. Section 3 provides information according to major categories of offences reported and how they are distributed geographically, whereas Section 4 provides information on the basis of major territories of provinces in the country and reflects on the state of provinces with regard to VAW. Section 5 provides concluding remarks based on the findings presented in this report.

Section 2: Overview of Violence Against Women in 2013

There are 4 tables in this section. Graphic representation of most tables has been made in order to highlight different aspects of information carried by the data. Attempt has been made to answer the question: Has VAW increased or decreased over the past 5 years in Pakistan?

This section provides information on the many forms of violence that women experience and these are presented over a five year period – 2008 – 2013. Figures are also provided to show women's vulnerability to violence in terms of marital status and age group. While these figures are important to note, they also leave a sense of what more is needed. For example, if women's life is seen as a composite of different stages – infant, child, and adolescent, adult and old age, it cannot be said which specific period carries greatest vulnerability. Number of first investigation reports (FIR) registered is also provided, along with the number of FIRs not registered.

Comparison of cities or districts has been avoided as much as possible, as comparisons are misleading, and to persist with them would unnecessarily stigmatize the cities and districts. This would also be unethical provided that incidence reports do not equal prevalence.

Two years, 2008 and 2011 are conspicuous for having more cases reported in nearly all forms of violence. Why this is so cannot be discussed, for it would require further studies and analysis. However, if incidents of violence are to be understood in depth, contextual relations would need to be explored.

2.1. Number of Cases of VAW between January & December 2013

The year 2013 saw an increase of 4.47 percent in VAW reporting across Pakistan, with a total of 7,516 cases reported in 2012 and 7,852 cases reported in 2013 respectively. Significant fluctuations were seen in the types of cases reported. While a major reduction was seen in the number of domestic violence cases reported in 2013 (almost half of those reported in the previous year), acid crime went up over 50 percent. Significant reductions can also be seen in burn (-40 percent) and sexual assault cases (-34.5 percent) while uncategorized crimes against women went up by 47.1 percent, as can be seen in table 1 below.

Table 1: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during 2008-2013

Categories of Crime	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013	Grand Total	Percentage increase/ decrease in VAW cases between 2012 - 2013
Abduction/Kidnapping	1,784	1,987	2,236	2,089	1,607	2,026	11,729	26.07
Murder	1,422	1,384	1,436	1,575	1,745	1,425	8,987	-18.34
Domestic Violence	281	608	486	610	989	498	3,472	-49.65
Suicide	599	683	633	758	575	668	3,916	16.17
Honour Killing	475	604	557	705	432	487	3,260	12.73
Rape/Gang Rape	778	928	928	827	822	956	5,239	16.3
Sexual Assault	172	274	74	110	58	38	726	-34.48
Acid Throwing	29	53	32	44	83	43	284	-50.81
Burning	61	50	38	29	71	42	291	-40.85
Miscellaneous	1,970	1,977	1,580	1,792	1,134	1,669	10,122	47.18
Total	7,571	8,548	8,000	8,539	7,516	7,852	48,023	4.47

A vast majority of the total reported cases were those of abduction and kidnapping (2,026), comprising 26% of all reported cases, followed by a large number of uncategorized crimes (1,669 – 21 %), and murder (1,425 – 18%). Over the years, abductions and kidnapping of women has been the most prevalent form of violence against women, with 11,729 cases reported during the past 6 years, followed by murder (8,987) and rape/ gang-rape (5,239) over the same period.

The least number of reported cases in 2013, within categorized forms of VAW, include burning, acid throwing and sexual assault, over which the number of cases reported against remaining categories, increase dramatically. It cannot, however, be construed that these are the least reported form of VAW in Pakistan as a large number of cases have been lumped under the miscellaneous or uncategorized unit.

While sexual assault cases have reportedly gone down, the number of rapes and gang-rapes cases increased by 16.2 percent compared with the previous year. Women were attacked with acid or burnt is almost equal numbers in the 2012, although burns cases comprised about 60 percent of the cases reported in 2012- a decrease by approximately 40 percent.

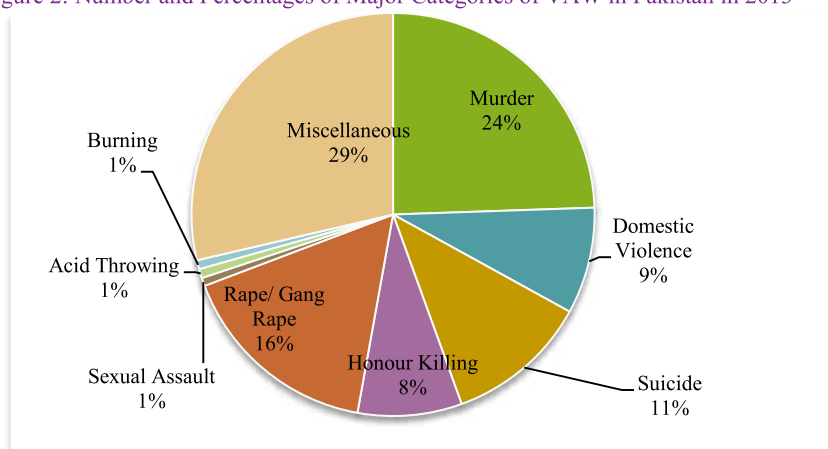
2.2. Number and Percentages of Major Categories of VAW in Pakistan in 2013

Major categories of violence against women for which reported cases were compiled in this report include abduction/ kidnapping, murder, domestic violence, suicide, honour killing, rape/ gang-rape, sexual assault, acid throwing, burning, and others, as depicted in table 2 below:

Table 2: Number and Percentages of Major Categories of VAW in Pakistan in 2013

Form of VAW	No. of incidents	Percentage of Total
Abduction/ Kidnapping	2,026	26%
Murder	1,425	18%
Domestic Violence	498	6%
Suicide	668	9%
Honour Killing	487	6%
Rape/ Gang Rape	956	12%
Sexual Assault	38	1%
Acid Throwing	43	1%
Burning	42	1%
Miscellaneous	1,669	21%
Total	7,852	100

Figure 2: Number and Percentages of Major Categories of VAW in Pakistan in 2013



The nature of the categories analyzed throughout this report make it difficult to say for what purposes, e.g., women were kidnapped over the years. Most often, rape and gang-rape preceded by kidnapping and abduction, whereas many forced conversion cases of women (Christianity to Islam) reported in the past few years also involve kidnapping prior to a forced marriage with the main kidnapper. Similarly, many cases of rape followed by murder have been reported from different parts of Pakistan in the past few years, which are discussed in more detail below.

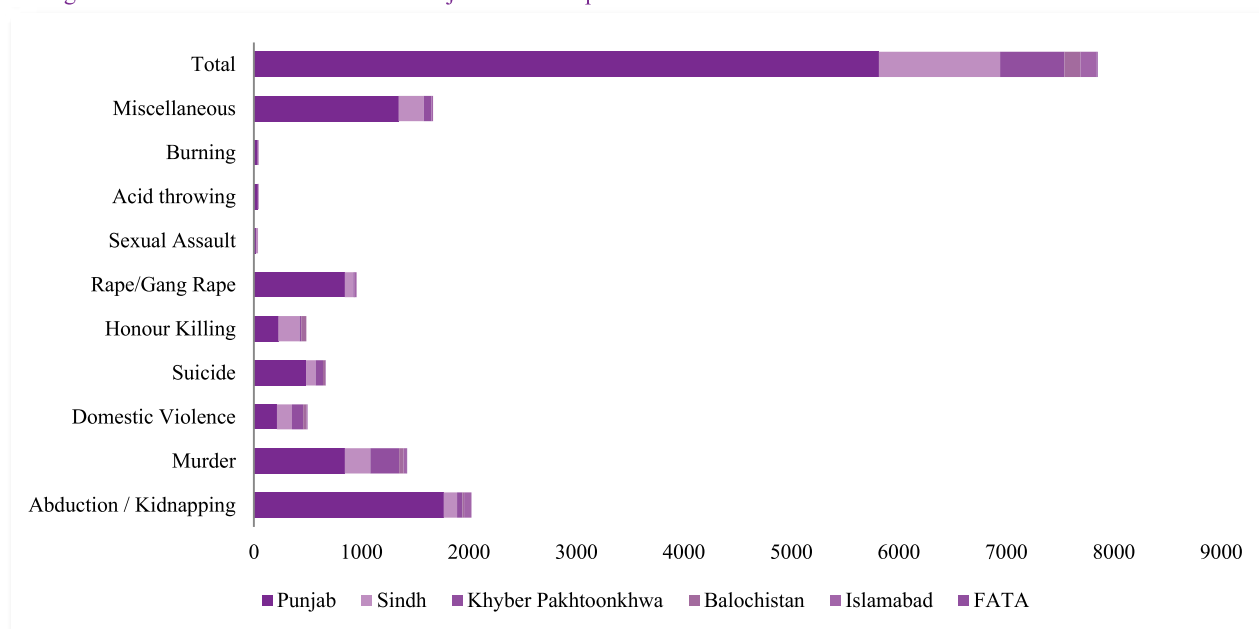
2.3. Offense wise / Province wise breakdown of major offenses reported in Pakistan

Statistically, most VAW cases were reported from the province of Punjab, where 5,815 cases of VAW were reported in 2013, followed by Sindh (1,130), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (597), Balochistan (151), Islamabad Capital Territory (147) and FATA (12), as shown in table 3 below.

Table 3: Offense wise / Province wise breakdown of major offenses reported in Pakistan in 2013

Offence	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	ICT	FATA	Total
Abduction / Kidnapping	1766	124	51	14	71	-	2,026
Murder	846	237	268	42	23	9	1,425
Domestic Violence	213	141	105	29	9	1	498
Suicide	486	88	69	20	3	2	668
Honour Killing	227	198	17	45	-	-	487
Rape/Gang Rape	846	80	9	1	20	-	956
Sexual Assault	17	21	-	-	-	-	38
Acid throwing	35	2	4	-	2	-	43
Burning	33	5	2	-	2	-	42
Miscellaneous	1,346	234	72	-	17	-	1,669
Total	5,815	1,130	597	151	147	12	7,852

Figure 3: Province-wise breakdown of major offenses reported in 2013



Cases reported from Punjab constituted 74 percent of all cases reported across the provinces. Additionally, Punjab had the largest share in terms of all forms of all VAW cases reported, whereas FATA has the least number of reported cases in the country. Further, the province of FATA did not record any forms of VAW except murder (9), domestic violence (1) and suicide (2).

Though these figures provide a snap shot into the nature of crime prevalence in respective provinces, it cannot be concluded that Punjab was the most dangerous province for women in 2013. It can be inferred, however, Punjab has higher that reporting and perhaps higher prevalence of VAW gauging by the sheer bulk of cases reported that greatly out-number the remaining provinces.

2.4. Top 15 districts in VAW reporting

In terms of territory, most VAW cases were reported from district Faisalabad in 2013, which made up for 13 percent of cases reported from all districts. Islamabad and Toba Tek Singh had the lowest share of reported cases, with the exception of acid crimes, which were the highest for Toba Tek Singh amongst the districts. Most cases of domestic violence were reported from Peshawar (73), whereas there was only 1 case reported from Gujrat during the year.

Sex crimes were mostly reported from Faisalabad (200), which constituted about 21 percent of the total 956 cases reported across Pakistan (table 1).

Table 4: Top 15 Districts of VAW Crime

S. No.	District	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Burning	Domestic Violence	Rape/ Gang Rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Misc.	Total
1	Faisalabad	425	3	4	27	200	28	75	-	57	219	1,038
2	Lahore	135	3	7	11	41	29	129	-	80	163	598
3	Rawalpindi	229	-	7	21	31	2	58	7	12	63	430
4	Sargodha	146			16	50	6	20	-	31	105	374
5	Rahim Yar Khan	56	3	2	12	37	15	31	-	51	87	294
6	Okara	121	1	2	2	44	10	42	-	7	41	270
7	Sheikhupura	80	-	-	9	34	6	45	-	23	51	248
8	Peshawar	38	1	1	73	2	2	65	-	9	36	227
9	Kasur	34	-	-	11	32	10	41	1	21	17	167
10	Gujrat	67	3	-	1	12	5	23	1	15	39	166
11	Muzafargarh	26	1	-	11	41	3	19	-	6	54	161
12	Pakpattan	56	1	1	1	33	7	21	-	12	24	156
13	Sialkot	39	-	1	9	12	3	28	-	13	49	154
14	Toba Tek Singh	26	4	-	6	28	12	19	1	5	46	147
15	Islamabad	71	2	2	9	20	-	23	-	3	17	147

Section 3: Key Crime Categories - 10 worst districts

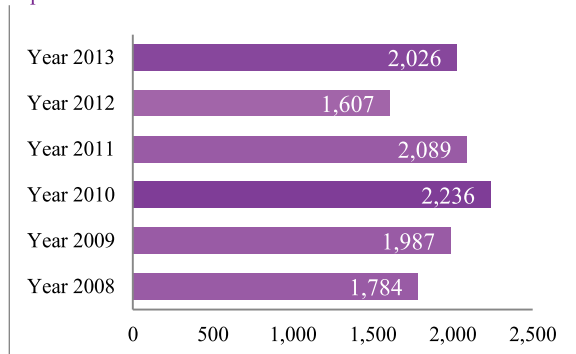
3.1. Abduction/ Kidnapping - Top 10 Districts for Abduction/ Kidnapping from 2008-2013

Over the past 6 years, abduction/ kidnapping of women has been one of the most prevalent crimes against women in Pakistan except the year 2012 where it was superseded by murder.

Table 5: Total number of Abduction/Kidnapping cases reported from 2008-2013

	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013
Abduction/ Kidnapping	1,784	1,987	2,236	2,089	1,607	2,026

Figure 4: Total number of Abduction/ Kidnapping cases reported from 2008-2013



Out of a total of 11,729 abduction/ kidnapping cases reported over a 6 year period, the maximum numbers were reported in year 2010. Number of cases dropped by nearly 30 % in the year 2012 from the previous year and went up by 26 percent in 2013, even though it was not able to catch up to the record high seen in 2010. District-wise breakup of abduction/ kidnapping is provided in table 6 below:

Table 6: Top 10 Districts of Abduction/Kidnapping during year 2008-2013

S. No	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Lahore	397	Lahore	372	Lahore	521	Lahore	314	Rawalpindi	271	Faisalabad	425
2	Rawalpindi	218	Faisalabad	265	Faisalabad	343	Faisalabad	273	Okara	113	Rawalpindi	229
3	Faisalabad	171	Rawalpindi	169	Sargodha	146	Sargodha	147	Sargodha	104	Sargodha	146
4	Sheikhupura	118	Sargodha	140	Sheikhupura	132	Rawalpindi	139	Lahore	87	Lahore	135
5	Multan	82	Sheikhupura	88	Rawalpindi	114	Okara	104	Chakwal	65	Okara	121
6	Islamabad	79	Kasur	80	Kasur	75	Chakwal	88	Gujrat	54	Sheikhupura	80
7	Kasur	61	Multan	64	Okara	69	Multan	85	Sialkot	48	Islamabad	71
8	Sahiwal	51	Peshawar	56	Sialkot	54	Sheikhupura	75	Sheikhupura	47	Gujrat	67
9	Gujranwala	26	Islamabad	52	Multan	50	Muzafargarh	74	Muzafargarh	44	Pakpattan	56
10	Peshawar	14	Jacobabad	41	Sahiwal	30	Vehari	52	Dera Ghazi Khan	43	Rahimyar Khan	56

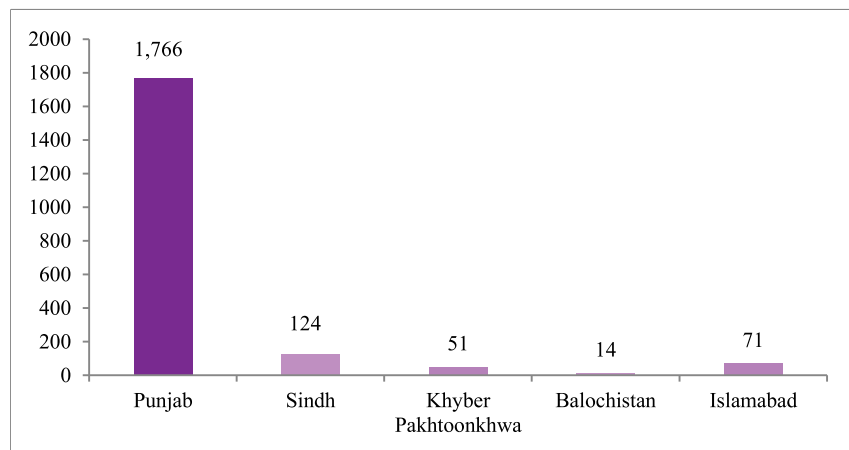
Faisalabad and Rawalpindi had the highest and second-highest number of VAW cases reported in 2013 respectively, whereas Punjab province had the highest reporting [26%] of all abduction/ kidnapping cases in the country. In years preceding 2012, Lahore district consistently had the highest number of recorded cases of abduction/ kidnapping until a shift to Rawalpindi in 2012 and Faisalabad in 2013. Reported incidents from Lahore in 2013 fell to the 4th rank amongst the districts with 135 cases reported. Important to note is that despite ranking 4th amongst the districts in terms of abductions/ kidnapping for two

consecutive year, i.e., 2012 and 2013, the number of cases in Lahore reduced by 72 percent between 2011 and 2012, going up again by 55 percent in 2013, depicting a downward trend.

Sargodha district held the 3rd highest rank for the 4th consecutive year with number of cases dropping in 2012 only to be restored to the usual numbers [140+ cases] in 2013. In 2013, Sargodha district saw an increase of 40.4 percent in reported abduction/ kidnapping cases from the previous year, whereas Rawalpindi saw a reduction of 15.5 percent, despite ranking 2nd on the list for 2013.

Islamabad made a re-entry on the list of districts last year, after 2009. The number of reported abduction/ kidnapping cases from Islamabad (71) in 2013, however, was more than those reported in 2009 (52), making for a strong comeback, as depicted in figure 5 below:

Figure 5: Province-wise trends in Abduction/ Kidnapping cases, including ICT

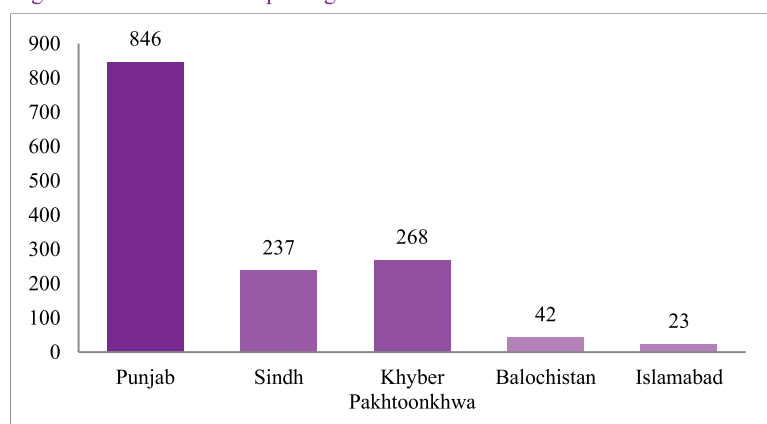


3.2. Murder: Top 10 Districts for Murder from 2008-2013

A total of 8,987 women were reportedly murdered between 2008 and 2013 in Pakistan. Although a decrease of 18.3 percent was recorded between year 2012 and 2013, reporting trends have continued to stay high on the list of VAW reported across the country.

Provincially, Punjab had the largest share of women murdered in 2013. Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were close in terms of the number of reported cases, whereas Balochistan and Islamabad were towards bottom end.

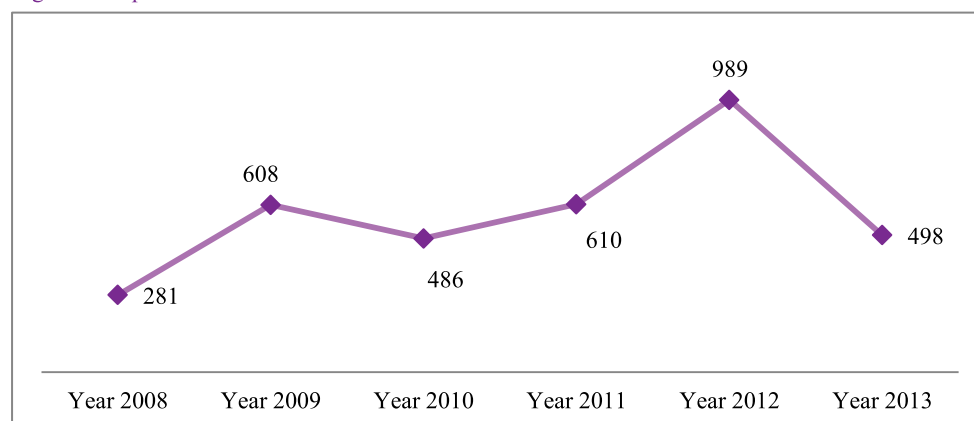
Figure 7: Province-wise reporting of Murder cases between 2008 and 2013



3.3. Domestic Violence- Top 10 Districts for Domestic Violence from 2008-2013

Between 2008 and 2013, a total 3,472 cases of domestic violence were reported in Pakistan, with 2012 seeing the highest number of reported cases. Between 2012 and 2013, reported cases of domestic violence have seen a drastic reduction of nearly 50 percent (see figure 8 below).

Figure 8: Reported cases of Domestic Violence between 2008 and 2013 in Pakistan



District-wise [see table 8 below], Peshawar made a comeback in 2013 with the highest number of domestic violence cases recorded compared with other districts. A total of 73 cases were reported from Peshawar, comprising roughly 15 percent of all cases reported under the category (see table 8 below).

Rawalpindi, which had the highest number of recorded cases in 2011 and 2012, took the third-highest slot in 2013, registering a decline of approximately 84 percent in reported cases between 2012 and 2013. Lahore reverted back to 2008 situation with only 11 cases were registered in 2013. This was surpassed by Rahim Yar Khan, a new entry in the list of districts, with 12 cases reported in 2013.

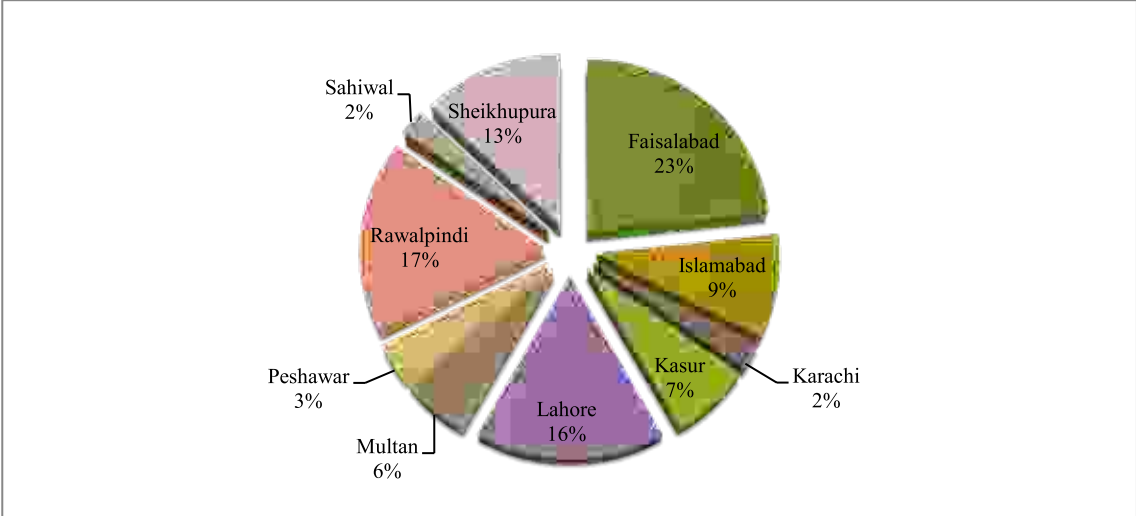
Table 8: Top 10 Districts of Domestic Violence during year 2008-2013

S. No.	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Peshawar	39	Peshawar	110	Peshawar	61	Rawalpindi	64	Rawalpindi	134	Peshawar	73
2	Rawalpindi	34	Sargodha	39	Lahore	28	Peshawar	54	Lahore	89	Faisalabad	27
3	Quetta	18	Lahore	30	Faisalabad	25	Chakwal	53	Karachi	54	Rawalpindi	21
4	Lahore	11	Multan	29	Rawalpindi	25	Multan	41	Dera Ghazi Khan	45	Sukkur	17
5	Islamabad	7	Rawalpindi	24	Sargodha	21	Attock	25	Muzaffargarh	45	Sargodha	16
6	Faisalabad	3	Jacobabad	23	Sukkur	17	Sargodha	23	Khairpur	38	Chakwal	15
7	Gujranwala	3	Sukkur	21	Multan	16	Islamabad	21	Peshawar	35	Rahim Yar Khan	12
8	Karachi	3	Faisalabad	18	Chakwal	14	Lahore	19	Sukkur	34	Kasur	11
9	Kasur	2	Islamabad	18	Dadu	14	Ghotki	19	Quetta	28	Lahore	11
10	Sahiwal	2	Gujranwala	9	Attock	13	Jhelum	16	Bannu	20	Muzaffargarh	11

As can be seen from table 8 above, many districts did not record any case of domestic violence, such as Quetta, Islamabad, Gujranwala, Karachi, Sahiwal, Multan, Jacobabad, Dadu, Attock, Ghotki, Jhelum, Dera Ghazi Khan, Khairpur and Bannu. The absence of reported cases from these districts is conspicuous in that domestic disputes comprise a substantial, if not the biggest part of cases reported to the police in some of these districts, including Islamabad and Karachi at the least. Experience shows that police

officers and public lawyers identify domestic violence to comprise the largest part of cases reported to numerous police stations in Karachi and ICT, most of which were resolved through mediation before they could proceed to court⁷.

Figure 4: Reported cases of domestic violence per district over the year 2008 - 2013



Is it also critical to note that with the passage of Sindh Domestic Violence Act, 2013, the reported number of cases from the province of Sindh instead of witnessing an increase, have registered either a noticeable decline (such as Sukkur, with a 50 percent decline), or have not recorded any reports at all. These districts include: Karachi, Jacobabad, Sukkur, Dadu, Ghotki and Khairpur (color-coded in table 9 above). What is more troubling is that barring Sukkur, zero cases have been reported from the remaining 5 districts of Sindh in 2013.

⁷ A study being conducted by Aurat Foundation in six districts of Pakistan, including Karachi, Hyderabad, Islamabad, Mardan, Swat and Peshawar, reveals that domestic disputes and violence comprise the most frequently reported form of violence against women. That the study was conducted between 2013 and 2014 signify that the figures provided in table 9 do not provide an accurate account of the actual number of cases that are approaching police stations for action - legal or otherwise - given that they are based on newspaper reports .

3.4. Suicide- Top 10 Districts for Suicide from 2008-2013

With 3,916 cases of suicide reported over the past 6 years, the year 2013 saw an increase of 16.2 percent in the number of reported suicides, with 668 cases reported in 2013, compared with 575 cases in 2012.

Figure 5: No. of reported suicides between 2008 and 2013



District-wise breakup of suicides is provided in table 9 below:

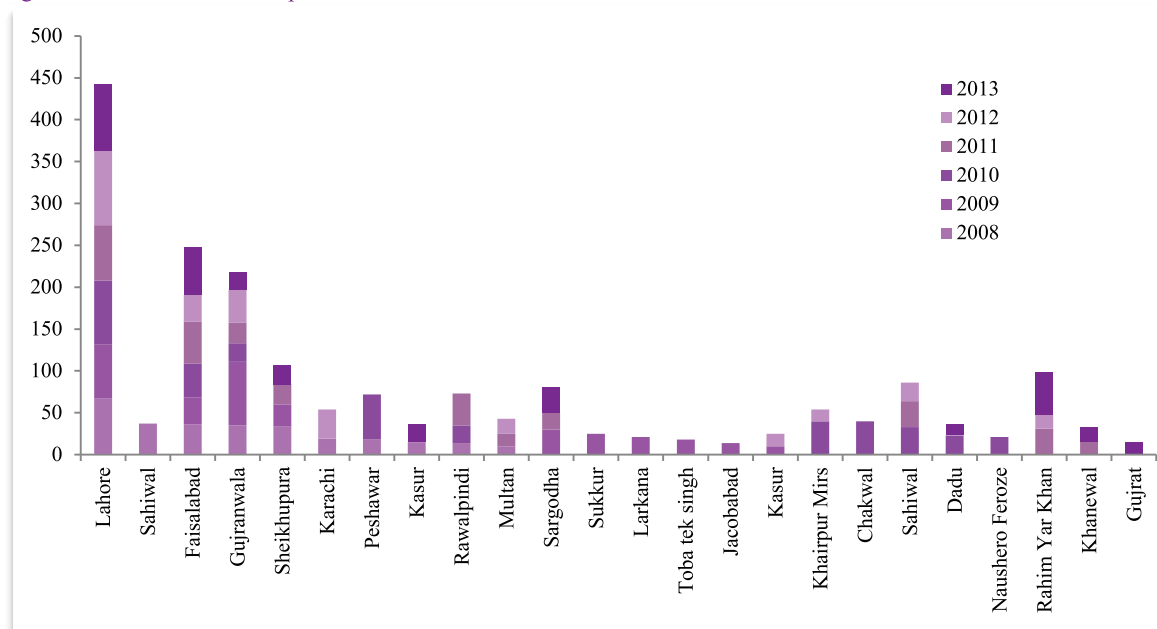
Table 9: Top 10 Districts of Suicide during year 2008-2013

S. No.	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Lahore	67	Gujranwala	76	Lahore	76	Lahore	66	Lahore	89	Lahore	80
2	Sahiwal	37	Lahore	65	Peshawar	54	Faisalabad	50	Gujranwala	39	Faisalabad	57
3	Faisalabad	36	Faisalabad	32	Faisalabad	41	Rawalpindi	38	Karachi	35	Rahimyar Khan	51
4	Gujranwala	35	Sargodha	30	Khairpur Mirs	40	Sahiwal	31	Faisalabad	32	Sargodha	31
5	Sheikhupura	34	Sheikhupura	26	Chakwal	40	Rahim Yar Khan	31	Rawalpindi	25	Sheikhupura	23
6	Karachi	19	Sukkur	25	Sahiwal	33	Gujranwala	25	Sahiwal	22	Gujranwala	21
7	Peshawar	18	Larkana	21	Dadu	23	Sheikhupura	24	Multan	18	Kasur	21
8	Kasur	15	Toba Tek Singh	18	Gujranwala	22	Sargodha	20	Rahim Yar Khan	17	Khanewal	17
9	Rawalpindi	14	Jacobabad	14	Rawalpindi	21	Khanewal	16	Kasur	15	Gujrat	15
10	Multan	10	Kasur	10	Naushero Feroze	21	Multan	15	Khairpur Mirs	14	Dadu	13

District Lahore had the largest share of reported suicides amongst women with 80 cases reported in 2013 (see table 11 below), constituting 12 percent of all suicide cases reported in the country. Although the number of reported cases was slightly lower than 2012 (89), Lahore maintained top position for the 6th consecutive year, followed by Faisalabad (57), which saw an increase of 78 percent compared with the previous year. One can see from figure 4 below that Lahore has tended to stay above all districts in the list since 2008.

No cases were reported from Sahiwal, Karachi, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Multan, Sukkur, Larkana, Toba Tek Singh, Jacobabad, Kasur, Khairpur, Chakwal, Sahwal and Naushero Feroze in 2013. Gujrat, however, was a new entry in the list of districts in 2013, with the lowest number of cases reported (15). Some districts have not reported on suicide cases as a matter of routine over the years such as Sahiwal.

Figure 6: Number of suicides per district between 2008 and 2013



Experience shows that the number of reported suicides is not reflective of the number of attempts at suicide, at least in Karachi. Dialogues between MLOs at the Jinnah Post-graduate Medical Center (JPMC) in Karachi and the author of this report, leads one to believe that suicide is a social taboo which keeps families from reporting incidents [attempting suicide also constitutes a punishable offence under Pakistani laws]. Doctors at the JPMC share that 2-3 cases of attempted suicide are reported daily at the hospital, a vast majority being women, driven by domestic conditions. Doctors also share that medical practitioners are quick to extract money from families who do not wish to deal with the police and risk people finding out about their domestic affairs. Additionally, suicide is strictly forbidden in Islam which adds to the social anxiety and shame attached to disclosure.

3.5. Honour Killing- Top 10 Districts for Honour Killing from 2008-2013

Honour killing is the killing of women and men over suspected immorality by members of their family. This practice is often carried out under the patronage of influential feudal, landowners and politicians.

Contrary to common belief that honour killing is more common in Sindh than other provinces, most honour killings were reported from Punjab in 2013, with Sindh's districts making an appearance at the fourth position in the list of top ten districts [Jacobabad]. Most honour killings were reported from Lahore [29] for the second consecutive year, with Faisalabad following close at its heels [28] in 2013 [see table 10 below]:

Table 10: Top 10 Districts of 'Honour' killing during year 2008-2013

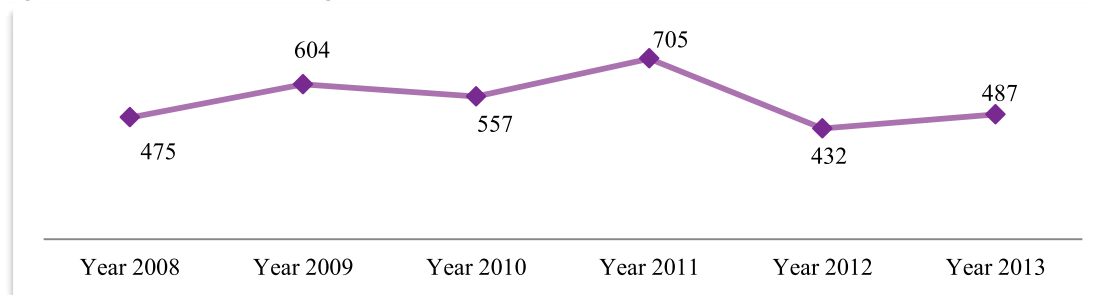
S. No.	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Ghotki	36	Jacobabad	36	Jacobabad	42	Naseerabad	39	Lahore	23	Lahore	29
2	Naseerabad	34	Sukkur	32	Ghotki	37	Faisalabad	36	Jacobabad	23	Faisalabad	28
3	Lahore	34	Larkana	31	Larkana	33	Jacobabad	34	Sukkur	20	Shiakarapur	24
4	Larkana	32	Faisalabad	26	Faisalabad	22	Kashmore	31	Faisalabad	20	Jacobabad	22
5	Jacobabad	32	Ghotki	24	Kashmore	21	Khairpur Mirs	23	Larkana	20	Kashmore	22

6	Khairpur Miurs	31	Lahore	23	Lahore	19	Larkana	22	Kashmore	18	Khairpur Mirus	21
7	Sukkur	26	Mirpurkhas	22	Khairpur Mirus	19	Sahiwal	22	Shaikhupura	18	Sukkur	19
8	Naushero Feroz	24	Karachi	21	Sargodha	18	Khanewal	21	Rawalpindi	16	Rahim Yar Kahan	15
9	Faisalabad	23	Naushero Feroz	20	Sahiwal	17	Sukkur	21	Ghotki	14	Jafarabad	14
10	Karachi	22	Jhang	17	Shikarpur	17	Ghotki	21	Khairpur	12	Larkana	13

It is interesting to note that district Ghotki in Sindh, which used to feature prominently in the list of top-ten districts in cases of honour –killing, seems to have disappeared from the list in 2013.

Over the year honour killing reporting since 2008 [see figure 5 below] seems to have gone through dips and spikes, but in 2013, it seems to have returned to the beginning point in 2008, with a 12.73 percent overall increase between 2012 and 2013, and about 2.5 percent increase since 2008. Year-wise trend in honour killing is depicted in figure 7 below:

Figure 7: Trends in Honour killing between 2008 and 2013



3.6. Rape/ Gang-rape - Top 10 Districts for Rape/ Gang -rape from 2008-2013

Sexual abuse in the form of rape, molestation and/or harassment against women in Pakistan is not only rampant to the extent of an epidemic but also the least reported forms of abuse after domestic violence. Extent of reporting varies between provinces, as does the severity of the abuse and ages of the victims. Cases of minors are more likely to make the front-page news as opposed to adult women, unless terrible violence has accompanied the act.

Women's access to justice in sexual violence cases is typified by underreporting as they often cannot disclose what has happened to them without inviting public scrutiny and shame onto themselves and their families. If they do find the courage, they are often disbelieved or reprimanded for being part, if not entirely responsible. The first point of access, the Police (though it should not be, given the importance of medical intervention at the initial stage), is usually apathetic and often turns the offense around by blaming the woman for inviting trouble onto herself. In cases of incest, victims are disbelieved as a matter of routine, unless they can present many witnesses to back their claim, particularly the men in her family (Zaman & Rasheed, 2012). Even though a handful of women police stations exist in Pakistan, a woman needs to file an application for the transfer of her case to these stations. Medico-legal officers hold that only minors less than 10-years-old are raped; the rest concoct stories. Doctors often lack necessary equipment to conduct these examinations, including glass slides, swab, weighing machines, etc., and do not conduct head-to-toe examinations. Victims are almost never tested for HIV/AIDS, pregnancy or referred for counseling unless they seem exceedingly distressed. The Chemical Testing lab in Karachi does not have DNA facilities while it caters to cases from both Sindh and Balochistan. The judiciary has a very small percentage of women Judges and only a handful of female public prosecutors. Trials are often held in open court, with nothing barring onlookers from making gestures of mockery and ridicule. Minors are not awarded special care, as they are neither shielded during the identification process nor given in-camera trials as a matter of routine. The defence is free to probe the victim's sexual history and often cite lack of medical evidence to indicate consent. Bails are granted casually when the crux of the evidence is based on medical findings, particular visible marks of violence in the woman's body. Offenders, once released find ways to torment the victims and her family, against which the State awards no tangible protection.

Trials are lengthy, arduous and have high direct and indirect costs, including opportunity costs of lost wages from days spent in court (Social Policy and Development Center (SPDC), 2012). It is very normal for Police, Judges and Lawyers to broker a 'compromise' or out-of-court settlement, which, if accepted, ends in dismissal of the case and release of the offender. This has also happened in cases where the offender was the victim's father. A substantial percentage of victims and affected families are forced to relocate due to tremendous social pressures and ostracization. The Government does not provide for alternate housing and often, families shift deliberately to disappear into anonymity and escape persecution.

There are very few shelter homes against the number of women seeking refuge. Going to a shelter home is still considered taboo and perceived as the last resort of women who have been turned away by respectable society.

There is no existing long-term rehabilitation plan for victims of violence supported by the Government. Even within the Government, many cases have been reported of undue political interference in cases and often seizing of such cases for political mileage.

In totality, 956 cases of rape and gang-rape were reported across Pakistan in 2013.

District-wise, though Faisalabad was not in the list of top 10 districts for sexual violence in 2012, 200 cases were reported from the district in 2013 with a sharp increase of 200 percent compared with the

It is interesting to compare these statistics with those compiled by Sahil. For instance, according to Sahil's Cruel Numbers, 2013 report⁸, Rawalpindi had the highest case of incidence reporting, with 377 cases of child sexual abuse [CSA]⁹ reported in the media in 2013, followed by Lahore [253], Kasur [169], Okara [167], Islamabad [136], and so on. Table 12 below provides the breakup for top 10 districts in terms of CSA in 2013:

Table 12: Top 10 districts for child sexual abuse [Sahil report]

S. No.	List of District s	Number of Cases
1	Rawalpindi	377
2	Lahore	253
3	Kasur	169
4	Okara	167
5	Islamabad	136
6	Pakpattan	116
7	Sheikhupura	115
8	Sialkot	111
9	Faisalabad	108
10	Gujranwala	87

It is also interesting to note that according to Sahil's media monitoring, Faisalabad falls on number 9 in the list of top 10 districts for CSA.

It is difficult to make comparisons between Sahil's statistics on CSA with those compiled by AF, as many categories of crime such as abduction, attempt to rape and early marriage have been categorized under dedicated heads by AF or lie within other board categories such as miscellaneous offences [discussed in section 3.9 of this report]. Sahil's report, however, brings more richness in terms defining the settings under which these crimes were committed, the relation of perpetrator to the victim and the duration of abuse, among others. When one compares the number of newspapers scanned for both reports,

3.7. Sexual Assault - Top 10 Districts for Sexual Assault from 2008-2013

There are many forms of sexual assault covered under Pakistani law including sexual harassment and attempts to outrage women's modesty. Sexual assault is distinct from attempt to rape, which is categorized as a separate crime [where a person assaults another person with the intent to rape them], although the assault is sexual in nature.

There was a 34.48 percent decrease in reported cases of sexual assault in Pakistan [, with the highest number reported from Faisalabad [7] - see table 13 below for a district-wise breakup.

Table 13: Top 10 Districts of Sexual Assault during year 2008-2013

S. No.	2008 District	2009 District	2010 District	2011 District	2012 District	2013 District
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No. of District

⁸ Available online from: <http://www.sahil.org/images/pdf/Cruel%20Numbers%202014.pdf>. Last accessed 20 May 2014

⁹ Sahil includes the following acts to constitute CSA: abduction [with sexual intent], rape, sodomy, gang rape, gang -sodomy, attempt of rape, abduction and gang -rape, early marriage, abduction and murder, abduction and rape, attempt of sodomy, attempt of gang -rape, rape and murder, abduction and gang -sodomy, sodomy and murder, attempt of gang -sodomy, abduction and sodomy, gang -rape and murder, abduction, gang -rape and murder, gang -sodomy and murder, abduction, sodomy and murder, attempt of sodomy and murder, abduction, gang -rape and murder, early marriage and murder, attempt of rape and murder, abduction, gang -sodomy and murder, and abduction and early marriage.

	of cases	of cases	of cases	of cases	of cases	of cases	of cases	of cases	of cases	of cases	Cases	
1	Faisalabad	20	Faisalabad	37	Sheikhupura	22	Chakwal	18	Sukkur	8	Rawalpindi	7
2	Rawalpindi	15	Sargodha	32	Okara	10	Rawalpindi	11	Rawalpindi	6	Thatta	5
3	Lahore	14	Lahore	23	Faisalabad	8	Jhelum	7	Larkana	5	Khairpur Mirs	4
4	Sheikhupura	11	Kasur	14	Rawalpindi	8	Ghotki	6	Tharparkar	5	Sukkur	2
5	Islamabad	8	Vehari	12	Lahore	7	Islamabad	5	Sanghar	4	Tharparker	2
6	Kasur	6	Sheikhupura	11	Toba tek singh	6	Sukkur	5	Khairpur	3	Dadu	2
7	Multan	5	Multan	8	Sanghar	6	Attock	4	Tando Allah Yar	3	Chakwal	2
8	Peshawar	3	Gujranwala	7	Chakwal	5	Toba Tek Singh	3	Badin	3	Attock	1
9	Sahiwal	2	Toba tek singh	5	Sailkot	4	Karachi	3	Khasmore	2	Rajanpur	1
10	Karachi	2	Larkana	2	Attock	3	Jacobabad	3	Nawabshah	2	Bhawalpur	1

Districts like Sargodha and Faisalabad were seen missing from the list of top 10 districts in 2013, even though many cases had been reported in the previous from these districts. As a matter of observation, Faisalabad seems to disappear from the list year 2010 onward, whereas Thatta and Khairpur are new entrants in the list. Similarly, ICT and Karachi do not feature in the top 10 list after year 2008, which seems rather bizarre given the population and urban dynamics of these districts, conditions that are traditionally connected with higher levels of sexual violence against women.

3.8. Acid Throwing- Top 10 Districts for Acid Throwing from 2008-2013

A reduction of 50.81 percent has been witnessed in reporting of acid attacks against women in 2013 compared with the previous year. Over the years, there has been an upward trend, with years 2009 and 2012 seeing sudden jumps during this continuum [see figure 7 below].

Figure 9: No. of reported cases of Acid Throwing between 2008 and 2013

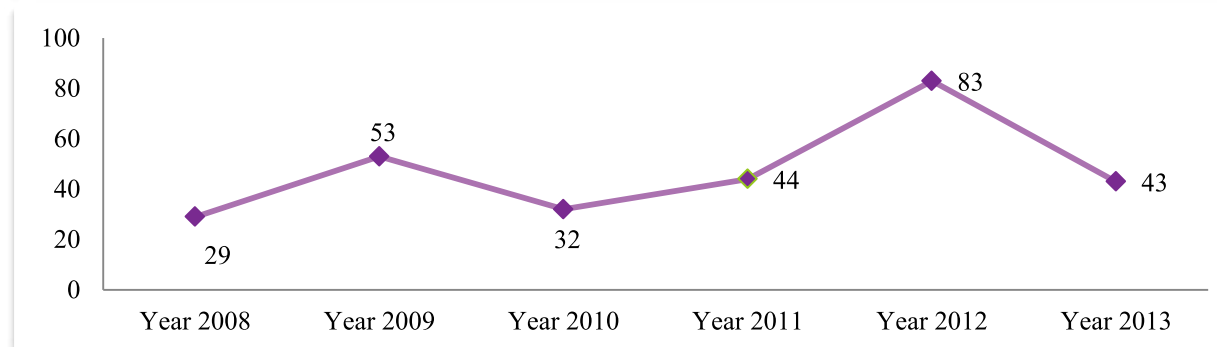


Table 14: Top 10 Districts of Acid Throwing during year 2008-2013

S. No.	2008 District	2008 No. of cases	2009 District	2009 No. of cases	2010 District	2010 No. of cases	2011 District	2011 No. of cases	2012 District	2012 No. of cases	2013 District	2013 No. of cases
1	Multan	6	Faisalabad	10	Faisalabad	3	Faisalabad	6	Okara	7	Toba Tek Singh	4
2	Lahore	4	Multan	7	Toba Tek Singh	3	Sialkot	4	Hyderabad	7	Bahawalpur	3

3	Rawalpindi	3	Rawalpindi	3	Jhelum	2	Karachi	4	Faisalabad	6	Rahimyar Khan	3
4	Islamabad	2	Vehari	2	Rahim yar khan	2	Quetta	4	Multan	5	Multan	3
5	Bahawalpur	2	Lahore	2	Karachi	2	Lahore	3	Karachi	5	Lahore	3
6	Karachi	1	Gujranwala	1	Lahore	2	Gujranwala	3	Sanghar	5	Faisalabad	3
7	Faisalabad	1	Sheikhupura	1	Chakwal	1	Muzaffargarh	2	Jhang	4	Gujrat	3
8	Sheikhupura	1	Jacobabad	1	Sargodha	1	Chakwal	2	Sahiwal	4	Gujranwala	2
9	Kasur	1	Toba Tek Singh	1	Gujranwala	1	Islamabad	2	Peshawar	4	Islamabad	2
10	Gujranwala	1	Islamabad	1	Sialkot	1	Sargodha	1	Kurram	4	Vehari	2

District-wise, most acid crimes were reported from Toba Tek Sing in 2013. The number of cases reported from this district [4] is higher than ever reported before, where no cases were reported from Okara or Hyderabad who has held top spots in the preceding year. Faisalabad saw a reduction in the crime with 3 cases reported compared to 6 in year 2012.

3.9. Miscellaneous - Top 10 Districts for Miscellaneous Offences from 2008 -2013

Miscellaneous crimes against women include nineteen [19] offences, as listed below:

Attempt to kidnap, attempt to murder, attempt to rape, attempt to suicide, child marriages, custodial violence, forced marriages, harassment, hurt and bodily injury, illegal custody, incest, honour killing, sexual harassment, threat to life, threat to violence, torture, wanni¹⁰, watta-satta¹¹, and trafficking.

Attempted suicide is understood to constitute VAW where women are driven toward suicide by social and familial/ domestic problems. Table 15 below provides a district-wise breakup of miscellaneous offences reported in 2013.

Table 15: Top 10 districts for miscellaneous offences between 2008 and 2013

S. No.	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Rawalpindi	35	Lahore	224	Lahore	196	Multan	140	Rawalpindi	136	Faisalabad	219
2	Lahore	21	Sargodha	125	Faisalabad	120	Lahore	134	Lahore	85	Lahore	163
3	Islamabad	17	Faisalabad	110	Sargodha	116	Sargodha	109	Gujranwala	56	Sargodha	105
4	Quetta	16	Sukkur	78	Multan	66	Faisalabad	108	Sargodha	56	Rahimyar Khan	87
5	Gujranwala	9	Gujranwala	65	Toba Tek Singh	53	Rawalpindi	86	Chakwal	49	Rawalpindi	63
6	Faisalabad	8	Rawalpindi	58	Khairpur Mirs	48	Vehari	70	Gujrat	43	Muzaffargarh	54
7	Peshawar	6	Peshawar	56	Sialkot	45	Rahim Yar Khan	69	Muzaffargarh	33	Sheikhupura	51

¹⁰ Compensation marriage where women [often under -age girls] of a family are given in marriage to settle a criminal or civil liability towards another family, such as murder or as payment for a debt.

¹¹ Exchange marriage, where two people from one family may be married to two persons from another family

8	Multan	6	Larkana	56	Okara	41	Khanewal	57	Faisalabad	33	Sailkot	49
9	Sheikhupura	5	Vehari	51	Sheikhupura	41	Lodhran	56	Okara	33	Toba Tek Singh	46
10	Kasur	3	Multan	51	Gujranwala	39	Chakwal	50	Sheikhupura	30	D.G Khan	46

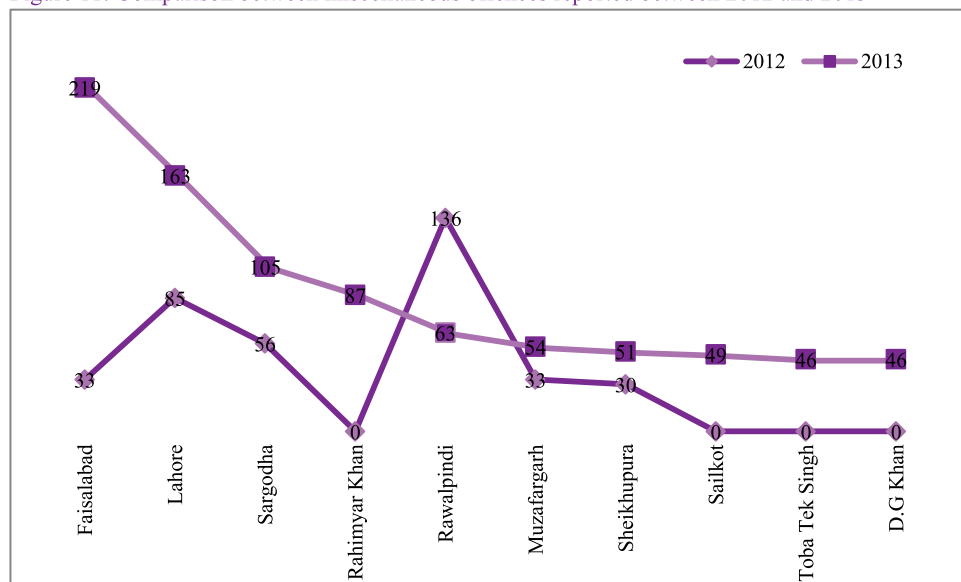
Figure 10: Top ten districts for miscellaneous crimes against women between 2008 and 2013



From table 15 and figure 10 above, one can see that most offences under the category of miscellaneous crimes against women between 2008 and 2013 were reported from district Lahore [823], followed by Faisalabad [598] and Sargodha [511].

In 2013, however, Faisalabad ranked the highest with 219 cases reported, followed by Lahore [163] and Sargodha [105]. If a comparison is made between reported number of miscellaneous crimes between 2012 and 2013, a marked increase can be seen, with the exception of Rawalpindi, where incidence reporting spiked in 2012 [136 cases] before reducing to 63 cases in 2013 [see figure 11 below]:

Figure 11: Comparison between miscellaneous offences reported between 2012 and 2013



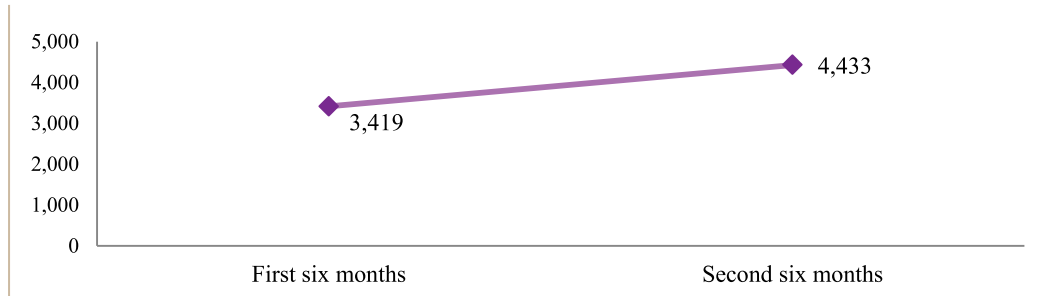
Faisalabad seems to have taken to drastic upward turn with cases going up from 33 to 219, with a near 664 percent increase, whereas Rahimyar Khan, where no cases were reported in 2012, seems has made it to 4th position in 2013, with 87 cases reported. This is higher than 69 cases that were reported from this district in 2011, the only other year that it featured on the top 10 list.

Miscellaneous cases have been broken up according to specificities in the next section [4].

3.10. Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in 2013

Reporting of VAW cases seems to have increased in the second half of 2013, with a jump of nearly 13 percent [see figure 11 below].

Figure 12: Biannual distribution of reported VAW cases in 2013



3.11. FIR Registration

Table 16: Number of FIRs registered province-wise

FIR Status	No. of FIR registered province wise						Total	Percentage of Total
	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	ICT	FATA		
Registered	4,681	363	436	151	127	-	5,758	73
Not Registered	120	595	96	-	8	12	828	11
No Information	1,014	172	65	-	12	-	1,264	16
Total	5,815	1,130	597	151	147	12	7,852	100

FIR or First Information Report is a legal instrument that sets the criminal law procedures in motion. It contains the account of an alleged crime, as narrated by the complainant or aggrieved and provides a basis for the police to investigate and submit their findings to a competent court of law alongside other evidence [also called a challan].

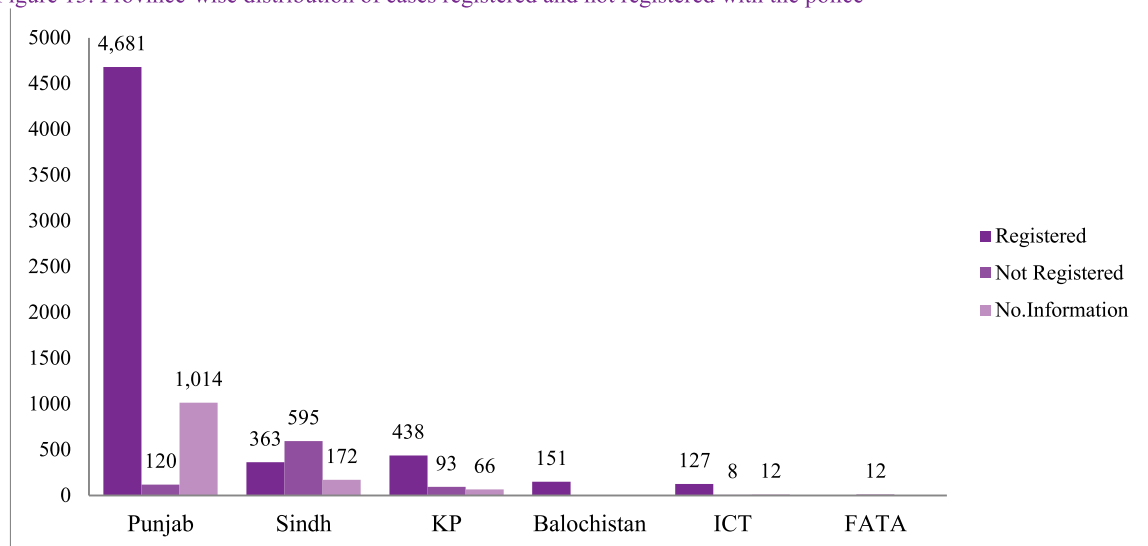
In 2013, FIRs were registered for 73 percent cases reported in the media. Most often, media reports are based on the cases registered by the police under a certain jurisdiction, unless it is being denied for any reason [which is usually highlighted by media]. Important to note here is that citizens of Pakistan enjoy the fundamental right to lodge an FIR related to any offence if it falls within the ambit of cognizable offences notified by the Government from time to time [especially when amendments or insertions are made to existing laws]. Prior to an FIR, a complaint might be lodged and converted into an FIR once it has been ascertained that facts as made out by the complainant are not false, exaggerated and covered under any law prevailing in the country. Investigations cannot precede registration of FIR as per rules laid out in the Criminal Procedure Code [CrPC], 1860.

We have no information regarding 16 percent [or 1,264] of VAW cases as to whether an FIR was lodged or not. This could be because media reports did not include this information. Further, no FIR had been registered in 11 percent [or 828] cases.

According to province-wise registration of FIRs, FATA has the worst outlook with zero FIRs registered in 2013 followed by Sindh where about 32 percent cases had been registered with no information for more than half the cases registered [172]. It is hard to argue which province was worse off between FATA and Sindh based on the number of cases reported to the police. While FATA reported only 12 cases of VAW in the year, Sindh had 1,130 cases, 53 percent of which had not been registered with the police. The sheer number of cases in which FIR was not registered in Sindh would lead one to conclude Sindh was worse off in terms of police inaction, whereas FATA reveals something about women's limited access to justice systems.

Balochistan also presents a curious picture where all reported cases were registered with the police, followed by ICT and Punjab, where 86.4% and 80% cases had been registered, respectively. Figure 13 below show province-wise case registration information.

Figure 13: Province-wise distribution of cases registered and not registered with the police



3.12. Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in VAW Cases in Pakistan

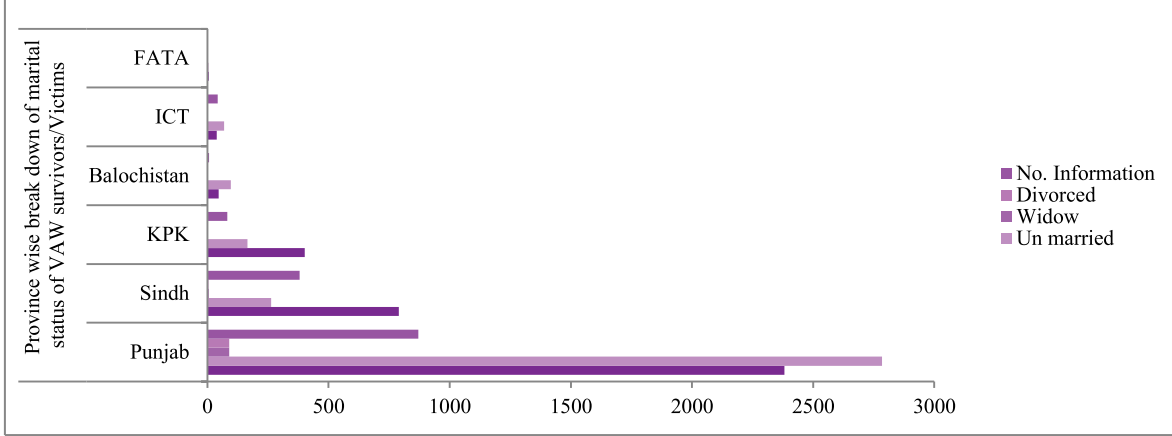
The provincial aggregates in table 17 below leads us to believe that mostly married women were targeted for violence in 2013 [42%], followed closely by un-married women [40%]. There was no information for 1,386 cases [16%], whereas violence against widows and divorces was substantially low [1% for each].

Table 17: Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in VAW Cases in Pakistan in 2013

Marital Status	Province wise break down of marital status of VAW survivors/Victims						Total	%age of the total
	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	ICT	FATA		
Married	2,381	790	400	47	38	6	3,662	42
Unmarried	2,784	263	164	97	69	4	3,381	40
Widow	90	6	-	-	-	-	96	1
Divorced	90	4	-	-	1	-	95	1
No Information	871	381	82	7	43	2	1,386	16
Total	6,216	1,444	646	151	151	12	8,622	100

In terms of provincial breakup [illustrated in figure 14 below], Punjab was most dangerous for unmarried women, followed by Balochistan and ICT. In Sindh and KP, married women were more frequently targeted.

Figure 14: Province-wise breakup of marital status of VAW survivors/ victims



3.13. Ages of Victims/Survivors in VAW Cases in Pakistan 2013

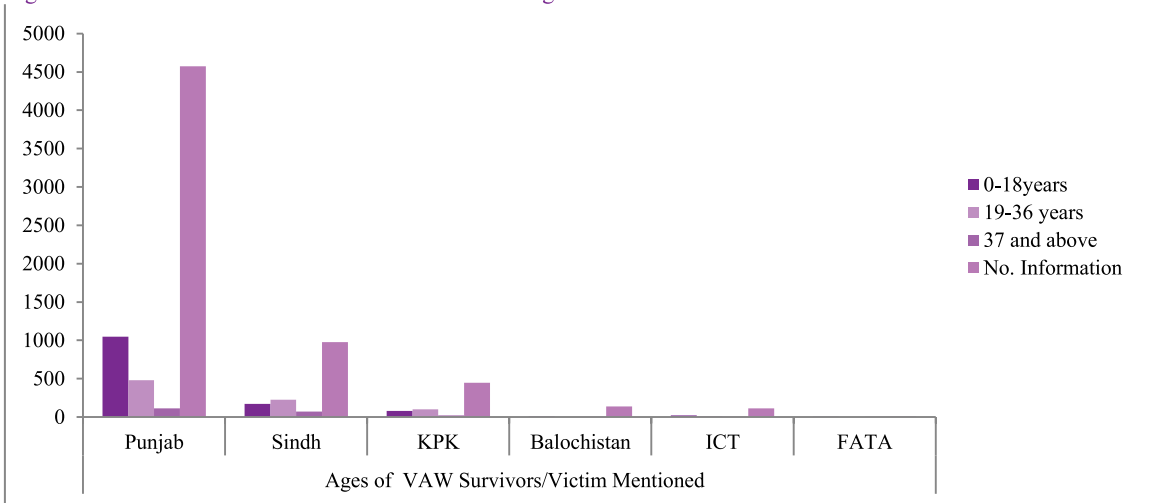
In terms of ages of victims, the aggregates provided in table 18 below reveal that the most vulnerable group was aged between 0 and 18 [15%], whereas no information was available for 73 percent of the cases reported in media.

Table 18: Province-wise age breakdown of victims/survivors in VAW cases in Pakistan 2013

Age	Province						Total	%age of the total
	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	ICT	FATA		
0-18years	1,049	172	81	8	20	3	1,333	15%
19-36 years	480	225	99	4	14	-	822	10%
37 and above	114	71	20	1	2	1	209	2%
No Information	4,573	976	446	138	115	8	6,256	73%
Total							8,620	100%

From figure 15 below [which provides the same information as table 18 pictorially], one can see that in Sindh and KP, violence against women was targeted more frequently towards women aged between 19 and 36 years.

Figure 15: Province-wise trends in victims’/survivors’ ages in VAW cases in Pakistan 2013



Section 4: Situation and Statistics from Six Regions of Pakistan

4.1. Overview of VAW in Punjab¹²

Punjab has been known as the "Land of 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 five rivers called Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Bias and Sutlej respectively. The Punjab is the country's most populous region with about 56% of Pakistan's total population ratio.

Punjab is the most prosperous, industrialized and urbanized province of Pakistan. The people are characterized by their outgoing, industrious and initiative-taking nature. Punjab was the last frontier of the South Asian sub-continent which faced the onslaught of invaders from Central Asia for centuries. As a result, it has become melting pot of different races. The constant periods of turmoil and brief phases of peace have greatly shaped peoples' characteristics and attitude towards life. Of these traits, worth noticing is their attitude towards womenfolk, who are considered no more than a property item and less worthy than a cattle. It was demonstrated during the unprecedented 2010 floods when many preferred to save their cattle but not their women when rescue teams reached the flood affectees. Punjab occupies an important place by being an important part of the Indus Valley Civilization where the city of Harappa was an important citadel cited in history around 4000 BC. The Indus Valley Civilization spanned much of what is today Pakistan and eventually evolved into Indo-Aryan civilization. This civilization shaped subsequent cultures in South Asia and Afghanistan.

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 geological 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 a federal territory lies within the territories of this province in its northern part. The region also contains Cholistan desert. The lands are irrigated with canal waters throughout the province. Neighboring areas are Sindh in the south, Balochistan and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the west, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and the India to the east.

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

The overall picture in Punjab continues to be grim, as VAW remains quite rampant even if there are fluctuations in the number of cases of some specific types of violence reported over the years.

¹² Dr. Rakhsinda Perveen. Beyond Denial: Violence against women in Pakistan A qualitative review of reported incidents Jan -dec 2012 . Aurat Foundation Islamabad. May 2013

Abduction is high on the list of reported offences [1,766 cases], followed by various offences categorized under miscellaneous. Coincidentally, both murder and rape/gang-rape appear to have been reported in equal number [846], making it the second-highest offence after abduction/kidnapping.

Within the miscellaneous category, attempted suicide and injury were highest in terms of reported ratio, with 301 [5.2 percent] and 225 [3.9 percent] cases, respectively. Even though 301 cases of attempted suicides were reported in the press, a further 486 women succeeded in taking their lives within the year. This is an alarming trend with close to 800 women driven toward suicide.

Further, 197 cases of torture against women were also reported, comprising 3.4 percent of all cases reported from the province. It is also noteworthy that Punjab is the only province from which 14 cases of incest were reported in the media in the year 2013.

A detailed breakdown on the major categories of VAW offences reported in Punjab is provided in table 19 below, whereas figure 16 provides a pictorial presentation of percentages.

Table 19: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in Punjab during 2013

Category of crime	Total Number of Cases	% age of the Total
Murder	846	15%
Honour killing	227	4%
Abduction/ Kidnapping	1,766	30%
Domestic violence	213	4%
Suicide	486	8%
Rape/ Gang rape	846	15%
Sexual assault	17	0%
Burning	33	1%
Acid throwing	35	1%
Miscellaneous	1,346	23%
Break -Up of Miscellaneous :		
Attempt to kidnap	71	1.2%
Attempt to murder	121	2.1%
Attempt to suicide	301	5.2%
Attempt to rape	190	3.3%
Kala Kali	16	0.3%
Child marriages	9	0.2%
Forced marriages	13	0.2%
Harassment	80	1.4%
Illegal custody	14	0.2%
Incest	14	0.2%
Injury	225	3.9%
Threat to life	41	0.7%
Torture	197	3.4%
Women trafficking	40	0.7%
Vanni	12	0.2%
Watta-satta	2	0.0%
Total	5,815	100

Figure 16: Percentage of cases of VAW in Punjab during 2013

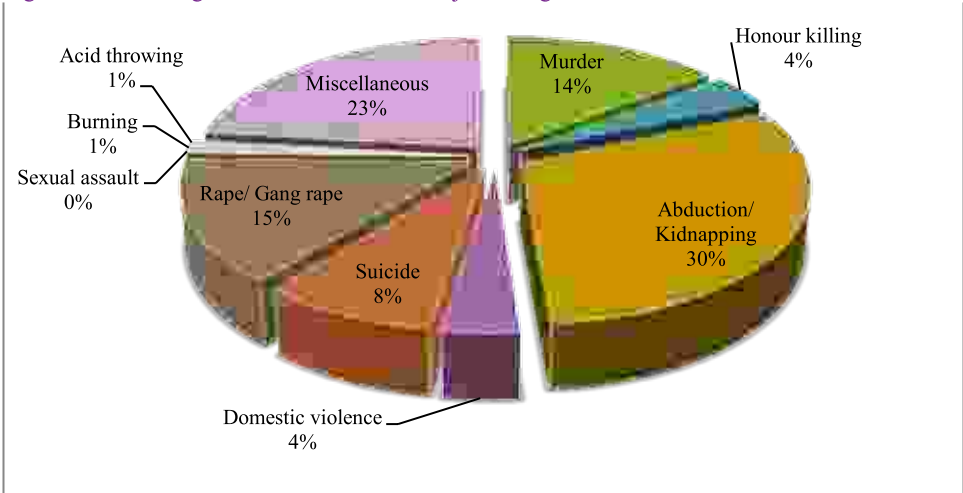


Table 20: Reported case of VAW in Punjab from 2008 to 2013

Categories of Crime	Number of Cases of VAW in Punjab during January to December 2008 to January to December 2013						Grand Total	Percentage increase/decrease in VAW cases between 2012 -2013
	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013		
Abduction/Kidnapping	1,439	1,698	1,890	1,846	1,222	1,766	9,861	44.52
Murder	695	752	758	897	835	846	4,783	1.32
Domestic Violence	366	271	246	348	573	213	2,017	-62.83
Suicide	362	448	424	533	394	486	2,647	23.35
Honour Killing	89	245	233	322	227	227	1,343	0
Rape/Gang Rape	608	786	741	734	676	846	4,391	25.15
Sexual Assault	120	227	39	64	12	17	479	41.67
Acid Throwing	25	42	20	32	45	35	199	-22.22
Burning	31	33	33	28	48	33	206	-31.25
Miscellaneous	681	1,220	1,108	1,384	734	1,346	6,473	83.38
Total	4,416	5,722	5,492	6,188	4,766	5,815	32,399	22.01

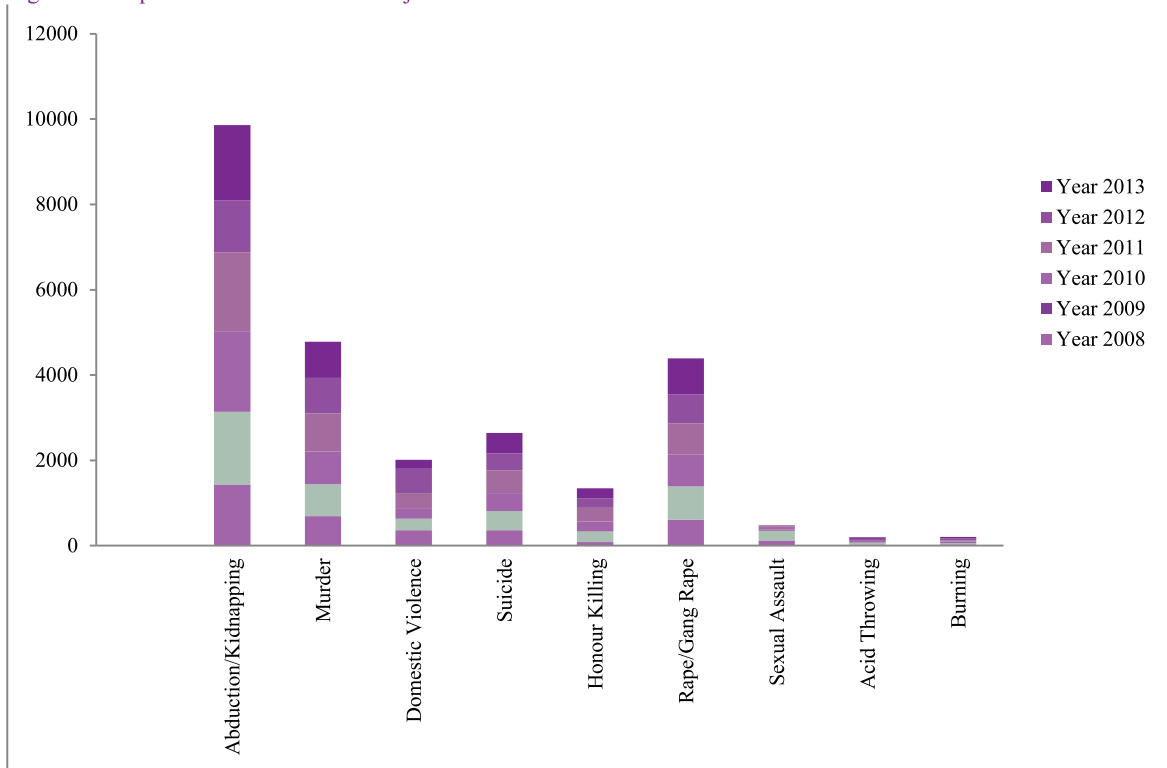
Within the province of Punjab, one can see from table 20 above that abduction was the most commonly reported offence amongst women, with 44.5 percent increase between 2012 and 2013. As one does not know the circumstances in which 1,766 women were abducted in Punjab in 2013, it is difficult to comment on social reasons behind the phenomenon.

Domestic violence saw a dramatic reduction in reporting, with an approximately 63 percent decline. Suicides increased by 23.4 percent, whereas rape and gang-rape reporting increased by 25.2 percent.

One can see drastic increase in a host of other miscellaneous offences, which went over 83.4 percent compared with 2012, the breakup of which is provided in table 19 above. Overall, there was a 22 percent increase in VAW in Punjab between 2012 and 2013.

Figure 17 below shows the reported number of different forms of VAW in Punjab between 2008 and 2013:

Figure 17: Reported case of VAW in Punjab from 2008 to 2013



It is clear that all forms of VAW reported from Punjab, have followed more or less, similar patterns over the year [as can be seen from marginal differences between colored boxes in figure 17 above]. Figure 18 below depicts a comparison between VAW cases reported from Punjab in 2008 and 2013, which reveals that except sexual assault, there have been nominal changes in VAW incidence reporting. This is indicative of ineffective measures by Punjab to curb VAW over the years.

Figure 18: Comparison between reported cases of VAW in 2008 and 2013 in Punjab

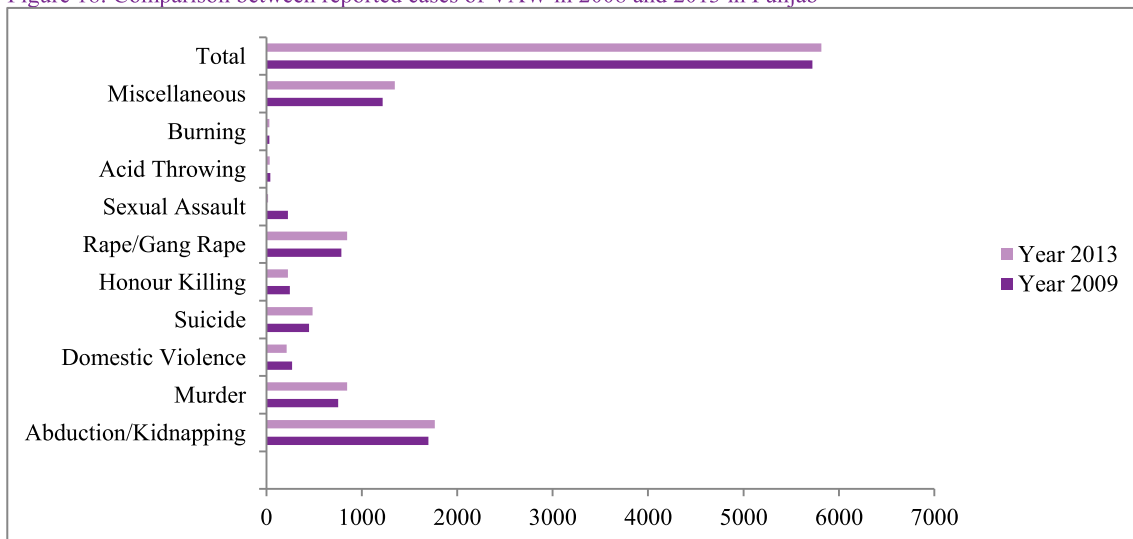


Table 21: Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in Punjab in 2013

Bi-Annual	Total
First six months	2,575
Second Six months	3,240
Total	5,815

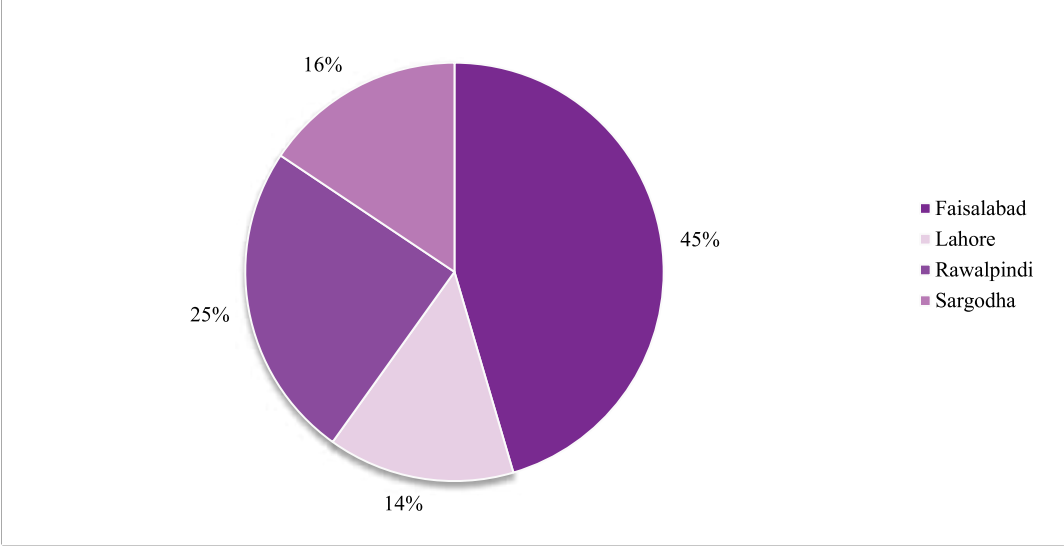
Table 22: District-Wise Data on VAW in Punjab in 2013

S. No	District Name	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Honour Killing	Murder	Rape/ Gang Rape	Sexual Assault	Burning	Suicide	Misc.	Grand total
1	Attock	8	1	4	-	16	3	1	1	4	9	47
2	Bahawalnagar	10	-	5	3	15	24	1	-	5	19	82
3	Bahawalpur	33	3	3	5	35	23	1	1	5	25	134
4	Bhakkar	11	1	1	-	4	2	-	-	6	14	39
5	Chinot	17	1	4	6	12	12	-	1	1	9	63
6	Chakwal	27	-	15	1	24	5	2	-	9	15	98
7	D.G.Khan	28	-	3	4	14	18	1	-	4	46	118
8	Faisalabad	425	3	27	28	75	200	-	4	57	219	1,038
9	Gujranwala	6	2	6	3	19	22	-	-	21	24	103
10	Gujrat	67	3	1	5	23	12	1	-	15	39	166
11	Hafizabad	4	-	2	5	8	3	-	-	7	8	37
12	Jhang	37	-	4	9	13	18	-	-	6	23	110
13	Jhelum	10	-	5	1	13	8	-	-	2	7	46
14	Kasur	34	-	11	10	41	32	1	-	21	17	167
15	Khanewal	10	1	5	6	7	12	-	1	17	14	73
16	Khushab	2	-	1	4	8	2	-	-	1	8	26
17	Lahore	135	3	11	29	129	41	-	7	80	163	598
18	Layyah	18	1	3	1	6	5	-	1	2	23	60
19	Lodhran	9	-	1	2	4	9	-	-	10	15	50
20	Mandi Bahauddin	11	-	1	6	10	7	-	-	8	5	48
21	Mianwali	8	-	-	-	9	2	-	-	4	5	28
22	Multan	17	3	6	3	9	23	-	1	9	21	92
23	Muzaffargarh	26	1	11	3	19	41	-	-	6	54	161
24	Nankana Sahib	11	-	1	9	12	13	-	-	5	22	73
25	Narowal	3	-	-	-	8	6	1	-	2	5	25
26	Okara	121	1	2	10	42	44	-	2	7	41	270
27	Pakpattan	56	1	1	7	21	33	-	1	12	24	156
28	Rahimyar khan	56	3	12	15	31	37	-	2	51	87	294
29	Rajanpur	15	-	1	11	8	9	1	-	3	31	79
30	Rawalpindi	229	-	21	2	58	31	7	7	12	63	430
31	Sahiwal	25	1	1	11	34	15	-	1	15	26	129
32	Sargodha	146	-	16	6	20	50	-	-	31	105	374
33	Sheikhupura	80	-	9	6	45	34	-	-	23	51	248
34	Sialkot	39	-	9	3	28	12	-	1	13	49	154
35	Toba Tek Singh	26	4	6	12	19	28	1	-	5	46	147
36	Vehari	6	2	4	1	7	10	-	1	7	14	52
	Grand Total	1,766	35	213	227	846	846	18	32	486	1,346	5,815

From table 22 above, which provides district-wise reporting of VAW in Punjab in 2013, one can see that Faisalabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Sargodha districts had the highest incidence reporting in Punjab, with Faisalabad absorbing nearly 18 percent of all VAW cases reported from the province.

Abductions, which constituted the highest reported offence were most reported from the same 4 districts, with nearly half the number of total kidnappings/ abductions being reported from Faisalabad [see figure below].

Figure 19: Abductions/ kidnappings in Punjab- top four districts



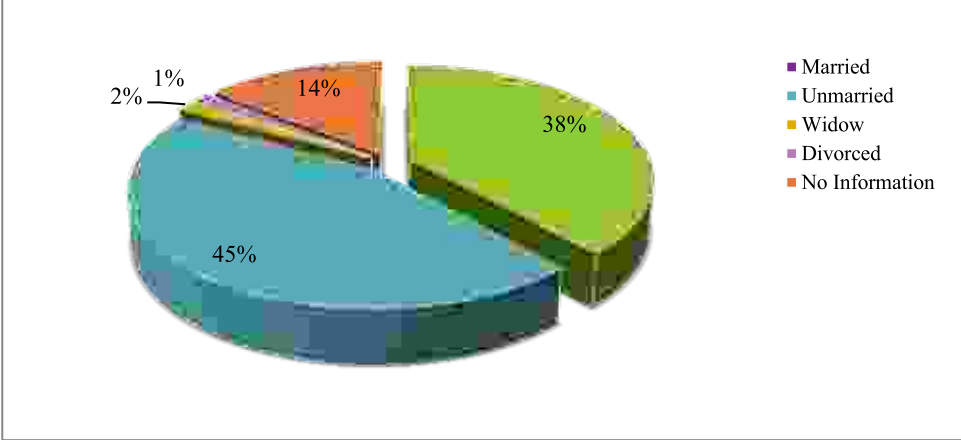
In terms of FIR registration in reported cases, a majority of offences were registered with the police in Punjab [4,681], constituting about 80 percent of cases reported in the media [see figure 20 below].

Figure 20: FIR Status of Cases of VAM in Punjab



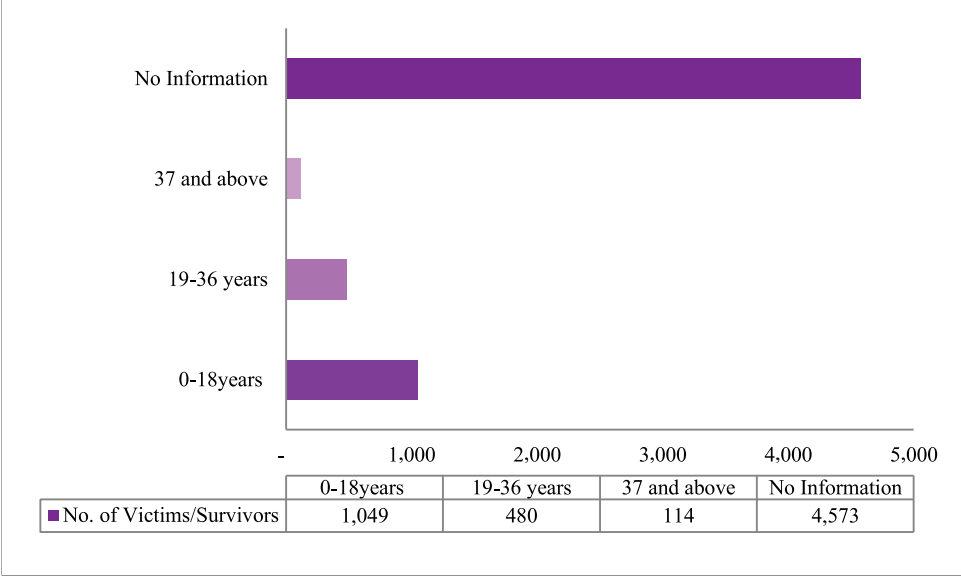
Most offences were reportedly committed against unmarried women [45%], whereas few incidences were reported against widows and divorcées [see figure 21 below]:

Figure 21: Marital Status of VAW survivors/ victims in Punjab in 2013



Information regarding age was not available in an overwhelming number of cases from Punjab [4,573], constituting about 74% of all cases reported. Amongst those whose ages were published by media, ages 0-18 remained the most vulnerable group, whereas women at age 37 or over reported their cases least frequently. This conclusion can be easily overturned with more information on 4,573 cases where victims’ ages are not known.

Figure 22: Age Group wise distribution of VAW Victims/Survivors in Punjab in 2013



4.2. Overview of VAW in Sindh

Sindh is the cradle for Indus Valley Civilization. Geographically, it 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 kilometers (54,408 sq miles). 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 center 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 neighboring regions of Sindh are Balochistan to the west and north, Punjab to the north, Gujarat and Rajasthan in India to the southeast and east, and the Arabian Sea to the south. The coast of Sindh boasts of the two major ports of Pakistan, Karachi and Port Qasim which handle the quasi-totality of Pakistani trade.

The 1998 Census of Pakistan indicated a population of 30.4 million. However, the 2011 population, according to Population Census Organization is estimated at 40,589,003 but many dispute this estimate and consider it to be above 55million where the population of Sindh increased by 81.5 percent [from 30,439,893 to 55,245,497¹³]. In fact, the lack of correct and reliable statistics due to irregular census often defeats planning and economic decisions.

About just under half of the population are urban dwellers who are mainly residing 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 Pakistan Statistical Year Book, 2011¹⁴, 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% respectively. According to the Social Policy and Development Centre review Sindh has the 2nd highest Human Development Index out of all of Pakistan's provinces at 0.628¹⁵.

Agriculture is an important industry in Sindh with cotton, rice, wheat, sugar cane, bananas, and mangoes as the main crops. Sindh is the richest province in terms of natural resources that includes gas, petrol, and coal.

It is also a major center of economic activity in Pakistan by virtue of having the port city of Karachi as its capital 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 river. Manufacturing includes machine products, cement, plastics, and various other goods.

Sindh has a high GDP per capita been \$1,400 in 2010 which is three times that of the rest of the country or 1.33 times the national average. Historically, Sindh's contribution to Pakistan's GDP has been between 30% and 32.7%. Its share in the service sector has ranged from 21% to 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%. Since 1972, Sindh's GDP has expanded by 3.6 times.

Overall, Sindh has seen a decline in VAW reporting in 2013. With the exception on honour killing, which increased by over 25 percent, reduction was seen in all other forms on VAW. Most prominent amongst

¹³ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-13514-Population-shoots-up-by-47-percent-since-1998>

¹⁴ <http://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/other/yearbook2011/Population/16-20.pdf>

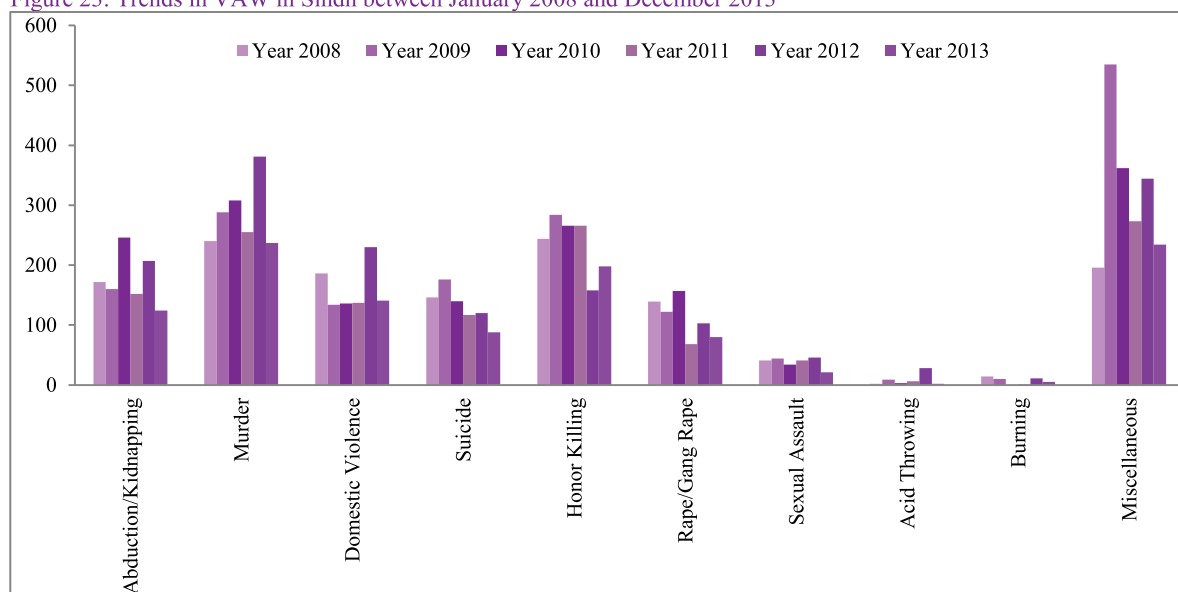
¹⁵ <http://www.spdc.org.pk/Publications/Research%20Reports/RR-73.pdf>

these are acid throwing, burning, and sexual assault where significant reductions were seen [see table 23 below].

Table 23: Number and percentages of cases of VAW in Sindh between January 2008 and December 2013

Categories of Crime	Number of Cases of VAW in Sindh between January 2008 and December 2013						Grand Total	Percentage increase/decrease in VAW cases between 2012-2013
	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013		
Abduction/Kidnapping	172	160	246	152	207	124	1,061	-40.1
Murder	240	288	308	255	381	237	1,709	-37.8
Domestic Violence	186	134	136	137	230	141	964	-38.7
Suicide	146	176	140	117	120	88	787	-26.7
Honour Killing	244	284	266	266	158	198	1,416	25.32
Rape/Gang Rape	139	122	157	68	103	80	669	-22.33
Sexual Assault	41	44	34	41	46	21	227	-54.34
Acid Throwing	2	9	3	6	28	2	50	-92.86
Burning	14	10	-	1	11	5	41	-54.54
Miscellaneous	196	535	362	273	344	234	1,944	-31.98
Total	1,380	1,762	1,652	1,316	1,628	1,130	8,868	-30.59

Figure 23: Trends in VAW in Sindh between January 2008 and December 2013



From figure 23 above, some easily discernable pattern emerges on VAW reporting in Sindh. Suicides seem to depict a downward movement over the years, along with rape/ gang rape. Domestic violence reporting has reduced compared to 2012, but have reverted to a pre-2012 situation. Reasons for a major spike in domestic violence in Sindh in 2012 are difficult to assess with the extent of data available.

On average, there has been a reduction of 30.6 percent in all forms of VAW reported from Sindh.

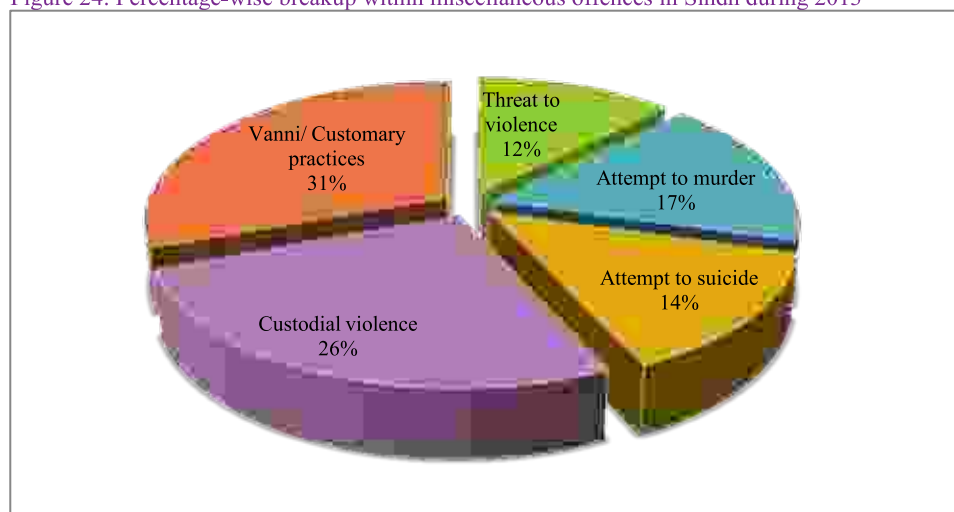
In terms of various miscellaneous offences, customary practice of vanni [a form of forced marriage], and custodial violence against women were reported in higher numbers as compared with sexual assault,, burning and acid throwing cases.

Table 24 and figure 25 below provide breakup and illustration of VAW reporting from Sindh in 2013, including crimes categorized under miscellaneous offences.

Table 24: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in Sindh during 2013

Category of crime	Total Number of Cases	Percentage of the Total
Murder	237	21
Honour killing	198	18
Abduction/ Kidnapping	124	11
Domestic violence	141	12
Suicide	88	8
Rape/ Gang rape	80	7
Sexual assault	21	2
Burning	5	0.4
Acid throwing	2	0.1
Miscellaneous	234	21
Break-Up of Miscellaneous		
Threat to violence	29	3
Attempt to murder	40	4
Attempt to suicide	32	3
Custodial violence	61	5
Vanni/ Customary practices	72	6
Total	1,130	100

Figure 24: Percentage-wise breakup within miscellaneous offences in Sindh during 2013



In terms of incidence reporting trends in the year 2013, one can see from figure 25 below that reporting increased for VAW cases in Sindh in the latter part of the year with a 40:60 ratio between the two halves of the year.

Detailed breakdown of district-wise reporting in Sindh in 2013 is provided in table 25 below, with an illustration of the same data provided in the following figure 26.

Figure 25: Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in Sindh in 2013

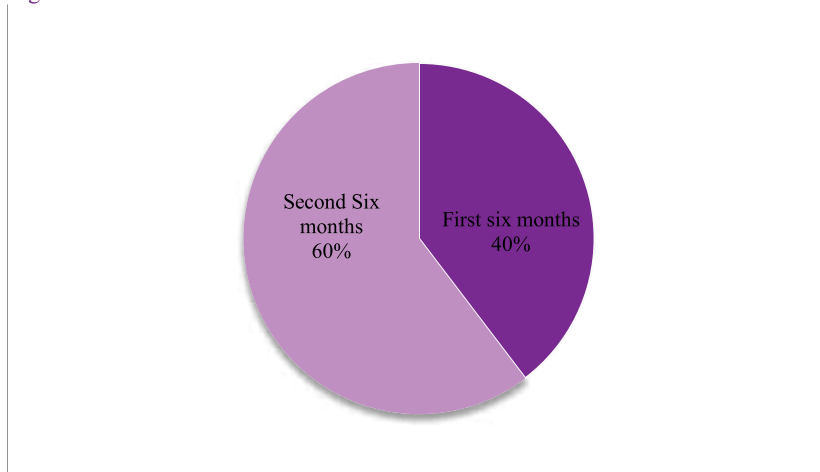
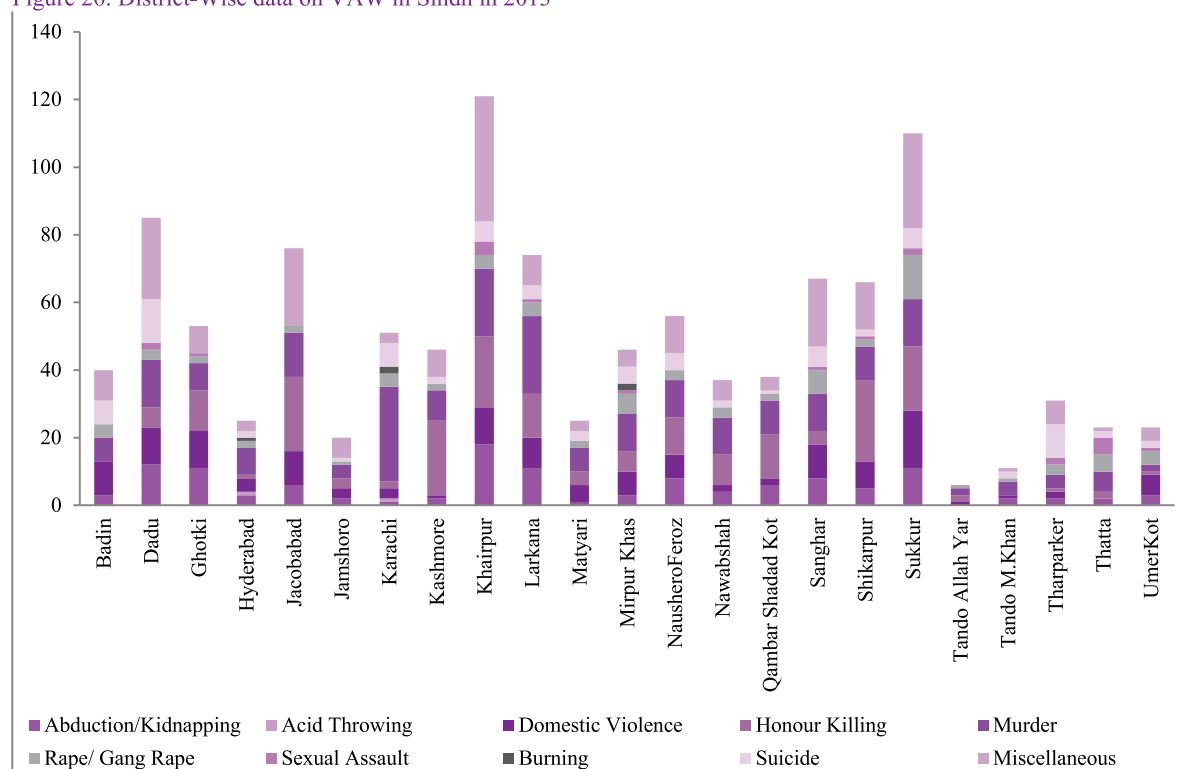


Table 25: District-Wise Data on VAW in Sindh in 2013

S. No	District Name	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Honour Killing	Murder	Rape/ Gang Rape	Sexual Assault	Burnin g	Suicide	Misc	Grand total
1	Badin	3	-	10		7	4	-	-	7	9	40
2	Dadu	12	-	11	6	14	3	2	-	13	24	85
3	Ghotki	11	-	11	12	8	2	1	-	-	8	53
4	Hyderabad	3	1	4	1	8	2	-	1	2	3	25
5	Jacobabad	6	-	10	22	13	2	-	-	-	23	76
6	Jamshoro	2	-	3	3	4	1	-	-	1	6	20
7	Karachi	1	1	3	2	28	4	-	2	7	3	51
8	Kashmore	2	-	1	22	9	2	-	-	2	8	46
9	Khairpur	18	-	11	21	20	4	4	-	6	37	121
10	Larkana	11	-	9	13	23	4	1	-	4	9	74
11	Matyari	1	-	5	4	7	2	-	-	3	3	25
12	Mirpur Khas	3	-	7	6	11	6	1	2	5	5	46
13	NausheroFeroz	8	-	7	11	11	3	-	-	5	11	56
14	Nawabshah	4	-	2	9	11	3	-	-	2	6	37
15	Qambar Shadad Kot	6	-	2	13	10	2	-	-	1	4	38
16	Sanghar	8	-	10	4	11	7	1	-	6	20	67
17	Shikarpur	5	-	8	24	10	2	1	-	2	14	66
18	Sukkur	11	-	17	19	14	13	2	-	6	28	110
19	Tando Allah Yar		-	1	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	6
20	Tando M.Khan	2	-	1		4	1	-	-	2	1	11
21	Tharparker	2	-	2	1	4	3	2	-	10	7	31
22	Thatta	2	-	-	2	6	5	5	-	2	1	23
23	UmerKot	3	-	6	1	2	4	1	-	2	4	23
	Grand Total	124	2	141	198	237	80	21	5	88	234	1,130

District Khairpur had the highest share of VAW incidence reporting, with a total 121 cases reported in 2013, comprising nearly 11 percent of cases reported in the year. This was followed by Sukkur, Dadu and Jacobabad. Singular cases of acid throwing were reported from Hyderabad and Karachi [one case in each district], while 1 case of burning was reported from Hyderabad and 2 from Karachi. It would seem that districts Karachi and Hyderabad featured prominently in terms of acid and fire-related crimes while other districts [with the exception of Mirpur Khas where 2 cases of burning were reported], did not report any incidence of such nature.

Figure 26: District-Wise data on VAW in Sindh in 2013



Khairpur, Sukkur and Dadu, which were amongst the top-three districts for incidence reporting in Sindh reveal varying types of violence to be more frequently reported. For instance, while rape and gang rape reporting varied significant between the three districts, murder, domestic violence and suicides seem to follow similar reporting patterns. This information is provided in table

Table 26: Reporting trends for VAW cases in top 3 districts in Sindh in 2013

District Name	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Honour Killing	Murder	Rape/ Gang Rape	Sexual Assault	Burning	Suicide	Misc.	Total
Khairpur	18	-	11	21	20	4	4	-	6	37	121
Sukkur	11	-	17	19	14	13	2	-	6	28	110
Dadu	12	-	11	6	14	3	2	-	13	24	85

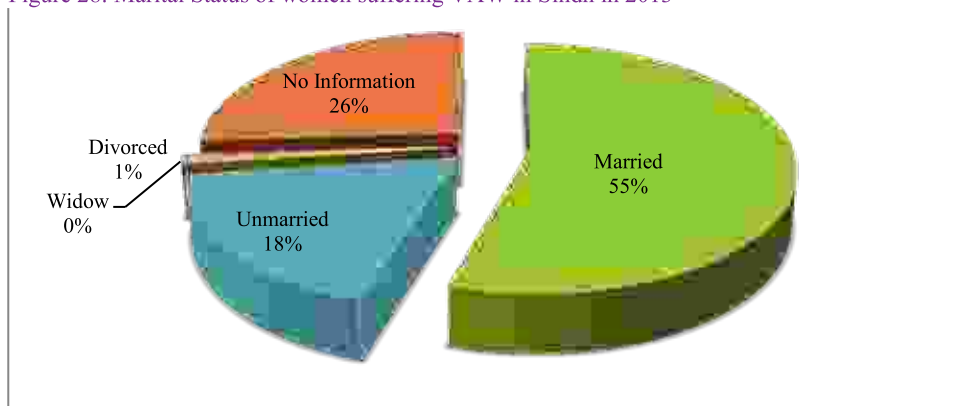
In terms of FIR registration, nearly half the cases reported were not lodged with the police in Sindh [595 cases or 47.4 percent of total number of cases reported in media and other sources], whereas only about one-third cases were registered.

Figure 27: FIR Status of cases of VAW in Sindh 2013



Contrary to findings from Punjab and based on information available from Sindh, married women's cases were reported more often in the press and other sources as compared to unmarried women. It is noteworthy that while in 14 percent cases, women's marital status was not established in Punjab, Sindh had a huge percentage of cases [26%] where marital status of the aggrieved could not be established, making for less accuracy in determining vulnerability of women from this aspect.

Figure 28: Marital Status of women suffering VAW in Sindh in 2013



4.3. Overview of VAW in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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

The province borders Afghanistan to the north-west, Gilgit-Baltistan to the north-east, 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 south-east. 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 in the east. The province has an area of 28,773mi² or (74,521 km²) 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. 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 the KP population to be 23,659,639 in 2011, contributing 13% to the total population of Pakistan. Some manufacturing and high-tech investments in Peshawar have helped improve job prospects for many locals, while trade in the province involves nearly every product. The bazaars in the province are renowned throughout Pakistan mainly for abundance of smuggled goods from Afghanistan and beyond.

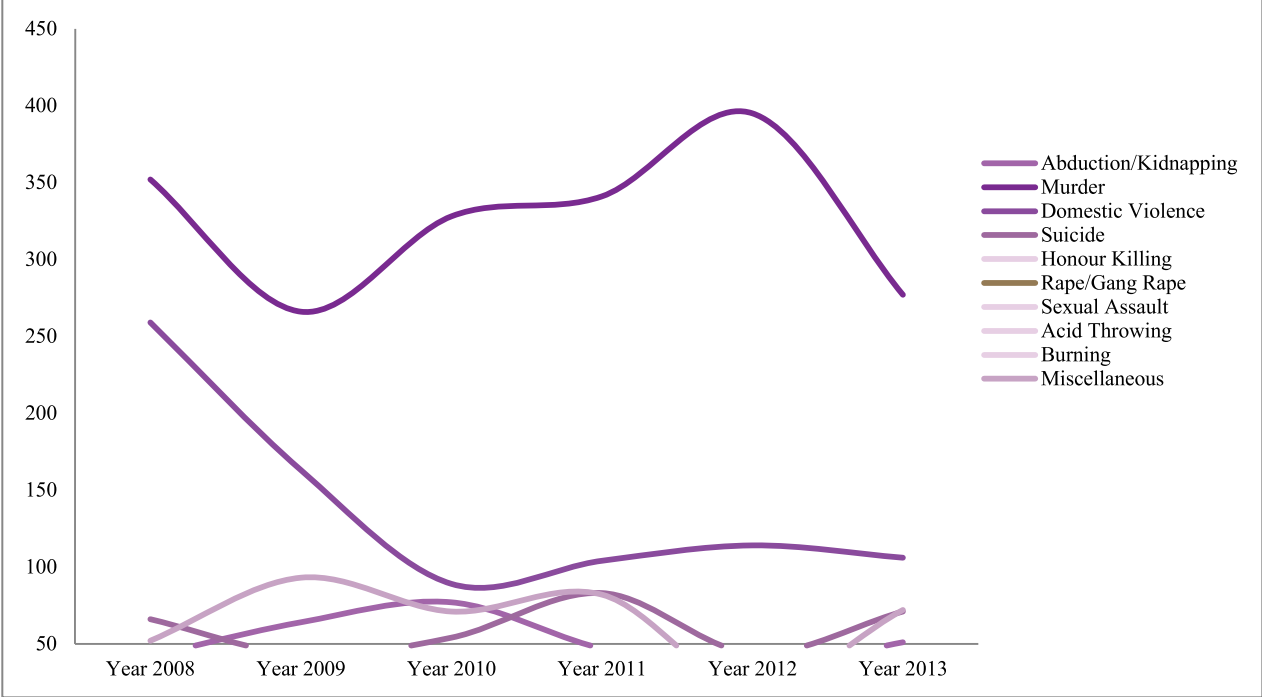
A total 597 cases of VAW were reported from KP in 2013. Amongst the most commonly reported crimes were murder [268 cases] and domestic violence [105 cases], comprising 45 percent and 17.6 percent of all reported crimes respectively. A detailed breakdown of reported cases since 2008 is provided in table 27 below:

Table 27: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in KP during 2008-2013

Number of Cases of VAW in KP during January to December 2008 to January to December 2013								
Categories of Crime	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013	Grand Total	Percentage increase/decrease in VAW cases between 2012-2013
Abduction/Kidnapping	42	64	77	47	33	51	314	54.55
Murder	352	266	328	341	395	268	1,950	-29.87
Domestic Violence	259	163	89	104	114	105	834	-7.01
Suicide	66	43	54	83	44	69	359	61.36
Honour Killing	13	14	22	30	42	17	138	-59.52
Rape/Gang Rape	9	7	5	7	14	9	51	-35.71
Sexual Assault	3		-	-	-	-	3	-
Acid Throwing		1	1	-	8	4	14	-50
Burning	3	4	3	-	4	2	16	-50
Miscellaneous	52	93	71	82	20	72	390	260
Total	799	655	650	694	674	597	4,069	-9.64

In terms of annual trends [depicted in figure 29 below], one can see that murder continues to feature high on the list of reported offences from KP, followed by domestic violence and other miscellaneous crimes.

Figure 29: Trends in annual reporting of VAW cases in KP between 2008 and 2013



Even though domestic violence had remained second-highest over the years in terms of incidence reporting, one can see that it has seen a dramatic decline in reporting after 2008. Between 2012 and 2013, domestic violence has also gone down by 7 percent. It is difficult to guess the reasons behind longitudinal changes and to say whether it is because of actual decline in prevalence, because women have limited access to police station, or because women are making a conscious choice not to approach law enforcement authorities with their complaints.

It is curious to note that while murder of women may be higher in KP than other offences, killing on the pretext of honour has remained low on the radar.

Table 28 below provides the breakdown of offences reported in KP, including those falling under the miscellaneous category.

Table 28: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in KP during 2013

Category of crime	Total Number of Cases	Percentage of Total
Murder	268	45
Honour killing	17	3
Abduction/ Kidnapping	51	8
Domestic violence	105	17
Suicide	69	12
Rape/ Gang rape	9	1
Acid Throwing	4	1
Burning	2	0.3
Miscellaneous	72	12
Break-Up of Miscellaneous		
Attempted murder	34	6
Attempted suicide	10	2
Attempted Kidnapping	3	0.4
Hurt and Body Injury	9	1
Vanni/ Customary practices	10	1
Sexual harassment	1	0.2
Women trafficking	2	0.3
Watta-satta	1	0.2
Threat to Life	2	0.3
Total	597	100

Within the category of miscellaneous offence, attempted murder features highest on the list, indicating that the number of murders would have been much higher had the perpetrators succeeded in carrying out their intent. Further, attempted suicide and forced marriages shared equal numbers which leads one to suspect that forced marriage and domestic violence may have something to do with attempted suicides. An Aurat Foundation study conducted in 2013 reveals that women forced into marriage often struggle with suicidal thoughts due to severe domestic abuse and violence at home (Zaman, 2013).

Figure 30: Percentage within miscellaneous offences of VAW in KP during 2013

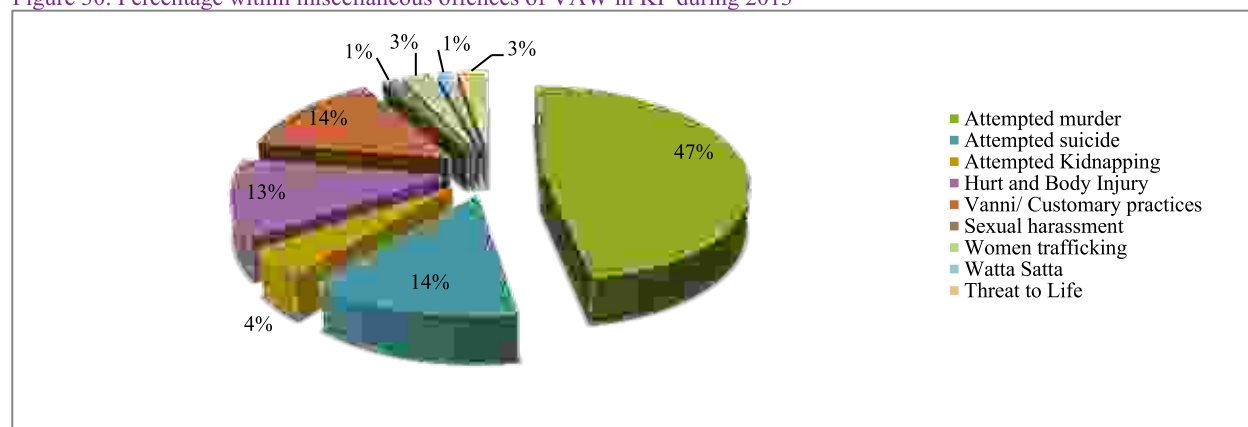


Table 29 below provides a district-wise breakup of VAW cases reported from KP in 2013 while figure 32 below presents the same information pictorially. From these one can see that highest incidence reporting

took place in the urbanized city of Peshawar in KP, which is also its provincial capital. The 227 cases reported from Peshawar district represent about 38 percent of all cases in the province. The remaining 22 districts did not nearly have as many cases reported, which makes Peshawar stand out distinctly. Mardan district, which was a runner-up with 55 cases reported, had about 9 percent share of cases reported in the province.

Table 29: District wise data of VAW crimes in KP

S. No.	District Name	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape/ Gang Rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Burning	Suicide	Sexual Assault	Misc.	Grand Total
1	Abbottabad	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	5
2	Bannu	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	6
3	Battagram	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	3
4	Buner	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
5	Charsadda	-	-	7	-	2	27	-	8	-	-	44
6	Chitral	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	9	-	-	11
7	D.I.Khan	1	-	2	2	1	6	-	4	-	2	18
8	Hangu	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	3
9	Haripur	1	-	1	2	1	6	-	6	-	3	20
10	Karak	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
11	Kohat	2	-	3	-	2	12	-	4	-	3	26
12	Kohistan	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
13	Lakki Marwat	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	4
14	Lower Dir	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
15	Malakand	-	-	1	-	2	4	-	2	-	2	11
16	Mansehra	5	1	-	-	1	18	-	2	-	5	32
17	Mardan	2	-	6	-	-	34	-	9	-	4	55
18	Nowshera	-	1	6	2	3	18	1	6	-	4	41
19	Peshawar	38	1	73	2	2	65	1	9	-	36	227
20	Swabi	-	-	1	1	1	24	-	2	-	4	33
21	Swat	-	-	4	-	-	23	-	6	-	6	39
22	Tank	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
23	Upper Dir	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	5
	Grand Total	51	4	105	9	17	268	2	69	-	72	597

District Peshawar had the most cases of honour killings, with 65 cases reported in 2013, constituting about 13 percent of all such cases reported across the country. Similarly, 73 cases of domestic violence were reported from the district, constituting nearly 15 percent of all cases reported in the country. Kidnapping and abductions were also highest in the districts, with 38 cases reported, comprising 75 percent of all cases reported in the province.

It is interesting to note that acid throwing does not seem to be common in KP, with 14 cases reported since 2008, 4 of which were reported last year. Likewise, burning cases were least frequently reported in the province [after sexual assault with zero cases reported], with two cases emerging from Nowshera and Peshawar combined.

Figure 31: District-wise reporting of VAW in KP in 2013

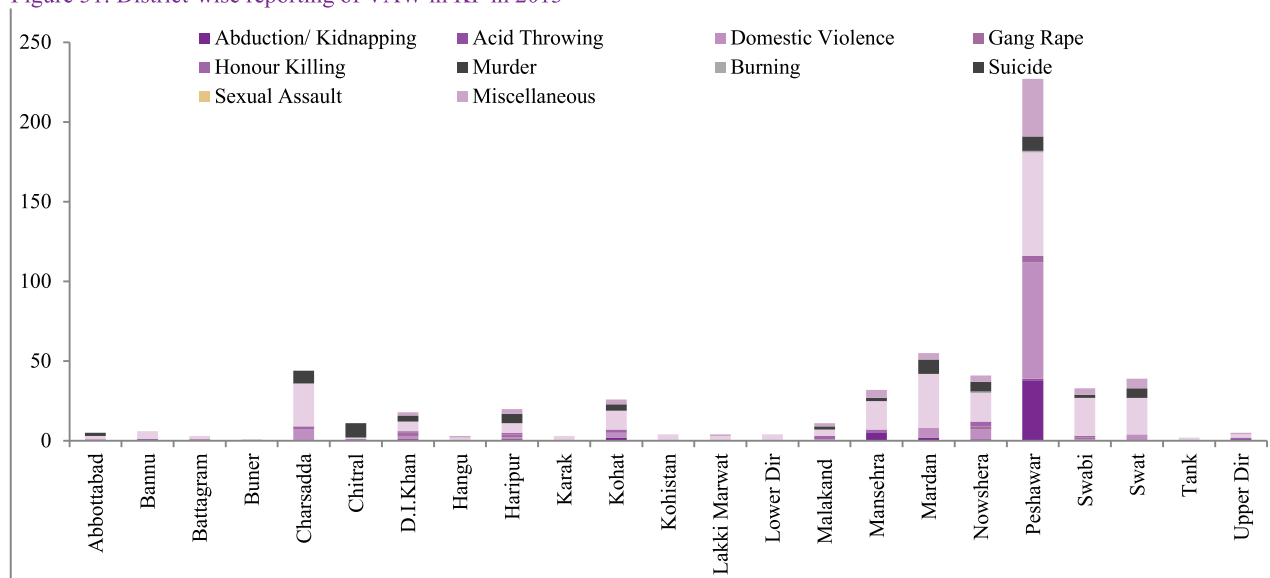
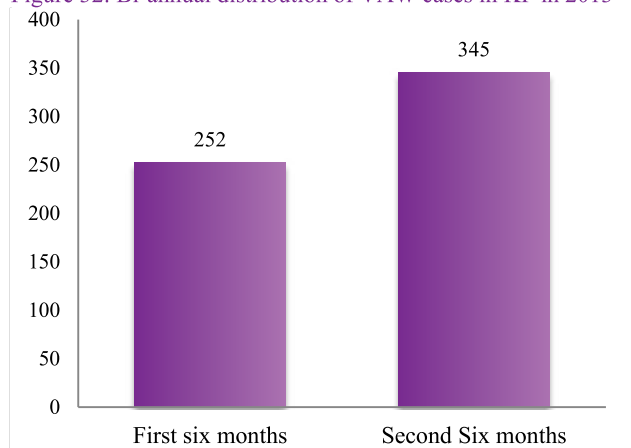


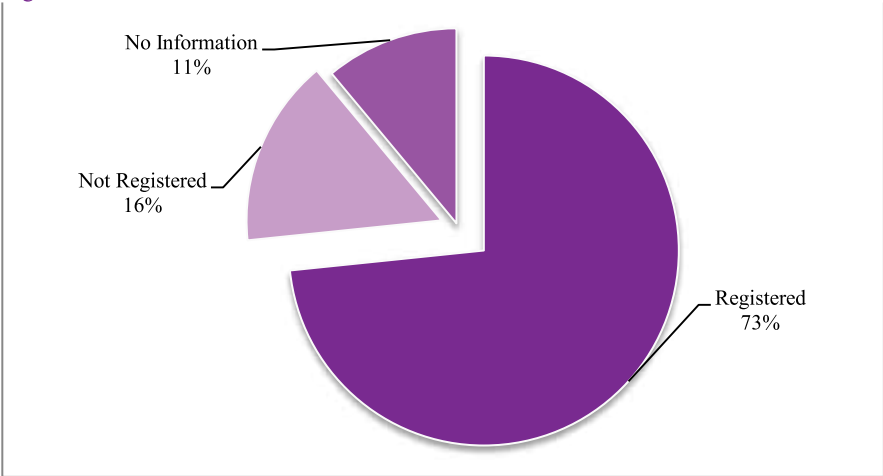
Figure 31 below shows that VAW reporting increased in second half of 2013, consistent with findings from other provinces.

Figure 32: Bi-annual distribution of VAW cases in KP in 2013



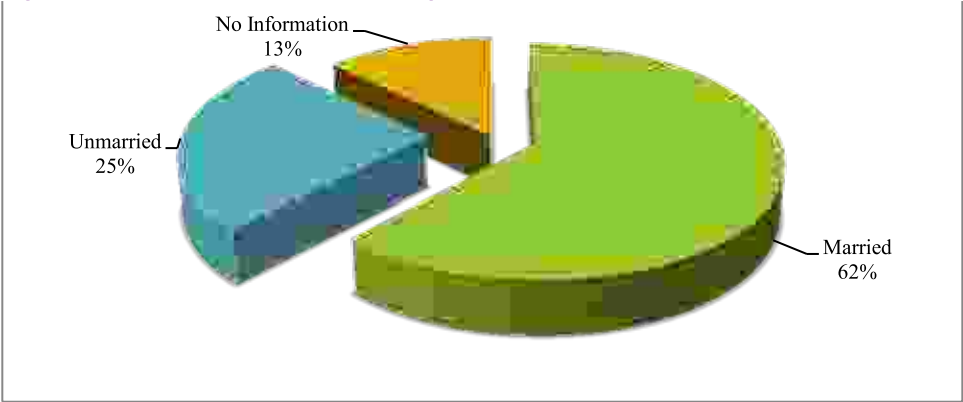
Seventy-three percent of all cases reported from KP were registered by the police, where no FIRs were registered for 16 percent [or 96] cases.

Figure 33: FIR status of cases of VAW in KP 2013



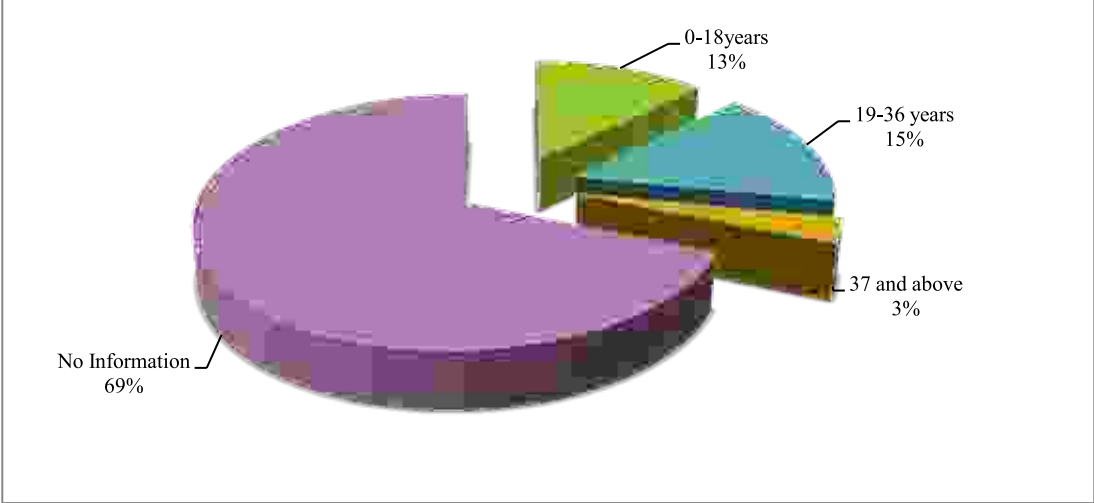
Alarming, 62 percent women that were reported violence in KP were married, whereas 25 percent were unmarried. This leads one to believe that women who were murdered or subjected to domestic violence may have suffered at the hands of their husbands or in-laws post-marriage. However, this assumption cannot be tested as available data does not reveal anything about the profiles of perpetrators or their relationship with the victim.

Figure 34: Marital Status of women suffering VAW in KP, 2013



In terms of vulnerability in age and based on available information [see figure 35 below], women between ages 19 and 36 years reported violence more often [15%] than other age groups, although ages 0 to 18 were not far behind [13%]. Given that early-age or child marriages are common in most parts of Pakistan, particularly KP, it is likely that married women, whether murdered or abused at home, belong to that latter age group, i.e., 0-18 years.

Figure 35: Age group wise distribution of VAW victims/survivors in KP, 2013



As age is an important variable to understanding whether it provides any protection from violence, ensuring that age is recorded is a task that should be actively pursued, particularly since one does not know victim's ages for almost 70% of cases reported from KP.

4.4. Overview of VAW in Balochistan

By surface area, Balochistan is the largest of the four provinces of Pakistan at 347,190 km (134,051 mi), which composes approximately 44% of the total land area of Pakistan. The population density is very low due to the mountainous terrain and scarcity of water.

Balochistan has a population of around 12 million inhabitants, The Population Census Organization estimates of 2011 put Balochistan population at 8,775,048 inhabitants which makes up approximately 5% of the Pakistani population. According to the 2008 Pakistan Statistical Year Book, households whose primary language is Balochi represent 54.8% of Balochistan's population; 29.6% of 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 at home. It 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 Qalat.

The capital, 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.

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 by 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 south-eastern edge of the Iranian plateau. It strategically bridges the Middle East and Southwest Asia to Central Asia and South Asia, and forms the closest oceanic frontage for the land-locked countries of Central Asia. The Sulaiman Mountains dominate the northeast corner and the Bolan Pass is 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.

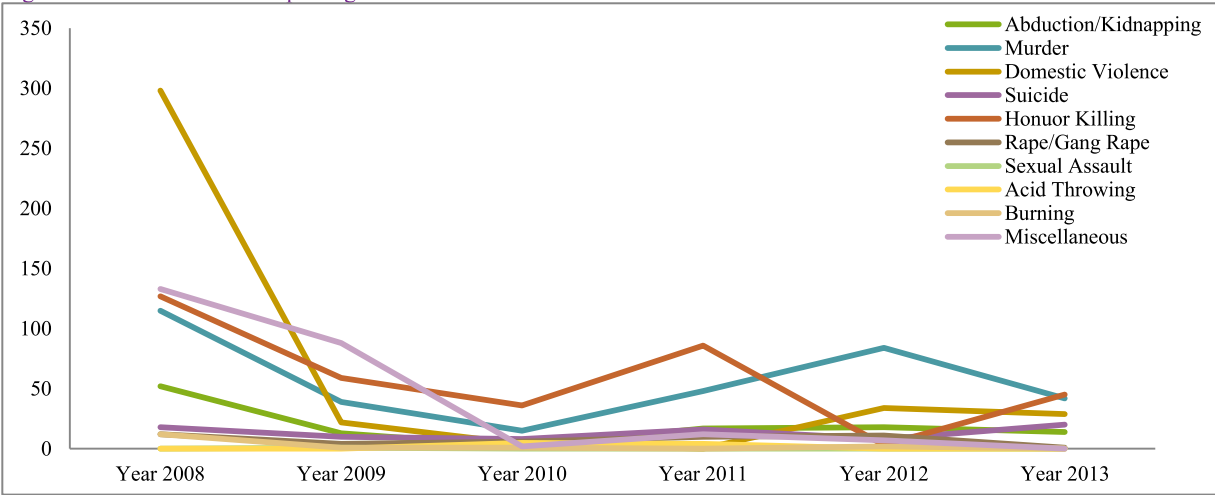
Balochistan culture is primarily tribal, deeply patriarchal and conservative. Baloch society is dominated by tribal chieftains called Mirs, Sardars and Nawabs, who are the ruling elite of Balochistan. 'Honour' killings are commonplace but discouraged by the majority of the population.

In the province of Balochistan, 151 cases of VAW were reported in 2013, with an overall decrease of 9.6 percent compared with 2012. Table 30 below provides the yearly offence-wise breakup of VAW in the province between 2008 and 2013 and Figure 37 below shows the year-wise trends in VAW reporting.

Table 30: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Balochistan during 2008-2013

	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013	Grand Total	Percentage increase/decrease in VAW cases between 2012-2013
Abduction/Kidnapping	52	13	2	17	18	14	116	-22.22
Murder	115	39	15	48	84	42	343	-50
Domestic Violence	298	22	4	-	34	29	387	-14.71
Suicide	18	10	8	16	8	20	80	150
Honour Killing	127	59	36	86	3	45	356	1,500
Rape/Gang Rape	12	4	6	10	11	1	44	-90.9
Sexual Assault	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Acid Throwing	-	-	5	4	-	-	9	-
Burning	12	1	1	-	2	-	16	-100
Miscellaneous	133	88	2	12	7	-	242	-100
Total	767	237	79	193	167	151	1,594	-9.58

Figure 36: Trends in VAW reporting in KP between 2008 and 2013



Overall, it would seem that VAW has declined in terms of reporting over the years, with 2008 being the worst year. Reports of honour killing have taken an upward turn from 2012, after seeing a decline over the years with the exception of year 2011. In 2013, 30 percent of all VAW cases reported from Balochistan were those of honour killings, an increase of 1500 percent compared with the previous year.

These trends raise many questions regarding the VAW reporting in Balochistan, particularly given the political, social and economic troubles that the province has been grappling with over the years. Researches from many countries suggest that VAW usually increases proportionately with the level of conflict present in a particular area. Conflict also reduces women’s access to justice systems and trivializes their plight. One can postulate that as Balochistan is predominantly a tribal society where informal justice systems flourish, women’s access to justice has been suppressed over the years, leading to fewer cases being brought to the attention of the public. Further, media reporting on Balochistan have tended to concentrate on news of insurgency, the role of the army in the province, sectarian killings and other human rights violations over the years rather than highlighting individual cases of abuse amongst women.

It is also curious to note the not a single case of acid throwing, sexual assault, burning or other miscellaneous offences was recorded from the entire province in 2013.

Table 31: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in Balochistan during 2013

Category of crime	Total Number of Cases	Percentage of Total
Murder	42	28
Honour killing	45	30
Abduction/ Kidnapping	14	9
Suicide	20	13
Rape/ Gang rape	1	0.6
Domestic Violence	29	19
Miscellaneous		
Hurt & body injury	-	-
Threat to violence	-	-
Total	151	100

One can see from figure 38 below that reported cases of VAW have been consistent divided on a bi-annual basis, which has not been seen in other parts of the country.

Figure 37: Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in Balochistan in 2013

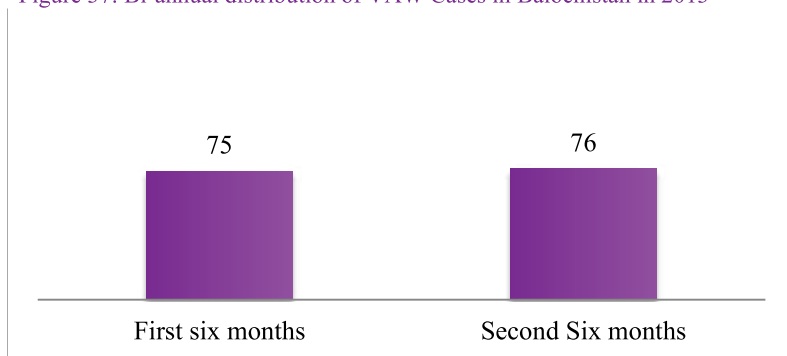


Table 32 below shows that Naseerabad had the largest share of VAW reporting in the province, comprising about 27 percent of the total number of cases reported. Murders were mostly reported from district Quetta [12] while Jafarabad had the highest number of honour killings [14]. Naseerabad also had the highest incidence of suicides amongst women [9 cases].

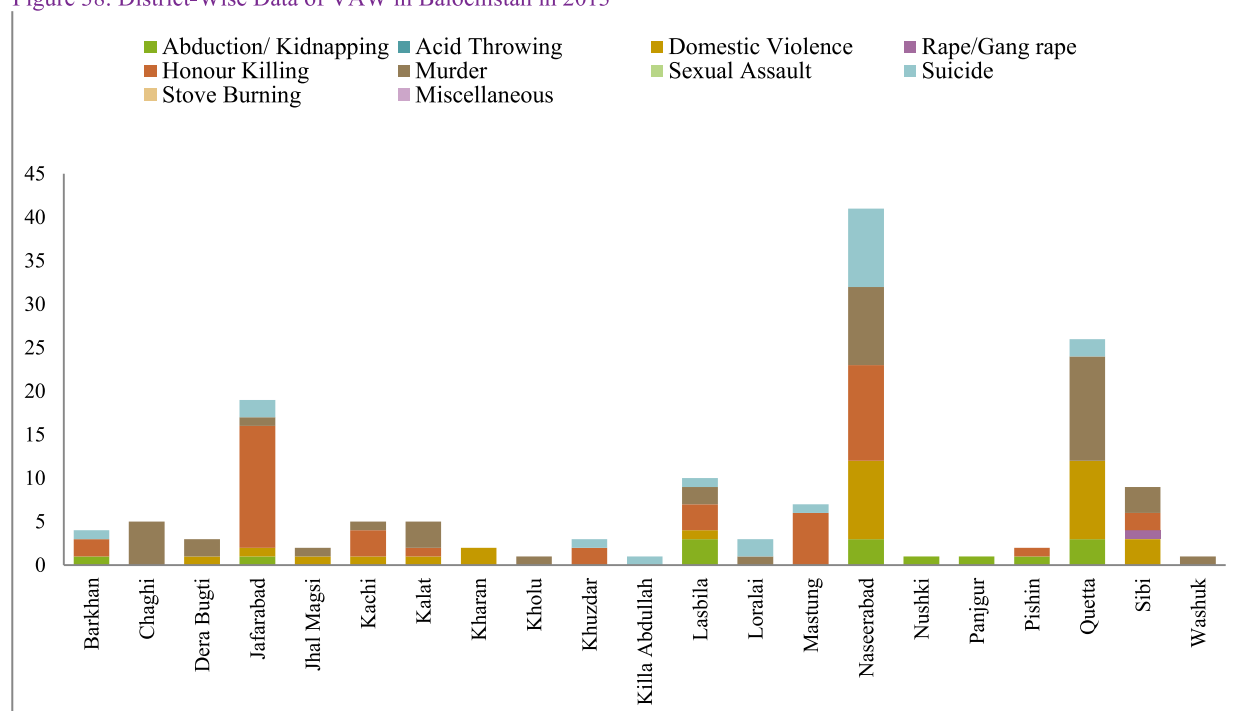
Table 32: District-Wise Data of VAW in Balochistan in 2013

S. No.	District Names	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape/ Gang rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Burning	Misc.	Total
1	Barkhan	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	4
2	Chaghi	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
3	Dera Bugti	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3
4	Jafarabad	1	-	1	-	14	1	-	2	-	-	19
5	Jhal Magsi	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
6	Kachi	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	5
7	Kalat	-	-	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	5
8	Kharan	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
9	Kholu	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
10	Khuzdar	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	3
11	Killa Abdullah	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
12	Lasbila	3	-	1	-	3	2	-	1	-	-	10
13	Loralai	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	3
14	Mastung	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	1	-	-	7

S. No.	District Names	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape/ Gang rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Burning	Misc.	Total
15	Naseerabad	3	-	9	-	11	9	-	9	-	-	41
16	Nushki	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
17	Panjgur	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
18	Pishin	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
19	Quetta	3	-	9	-	-	12	-	2	-	-	26
20	Sibi	-	-	3	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	9
21	Washuk	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	Total	14	-	29	1	45	42	-	20	-	-	151

Honour killing [45 cases] and murder [42 cases] were the most commonly reported forms on VAW in Balochistan in 2013. District-wise, most cases were reported from Naseerabad [41, comprising 27% of all VAW cases reported the province], followed by Quetta [26] and Jafarabad [19].

Figure 38: District-Wise Data of VAW in Balochistan in 2013



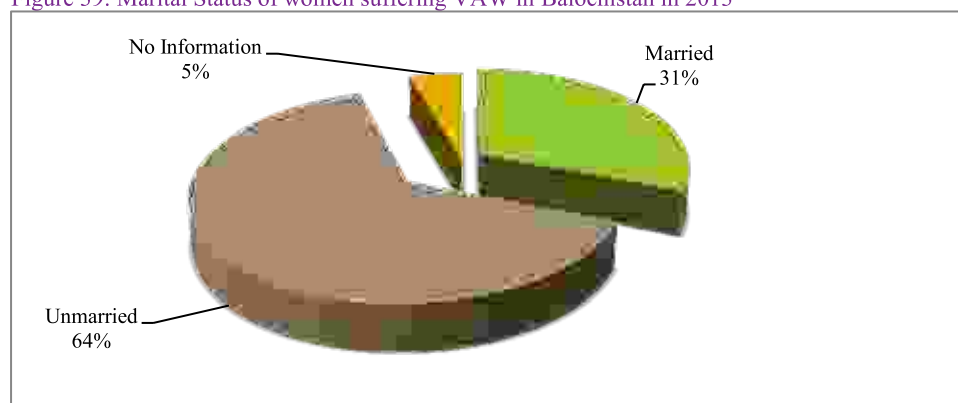
FIRs were registered for all 151 cases reported, which is unlike any other province whose data has been reviewed in this report. It is difficult to explain this phenomenon in Balochistan when one compares the data of other provinces, where reporting of an offence does not seem to necessarily result in a police case being filed.

Table 33: FIR Status of cases of VAW in Balochistan 2013

FIR Status	Total
Registered	151
Not Registered	-
No Information	-
Total	151

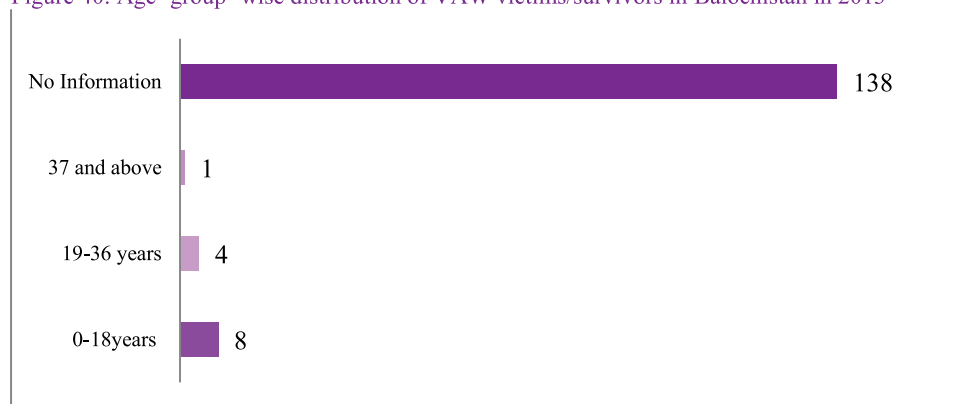
Similar to findings from Punjab, unmarried women were targeted more frequently in Balochistan compared to married, divorced or widowed women. As the number of cases with unknown marital status is relatively low [5%], unmarried women’s increased vulnerability can be safely assumed [see figure .

Figure 39: Marital Status of women suffering VAW in Balochistan in 2013



Data from Balochistan also reveal another odd pattern in reporting of VAW cases: there is no information available regarding ages of victims of VAW in a vast majority of the cases reported [138 out of 151, or 91.4%]. It would appear that sources recording VAW cases [such as media reports] do not warrant age of the victims as an important aspect of crime reporting. This also raises questions on why this common omission has not been questioned by those working to address the issues of violence and human rights in the region. Given that most of the women targeted for violence were unmarried [an aspect most frequently highlighted in reports from Balochistan], one can expect that vulnerability in terms of age would fall within the first two age groups, i.e., 0-18 and 19-36 years.

Figure 40: Age- group- wise distribution of VAW victims/survivors in Balochistan in 2013



4.5. Overview of VAW 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. It is the tenth largest city in Pakistan and home to an estimated population of 1.74 million in 2009. The region has historically been at the crossroads of Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province. Islamabad is one of the greenest and most well-planned cities of South Asia. The city was built during the 1960s to replace Karachi as Pakistan's capital. It is considered the cleanest city in Pakistan.

The capital area of the Islamabad city is 906 square kilometers (350 sq mi). A further 2,717 square kilometers (1,049 sq mi) area is known as the Specified Area, with the Margala 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 Agencies, most of Pakistan's state-owned companies are also based in Islamabad. Islamabad is a net contributor to the Pakistani economy, as whilst having only 0.8% of the country's population, it contributes 1% to the country's GDP.

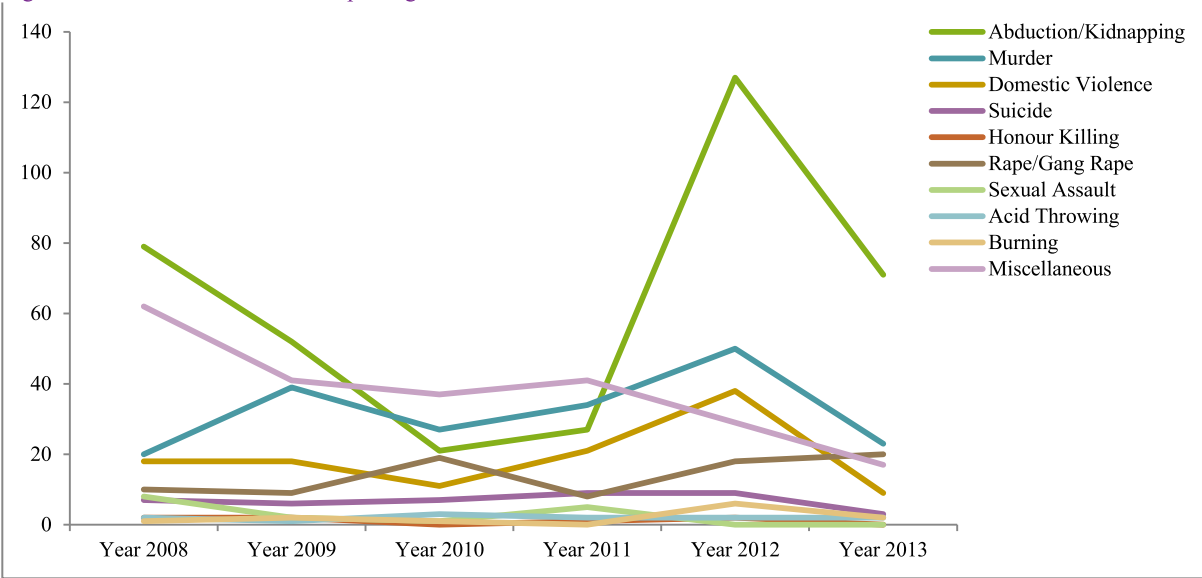
A total 148 cases of VAW were reported from ICT in 2013, representing a 47.7 percent decline in reporting compared with the previous year. There were dramatic reductions in all reported forms of VAW with the exception of rape and gang rape that increased by 11.1 percent. Table 35 below provides a summary of cases reported between 2008 and 2013.

Table 34: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in ICT during 2008-2013

Categories of Crime	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013	Grand Total	Percentage increase/decrease in VAW cases between 2012-2013
Abduction/ Kidnapping	79	52	21	27	127	71	377	-44.09
Murder	20	39	27	34	50	23	193	-54
Domestic Violence	18	18	11	21	38	9	115	-76.32
Suicide	7	6	7	9	9	3	41	-66.67
Honour Killing	2	2	-	1	2	-	7	-100
Rape/Gang Rape	10	9	19	8	18	20	84	11.11
Sexual Assault	8	2	1	5	-	-	16	-
Acid Throwing	2	1	3	2	2	2	12	0
Burning	1	2	1	-	6	2	12	-66.67
Miscellaneous	62	41	37	41	29	17	227	-41.34
Total	209	172	127	148	281	147	1,084	-47.69

Figure 41 below reveals that most forms of VAW reported from ICT over the years have taken a downturn, in some cases rather dramatically such as abductions/ kidnappings, domestic violence and murder.

Figure 41: Linear trends in VAW reporting in ICT between 2008 and 2013



Domestic violence was the most frequently reported form of VAW [48% of all cases from ICT], followed by murder [16%] and rape/ gang rape [14%]. Not a single case of honour killing was reported from any part of ICT.

Table 35: Number cases of VAW in ICT during 2013

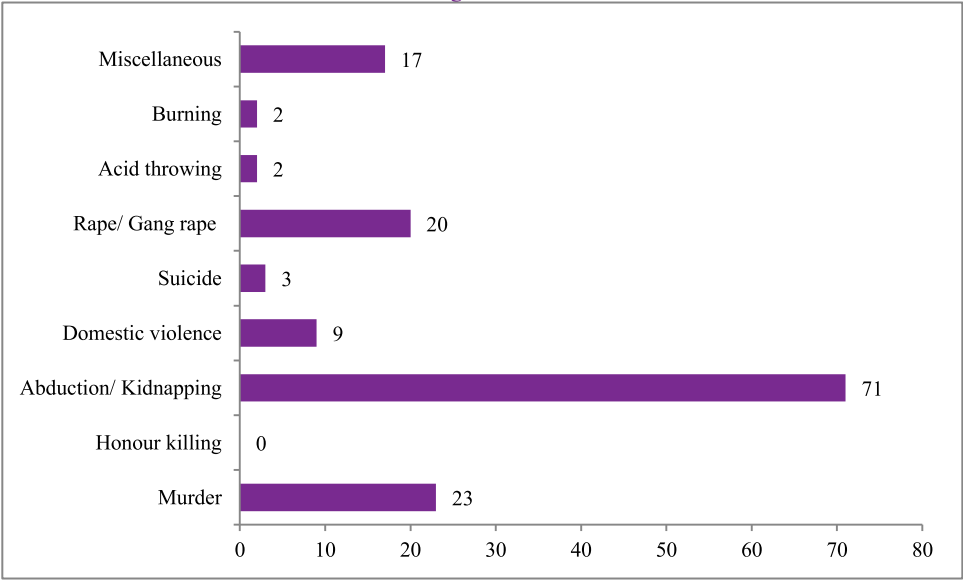


Figure 42: Percentages of cases of VAW in ICT during 2013

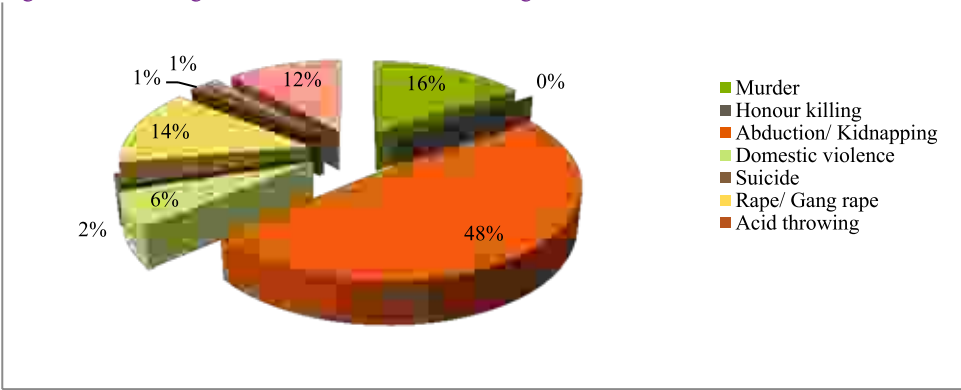
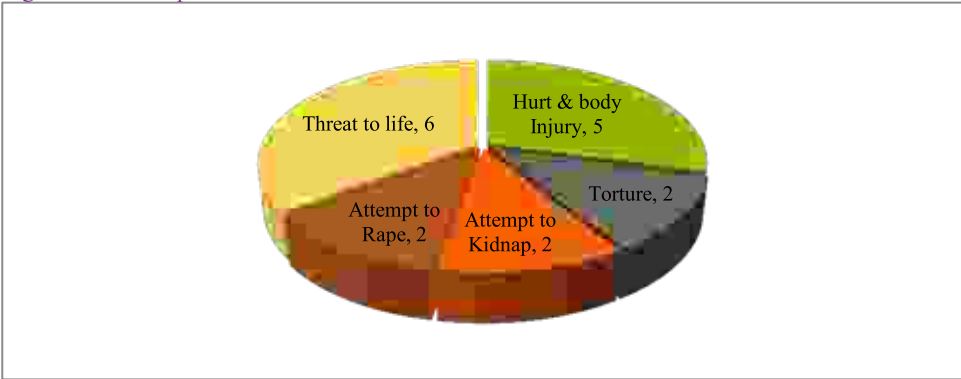
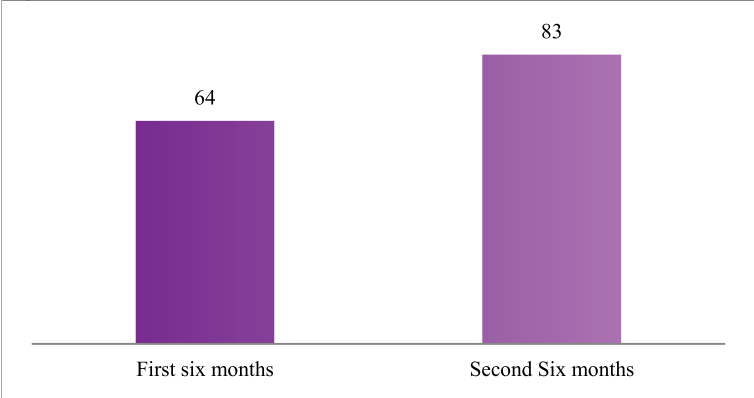


Figure 43: Breakup of Miscellaneous offences in ICT in 2013



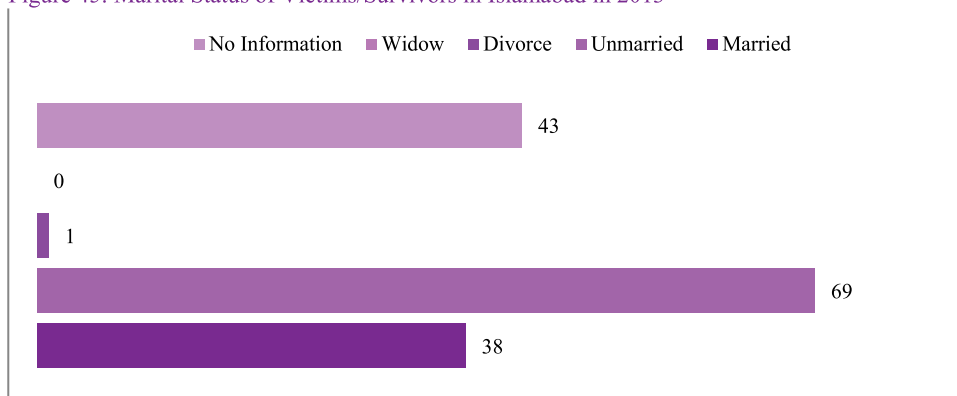
Reporting of VAW went up in ICT in the second-half of 2013, with a 130 percent increase. This is consistent with findings from other provinces.

Figure 44: Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in ICT



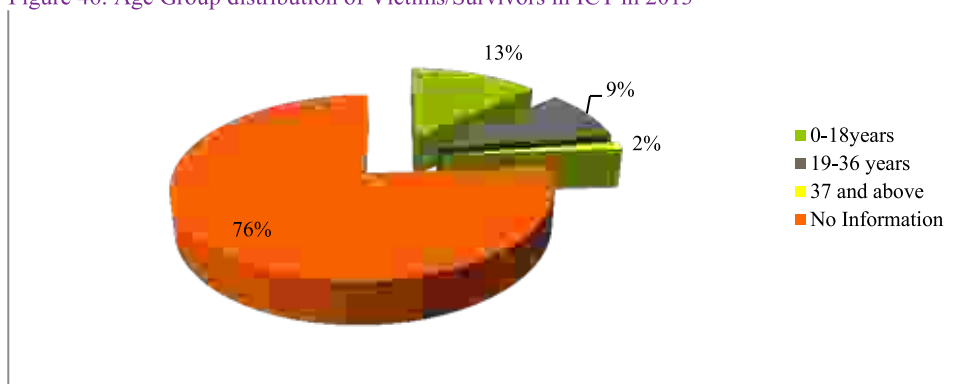
Also consistent with other provinces is the marital status of women most frequent targeted. Except for Sindh, where majority victims were married, ICT data also shows that unmarried women reported more violence than others, with no information available for 43 [29.3%] cases.

Figure 45: Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in Islamabad in 2013



Like Balochistan, where over 90 percent cases reported had no mention of the victim’s age, ICT data sources do not provide ages for 76 percent of the cases, making age-vulnerability estimated impossible. From what is known, it is rather alarming that 13 percent in the cases are of crimes committed against women between ages 0 and 18, most of whom were likely unmarried.

Figure 46: Age Group distribution of Victims/Survivors in ICT in 2013



4.6. Overview of VAW Incidents in FATA

Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) consists of approximately 3,000 rural villages with a population of three million people located on the country's northwestern border with Afghanistan. It is the most underdeveloped region in Pakistan with 60 percent of its population living below the national poverty line. It is mountainous and shares a 373-mile long border with Afghanistan known as the Durand Line.

FATA is one of Pakistan's poorest regions, with high poverty, high unemployment, and an underdeveloped infrastructure. Most of the population depends on subsistence agriculture.

The per capita income is USD 250 per year, which is half of the national per capita income; about 60 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line. Per capita public development expenditure is reportedly one-third of the national average. The overall literacy rate is 17 percent, compared with 56 percent nationally, with male literacy at 29 percent and female literacy at 3 percent, the lowest in the country.

The mountainous terrain is broken by small basins or valleys, dotted with settlements and agricultural fields. The area can be divided into the northern, central and southern regions which happen to coincide with administrative boundaries. The northern zone consists of the Bajaur and Mohmand agencies.

The region is characterized by a very strong tribal structure and very rich ethnic diversity and cultural heritage. There are about a dozen major tribes with several smaller tribes and sub-tribes. Utmankhel, Mohmand, Tarkani and Safi are the major tribes living in Bajaur and Mohmand. Afridi, Shilmani, Shinwari, Mulagori Orakzai are settled in Khyber and Orakzai while the FRs of Peshawar and Kohat are occupied by Afridi. A good mix of Turi, Bangash, and Masozai inhabit Kurram Agency. Major tribes of North and South Waziristan are Darwesh Khel.

FATA is an important part of Pakistan even if it appears to be at a far distance to a larger population of the country. Here, a total 12 cases were reported in 2013, with murder being the most frequently reported offence committed against women. With no information available regarding VAW from the region prior to 2013, it is impossible to make comparisons based on reporting trends over the years. With the information available, one can see that besides murder, domestic violence and suicide, no other forms of VAW have been reported [see table 36 below], and there too, their numbers are substantially low compared to other provinces.

Table 36: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in FATA during 2013

Category of crime	Total Number of Cases	% of the Total
Murder	9	75
Honour killing	-	-
Abduction/ Kidnapping	-	-
Domestic violence	1	8
Suicide	2	17
Rape/ Gang rape	-	-
Sexual assault	-	-
Acid throwing	-	-
Burning	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-
Break-Up of Miscellaneous	-	-
Hurt & body Injury	-	-
Torture	-	-
Attempt to Kidnap	-	-
Attempt to Rape	-	-
Threat to life	-	-
Total	12	100

Reporting seems to increase by two cases in the second-half of the year, nominal given the small number of cases, but significant in terms of percentage increase [140%].

Table 37: Bi-annual data on VAW cases from FATA in 2013

Bi-Annual	Total
First six months	5
Second Six months	7
Total	12

In terms of district, Khurram, Khyber and Mohmand Agencies, and South Wazistan had the majority share of incidence of VAW.

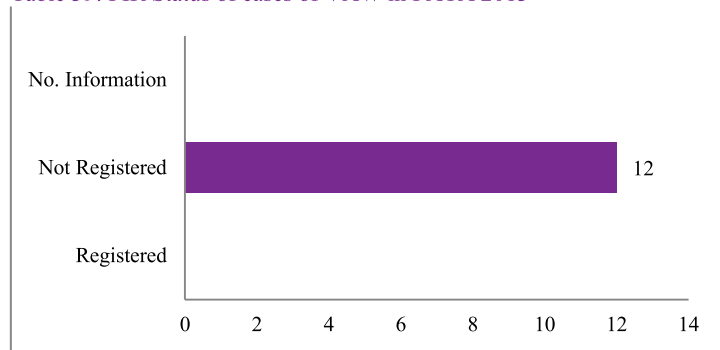
Table 38: District-Wise Data on VAW in FATA in 2013

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	Bajur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Kurram Agency	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	4
3	Khyber Agency	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
4	Mohmand Agency	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	3
5	North Waziristan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	South Waziristan	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
7	Orakzai	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	1	-	-	9	-	2	-	-	12

Of all the cases reported in the region in 2013, none of the cases were registered with the police. This is understandable given that justice systems in FATA are not based on regular police stations and courts as

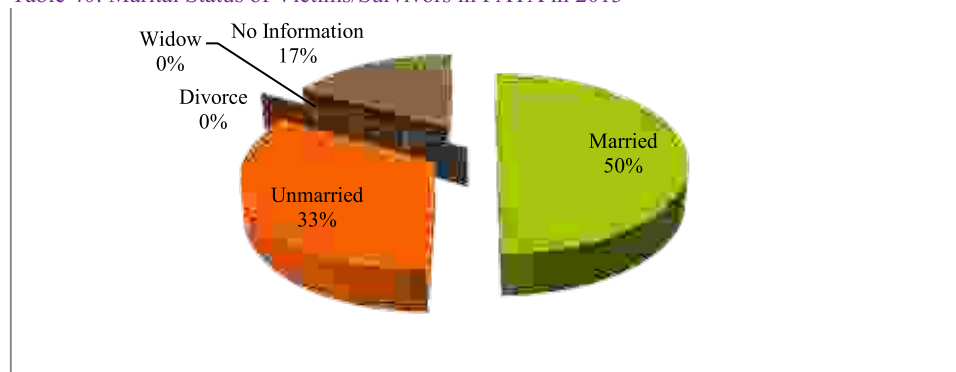
found in other parts of the country, and is instead governed by political agents or bureaucrats that serve and judge, jury and executioners on local problems such as crime.

Table 39: FIR Status of cases of VAW in FATA 2013



Like Sindh, married women were more frequently targeted in FATA, with no information available on 2 cases reported in the year. Fifty percent [6] women in FATA were married at the time of offence.

Table 40: Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in FATA in 2013



In terms of age, information was available in only 4 cases out of 8 where women were either between ages 0 and 18 or 37 and/or above.

Table 41: Age Group distribution of Victims/Survivors in FATA in 2013

Age-Group	Total
0-18years	3
19-36 years	-
37 and above	1
No Information	8
Total	12

Section 5: Concluding Remarks

Five years ago Aurat Foundation started tracking reported cases of VAW across Pakistan. While a substantial time series of data points has been generated, discerning any linear trend in incidences has been problematic. While the year 2013 reveals some noteworthy departures from trends in VAW reporting over the years and there has been a reduction in reported crimes compared with year 2009 and 2011, figures from 2013 suggest a strong comeback for most offences compared with those reported in the preceding years. In a sense, these figures depict a regression to the mean which makes forecasting difficult, but indicate that VAW is likely to continue along the same pattern of dips and boons over the years to come.

In districts where figures of 2013 represent a return to pre-2012 scenario, one can safely assume that measures to curb VAW have not yielded results. Further, this regression to the mean is invariably contextual. It is easy to offer up a descriptive analysis, but inference of underlying factors is not that straightforward.

A statistical review does not convey the whole story. Readers also tend to recall ideas more easily than they do data. A statistical story can thus:

- ☒ provide general awareness/perspective/context; and
- ☒ inform debate on specific issues.

The data in its current form does not allow for comparisons to be made, as, for example, it is not possible to rank districts with highest or lowest crime rates of violence as populations are not used as the denominators.

Some major conclusions that can be drawn from the available data are:

- ☒ With varying frequencies, VAW is found in almost all districts of Pakistan;
- ☒ No age group is safe from violence;
- ☒ Whether married, single or divorced, women can experience violence, irrespective of their marital status and marriage does not provide safety against violence;
- ☒ FIRs are commonly not registered for all VAW cases in Pakistan;
- ☒ Comparison of districts in terms of levels of violence is not possible as demographic vary which are not reflected in numbers.

In order to make more accurate estimates regarding VAW in Pakistan, the following additional themes or indicators may be considered:

- ☒ Perpetrator profiles and their relationship with the victim;
- ☒ Number of perpetrators against each case of abuse;
- ☒ Number of cases taken to court or settled through informal justice systems;
- ☒ Number of cases where charge sheets were presented in court;
- ☒ Number of cases that resulted in out-of-court settlements or compromises;
- ☒ Conviction ratios against charges brought;
- ☒ Duration of abuse and violence;
- ☒ Severity of violence within the taxonomy for VAW;
- ☒ Socio-economic status of victims and perpetrator[s];
- ☒ Education level of victim and perpetrator[s]; and

- ☒ Disaggregation by native and migrant communities minorities, e.g., minorities and internally displaced persons

In cases of suicide amongst women, which has gone up by 16.2 percent this past year, it is imperative to open up debate on the health consequences of VAW, and reasons that led women to ending their lives. Mentioning triggers in individual cases would help us develop a better understanding of this phenomenon and whether it relates to women's oppression or the general human conditions prevailing in society.

Similarly, it is rather meaningless to discuss how many women were abducted or kidnapped across the country [particularly since kidnapping was the most frequently reported offence across Pakistan in 2013], unless one knows the intent behind the act. Though kidnapping is a proxy indicator for women's commodification, it is usually committed for a purpose and cannot be treated as an isolated offence. It would be worthy of time and effort if information concerning the reasons behind kidnapping could also be made public for a better understanding of this alarming upward trend.

Further, as domestic violence takes many forms including physical, psychological, mental, economic and sexual abuse, it would be relevant to highlight gradation against severity of violence alongside the different forms reported. Grouping all forms within a broad category has the potential to minimize the problem, particularly since information regarding the duration and extent of violence has not been provided.

One realizes that information against these indicators and others is difficult to acquire unless sources of data are expanded. Information could be acquired from police stations, government hospitals with medico-legal services, Basic Health Units, Rural Health Units, District Head Quarter Hospitals, Ministry for Interior, Ministry of Human Rights, Helplines, and Attorney General's Office amongst others. However, even with extensive sources, tabulation problems may occur and the risk of double-counting increases in the absence of a central monitoring authority. Further, one can expect that even with more sources at hand, it will remain difficult to establish prevalence as most cases will continue not being reported to these authorities due to socio-cultural reasons.

In terms of what information is available and how it can be improved, questions need to be raised as to why media reports tend to neglect mentioning the ages and marital status of victims of VAW. As follow-up reports in VAW cases are not common [barring gross violence] due to competing news on a daily basis, it is often difficult, if not impossible to ascertain subsequent action once a case has been registered with law enforcement agencies. This reveals a strange dichotomy for researchers that rely on media reports particularly since journalists may conceal certain details to protect the survivor.

Additionally, it would be extremely useful to include information on why cases were not registered for legal action, which can range from police classifying cases as non-cognizable, exaggerated claims or falsifications or out of sheer inaction.

Lastly, it is also crucial to undertake a more systematic study of factors that belie a decline in reporting, even if it is superficial. In the case of Balochistan, one finds that VAW reporting has continued to decline over the past 5 years. Meaningful strategies can thereby be made based on a keener understanding of what causes gender-based violence to abate despite implosive social conditions.



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