

INTERSECTIONALITY OF CLASS AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

This study has been designed to evaluate the intersectionality of class and violence against children in Pakistan. Violence against children has been fermenting but there is little literature available to explain the impacts of this new phenomenon on the lateral life of neglected children in Pakistan. This study has been conducted using a quantitative approach. The population consisted of children residing at four Child Protection Institutions (CPI) including Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, and Rawalpindi. A sample of 230 children has been selected using a classified random sampling technique. It is worth mentioning here that all the children are aged less than 18 years and rescued before 30 days. A cross-sectional survey has been conducted and a structured questionnaire has been constructed. It has been divided into different parts including socio-economic characteristics, violence, and health status. It has been pre-tested from 30 randomly selected children and the value of Alpha has ranged from .702 to .864. frequency distribution, descriptive statistics, correlation, and independent sample T-tests have been employed to draw results and conclusions. The study findings outlined that there was a significant correlation between physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual, and psychological violence social well-being, and physical and psychological health. Similarly, the statistical analysis shows that there is a significant difference in financial abuse between rural and urban background destitute and neglected children in the custody of the Child Protection & Welfare Bureau in Punjab.

Keywords: Intersectionality; Class and Violence; Violence Against Children; Pakistan.

INTRODUCTION

It has been observed that children are facing violence and it results in effects on their health status in a negative way. Physical violence is causing dropouts of children from schools. The situation is worse in Madrassas or ceremonies of religious education where the dropout rate of children is highest (Bedoya, Espinoza, & Sánchez, 2020). Similarly, even victims of physical violence run away from Mudresses to avoid violence and become permanently rebellious of the education (Ngwoke, 2021). In addition, these religious educational institutions feel less pressure from the law or administration because they manage their economic affairs in the charity (Bates & Hester, 2020). Psychological violence is the more dangerous type of

violence committed against children than any other form of violence (Zelviene *et al.*, 2020). Likewise, this type of violence remains unnoticed and unreported. Moreover, parents or caregivers don't give due attention to this type of violence committed against children (Ben-David, 2021). Besides, anxiety, depression, and frustration are lateral repercussions of psychological violence against children and even victims of this type of violence develop negative behavioral tendencies in future life (Shafiq, Haider, & Ijaz, 2020). Moreover, psychological violence is continuously occurring in family, school, and social gatherings (Somani *et al.*, 2021). Further, parents or teachers snub children in gatherings and feel them sham which causes them

stress and frustration (Chung, Short, Hand, Gubernick, & Abatamarco, 2020). Furthermore, destitute and neglected children about their deprivation and dispossession by their friends or family members cause them mental stress (Simatupang, 2021).

In addition, unnecessary and destructive criticism of the children by the parents or caregivers is also a form of psychological violence and has harmful consequences for their coming life (Azoulay *et al.*, 2020). By the same token, verbal insult, harassment, stalking, coercion, defamation, emotional blackmailing, threat, intimidation, and humiliation are forms of psychological violence, common and committed by family members, teachers, caregivers, and friends against children causing the decrease in memory (Azoulay *et al.*, 2020; Terock *et al.*, 2020). Sexual abuse is one of the most common and repeated violence against children. Further, every single day, cases of sexual abuse and brutality even murder after sexual abuse against children are being reported in the media. In addition to this, a big portion of child sexual abuse cases are left unreported because parents or guardians of the children think it will cause insult and shame in society for them (McPhillips, 2021). Hence, this study has been designed to evaluate the intersectionality of class and violence against children in Pakistan.

Review of Literature

However, the research work Sommer, Leuschner, Fiedler, Madfis, and Scheithauer (2020) indicated that violence against children leads to criminal behavior as a later outcome in life. Furthermore, Clément, Dufour, Gagné, and Gilbert (2020) determined that professionals working with children should know the legal standing of corrective physical punishment by parents. Moreover, Lawson, Piel, and Simon (2020) indicated that there was a significant link between stress due to job loss and child maltreatment and it could be mitigated through cognitive reframing. Likewise, Zhu, Xiao, Chen, Wu, and Zhu (2020) established that there was a strong negative association between victimization and health. Children with repeated victimization of maltreatment have low self-esteem and greater distress as compared with the children who have not been exposed to maltreatment or only once maltreated in their lifetime.

By the same token, Crandall *et al.* (2020) demonstrated that a privileged life in adulthood demises the negative feelings developed due to unpleasant incidents in childhood. Similarly, the study Diaz *et al.* (2020) showed that young adult females developed antisocial tendencies, unsafe sexual behavior, and use of sedative material like drugs and alcohol, and depression as a repercussion of maltreatment during childhood. Similarly, the results Haahr-Pedersen *et al.* (2020) predicted that there was a strong positive association between poly-victimization and psychopathology. It was concluded that poly-victimization had a stronger negative impact on mental health than a single one and suggested that well-defined poly-victimization will be beneficial for preventive interventions. Additionally, Arat, Jordan, and Wong (2021) assessed that different specific cultural characteristics have different impacts on the mental health of children which may be positive or negative. By the same token, Arpaci, Altay, Toruner, and Gunduz (2020) drew the results that mothers of children with disabilities have to pay more care to their children to make them compatible in society. Moreover, Baglioni *et al.* (2020) found that poor quality of sleep or insomnia affects the mental health of children negatively and it is positively associated with family environment. Furthermore, Baidawi (2020) proclaimed that better child protection services and prevention of maltreatment of children can stop children from becoming criminals and parents are pivotal to this issue.

In the same way, Shafiq *et al.* (2020) indicated that there was a significant relationship between stress, depression anxiety, and the decision-making process independent of orphan and non-orphan children and also revealed that anxiety is an important predictor of decision-making. Additionally, the results of Karmaliani *et al.* (2020) determined that school-based intervention can reduce the negative impact of peer violence against children. Likewise, Somani *et al.* (2021) concluded that children with disabilities are more prone to physical and mental violence at school and home. Similarly, the findings of the study showed that aggressive reporting, education, and effective protection mechanisms are effective preventive measures against child sexual abuse (CSA). By the same token, the study suggested that children face physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological violence at the workplace. Moreover, the major findings of Ali and Shaffie (2021)

documented that violence in terms of war disturbed physical, emotional, cognitive, and social well-being and psychological growth. Furthermore, Jawad, Ali, Hassan, and LAW (2021) elucidated that children face violence during war, conflict, and natural disasters and special laws have been promulgated to protect them. Besides, Javaid, Arshad, and Khalid (2020) suggested that children become victims of violence, abuse, maltreatment, and neglect during natural disasters. Further, the results showed that children become victims of sexual abuse in school. Similarly, the research of Hassan *et al.* (2021) exhibited that excessive broadcasting of programs with violent content promotes violent and aggressive behavior in children. Additionally, the results of the study highlighted that anxiety, frustration, and stress due to COVID-19 increased the violence against children. Hence, based on the above review, this study has been designed to evaluate the intersectionality of class and violence against children in Pakistan.

Data and Methods

This study has been conducted using a quantitative approach. The population consisted of children residing at four Child Protection Institutions (CPI) including Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, and Rawalpindi. A sample of 230 children has been selected using a classified random sampling technique. It is worth mentioning here that all the children were aged less than 18 years and were rescued before 30 days. A cross-sectional survey has been conducted and a structured questionnaire has been constructed. It has been divided into different parts including socio-economic characteristics, violence, and health status. It has been pre-tested from 30 randomly selected children and the value of Alpha has ranged from .702 to .864. frequency distribution, descriptive statistics, correlation, and independent sample T-tests have been employed to draw results and conclusions.

Results and Discussion

The data showed that 32.6 percent of the respondents belong to the 09-10 years age group and 27.4 percent of them had 11–12-year age. Furthermore, data pointed out that 18.3 percent of them were aged between 13-14 years, and 11.3 percent of them were aged between 07-08 years. Similarly, data also revealed that 05.7 percent of the respondents belonged to the age group 15-16 years and 02.6

percent of them belonged to the 05-06 years of age group. Moreover, only a smaller proportion 02.2 percent of the respondents had attained the age of 17-18 years. The data show that the majority 71.7 percent of the respondents completed only 0-2 years of education. Further, 23 percent of the respondents completed 3-5 years and 04.3 percent of the respondents completed 6-8 years of education. Moreover, only a small number of 01 percent of the respondents completed 9-11 years of education. The data indicated that more than half 53.9 percent of the respondent's monthly family income was up to 30,000 Pakistani rupees. Henceforth, 29.6 percent of the respondent's monthly family income was 30,001-45,000 and 07.9 percent of the respondent's monthly family income was 45,001-60,000. Moreover, only 08.7 percent of the respondent's monthly family income was 60,001 & above.

Table 1

Descriptive Statistics (n=230)

Variable	Mini-	Maxi-	Mean	Std. Devi-	Vari-
Physical Violence	9	28	17.72	4.221	17.819
Psychological Violence	7	28	16.35	3.877	15.033
Sexual Violence	7	28	15.87	4.336	18.801
Emotional Violence	9	28	16.37	3.644	13.282
Spiritual Violence	7	21	11.04	3.228	10.417
Cultural Violence	7	26	14.91	3.387	11.472
Verbal Abuse	11	28	19.91	3.858	14.887
Financial Abuse	7	26	13.92	4.071	16.570
Physical Health	7	28	18.17	4.769	22.747
Psychological Health	9	27	17.78	4.298	18.470
Social Well-Being	8	26	16.43	4.443	19.740

The data showed that the majority 69.1 percent of mothers of the respondents were housewives and 13.5 percent of them worked in another house. Furthermore, data pointed out that 10.4 percent of them were attached to any other types of work and 02.6 percent of them were daily wagers. Similarly, data also revealed that 02.2 percent of the mothers of the respondents were Govt employees and 01.3 percent of them were attached to private jobs.

Moreover, only a smaller proportion 00.9 percent of them were businesswomen. The data discovered that 36.5 percent of the respondents were living in a combined family system. Likewise, 33 percent of them belonged to extended family. Furthermore, 30.5 percent of the respondents belonged to the nuclear family system. The data revealed that the majority 60 percent of the respondents resided in rural areas. Further, 40 percent of the respondents were belonging to urban areas.

Table 1 describes the descriptive statistics of the variables. The data reveals that the minimum value of physical violence is 09, the maximum value is 28, 17.72 mean, 4.221 standard deviation, and 17.819 variance. Further, the data also reveals that the minimum value of psychological violence is 07, the maximum value is 28, 16.35 mean, 3.877 standard deviation, and 15.033 variance. Furthermore, the data also shows that the minimum value of sexual violence is 07, the maximum value is 28, 15.87 mean, 4.336 standard deviation, and 18.801 variance. Moreover, the result highlights that the minimum value of emotional violence is 09, the maximum value is 28, 16.37 mean, 3.664 standard deviation, and 13.282 variance. Hence, the data discloses that

Table 2

Correlation Statistical Test

Var.	PHVI	PSVI	SEVI	EMVI	SPVI	CUVI	VEAB	FIAB	PHHE	PSHE	SOWB
PHVI	1	.310**	.355**	.346**	.121	.109	.368**	.173**	-.183**	-.327**	-.179**
PSVI		1	.051	.463**	.306**	.148*	.410**	.083	-.062	-.096	-.042
SEVI			1	.262**	-.089	.085	.262**	.115	-.038	-.301**	.025
EMVI				1	.257**	.302**	.448**	.185**	-.169*	-.301**	-.136*
SPVI					1	.163*	.275**	.218**	-.149*	-.014	-.263**
CUVI						1	.144*	.370**	-.228**	-.247**	-.278**
VEAB							1	.373**	-.094	-.178**	-.164*
FIAB								1	-.237**	-.274**	-.343**
PHHE									1	.606**	.686**
PSHE										1	.545**
SOWB											1

the minimum value of spiritual violence is 07, the maximum value is 21, 11.04 mean, 3.228 standard deviation, and 10.417 is variance. Henceforth, the data unveils that the minimum value of cultural violence is 07, the maximum value is 26, 14.91 mean, 3.387 standard deviation, and 11.472 variance.

The result presents that the minimum value of verbal abuse is 11, the maximum value is 28, 19.91 mean, 3.858 standard deviation, and 14.887 variance. Likewise, the data reveals that the minimum value of financial abuse is 07, the maximum value is 26, 13.92 mean, 4.071 standard deviation, and 16.570 variance. Similarly to this, the data elaborates that the minimum value of physical health is 07, the maximum value is 28, 18.17 mean, 4.769 standard deviation, and 22.747 variance. Additionally, the result shows that the minimum value of psychological health is 09, the maximum value is 27, 17.78 mean, 4.298 standard deviation, and 18.470 variance. Similarly, the data illustrates that the minimum value of social well-being is 08, the maximum value is 26, 16.43 mean, 4.443 standard deviation, and 19.740 variance.



Table 2 presents the correlation statistical test. There is a weak positive significant correlation ($r = .310^{**}$) between physical and psychological violence against neglected and destitute children. Further, there is a moderate positive significant correlation ($r = .355^{**}$) between physical and sexual violence against neglected and destitute children. Furthermore, there is a moderate positive significant correlation ($r = .346^{**}$) between physical and emotional violence against neglected and destitute children. Moreover, there is a weak positive correlation ($r = .121$) between physical and spiritual violence against neglected and destitute children. Hence, there is a weak positive correlation ($r = .109$) between physical and cultural violence against neglected and destitute children. Auxiliary to this, there is a weak moderate positive significant correlation ($r = .368^{**}$) between physical violence and verbal abuse against neglected and destitute children. Likewise, there is a weak positive significant correlation ($r = .173^{**}$) between physical violence and financial abuse against neglected and destitute children. Similarly, there is a weak negative significant correlation ($r = -.183^{**}$) between physical violence and the physical health of neglected and destitute children. Additionally, there is a weak negative significant correlation ($r = -.327^{**}$) between physical violence and the psychological health of neglected and destitute children. Henceforth, there is a weak negative significant correlation ($r = -.179^{**}$) between physical violence and the social well-being of neglected and destitute children.

This table also shows that there is a weak positive correlation ($r = .051$) between psychological and sexual violence against neglected and destitute children. Furthermore, there is a moderate positive significant correlation ($r = .463^{**}$) between psychological and emotional violence against neglected and destitute children. Moreover, there is a weak positive significant correlation ($r = .306^{**}$) between psychological and spiritual violence against neglected and destitute children. Hence, there is a weak positive significant correlation ($r = .148^*$) between psychological and cultural violence against neglected and destitute children. Auxiliary to this, there is a moderate positive significant correlation ($r = .410^{**}$) between psychological violence and verbal abuse against neglected and destitute children. Likewise, there is a weak positive correlation ($r = .083$) between psychological violence and financial abuse against neglected and destitute children.

Similarly, there is a weak negative correlation ($r = -.062$) between psychological violence and the physical health of neglected and destitute children. Additionally, there is a weak negative correlation ($r = -.096$) between psychological violence and the psychological health of neglected and destitute children. Henceforth, there is a weak negative correlation ($r = -.042$) between psychological violence and the social well-being of neglected and destitute children.

This table also illustrates that there is a weak positive significant correlation ($r = .262^{**}$) between sexual and emotional violence against neglected and destitute children. Moreover, there is a weak negative correlation ($r = -.089$) between sexual and spiritual violence against neglected and destitute children. Hence, there is a weak positive correlation ($r = .085$) between sexual and cultural violence against neglected and destitute children. Auxiliary to this, there is a weak positive significant correlation ($r = .262^{**}$) between sexual violence and verbal abuse against neglected and destitute children. Likewise, there is a weak positive correlation ($r = .115$) between sexual violence and financial abuse against neglected and destitute children. Similarly, there is a weak negative correlation ($r = -.038$) between sexual violence and the physical health of neglected and destitute children. Additionally, there is a weak negative significant correlation ($r = -.301^{**}$) between sexual violence and the psychological health of neglected and destitute children. Henceforth, there is a weak positive correlation ($r = .025$) between sexual violence and the social well-being of neglected and destitute children.

This table also elaborates that there is a weak positive significant correlation ($r = .257^{**}$) between emotional and spiritual violence against neglected and destitute children. Hence, there is a weak positive significant correlation ($r = .302^{**}$) between emotional and cultural violence against neglected and destitute children. Auxiliary to this, there is a moderate positive significant correlation ($r = .448^{**}$) between emotional violence and verbal abuse against neglected and destitute children. Likewise, there is a weak positive significant correlation ($r = .185^{**}$) between emotional violence and financial abuse against neglected and destitute children. Similarly, there is a weak negative correlation ($r = -.169^*$) between emotional violence and the physical health of neglected and destitute children. Additionally, there is a weak negative significant correlation ($r = -$

.301**) between emotional violence and the psychological health of neglected and destitute children. Henceforth, there is a weak negative significant correlation ($r = -.136^*$) between emotional violence and the social well-being of neglected and destitute children.

This table also explains that there is a weak positive significant correlation ($r = .163^*$) between spiritual and cultural violence against neglected and destitute children. Auxiliary to this, there is a weak positive significant correlation ($r = .275^{**}$) between spiritual violence and verbal abuse against neglected and destitute children. Likewise, there is a weak positive significant correlation ($r = .218^{**}$) between spiritual violence and financial abuse against neglected and destitute children. Similarly, there is a weak negative significant correlation ($r = -.149^*$) between spiritual violence and the physical health of neglected and destitute children. Additionally, there is a weak negative correlation ($r = -.014$) between spiritual violence and the psychological health of neglected and destitute children. Henceforth, there is a weak negative significant correlation ($r = -.263^{**}$) between spiritual violence and the social well-being of neglected and destitute children.

This table also highlights that there is a weak positive significant correlation ($r = .144^*$) between cultural violence and verbal abuse against neglected and destitute children. Likewise, there is a weak positive significant correlation ($r = .370^{**}$) between cultural violence and financial abuse against neglected and destitute children. Similarly, there is a weak negative significant correlation ($r = -.228^{**}$) between cultural violence and the physical health of neglected and destitute children. Additionally, there is a weak negative significant correlation ($r = -.247^{**}$) between cultural violence and the psychological health of neglected and destitute children. Henceforth, there is

a weak negative significant correlation ($r = -.278^{**}$) between cultural violence and the social well-being of neglected and destitute children.

This table also concludes that there is a weak positive significant correlation ($r = .373^{**}$) between verbal abuse and financial abuse against neglected and destitute children. Similarly, there is a weak negative correlation ($r = -.094$) between verbal abuse and the physical health of neglected and destitute children. Additionally, there is a weak negative significant correlation ($r = -.178^{**}$) between verbal abuse and the psychological health of neglected and destitute children. Henceforth, there is a weak negative significant correlation ($r = -.164^*$) between verbal abuse and the social well-being of neglected and destitute children.

This table also determines that there is a weak negative significant correlation ($r = -.237^{**}$) between financial abuse and the physical health of neglected and destitute children. Additionally, there is a weak negative significant correlation ($r = -.274^{**}$) between financial abuse and the psychological health of neglected and destitute children. Henceforth, there is a moderate negative significant correlation ($r = -.343^{**}$) between financial abuse and the social well-being of neglected and destitute children.

This table also points out that, there is a moderate positive significant correlation ($r = .606^{**}$) between physical health and psychological health of neglected and destitute children. Henceforth, there is a strong positive significant correlation ($r = .686^{**}$) between the physical health and social well-being of neglected and destitute children.

This table also elucidates that, there is a moderate positive significant correlation ($r = .545^{**}$) between the physical health and social well-being of neglected and destitute children.

Table 3

Independent Samples Test Showing Rural-Urban Difference in Terms of Financial Abuse

Vari-	Levene's Test for Equality of Vari-				t-test for Equality of Means				
	F	ig.	t	df	ig. (2-tailed)	ean Diff-	td. Error Diff-	95percent Confidence Interval of the Diff-	
								ow-	pp-
Equal assumed	1.298	256	.757	228	006	.489	540	425	.553
Equal not assumed			.683	176.53	008	.489	555	394	.585

Table 3 depicts the independent sample t-test. The statistical analysis shows that there is a significant difference in financial abuse between rural and urban background destitute and neglected children in the custody of the Child Protection & Welfare Bureau in Punjab.

Discussion

Furthermore, in many cases, children don't tell or report the sexual abuse due to the fear of the rapist because in most cases criminals belong to the same family or fast friend as any of the family members (Abouhatab & Elagamy, 2021). Moreover, in many cases, children don't tell their parents because there is a communication gap between them or parents have failed to develop such frank and conducive relationships with their children (Camilo, Garrido, & Calheiros, 2020). Economic violence is another form of violence committed against children at workplaces (Shoaib, Khan, & Ashraf, 2011). Similarly, a large number of children are working in workshops, tea stalls, shops, and even at brick Killen in Pakistan (Cruz Jiménez, Serrano-Barquín, Zizumbo Villarreal, & Vargas Martínez, 2020; Cullen, 2020). Additionally, they are not being paid properly or according to their work (Krigel & Benjamin, 2021). Similarly, they have to do additional work on demand for their master without any extra penny (Mock-Muñoz de Luna, Granberg, Krasnik, & Vitus, 2020). Moreover, they are employed for little work at shops or workshops but after employment, there is no limit or specification for their workload (McCafferty, 2021). On the other hand, they are given big tasks to achieve with little benefit, sometimes these children have to work for little pieces of sweets (Saran, Subrahmanian, & White, 2021). The most ignored form of violence is spiritual violence committed against children. So, even there is little awareness about spiritual abuse (Craig *et al.*, 2020). Furthermore, it is very difficult to point out religious abuse because religion is a very personal matter for everyone (Idanwekhai, 2021; Naseer, Shoaib, Ali, & Bilal, 2021). Moreover, many people are not even ready to recognize it as violence or abuse (Majumder, 2021). Besides, this type of abuse mostly occurs in religious ceremonies when a religious leader shames other people due to their specific religious thoughts and snubs children, especially for believing or thinking only about their propagated thoughts (Michaelson *et al.*, 2021).

On the other hand, most religious violence occurs between the followers of the same teaching, and the person committing violence has some kind of moral authority in religion. Moreover, he uses this authority on children with malicious intentions (McPhillips, 2021; Shoaib *et al.*, 2011). Furthermore, religious or spiritual violence is not limited to any specific region or geographical and is not attached to any specific religion (Bagwell-Gray, Thaller, Messing, & Durfee, 2021). Likewise, this type of violence against children is common and difficult to curtail especially neglected and destitute children, who got admission in religious ceremonies (Shoaib, Usmani, & Ali, 2022). In the same way, children are ridiculed or insulted due to their specific beliefs or they are forced to be raised in such an environment that they dislike or oppose (Michaelson *et al.*, 2021; Shoaib *et al.*, 2011). In addition to this, Children are prohibited from participating in religious gatherings (Ahmed, Zahoor, & Relations, 2020; Anwar, Shoaib, & Zahra, 2021). Similarly, the results of the religious violence come out in the form of depression, anxiety, fear, and destabilized and extremist emotions (Ahmed *et al.*, 2020). Cultural violence develops under the umbrella of structural violence when any cultural pattern or norm supports or legitimizes any type of violence. Additionally, the best example of cultural violence was the motorway rape case in which a police officer asked the victim of rape why she came out of her house alone and why she did not check the fuel in her car before leaving the city (Anwar *et al.*, 2021). Further, he blamed the victim for the whole incident rather than apprehending the accused. Likewise, the other best example of cultural violence is the lateral violent behavior of any person who has experienced violence during his childhood. In addition to this, Cultural violence also has a gender aspect (Stark, Seff, & Psychology, 2021). In majority of the rape cases female are the victim of violence (Abouhatab & Elagamy, 2021). Furthermore, children are easy and soft targets of cultural violence (Bähr & Taylor, 2021). Hence, Children of the minority have to follow the cultural patterns of the majority especially in religious and educational institutions (Abbas, Naqvi, & Mahmood, 2024).

Conclusion

The study findings outlined that there was a significant correlation between physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual, and psychological violence social well-being, and physical and psychological

health. Similarly, the statistical analysis shows that there is a significant difference in financial abuse between rural and urban background destitute and neglected children in the custody of the Child Protection & Welfare Bureau in Punjab. The key findings of the research demonstrated that children faced issues regarding physical, and emotional health along with issues related to their well-being. The empirical evidence elucidated that physical, psychological, cultural, and emotional violence and verbal abuse had a significant correlation. Violence against children has been fermenting but there is little literature available to explain the impacts of this new phenomenon on the lateral life of neglected children in Pakistan.

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