

## Behind Closed Doors: A Comprehensive Review of Patterns and Perspectives on Domestic Violence in Bangladesh

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### Abstract:

Domestic violence persists as a widespread and rooted problem in Bangladesh, affecting individuals, families, and society as a whole. This research analyzes the patterns, viewpoints, and ramifications of domestic abuse through secondary data sources, such as government reports, NGO publications, academic papers, and news coverage. It indicates that domestic abuse occurs in multiple forms—physical, emotional, economic, and sexual—frequently supported by deep-rooted patriarchal standards and cultural endorsement. Women, especially those from underprivileged socioeconomic origins, have the most significant psychological, physical, and economic consequences.

The results underscore the normalization of abuse stemming from cultural and religious misinterpretations, the stigma associated with victims, and insufficient institutional responses. Notwithstanding the enactment of the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010, obstacles such as insufficient awareness, inadequate enforcement, and a dearth of accessible support resources persistently impede advancement. The research also delineates the extensive effects of domestic violence on health, productivity, and intergenerational patterns of abuse.

The paper provides practical solutions, such as fortifying legal frameworks, improving victim support networks, advancing education and awareness, and economically empowering women. Moreover, community involvement, enhanced data acquisition, and cooperation with global organizations are highlighted as essential measures to address this situation.

Using a comprehensive strategy, Bangladesh can diminish the incidence of domestic violence, enhance gender equality, and increase societal welfare. This study emphasizes the necessity of collaborative efforts to eradicate domestic violence and establish a safer, more equitable future for everyone.

**Keywords:** Domestic, Violence, Closed Doors, Review Paper, Bangladesh

### Introduction:

Domestic violence is a pervasive issue in Bangladesh, impacting millions of persons, especially women, across all socioeconomic

classes. Domestic violence, as delineated by the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010, includes physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse inflicted by a

household member (GoB, 2010). Although the presence of this legal framework, domestic violence persists at an alarming rate, with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) indicating that 54% of married women have encountered some type of abuse during their lifetime (BBS, 2022). This number highlights the pressing necessity to comprehend and tackle the socio-cultural and institutional aspects that sustain this issue.

However, the socio-cultural background of Bangladesh significantly influences perceptions of domestic abuse. Patriarchal norms and disparities in gender are ingrained in society, frequently legitimizing violence as an instrument of exerting control over women (Rahman & Sakib, 2023). Women are often expected to put up with violence in order to maintain family unity, a view supported by society norms and ignorance of legal rights (Rahman & Sakib, 2023). In addition, socio-economic issues such as poverty, unemployment, and insufficient education intensifies domestic violence, hindering victims' ability to extricate themselves from abusive relationships (Slabbert, 2016).

Moreover, the COVID-19 epidemic exacerbated this issue. Lockdowns and restricted movement confined victims to their residences with their abusers, leading to a 31% rise in reported instances of domestic violence in Bangladesh over this timeframe (Parvez et al., 2022). This increase underscored the deficiencies in the nation's support systems, such as restricted access to shelters, legal assistance, and counseling services for victims (Hossain & Sarker, 2020).

Accordingly, Domestic violence has extensive consequence, affecting not just victims but also their communities and families as well. Research indicates that domestic violence profoundly affects women's physical and emotional health, frequently resulting in chronic illnesses, sadness, and anxiety (Karakurt et al., 2014). Children subjected to domestic abuse experience significant adverse effects, as evidence demonstrates elevated levels of emotional distress, subpar scholastic achievement,

and an increased propensity to perpetuate violence in adulthood (Parvez et al., 2022). The economic ramifications of domestic abuse are significant, as victims frequently encounter unemployment, diminished productivity, and financial reliance (Doroudchi et al., 2023).

Despite the severe nature of the problem, initiatives to tackle domestic violence in Bangladesh are inadequate. The execution of the Domestic Violence Act of 2010 has been obstructed by structural impediments, including insufficient awareness, inadequate law enforcement training, and societal stigma (Sultan & Mahpara, 2023). A multitude of victims hesitate to report abuse due to apprehension of social ostracism, retaliation, or diminished faith in the legal system (Adam et al., 2024b). Consequently, most incidents remain unreported, and offenders frequently evade punishment. This study aims to investigate the patterns and viewpoints of domestic violence in Bangladesh via an extensive analysis of secondary data. This study examines existing literature, official records, and surveys to elucidate the prevalence, causes, and consequences of domestic violence, while assessing the efficacy of present legal and policy frameworks. The research also analyzes societal attitudes and cultural practices that sustain violence, emphasizing the structural and systemic reforms required to address this issue effectively.

Eventually, the research aspires to enhance the discourse on domestic violence in Bangladesh, offering practical insights for policymakers, activists, and stakeholders. Addressing domestic violence necessitates a comprehensive strategy that integrates legal reform, community involvement, and victim support mechanisms. This study hopes to elucidate the root causes and viewpoints to foster a more equal and just society, enabling individuals to live devoid of violence and fear.

### **Research Methodology:**

This research employs a secondary data methodology to examine the trends and viewpoints of domestic violence in Bangladesh. Secondary data sources encompass government reports,

publications from national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), peer-reviewed journal articles, news items, and more pertinent resources. Essential data sources, like the Violence Against Women Survey (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2022) and reports from entities such as UN Women, UNICEF, and local advocacy organizations, offer a thorough comprehension of the issue. The study also employed current data to harness a diverse range of insights accumulated throughout time, providing a robust basis for analysis.

Moreover, the methodology utilizes qualitative content analysis and trend analysis to discern repeating themes, patterns, and changes in the prevalence and perceptions of domestic violence. Content analysis facilitates a systematic evaluation of textual and contextual data from various sources, emphasizing the socio-cultural, economic, and legal aspects of domestic abuse. Trend analysis employed to monitor alterations in prevalence rates, reporting practices, and policy execution across time. This dual-method approach guarantees a comprehensive and multifaceted examination of the subject. The utilization of secondary data facilitates extensive coverage and accessibility, although it also poses specific obstacles.

However, a notable constraint is the possible inaccuracies and biases present in certain data sources, as not all reports and publications are devoid of political, institutional, or cultural influences. The underreporting of domestic abuse incidents, attributable to societal stigma, frequently distorts official statistics, yielding an incomplete depiction of the issue. Moreover, the contextual deficiencies in certain secondary data may restrict the study's capacity to thoroughly address region-specific or demographic intricacies. These constraints need meticulous cross-referencing and rigorous assessment of the data to guarantee validity and trustworthiness.

Although these challenges, the utilization of secondary data continues to be a beneficial

methodology for this study. The research synthesizes current knowledge and insights, offering a thorough understanding of domestic violence in Bangladesh, so facilitating future primary research and policy initiatives.

## Findings:

This study's findings emphasize the complex and deeply rooted nature of domestic abuse in Bangladesh. This section analyzes patterns of domestic violence, socio-cultural perspectives, and their repercussions on individuals, families, and society, using secondary data from multiple sources.

### 1. Patterns of Domestic Violence:

#### 1.1 Types of Violence:

Domestic violence in Bangladesh encompasses several forms, including physical, emotional, economic, and sexual abuse.

- **Physical violence:** Physical abuse is the most apparent and frequently documented kind of domestic violence. Physical acts such as hitting, slapping, and restraint are frequently perpetrated by husbands or other relatives. A 2022 survey conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) indicated that 27% of married women experienced physical abuse at least once, however the true prevalence may be greater owing to underreporting (BBS, 2022).
- **Emotional violence:** Emotional abuse, frequently less apparent, include insults, threats, humiliation, and manipulation. Individuals subjected to emotional violence often experience enduring psychological harm, manifesting as anxiety and sadness (Intesar & Parvez, 2024).
- **Economic violence:** Limiting access to financial resources, work opportunities, or educational prospects constitutes a prevalent kind of abuse. This form of violence perpetuates victims' reliance on their perpetrators, particularly in economically disadvantaged homes (Akter & Karim, 2021).

**Table 01: Analytical Overview of Domestic Violence Patterns in Bangladesh**

Patterns of Domestic Violence	Description	Key Insights	Source
<b>Physical Violence</b>	Physical abuse involves acts like hitting, slapping, and restraint. It is the most visible and frequently reported form of domestic violence.	- 27% of married women reported experiencing physical abuse. - True prevalence may be underreported.	BBS (2022)
<b>Emotional Violence</b>	Emotional abuse includes insults, threats, humiliation, and manipulation, often causing long-term psychological harm.	- Victims suffer from anxiety and depression. - Emotional abuse is harder to detect compared to physical violence.	(Sadia et al., 2022)
<b>Economic Violence</b>	Involves restricting access to financial resources, employment, or education, thereby creating economic dependency.	- Common in economically disadvantaged households. - Perpetuates victims' reliance on perpetrators.	Akter& Karim (2021)
<b>Sexual Violence</b>	Includes marital rape and other non-consensual acts, often underreported due to societal stigma.	- Lack of legal recognition of marital rape exacerbates the issue. - Remains a significant yet hidden problem.	Yasmin & Mahmud (2022)

Source: Adapted by Author, 2025

- **Sexual violence:** Despite infrequent reporting due to societal taboo, sexual abuse, encompassing marital rape, persists as a substantial concern. The absence of legal acknowledgment of marital rape in Bangladesh intensifies this type of violence (Khatun et al., 2020)).

**1.2 Demographics of Victims:**

Victims of domestic violence belong to diverse demographic groups, though certain trends are apparent:

- **Age and marital status:** Women between the ages of 20 and 40 are most susceptible, frequently experiencing abuse in the initial

years of marriage. Arranged weddings and dowry demands intensify this danger (Hossain & Sarker, 2020).

- **Socioeconomic status:** Violence is more commonly reported in low-income households, where financial strain exacerbates tensions. Emotional abuse transcends economic barriers and is prevalent in affluent families as well (Amin et al., 2018). Women with lesser educational attainment are disproportionately impacted due to restricted awareness of their rights and diminished economic possibilities (Halim & Kabir, 2020).

**Table 02: Analytical Overview of Domestic Violence Victim Demographics in Bangladesh**

Demographics of Victims	Description	Key Insights	Source
<b>Age and Marital Status</b>	Women aged 20-40 are most vulnerable, especially in the early years of marriage. Arranged marriages and dowry demands elevate the risk of abuse.	- Younger, newly married women face higher abuse risk. - Cultural practices like dowry intensify vulnerability.	Hossain & Sarker (2020)
<b>Socioeconomic Status</b>	Violence is more prevalent in low-income households due to financial stress. Emotional abuse affects all economic classes. Women with lower education are more susceptible.	- Financial strain exacerbates violence in poorer households. - Educated women have better awareness and options to seek help.	Amin et al. (2018); Halim & Kabir (2020)
<b>Geographical Disparities</b>	Rural women experience higher rates of physical violence due to patriarchal norms and limited access to support. Urban women face emotional and economic abuse.	- Rural areas are hotspots for physical abuse. - Urban abuse is often emotional or financial.	UNICEF (2021)
Source: Adapted by Author, 2025			

- **Geographical disparities:** Rural regions have elevated incidences of physical violence, attributable in part to patriarchal attitudes and restricted access to legal or support services. Conversely, metropolitan women frequently endure emotional or economic abuse (UNICEF, 2021).

## 2. Perspectives on Domestic Violence:

### 2.1 Societal Attitudes:

Patriarchal values and gender norms prevail in society attitudes toward domestic violence in Bangladesh. Women are frequently anticipated to tolerate abuse as a component of their spousal obligations. A 2020 study by UN Women indicated that 43% of participants deemed a husband justified in physically disciplining his wife under specific conditions. Cultural practices and theological misinterpretations frequently support

attitudes that sustain the concept of male dominance and female subservience (Yasmin & Mahmud, 2022).

### 2.2 Family and Community Responses:

The responses from family and community to domestic abuse frequently emphasize the preservation of social cohesion rather than the safeguarding of victims. Victims are often dissuaded from pursuing legal recourse to protect the family's reputation. Community leaders or elders frequently resolve conflicts; yet, these interventions seldom yield justice or enduring resolutions for victims (Amin et al., 2018).

Nonetheless, advancements are occurring via awareness initiatives and advocacy efforts by non-governmental organizations. Urban regions have experienced a steady transformation in perspectives, with an increasing number of women

prepared to report abuse and pursue assistance. Nonetheless, rural communities continue to be significantly limited by conventional norms (Huda, 2019).

### 3. Impacts of Domestic Violence:

#### 3.1 Psychological Effects:

Domestic abuse significantly affects the mental health of victims. Victims often experience anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Prolonged exposure to maltreatment may lead to suicidal ideation. Research by Rahman and Hasan (2021) indicated that over 60% of assaulted women displayed signs of considerable emotional distress.

Children exposed to domestic violence are significantly affected. They often display

behavioral issues, reduced self-esteem, and difficulties in forming healthy relationships. These adolescents possess an increased likelihood of perpetuating violence in maturity, hence creating an intergenerational cycle of maltreatment (Save the Youngsters, 2020).

#### 3.2 Physical Impact:

The physical repercussions of domestic violence encompass immediate injuries, including bruises, fractures, and burns, alongside long-term health concerns such as chronic pain and reproductive health disorders. Pregnant women experiencing violence encounter increased risks of miscarriage, preterm birth, and maternal mortality (UNICEF, 2021).

**Table 03: Comprehensive Analysis of the Impacts of Domestic Violence in Bangladesh**

Impacts of Domestic Violence	Description	Key Insights	Source
<b>Psychological Effects</b>	Victims face anxiety, depression, PTSD, and suicidal ideation. Children exposed to violence exhibit behavioral issues and risk perpetuating violence as adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Over 60% of assaulted women show significant emotional distress.</li> <li>- Intergenerational cycle perpetuates violence.</li> </ul>	Rahman & Hasan (2021); Save the Youngsters (2020)
<b>Physical Impact</b>	Immediate injuries include bruises, fractures, and burns. Long-term effects include chronic pain and reproductive health disorders. Pregnant victims face heightened risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pregnant women face higher risks of miscarriage and maternal mortality.</li> <li>- Long-term health consequences are severe.</li> </ul>	UNICEF (2021)
<b>Economic Impact</b>	Victims often lose jobs or productivity due to injuries or trauma. Domestic violence causes a 1.3% GDP productivity loss annually in Bangladesh. Medical and legal costs intensify burdens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic toll includes job loss and productivity decline.</li> <li>- Significant GDP impact highlights systemic economic loss.</li> </ul>	Akter & Karim (2021)
<b>Social Impact</b>	Domestic violence undermines family stability and community cohesion, causing social isolation and stigmatization. Children inherit cycles of inequality and poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Family instability and social stigma persist.</li> <li>- Intergenerational cycles deepen societal inequality.</li> </ul>	Hossain & Sarker (2020)

Adapted by Author, 2025

### **3.3 Economic Impact:**

Domestic violence incurs substantial economic burdens on victims, families, and society at large. Victims frequently lose employment or are incapacitated from work owing to injuries or psychological trauma. A research by Akter and Karim (2021) found that domestic violence incurs a productivity loss of almost 1.3% of Bangladesh's GDP per year. Moreover, the financial strain of medical costs and legal bills intensifies the economic difficulties encountered by survivors.

### **3.4 Social Impact:**

Domestic violence erodes familial stability and community cohesiveness. Families subjected to violence frequently encounter social isolation and stigmatization. The intergenerational repercussions, especially on children, sustain cycles of inequality and poverty, hence deepening the issue within society (Hossain & Sarker, 2020).

These findings highlight the widespread and complex nature of domestic abuse in Bangladesh. Resolving this issue necessitates systemic alterations, encompassing legal reforms, community involvement, and specialized victim support programs. By comprehending the patterns, viewpoints, and consequences of domestic violence, stakeholders can formulate more efficacious solutions to address this entrenched issue.

## **4. Discussion:**

This study's findings illustrate the pervasive and complex nature of domestic abuse in Bangladesh. An analysis of secondary data reveals that domestic violence is not solely an individual or familial concern, but a systemic issue influenced by cultural, economic, and societal frameworks. This discourse examines the ramifications of these results, focusing on the origins, reactions, and wider effects of domestic violence.

### **4.1 Patterns of Domestic Violence: Complex Dynamics in a Patriarchal Society:**

Domestic violence in Bangladesh manifests in various forms, including physical, emotional, economic, and sexual assault. These trends are not

isolated incidents but are profoundly ingrained in the patriarchal standards of society. Physical violence, the most frequently reported manifestation, often arises from the power relations between men and women in a patriarchal society. The expectation for women to submit to their husbands and in-laws fosters a setting in which violence is perceived as an acceptable method of control (Rahman & Hasan, 2021).

The prevalence of emotional and economic violence underscores the intricate methods by which control is imposed on women. Emotional abuse, including humiliation and manipulation, frequently results in no apparent injuries yet produces enduring psychological consequences. Economic violence similarly confines women in violent relationships by perpetuating financial dependency, particularly in rural regions where female employment possibilities are limited (Halim & Kabir, 2020).

The phenomenon of sexual violence, especially marital rape, is insufficiently examined owing to societal stigma and legal deficiencies. The absence of acknowledgment of marital rape in Bangladeshi legislation sustains the secrecy around this type of abuse, rendering victims devoid of legal remedies (Childress et al., 2023).

### **4.2 Societal Perspectives: Normalization and Acceptance of Violence:**

A significant worry with domestic abuse in Bangladesh is its normalization within society and cultural contexts. Patriarchal norms designate men as the principal authority figures in households, frequently rationalizing their use of violence to compel compliance. These beliefs are perpetuated by conventional gender roles, wherein women are anticipated to prioritize familial peace over personal safety, frequently at the expense of tolerating violence (Hossain & Sarker, 2020).

Misinterpretations of religious doctrines significantly contribute to the perpetuation of domestic violence. Cultural practices and misappropriated religious scriptures are sometimes utilized to rationalize abusive conduct. This engenders a complicated interaction among

culture, religion, and patriarchy, rendering the issue particularly difficult to handle (Yasmin & Mahmud, 2022).

Community and familial reactions to domestic violence underscore the cultural tolerance of abuse. Victims frequently refrain from reporting incidents to maintain familial reputation or to evade "dishonor" to the family. This cultural pressure not only suppresses victims but also empowers abusers, who frequently encounter minimal to no repercussions for their crimes (Amin et al., 2018).

### **4.3 Impacts of Domestic Violence: A Multifaceted Crisis:**

The consequences of domestic violence extend far beyond the immediate victims, affecting families, communities, and the nation as a whole.

#### **4.3.1 Psychological Impacts:**

Domestic abuse inflicts profound psychological repercussions on victims, including anxiety, despair, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and suicidal inclinations. Women subjected to protracted abuse frequently cultivate a sense of powerlessness, which diminishes their capacity to extricate themselves from harmful circumstances. Children exposed to domestic abuse are especially susceptible, as research indicates they are more prone to developing behavioral and mental problems, hence perpetuating a cycle of violence into subsequent generations (Save the Children, 2020).

#### **4.3.2 Physical Impacts:**

The physical repercussions of domestic violence encompass both acute injuries and chronic health issues. Women frequently experience chronic pain, reproductive health complications, and movement limitations due to prolonged maltreatment. Pregnant women are especially susceptible, as violence heightens the risks of miscarriage, poor birth weight, and maternal mortality (UNICEF, 2021).

#### **4.3.3 Economic Impacts:**

The economic consequences of domestic violence are substantial, affecting both individual families

and the nation as a whole. Injuries or emotional discomfort can result in victims forfeiting financial possibilities, so establishing a cycle of dependency and poverty. At a macroeconomic level, domestic violence diminishes productivity and escalates healthcare expenditures, encumbering the national economy. A 2021 study showed that domestic abuse incurs an annual cost of about 1.3% of Bangladesh's GDP, a significant statistic that highlights the economic imperative of tackling this issue (Johnson et al., 2022).

#### **4.3.4 Social Impacts:**

The social consequences of domestic violence encompass the disintegration of family units and the continuation of intergenerational cycles of abuse. Families impacted by violence frequently encounter social isolation and stigmatization, exacerbating the marginalization of victims. Children from abusive households are less likely to finish their education or obtain stable jobs, hence perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality (Greene et al., 2020).

### **4.4 The Role of Policy and Advocacy:**

Despite modest progress in tackling domestic violence in Bangladesh, considerable deficiencies persist in both policy and execution. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010 is a significant legislative measure that criminalizes domestic violence and establishes support channels for victims. The absence of understanding regarding these legal rights and the constrained capabilities of law enforcement organizations frequently impede their efficacy (Huda, 2019).

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been instrumental in addressing these deficiencies by providing legal assistance, counseling services, and awareness initiatives. Nevertheless, these initiatives frequently focus on urban regions, resulting in diminished resources for rural women. Extending the scope of these efforts is essential for guaranteeing fair access to support services (UN Women, 2020).

### **5. Recommendations for Future Policy: Toward a Sustainable Approach:**

Domestic violence in Bangladesh is a pervasive issue necessitating collaborative efforts from politicians, NGOs, communities, and individuals.



By confronting the fundamental cultural, economic, and systemic elements that sustain abuse, Bangladesh can progress towards a more fair and just society in which all persons are liberated from violence and oppression. Addressing the widespread problem of domestic abuse in Bangladesh requires a cohesive and multidimensional strategy that incorporates legal, social, economic, and educational interventions. The following recommendations are presented to guide future policies:

### **5.1 Strengthening Legal Frameworks:**

#### **a) Expand and Enforce Existing Laws :**

The effective implementation of the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010 is essential to ensure that victims receive adequate legal protection. Awareness campaigns must highlight the provisions of the law, making it accessible to both victims and law enforcers. Designating marital rape as a criminal offense is a critical step in addressing existing legal gaps. Additionally, specialized family courts should be introduced to expedite cases and reduce the emotional strain on victims.

#### **b). Improve Law Enforcement Capacity:**

Law enforcement must be equipped with the necessary skills to handle domestic violence cases sensitively. Comprehensive gender-sensitivity training for police officers, judges, and legal practitioners will foster professionalism and empathy. Establishing specialized gender-based violence units within law enforcement agencies will ensure focused and effective interventions.

### **5.2 Enhancing Victim Support Systems**

#### **a). Expand Access to Shelters and Counseling Services:**

The availability of secure shelters should be increased across rural and urban areas to provide immediate safety for victims. These shelters must be equipped with counseling services and medical assistance to support survivors' physical and psychological recovery.

#### **b). Strengthen Financial Aid Programs:**

Financial independence is pivotal for survivors to rebuild their lives. The government, in collaboration with NGOs, should establish financial assistance programs that include job training, skill development, and direct financial support. Providing victims with employment opportunities will help reduce their dependence on abusive relationships.

### **5.3 Promoting Education and Awareness:**

#### **a). Include Domestic Violence in Education Curricula:**

Incorporating lessons on human rights, gender equality, and conflict resolution into school and college curricula will help address patriarchal attitudes and normalize respectful relationships. Community-based education programs can complement these efforts, challenging societal norms that perpetuate abuse.

#### **b). Launch Nationwide Awareness Campaigns**

Comprehensive awareness campaigns should be conducted using traditional media, social platforms, and community networks to disseminate information on domestic violence laws, support services, and helplines. Engaging influential figures, including community leaders and public personalities, can help break the stigma surrounding domestic violence and encourage victims to seek help.

### **5.4 Empowering Women Economically:**

#### **a). Provide Targeted Economic Opportunities:**

Microfinance programs and skill development initiatives aimed at rural women can foster financial independence and empower them to leave abusive environments. Collaborations with private sectors and NGOs can further enhance these efforts by tailoring programs to women's specific needs.

#### **b). Focus on Female Education:**

Investing in female education at all levels will improve women's self-reliance and employability, reducing their vulnerability to abuse. Educational programs should prioritize literacy, vocational training, and digital skills to ensure women's adaptability in diverse economic settings.

## 5.5 Engaging Communities and Religious Leaders:

### a). Foster Community-Led Initiatives:

Community leaders, health professionals, and educators must be trained to recognize and address domestic violence cases effectively. Establishing community-based mediation centers can provide victims with localized support while prioritizing their empowerment and safety.

### b). Involve Religious Institutions:

Religious leaders can play a transformative role in reshaping societal attitudes by addressing misinterpretations of religious texts that justify abuse. Promoting messages of family harmony and gender equality during religious gatherings can further the cause of reducing domestic violence.

## 5.6 Improving Data Collection and Research

### a). Build a Centralized Database:

A national database to track domestic violence incidents, legal cases, and outcomes is essential for informed policymaking. This system will facilitate the identification of trends and gaps, enabling targeted interventions.

### b). Support Academic Research:

Funding and support for in-depth research on the causes, consequences, and patterns of domestic violence will provide valuable insights. Longitudinal studies, in particular, can offer a comprehensive understanding of the issue and its long-term impact.

## 5.7 Collaborating with International Organizations:

Collaborating with international organizations such as UN Women, UNICEF, and others can bring global expertise to domestic violence prevention efforts. Financial and technical support from these bodies can enhance existing programs and introduce international best practices in gender equity and victim protection.

**5.8. Economic Empowerment:** Enhancing women's economic autonomy via skill development programs and microfinance projects

can diminish their reliance on abusers, facilitating their departure from abusive situations (Lwamba et al., 2022)

**5.9. Community Engagement:** Involving community leaders and religious organizations in advocacy initiatives can facilitate a transformation in cultural perceptions and diminish the stigma associated with domestic violence. Community-based support networks can offer prompt aid to victims, particularly in remote regions.

## 6. Conclusion:

The issue of domestic violence in Bangladesh is profoundly permanent, with its roots in intricate socio-cultural, economical, and systemic factors. The study underscores the societal acceptance that frequently normalizes abuse in its various forms—physical, emotional, economic, and sexual—as well as its ubiquitous nature. The far-reaching consequences of domestic violence are underscored by the patterns, perspectives, and impacts it has on not only victims, but also families, communities, and the nation as a whole. Not only is it a moral obligation, but it is also a critical first step in the pursuit of national development, social justice, and gender equality.

Despite the existence of legal frameworks such as the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010, progress is still impeded by implementation gaps, lack of awareness, and societal stigma. Entrenched patriarchal norms, economic dependency, and inadequate institutional capacity frequently present obstacles to victims' access to support services and justice. These obstacles necessitate immediate and enduring action on numerous fronts.

The necessity of a comprehensive strategy is underscored by the recommendations provided in this investigation. It is imperative to fortify the legal framework, with a particular emphasis on addressing deficiencies such as the absence of specialized tribunals for domestic violence cases and the non-recognition of marital rape. Concurrently, the provision of immediate relief and long-term recovery pathways for survivors can be achieved by improving victim support systems,

including shelters, counseling, and financial assistance.

Societal attitudes that perpetuate domestic violence must be challenged through education and awareness campaigns. A cultural shift toward the rejection of abuse and the support of victims can be facilitated by engaging communities, religious leaders, and media. The economic empowerment of women, particularly through microfinance programs and skill development, has the potential to increase resilience and reduce dependency. Furthermore, the facilitation of evidence-based policymaking and interventions will be facilitated by the enhancement of data acquisition and the promotion of academic research.

Collective responsibility is ultimately necessary to counteract domestic violence. The government, international partners, communities, individuals, and non-governmental organizations all have critical responsibilities. Bangladesh can progress toward a society in which domestic violence is no longer tolerated and all individuals can live with dignity and security by promoting collaboration and integrating efforts across sectors.

Addressing domestic violence must continue to be a top priority in Bangladesh's pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular emphasis on SDG 5 on gender equality. The cycle of abuse can be broken and a foundation for a more just and equitable future can be established by implementing a coordinated, multi-dimensional approach. The nation can only progress and realize its maximum potential by guaranteeing the safety and well-being of each individual.

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