

### **Editorial: Domestic and Gender-Based Violence: Old Challenges, New Dimensions**

Two distinctive developments have recently brought greater attention to the persistent problem of gender-based and domestic violence. The first development was the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill 2020, presented in the Parliament of Pakistan and fiercely debated inside and outside the two houses of Pakistani legislature. The second development has been a series of high-profile cases of domestic and gender-based violence that have shocked, and in some ways, divided the nation.

These developments are indicative of the pace of social change in Pakistan. Domestic violence has been an unfortunate presence in the country for as long as the country has existed. It has taken many forms – physical, psychological, and social. However, the reporting of the crime has been notoriously low. Law enforcement agencies, like the broader society, tend to shy away from getting involved in these cases, even when they are brought to their attention. The notion that domestic violence is a private, family matter has dictated the usual response to it. However, recent developments suggest that the trend is slowly, but surely, changing. There are several factors to which such a change can be ascribed, such as the relative financial independence of women, greater attention by mass media—driven often by indignation on the social media, and subsequently a more open debate in the public sphere. These changes also have several implications for law enforcement and for criminology, in general.

The Domestic Violence Bill, it seems, would be passed with amendments in the near future. The reporting of gender-based and domestic violence cases, it appears, would also grow exponentially. Therefore, there is a need for a proactive debate on the effects of these developments on crime and criminology. Questions addressing the root causes of gender-based violence, its social and psychological dimensions and the policing and community responses to them should guide our discussion on these issues. Our journal has previously contributed to this discussion and welcomes further input on the issue from scholars and practitioners.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances created by the Coronavirus Pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns, it proved challenging for us to publish our issues in a timely manner. The reviewer response was understandably slow as many of them worked away from offices. The printing press that usually prints the journal remained under locked down. Therefore, it was decided that we combine two issues of the journal in this single edition. Regardless, the issues contain insightful articles resulting from empirical and theoretical studies.

Chavalit Jindarat's paper examines the experiences of community policing in Thailand. Taking a statistical method, the author identifies that the outcomes of community policing are determined by prevailing perceptions of police in a neighborhood.

Hassan and Mukhtar's qualitative study analyzes a relatively new mass media phenomenon in Pakistan – the TV reenactment of crimes – and its potential impact on criminality in the country. Through open ended interviews, the authors find that the police officers perceive these TV shows to potentially increase the incidents of criminality. However, their study also reveals that there is no correlation between these TV shows and incidents of criminality.

Syed Kaleem Imam takes a practitioner's perspective and combines it with theoretical insights to make prescriptive analysis of alternative dispute resolution. The author takes a comprehensive approach and analyzes the various aspects of the alternative dispute resolution, the issues involved and the possible best practices.

Abbasi et al. take a fresh approach to study a persistent issue in law enforcement in Pakistan – urban ethnic and political violence. The authors interview individuals imprisoned for committing this type of violence. They found that the perceptions of widespread disparities, marginalization, lack of economic opportunities and ethnic and political motivations are used to justify the perpetuation of urban ethnic and political violence.

Hina Gul Rahi's article theorizes the social construction of crime, and the way crime and criminal activity is understood in local communities. Specifically, she interviews both male and female respondents to find that

perceptions of 'violent heroism' are often used to justify acts in local communities. Further, the analysis also reveals that some types of crime are more easily justified through the social construction of heroism than others.

Alam et al. study the socio-psychological factors shaping social and individual perceptions of the notion of revenge. It is a timely study that focuses on the erstwhile FATA. As the tribal areas are being gradually made part of the administrative structures of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the study holds relevance for our understanding of the issue that is often held responsible for violent crime.

Saeed et al. examine the view of juveniles regarding the juvenile delinquency. The study uses the Chi-square test and collects data from juveniles in District Jail Mardan. The study finds various interrelated factors that the respondents identify for the delinquent behavior. Additionally, the authors list these factors in terms of the frequency to which each factor might play a role.

Hira Shakeel et al. address an issue that has been in the public discourse for considerable time – madrassa reform. The article studies the challenges successive Pakistani governments have faced in building a consensus around the issue. The study concludes that the religious nature of the issue makes the parties too rigid, and it makes it hard to find a common ground.

Suneel et al. undertake a topical study on the triangulation of individual psychology, religiosity, and terrorism catastrophizing among young adults. Using quantitative correlations, the authors collected data from 110 young adults – equally distributed across gender identities. The study makes multiple interesting findings interlinking various personality types with religiosity and terrorism catastrophizing.

Kamran Adil has contributed two essays in the issues. Either essay deals with a currently debated in Pakistani public sphere – the issue of punishing rapists and the challenge of police station-based budgeting in Pakistan. The essays take a largely practitioner's view of the issues and add useful analysis to the public discourse.

iv Editorial 12-3,4

As always, we encourage the readers to reach out to us with comments and suggestions. We try our best to avoid errors. However, we appreciate it when our readers point out errors and omissions.

Aamer Raza (PhD Massachusetts),  
Associate Editor,  
*Pakistan Journal of Criminology*,