

Contemporary Trends of Domestic Violence against Women in Bangladesh: Unveiling Growth Patterns and Age-sensitivity

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Abstract

Women continue to be under-represented in many areas of society while also facing high inequality, discrimination, and violence. Oppression in the household domain continues to this day, affecting individuals and society as a whole. However, domestic violence's context, nature and discourse against women have evolved over time. Thus, this paper aims to investigate recent trends in domestic violence against women in contemporary Bangladesh. The study is exploratory and relies primarily on secondary data sources. The findings indicate that the occurrences of domestic violence are increasing, but the rate of growth is slowing. Nonetheless, the two forms 'tortured by in-laws' and 'murdered by own family' are increasing at an alarming rate. In today's Bangladesh, younger and young adult women are the most vulnerable to domestic violence. This paper demonstrates that socio-cultural norms, property ownership, education and employment play significant role in domestic violence in the country. Furthermore, not all types of domestic violence affect women of all ages equally. Women between the ages of 19 and 30 are the most vulnerable in this regard. As a result, this paper suggests more integrated actions for combating violence against women, with age sensitivity taken into account.

Keywords: Domestic violence, Age-sensitivity, Gender, Development, Bangladesh.

1. Introduction

The earth's 7.8 billion inhabitants are primarily male and female. Despite their disparate locations, they all share an identical goal today: economic growth and sustainable development. It is worth noting that inclusive and comprehensive growths need collaborative efforts from both men and women, and gender parity is a necessary precondition. However, women are vulnerable to inequality and injustice in this patriarchal and fraudulent culture. According to Momsen (2009), a society risks an increasing degree of interpersonal violence if endowed with high levels of inequality and undergoes fast social change.

Violence is nowadays perceived as one of the most severe issues, and protection against violence is regarded as a fundamental right. Overarchingly, violence of any type,

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whether self-inflicted, interpersonal, communal or otherwise, is one of the leading causes of mortality among people of 15 to 44 years old (Krug et al., 2002). Women are reported to be victims of various sorts of violence more than men. 'Gender-based Violence' (GBV) against women, particularly 'Domestic Violence Against Women' (DVAW), is becoming a matter of national and international concern. Violence is viewed as a threat to women's safety and well-being and as an impediment to long-term growth and development.

When domestic violence is aimed at a female member, the DVAW occurs (Khan, 2015; Krug et al. 2002; Momsen, 2009). Although this is considered an intimate relationship activity, it is not always the case. Women may face domestic abuse from other family members, in-laws, and so forth. Women's subjugation persists due to a lack of economic opportunity, education, and decision-making power. This enhances women's susceptibility to men. Thus, it is anticipated that increasing women's economic prospects through access to finance, skills development and awareness training will help to improve women's position in homes, thereby lowering domestic violence. However, according to Naved (2013) economic improvement may not necessarily contribute to a reduction in violence.

Bangladesh is a patriarchal society, and DVAW is widespread. Women of all socioeconomic backgrounds are vulnerable to mistreatment and abuse by their spouses, in-laws, and other family members. Despite its increasing frequency, domestic violence is regarded as a private concern that should be handled within the family (Parvin et al., 2016). Moreover, domestic violence is still not recognized as violating a woman's human rights. According to Islam and Hasam (2016), patriarchal socio-cultural institutions and practices are the fundamental causes of this attitude regarding domestic violence. As a result, the situation of women in Bangladesh is precarious to a larger extent. It is perpetrated by family members and the abuser can repeat the act of violence due to the close familial structure (Jahan & Islam, 1997). Domestic violence happens not just in impoverished or illiterate families but also in wealthy and literate families. In some communities, female newborns and children are regularly disregarded. Dowry is the principal source of harassment of young brides in hundreds of recorded cases, and it frequently culminates in death (Sahay, 1998). Domestic violence is thus a worldwide phenomenon that cuts across class, caste and religion (Islam & Hasam, 2016).

DVAW exists in all socioeconomic levels, including the upper, middle and lower classes. Upper-class women usually avoid reporting their vulnerable situations owing to their social standing and instead try to settle the issue quietly. Women in the middle class do not file a complaint and are cautious about mentioning it to others because they are concerned about their self-esteem. The middle class also believes in vanity and societal norms since it is their source of pride. Women from the lower classes, on the other hand, never strive to expose it, never divulge it to others, and accept it as a normal occurrence. This might be due to two factors: (a) a lack of knowledge about existing laws and consequences for violence, and (b) their social positions (Islam & Hasam, 2016). This paper seeks to determine the viewpoints of age sensitivity on domestic violence in this scenario.

2. The Nexus of Income Status, Education, Social Norms, Policies, and Domestic Violence against Women

Koenig et al. (2006) discovered a link between DVAW and several socio-demographic factors such as spouse education, marriage duration, economic strain, residence (rural or urban), childlessness, and husband's adulterous connection, societal norms, and so on. In a similar vein, Eswaran and Malhotra (2011) investigated the relationship between some of the factors, such as wives' height, economic participation and work status, signaling to in-laws, the distinction between job and self-employment, residing in a joint or nuclear family, religion, and the magnitude of the standard of living index (SLI) and DVAW. They investigated the function of policy formation in curving the DVAW graph further and discovered it to be flat. Haylock, Cornelius, Malunga and Mbandazayo (2016) conducted a study to determine the significance of societal norms and how to improve them to minimize DVAW. In a broader sense, Bangladeshi author Khan (2015) examined a few crucial influencing elements for DVAW: education, higher socioeconomic position, non-Muslim religion, dowry arrangement, women's empowerment, microcredit, and extended family housing.

2.1 Economic Participation, Empowerment of Women and DVAW

The NGOs running the Microcredit initiative have increased female economic involvement and income-generating activities (IGA). Several studies have been conducted to assess the influence of these lending schemes on sexual assault (GBV). According to Schuler, Hashemi and Badal (1998), participation in credit programs may both diminish and cause violence against women in any household. Micro-credit is an influencing element in the generation of conflicts because in-laws believe that spouses violate conventional patriarchal standards by participating in economic activities in public areas. Hence, instead of evaluating the function of microcredit, a few academics looked at the position of women in the economy, perceived autonomy, and empowerment over DVAW and GBV. Menon and Johnson (2007), who utilized NFHS data for India, proved that all prior conclusions are clearly untrue. A very surprising truth is confronted: women with greater autonomy face more marital violence. Specifically, women's empowerment did not reduce their chances of being mistreated by their partners (Eswaran & Malhotra, 2011).

2.2 Education for Women and Domestic Violence

In reducing the case of DVAW or GBV, education plays an important role. So, few academics have stressed on the educational issues and come up with some intriguing facts. Bates, Schuler, Islam and Islam (2004) discovered that women with at least six years of schooling had a lower risk of domestic violence. According to Koenig et al. (2006), the risk of physical violence was much lower among better-educated spouses and wives who had completed seven or more years of schooling. Similarly, Sambisa et al. (2011) discovered that the likelihood of marital physical violence is lower among older women and women with post-primary education. However, education might not protect women at all times of their life (Koenig et al., 2006).

2.3 Manifolds Socio-Demographic Factors and Domestic Violence Against Women

The work of Koenig et al. (2006) analyzed several socio-demographic issues related to DVAW including marriage duration, economic stress, childlessness, the husband's adulterous connection, and the husband's alcohol intake. Longer marriage lengths and childlessness are related to a considerably increased likelihood of recent physical violence. They discovered that marriages that have lasted more than 15 years had higher DVAW than those that lasted less than five years. On the contrary, the probability of physical violence was much lower in higher socioeconomic-level homes. In agreement with these researchers, Bates, Schuler, Islam and Islam (2004) identified a positive relationship between lower socioeconomic position and physical aggression against women.

2.4. The Nexus between Domestic Violence and Development

Oxfam (a rights-based organization) has recently raised a critical viewpoint that can analyze the progress made by MDGs and SDGs in this framework. Oxfam acknowledges that gender inequality is at the foundation of DVAW. There is a straight negative correlation between DVAW and development and reducing gender disparity will result in more domestic violence against women (Haylock, Cornelius, Malunga & Mbandazayo, 2016). As a result, the volume or growth of DVAW may be used to measure gender disparity. Gender equality is one of the key concerns of the SDGs and MDGs. Consequently, a rise in DVAW might be viewed as a danger (if not a partial failure of SDG and MDG measures) in this respect.

3. Objectives of the Study

Despite the fact that the government has passed various laws, domestic violence still exists in the country. Against this backdrop, the purpose of this paper is to investigate the age-sensitivity of domestic violence and venture on possible causes, in order to contribute to the knowledge bank of gender and development and assist policymakers and bodies involved in taking appropriate steps to review and enforce current legislation.

4. Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework, which portrays the underlying interactions and impacts of elements, variables, or phenomena connected to domestic violence, was developed after an exhaustive review of current literature. DVAW is one of the most common forms of violence against women in the world, and it strangely lacks a globally acknowledged description or name (Khan, 2015). Because of the inclusion of multidirectional values, beliefs, and emotions, the conclusions are found to be inconsistent, which is understandable given the complexity and difficulty of the situation (Khan, 2015). Domestic abuse is gender-specific, according to Khan (2015) and Women's Aid (2009). While society typically implicitly condones DVAW as a private or family matter, few feminists critique the phrase domestic, spousal, and family-related violence as masking the problem's gendered origin (Dobash & Dobash, 1992). According to Eswaran and Malhotra (2011), patriarchy is the fundamental cause of domestic violence.

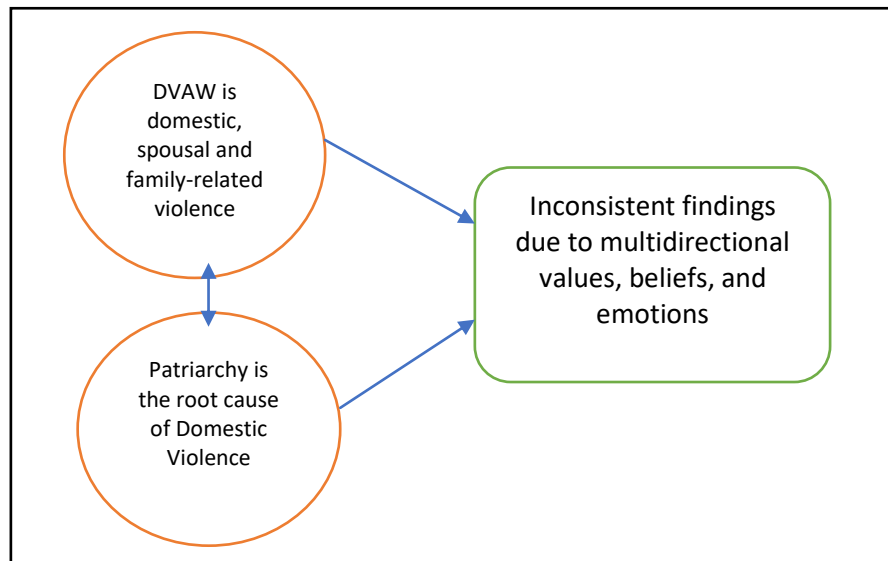


Figure 1: Conceptual framework

Domestic violence is an issue with various aspects and dimensions, and this conceptual framework illustrates the nature of the problem. It accepts the uncertainty of nature while also urging additional investigation to uncover a more defined pattern. There is a scarcity of empirical research to explain the age-sensitive pattern of DVAW in Bangladesh. Furthermore, 'violence' has thus far been employed as a blanket term, with the sub-types largely ignored. As a result, the framework mentioned above highlights the need to include these aspects for improved functioning and policymaking related to domestic violence.

5. Methodology of the Study

This paper is mostly based on secondary data gathered from the 'Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK)' database, which contains DVAW information from 2013 to 2019. ASK is one of the main human-rights-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Bangladesh, and it regularly updates its datasets on various types of violence occurring in contemporary society from daily newspapers and TV channels.

5.1 Conceptualization and Operationalization of the Concept of Domestic Violence Against Women (DVAW)

In its broadest form, DVAW refers to any abuse (physical, mental, or sexual) suffered by women inflicted by any family member, whether parental or married. Domestic violence occurs most frequently in private settings (Krug et al., 2002; Khan, 2015 & Momsen, 2009). In this article, the term DVAW refers to solely physical violence experienced by women, and it includes seven forms of physical abuse: a) torture by husband; b) torture by in-laws; c) murder by husband; d) murder by in-laws; e) murder by own family; f) torture by own family; and g) suicide.

5.2 Indicators and Measurement

A mixed-methods approach is used in this exploratory investigation. A thorough qualitative study supports the quantitative discussion. For the quantitative portion, data was gathered from ASK, which includes a dataset spanning the years 2013 to 2019, and hence this study considers the years 2013 to 2019 to be the sample timeframe. Domestic violence against women is classified into seven categories in the ASK dataset: (a) torture by husband, (b) torture by in-laws, (c) murder by husband, (d) murder by in-laws, (e) murder by own family, (f) torture by own family, and (g) suicide. Their information includes the number of casualties by age group for each subdivision. They classified women into four age groups: 7 to 18, 19 to 24, 25 to 30, and 30 and above. Aside from them, the dataset includes the number of victims whose ages were unknown. The paper intends to assess the issue of domestic violence from two distinct perspectives based on those indicators and data sets. One focuses on the overall concerns of domestic abuse, while the other highlights the age-sensitivity. The phrase 'age-sensitivity' refers to investigating whether women of all ages are similarly sensitive to DVAW.

Since inception, social scientists have used a variety of ways to interact with people to find solutions to complicated problems. Social research entails engaging with the world to discover: what is going on? What is causing this? What impact does this have on people? (Hall & Hall, 1996, p.11). According to Bogdan and Biklen (2007), even when researchers are examining the same issue, they may use a variety of approaches. After reviewing current research trends in gender violence, the methodological strategy for this paper was carefully considered.

According to Kolodziejczyk (2015), an increasing corpus of literature shows that mixed techniques are widely accepted, particularly in the study of complex social phenomena in the social, behavioral, and human sciences. The use of a variety of research approaches may open the door to hitherto unrecognized depths of inquiry into questions of gender. Qualitative studies not only confirm the statistics, but they also provide an opportunity for a more in-depth exploration of how the victims' varying perspectives and beliefs influenced their behavior. Recent studies on domestic violence show that qualitative methods can be used to set research goals, which can help researchers find themes that would be missed if only top-down, impositional quantitative processes were used.

To find out the answer to the research questions, this study conducted in-depth interviews with ten victim women. In this case, a snowball sampling strategy was applied, and the ten were diverse in terms of occupation, education, and social standing. 03 were academicians working in various universities, 01 was a Research Fellow of a renowned research organization, 02 were entrepreneurs, 01 was a physician, and the remaining 03 were housewives, 01 was a postgraduate, 01 completed up to class 5. The last respondent could only write her name. These interviews were useful in the analysis of the quantitative data. When quantitative studies reveal trends in various sorts of violence against women of different ages, these interviews help understand why such

trends exist. Interviewees were diverse, as they included academicians, researchers, entrepreneurs, physicians and housewives living in various social settings who shared views based on their practical experiences. The range of features gathered from these interviews assisted in understanding the reasons for such tendencies, which are shown in the quantitative part. As a result, the mixed-method technique was used to make this study dependable and rigorous.

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The qualitative data analysis was carried out methodically following the defined purposes and topics of the study. First, relevant literature and materials pertaining to domestic abuse were classified thematically to supplement the primary data gathered through interviews with survivors of domestic violence. The information collected from an in-depth interview was audio-recorded and then transcribed precisely as it was said.

5.3 Examination of Overall DVAW Context in Contemporary Bangladesh

A quantitative model of analysis: Before proceeding with any analysis, we would want to point out that owing to the nature of the data, this research was unable to depict the ideal situation (but does depict an overall scene). Using this data, however, we attempted to decipher the various patterns of DVAW in Bangladesh. As a result, we used two models: (a) Year-Over-Year (YOY) growth model and (b) simple growth model.

The YOY growth model depicts the year-to-year growth or de-growth of any specific event. It is most commonly used in business analysis. This paper utilizes it to obtain a sense of how DVAW has evolved in modern Bangladesh. This approach compares comparable periods of time throughout time, providing a more exact estimate. There is no specified base year in this approach of analysis. The equation is as follows:

$$\text{Year-Over-Year growth model} = \frac{\text{Current Year} - \text{Previous Year}}{\text{Previous Year}} * 100$$

Alongside, the YOY model, this paper also applies the simple growth analysis model considering 2015 as the base year. 2015 is considered as the base year because this paper intends to measure the effect of MDG and SDG interventions on one of the significant gender equality threatening issues like DVAW in Bangladesh. The formula is as follows:

$$\text{Simple growth model} = \frac{\text{Current Year} - \text{Base Year}}{\text{Base Year}} * 100$$

Method of measurement and interpretation: This study aims to compare the condition of DVAW in Bangladesh between the finishing phase of MDG and the initial period of SDG. For the sake of inclusivity, we applied two models here.

A simple growth model is used to investigate how the dynamics of DVAW altered as SDGs replaced the MDGs. The outcome of MDG is quantified here by the rate of DVAW in 2013 and 2014, and the magnitude of the SDG is measured from 2016 to 2019. Because 2015 was the final year of the MDG and the start of the SDG, all of the rates below are based on 2015 data. Any de-growth between 2016 and 2019 is viewed favorably in this context. However, while this research provides a comparative context, it fails to depict progressive growth. Furthermore, even if growth is seen from 2016 to 2019, as long as it is lower than the rates of 2013 or 2014, it is considered favorable. Nonetheless, growth is not a reliable predictor in and of itself. Before recognizing this oddity, the paper attempts to explain the situation from a different angle. As a result, the authors included the Year-Over-Year (YOY) growth model.

The YOY model can explain the situation in the opposite direction. It can depict the progressive shift in dynamics. The progressive spread of any kind of DVAW is viewed as a sign of ill-fitted intervention or partial failure of key policies in this study. It is worth noting that the increase or decline of violence is exclusively dependent on gender-based actions under the MDGs or SDGs. Neither of the gender-based MDG-SDG programs focused exclusively on issues of violence. Even if there is, it is reasonable to assume that the appropriate consequences of such actions will have a substantially greater influence in this regard. In this setting, either uniform or non-uniform growth in YOY analysis is evaluated adversely.

Women of all ages are not equally vulnerable to all sorts of assaults. At that point, the authors were motivated to reveal something to understand the situation better. As a result, the authors used a basic descriptive statistical technique (frequency distribution of each kind of DVAW for each age group and histogram depiction) to determine age-sensitivity. Currently, the term "age-sensitivity" refers to the susceptibility of women of various ages to various sorts of domestic abuse. Though the total number of violent actions (total analysis) reflects the general trend of VAW, age sensitivity analysis digs deeper by revealing the age-specific susceptibility of women.

6. Findings and Discussion

This section addressed DVAW concerns from two perspectives: the DVAW context and age-sensitivity in the setting of Bangladesh.

6.1 General DVAW Situation in Modern Bangladesh

6.1.1 Year-Over-Year (YOY) Growth Model

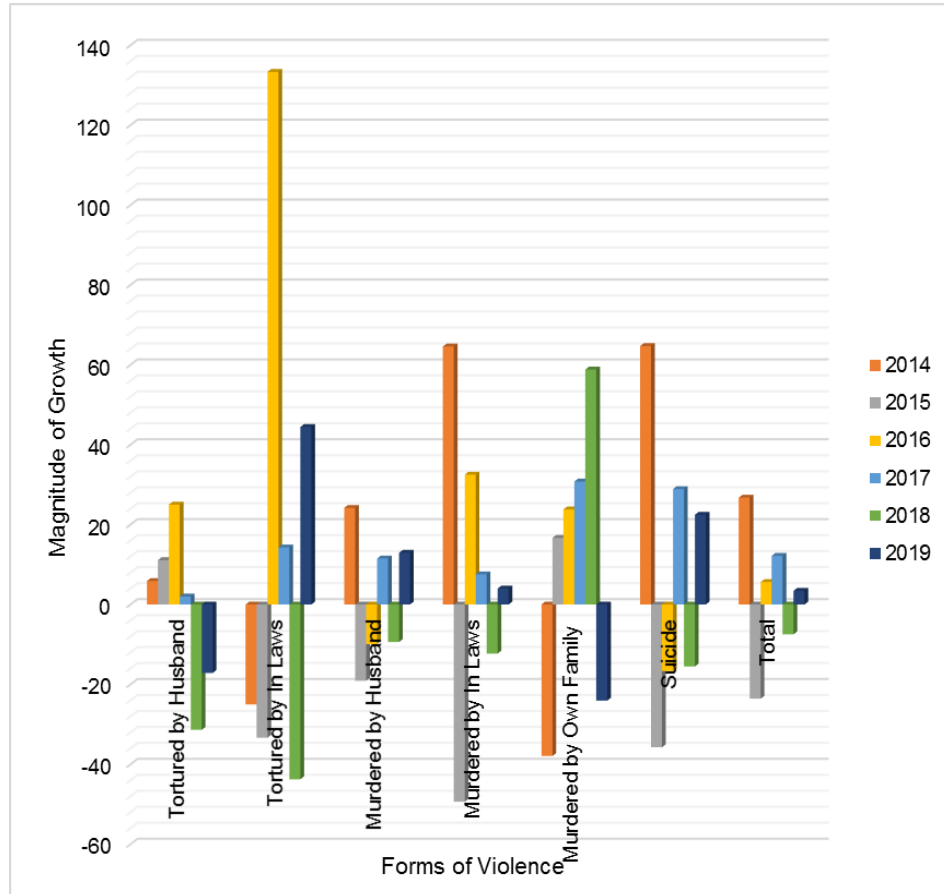


Fig. 1 Year-Over-Year Growth Analysis of DVAW in Bangladesh (Authors' analysis)

The overall number of DVAW fell progressively but not uniformly throughout the sample years. Three of the six types of DVAW have dropped, two have grown, and one has stayed constant through time. The tormented by a spouse has the most significant decline among the decreasing three. Suicide is likewise on the decline; however, its magnitude is significantly bigger than the others. Murdered by in-laws are the last three, with the steepest decreasing tendency. Tortured by in-laws had the most extensive volatility, an upward trend, and the steepest tendency of the two growing directions. Murdered by their own family, a very distinct and sad kind of violence in Bangladesh's socio-cultural settings, is also on the rise. The size of the tendency is also much greater. The final item on the list, slain by the spouse, has an upward and downward trend in the growth rate, which frequently alters each other. As a result, the general trend is unchanged.

6.1.2 Simple Growth Model

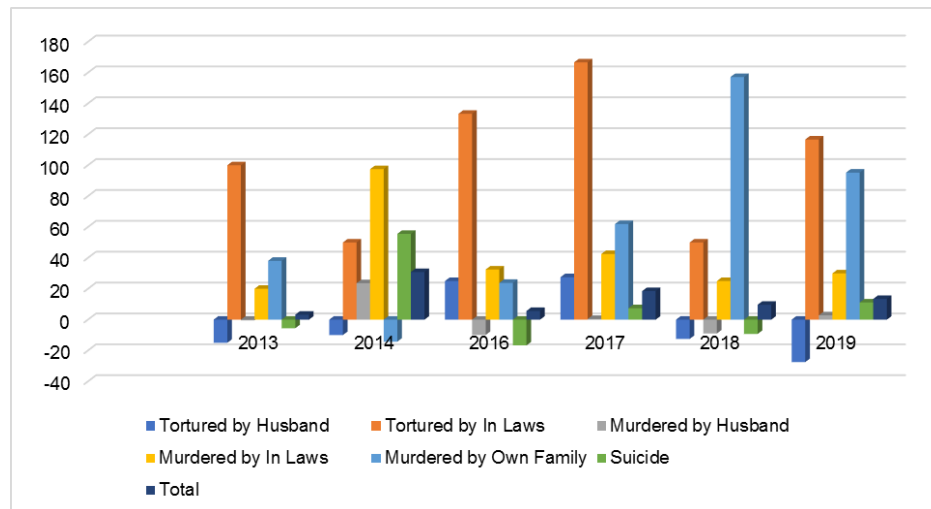


Fig. 2 Simple Growth Analysis of DVAW in Bangladesh (Authors' analysis)

According to this model, while the general trend of the growth rate of the total number of DVAW remains static, it has steadily dropped compared to 2013-14. As a result, Bangladesh appears to be in better shape in this context. However, only two of the six types of DVAW are in worse condition than previously. For the most part, things have improved. Among the bottom two, being murdered by one's own family has the most significant impact, which is terrible and shocking. On the other hand, being tortured by in-laws has declined over time, but not as much as the prior one. However, the other four have an ideal situation in this context. Suicide and murder by in-laws have fared considerably better than the other, i.e., murder by husband and torture by husband.

Data from in-depth interviews and findings of other research works indicate that neither education nor economic participation of women helps in the prevention of domestic violence. However, in Bangladesh, these two factors are overemphasized. Such a measure curtailed the scenario, at least to some extent. On the other hand, these had a significant impact on changing the pattern and dimension of domestic violence. In the past, intimate partner violence was the greatest risk factor for women in nations such as Bangladesh. Nonetheless, our findings suggest that women are more likely to be tortured by in-laws and murdered by their relatives in modern Bangladesh. Torture at the hands of in-laws, on the other hand, was not a topic of conversation, and it was not very prevalent. However, being murdered by one's own family is unusual violence in modern culture.

Despite being a constitutionally secular country, Bangladesh is a Muslim-dominated nation where Islamic traditions frequently dictate societal standards. As a result, women's economic engagement is not universally embraced in this country. Even if the idea is in flux, it is still an essential aspect in this particular circumstance. Though the husband stays optimistic, the in-laws are frequently opposed. As a result, they are tortured. Furthermore,

the desire for a nuclear family is an important aspect of this situation. In today's Bangladeshi society, wives desire nuclear households, which in-laws frequently see adversely. The growth of love marriages is also a contributing element to women's sensitivity in this respect. This type of domestic abuse does not affect women of any age.

In today's society, 'murder by own family' is the most tragic and unusual kind of violence. People have always been seen to be the safest among their family members. However, the growth of such a crime prompted us to investigate more, and we discovered that only women over the age of 30 are particularly vulnerable to this type of crime. On the other side, the increase in crimes such as torture by spouses, murder by in-laws, and suicide has been greatly reduced. Perhaps civil society awareness among the women and significant media coverage contributed to the lessening of such violence against women. Furthermore, wife-beating now undermines the husband's and his family's social standing, which is also a critical reason for the decrease. The importance of media coverage cannot be overstated. As is commonly known, the media covers violence against women, which, as previously said, concerns the statuesque in-laws and husbands. However, the number of offences had caused women embarrassment or discomfort continues to rise. Other forms of violence have risen dramatically.

6.2 Examining Age Sensitivity among the Victims

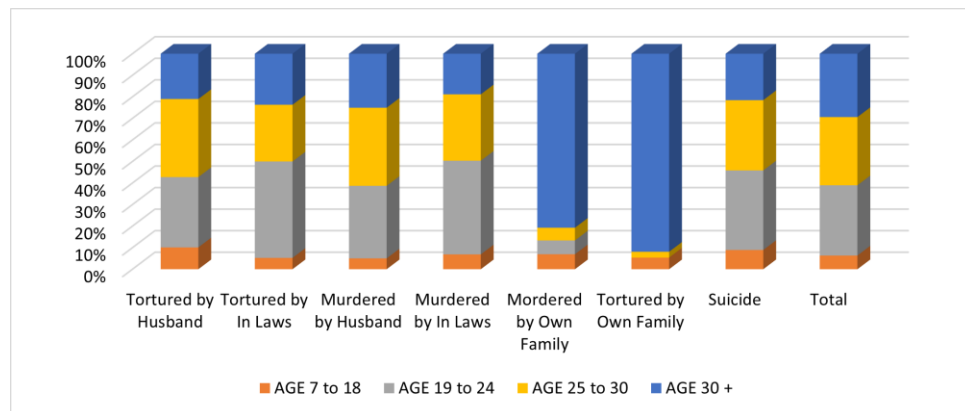


Fig. 3 Age of the victims and different forms of DVAW in Bangladesh (Authors' analysis)

Age group 1 (from 7 to 18): First and foremost, they are children under the law, and any violence directed at them is considerably more disturbing than violence directed at others. They had to deal with violence, arguably a more pressing issue than the group's size. Because they are the safest for their parents and are not subject to marriage, they are the most popular. As a result, marital violence should preferably be avoided here. These youngsters have been subjected to every form of brutality imaginable in recent years. They married, experienced intimate partner abuse, marital violence, and, most cruelly, their family members mercilessly tortured and murdered them. They also took their own lives. They have a considerably smaller market proportion than others, but it is not negligible. Each type of DVAW is anywhere between 5 and 10%. For this age range, the most dangerous kinds are being tormented by a husband and attempting suicide.

Age group 2 (from 19 to 24): In Bangladesh, these young adults are the most prone to DVAW. In four of the seven types of DVAW, they have the largest share. This age group has the most in terms of the overall number of casualties. They are more vulnerable to marital abuse, such as torture and assassination by in-laws. According to the findings of this study, they are the safest in their own family. Suicide is also at an alarmingly high rate among them.

Age group 3 (from 25 to 30): IPV (intimate partner violence), such as torture and murder by their spouses, are more common among these adult women. Suicide and life threats from in-laws are also at an all-time high. However, they are pretty close to one other in totality, and the share difference is very little, nearly non-existent.

Age group 4 (from 30+): It has been shown that middle-aged women are safer among their groom's family than they are around their own. The percentage of murder and torture committed against them by their own family is unthinkable high, at 80% and 91%, respectively. The remaining shares, which range from 18 to 29%, are likewise not inconsequential.

6.2.1 Reasoning of Such Trends: Insights from the In-depth Interviews

All types of domestic abuse are not equally experienced by women of all ages. This is one of the few studies that considered the age-specificity of domestic violence in Bangladesh rather than a specific geographic location. Girls under the age of 18 are relatively consistently vulnerable to abuse, which is quite concerning. Despite the fact that they are not a subject of the marriage connection under Bangladeshi law, evidence shows that they are in poor health among in-laws. The occurrence of child marriage in a post-millennium growth society is a threat in and of itself. According to respondents, these young victims are frequently uneducated and come from low-income homes. Due to dowry difficulties, girls are considered a burden in certain families. As a result, parents desire to be free of the responsibility as quickly as feasible. They feel forced to send as many "gifts" as they can to the grooms, yet they frequently fall short of the expectations. As a result, the girls are subjected to a great deal of abuse from the husband and his family. It can sometimes lead to murder. We think the actual figure is significantly greater than the reported one. Spousal families take advantage of the fact that the bride's family cannot file a complaint with the authorities because they will be prosecuted for child marriage first. Furthermore, those families are frequently uninformed of their legal rights. As a result, they are unable to help, and the girls feel upset. They commit themselves as a result of their mental anguish, yet this may not be the only reason for the high number of suicides among girls at this age. However, the relative share of occurrences is the lowest for this age group of women. Furthermore, the proof of such young women as victims poses a direct challenge to contemporary society's contemporaneous growth. It directly questions the government's activities and efficacy in ensuring gender development.

This study discovered that in-laws cause enormous issues for the younger (19 to 24 age group) and young adults (25 to 30 age group) victims in the society. The first and most essential case is dowry. If her parents fail to satisfy the demand for the so-called "present", the woman is subjected to constant physical and emotional anguish. In this view, murder is

not a different unusual. Physical beatings in this respect are more common among the lower-class people of society. Still, other sorts of mental torture are more common in comparably educated and upper-middle-class and high-class communities. As a result, individuals continue to experience more mental distortion and have a greater suicide rate. On the other side, wife abuse and even murder are more common among the illiterate or uneducated. Wife-beating is viewed as a matter of status and representing manhood by the men in this community. These males are always involved in socially disapproved behavior, including alcoholism, polygamy, and gambling. In terms of life and livelihood, they are sometimes seen to be irresponsible. When women speak out against such wrongdoings, it affects men's sentiments of superiority. The spouses then demonstrate their manhood by committing more extreme physical torment and, in some cases, murder. Husbands, furthermore, desire to take all the profits to meet their fantasies; therefore, women conduct largely informal tasks to earn a living at that point. According to respondents, such instances trap families in debt, particularly women participating in the micro-credit program. When women refuse to provide the money to their husbands, they are subjected to severe physical abuse. Women commit suicide when their problems reach a breaking point. Suicide rates are highest among younger women, followed by young adults. Overall, these two age groups are the most vulnerable to domestic violence in modern Bangladesh due to a combination of variables.

Women in their 30s and above are more vulnerable to family members than any other demographic. However, this does not rule out the possibility of different forms of domestic abuse among women in this age range. We presume, however, that the victims are bereaved, divorced, or at the very least estranged from the spouse and his family. As a result, they stay to live with their family since they have no other options. These women are viewed as a burden in low-income families and cultures, and this harms societal respect, stature, and, to some extent, acceptance. As a result, her family members may be irritated and want to pay tribute to her passing. We also believe that this is not a one-off occurrence; rather, situations involving property-related disputes might be crucial. Other types of domestic abuse, on the other hand, were found to be reasonably safe for these older women, as they either began to endure such tortures or sought a divorce. Furthermore, their children have grown up by that time, and their husbands have matured. These variables play a role in the lower prevalence of marital violence among older women. This lower incidence of spousal violence among older women, owing to divorce, partially explains why older women face more violence in their families. To put it another way, the longer a marriage lasts, the less likely it is to experience marital violence.

7. Concluding Remarks

The above discussion suggests that occurrences of domestic violence increased in Bangladesh at a decreasing rate, but the rate is not universal when examined decisively. There is rather a complex nature among the multiple forms of domestic violence in contemporary Bangladesh. Age is also critical in determining the vulnerabilities women face in various types of domestic abuse. Bangladesh has attempted to achieve gender equality and empower women for an extended period. As a result, Bangladesh's standards and practices are under change, which has aided in reducing DVAW to some level. Nonetheless, the phase-out of MDGs and the establishment of SDGs are expected

to improve the situation more broadly, which has not been the case thus far. One of the primary causes is a narrow focus on gender equality and women's empowerment. The government aspires to incorporate women into the formal sector and provide free education, but institutional access and social respect for women are lacking.

Indeed, violence against women (VAW) is not new in Bangladesh, whether within or outside marriage. Numerous reasons, including patriarchy, systemic discrimination against women beginning at birth, the patrilocal marriage system, and uneven power relations, render them susceptible to such incidents. This article concludes by describing the multifaceted reasons and dynamics of DVAW in contemporary Bangladesh, a country experiencing rapid economic expansion. Therefore, the findings pose an important question, namely “why” such a tendency exists in the case of DVAW and “what” are the patterns for other types of VAW in modern Bangladesh. For example, “age-sensitivity” is a critical element in several kinds of DVAW, as shown here. This peripheral, we feel, deserves significant effort and growth. This section demands attention in order to disclose a new sphere. It proves enough that generalizing “women” regardless of age when designing approaches to combat VAW is useless. Rather than that, it is high time for age-based analyses and policies to be implemented. This study is eye-opening in terms of age sensitivity since it details how women of all ages are predisposed to various forms of violence. Indeed, this requires more in-depth research before it can be called a basis.

Numerous limitations exist in this research. Only those cases that have garnered media attention are included in this work. Secondly, there is a time constraint. This period is insufficient to provide a thorough picture of a longer timeframe. This constraint also hampered the application of more robust quantitative tools. Despite these limitations, this study adds to our understanding of domestic violence's incidence and likely trend in modern Bangladesh. This data on the prevalence and severity of physical abuse was generated using particular reference periods and may be compared to other economic and socio-demographic variables. By examining and evaluating potential components, authors may better understand the complex economic and societal aspects that influence women's vulnerability to violence in Bangladesh.

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