

Some Issues of Prevention of Violence Against Women

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study aims to explore the factors contributing to violence against women in Uzbekistan, focusing on economic, social, and cultural influences. It evaluates the effectiveness of legal measures, such as protection orders, and governmental programs designed to reduce domestic violence and support women at risk. **Method:** A sociological approach was employed, using surveys of female victims of violence to understand their social conditions and the characteristics of perpetrators. National crime data were analyzed to assess the scope and distribution of violence. The study also examined existing legislation and policies, including protective measures and rehabilitation programs, to evaluate their impact. **Results:** Violence against women in Uzbekistan is predominantly family-based, with high victimization rates among unemployed women over 30. Protective orders were found to significantly reduce further violence, with many families reconciling or resolving disputes. Legal frameworks, such as the Law on the Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence, played an important role in providing support. However, entrenched cultural norms and gender inequality continue to hinder progress. **Novelty:** This research highlights the role of economic dependency, cultural norms, and legal protection in shaping women's experiences of violence. It emphasizes the need for legal reforms and cultural shifts towards gender equality. The study proposes that stronger collaboration between government agencies and communities is crucial for combating violence and empowering women to achieve economic independence.

INTRODUCTION

Violence against women, particularly acts threatening their life and health, is a multifaceted issue influenced by various social, economic, and psychological factors [1], [2], [3]. Elements such as gender inequality, societal norms, cultural dynamics, and governmental economic policies contribute to the prevalence of domestic violence [4], [5]. Additionally, dissatisfaction with social needs and closed social environments exacerbate the issue, leading to a rise in violence against women [6].

Statistical data highlights the significant rate of violence against women in various regions, such as Uzbekistan, where many incidents occur within family settings [7]. Factors like unemployment, poverty, alcohol consumption, and lack of support from families and communities further aggravate the situation [8], [9], [10]. Studies also reveal that women with strong social connections are less likely to become victims of violence.

To address these issues, various measures have been implemented, including protective orders, support centers, and rehabilitation programs for perpetrators of violence. In Uzbekistan, legislation such as Presidential Decrees and the Law on the Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence focuses on social support, enhancing women's participation, and providing financial aid and housing. These initiatives aim to reduce violence against women and promote gender equality.

Despite these efforts, the normalization of violence in certain cultures and environments remains a significant barrier to progress. In societies where patriarchal values dominate, traditional gender roles often perpetuate a cycle of abuse and victimization. The internalization of these norms by both victims and perpetrators hinders reporting and intervention, complicating efforts to address the root causes of the problem. Breaking this cycle requires not only legal and institutional reforms but also a cultural shift towards valuing gender equality and mutual respect.

Moreover, the economic dependency of women on their spouses or family members further exacerbates their vulnerability [11]. Limited access to education, employment, and social services restricts women's ability to escape abusive situations or seek justice. Empowering women through education and economic independence is critical in building resilience against violence and ensuring their full participation in society. Collaborative efforts involving governments, non-governmental organizations, and communities are necessary to create sustainable change and eliminate violence against women.

Finally, comprehensive data collection and research play a crucial role in understanding and addressing violence against women. Reliable statistics help policymakers and stakeholders identify trends, assess the effectiveness of interventions, and develop targeted strategies. By focusing on prevention, protection, and empowerment, societies can work toward reducing the prevalence of violence and creating a safer environment for women.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed a sociological approach to analyze the factors contributing to violence against women. Data were gathered through social surveys of female victims of violence and statistical analysis of recorded crime data in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2021. The methodology involved:

1. **Classification of Violence Factors**

The causes of violence against women were categorized into four groups: economic factors, social relationship factors, societal attitude factors, and personal factors.

2. **Social Survey**

Surveys were conducted among female victims of violence to understand their social conditions, education levels, social relationships, and the characteristics of the perpetrators.

3. **Statistical Analysis**

National statistical data on violence against women were analyzed to determine the scale and geographic distribution of incidents.

4. **Legal and Policy Analysis**

Government laws and policies, such as the use of protection orders and rehabilitation programs for offenders, were examined to evaluate their effectiveness in preventing violence against women.

5. Collaborative Approach

The study collaborated with government departments, legal bodies, and service centers to support victims of violence and prevent future incidents through outreach and social interventions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to statistics, 37.1% (158) of 426 murders committed in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2021, and 1,985 (18.2%) of 10,927 injuries of varying degrees specified in articles 104, 105, and 109 of the Criminal Code, were committed in the family. In addition, 36,960 women became victims of criminal and administrative offenses across the country. The highest rates of female violence were recorded in Fergana (7,696), Tashkent (4,242), and Namangan (3,180) regions. Of the 3,172 women who were victims of crimes against the person in 2021, 64% (2,025) were unemployed and housewives, and 63% (2,015) were women over 30 years old. In addition, 36% (1,160 people) of the 3,172 individuals who experienced harassment or violence against women were unemployed.

According to articles 40, 41, 52, and 183 of the Code of Administrative Responsibility, a total of 33,788 women were recognized as victims of violations committed. In this regard, the possibilities of a protection order are widely used to ensure that women subjected to pressure and violence (39,343) are placed under the protection of the state. As a result of the protection order, 99% of women who were victims of oppression or violence in the past year were saved from becoming victims of crime. A total of 26,667 protective orders were issued to spouses, 1,559 to mothers-in-law, 1,128 to brides, and 9,989 to other persons [12]. As a result of the application of protection orders, in 20,769 cases, families reconciled, in 15,142 cases disputes were resolved, in 921 cases families divorced, and in 2,222 cases disputes were not resolved.

Currently, for the purpose of early warning of crime and ensuring the well-being of women, systematic work is being carried out with partner departments and ministries to implement a program to change the violent behavior of persons who have committed or are prone to violence. Today, more than 134,000 families are suing in civil and administrative courts on various issues. Of these, 64,814 disputes were related to marriage, 26,918 to alimony, 1,784 to entry into the home, and other types of disputes. In order to prevent violations committed within the framework of family and household relations, it is necessary to carry out targeted work with close relatives through an electronic system of lists of citizens who have been in conflict with administrative and civil judicial bodies for years, to support territorial districts and families, and also provide lists to the internal affairs bodies.

In order to protect the legitimate rights and interests of citizens, the Crime Prevention Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has created a "Trust Center," and since January 10, 2022, a system for receiving messages 24 hours a day has been operating in the center. The "Trust Center" received two short numbers, "1259" and "1286." The short

number "1259" provides legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, while the short number "1286" provides legal assistance to employees of crime prevention units [13].

The traditional gender role of women is also high due to the violence committed against them in many societies. In countries that recognize gender equality, the number of crimes committed against women is sharply reduced, and in many normative acts, measures such as social support for women, increasing their social activity, providing financial support, offering preferential bank loans, and providing housing for single mothers have reduced crime among women and their tendency to become victims of crime. In particular, the policy of Uzbekistan to ensure social equality of women, as reflected in the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. DP-4235 of March 7, 2019, "On measures to further strengthen guarantees of labor rights and support women's entrepreneurship"[14], the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. DP-5020 of March 5, 2021, "On measures to further improve the system of support and ensuring the active participation of women in society" [15], and many other normative acts, has significantly supported these efforts.

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the protection of women from harassment and violence" [16] includes the following types of individual measures to prevent harassment and violence against women: holding a preventive conversation, issuing a protection order, placement in special centers for assistance to victims of harassment and violence, and the passage of correctional programs to change violent behavior. Based on the foregoing, it should be noted that the implementation of these measures will serve to prevent offenses against women and the crimes they commit.

CONCLUSION

Fundamental Finding : The study highlights the prevalence and impact of domestic violence against women in Uzbekistan, emphasizing factors such as economic dependency, gender inequality, and the influence of cultural norms. The findings reveal alarming statistics about the high rates of female violence, particularly in domestic settings, with economic factors and unemployment being significant contributors. The research also underscores the importance of legal measures like protection orders and the role of social interventions in addressing violence against women. **Implication :** The results emphasize the need for continued and enhanced legal frameworks, including protective orders and rehabilitation programs, to reduce violence against women. They suggest that strengthening support systems, both legal and social, is essential to empowering women and preventing violence. Furthermore, the study calls for cultural shifts towards gender equality and increased social awareness to address the underlying causes of domestic violence. **Limitation :** One limitation of the study is that it mainly focuses on statistical data from Uzbekistan, which may not fully represent the global context of violence against women. Additionally, the research methodology relied on surveys and crime data from 2021, potentially limiting its applicability to current trends. The study also did not explore in-depth the psychological impact on victims or the long-

term effectiveness of implemented measures. **Future Research :** Future studies could explore the psychological consequences of violence on women and evaluate the long-term effectiveness of legal measures such as protection orders and rehabilitation programs. Research could also expand to include more diverse regions, comparing the effectiveness of interventions in different cultural and economic contexts. Further investigation into the role of education and economic independence in preventing violence would also be valuable.

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