



Research Paper

Patterns of Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse: Socio-economic Influences, Consequences and Prevention Strategies in Domestic Settings

Kajal Kushwaha

Research Scholar, Faculty of Juridical Sciences, Rama University, Mandhana, Kanpur
Email: kushwahakajal3011@gmail.com

Abstract: This given research paper explores the complex relationship between domestic violence and elder abuse, specifically, according to pertinent literature, the contribution of socio-economic status of individuals to the given types of abuse. The different categories of abuse include- physical, emotional, psychological, financial, and sexual, all of which and their dire effects manifest throughout the physical, psychological, social/political, economic, and legal realms. Literature review incorporated and data sources involve history, theories of feminism and social learning, and precedence. This highlights the need for a coordinated and multi-sector approach in designing and implementing prevention and elaborate interventions comprising of legal services, community oriented methods, medical instructions, social support services, and technological infrastructure. The author also provide examples of case studies in order to inform the reader of real-life examples that may be useful when hoping to implement these techniques, and reiterate that the strategies are not universal and must be tailored to the specific context. It reveal that various social determinants including poverty, unemployment, dependence on others for financial support, lack of social interactions, culture, and family background play an influential role in domestic violence and abuse of the elderly. Literate rates and education levels are some of the other factors at this phase that help in combating abuse. The prevention and control measures in the current generation are assessed to determine effectiveness, with the revelation of successful legal frameworks, community enlightenment, extensive public health programs, and campaigning as important aspects of the same. Finally, there are recommendations focusing on the need to utilize the multiple and complex responses in addressing issues of domestic violence and elder abuse. Policies should be geared towards the protection of victims, promotion of survivor agency, and provisions of adequate and timely services. Suggested future research areas include, multiple forms of abuse, Long-term impact and changes, and, again, Preliminary Outcome of innovation prevention approaches. This work academically intended to advance the methodological understanding and practice both to prevent and compare domestic violence and elder abuse when not, and in the process, improve support for victims.

Key Words: Socio-economic factors, Prevention strategies, Legal frameworks, Community interventions, Psychological consequences etc.

I. Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Focusing on domestic violence and elder abuse, these societal problems remain important concerns risking the physical, mental, and social well-being of people around the world. They are both carried out in families, at home by someone the victim knows and may easily confide in and thus cannot easily be prevented. While domestic violence is characterized as using forceful tactics by one partner in the intimate relationship, elder abuse is defined as using abusive tactics in dealing with older adults who often is dealt with by their caregivers or relatives. Emphasizing on these forms of violence as linked practices is useful in comprehending the relationship between them and establishing prevention-intervention solutions.

1.2 Definition of Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence can be defined as aggressive acts perpetrated by one partner against another in an attempt to establish power over the other partner or to punish him or her for behaviour at least one partner considers to be

undesirable¹. These behaviours can be physical, including use of force or weapons, emotional such as threats, psychological such as blackmailing, sexual and even financial. Physical abuse entails the use of force includes hitting, slapping, or any other physical attack on the individual. The second form is the emotional and psychological abuse where one uses threatening behaviour or fear to control the other party. Sexual abuse is a type of abuse that occurs when an individual is used for sexual purposes or exposed to sexual activities by other people in a way they can control. The main elements of financial abuse include limiting a partner's access to money that is essential in their life. Therefore, domestic violence has repercussions on physical and mental health and limits the options available to female victims in terms of the availability of access to the community.

Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is any act of ill-treatment which may cause harm or loss of something to an elderly person. Physical, verb, emotional, neglect, sexual abuse and financial abuse are forms of abusive experiences that are common. Physical abuse means the use of physical force to cause harm to an individual. Some of the manifestations of the emotional abuse involve using of words and gestures, threats, and constant harassment. Abandonment is a form of maltreatment whereby individuals do not offer proper care to someone in their charge causing them suffering or injury. Sexual abuse may generally be defined as the occurrence of any form of sexual behaviour in which consent is not given or it is coerced. Elder financial abuse fits into this definition as it entails unlawful or improper utilization of an elder's property. Elder abuse may occur in different context in the victims' homes, nursing homes and any other related long term care centres².

1.3 Objective of the Research

- In this case, the aim would be to use a framework to understand and classify the different types and typology of domestic violence and elder abuse in domestic contexts.
- Socio-economic parameters are another factor to consider in understanding why domestic violence and elderly abuse rates are high or low within a society; these include: income level, education, employment, and social support
- In particular, the author aims to assess short-term and long-term effects of domestic violence and elder abuse on victims in terms of physical, psychological, and financial outcomes.
- In order to class and analyze appropriate prevention and intervention measures and approaches targeting domestic violence and elder abuse as well as accommodative legal provisions and community and preventive education initiatives.
- Offer recommendations to the policymakers on the formulation of the coherent policies in the fighting of domestic violence and elder abuse.

1.4 Research Questions

- 1) What are the regularities and subtypes of the domestic violence and elder abuse seen by domestic violence and elder abuse agents in the houses?
- 2) Which are the main socio-economic determinants that may be associated with the perpetration of domestic violence and elder abuse? What are the short-term and long-term effects on the physical health and mental state of domestic violence and elder abuse victims?
- 3) Who has been found to have the most working legal and policy measures concerning the prevention of domestic violence and elder abuse?
- 4) What holistic measures of policy direction could be provided to successfully combat both domestic violence and elder abuse?

II. Literature Review

2.1 Historical context of domestic violence and elder abuse

Domestic Violence

History of domestic violence demonstrates that this phenomenon has been present throughout the centuries and across cultures, genders, and races as a natural part of human interpersonal relationships, and norms and laws. In the past, people believed that violence within the home should remain a personal concern and society did not

¹ Penhale, B. Bruises on the Soul: Older Women, Domestic Violence, and Elder Abuse. *J. Elder Abuse & Neglect*, 11(1), 1-22 (1999).

² Kilbane, T. & Spira, M. Domestic Violence or Elder Abuse? Why it Matters for Older Women. *Families in Society*, 91(2), 165-170 (2010).

intervene in the matter¹. It is worth noting that the male domination pervaded many societies, and the legal frameworks were indifferent to the subjection of women to their husbands. For instance, 19th-century English common law allowed a husband to beat his spouse, a principle which aligned with general culture's endorsement of male dominance over females (Dobash & Dobash, 1979)².

Dobash and Dobash (1979) in their seminal work "Violence against Wives: Org, "A Case Against the Patriarchy," to the effect that domestic violence is but an extension of patriarchy or dominance of males over the females that is accepted and encouraged by the society. Yet it was not until the Feminist crusades of the sixties and seventies that battering emerged as a serious social problem in need of the villagers' attention and interference. These movements were instrumental in raising awareness of domestic violence and campaigning for legislative changes to protect victims and to create support infrastructure in the countries.

Elder Abuse

Although elder abuse is less likely to be documented in past literature as compared with other forms of abuse, it also came to the forefront from early on. Old people care was originally a family affair, and incidences of abuse or neglect, if at all existed, were barely known or even disclosed. The rise of life spans, and in particular, the alteration in the family structure in the twentieth century, have lead to more focus on elder abuse. Surprisingly, elder abuse did not garner attention as a societal issue until the late section of the twentieth century. Although Pillemer and Finkelhor's (1988) work was one among the first to undertake empirical investigation into this phenomenon, they pointed out the chronic and thus the need for social concern³.

Pillemer and Finkelhor (1988) in their study "The Prevalence of Elder Abuse: The information on elder abuse was obtained using the "Random Sample Survey," which confirmed the majority of elderly people were in abusive relationships and that this kind of abuse had extensive repercussions to the health of the elderly. They showed that their study revealed that elder abuse was not only in the form of physical abuse but also involved emotional abuse, financial abuse, and neglect. This broader understanding eventually informed additional related research as well as intervention and policy initiatives aimed at covering the different types of elder abuse.

Intersection of Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse

An analysis of the historical perspective of both domestic violence and elder abuse also shows that as much as they have different profiles, dynamics, consequences, and forms, they have similar social and cultural roots. Although both types of abuse can happen in various settings, they are most prevalent in relationships that involve family members and can greatly affect the individuals involved due to power and dependency issues. For instance, the topics considered in connection with the feminist movements, such as power relations and control in domestic violence can be extended to elder abuse, as offenders dominate over vulnerable elderly people.

Indeed, this form of abuse has been accorded legal and policy recognition and reforms. The most significant legislative response towards domestic violence in the United States was attempted with the Violence against Women Act of 1994 which followed through with funding for the support services for the victims of violence against women and the attempt at offering a coordinated multitude of community approaches towards control of violence against women (Fagan, 1996)⁴. In the same way, the Elder Justice Act enacted in 2010 which was focused on the prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation and offered federal assistance to the protective services as well as research (Jogerst & Aharonson-Daniel, 2003)⁵.

2.2 Feminist Theory

Of the many perspectives on domestic violence, the most enlightening and systematic concept is the feminist theory because of its perception of gender power relations and societal structures. According to the feminist theory, domestic violence is actually more than just a correlation of individual events, but a systematic extensive phenomenon, based on the culture of patriarchal power. Dobash and Dobash (1979) were among the first to articulate this perspective in their seminal work, "Violence against Wives: People also said that Kenyans'

¹ Kingston, P., Penhale, B. & Bennett, G. Is Elder Abuse on the Curriculum? The Relative Contribution of Child Abuse, Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse in Social Work, Nursing and Medicine Qualifying Curricula. *Health & Soc. Care in the Community*, 3(6), 353-362 (2007).

² R. E. Dobash & R. P. Dobash, *Violence against Wives: A Case against the Patriarchy* (Free Press 1979).

³ K. Pillemer & D. Finkelhor, The Prevalence of Elder Abuse: A Random Sample Survey, 43(4) *J. Gerontol. Soc. sci.* 143-151 (1988).

⁴ J. A. Fagan, The Criminalization of Domestic Violence: Promises and Limits, 34 *Nat'l Inst. Justice J.* 1-29 (1996).

⁵ G. J. Jogerst & L. Aharonson-Daniel, The Elder Justice Act: Addressing Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation, 93(12) *Am. J. Public Health* 2003-2006 (2003).

standby phenomenon of one rude man slapping his wife or wife beating as a result of patriarchy. Their research shows that power relations ranged in a way that placed men above women this made it difficult for the women to run from their abusive partners.

Another principle notion in patriarchy and the feminism theory is the power and control wheel in the Duluth model in Minnesota (Pence & Paymar, 1993). This model shows how an abuser gets to dominate the victim through methods like using violence, loans and emotional authority¹. The power and control wheel is one of the most used tools in addressing and evaluating the interactions within the intimate partner violence relationship and designing intervention strategies.

Feminist theory cannot be considered complete or even accurate without discussing the aspect of intersectionality which Kimberly Crenshaw put forward in 1989. Crenshaw in her revolutionary piece work, 'Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex' maintained that violence against women's is a result of multiple axes of race, class, sexual orientation and disability². This shows when combining race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, disability, and migration status reveals how women in these categories are further disadvantaged as abuse takes different forms and the justice system does not offer them support. Thus, entering intersectionality into the discussion, the feminist theory offers a clearer perspective on how domestic violence affects distinct groups of women and how it may differ.

Several authors have condemned the orientation of the old theories of domestic violence for not embracing the gender power relations. For instance, Gelles and Straus's (1979) family violence paradigm that presaged that partner aggression emanated from family stress and conflict was criticized for its failure to consider the possibility of patriarchy in the social realm³. While the sociological theory cites points to the culture that produces forms of violence, the Feminist theory emphasises how domestic violence has a cultural patina as it sustains the domination of men over women.

Due to the work of feminism, the formulation and reform of policies in combating violence in the home has been highly benefited. The Violence Against Women Act (1994) adopted in the United States is one of the prominent examples whereby the legislation was initiated and developed based on the research and advocacy efforts of feminists. The monies under this legislation were to be allocated for support services for the victims, also gave legal recognition to the survivors, and upheld the necessity of a community mobilized approach to domestic violence (Fagan, 1996).

2.3 Social Learning Theory

Social learning theory has fascinated scholars for the better part of the 1960s through its architect, Albert Bandura, and it can be credited for providing insights to the process through which an individual learns behaviours, especially aggressive and violent ones. According to Bandura (1977) theory, learning theory argues that behaviour modification principally depends in observed behaviour and involves a filtering out action process through the mechanism of modelling⁴.

Social learning theory is the introduction of Bandura in the year 1977 in his book "Social Learning Theory." He pointed out that people can learn the behaviours of others by observation, and the process of learning is about attention, retention, production, and motivation. Politics include the need to attend to the behaviour being displayed. Retention therefore requires the ability to recall the details of the behaviour. Reproduction is the capacity of copying the behaviour while motivation is the drive towards executing the copied behaviour; this action can either be driven by a positive effect such as a reward or the absence of an undesirable event such as punishment.

Bandura (1973) further expanded on these ideas in "Aggression: This paper will be beneficial as an "A Social Learning Analysis," In the paper, the author described how aggression is learned through reinforcement of behaviours as well as modelling. He underscored the fact that one has to understand the role that media as well as environment has to play in the changes of behaviour. For instance, when individual watch violent programmes on television, movies and video games; this helps them to become more aggressive.

The social learning theory is the most common theory which has also been used for analysis of the domestic violence. It has been established that there are high tendencies that the individual who grow up witnessing domestic violence will follow the same path as either the perpetrator or the victim of the vice in the

¹ E. Pence & M. Paymar, *Education Groups for Men Who Batter: The Duluth Model* (Springer Pub. Co. 1993).

² K. Crenshaw, *Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory, and Antiracist Politics*, 1989(1) Univ. Chi. Legal F. 139-167 (1989).

³ R. J. Gelles & M. A. Straus, *Intimate Violence: The Causes and Consequences of Abuse in the American Family* (Simon & Schuster 1979).

⁴ A. Bandura, *Social Learning Theory* (Prentice-Hall 1977).

future (Widom, 1989)¹. This is a well-documented observation that individual who are raised amid violence tend to perpetrate such actions in their relationships, a process that is commonly known as the cycle of violence.

2.4 Previous Studies on Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse

Domestic Violence

The review of scientific literature on the subject of domestic abuse has advanced greatly in the past few decades, with pioneering studies focusing primarily on establishing the factors contributing to and the consequences of the abuse. Dobash and Dobash (1979) conducted one of the seminal studies on domestic violence, "Violence against Wives: Married Women Must be Beaten, M. S. in "A Case against the Patriarchy," which claimed that spousal abuse is ingrained in an oppressive gender system. Some suggested that culture and law have always favoured male chauvinism and subjugation of females.

I found Gelles Joh and Straus' book titled "Intimate Violence" to be a good reference source on domestic violence in American families as highlighted in the following subtopics. Hence their work played a significant role in bringing to light the pervasiveness and seriousness of the issue of domestic violence to denote that this is not an isolated problem that only targets specific groups, but rather anyone, regardless of socio-economic status. They used Conflict Tactics Scale to assess the occurrence of domestic violence, which had previously been described as being relatively popular in the field.

Analyzing the data of a study by Campbell (2002) "Health Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence", the author established the broad range of health problems victims can face. Campbell's study shows that women who experience intimate partner violence experience a broad array of physical and mental health concerns such as injuries, pain, depression, and PTSD². The research conducted by Sharon identified how necessary it is for medical professionals to assess their female patients for signs of domestic abuse and offer the necessary support.

Elder Abuse

The study of elder abuse has advanced in the same manner; early efforts highlighted the multifaceted nature of this type of abuse. Pillemer and Finkelhor (1988) conducted one of the first systematic studies on elder abuse, "The Prevalence of Elder Abuse: A Random Sample Survey." They found out that elder abuse was a rampant vice, something that few people complained about with the cases they found ranging from physical abuse to other types of abuse such as emotional, financial abuse and neglect³. This study was useful proactive to generate some awareness about elder abuse and call out for better targeted research and policy approaches.

Lachs and Pillemer (1995) further developed this work in the article published in another peer reviewed journal – the New England Journal of Medicine – titled "Abuse and Neglect of Elderly Persons".⁴ In their literature review, they also identified the risk factors, the common symptoms, and the potential repercussions of elder abuse. Their work also underlined the importance of a more out-of-step, inter-professional idea and develop a way to protect elderly people from the abuse, including physicians, social service workers, and police officers.

McDonald studied to prove that elder abuse has serious health effects based on research done by Dong in the Medical Implications of Elder Abuse and Neglect in the 2000s.⁵ Dong for instance revealed that patients who experience elder abuse require more hospitalizations, are more likely to have other illnesses and even die as compared to non-abused elderly individuals. It centred and emphasized healthcare professionals' competency in identifying and managing elder abuse, urging for increased practice of screening and healthcare professionals training.

III. Patterns of Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse

Elder abuse and domestic violence remain major social problems that continue to impact the lives of numerous persons worldwide. Fortunately, these abuses come in several categories and affect people physically, emotionally/psychologically, financially, and sexually. It is crucial to define and define the kinds and manifestation of domestic violence and elder abuse that could help formulates prevention and immediate action

¹ C. S. Widom, The Cycle of Violence, 244(4901) Science 160-166 (1989).

² J. C. Campbell, Health Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence, 359(9314) The Lancet 1331-1336 (2002).

³ K. Pillemer & D. Finkelhor, The Prevalence of Elder Abuse: A Random Sample Survey, 43(4) J. Gerontol. Soc. sci. 143-151 (1988).

⁴ M. S. Lachs & K. Pillemer, Abuse and Neglect of Elderly Persons, 332(7) New Engl. J. Med. 437-443 (1995).

⁵ X. Dong, Medical Implications of Elder Abuse and Neglect, 21(2) Clin. Geriatr. Med. 293-313 (2005).

protocols. It is within this context that this essay seeks to examine these patterns, as well as the statics and dynamics that surround abuse in domestic settings.

3.1 Types and Forms of Domestic Violence

Family violence or partner abuse refers to a range of actions made deliberately to dominate and subjugate an intimate or a family member. The types of domestic violence include:

- **Physical Abuse:** This form entails the application of force, which culminates in physical harm, suffering, or disability to the offender's body. Physical abuse involves physical infliction of pain, or any kind of physical violence to the individual; such as smacking, spanking, beating, punching, choking, kicking, use of objects, or weapons to harm. Physical abuse may be characterized by bruises, cuts, or broken bones, but its effects can be just as devastating even in the presence of no physical signs.
- **Emotional Abuse:** Psychological abuse is a type of abuse that inflicts harm on a victim through the use of humbling actions and words that demoralize the victim. It comprises of using put-downs which includes shouting, threatening, insulting or criticizing the other person constantly and using nonverbal gestures such as preventing the other person from seeing his or her friends and family, acting unpleasant in front of the other person, and dominating decisions are made by the other person. Sticks and stones may break bones but words can also cause the same amount of harm and this is why people suffering from the consequences of emotional abuse often experience depression, anxiety and other psychological disorders¹.
- **Psychological Abuse:** While psychological abuse is similar to emotional abuse it seeks to affect the mind of the victim making the individual develop confusion, lose self-esteem, and end up with a false perception of reality. Some involve physical abuse and depravation, verbal abuse and belittlement, threats and isolation, and controlling behaviour and mind games where the abuser tricks the victim into doubting the reality of events in their own lives and their own sanity.
- **Financial Abuse:** This is a form of abuse that involves the strict regulation of a victim's finances, or flat-out theft of the victim's money or credit, or uncontrolled use and exploitation of an individual's financial resources with the aim of subjection to authority. Economic control and dominance on the victim deters them from being economically self-sufficient and can render them penniless/without any means through which they can independently disengage by seeking a different living situation.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Sexual abuse is defined in legal terms and, as such, it means any form of sexual contact or behaviour that is unwanted, including touching, intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration. In a domestic context, it takes the form of forceful, aggressive, threatening and violent actions to perform sexual activities.

Elder Abuse

Thus, elder abuse is a particular form of domestic violence, where the perpetrators act against older adults, being relatives or carers. Elder abuse, which is a growing problem especially because of the growing population of elderly people, is a major concern in today's population. The forms of elder abuse resemble domestic violence common for any family but therein are a specific nuance because elderly people have certain weak points.

- **Physical Abuse:** Elder physical abuse would involve behaviours such as the use of force like striking, shoving, pinching or any form of physical violence, Omission of proper care such as deprivation and physical elder abuse entails physically hurting the elder either by hitting, shoving, slapping, or any form of maltreatment². One of the risks that come with elder physical abuse is that these people are usually frail and have underlying medical complications, which get worsened by any form of physical harm.
- **Emotional and Psychological Abuse:** This type of abuse occurs when an elder individual is subjected to verbal aggression, ultimatums, verbal nuisance, and overpowers them. They could confine the elder citizens depriving them of opportunity to interact with friends or any member of the society hence feels abandoned or even as if they have no right to do anything. Physical as well as psychological abuse can result in terrible consequences such as the elder developing anxiety, depression, and even a decline in cognition.
- **Financial Abuse:** The financial abuse of elders includes using an elder's funds or property without their permission, or the elder does not have the capacity to consent; embellishment; fraud; scams; and undue influence. Older people might be pressured into either signing papers containing information they do not comprehend or forced to offer money to the abuser.

¹ E. G. Krug, J. A. Mercy, L. L. Dahlberg & A. B. Zwi, The World Report on Violence and Health, 360(9339) Lancet 1083-1088 (2002).

² Teresi, J. A., Burnes, D., Skowron, E. A., Dutton, M. A., Mosqueda, L., Lachs, M. S., & Pillemer, K. State of the Science on Prevention of Elder Abuse and Lessons Learned from Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Prevention : Toward a Conceptual Framework for Research. J. Elder Abuse & Neglect, 28(4-5), 263-300 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1080/08946566.2016.1240053>.

- **Sexual Abuse:** Elder sexual abuse preferred can be defined as any unwanted sexual activity perpetrated on an older person. This type of abuse becomes difficult for categories of people due to shyness, or their physical strength to resist, or cases of dementia.
- **Neglect:** Hunger is another type of abuse whereby the caregivers refuse to feed the elderly or offer them below requisite nutrition standards; this is coupled with infections and diseases going untreated, poor hygiene standards as well as generally, poor health. This neglect can be intentional or due to caregiver burnout and lack of resources.

3.2 Demographic Patterns of Elder Abuse

Understanding the demographic patterns of elder abuse is crucial in identifying at-risk populations and implementing effective interventions. These patterns can be influenced by factors such as gender, age, ethnicity, and socio-economic status.

Gender: Another important factor to consider is the case on patriarchal structure with female seniors being more vulnerable than male seniors. This has been blamed on the lifetime risks which is occasioned by women's longer life spans than men and therefore are more likely to suffer in later years. In this regard, it is important to take into consideration that older women may also experience some types of abuse due to the gender and power relations in society such as financial and physical abuse¹. Secondary researchers have found out that most elderly women are prone to abuse by their spouses, relatives, or care givers.

Age: Another important factor that influences the risk of abuse relates to the age of the victim and abused person, with the risk usually going up with age. The elderly, more so those who are over 75 years of age suffer from abuse due to frailty, cognitive impairment, physical dependence on the carers and loneliness. It arises from the fact that people become more vulnerable as they age, either in terms of their physical capability to fight or even understand that they are either being abused or neglected.

Socio-economic Status: Socio-economic status is a significant determinant of elder abuse, with lower-income individuals being more vulnerable. Stress and economic pressure are directly related and when a person mean economic pressure comes into play, it only intensifies the stress within families and care giving relationships leading to increase chances of neglect and financial exploitation. The living standards of elderly people with earning capacity could possibly be poor; they may be obliged to live in substandard accommodation, or depend on carers who are themselves pressured.

Raising Awareness and Education: Through public awareness programmes and educational campaigns, more people will be educated about the issue of elder abuse. These are positive actions and steps that may go a long way in eradicating or reducing the cases of abuse and compliance due to stigmatism. Promoting awareness of such abuse forms means that education must be targeted at caregivers, healthcare workers, and the general population on how to identify and prevent such instances.

IV. Socio-economic Influences

Factors such as poverty, education level, and household income affect both elder abuse and domestic violence, including the conduct, frequency, and effects of these ways in which people harm their loved ones. These points show that other socio-economic issues such as poverty, joblessness, being financially dependent, loneliness, culture, and family relationships are essential to consider when talking about the different types of abuse.

4.1 Economic Factors

Hence economic factors must be accorded paramount importance since they are critical influential influences the occurrence and intensity of elder abuse and domestic violence. Besides, economic problems and having less disposable income make people be stressed more at home thus they are most likely to be abused.

Poverty

The following are risk factors associated with Elder Abuse: Poverty was established to be one of the main risk Factors associated with Domestic Violence as well. Many negative stress factors for families and individuals in poverty include poor resource access, housing, healthcare, and necessary means such as social services². These stressors only create pressure and exacerbate conflict, resulting in abusive behaviours.

¹ Bradbury-Jones, C. & Isham, L. The Pandemic Paradox: The Consequences of COVID-19 on Domestic Violence. *J. Clinical Nursing*, 29(13–14), 2047-2049 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.15296>.

² Policastro, C., Gainey, R., & Payne, B. K. Conceptualizing Crimes Against Older Persons: Elder Abuse, Domestic Violence, White-Collar Offending, or Just Regular 'Old' Crime. *J. Crime & Justice*, 38(1), 27-41 (2013). <https://doi.org/10.1080/0735648x.2013.767533>.

Hence, poverty can lead to neglect which may amount to elder abuse since the elderly will lack adequate resources to be cared for appropriately. This is also because families living in poor conditions are more likely to turn to the elderly for their monetary needs since they have nothing else to give or Senior citizens are likely to be subjected to financial abuse especially if they receive social security or own property or cash since the families benefit from it through inheriting the property, or accessing the social security money to cater for their need. Older citizens within the low income struggling group might also avoid seeking assistance or reporting being abused as they stand to lose their financial support or home.

Unemployment

For instance, unemployment causes stress and mainly leads to individual abuse and possibly domestic violence. On the mental level, it is clear that the loss of a job causes frustration and, therefore, increased aggression among individuals. Furthermore, it has been revealed that when one or some of the members of a family lacks employment, then the situation is inclined to elder abuse as well as domestic violence.

Serious problems can also arise from an elderly viewpoint and be caused by unemployment that brings additional financial pressure to families, who therefore stop paying attention to the elderly or cut down on their financial resources for their support. Some caregivers may also be under economic stress and therefore feel pressurized, and as a result, may develop ill feelings towards the elder and end up using physical aggression on the elder, which is considered an act of elder abuse.

Financial Dependence

Pecuniary security is a potentially significant causative factor in both elder abuse and domestic violence. In elder abuse, financial dependence can be twofold: the elder might go on getting financial assistance from the other members in the family, or members in the family might rely on the resources owned by the elder person¹. This indeed leads to a rather volatile situation as there is a constant dependence on the foreign help and this can be manipulated.

Some of the elders are usually elderly and financially require their caregivers and therefore are likely to accept mistreatment than to be forced out by the caregiver. On the other hand, I explained that the family members that depend on elder's income can easily become financially abusive or otherwise to keep that power over the monetary assets.

4.2 Social Factors

Another aspect of the multiple factors influencing the occurrence and characteristics of elder abuse and domestic violence are the socio-cultural factors, including isolation, culture, and family relations.

Social Isolation

Loneliness, which is more prevalent among elderly people and those who are involved in violent relationships, is one of the most important contributing factors to both elder abuse and domestic violence. Therefore isolated individuals have no support systems who can stand for them, they are vulnerable to abuse and do not seek for help. For seniors, feelings of loneliness staunch from such factors as bereavement and loneliness, disability, dementia or disorders, and the inability to drive². Families who don't bother to visit often can lead to older people being potential targets of neglect or abuse since there will be no one to witness such incidences. The aggressors of this violence can use this isolation as a means to continuing controlling the target without the risk of his or her actions being reported.

Cultural Norms

Culturally constructing norms and beliefs strongly affect presence and perceptions of elder abuse and domestic violence. Ethnic beliefs may be an issue since in some cultures; people may be restricted from reporting abuse or seeking assistance due to embarrassment or shame. This is because despite elder abuse being perpetrated in such societies, cultural values that promote the revered status of elderly people can also provide a shield. Similarly, when the convention in that society/culture is to keep elder's care within the family, we may get less encouragement of involving other support or reporting of abuse. Further, cultural beliefs regarding aging together with the roles of older people influence how abuse is detected and resolved.

Family Dynamics

This study strongly believes that family vulnerability is one of the leading predictors of abusive behaviours in such families because, for instance, poor communication, unhealthy family relationships, family violence,

¹ Crockett, C., Brandl, B., & Dabby, F. C. Survivors in the Margins: The Invisibility of Violence Against Older Women. *J. Elder Abuse & Neglect*, 27(4–5), 291-302 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1080/08946566.2015.1090361>.

² Wolfe, D. A. *Elder Abuse Intervention: Lessons from Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Initiatives*. (2003). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK98783/>.

substance abuse, and untreated mental illnesses are likely to be passed from one generation to another. In elder abuse, issues relating to the existing or previous parent-caregiver relationship may precipitate abuse. Some of the factors may include Care giver stress and burn out, Care givers may feel resentful towards the elder and this is a cause to act in an abusive manner. It is also important to note that the elder by themselves often suffer from the substance abuse or mental health problems thereby making it easy for their family members to abuse or neglect them.

4.3 Educational Factors

Literacy Rates and Education Levels

Education is one of the leading factors that would predict how an individual would be able to identify, avoid and report cases of abuse. Education, as a result of understanding and being able to read, is sometimes related to increased awareness of one's rights, assistance that may be accessible, and comprehend the legal consequences of abuse. A person with education has the ability to distinguish a healthy relationship and see signs of abuse, which is not true in all cases. A lack in education can lead to higher risks for elder abuse. Due to their age, frailty and limited education, elderly persons may lack knowledge on matters to do with finance, legal issues or even the services out there that can help them and hence are vulnerable to hardship and exploitation.

Awareness

This paper establishes that a relationship exists between awareness and educational level attained. Although females are considered to have better health knowledge, increased education level is also associated with better knowledge about abuse signs, its consequences and the available remedies. Elder abuse and domestic violence prevention strategies can be effectively realized through announcements of increased awareness among the population and targeted health education activities for both the general population and particular high-risk groups. Regarding elder abuse, awareness efforts can educate the public with information regarding the rights of elderly people, how to identify abuse, and how to act in case it happens. These campaigns can be reached through facilities such as community centres and health care centres, and the media.

4.4 Health Factors

Mental Health Issues

The exploitation of elder and domestic violence is among the social psychological issues that are associated with mental health. We find out that developing mental health problems like depression, anxiety, and personality disorders make one develop the tendencies of being an offender or getting into a relationship with one. For elder abuse, care givers who have not sought professional help by doing so may be at a higher risk due to stress, frustration, and lack of tools to manage the problem. Older adults with other medical conditions that affect the mind, like the dementia, Alzheimer's or others are probably at highest risk for such abuses because they often are in the custodies of caregivers and perhaps due to the conditions affecting their minds, may not understand or be able to report the abuses¹.

Access to Healthcare

Experiences in accessing medical services influence the capacity to care for and protect both elders and victims of domestic violence. Due to lack of insurance and other factors, access to healthcare is extremely limited and may make abuse worse and prevent one from seeking help. In regard to elder abuse, timely access to necessary healthcare can offer professionals a chance to identify the possible abuse-inflicted signs, which may include bruises, skin ulcers, injuries, or poor-quality food and general lack of proper nursing. The healthcare providers can act as mandatory reporters of suspected abuse and are also enjoined to ensure that the elderly patients they attend to have access to the required services.

V. Consequences of Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse

Both domestic violence and elder abuse have quite insightful and dangerous effects on the physical, psychological, social, economical, and legal lives of the victims. Knowledge of such ramifications is vital to identifying appropriate preventive and remedial measures.

5.1 Physical Health Consequences

- **Injuries:** Those who have been abused by their spouses or their caretakers are likely to be physically injured, and injuries may vary from scratches and soreness to deep cuts and open wounds. Some of the frequent occurring complications are broken bones, cuts and abrasions, internal injuries, and head injuries. Falls, for example, are very common in elder abuse, and since the victims are usually elderly with weak bodies, the impacts

¹ Straka, S. M. & Montminy, L. Responding to the Needs of Older Women Experiencing Domestic Violence. *Violence Against Women*, 12(3), 251-267 (2006). <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801206286221>.

of the falls can be severe when the elder is a victim of physical abuse. Such injury leads to permanent disability and often means a very long period of rehabilitation and expensive medical treatment.

- **Chronic Illnesses:** This implies that too much exposure to violence leads to the development of more chronic health issues. Research shows that domestic violence increases the likelihood of illness that includes high blood pressure, heart diseases, gastrointestinal problems, ailments, and chronic pains. It also reveals that the elderly, suffering from stress and resulting neglect, develop worsened states of their chronic diseases like arthritis, diabetes, hypertension etc. Whereas short-term stress that results from one-time sexual abuse can mirror common feelings of stress and pressure, the aching that results from continual abuses affects the life of the victim in various ways, amongst them being decreased immunity to diseases.
- **Disability:** Physical abuse of this severity is likely to condone lifelong residues in the individual being abused. For instance, ageing, repeated episodes of jarring on bones or joints cause chronic musculoskeletal disorders, whereas a single blow to the head leaves one with impaired cognitive abilities¹. In elder abuse, neglect commonly manifests as indicators that are physical and include bedsores and untreated infections that may lead to long-term disability or death. More so, where the victim is disabled, he or she is unable to easily leave the abusive conditions and is very much inclined on the abusive person.

5.2 Psychological Consequences

- **Depression:** Toxic stress is the consequence of domestic violence and elder abuse and one of its effects is depression. Individuals may feel that they can no longer escape their situation, that they have no control over it, and that they have to endure it, and this can cause severe depressive symptoms. In elder abuse, depression proves to be very high because the elder person is usually lonely, probably physically restrained, and betrayed by the caregiver. Depression increases the risk of poor physical health and decreases the QOL, and these problems worsen due to a vicious circle in depression.
- **Anxiety:** As for specific abnormal fears, it has been shown that victims of abuse suffer from generalized anxiety disorder and panic attacks most often. This kind of chronic anxiety is cultivated by stray abuse and the overall stress created by the constant fear of being in a hostile environment. It must lead to such physical signs like headaches, stomach aches, and sleepless nights. Concerning the manifestation of anxiety in elder abuse cases, the main aspects are fear of being left alone, concerns regarding financial provision, and physical abuse or threats.
- **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD):** PTSD is an extreme psychological issue as a result of exposure to traumatic occurrences including domestic violence and elder abuse. The symptoms of PTSD include reliving the trauma, nightmares, panic like state, and obsessive thoughts of the event. The impact of abuse can be seen in received and perceived social support; Victims might find it difficult to avoid situations or people that remind them of the abuse. It is known that PTSD can be severe and thus impairs the victim's possibility to have a normal life in society.

5.3 Social Consequences

- **Stigma:** Persons who have been involved in domestic violence and abuse cases or those who have been abused by their elderly caretakers are usually disgraced and shunned. Society also involves itself in victim blaming through making the victims shame and embarrassed of their situations. This causes a number of reported reasons as to why such stigma can prevent its survivors from seeking medical attention or reporting the case. The general elderly population, especially those who have been abused, are often afraid of being seen as incompetent; that can further deter them and make them withdraw from seeking help.
- **Social Isolation:** It is common for an abuser to make one become irrelevant to their friends, relatives and other people in society through manipulation. This seclusion denies the victims the support that they require or assistance from other people. In elder abuse, isolation can become worse by several folds because the elder will have mobility issues, and the friends they have in their young ages are gone. Social isolation also poses a disadvantage to the victim they become more dependent on the abuser and less likely to draw the attention of other people on him/her².
- **Relationship Breakdowns:** Conflict can especially deeply harm connections with family members or friends and might also impact work relationships with superior/subordinate as well as peers. Fear and any form of trauma makes them undermine the essence of trusting people, hence, they are unable to be in healthy relationship(s). Further on, family dynamics as well as the breach of trust between the elder and the family members or caregivers, leads to multiple other problems, including higher levels of emotional distress and

¹ Straka, S. & Montminy, L. Family Violence: Through the Lens of Power and Control. J. Emotional Abuse, 8(3), 255-279 (2008). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10926790802262499>.

² Wolfe, D. A. Elder Abuse Intervention: Lessons from Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Initiatives. (2003). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK98783/>.

isolation among elders who were subjected to abuse. This also demeans the social support that one has to help them get out of the abusive environment as most of them usually undergo relationship breakdowns.

5.4 Economic Consequences

- **Financial Instability:** Partner abuse and abuse of the elderly put the resultant abuses in financial vulnerable positions. An abuser may get involved in matters regarding money, decide how it is spent, avoid providing for the abused or get the abused shameful employment. In elder abuse, financial abuse is a common aspect where the abusers engage in the affairs of reaping the cash, property, forging the wills, or bribing the older persons to make unwise financial decisions. It can be financially impossible for victims to leave the abusive situation and have sufficient housing and adequate resources.
- **Loss of Employment:** Physical and psychological abuse are known to manifest in a number of ways that can negatively affect the individual's ability to work. Sickness and disability may prevent workers from returning to work while mental issues such as anxiety, depression, and PTSD can cause distraction at the workplace. It also goes beyond simply preventing the victim from working and may choose to actually follow the victim to their place of work in order to continue harassing them¹.
- **Housing Instability:** This is because the two major components of financial stability are employment and good income, whereby when one is lost the other may follow or vice versa and hence when they are lost housing may follow. Several of these victims may end up being evicted from their homes because they are unable to pay rent or mortgage costs and therefore end up homeless. In elder abuse, there are cases of financial exploitation whereby the elderly abuser puts the elder in a home which belongs to the elder or end up in miserable royalties. This is an important issue since moving around due to insecure housing means that victims are not able to leave the abusive environment and get safe and secure habitation.

VI. Prevention strategies for domestic violence and elder abuse

Thus, the prevention of domestic violence and elder abuse is a complex process requiring the involvement of legislative and policy approaches, community, medical and supportive initiatives, and technological tools. These strategies target the victims to offer them support and care, the culprits to refrain from committing the vice, and the society in general to embrace the change that is required.

6.1 Legal and Policy Frameworks

- **Domestic Violence Laws:** The analysis of the case laws clearly highlights the fact that strong legal provisions are required to tackle this issue of domestic violence. These laws describe what is considered domestic violence, it declares the rights of the victims and it determines the sanctions of the offenders. These are prohibited orders, mandatory reporting by doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyers, and other caregivers, and docket-localization for domestic violence cases. Most countries today have recognized that domestic violence is not only limited to physical contacts but also other forms of cruelty such as emotional, psychological, and even economic thus extending the laws to cater for all the forms of abuse.
- **Elder Protection Acts:** It is the legal effort to protect older adults from mistreatment and neglect. Such measures normally entail such features as reportable suspicion of abuse, legal redress for the injured party and penalties against the offender. For example, the Elder Justice Act in the United States further protects elders by providing better coordinated efforts against elder abuse and alerting more resources in investigations and prosecutions².

6.2 Community-Based Interventions

- **Support Groups:** This is because victims cannot be forced to go back to their homes or to continue working in the toxic environment where the abuse occurred, and the kind of support that the members offer to each other is in the form of empowering support, nurturing support and educative support. These groups can be managed by different specialists and give support of peers, which is critical for successful overcoming and empowering. They also reduce the feeling of loneliness that nearly all victims have to endure since they assist in developing a support system where everyone is pulling in the same direction.
- **Community Education:** They include training programmes that help educate the community on the issue of domestic violence and elder abuse in order to reduce instances of the vice. These can be done in schools,

¹ Piquero, A. R., Riddell, J. R., Bishopp, S. A., Narvey, C., Reid, J. A., & Piquero, N. L. Staying Home, Staying Safe? A Short-Term Analysis of COVID-19 on Dallas Domestic Violence. *Am. J. Criminal Justice*, 45(4), 601-635 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-020-09531-7>.

² Browne, K. & Herbert, M. Preventing Family Violence. (1997). <http://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BA30972617>.

workplaces, and community based facilities and all entail features such as recognizing signs of abuse, the effects of violence and where and how to report violence. Other education can also be focused and community and social mobilization where men and boys can be encouraged to change negative gender attitudes and avoid certain behaviours.

6.3 Healthcare Interventions

- **Screening Programs:** Health care providers are literally witnesses or have a good chance of being upon contact with victims of domestic violence and elder abuse. The physical and sexual abuse of elders can be recognized earlier through screening programs in medical services. Although abuse may not be immediately evident in the history and physical examination, commonly asked questions during regular clinic visits and during emergency room, primary care, and geriatric consultations should be employed to identify abused patients¹. It is important to educate healthcare personnel about signs of abuse and how they can effectively handle or refer patients who have symptoms associated with abuse.
- **Mental Health Services:** Counselling is necessary when helping the abused because they often experience such as depression, anxiety disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorders. Counselling and therapy are some of the essential tools that once individuals reach out, effective and cheap mental health services can help with recovery. One can conclude that integrated care models that have coordinates between physical as well as mental health services are feasible in supporting the victims.

6.4 Social Support Systems

- **Shelters:** There are temporary homes where victims can seek protection from abusive situations as they seek other permanent means of protection. These facilities do not only provide safety but also vital amenities and services such as legal aid, psycho- social support, and education on employment. Housing can be created for women and children only and for women and the elderly, who are sometimes the survivors of such cruel actions.
- **Counselling Services:** One major component is counselling especially one-on-one and in groups since victims of abuse is usually traumatized. Counselling can also be taken to the family level in order to attend to the needs of all the affected members in order to help them overcome the vice and develop as a unit. Hypothesis accessible counselling services are very beneficial in facilitating the recovery process of victims this implies that in order to enable victims to receive the appropriate counselling services, counsellors and institutions need to take certain measures and adhere to certain principles.

6.5 Role of Technology

- **Telehealth Services:** Telehealth services in conjunction with traditional methods of domestic violence and elder abuse also opens up access to health care and counselling to those living in rural and/or remote areas as well as the underserved population. The mobile delivery system means that a victim does not need to physically move to seek medical advice, counselling, or support services in cases that could further endanger their lives.
- **Emergency Apps:** Emergency applications are revolutionary tools meant for offering a quick assistance in the emergencies. These apps can range from having functionality like having an instant panic button, GPS tracking and interface with emergency services. Some apps also contain hidden features to protect the customers who are in abusive environment from revealing their identities.

VII. Case Studies

7.1 Case Study 1: USA

Victim: Elderly Woman in a Suburban Household

A 56-year old woman, Mrs. Smith, from a suburban region in the United States was a victim of substantial elder abuse by her adult son, who was her caretaker. Mr. Smith's son, who was still, a jobless alcoholic, required his Mom's money, pension, and savings that he squandered on alcoholic products. This was not only felt in economic exploitation but also in the use of force, and other forms of misuse. The caretaker neglected Mrs. Smith, and her son abused her, both verbally, causing increased levels of anxiety and depression. The abuse in this case of Mrs. Smith only came to light when a neighbour suspected the kind of living conditions and the frequent bruises that the old woman was always nursing and decided to report the incident to the Adult Protective Services (APS). APS took the initiative to offer medical treatment to Mrs. Smith and make her live in a safe home other than her house

¹ Holtzman, J.M. Neglecting the Abused and Neglected? Elder Abuse, Domestic Violence, and the Dental Community. Special Care in Dentistry, 17(4), 118-119 (1997). <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1754-4505.1997.tb00880.x>.

as her son's legal action was taken. This case again most ideally reflects the need for community vigilance and the efficiency of APS in protecting frail older populations¹.

7.2 Case Study 2: India

Victim: Middle-aged Woman in a Rural Setting

Mr. Arun is a man of 38 years age who used to beat his middle-aged wife, Mrs. Devi, regularly in their rural village in India. The premise of the violent act is to be found in the structure of the couple: the husband's alcoholism and the social attitude to women as inferior beings. It reported took five main forms, which include physical torture, psychological torture, denial of financial resources, and emotional torture. The local Non-Governmental Organization involved is one that is involved in the promotion of women rights and female empowerment and noticed Mrs. Devi's situation through a program they were conducting within the community. The NGO helped her secure a lawyer to help her obtain an injunction, ensured she received support to attend a women's refuge, and ensured that she received training to enable her find a job and thus become financially stable². This intervention also not only offered immediate help but also being equipped Mrs. Devi again to reconstruct her life and other oppressed women fellow too.

7.3 Case Study 3: Canada

Victim: Elderly Man in an Urban Nursing Home

Mr. Johnson is a seventy-three years old male patient who was a resident of an urban nursing home in Canada and he was a victim of neglect coupled with financial exploitation by the working staff of the nursing home. The staff would abandon him to his sickest self, fail to feed him, and deplete his monetary worth by spending his funds meant for his upkeep. The scenario was established when Mr. Johnson's daughter, observing certain banking activities and her father's deteriorating physical condition during her visits, submitted a complaint with the law enforcement agencies. After a detailed investigation, the staff members of the nursing home were charged with criminal acts due to abuse that became rampant within the facilities and several policies and reforms were implemented in the facility with the improvement of monitoring procedures. This is a clear indication that more often than not it is the family members that are more sensitive and aware of the occurrence of the abuse and neglect and the need for strict laws that govern the provision of care to the elderly in care facilities³.

7.4 Case Study 4: United Kingdom

Victim: Young Woman in an Urban Household

This research work focuses on Ms. Thompson, a young woman who resides in an urban area in the United Kingdom, has experienced domestic violence from her partner. The abuse received was of physical, emotional, and financial kinds, namely, beating, demeaning remarks, and restriction of access to money. Her partner restricted her contact with friends and relatives, followed her out of the home, decided how to spend money and made all the decisions thus ensuring that she was helpless. The final occasion was nearing when Ms. Thompson disclosed her plight to a colleague who urged her to get help. She went to a registered domestic violence organization to seek a lawyer, and temporary accommodation in a house which is safe and counselling services⁴.

These case solution exemplars convey the ways DMV and EA manifest in distinct cross-cultural and socio-economic environments and thus call for culturally specific intervention and supportive measures to safeguard victims and deter perpetrators.

VIII. Discussion

8.1 Synthesis of Findings

As a type of abuse, the paper synthesizes findings from existing scholarly works concerning both domestic violence and elder abuse because the two types of abuse are closely related and they greatly affect people and communities. Domestic violence and elder abuse, in particular, share many commonalities, including the situations changing relationship dynamics with power difference and dependency in which they usually take place.

¹ Wiehe, V.R. Understanding Family Violence. SAGE. (nineteen ninety eight). http://books.google.ie/books?id=BkQ5DQAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Domestic+Violence+and+Elder+Abuse&hl=&cd=5&source=gbs_api.

² Helfrich, C. Domestic Abuse Across the Lifespan. Routledge. (2014). http://books.google.ie/books?id=zgbKAwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Domestic+Violence+and+Elder+Abuse&hl=&cd=8&source=gbs_api.

³ D. Parkinson, Investigating the Increase in Domestic Violence Post Disaster: An Australian Case Study, 34(11) J. Interpersonal Violence 2333-2362 (2017).

⁴ S. Rana, L. Siddiqui, M. A. Siddiqui & L. M. Devi, Elderly Abuse, Violence and Neglect in Haryana-A Case Study, 10(1) The Asian Man 26 (2016).

The study provides an overview of different kinds of abuse such as physical, emotional, psychological, financial, and sexual and underlines the stratification of the physical, psychological, social and economical, and legal impact for the victim.

From the work done by various writers, the historical overview will suggest how social acceptance and the law for many centuries promoted male superiority over women and thus the advancement of domestic violence. Likewise, elder abuse is still a hidden and poorly documented phenomenon, but due to present day shifting family dynamics and elongated life spans, it has emerged into mainstream focus.

The Interplay of Socio-economic Factors in Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse

The analysis emphasizes that both domestic violence and elder abuse are closely connected to several factors, including the socio-economic characteristics of societies. Fluctuations in economic situations, termed poverty, unemployment and dependence on financial support from relatives to mention but a few are essential factors that help pave way for abuse. Consistent with other research, female victims of partner abuse and those who are economically reliant on their perpetrator are less likely to seek assistance or escape the abusive relationship due to concerns about losing financial support and housing.

Patient related factors such as social interaction including, or lack of it, the culture, and the family structure also significantly contribute to it. Lack of social relations raises susceptibility to abuse since the victims do not have the necessary number of people to turn to for help and means to escape hazardous conditions. There is a constant and mutual reinforcement between cultural norms that accept violence or that normalizes it as something normal, and abuse; pre-existing non-functional relationships within the family, substance abuse and mental health problems in a family also increase the risk of abuse.

8.2 Effectiveness of Current Prevention Strategies

There is a comparison of the current state, needs, options, and perspectives of different legal and policy requirements, community-based activities, health-focused actions, social supports, and technologies. In order to have a real legal protection, which means protections that are actually utilizable by the intended beneficiaries, there is obviously a need to have strong domestic violence laws, elder protection acts, and so on. Other activities that have also been noted to have critical importance include advocacy for the rights of vulnerable groups by enabling legislation or ratifying of treaties or conventions.

Shelters, helpline numbers and counselling agencies some of which are run by government agencies and other non-government organizations ensure the safety of the victims in the immediate future as well as the future. As more technology advances like telehealth services and emergency apps become available, people can find the services they need more easily even if they live in isolated communities or areas that do not have a lot of services.

8.3 Implications for Policy and Practice

This, therefore, strengthens the argument that there is need to apply an inter-sectoral and multi-faceted approach to preventing domestic violence and elder abuse. It is important to promote the rights and welfare of the victims and this should include their rights into gaining legal, medical and social assistance. Penalties for non-reporting and smooth collaboration between social services, healthcare facilities, and police are critical in making the processes functional. Health care agencies providing services to these adult should ensure that they receive training on how to identify various degrees of abuse and how to treat clients with such backgrounds.

IX. Conclusion

9.1 Summary of Key Findings

First, the accurate investigation of such social problems as domestic violence, and elder abuse can be observed in the presented research paper. The analysis points to the importance of specific sociological factors like low income and joblessness as well as being financially dependent as viable indicators of abuse vulnerability. Domestic violence and elder abuse are two highly related major social problems that are caused by power and dependency and are frequently worsened through social isolation, culture, and family malfunction. Being an informative study, the publication describes different types of abuse physically, emotionally, psychologically, financially, and sexually and describes the devastating outcomes including physical and psychological ailments, social isolation, loss of income, and legal troubles for the victims.

9.2 Contributions to the Field

This research contributes to the field by offering a detailed synthesis of existing literature and providing insights into the complex interplay of factors that influence domestic violence and elder abuse. This has shifted the focus on the necessity of the multi-sectoral approaches in the prevention as well as the fight against these kinds of vices. Other recommendations established in the paper include increasing community-based interventions; adoption of legal measures; available healthcare practices; supportive social structures; and technology

advancement in the prevention of abuse. In light of analyzing the elaborated material, including the examples of high-profile and usual cases, as well as the comparison of the results of the treatment of eating disorders in different countries, the necessity of context-sensitive approaches is illustrated with reference to practical recommendations.

9.3 Final Thoughts on Addressing Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse

As much as the eradication of domestic violence and elder abuse can be a big and shared noble course, it still takes comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach. To this end, there must be adequate legal and policy reforms which should paint a clear and specific vision of how victims are to be protected and perpetrators punished. Support for people and their families as well as public awareness are also important activities and correct understanding of the problem, its causes and implications, and possibilities of its treatment and overcoming with help of society support. It is an important responsibility for healthcare workers to employ screening programs for victims as well as mental health services in the first instance. Crisis intervention services including shelters and help-line facilities offer clients a safe haven while counseling and nutritional rehabilitation assist in the recovery process. Emergency apps and telehealth services can expand access to appropriate services and guarantee that the victims receive adequate support promptly.

9.4 Future Research Directions

The future research should expand upon the relation of domestic violence and elder abuse and how individual characteristics and experiences, including age, gender, race, class, or disability inform the abuse. These issues make prospective research as well as research that look at the trend in abuse and various interventions necessary in order to have adequate information regarding the impacts of abuse and the efficacy of interventions in the long run. Further research is also needed to identify the approaches to prevention other than traditional programs as well as technical solutions that can help people with technological access or require technological solutions to support victims. The study of the current programs and policies specially designed for the victims of domestic violence as well as for elder abuse survivors will help in the evaluation of such programs and policies and determine the measures that need to be taken to improve the present day programs and policies against elder abuse and domestic violence at large for the benefit of effective and efficient delivery of shelter services.

References

- [1]. Penhale, B. Bruises on the Soul: Older Women, Domestic Violence, and Elder Abuse. *J. Elder Abuse & Neglect*, 11(1), 1-22 (1999). https://doi.org/10.1300/j084v11n01_01.
- [2]. Kilbane, T. & Spira, M. Domestic Violence or Elder Abuse? Why it Matters for Older Women. *Families in Society*, 91(2), 165-170 (2010). <https://doi.org/10.1606/1044-3894.3979>.
- [3]. Kingston, P., Penhale, B. & Bennett, G. Is Elder Abuse on the Curriculum? The Relative Contribution of Child Abuse, Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse in Social Work, Nursing and Medicine Qualifying Curricula. *Health & Soc. Care in the Community*, 3(6), 353-362 (2007). <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2524.1996.tb00036.x>.
- [4]. R. E. Dobash & R. P. Dobash, *Violence Against Wives: A Case Against the Patriarchy* (Free Press 1979).
- [5]. K. Pillemer & D. Finkelhor, The Prevalence of Elder Abuse: A Random Sample Survey, 43(4) *J. Gerontol. Soc. sci.* 143-151 (1988).
- [6]. J. A. Fagan, The Criminalization of Domestic Violence: Promises and Limits, 34 *Nat'l Inst. Justice J.* 1-29 (1996).
- [7]. G. J. Jogerst & L. Aharonson-Daniel, The Elder Justice Act: Addressing Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation, 93(12) *Am. J. Public Health* 2003-2006 (2003).
- [8]. E. Pence & M. Paymar, *Education Groups for Men Who Batter: The Duluth Model* (Springer Pub. Co. 1993).
- [9]. K. Crenshaw, Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory, and Antiracist Politics, 1989(1) *Univ. Chi. Legal F.* 139-167 (1989).
- [10]. R. J. Gelles & M. A. Straus, *Intimate Violence: The Causes and Consequences of Abuse in the American Family* (Simon & Schuster 1979).
- [11]. A. Bandura, *Social Learning Theory* (Prentice-Hall 1977).
- [12]. A. Bandura, D. Ross & S. A. Ross, Transmission of Aggression Through Imitation of Aggressive Models, 63(3) *J. Abnormal & Soc. Psychol.* 575-582 (1961).
- [13]. A. Bandura, *Aggression: A Social Learning Analysis* (Prentice-Hall 1973).
- [14]. C. S. Widom, The Cycle of Violence, 244(4901) *Science* 160-166 (1989).
- [15]. J. C. Campbell, Health Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence, 359(9314) *The Lancet* 1331-1336 (2002).
- [16]. M. S. Lachs & K. Pillemer, Abuse and Neglect of Elderly Persons, 332(7) *New Engl. J. Med.* 437-443 (1995).
- [17]. X. Dong, Medical Implications of Elder Abuse and Neglect, 21(2) *Clin. Geriatr. Med.* 293-313 (2005).
- [18]. E. G. Krug, J. A. Mercy, L. L. Dahlberg & A. B. Zwi, The World Report on Violence and Health, 360(9339) *Lancet* 1083-1088 (2002).
- [19]. Teresi, J. A., Burnes, D., Skowron, E. A., Dutton, M. A., Mosqueda, L., Lachs, M. S., & Pillemer, K. State of the Science on Prevention of Elder Abuse and Lessons Learned from Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Prevention : Toward a Conceptual Framework for Research. *J. Elder Abuse & Neglect*, 28(4-5), 263-300 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1080/08946566.2016.1240053>.
- [20]. Bradbury-Jones, C. & Isham, L. The Pandemic Paradox: The Consequences of COVID-19 on Domestic Violence. *J. Clinical Nursing*, 29(13-14), 2047-2049 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.15296>.
- [21]. Policastro, C., Gainey, R., & Payne, B. K. Conceptualizing Crimes Against Older Persons: Elder Abuse, Domestic Violence, White-Collar Offending, or Just Regular 'Old' Crime. *J. Crime & Justice*, 38(1), 27-41 (2013). <https://doi.org/10.1080/0735648x.2013.767533>.

- [22]. Crockett, C., Brandl, B., & Dabby, F. C. Survivors in the Margins: The Invisibility of Violence Against Older Women. *J. Elder Abuse & Neglect*, 27(4–5), 291-302 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1080/08946566.2015.1090361>.
- [23]. Straka, S. M. & Montminy, L. Responding to the Needs of Older Women Experiencing Domestic Violence. *Violence Against Women*, 12(3), 251-267 (2006). <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801206286221>.
- [24]. Straka, S. & Montminy, L. Family Violence: Through the Lens of Power and Control. *J. Emotional Abuse*, 8(3), 255-279 (2008). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10926790802262499>.
- [25]. Wolfe, D. A. Elder Abuse Intervention: Lessons from Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Initiatives. (2003). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK98783/>.
- [26]. Piquero, A. R., Riddell, J. R., Bishopp, S. A., Narvey, C., Reid, J. A., & Piquero, N. L. Staying Home, Staying Safe? A Short-Term Analysis of COVID-19 on Dallas Domestic Violence. *Am. J. Criminal Justice*, 45(4), 601-635 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-020-09531-7>.
- [27]. Browne, K. & Herbert, M. Preventing Family Violence. (1997). <http://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BA30972617>.
- [28]. Holtzman, J.M. Neglecting the Abused and Neglected? Elder Abuse, Domestic Violence, and the Dental Community. *Special Care in Dentistry*, 17(4), 118-119 (1997). <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1754-4505.1997.tb00880.x>.
- [29]. Podnieks, E., Lowenstein, A., & Kosberg, J. I. Elder abuse. Routledge. (2012). http://books.google.ie/books?id=6zF0BJu96K4C&printsec=frontcover&dq=Domestic+Violence+and+Elder+Abuse&hl=&cd=1&source=gbs_api.
- [30]. Amiel, S. & Heath, I. Family Violence in Primary Care. *Medicine*. (2003). http://books.google.ie/books?id=MMLADwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Domestic+Violence+and+Elder+Abuse&hl=&cd=3&source=gbs_api.
- [31]. Wiehe, V.R. Understanding Family Violence. SAGE. (nineteen ninety eight). http://books.google.ie/books?id=BkQ5DQAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Domestic+Violence+and+Elder+Abuse&hl=&cd=5&source=gbs_api.
- [32]. Helfrich, C. Domestic Abuse Across the Lifespan. Routledge. (2014). http://books.google.ie/books?id=zgbKAwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Domestic+Violence+and+Elder+Abuse&hl=&cd=8&source=gbs_api.
- [33]. D. Parkinson, Investigating the Increase in Domestic Violence Post Disaster: An Australian Case Study, 34(11) *J. Interpersonal Violence* 2333-2362 (2017).
- [34]. S. Rana, L. Siddiqui, M. A. Siddiqui & L. M. Devi, Elderly Abuse, Violence and Neglect in Haryana-A Case Study, 10(1) *The Asian Man* 26 (2016).