A Trend Analysis on Domestic Violence Against Women in Bangladesh

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Abstract: Domestic violence is a momentous social as well as national issue which has not only reflection on the individuals but also has a substantial social and economic impact on the overall development of the country. The objective of this study is to focus on the current status of domestic Violence against Women in Bangladesh and predicting about this scenario. Data was taken from secondary sources such as BBS, national non-governmental organization Odhikar purposively. Various statistical measures such as percent frequency distribution, mean and standard deviation are used in describing the variables and method of least square have been used for predicting different significant variables. .This secondary data have been analyzed by using statistical software SPSS 20. This study reveals that number of child victims by rape is increasing in alarming rate. Moreover, in last three year number of victims raped by law enforcement agencies was stable although it has increased in 2018. Average number of victims per year by stalkers is 750. Dowry related violence is decreasing after 2013.It is alarming for society that killing rate after raped has increased than that of last few years. Trend analysis reveals that number of victims will decrease significantly throughout the year 2025 for any types of violence. These findings would help the policy-maker to get existing and future scenario of domestic violence. Strict and time-to-time execution of law may be able to condense the violence against women in Bangladesh.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, momentous, reflection, method of least square, predicting

1. INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence against women normally wives beaten by husbands is a widespread phenomenon all over the world. Any occurrence or prototype of occurrence of controlling, coercive or aggressive behavior, abuse between those aged 16 or over may be defined as violence. Domestic violence against women is a daily affair in any male dominated society like as Bangladesh. Domestic violence news published in Bangladeshi newspapers show that violence against women is increasing at an alarming rate. Domestic Violence against women by their husband or intimate partner has different adverse social, economical, emotional, sexual and reproductive health outcomes or consequences.

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The voyage to make sure women empowerment in Bangladesh began since the independence in 1971 by ensuring the equal rights in the constitution. The Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees indistinguishable rights for both men and women in all spheres of community life. But now-a-day there exist a bad practices in this rights by which women's are suffering tremendously.

World Health Organization (WHO), a United Nation's agency organizes international health activities to assist governments to improve health services. WHO developed a policy framework intended to improve health sector responses to sexual violence by assisting decision-makers to design health policy and service measures that will provide comprehensive, sensitive and quality care to victims of sexual violence. Their framework focused on three major objectives. Firstly, to promote policy measures that will support the provision of comprehensive and ethical services to persons, who experienced sexual violence. Secondly, to assist in evaluating current policies and practices relevant to sexual violence, identifying existing gaps and setting goals for future policy strategies and lastly, to promote the co-ordination of efforts of police departments, health services, prosecutors, social welfare agencies and non-governmental service providers such as rape crisis centers.

Stalking may be defined as repeated acts conducted by a specific person that would reasonably cause a person to be distress or fear. The prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among stalking victims than the general population, especially if the stalking involves being followed or having one's property destroyed [1]. General assembly of the United Nations called upon the United Nation Statistical Division (UNSD) to request the UN member countries to establish system for data collection and analysis for a set of respective national violence against women (VAW) outcome indicators and other methodological standards by 2015 [2]. In this regards, conducting the VAW Survey 2011 Bangladesh became one of the pioneers through the meticulous efforts of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) under the monitoring of Statistical and Informatics Division (SID) with the financial and technical support provided by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) [2].

Due to availability of such type of survey report, this paper has used the information on VAW survey 2015, also data of national NGO Odhikar that provide data that are more recent. Furthermore, it is essential to mention that non-governmental organization Odhikar have collected and compiled data from different national and international dailies. In the past, different studies were conducted on determinants of VAW but a little study has conducted on its prediction. Because of this, the objectives of this study were

a. To analyze the current status of domestic Violence against Women in Bangladesh
b. To predict the different parameters of domestic Violence

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Domestic violence in simple terms is referred to as any kind of violence within family or domestic unit. Different researchers have defined the term as follows:

The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life". The term "violence against women" encompasses many forms of violence, including violence by an intimate partner (intimate partner violence) and rape/sexual assault and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated by someone other than a partner (non-partner sexual violence), as well as female genital mutilation, honor killings and the trafficking of women[3]. Violence against women is a manifestation of unequal power relation between male and female leading to discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full-advancement of women [4]. Domestic violence is now widely recognized as serious human

rights abuse, and increasingly as an important public health problem with substantial consequences for women's physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health [5].

Khan N.T., et al. reveals [6] 'Violence against Women in Bangladesh'that "Among the victims about 63% belonged to 16 to 30 years of age group. Most of the victims (56%) were from low socioeconomic conditions, 60% of them were housewife and most of the victims (71%) were married. Dowry cases and familial conflict (33% and 32% respectively) were the main background behind Violence against Women". Bhuiya, et al. [7] identified 68% of reasons for husbands verbally abusing wives. Among them, the most frequent reasons included are that the wife questioning by the husband on day-to-day matters followed by failure of the wife to perform household work, economic hardship of the family, failure of the wife to take care of children, not conforming to veil or other expected behavior, inability to bring money from parents' home, not taking a good care of in-laws and relatives, and husband's frustrations in relation to various activities. The rest of the reasons may be included: natal home, failure to produce children, over-producing children, dark complexion of children, revenge for family-feud between husband and natal family and suspected extra marital relation with others.

3. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN BANGLADESH

According to VAW survey 2015 data collected by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics BBS have found the followings –

Experiences of physical violence differ based on geographical area of residence. Violence is much more prevalent among women living in rural areas or urban areas outside city corporations. More than one quartile (27.3%) of ever married

women has experienced sexual violence perpetrated by their husband during their lifetime and 13.3% during the last 12 months [8]. Women at all levels of education reported experiences with partner physical and/or sexual violence, although rates decline as education levels increase. Physical and/or sexual violence is more prevalent among poorer households. Women who earn their own income experienced slightly higher rates of physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime (60.6%) compared to non-earning women (53.0%) [8]. Most of the women who experienced sexual violence also experienced physical violence.

The VAW 2015 asked ever-married women who had been subjected to physical or sexual violence about any injuries they had sustained as a result. Using the Bangladesh classification, 41.7% of ever-married women who experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime sustained some form of injury, as did 12.9% of those who experienced violence in last 12 months [8]. Women are particularly vulnerable during pregnancy due to complications that can arise from ill health or injury for both mother and child. In spite of that, some have experienced partner physical or sexual violence during pregnancy. The prevalence of sexual violence is higher than physical violence during pregnancy.

Controlling behavior was the most common type of partner violence experienced by ever-married women in Bangladesh, having impact on 55.4% in their lifetime and 39.8% in the last year. Emotional violence has experienced by more than one quarter (28.7%) of ever-married women during their lifetime and around the same percentage (24.2%) in the last 12 months. Experiences of emotional violence during lifetime was found the highest in age group 50-54 (31.0%) and lowest in age group 15-19 (22.4%) [8]. Controlling behavior, emotional violence and economic violence are experienced by women regardless of their level of education. Interestingly, the rates of controlling behavior, emotional violence and economic violence were highest among the poorest households and decrease as wealth increases. Statistics by residence show a common pattern for all these forms of violence, with rates being highest in rural areas

and lowest in city corporation areas for both lifetime and the last 12 months, except for economic violence. Regional variations show that controlling behavior and emotional violence for lifetime and last 12 months is highest in Chittagong and lowest in Dhaka. The majority (72.7%) of women who experienced partner physical or sexual violence did not disclose it to anyone with these rates being similar between urban and rural areas [8].

4. DATA SOURCE AND METHOD OF ANALYSIS

The nationally representative secondary data extracted from national NGO-odhikar, 2018 are used for this study. Furthermore, different published research papers take into consideration while developing arguments and drawing conclusions. In order to show current scenario of domestic violence against women in Bangladesh valid percent distribution, mean and standard deviation has shown. For prediction least square method of trend analysis is used.

5. DISCUSSION

From the data of Odhikar found that from 2011 to 2018 total numbers of girls victimized by stalkersis 2617, number of female victimized forprotesting from sexual harassment is 144. Furthermore, among last eight years in 2011 eve teasing rate was highest and in 2015 it was lowest. From the graph it seems that sexual harassment rate is minimizing over the time. Average number of victims by stalkers per year is 278 and standard deviation is 106. For the reason of sexual harassment, on average 14 females committed suicide and on average four females killed by stalkers per year. Number of victims by Stalkers gradually declined from 24.6% in 2012 to 9.8% in 2015. After that, the number of victims quickly climbed up to 13.9% in 2016 although after 2016 again it gradually has turned down.
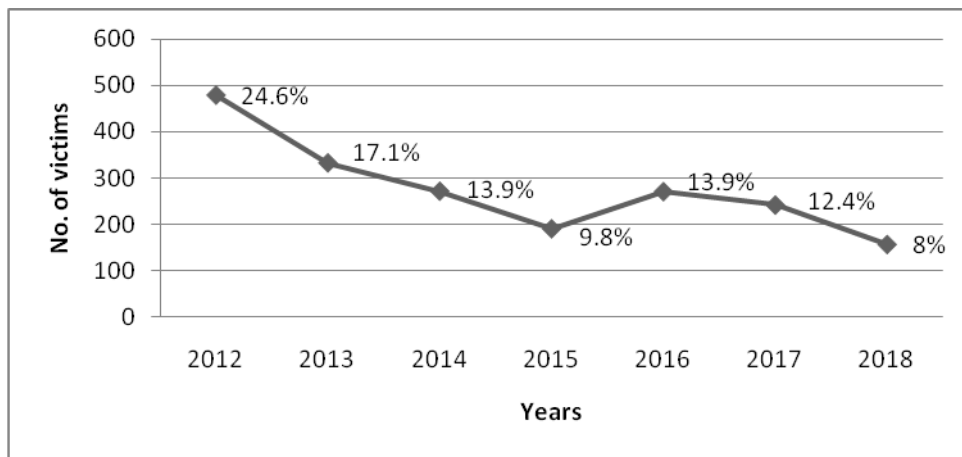

Figure 1: Trend of victims by stalkers

By analyzing rape data from Odhikar found that the average number of victims raped per year is 750 and standard deviation is 71. It may mention that child rape has now become a severe social disease in

Bangladesh. Among all victims, more than fifty percents are child in every year. It is alarming for society that killing rate after raped is increased than the last few years. Although gang rape have been decreased in 2018 than the last 5 years. Number of victims by rape were approximately stable before 2014 and before 2018 it were also approximately stable for three years. Besides this, data reveals that number of victims by rape always rested between 12% and 16%, somewhat lowest in the year 2018 (12.1%).
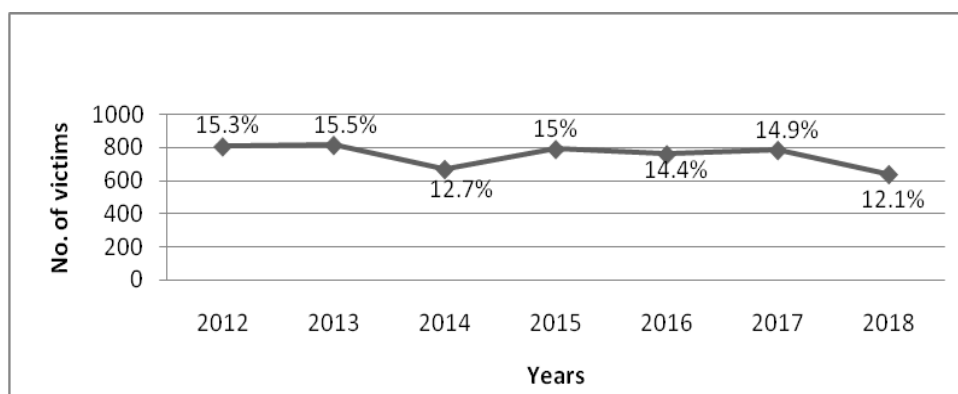
Figure 2: Trend of victims by Rape

However, dowry system is a curse for our nation but still now this system is practice by the people especially in the rural area. During the period of 2001 to 2018, there were 5756 married females who became victims for the dowry, out of them 3273 became victims of murder, 2250 became physically abused and 233 committed suicide. Dowry related violence was highest in the year 2012 compared to last 17 year. The graph reveals that this type of violence decreased rapidly from 2012 (35.7%) to 2015 (8.8%). After that increased slightly in 2017 and then decreased again to 6.2% in 2018. Average number of victims for the dowry related violence per year is 329 and standard deviation is 236.
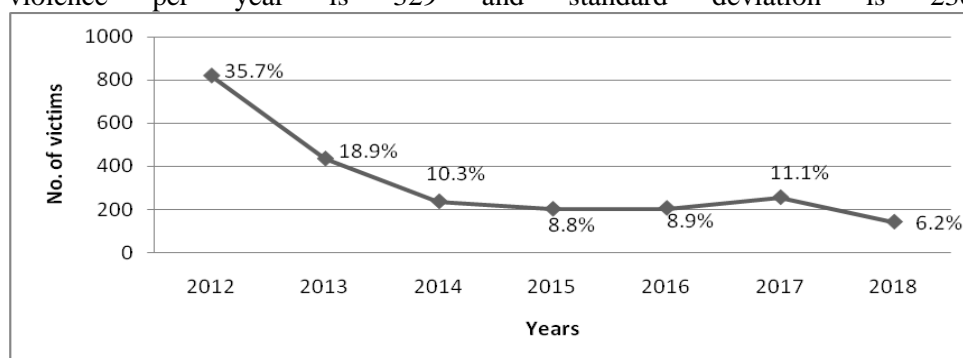

Figure 3: Trend of victims for dowry related violence

For any country all the members of the low enforcement agencies (LEA) are the safeguard of the nation but unfortunately significant numbers of girls/women were raped by them. During 2001 to 2018 large number (90) of rape cases occurred by law enforcement agencies, among these 60 rape cases occurred by police and 12 by the army. The highest number of rape case occurred by law enforcement agencies in 2012 (30.2%) but quickly falls in 2013 and after that slightly declines. During between 2015 and 2017 the number of victims plateaus exactly 9.3% and then increased in 2018 (11.6%). Average number of victims raped by law enforcement agencies per year is 6 and standard deviation is 3.
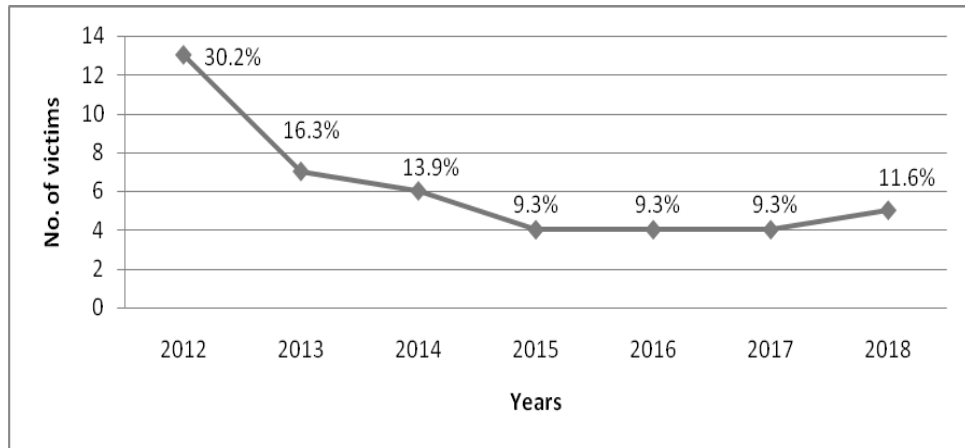
Figure 4: Trend of victims being raped by LEA

This graph reveals that attempt to rape was maximum in 2016 which was 28.4% among last five years and after that this number is declining. Besides this, average number of victims being attempted to rape per years is 90 and standard deviation is 23.6.
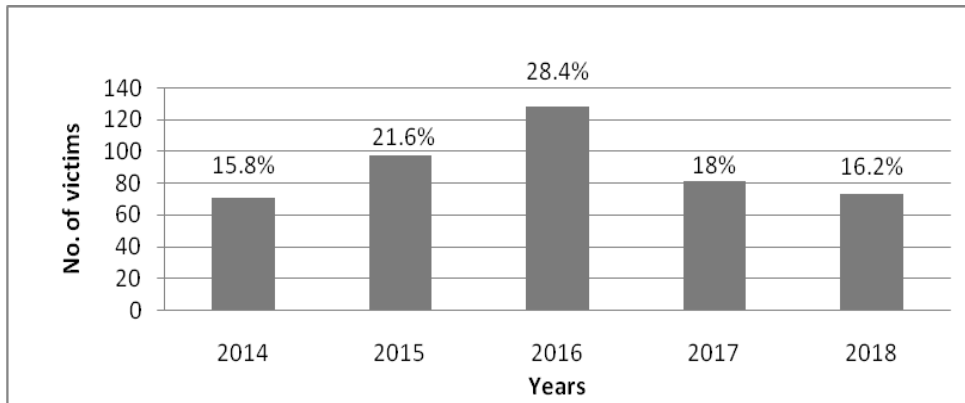

Figure 5: Distribution of victims' attempted-rape

In this study least square method has used for trend analysis. When this method is applied, a trend line is fitted to the data in such a manner that the following two conditions are satisfied: $\sum(Y - Y_c) = 0$ and $\sum(Y - Y_c)^2$ is least. The line obtained by this method is known as the line of 'best fit'.

The straight line trend is represented by the equation $Y_c = a + bx$ where for $\sum x_i = 0$, $a = \frac{\sum y_i}{N}$ and $b = \frac{\sum x_i y_i}{\sum x_i^2}$ and a represents the trend of the variable when $x = 0$ and b represents the slope of the trend line.

The outcomes obtained by using these methods are shown in table 1.

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The Table 1 states the forecasted number of victims obtained by trend analysis using the least square method for the year 2022 and 2025. From trend analysis it has been found that in 2022 number of victims by rape will be 631 and in 2025 it will be 580. Also, it has been found that in 2022 number of victims by the attempt to rape will be 83 and in 2025 it will be 79. These equations reveal that number of victims will decrease significantly throughout the year 2025 for any types of violence but should be stopped.

Table 1: Predicted number of victims

Factors	Trend line equation by least square method $Y_c = a + bX$	Prediction	
		In 2022	**In 2025**
Attempt to Rape	$Y_c = 90 - 1.2X$	82.8	79.2
Stalking	$Y_c = 278 - 41X$	-9	-132
Dowry related violence	$Y_c = 329 - 94X$	-329	-611
Rape	$Y_c = 750 - 17X$	631	580
Rape by LEA	$Y_c = 6.14 - 1.14X$	-1.84	**-5.26**

6. CONCLUSIONS

Violence against women is a structure of prejudice against women. Women's are deprived in social, political, cultural life as well as their economic life through different norms of violence. In practical situation it is not always possible to find out the accurate number of victims, as many of them are unwilling to report about this injustice happened to them. Sometimes though few of them attempt to report complain, they often harass by police officer. Besides civil people, members of

defense are also involved with such type of violence. From this study, can reveal that though domestic violence against women is decreasing over the year but average number of victims is huge per year, which should minimize. Child rape is still in upsetting situation. Trend analysis reveals that domestic violence would be decreased in the future although number of victims per year is not in a miniature number. All people should have to be aware about the rights and dignity of women and children. Law enforcement agencies should have to be more concern about the strategies, which may be regulatory to reduce such type of violence against women. Since not all offenses are recorded for different reason, a dependence on official records of NGO may underestimate the actual number of victims that is the limitation of this paper. Considering vast data set more accurate result of trend analysis may obtain.

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