

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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## **WHY PUBLIC CRITICIZE POLICE IN CASE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

### **Prelude:**

Women and girls are affected by Gender-based violence (GBV) disproportionately. Worldwide one third women have traumatized by experiencing sexual and other forms of violence. It is sad that female partners are much more likely to be killed by their male intimate partners or family members. These gender-based violence crimes are most under-reported not only in Pakistan but to other parts of the world as well. Victim of such GBC often face significant obstacles due to gaps in Criminal Justice System, stereotype based on gender, victim blaming and inadequate responses of police professional as first responders, leading to more victimization of women and girls. The COVID-19 pandemic has further restricted access to reporting of crime and justice services for women.

### **Key Words:**

Gender, Women, Violence, Victimization, Police, Inappropriate Handling, Women Police Stations, Society.

### **Topic of the week**

"Pls give three reasons why public criticizes police response in cases of Violence Against Women? Suggest three ways how best to deal with it?"

### **GENERAL POINTS:**

- Criticism is a new norm after evolution of social media, and violence case, if any highlighted on social media gives opportunity to already annoyed public to explode their anger against Police.
- Sir I find it difficult to explain the situation in bulleted points. In fact, there are many factors which have attributed to the public perception that police is non-professional, lethargic, apathetic, gender biased and inefficient when investigating crimes against women.
- Police criticism comes when it is cut-off from society or is not coming up to its expectations. Blame doesn't lie on police solely. Society also has some responsibility. It's a process of continuous engagement of society and police which will lead to more responsive police.
- Delayed and socio- psychologically poor response, ingrained gender bias in the male chauvinistic police culture, socially constructed role of females expecting her to behave in a particular way are general factors which invite and incite criticism against

police in case of violence against women. One more factor which provokes the already aggrieved victim, and her family is the unprofessional and unempathetic manner of asking the details of the incident.

- Having said that I would say the criticism is not always warranted or deserved. There are instances in which the victim is not as critical of the police as media or surrounding people are. \*As a general phenomenon in times of despair the people look for villains to blame for their woes. A classic example was the behavior of American society in great depression of 1920's when in despair the people started to perceived banks as villains being responsible for their problems and conversely the bank robbers as heroes. A similar mode of thinking seems to prevail in Pakistan and collective and cumulative despair of the people finds an easy target in Police to blame for their miseries and distress- the incidents only provide a chance and context. \*
- It is this aspect of community policing which is ignored. There should be forums to deliberate and sensitize police and public about emerging challenges and how best to deal with it. Organizations like CPLC, Women Action Forum, Legal Aid Committee, Child Protection Bureau, Roshni Helpline in Karachi are doing tremendous work and have been able to sensitize people and police over emerging issues which are posing a challenge for police in a fast-evolving society and have been able to generate an acceptance of police response with all its limitations.
- The overall frustration that public have due to our routine interaction with them, and hence the volcano erupts when they get an opportunity through such sensitive incidents that go viral on media. Irresponsible statements by police officials further aggravate the situation.
- Personal Whims of Govts, unfortunately, take precedence over the Laws, the Rules, the Merit and over the sanctimonious Service Rights of the Civil Servants . That is why, the whole of Governance System here stands Upside Down. Fair is Foul and Foul is Fair.
- Police is a reflection of our society at large. Like society, it is involved in victim blaming of women. (e.g. motorway rape incident) Moreover police is a patriarch institution which not only dictates might is right but also shows how vulnerable figments of the society are treated by the powerful in the society.
- GBV cases are sensational and often tricky wherein at times the victims' heirs or family are also trying to change facts in order to protect their household privacy. Police must show empathy and compassion rather than adopting a hardline/classical approach where they are supposed to register or investigate the offence/incident "in a certain way". This is one area, where police need to be made more sensitized, trained, and

directed (by senior commanders). We have over the years, improved in all these areas mentioned, yet every case throws open a new challenge and unless we do not bring in such working culture followed by such practices, our victims and their families would continue to criticize us for non-delivery up to their required expectations.

## **REASONS:**

### **1. Reluctance by victim:**

- Women are reluctant to discuss details with male IOs.
- Any female being, 'rebellious" from baseline conservative routine is seriously looked down upon by majority and she must be made an example for others confined into houses .

### **2. Lack of capacity of Police:**

#### *a) Training:*

- How far are the police trained to respond to such incidents/information.
- Despite introduction of some gender- based innovations and development of law, lot has to be done in terms of training and resources for the actual person ( police officer ) who is dealing with situations.
- Lack of trained and qualified officers \* to deal with the victim and offender (who are often not strangers to each other ) . the \*power disparity between the victim and the offender is critical to understanding the issue and has to be addressed which the police fail to appreciate. The physical, emotional and psychological scarring of the victim needs a cathartic touch which the heavy hand of the police lacks.

#### *b) Investigation:*

- Preparing a proper prosecution case by ensuring all Medico legal and ocular evidentiary formalities.

#### *c) Referrals:*

- (Both psychosocial and medical)- ensuring that the victims are taken care of by exercising possible aid in the above two post incident traumatic causes.

#### *d) Insensitive handling:*

- Insensitive handling of victims: the handling of the victims is another source of criticism. There are not enough female officers in police to handle each of violence against women (VAW) case. Most of these cases are handled by male officers, who are ill-equipped to emotionally and psychologically handle the victims and their families. VAW sometimes can be very traumatic.
  - We have to disconnect the victim's character from the crime of GBV. Many still believe that the girl was responsible for the way, she was manhandled and assaulted.
  - Inability of the police to shield the identity of the victim leading to disintegrative shaming especially in cases where the cognizable/noncognitive divide leads to further complications for the victim.
- Even though, our performance has improved in the three areas mentioned yet there are lapses in our performance delivery when it comes to handling GBV cases.
  - Lack of training to provide counseling and psychological first aid.
  - The police being an over dominated 'male force' don't seem to carry a sensitive or soft approach towards the issue, and many cases of violence against women are not even acknowledged by police, let alone registering those; whereas police use the old phrase 'it's a domestic matter and not a police related issue'.
  - Serious lack of knowledge and understanding of the laws related to such acts of violence against women.
  - Also, police gave up on the beat system long ago which was the only community policing component of our policing system. This complicates the situation as determining truth becomes delayed and cumbersome and police often fails to estimate the gravity of the situation early on.
  - Delayed response by the police which is most often bereft of empathy for the victim. furthermore, police response often exacerbates the situation by creating further problems for the victim.
  - Most of the people are unaware of the cases related to women. That's why police response comes slow, and the cases remain unreported.
  - Sir as such cases is of high profile nature attracting immediate public response, local police tackle them in the same conventional lethargic way.

### **3. Role of Media:**

- Media's (social and electronic) irresponsible reporting of the case basically maligning police for the root cause rather than focusing on root cause of the incident.
- In certain cases, public becomes sectarian orthodox to deal weak pillars of society (i.e., women, minorities and children) in harsh manners. For example, honor killing, acid throwing, burning Christians etc. And when such cases are highlighted in National and International Media, police itself become victim to bear all criticism and pressure.
- For mob behavior resulting into violence against women, Police is confused in its reaction towards mob in present times. On the one hand, the camera in hand has rightly highlighted different issues/incidents while , on the other hand , same camera in hand has stopped the police from traditional response of regimented use of force ( which was effective with some complaints of overdoing). Now, in my view, Police department is still deficient to find out new technique ( short of sheer use of force ).

#### **4. Overburdened Police Force:**

- Excessive workload on IOs.
- Unempathetic approach since Police officers are always over occupied with other major crimes/ issues and violence against women is treated as a petty crime.
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- Partly due to shortage of human resources and mostly due to its traditional orientation, our police is attuned to responding to serious / publicized cases and neglecting the minor ones.
- Most of times, Police tries to sort out such cases without registering FIRs.
- Partly due to shortage of human resources and mostly due to its traditional orientation, our police is attuned to responding to serious / publicized cases and neglecting the minor ones.
- Lack of female police officers in police stations especially in rural police stations.

#### **5. Social Paradox:**

- Issues related to women are in many cases not registered due to the influence of culture. That's in most of the rural settings, women themselves don't go to police stations/they are not allowed to register a case in Police Station against men.
- There is a culture of compromise and most of the cases of violence against women are compromised at earlier stages.
- Mostly, handling hands develop preconceived notion about the character of female victim (one can easily observe such notions when under command briefs about the case).
- Victim-blaming is another reason. It is generally assumed that if a woman has been subjected to violence outside home, then she is somehow responsible. This belief lends a certain bias and insensitivity to the police response, for which they are criticized.
- Victim Blaming: For example,
  - What were you doing there at this time of the night?
  - Why were you alone?
  - Why were you not accompanied by your family?
  - Why did you not inform your husband/brother/father that you were leaving your house?
  - Why don't you live with your husband?
  - Such responses, albeit genuine, but conversed at wrong time and place increase the trust deficit between public and police.
- Perspective of this crime is taken very lightly, not seen as a big crime, eve teasing is a socially acceptable crime and not taken very seriously (in case of domestic violence, it is an accepted norm as in most cases reported to police, police tries to reconcile them and send them back without any serious step to curb it).
- Police tends to deal the cases of violence against women in line with our societal norms and prefer for their resolution through reconciliation.
- Most police officers consider violence against women (VAW) as a societal norm and demonstrate this mindset by their utterances, gestures and demeanor while interacting with victim.
- Lack of trust in police as organization and police itself in "survival mode" in here.

- It is easy for the public to make Police a scapegoat upon which whole responsibility could easily be shifted notwithstanding the fact that multiple societal related reasons are also involved in cases. Unfortunately, we are the society who considers that police is meant to solve all problems but on the other hand, the said public does not cooperate with police to control violence.
- Although social and cultural constraints act as significant deterrents that hinder individuals from reporting the SGBV perpetrated against them, the distrust and fear of police force massively hinders them from coming forward to report the crimes. Resultantly, police has to face criticism.
- Violence against women (VAW) is not taken seriously by most of police personnel. Most of the time only rape or death is taken into account, but domestic violence is swept under the rug as it is husband-wife's matter or domestic issue that happens everywhere.
- PS level staff adhere to common societal norms and do not take minor cases of VAW seriously.
- Blaming the victim.
- Trying to patch-up.
- Police do not take action- traditional apathy, biases of patriarchal society and a kind of religious extremism which starts the inquiry and investigation by doubting the victim's/ complainant character and value system
- Police Officer must stop patronizing victims of VAW when those approach CJS.

## **6. Lukewarm response by Police:**

- The major reason of public dissatisfaction with police, in cases of violence against women, is their lukewarm response. These cases create hype and undermine the image of police in the society. Police should professionalize their handling of cases relating to violence against women on priority basis.
- Violence against women is part of the main division: crime against person. Crime against person has been traditionally viewed as low priority as against the crime against property. Crime against property, arrests and recoveries has been the policing paradigm for a long time. Police have always felt responsible for this type of crime, while the crime against person has been treated as a conflict between two parties, despite the fact that it is also a crime against society in which 'state' is a party. Only recently, violent crimes against vulnerable sections of society have



attracted due attention, owing to electronic and social media. But, still, the level of sensitivity among the police is low. They often respond quickly enough but sometimes response is slow, and they are criticized for those instances, but rarely appreciated for their timely response, because only poor response is highlighted in the media.

- Police has failed to take drastic actions in prevention of such offences as no relevant legislation stands for such prevention in criminal domain.
- Police doesn't implement laws made for protection of vulnerable communities i.e., Domestic violence Act, Corporal punishment Act, protection of Transgender Act, Mental health Act, etc.
- IO priority is to effect some kind of "Razinama" between parties and find an easy way out to Ringelmann out of legal handling of the case.
- The response in most of the cases is too little and too late.
- Poor response from the lower tier of police which are basically responsible for professionally responding to the incident.
- Poor investigation and prosecution lead to the bail of the accused and acquittal.
- Absence of proper SOPs in some cases and proper implementation of these SOPs soon after the occurrence of any such incident.
- As a result of late response, the recent surge in the hash tags for justice for victims/survivors of SGBV highlights that often survivors are forced to share their plight on social media for access to justice rather than reporting it to the police.
- The lethargic response that police officers extend in such cases - in all stages of the proceedings. At times the police officials' side with the criminals to grind their own axe.
- Our lethargic and non-serious attitude.
- Nonprofessional approach especially of first responders

a) Reasons of lukewarm Response:

- i. Sir as I reminded AIG gender crime Punjab and accessed crime data from all 36 districts, I did some data analytics for policy decisions. All reasons of delay, ingrained misogyny and corrupt practices at IO level are very well pointed out but analytics showed what caused this.

- Crime diaries put VAW cases under misc. and others therefore never make it to crime meetings at all supervisory levels.
  - There is poor supervision and next to none ownership of senior managers until the media highlights it
  - Out of 36 districts, only 10 had highest rates of VAW cases but media made those look like that the whole province is in the grip of law of jungle.
  - The junior ranks were mostly trained in dealing with VAW cases in most of the urban cities but there was very little interest shown by the supervisors
  - The rape investigation units were orphan units and usually at the whims of some SI or IP and had many corrupt practices. There were female officers in the units greatly outnumbered by male colleagues.
- ii. All the determinants of attitudes towards police play variable roles, however their impact is moderated by the demographic attributes of people.
- Integrity influences people's attitude.
  - Attentiveness influences people's attitude.
  - Reliability influences people's attitude.
  - Responsiveness influences people's attitude.
  - Competence influences people's attitude.
  - Manners influences people's attitude.
  - Fairness influences people's attitude.
  - Demographic variables moderate public attitude towards police.

## **7. Clumsy CJS:**

- Investigation and trial procedures are so clumsy and protracted that complainants are discouraged to pursue their cases till the end. Police is considered responsible for resultant failure of the cases.
- The reporting, handling and investigating environment of cases regarding VAW still lacks that consoling & helping support which is very important in such cases. The

general awareness level of public has risen and when they don't find desired quality in response, they start criticizing.

- Delayed process due to very slow mechanism of getting information; stressful legal procedure for victims, even sometimes victimization at the hands of police officers.
- Lack of research, and a data driven policy, is what we lack. Not only in police but all over in Pak. Our policy formulation is based on anecdotes, personal perception or half-baked data. Infolytics, as u have pointed out, has to be the essential starting point of response formulation to any policing challenge. Unfortunately, our R&D depts. are given the lowest priority
- We must accept that Police culture in Pakistan is still male - dominated, masculine, force -based and originated from cultural outlook of patriarchal society. We, at the senior level of leadership, also suspect to different extent the statement of victim women.
- Weak reporting/ recording and monitoring organizational mechanisms.
- Subsequent delay in getting medico-legal reports and delayed arrest of the accused.
- Citizens know the outcome! Prosecution, trail & judgement take years. Even so more often than not result in acquittals. Police is responsible for poor evidence collection. even though tools are available. Status of Challan often shown as "complete" while the forensic and DNA reports were amiss! Supervision deficit.
- Punjab protection of women against violence act was promulgated in 2016, but unfortunately, most of the police officials / IOs are not aware about it which indicates lack of capacity building and attitudinal change within the police department.
- Individuals reporting SGBV require sensitivity and support, but often face inconsiderate and agonizing attitudes from police officers, including re-victimization. As a result, there is a deep-rooted mistrust in the policing system as the public does not have faith in the police force, which contributes to the underreporting of SGBV crimes as individuals give up on reporting incidents to police. This is why many SGBV crimes remain intractable or are diverted and reported as cases of trespass or robbery.

## **8. Lack of Victim Support Services:**

- Lack of victim support services in police station making it difficult for the victim and her family to continue to pursue her case.
- Often victim is harassed in police custody also.
- Timely consoling of the victim and their families and non-assurance from police high ups regarding quick dispensation to justice to the victim.
- Failure to keep investigation and police proceedings secret/in confidence: At times, details-- sensitive and intimate-- are shared with general public/journos unofficially. This places the complainant in a weak and dangerous position. This is also the reason why “Pardadaar” lady might not approach police in the first instance.

## **SUGGESTIONS:**

Here are the suggestions which if adopted or worked upon, may lead to substantial improvement in police performance while dealing gender-based violence cases.

### **1. Women Police Staff/Stations:**

- Female officers to deal the violence cases.
- Women police force need to be strengthened; a separate parallel police station is required for women.
- Appointment of women police officers in each PS for handling all women violence cases.
- Women police stations are yet not main streamed. Isolated women sitting in Police stations are poor at developing Police skills and do not feel empowered enough to take up these cases, without attracting unwanted pressures.
- Recruitment of women at all levels and ensuring their presence at police stations esp. at the reporting rooms where the women complainants are first attended by female officers.
- Posting of female ASPs in rural subdivisions and establishing Gender Policing Units in each police station will help in bridging the trust deficit between police and the victims.

- Dispute Resolution Committees (DRCs) established at district level with female members having reputation above the board, be sent such cases to be resolved under close police supervision.
- Establishment of Women Protection Desk in every district in DPO's office attached with Women police station having professionally sound lady officers with sufficient mobility and resources to investigate all such cases.
- Professional investigation preferably by female police officers.
- Such cases should be entrusted to Specialized Police Cells mostly staffed and headed by women police officers.
- Dedicated staff to respond to cases of violence against women.
- All Police Organizations must strive to bring representations of women police officers up to 10% for different ranks within a year. If the women Police representation is 2% overall, extra recruitment is required to make achieve the elusive 10%.

## **2. Special Trained Staff to handle GBV cases:**

- Specially trained GBV Investigators who would investigate such incidents (Sind Police have recently notified at least 10 to 15 IOs in each police district to investigate GBV cases). LAS (Legal Aid Society) are helping us train these officers.
- Dedicated Gender based violence units may be established in all districts with cooperation of private public partnership.
- Prompt action from concerned police in registration of case without any delay.
- In the 1990's I obtained a data from all police stations in Karachi. At that time there were probably 90 police stations. The data was for missing children reports entered in the Roznamcha. It was found that there were 150 missing children reports recorded every month. In those years 12 to 15 children were found dead after sexual abuse annually. This showed that those abused children who returned home were not examined, and the offence remained buried in the Roznamcha. This also shows that only a very small percentage of child abuse cases are handled by police. Therefore, when a child abuse case ends in death it causes an uproar. The cases of child abuse in Kasur also indicate this picture. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a specialized team/s. One proactive task of this team should be to look into every missing child report to find out if some abuse took place.
- Victim be given respect and sympathy rather than stigmatization.

- Rapid response force may be stationed at 15-Centers in each District and response time should not be more than 10-minutes.

### **3. Provision of Logistics, Equipment & Funds:**

- Training and provision of logistics(transport and other gadgets) to the staff dealing with these cases

### **4. Capacity issue:**

#### **a. Training:**

- Training of already existing police staff and officials on the lines of UN defined violence against women guidelines. This may be a behavioral training where case studies of domestic violence as well as rape, death, etc. are taught and the relation between all such crimes is highlighted.
- Trainings, refreshers and frequent briefing sessions at both senior and junior levels on laws on the subject and their implementation.
- police needs to have trained and emotionally equipped female officers who can deal with the issue without retraumatizing the victim in a safe and respectful environment.
- First responders/CSU officers to be specially trained in collecting crucial evidence in such incidents

#### **b. Psychological**

- Psychological first aid training to women IOs, first responders and supervisory officers.
- The situation can be addressed only through intensive training and constant counselling of police officers.
- There is veracity in the fact that the police response is not up to the mark which can be attributed to delayed response by first responders (such as 15 as probably this category of crime doesn't figure high on their priority). Then there is definitely that typical skepticism displayed by the duty officer at the police station whenever such a crime is reported. Such skepticism is also well founded keeping in view the percentage of fabricated police reports relating to rape and kidnapping of women making the job of police officer extremely difficult in identifying fake and original cases. While police command generally support free registration of FIRs, the duty officer is always taken to task whenever a fake or fabricated FIR is registered against

a respectable for failure to show due diligence and discretion (thus promoting such behavior on part of our subordinates.

- Then there are definitely social perceptions about how a woman should behave which are also shared by police officers since they belong to the same society. Analyzing the incident from this perspective often leads to victim shaming and formation of premature opinions based on assumptions (typical method of crime detection in police due to low reliance on forensic and scientific evidence collection). Such opinions are at time shared prematurely by senior officers directly on electronic/ social media without authentication which later were found to be seriously apathetic and biased when the gruesome facts of the case started to unravel. This has promoted an extremely negative image of police (including the senior commanders) with respect to handling of such crimes.
- Moreover, due to existing distinction between cognizable and non-cognizable offences, low priority given to domestic disputes in the society coupled with nonexistence of alternate dispute resolution mechanisms and swift justice in courts, police often try to resolve the issue on its own or through mediation.
- The working structure and style of the police doesn't support a western style prompt reporting and response system, authentication by first responder and follow up by Crime scene unit and investigators. Infact, thana functions like a platoon where these specific roles are neither defined nor promoted. Investigation officers are overburdened and under resourced. CSUs at the police station level doesn't exist and 15 system doesn't allow for a swift response.
- Police is not tuned to deal the situation according to its sensitivity and they take it as routine issues. Finally, we as nation are insensitive to any issues until media and civil society create hue and cry on the issue.

#### **5. Increase commitment by police:**

- Police officers' ignorance to measure the trauma, pain and agony being faced by the victim at the time of reporting
- The victim should not be a mere no in a "Gender based Violence" gazette, the case should be properly prepared and supervised by a GO who should keep the prosecutor in the loop from the very outset.
- Violence against women can only be tackled by making arrangement for redressal of their grievances at all levels of policing starting from police station level. I served in Muzaffargarh which is notorious in cases against women and in one incident, a lady complainant burnt herself and district police officer was suspended. In order

to reduce such complaints, we posted lady Constables at each police post in two shifts and those were trained to keep female complainants engaged till the finalization of their cases. Likewise six special investigation cells were established to look after cases in which females were the complainant covering offences like 376 PPC. These cells were working at police station level with a lady sub inspector as head. Ladies' complaint cells were established at district and sub-divisional level. I think we should utilize our lady staff efficiently as they are 15 percent of the fresh recruitment at all levels

## **6. Increase Police Staff:**

- Rationalization of workload and prompt response.
- Services of female officers must be used in such incidents, presence of female offices on ground will go a long way in improving the optics.

## **7. Gender based violence units:**

- Dedicated Gender based violence units be established at all districts.
- Lack of empathy in police personnel is another big cause of criticism on police in cases of VAW. Around 97% of police force is composed of men. There is a general perception that men are less empathetic in nature. Police personnel in Pakistan are not trained properly how to deal with the victims of VAW. Under representation of women in the department and inclusion of women who hold patriarchal/misogynistic views further add up to the issue.

## **8. Representation in Peace Committees.**

- Women and transgender should be represented in peace committees at PS level to gain access to communities.

## **9. Police Image and Media:**

- Synergizing efforts to improve optics and making own space on social media.
- Media engagement is also an important aspect of bridging this gap.
- A separate media / TV channel leaded by the rank of Addl. IGP may be launched to highlight good work done by the police and bridge the gap b/w public and the police.
- SM activists criticise Police that Police always need #Hastag to get activated for all such cases. Police needs to strengthen social networking not just for cosmetics but



in order to get policing done through community as Police sees through the eyes of public.

- Efforts taken for improving Police response towards cases of VAW should be highlighted and given wide publicity in all types of Media to build public confidence so that they can sense & feel that it's an area of Police Priority.
- Overreporting and misinformation relayed by mainstream media and repetition of such news on social media platforms specifically highlighting police inaction/action. This diverts public anger towards police, by design.
- Media management/Optics/ statements by officers to the media must be impeccable and to the point.
- DPOs to ensure maintaining close liaison with all stakeholders of the society through social media thus monitoring it and also delivering Own's point of view. Can also share progress made in such cases, ask for any assistance required and remain in loop.
- The police response for VAW is either apologetic or defensive. We must encourage infolytics to be done at all CPOs and if required, it can be used to rebut claims of media or agenda driven organizations. In the aftermath of any unfortunate incident, police and government still is the only non-agenda driven voice on the issue, unless we are to presume that someone is benefitting from these incidents on a massive scale.
- Tackling media through a professional desk which gives out the required detail of the case and the prompt response of police.

#### **10.Administrative Reforms:**

- A special Cadre for women Police may be created under an Additional IG woman Police with DIG/AIG;s one Lady SP in every District with support staff. A summary by police chiefs may be sent to respective CM. This is high time to get it approved.

The proposal should broadly take care of recruitment, training, Elite Squads n act as first responders along with Male Police.

- Every district where crime against women exceeds 150, a woman Police station should be established under Police Rules 2.2.
- Section 354 should be made cognizable with Three years punishment if proved.
- Role of NGO;s CPLC should be strengthened in such cases.

- In VAW cases a very important area of concern is the uncontrolled/rampant practice of corruption of medico- legal doctors. One can get a medical report of one's choice through paying for it. No one in police has ever controlled or reported it to the "health dept./govt./IGP. All police prosecutions fail pertaining to chapter 12-17 ppc. This is a complete apathy.

### **11.Efficient oversight by high-up's:**

- An active and efficient oversight by senior officers on the response of police in all such cases, and dealing strictly with any lapses therein
- Policing is a thankless job and enforcement of law wins you more enemies than friends. This coupled with police corruption, lack of accountability and nonprofessional outlook have further aggravated the public sentiment against police. Whenever such an incident is mishandled by police, the aggrieved persons, vested interests in media and pressure groups (both social and political) cash on it to put police officers to shame and prove their worth (or punish the officer concerned for their supposed indifference towards them).
- GBV cases being in the misc. category means that these don't get projected or discussed in the monthly crime meetings and have a separate category of GBV under the subhead of crime against person, next to murder, attempted murder and hurt.
- Close supervision by senior police officers.
- Police leadership to prioritize and sequence response to the 03 problems identified above and develop their own provincial/ local strategy and response system.
- All supervisory officers must create a head if crime of VAW in their crime meetings and treat it an important area for follow up.
- Aggressive outreach to victims by the Head of Inv/ DPO in all such cases
- Each bail be reviewed and reasons addressed by DPO'S- a tabulation of data for analysis by Inv Branch for Systemic redressal by police/CJS actors
- VAW be mainstreamed as Serious crime n be monitored by the top/2nd tier leadership on prescribed performance indicators. They were put in place in 2020 and reviewed EVERY month.
- Carefully designed modules for attitudinal change and law awareness for IOs and junior officers. This will bridge the gap between government expectations/ social

media compulsions and our natural response. Of course , need of dialogue at level of senior leadership of Police can not be denied.

- No uniformed approach to tackle the issue for different parts of Pakistan would produce desired goals. All trainings and modules should be prepared keeping in view the mental acceptance of people and Police of that area.

## **12.Active Involvement of Civil Community**

- More active liaison of civil society, police, women development and social welfare department.
- More engagement of the community.
- Police-civil society bonding be strengthened in order to exercise all post traumatic care facilities available for the GBV victim.
- Community support and activism are critical to support and check police response to the problem at the police station level.
- Concept of community policing has been evolved all over the world to deal with violence but unfortunately, still we are unable to bring this concept in practical use. It is suggested that curriculum “How to be a Good Citizen” may be added in syllabus to educate the generation.
- We need to raise & upgrade the sensitivity
- Engaging the victims’s family through expert personnel and keeping them in confidence regarding every step of the investigation.

## **13.Empower Women:**

- Society takes violence against women in perspective of old gender paradigm especially considering females as repository of honor of males, and consequently shaming is the actual violence. Start massive information compaign wherein women is no more repository for man.
- Encouragement to females to register and not to shirk in cases of violence against them.
- Women need to know their rights to fight anything, it must be made part of the school syllabus for both men and women from class 1.

- Empowerment and especially emotional empowerment of women is the key. Females do not need to get down, rather learn to kick the molester on face.
- Awareness of the laws related to violence against women be increased.

#### **14. Attitude and willingness of police:**

- First police officials at police station level are uneducated ,rude , suspicious and not well polite and responsive to behave responsibly with the women victims of violence.
- Create safe houses for victims to transfer them immediately to be handled by professionals of the field
- Institutionalize the availability of female psychiatrists on call basis.
- Victims of crime should not be taken to PS but to a Nightangale Room or a soft room by lady police n be interrogated n brought out of shock by lady police/ doctor/psychiatrist. Complete formalities of FIR /Medical n further proceedings.

#### **15. General Suggestions:**

- Legal provisions may be made for summary trial of minor VAW cases by the Magistrates.
- The preferred course of action should be resolving minor cases through mediation. But cases of blatant and severe violence must be dealt with full force of law to create a deterrent effect.
- The pace of women empowerment through education and employments may be enhanced as that is the real solution to the problem. In the short term though this may also result in increased cases due to increased conflict of rights.
- Eastern values got crumbled and western have not taken roots as yet so police shall stay as nikku scapegoat for some more period. To deflect criticism on police women police stations, dedicated staff, emotional certification before marriage, etc are suggested interventions.
- And we also need to explore if the Central Punjab is a major problem here and if so what is wrong with the value system here and definitely that would require more than a police response.

- Police is not formally connected to other services sectors provided by gov. There is no chain of flow of services chalked out.
- Global best practices include rape crisis centers. 3 main areas are collection of evidence, forensics and aftercare services. Police must chalk out a similar plan for effective service delivery.
- Role of Victim support programs (as we have one in Hazara Divison) wherein out teams go to the homes of the customs and helps the victims and their families extending every possible help.
- Sir I must submit that these crisis centers are envisioned in the new law, Anti Rape (investigation and trial) Law 2020. However, there are no services pointed out. If at any level, the forum can take up this issue formally, the big chunk of penalization suggested for police officers can be steered.
- These cases be sent to Model Courts for early convictions.
- On Jumma congregations, SDPOs may be bound down to dilute the misconception that women are always guilty.
- If there is any program of victim support centers and qualified staff to handle, it should be part and parcel of Police station instead of new center. And there should not be any concept of 'Model police station 'in this context, improvement should be uniformed.
- The rate of conviction in offences against vulnerable segments of society including females is very low. Prosecutors and judicial officers should be sensitized. There is a need to enhance the punishment of such offences with speedy trial by creation of special courts
- A comprehensive campaign should be started at national level with focus on respect for womenfolk and enactment of special laws to cover all kind of sexual harassment specially defining the nature of offences and corresponding punishments. The offences which we saw last days are not specifically covered in any law or enactment so police has to register cases under 354/354-A , PPC to dispel the impression that police is lenient towards such offences.
- Positive use of power should be brought to light. In the words of New Zealand's PM, Jacinda Ardern, "I refuse to believe that you cannot be both compassionate and strong." Use of power to help the vulnerable segments of society without any bias towards the already privileged, can help resolve the issue. Proper training is required in this regard.

- Need to make it a more punishable crime, strict implementation is to be placed, public shaming of the victimizer is to be made mandatory.
- Nondisclosure of victim's identity.
- These are dummy Acts, without an Rules or formation of commissions which are mentioned therein, police can't take cognizance of any of the offences mentioned in the Acts except for those which are already given in PPC 337. Our civil society remains aloof from nitty gritty of legal framework and it's implementable.
- PS: VAW (especially in public places) should be seen as an entrenched social phenomenon in the sub-continent. In Hyderabad (India), 39% of approx. 3000 women surveyed in 2019, reported violence in some form (receiving unwelcome comments, catcalling, inappropriate gestures or facial expressions, and stalking). There is therefore, need to institutionalize a multidisciplinary approach to tackle this social phenomenon which gives rise to crime as an abhorrent offshoot.