

Human Rights Violations against Women in 2009



STOP VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN
FROM NOW !!!



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Foreword

This report 'Human Rights Violations against Women in 2009' is joint work of work of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and the Centre for Peace and Civil Society (CPCS)

This report neither addresses the issues of gender equity, nor aims to advocate for political empowerment of women. This report advocates safeguarding women's right to breathe in those cultural backgrounds where life and death of women either are determined by the men of their families or by the obsolete beliefs existing in their customs.

First of all, I must acknowledge Mr. Jamil Junejo for collecting & compiling news from the three popularly-read newspapers of Pakistan (Dawn, Jang and Kawish).

Secondly, I am indebted to Ms. Sahar Gul for giving the data a report form and conducting a small research study on the kinds of crime, and ratio of crime in rural urban settings of Pakistan. I thank Ms. Sarra Latif (NCSW) who shared a portion of work in the report with Ms. Sahar Gul.

Finally, on behalf of NCSW and CPCS I thank Mr. Ghaffar Sethar of Design Philosophy (DF) who designed Title Page of the report.

Jami Chandio
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Human Rights Violations against Women in 2009

Executive Summary:

The National Commission on the Status of Women has developed this report in order to document the heinous incidents (took place in 2009) against half of the population of the country—women. This report portrays a panoramic picture of violence taking place against women in rural and urban areas of Pakistan—the proportion and density of violence cases in rural and urban locations of the city expose upsetting reality. This study not only introduces a novel trend to look at the violence against women in Pakistan, but it also opens a niche for various research works to be done on this subject. Besides, it appeals to the incumbency of the institutional authorities of the country to change the existing policies regarding justice and security of the women citizens of Pakistan. And a lot more is needed to be done in order to bring pronto changes in the general mindset of society—the mindset that plays pivotal role in adoption of a particular thinking culture followed by atrocious actions.

This report also invokes the stakeholders of society to build pressure over the judiciary of the country to develop a judicial watch group to take *Suo Moto* actions soon after the occurrence of the atrocities. The delay in the tackling of the issue weakens the case, gives time to the perpetrators to harass the victims or make deals with them to settle the case with monetary compensation etc.

How the lives of women have been affected, and dignity injured, it requires scores of researches to know that. Let alone handing over them their rights of equal to men, their right of breath too has to be restored at various places of society. The ones who are killed in the name of honor, for them the right of breath is more important than the right of equality—even suppressed, still they would choose to survive. The rights that are safeguarded by religion and the Constitution of the country are brutally violated in the hands of familial and social patriarchs. The justice system of the country, first of all, is at the budding stage where the issues of women are not dealt with the required expertise and endowment; secondly, the issues of women are dropped in unconsciousness and oblivion because of (though not unwarranted) the scores of other issues the country carries along with it legacy. However, it is a manifest and embedded fact that in the absence of peace and security of half of the population, the country's other dimensions too cease to progress.

The women of the country are being victimized in the hands of their fanatic other half in the name of so called 'honor'. The statutory bodies of the NCSW's members, who are volunteers as well, predominantly have to declare to advocate for those victimized women who either were brutally raped and murdered or are delayed in prisons by the courts of law.

With its noble and virtuous mandate, the Commission vows to sensitize the consciousness of the citizens of Pakistan about the status of women—no doubt the Commission is the '*gender conscience*'¹ of the government of Pakistan.

¹ Dr. Arfa S. Zehra. Message of Out-Going Chairperson (1st Jan. 2009) http://www.ncsw.gov.pk/more_msg.php

Recommendations

Civil Society organizations

1. General culture of consciousness of society has to be made recognize and acknowledge the existence and rights of half of the population of the country. Civil society organizations can play this role well, as they are one of the platforms where people's concerns can be addressed and advocated through.

Political parties

2. The political parties should open their HR cells in each town and city of country, so that the crime should be addressed immediately.
3. The party constitutions and manifesto should include especial provisions regarding ending violence against women.

The Government

4. It is incumbent upon the government of Pakistan to take special measures to address the issues of women, in order to bring substantial changes in the other spheres of the country.
5. The government should form national and provincial levels committees to monitor the events in collaboration with the law enforcement agencies. The close coordination of the various stakeholders can bring colossal changes in the law and order situation of country about violence against women.

The Police Department

6. The police department of Pakistan should monitor their investigative mechanism so that the by no means the perpetrators could succeed in making deals with the police department officials, as usually happens in heinous cases.

The NCSW

7. The Commission's visibility at grassroots level would work as a watchdog for investigators; it would not only give relief to the victims, but expedite the justice as well.
8. The Commission should develop a Women's Rights Watch section, which keep monitoring the cases of crime on daily basis and follow up for the status, coordinate with the local and district management group, law enforcement department and plead for quick justice to the victim.
9. Commission has to play role as both the 'gender conscience' and gender-consciousness of society in general and government in particular.
10. The Commission should initiate a dialogue in the country over the issues of women. New trends of thought can be introduced; new ideas can be generated regarding treating the mundane mindset of society.
11. The gender dynamics in the country needs to be reformed, the Commission is playing its role in that regard, the government has to share the portion of its responsibility.

Introduction

We read the cases of human rights violation on daily basis—out of which most are suffered by women, who, according to the findings of this report are one of the most vulnerable segment of our society. This report's findings demand more advocacy, lobbying, policy change as props women's status in society. NCSW decided to compile a research report on vicitimization of women in Pakistan occurred in the year 2009. This report reveals kinds of punishments, trends of violence and general mindset that governs the thought of the perpetrators. Following tasks were done in finalizing this report:

1. Three daily newspapers, Dawn, Jang and Kawish, were reviewed.
2. The news of crime was recorded.
3. The data was analyzed
4. Recommendations were developed

Categorization of the data

News clips has been divided into various categories such as attempt to murder, murder, *Karo Kari*, Abduction, Suicide, Rape, Criminal violence, Burning, Acid, Vani, Forced/Underage marriage, selling out of girls and women, *Sang Chatti* (Compensation), and some other kinds.

- The news of kidnapped & murdered is put into the category of “**Murder**”.
- The news of murder under the condition of *Karo Kari* is labeled as “***Karo Kari***”
- Cases of abduction are put into the category of “**Kidnapping**.”
- Cases of Rape and Murder are put in the category of “**Rape**”.
- Cases of burn are put into the category of “**Burning**”.
- While events of throwing acid on women are categorized as “**Acid Burn**”.
- The news of the category other than the ones mentioned-above are categorized as “**Miscellaneous**”.

Kinds of Research Study

1. Kinds of incidents/crime and comparative ratio of crimes
2. Provincial Rural Urban divide of incidents

Limitations of the research:

Some unavoidable limitations during conduction of this study should be mentioned here.

- The coverage of crime in KPK and Balochistan was not remarkable as mentioned by the local people. It was noted that the national newspapers hardly covered the cases took place in Balochistan, the newspapers hardly confired the cases that were circulated through web-news. It indicated that the press of Pakistan hardly focuses on the crime report in Balochistan where crime rate against woman is higher; one can imagine the crime level from the cases like burial of live women.
- The division between rural and urban areas of each province was also a limitation, the individuals belonging to media, academia and literary sections of the each province disregarded the division of rural and urban areas defined by government of Pakistan. They said the cities or towns where there are schools and colleges especially for girls as well should be included in the domain of urban, while government included almost every area into rural section except for five or six major districts in Punjab and Sindh. While in Balochistan and KPK hardly two districts were mentioned to be the urban areas by the government. Therefore, needless to say that the findings of the research put under the rural and urban

division may be criticized by those sections that do accept the division defined by the government.

Niche for the further research

As discussed in the limitations of the research, though challenging, it stands responsibility of NCSW to manage gathering crime reports from Balochistan and also Khyber Pakhtunkhwa & its tribal zones where hardly reports could be gathered. Though many journalists have access to such zones both in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, NCSW only has to synergize with few individuals in order to get reports. The news agencies like newspapers, radio and TV channels cannot help in their capacity of institutions, here individuals cannot be relied upon.

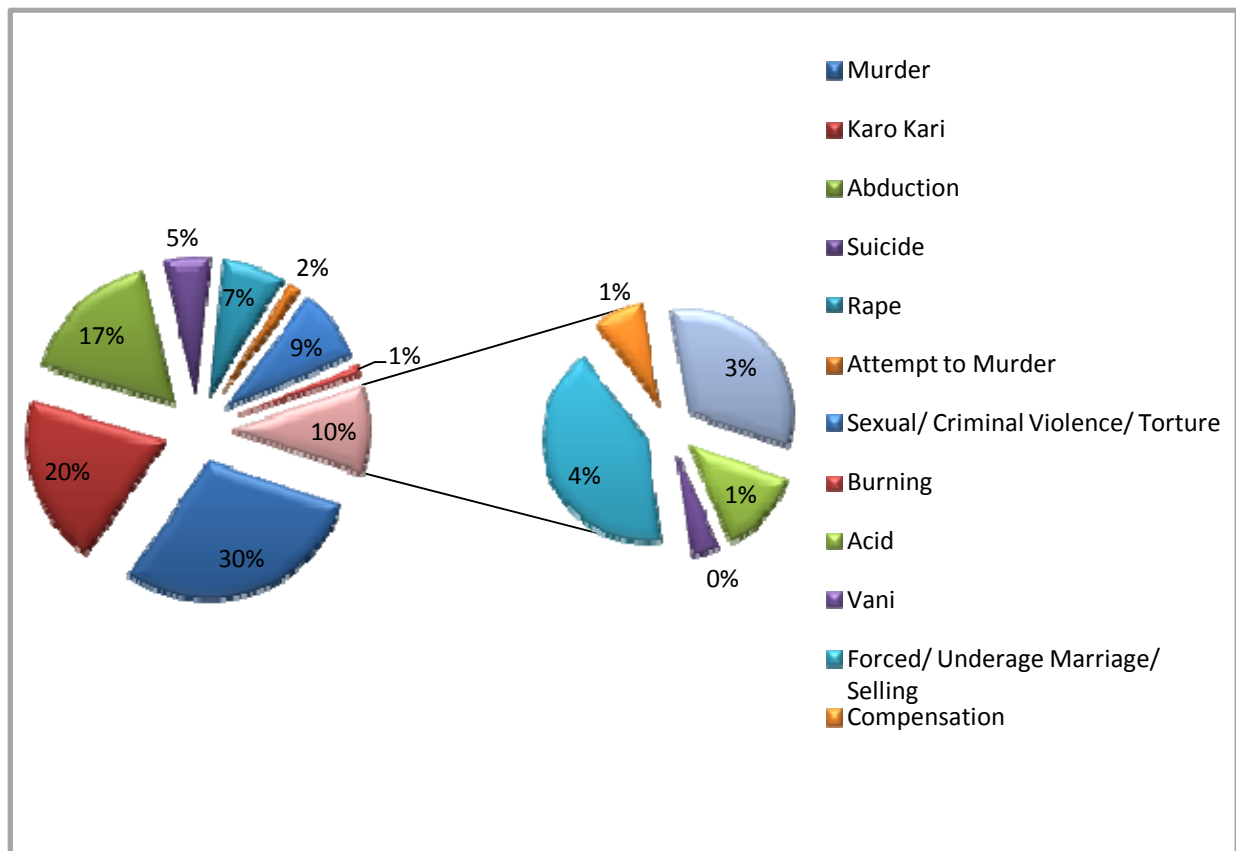
Findings: Number of Violations and trends

According to the research, there were total 948 cases of violence took place in 2009 against women in whole the Pakistan. Murder cases were 202 *Karo Kari* 220, Abduction 176, Suicide 63, Rape 61, Attempt to murder 11, Sexual/Criminal violence/Torture 81, Burning 5, Acid 15, Vani 03, Forced/Underage marriage /Selling 40, Compensation 6, and Miscellaneous 65. Hence the categories of crime are distributed in percentage wise in the following description:

Out of the crime, there were 30% murders under which come under general category, while the murders under killing in the name of honor (*Karo Kari*) registered by press were 20%; 17% were the cases of abduction, 5% suicide, 7% rapes, 1% attempt of murder, 9% sexual/criminal violence and torture, 1% burn cases, 1% Burn cases with acid, 0.5% vani cases, 4% forced/underage marriage cases, 1% compensation and 3% miscellaneous cases, which come in the category of minor crime against women in 2009.

Analysis can only be conducted under socio- cultural frameworks in gender based literatures. Thereafter the following trends may be analyzed on the provincial level:

1. The disproportionately low number of reported cases in NWFP and Balochistan (access of women to media, relatively conservative patriarchal structure, education).
2. The high number of forced marriages/ selling in Sindh (Wadaira system, traditional norms)
3. Taking out percentages of the crime per province in terms of population will provide a more comparative analysis.



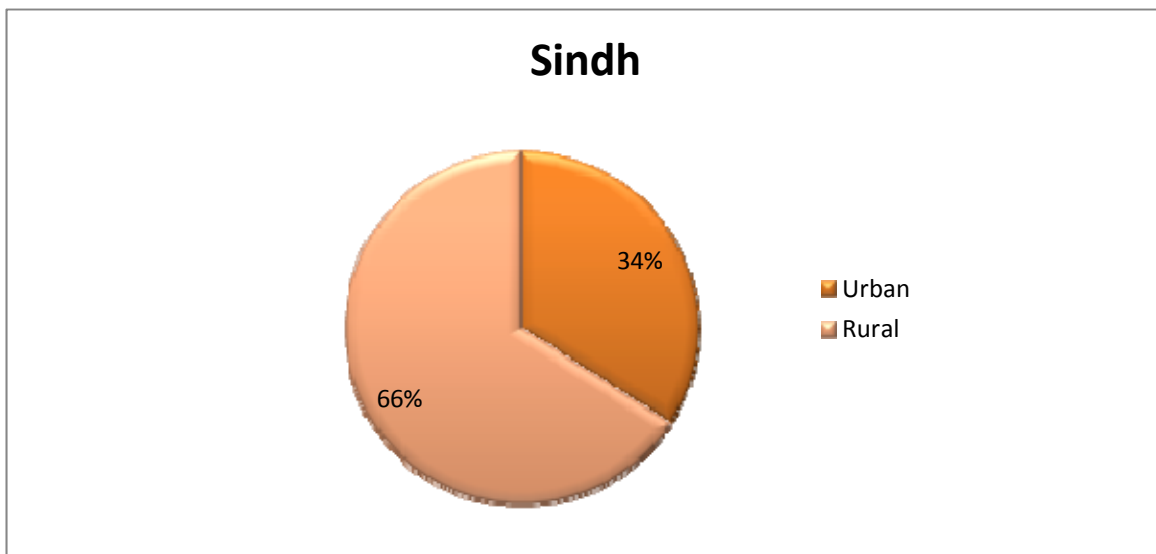
Rural Urban Divide

The rural urban divide of the research was the most difficult task as the division between rural and urban sections of each province is defined by government is different to the standardized global definition of the terms rural and urban in the under-developed countries. Ususally the town and small city where there is a civil hospital, schools and colleges are known as urban areas, however, the government's division is quite contradictory to this definition. As in Sindh rest of the areas are termed as rural areas except for Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Mirpurkhas and Nawabshah. In Punjab except for Lahore, Faisalabad, Islamabad and industrialized zones rest are included in rural areas. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa except for main centres of Peshawar, Mardan and Swabi rest of the remaining areas are defined as rural section. In Balochistan except for Quetta rest is defined as rural.

In this peculiar situation it was not easy to decide about rural urban division. However, the division of the crime against women under urban rural division was quite needed in order to see the diverse trends of the crime in both of the zones of Pakistan. Hence it was decided to follow the definition of rural and urban defined by the government of Pakistan, so that the research may get requied attention by the government institutions, which are the actual decision-makers whom the NCSW should address its recommendations to..

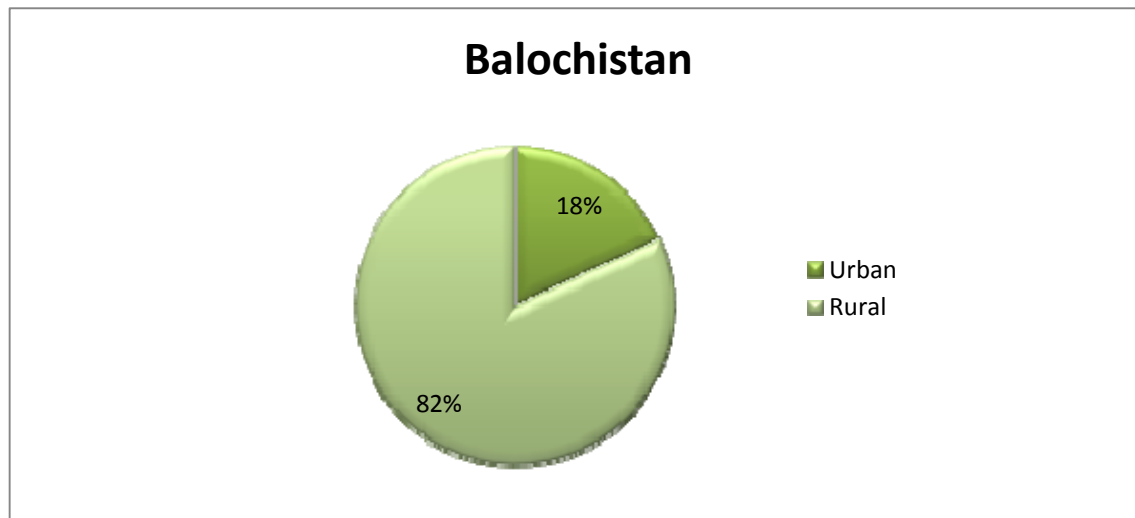
Rural and Urban Division in Sindh

The rural urban divide of crime in Sindh province includes 66% rural while 34% was urban. Sukkur, Khairpur, Hyderabad, Jacobabad, Dadu, Karachi, Shikarpur and Ghotki were the districts where crime was high; Sakhar had the highest crime rate Hyderabad had the second highest and in third highest category come the Khairpur, Jacobabad, Karachi, Dadu and Shikarpur districts. The districts like Sanghar, Nawabshah, Matiyari, Bhit Shah which are categorized in the central part of Sindh where patriarchy does not exist in the robe of tribal and feudal mindset. However, the number of cases in these districts indicates to the increase in narrowness of mindset in the central part of Sindh, which is usually known as the place that is inhabited by scholarly and educated section of society. The discrepancy can be seen through the lens of uncontrolled spread of tribal mindset in urbanized and educated of society.



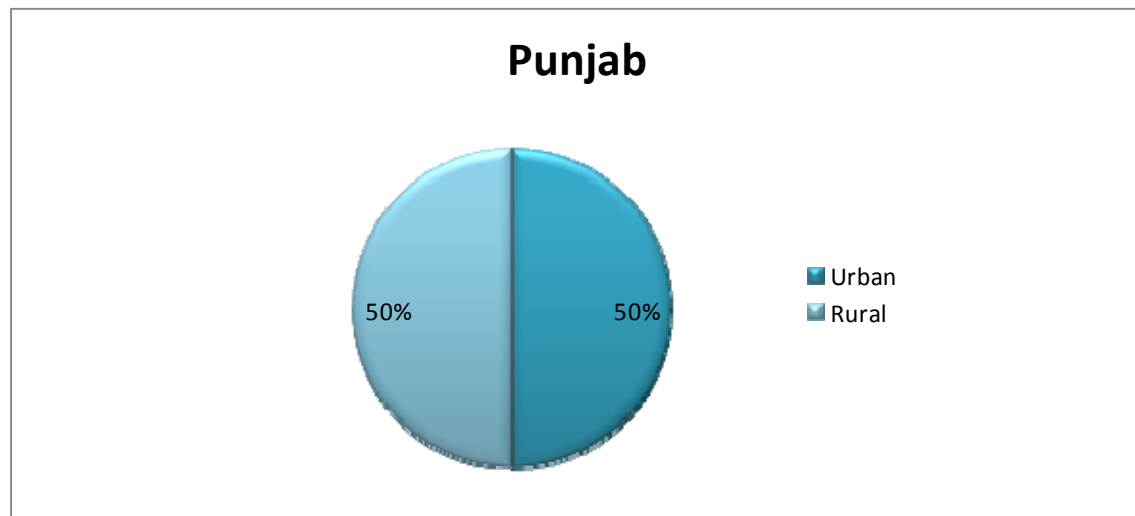
Rural and Urban Division in Balochistan

As it is clearly mentioned in the limitations of the research that due to lack of proper reporting mechanisms in Balochistan, the enumerators could not gather exact information of the crimes against women took place in Balochistan. Yet whatever the cases were covered shows only 18% coverage of urban cases, while 82% coverage was of rural areas. Most of the cases covered in Balochistan belonged to the areas of Dera Murad Jamali; Jhull Magsi; Dera Allah Hayr; and Landi Kotal.



Rural and Urban Division in Punjab

The situation in Punjab is quite unique; the percentage of rural and urban cases is exactly equal that is 50% in both rural and urban areas respectively. In the urban section of Punjab the sensitive districts include Lahore, Faisalabad, Islamabad, Jhang, Pindi, Sialkot and Gujranwala. While the rural sections where most of the cases of violence were recorded include TT Singh, Attock, Kasur, Taxila, Okara Mianwali, Rajanpur, Bahawal Nagar, Rahim Yar Khan and Vehari.



Rural and Urban Division in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The case of KPK is not very different from Balochistan, as the cases of crime are not shown in all the national newspapers. The districts where majority of the cases of violence against women were recorded included Kohat, Swabi, Mansehra, Peshawar, Mardan, Karan and Waziristan. Out of which 27% cases were from urban and 73% was from rural areas.

