






## Causes and Consequences of Honor Killing in Punjab, Pakistan

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### Abstract

*Honor killing is a murder of a family member that aims to restore the honor of family. It is thought by family members that victim is source of dishonor for family and to remove the stain of dishonor family murder that family member. The purpose of the study is to investigate the causes of murder according to victim's family. This study is conducted in Punjab. Study is qualitative in nature. A sample of 7 participants through purposive sampling selected from different areas of Punjab. In-depth interviews were conducted by researcher to investigate the causes of honor killing and also law enforcement policies and their implications regarding honor killing. The collected data was analyzing through thematic analysis. The results indicate that people has too much influenced by society, that after committing murder they are still their mind set that they restore their family honor by doing that act. They are satisfied and argued that they made an example and a lesson for other girls who are engaged with somebody and want to marry him. It is quite normal that individual has no right of marriage according to their choice. They should be agreed on the decision made by their family. If they like anyone it was a sin and dishonor for their family. There are also some weaknesses in law that provides a room to criminals. The victim and offender belong to same family so witness mostly favors the rest family member due to belongingness and also, they justify that murder was to restore family honor. The punishment given to a killer is extremely low regarding crime. There should be made amendments in law regarding honor killing. There should be involvement of community members to investigate the real facts. Only state has the authority to punish anyone on misconduct.*

**Keywords:** Honor killing, Dishonor, law enforcement, family bonding

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## INTRODUCTION

Honor killing is basically murder of family member or group of people who are also called social group because they have a perception about the fact for victim has commit dishonor of his family. Honor killing is not just killing of any person it is basically killing of virtual, expressly a girl who has assumed to bring disgrace upon the personal. The reason behind the demise of an object is assumed as technique to bring back the respect and repute of family and also honor which was lost due to this act. The honor killing is mostly defined as it is a reaction to the conviction that a female or a girl has disrespected her family honors due to the perception of sexual rudeness (Abdo, N. 2004). Most of the families give right to men to watch and take care of the family honor and some of the marks of honor killing is that rules of honor and reputation of family is intentional by the domestic meetings relatively then other discrete personal. This issue is also observed in the rural areas of the Pakistan in the recent history such kind of the incidence reported in the media. Media outlets sometime give them coverage as the main item for their breaking stories and follow up the issues as well. This kind of media reports also play critical role in the awareness of the general public hence, it also highlights the darker side of the social taboos. By the means of reporting such issues media also sometime face criticism from the some of the media critics (Abu-Odeh, 2000).

Honor killing is basically exist where y male members kill the female in the name of honor even she is sister, wife it was assumed that her death restores the lost family honor. Honor killing is mostly done on the by a man which can be prompted by a females who conversation with an unconnected masculine or she is consenting in carnal relation with that man outside of marriage. After opening the secret relationship of boy and girl no further justification is required for family. Some of the female were killed by father, brother, or uncle or somehow other women who is mother, sister, anti and they are usually also involved in this action. The executor of such crimes as honor killing is mostly acclaim for having these acts for restore the honor of family and they just want to show that they are trying to reduce the insulting elements which were faced by the family due to these bad acts and they usually receive less sentence on the base of honor which is regarded as mitigating circumstances (Abu-Lughod, 2011).

Honor killing is grounded on the confidence that females are basically not humanoid they are actually objects or commodities who are permitted to kill them fir dignity and honor of men and there are no equal rights of female as male have. In some places females are well-thought-out the possessions of masculine as they are relative male or blood relation and they are seen to symbolize the honor of men because they are belong to the men. The body of women is considered the storage area of honor of family in the house of every family. Every male has status in society and due to male status there is status of family also exist it means that if male status is good then family status is also good and these both have particular importance in every community where honor killing exist and also at these places women are viewed to responsible for upholding the honor of family. If women are girls is actually involved in those activities which could contaminate male or status

of (Abu-Rabia, 2011).

In Pakistani society the practice of honor killing is not restricted but its presence is spreading across the world. Pakistan is a patriarchal society where males are dominant n females and this thing retains long history across the Europe and Asia in which family honor and community both are interlinked with each other with the sexuality of women (Chesler, 2015).

## **OBJECTIVES OF STUDY**

- To study the socio-economic status of respondent in context of honor killing
- To investigate the causes of murder according to victim's family.
- To explore the trends and patterns in the kind of honor killing in Pakistan

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Literature on honor killing has figured out from NGO's and these NGO's reports the cases of honor killing but there is lack of research-based studies on honor killing. However there are some researcher who attempted to review the available appraisals on honor killing with the major concern of honor, power and justice in Pakistani society. These reviews are necessary because Pakistani women face all types of violence especially domestic violence and abuse from their male partners, family members and relatives. Even till now most of the females are beaten, touchier, and murdered in the name of honor killing (Noor, 2004). Almost 1000 women are killed in the name of honor every year (Carcary, 2009). Honor killing is a problem in Pakistan that is still not handled by legislation (Hongdao et.al. 2018)

Cinthio, (2006) stated that honor killing is a performance of violent act which provide females the reason of live under the streamer of honor. Most of the studies examine that the incorporation of honor with a lot of different concepts and also religion which led to the different practices which are linked with honor. The concept of honor does not exist in one society this is varying in different societies. In all those countries like in Middle East the murder of honor is the important thing which exists in society. Firstly focus on what is the meaning of honor and the answer is that honor is basically linked with the social position of an individual or a whole family. Honor is considered as a value of person with good reputation in the eyes of society because it is also proud of an individual of family. So that's why there is a deep attachment between an individual and a family with its honor.

Claving, (2007) enunciated that honor killing constitutes diverse forms and known with different names across the regional boundaries. "In Sindh Province, It is called as 'Karo-Kari, in Baluchistan as Siyah Kari, In Southern Punjab as Kala Kali and in NWFP as Tor Tora'. In every language, meaning is the same that the men and women fated by their family and local community as guilty of illicit relations or sexual misconduct".

Pakistan is most populous country who has 170 million populations and each day three women are killed in the name of honor for the sake of restore the honor and

reputation of so-called families. Honor is multidimensional term which has to be used for the respect and prestige of the family in society of Pakistan. When a female lose honor in society then it will bring disgrace and shame for her. Female chastity plays important role in many shameful acts because nothing is important than female honor. "In honor bound societies, female chastity represents the family's symbolic capital". To defend and restore it, the offender female must be killed, in this society. This honor killing "redeems family honor and resurrects its prestige" (Clements, 2005).

All crimes in society have negative impacts on all human beings but honor killing has severe negative impact on the life of women and also their children. The only people who get significantly benefit from all these acts are those relatives who are performing at the back stage of the whole incidents. In our society where men have multiple relationships with other women and these relationships are considered the sign of prosperity and prestige but if women have a relation with other man then it will never acceptable because in most of the places women and children are not behaved in good manner because they both are used for sexual pleasure and free labor (Siddiqi, 2012). Family structure is important for the well being of family members included women who done their jobs from desk to night and it is mechanism of family for understanding the risks spirit of children. Therefore single parent families always struggle hard due to financial security and relational resources as compared to married parent families (Terman, 2010).

For instance, family basic headship is misbehaved on either by means of spouse or wife or shared mutually. Further, basic leadership process inside the family may bring haggling among its individuals. The bartering is a human product. But some of them are common. For example, married couples could deal on family unit matters to pass the last say. Sadly, more often than not men have basic leadership control over ladies in the family. Nobody overwhelms the other. Most family unit basic leadership overwhelm after an exchange held among a couple. Spouse has no extraordinary power with respect to choices. He doesn't underestimate his better half on particular family unit issues. Or maybe both a couple shared mutually family basic leadership control (Dickson-Swift, 2008).

If talk about the estimated number of cases of honor killing then statistics show that in Pakistan honor killing is increasing day by day. The human resource management and human rights commission of Pakistan which was reported in 2008 women are most extreme overseer in Pakistan, however choice about hospitalization, medication is choose just by spouses. Jobless ladies are additionally limited since she likewise doesn't have any cradle so she ought to and should be needy to her significant other (Elhadj, 2010).

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

A research design is a strategy that a researcher used to integrate different components in his study in a logical way. Qualitative method is used in this study. Because honor killing is a sensitive issue and is not measured quantitatively so researcher adopted qualitative method because in qualitative study the researcher briefly studies the

causes and factors of honor killing. Population of present study was central Punjab. Researcher also belongs to Sargodha district and has a well reputation. So, it was easy to collect required information from respondents from central Punjab. To collect the required information in-depth interviews were conducted. 7 in-depth interviews were conducted by victim's family. Respondents were selected through purposive sampling. Sampling is selection of a subset of individuals used to estimate characteristics of whole population. To conduct a research, researcher adopt some techniques to collect data from the selected participants to generalize the results on whole population. Purposive sample is a non-probability sample that is selected based on characteristics of a population and the objective of the study. Purposive sampling is also known as judgmental. Interview Guide was use for data collection in present study. In-depth interviewing is repeated face to face encounters between the researcher and informants directed towards understanding informant's perspectives on their lives, experiences or situation as it expressed in their own words. 19 open ended questions were design for this purpose. Researcher used interview guide only for guidance, mostly questions were asking by the researchers according to the responses given by respondents. To find out the results researcher analyze the collected data through thematic analysis. Researcher draw concepts from the interview and from those concepts generate categories and from that categories generate themes. And these themes were analyzed through literature. All the data collected from the respondents was analyzed with great care to determine the reliability of collected information. The information collected was compared with the official data of the prison and Punjab police.

## INTERVIEWS

HK1 age 20 year killed his friend and sister on the name of honor. His sister was 24 years old and she was a teacher in a private school after completion of graduation. His father and older brother were out of country for sake of job. Respondent lived in a rural area. Respondent was jobless after completing his FSC. His friend (whom he killed in respect of honor) was serving in Air Force. Respondent told that they had deep friendship. We share our all things, we spent every moment with each other even in vocations he came to my home or I want to his home. When researcher asked him the reason behind that murder he said that I didn't how I did all this. It was a misunderstanding on a base of doubt. I was with my friend at his home and I had a doubt that he was talking to my sister on call. I didn't investigate from both of them. I went to home take pistole and came back to my friend home. I said to my friend to went outside for a walk. We went outside, I didn't tell him anything about my plan. I was quite normal, and at a place where nobody else I killed him and went back my home and also killed my sister. I was doubted that they had an affair but it was just a misunderstanding. There was nothing but only a misunderstanding. When researcher asked him about his present state of mind he said I regret on my act. I did not know why I did all this. But it was a huge mistake and lose of my life. I want to be punished.

HK2, age 43, a framer killed her daughter age 18 years, respondent was matric while victim was student of intermediate, respondent was serving in a factory, and the reason he told that his wife wants to marry his daughter in her family but

wants to marry his daughter in his family. But his daughter said to marry in her mother's family. My family members said that my daughter had an affair with that boy belongs to her mother family. I faced so much guilt before my family. I became hyper and asked my daughter the whole matter, and request her to marry in my family but she refused and said I can't marry in both families and I have to leave this home. I lose my temper and killed him by pushing her neck. When researcher asked her about her present mind state and had the feeling any guilt now. He said that it was our (parent's mistake) but we punish our daughter. But it was difficult for me to survive in that society if she married in her mother's family. I know my act was not right but I have not another path expect that.

HK3, age 22 years, killed his two sisters, older sister age was 23 and younger sister age was 17 years old. Both the girls had matriculation and respondent education was also matric. His father was government servant and respondent do nothing. When researcher asked him the reason behind the murder he told that his older sister had an affair with a boy and he call her and also had a chat on messages. When I came to know I strangle both of them and killed them. The researcher asked why you killed both of them he told that the older was an affair and the younger mistake was that she keeps it secret. Researcher asked how you came to know the fact. He told that one day I saw her calling, I became doubtful because of her style, I snatched her mobile and check the history. I read all the messages and check call records. Now there was not a reason to leave her. And the younger know the whole story but didn't tell anyone so I killed her also. When researcher asked him about any guilty on his act he said no. I was a good affiliation with my sisters but they did not think about our family honor so what I did is justified. He also told that her parents support him and they are with him.

HK4 age 40 year was a farmer, he was not educated killed her nice 18-year-old, university student on the name of honor, when researcher asked respondent about the reason he told that his nice was an affair to her class fellow. I with my friends saw her with that boy. My friends said me buster whose nice had affair with boys they blame me and my family; I became hyper and shouted at them. The boy run away and my nice start weeping and say sorry to me but I was so much depressed by the words my friends used for me and my family. I went home took my pistol and shoot her. When researcher asked him about his present state of mind, he said that I know I didn't do right act but people in society blame our whole generation that we are shameless people and our females are characterless. Now I am satisfied because my family honor is safe. Researcher asked him the reaction of his other family members on his act. He said that his brother (victim's father) said that my daughter was innocent and my brothers (respondent) blame her. But the reality was quite different. My friends who are with me at the time of occurrence they told people the reality. Mostly people of society appreciate my act, mostly people said that it was a lesson for other girls, I did well.

HK5, age 37 years killed her daughter age 25-year, victim education was primary and respondent was illiterate. Respondent was a farmer. The reason behind the murder, he told that his daughter had a relationship with a boy in our neighbors. That boy belongs to a low caste family. His father and fore fathers serve us from



years. My daughter likes him and she knows we never allow her to marry with that boy so she decides to have a court marriage and they run away from home. We pressured the boy's family and take two of his sisters from their home to our home and said first return our daughter then we returns your daughters. After my daughter return back I married her from my sister's son. After two months she again runs away with that boy. We search them everywhere, after 3 weeks we found them, all the members in our society blame us and laughs at us that we are shameless people and our females are characterless. I with my sons beat her so badly that she admitted in hospital. From hospital he once again calls that boy to report police and save her. I lose my temper and shoot her and throw her dead body in river. When the researcher asked her about her present situation of mind he said "obviously she was my daughter and I was affiliation with her, but she hurts me more than my love".

HK6, age 37 year killed his wife, age 27 year. Victim's education was matriculation. Respondent's education was middle. Respondent was a motorcycle machinic, and had his own workshop. The reason behind the murder was that his wife had a relationship with her cousin. He knows about that relationship after few months of their marriage. He asked his wife that removes all the memories of past and restart a new life with me. She agrees to me but she did not avoid that person. I know that she is in contact with that person but I avoid thinking may be with the passage of time she left her. But she betrays me. And at last I became frustrated I told her family, they feel guilty at her act and request me to tolerate. At the day when I murdered her we had a quarrel and she said demands divorce, I abuse her and said that you want diverse to marry that person, she said you are right please let me free and blame me that I am hurdle between them. I was so much depressed that I strangle her and hanged her body with fan. My in-laws file FIR against me and I admit my crime. When researcher asked him about his present state of mind he said a man work from morning to late afternoon to make money and provide a good life for their families and all they need is a relaxing, peaceful home though it was never like that in my home.

HK 7 age 21, killed his sister, age 23 in the name of honor. Respondent's education was intermediate while Vitim's education was graduation. Respondent was working at steel mill. The reason behind the murder was her sister's a relationship with a man who was Christian but he has been accepted Islam and become a Muslim. When the researcher asked from respondent who inform you about this entire story? Then he said I came to know about this entire story from a coworker at steel mill where he worked. His co-workers laughed at him due to her sister affair with another man. One of his co-workers forced him to kill her sister because she had an illegal relationship with a Christian. After that entire respondent went to a shop and bought a pistol. Researcher asked him about the factors that involved in this murder? He said I could not bear when my sister called him daily and I always said him please don't do this it's not suitable for you but she always denies from my advice. He said "I told her that I would have no face to show at the mill where I do my job and I have no face to show to my neighbor. Don't do it. But she would not listen. Then the researcher asked in what circumstance you commit a murder? I killed her because she got married with that man and I could not let it go and I decide I had to kill her. He said there was no other choice.

## DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

Table1: shows the demographics characteristics of respondents

Sr No.	Respondent code	Age	Education	Residence	Occupation	Relationship with victim
1	HK1	26	Intermediate	Rural	Air force	Sister
2	HK2	46	Matric	Rural	Worker factory	Daughter
3	HK3	29	Matric	Rural	Jobless	Sister
4	HK4	45	Illiterate	Rural	Farmer	Niece
5	HK5	47	Middle	Rural	Motorcycle mechanic	Wife
6	HK6	29	Intermediate	Rural	jobless	Sister
7	HK7	23	Intermediate	Rural	Worker in steel mil	Sister

Table shows the demographic characteristics of respondents. Table shows participants in present study belongs to age group between 26- 47. Educational background of participants was also illiterate to intermediate. Residence of all respondent was in rural areas. In respect of occupation respondents belongs to blue color jobs. Participants killed their wife's, sisters daughters or other female family member on the name of honor. Family honor is also an aspect if male member does anything wrong it's not stigmatized but if a female member does the same act she along with her family stigmatized. The findings also reveal that friends, neighborhood and co-workers blame the whole family and labeled them if they ignore any kind of misconduct. The finding also showed that phone call and messages had also a factor that leads towards honor killing.

## THEMATIC ANALYSIS

*Table shows the major themes from data*

Concepts	Categories	Themes
Misunderstanding	Male Influence	Patriarchy
Family honor		



Neighborhood gossip	Environmental Aspects	Social Aspects
Friends gossip		
Co-workers discussion		
Phone calls	Media Influence	Media Influence
Messaging		
Run away from home		

Table shows that participants killed their female family members on the name of honor and to restore their family honor. Findings show that participant murdered only on the bases of misunderstanding. Family honor is also an aspect if male member does anything wrong it's not stigmatized but if a female member does the same act she along with her family stigmatized. The findings also reveal that friends, neighborhood and co-workers blame the whole family and labeled them if they ignore any kind of misconduct. The finding also showed that phone call and messages had also a factor that leads towards honor killing. Media also plays important role in honor killing because now everyone has cell phone even if a girl or boy and using watsapp and different apps in their phones they make friendship with boys and girls and chat with them which create a doubt between them and their family members. Crimes in the name of honor consists on the forms of violence which is bound for individuals and these crimes entails that the victim of honor killing has bring out the crimes in front of them which defame their own respect and also respect of their family. Every action has basic reason which focus on removing the tarnish of honor with disrespect through the use of emotional and physical compulsion over a man whose performance and acts always bring dishonor Physical force may even involve the killing of the transgressor of the code of honor. The results of the study conclude that honor killing is an uncured crime. A brother, father or husband murder his wife, daughter or sister. Litigator is also a family member who after a period of time forgive their family member that is not fair. The results indicate that society has too much influenced by people, that after committing crime the criminals are still their mind set that they restore their family honor by doing that act.

## LIMITATIONS

- The research on such type of cases like honor killing which are mostly considered as sensitive issue is difficult to do. Because the data was collected from the police department, administrative departments or from the families who are involved in these cases.
- The major limitation of the study was small sample size and then concludes the result from this. The research was qualitative in nature and it was difficult for researcher to collect data from some people and then generalize it.
- Honor killing is a sensitive and personal issue. Participants hesitate and feel ashamed to give data on this topic. In some cases, after killed their family member they lose their temper and faced psychological problems.

## CONCLUSION

The concept of honor killing includes all kinds of violence which are directed towards the murder of individuals in the name of honor. Honor crimes implies that a victim has committed the crimes by himself to get back the own honor of him and of his family. The result of the study shows that there are many reasons behind the action of honor killing. The main reason is that male dominant societies consider female as a property of man and he can do anything with her. A brother, father or husband killed his wife, daughter or sister. The results indicate that people are too much influenced by society, that after committing crime the criminals are still their mind set that they restore their family honor by doing that act. They are satisfied and argued that they made an example and a lesson for other girls. It is quite normal that females had no right of marriage according to their choice. They had to be agreed on the decision made by their family. If they like anyone it was a sin and dishonor for their family. The male members in society had a freedom to marry according to their choice and also did not considered their affairs any kind of misconduct. Honor killings or such type of crimes are mostly committed by the less developed and shame-based societies. In such type of society individuals consider it important that people will feel good about them. Due to male dominant societies males are head of the family honor therefore if woman behaved in an immoral way or disobey him then man of the family give punish that woman to prove his masculinity. Therefore honor killing is in most of the cases considered as from the pressure of the society.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Present study was conducted in central Punjab; such kinds of studies should be conducted in different areas.
- Honor killing is considered as a murder under 302 sections, but in this case litigator and offender belongs to same family even the victim also. So, the litigator forgives the offender after some period of crime. So, it is suggested that honor killing should be considered under different section and will punish the offender under strict law.
- Kuru Kari is a serious crime; it should be punished but, in our society, only females are victimized, male should also be punished under law if he conducts such kind of act.

- In case of any misconduct law enforcement institute had a right for punish that offender not an individual has any right to punish anyone for their acts.

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