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| Volume 2 | Issue 2 | November (2022) | DOI: 10.47540/ijqr.v2i2.461 | Page: 93 – 103 |
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Covid-19 and Violence against Women: An Analytical Study in the Context of Bangladesh

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Covid-19, Measure, Pandemic, Violence, Women.

Received : 01 March 2022

Revised : 27 October 2022

Accepted : 04 November 2022

ABSTRACT

At the end of 2019, the people of the world experienced the Covid-19 pandemic situation. After a while, the pandemic situation was more acute and threatening to the mass people of the world. Women who have faced violence due to the pandemic situation. However, this paper tried to explore the relationship between Covid-19 and violence against women in the context of Bangladesh. This paper is quite qualitative in manner, and reports, articles, and content on relevant issues have been used as the sources of data. Simultaneously, the study found that the rate of VAW during Covid-19 has increased where women are passing a miserable conditions due to the pandemic situation both in the home and outside of the home. In most cases, women are beaten by their intimate partners and forced to go to the parental house. The Paper also found some reasons for increasing those violent occurrences such as mental depression, economic hardship, wife's excessive demands, children disturbance, and male-dominant attitudes and behaviors. Moreover, it is inevitable to take collaborative initiatives where the government will take lead and non-government organizations and mass people will play a supportive role to eliminate violence against women during the pandemic situations.

INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence is a well-known problem in our culture that the government maintains or tolerates, endangering women (Johnson, Ollus, and Nevala, 2008). Both society and the state in Bangladesh have witnessed encouraging violence against women in the name of traditions, customs, and religions. As a result, VAW continues to be a problem that must be addressed for women to fully exercise their rights. Such types of violence must be acknowledged as human rights violation that requires quick action to achieve women's equality (Desai, 2002).

Bangladesh's government has established explicit aims to promote gender equality by eliminating discrimination and violence. The government has been trying to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) e.g., Health and well-being, excellent education, economic growth, and decent jobs, sustainable cities and populations, peace and justice, and guaranteeing safe, accessible, and cheap transportation for women and children, as

well as raising living standards, are all priorities. The government strives to abolish all forms of discrimination, all forms of personal violence, including human trafficking and sexual harassment, as well as harmful societal practices such as child marriage and forced marriage, to protect women and girls' rights and gender equality (Khan, and Ritti, 2017). Despite significant government progress in the education and health sectors, women continue to lag behind men in higher education, skills development, and technical education, and uneven positions in educational and professional peripheries. For the program to be effective and proper, Women's education, political and economic empowerment, and social equality are all issues that need to be addressed. Moreover, social behavior, legal provisions, and state laws and policies that penalize current discrimination and VAW are all required.

The socially constructed relationship between men and women is referred to as gender. Humans are also said to identify with feminine and

masculine characteristics. Gender refers to biological sex as well as sex-based social institutions like gender roles and gender identity (Udry, 1994; Haig, 2004; Kasim, 2021). Natural studies show that the genetic features of humans influence gender, but social studies believe and support that social construction is the most essential foundation for the development of the gender concept. According to a group of researchers, biological sex, psychological gender, and social gender roles all play a part in the creation of society's gender identity (Yudkin, 1978; Haig, David, 2004). Men, women, girls, and boys, as well as all socially produced beings, including transgender people, are classified by their gender (WHO, 2021). The genetic variations between female and male, and intersex people, such as chromosomes, hormones, and reproductive organs, are referred to as sex. Gender is related to, but not the same as, sex. Although gender and sex are intertwined, gender identity is separate. Gender identity is a person's deeply felt, internalized, and unique gender experience, which may or may not correspond to their chosen sex or human physiology.

The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, a group, or a community, which results in or has a high risk of resulting in damage, death, psychological harm, mal-development, or deprivation (WHO, 2002). Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to damaging performances committed against someone owing to their gender. It is rooted in gender inequity, power abuse, and damaging norms. GBV is both a major desecration of rights and a serious well-being and safety hazard (UNHCR Asia Pacific, 2021). GBV is the most common form of violating human rights suffered daily by Bangladeshi women and girls. According to the Survey on VAW in 2015, conducted in collaboration with UNFPA and the BBS, 73 percent of Bangladeshi ladies who had been married for a long time had gone through a lot of abuse from their current husband, with 55 percent experiencing violence in the last 12 months and 50 percent experiencing violence throughout their lives.

The prevalence and severity of GBV vary across Bangladesh, but the suffering it does to universal to people and families, and it is linked to the country's general development. Individuals,

families, communities, and governments, as well as a country's economic success, all suffer as a result of VAW. Domestic violence is linked to 14 percent of maternal fatalities on an individual level, while it costs the country 2.10 percent of GDP on a national level (Care Bangladesh 2013). Over the last two decades, Bangladesh has made considerable progress in improving women's and girls' lives. Maternal mortality and fertility are declining, but gender parity in school attendance is increasing. Simultaneously, 82% of married women are victims of GBV, and widespread sexual assault inhibits women from reaching their potential. Despite official and non-governmental attempts to reduce early marriage, Bangladesh has the highest rate in South Asia, with 59% of females marrying before they reach the age of eighteen. Unfortunately, women's economic participation remains a small percentage of the entire workforce, and it is regarded as a low-paying field for women.

According to the United Nations, "any act of gender-based violence that causes or is likely to cause physical, sexual, or emotional pain or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or private life" (WHO, 2021). Domestic and outside violence in the home is the two types of VAW. When partners, family members, friends, relatives, or other members of the family conduct acts of violence in the house, it is known as domestic violence (Goode, 2005). (1971). Power and control over wealth are the root causes of domestic violence (Barrier, 1998; Gells, and Cornell, 1988), and are fueled by patriarchal attitudes and traditional values (Schuler, Hashemi, and Badal, 1998). Dowry-related violence, child marriage, marital rape or violence, verbal abuse, harassment, humiliation, and physical torture are all examples of this type of violence (Begum, 2005; Hossain, Imam, and Khair, 2001). Feminists in Bangladesh think that women are primarily victims of violence perpetrated by members of their own families and other close relatives (Ethirajan, 2010).

Women and girls are less mobile, and job absenteeism is higher, resulting in lower productivity and pay, as well as a higher female dropout rate. As a result, women and girls are unable to participate in decision-making processes or access critical services like medical and mental health treatment (WB, 2018). Researchers in

Bangladesh discovered significant reversal links between gender violence and the rights of women and girls (HRW, 2020). Women's rights and equal chances are hampered when they are subjected to violence (Wiegard, 2012; Desai, 2022). Gender disparity, according to the study, has a significant impact on women's and girls' ability to achieve and enjoy rights, notably health rights (HRW, 2020). Women are more vulnerable as a result of this (Johnson, Ollus, and Neyala 2008).

Gender inequality and discrimination endanger women's health and well-being (WHO, 2021). Due to male intolerance and unfairness, women and girls are unable to exercise their rights and freedom. Without the consent of male family members, women and girls find it impossible to visit a healthcare center for treatment. To seek counseling for mental or psychological concerns, they must first get permission from a counselor (Asaduzzaman et al, 2015). Unfairness and biases have a negative impact on adolescent and female health (Kennedy et al, 2020). Prejudices, discrimination, and inequality can be found in a variety of areas, including education, health, nutrition, employment, political representation, and the enjoyment of human rights are all important factors to consider (Haque and Druce 2019; WEF, 2017). Women are found to be underserved in terms of receiving proper health and nutrition treatment, resulting in high rates of malnutrition, bad health, and maternal mortality and fertility (Haque and Druce, 2019), all of which are the result of society and the state tolerating discriminatory attitudes among communities and health-care providers (WHO, 2021).

In a nutshell, discrimination between men and women is caused by a variety of factors, such as patriarchal social systems that discourage rather than encourage participation in public activities, male workplace preference, mistreatment, and early marriage all impede women and girls from engaging in education, health, employment, and business, and thereby violate their rights (Human Rights Watch, 2020). Women's and girls' human rights are indisputable, necessary, and inextricably linked to universal human rights (Khan and Ritti, 2017); nonetheless, inequality and discrimination increase the possibility of these rights being violated (HRW, 2020). Economic disparity, barriers to employment growth, and a lack of health services

for women and girls enhance women's and girls' vulnerability (Haque and Druce, 2019).

METHODS

There are only a few quantitative data points in this qualitative study. This paper is written fully in a narrative style. Covid-19 and VAW have been the subject of numerous research investigations and papers. Many articles related to VAW and Covid-19 were also looked at. To make the research more meaningful, relevant, and real, the researchers employed secondary data sources such as articles, journals, reports, and newspapers. However, in the context of Covid-19 and VAW, this paper emphasizes the scarcity of complete data and evidence. This study looks into the flaws in current laws, rules, and international agreements aimed at protecting women from assault. The paper, in particular, 1) provides comprehensive data; 2) measures the extent of VAW during Covid-19; 3) reveals the current enforcement situation of existing laws and policies in reducing VAW during Covid-19, and 4) investigates the role of non-governmental organizations in reducing VAW during Covid-19.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Gender-Based Violence and Covid-19

In the modern world, a new strain of the lethal virus has developed, producing a COVID-19 pandemic crisis. The epidemic has affected many aspects of human life, including death. A stunning number of people have died as a result of the sickness all across the world. The epidemic, according to academics and development organizations, has intensified social crimes such as domestic VAW (WHO, 2020; Kashif, et al., 2020). According to a study, domestic violence has grown by 10% to 50% in several countries around the world as a result of pandemic conditions (ibid). Domestic violence has grown by up to 75% in Australia, 21-35% in the US, and 32-36% in France, according to a global study, due to economic downturns, extended stays at home, and pandemic-induced dread, anxiety, melancholy, and stress, all of which are worsening domestic violence (Gebrewahd, Gebremeskel, and Tadesse, 2020). According to supplemental data, VAW increased by 59% in Italy, 700% in Nigeria, 700% in Palestine, and 983 percent in Bangladesh during the shutdown. Physical VAW will have increased by 345 percent in Bangladesh by 2020, while sexual

and domestic violence would have increased tenfold. Rahman Rahman (Rahman, 2020).

According to the Guardian newspaper in the United Kingdom, the coronavirus will increase spousal violence (Mahdawi, 2020). The UNFPA expected a 20 percent increase in domestic violence in 193 UN member nations, including Bangladesh, during the epidemic (UNFPA, 2020). Domestic violence is on the rise, particularly in the aftermath of the Covid-19 epidemic and quarantine (UNICEF, 2020; New York Times 2020). The primary reasons for the substantial increase in domestic violence during the Coronavirus were that health, finance, and safety and security programs were limited and became inadequate in the face of demands, as well as frustration produced by a protracted stay-at-home (Usher et al, 2020).

Women and children are subjected to abuse, assault, humiliation, and torture by family members are the prevalent pictures of domestic violence. There are allegations of domestic violence including physical, verbal, financial, psychological, and sexual assault in Bangladesh (Sifat, 2020). According to a report, the rate of domestic violence in 2020 is up 24% over 2019 (According to the BRAC 2020 Report). Covid-19 is also more challenging for victims of violence and others in danger to get life-saving backing, such as psychosocial, well-being, and safety programs (Ali, 2020). The issue of domestic VAW and children has been brought to light (MJF, 2020a). A significant number of women and children were also found to have experienced for the first time in their lives, being confronted with violence (Ehsan and Jahan, 2020). Financial loss, disappointments, wrath, and spending more time together at home are all variables that contribute to domestic violence (Gebrewahd, Gebremeskel, and Tadesse, 2020; Raha et al, 2021).

Even though they are adolescents, mothers, including elder women in many households, are under pressure to perform a variety of domestic tasks, such as extra work due to demands from children, husband, and his family who are continuing at home, and recurrent conflicts and violence related to dowry due to a loss of income, mothers, including elder women in many households, are under pressure to perform a variety of domestic tasks, such as extra work due to demands from husbands and children who are

staying at home (IFHR, 2020). Despite the discrepancies, research suggests that most women have increased workloads, difficulties receiving health care, and greater levels of anxiety, despair, stress, and behavioral changes as a result of their pregnancy (Ehsan and Jahan 2020). For such a burden and the aforementioned domestic violence, the feudal religious social system and patriarchal mindset of men are to blame. Due to the improper execution of essential legislation, an inefficient criminal justice system, as well as law enforcement and administration sectors, are all plagued by corruption, and criminals' political affiliations, perpetrators of VAW in Bangladesh enjoy widespread impunity (IFHR, 2020).

Financial uncertainty, employment fear, income loss, and mourning arose as a result of enacting restrictions such as migration bans and the uncertain closure of educational institutions, all of which exacerbated aggressive behavior against women (Rayhan and Akter, 2021). Over half of women and children reported being subjected to corporal or sexual assault while on lockdown, according to another survey (Hamadani et al, 2020). Not only has the reverse epidemic fostered societal crimes such as violence, but it has also increased the chance of marital violence, which could result in criminal charges in the future (UNFPA, 2020; Sifat, 2020). Domestic violence, such as physical, financial, psychological, and sexual abuse, is common in Bangladesh, yet politicians, government officials, and non-governmental groups fail to recognize it. Researchers advocate tele-counseling and video-counseling, as well as psychological health services, to aid people with depression and psychological health difficulties (Equatora, et al., 2021). Furthermore, the GOs, NGOs, community-based groups, and volunteer welfare organizations should use various types of media and networks to raise awareness about the negative effects of domestic abuse (Sifat, 2020).

The concurrent GOs, NGOs, and CBO's programs for the protection and security of women's survivors are, in many situations, insufficient and impossible to access. According to studies, the pandemic crisis in Bangladesh has primarily affected mothers, including young married girls. Women, particularly mothers, are denied access to fundamental health services such as prenatal, natal, and postnatal care, according to Ehsan and Jahan

(2020). Many women, especially mothers, have complained about a lack of essential health services, a breakdown in the general health system, and disruptions in family planning, to name a few examples. According to available data, the current pandemic has severely sexual and reproductive health services have been hampered, increasing needs for family planning, ineffective contraception, and dangerous abortion, as well as unplanned pregnancies, an increase in sexually transmitted infections, and a breakdown in services for feto-maternal and reproductive health (Hall, Samari, and Garbers, 2020).

Furthermore, during Covid-19, UN Women stated that 60% of women work in the informal economy, making little money, saving less, and having fewer safety nets (UN Women, 2020). According to studies, there are 67 million domestic workers, the majority of them women, who work in household maintenance and cleaning around the world (UN, 2020). Covid-19, according to the ILO, has affected 55 million domestic workers, including 37 million women (2020). (International Labour Organization, 2020). According to a study conducted by the ILO, UN-Women, and ECLAC on Covid and domestic workers in Latin America and the Caribbean are estimated to number between 11 and 18 million persons in the region, with 93 percent of those employed being women, accounting for 14 percent of women's employment. It is seen that 70% of domestic workers have been distressed by the pandemic, which has resulted in them losing their jobs, livelihoods, and social protection. They have been burdened by the written contract that limits government access to aid and services which is exacerbating their vulnerability (ibid). Women, contrary, make up the majority of domestic workers in Bangladesh, who operate in unorganized businesses that have been severely disrupted by the pandemic (Haque, 2020). Due to financial insecurity and challenges, several homeowners have allowed DWW to leave, resulting in minimal revenue and food (UN Women, 2020).

According to research, many domestic women workers have lost their jobs. The Covid-19 outbreak has wreaked havoc on small businesses in Bangladesh, particularly in Dhaka, including women-owned stores, restaurants, and beauty salons, with some restaurants closing as a result of the outbreak. As a result, many of them have been

compelled to shut down their businesses due to the loss of their only source of revenue (ibid). During the lockdown, their family was at the point of starvation. During the latest Covid-19 period, the DWW's workload, stress, and worry all grew significantly (Ehsan and Jahan, 2020). Despite these physical and mental consequences, the epidemic has resulted in cyber violence. Domestic workers in Dhaka are being abused by Facebook groups, according to research, who are uploading and distributing images, identities, and accusations without their consent (Polen, 2020). Apart from social media violence, domestic women workers in Bangladesh are abused and exploited due to a lack of legal reorganization under labor law, social protection schemes, or safety nets, as a result of which they are subjected to long hours, low pay, no leave entitlements, sexual and gender-based violence, as well as limits on freedom of movement (ibid). Although Dhaka has undertaken a few studies on domestic workers, there is currently no national database or study on domestic women workers in Bangladesh.

In addition, the pandemic has harmed domestic foreign workers, who now face wage theft, exploitation, and prejudice. It is estimated that about 7 lakh employees traveled abroad in 2019, according to UN Women, with 1 lakh of them being women. As a consequence of the Covid-19 outburst, several of them lost their jobs (UN Women, 2020). According to government data, roughly 4 lakh workers have gone home as the illness grows. 50 thousand women out of 4 lakh repatriated employees were forced to return home due to wage discrimination or underpayment in the host nations (Bhuyan, 2021). The government has taken steps to address the aforementioned issues, particularly for foreign workers, through its mission, BMET, and other recruitment firms, to assure accountability and reclaim unpaid wages (ibid). UN Women also urges the government to cover protective services for returned domestic workers and small businesses, which includes public spending, expanding fiscal packages, expanding social security programs, money supply, and alleviating financial strains, with a budget of USD 8.57 billion (UN, 2020).

Family fragmentation is becoming more common due to financial hardship and a lack of social activity. Men are furious at the prospect of losing their employment as a consequence of the

Covid-19 lockdown. As a way of expressing their wrath, some men may seek to humiliate their wives (Sifat, 2020). In May 2020, the MJF interviewed 53,340 mothers and children for the poll. 2,085 women were bodily assaulted, 4,947 women were emotionally abused, 404 women were sexually abused, and 3,589 women were subjected to economic restrictions imposed by their spouses, according to the data (MJF, 2020b). A poll of 57,704 women and children conducted in June 2020 indicated that 4,622 women had been emotionally abused, 1,839 women had been physically abused, 203 women had been sexually attacked, and the husbands of 3,009 women had imposed financial limitations on them (MJF, 2020c).

The current epidemic is not only enhancing and expanding the experiences of experienced women who have been subjected to violence, but it is also enhancing and expanding the experiences of adolescents in a variety of scenarios (Ehsan and Jahan, 2020). Household heads, particularly intimate partners, are unhappy as a result of the lack of social interaction, and corporal punishment and mental torture are used during pandemic scenarios. While you're waiting, "Men are angry because they have lost their jobs as a result of the Covid-19 closure. They are unable to socially communicate with their peers. Some people torture their wives as a way of venting their emotions" (Arpita cited in Islam, 2020). Domestic violence is a widespread occurrence in our social structure, according to data collected before Covid-19 and throughout the pandemic crisis in Bangladesh, which is now taking on a new negative and life-threatening nature. Establishing digital platforms and women-friendly policies and services, according to women's rights organizations, would be critical in eliminating or reducing VAW, which is considered an urgent need to facilitate digital literacy skills to survivors of VAW to ensure equal access to lifesaving digital tools and strategies (UNFPA, UN Women, ILO, 2021).

Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) in Protecting the VAW

Women, children, and other vulnerable members of society are impacted by gender-based violence all around the world. A victim in Bangladesh who is subjected to physical, mental, health, sexual or other forms of unpleasant conditions is said to be in a crisis. Non-

governmental organizations (NGOs) play a key role in alleviating the problem of VAW in many locations, alongside the government (Khanam and Meem, 2018). In recent years, the government and non-governmental organizations have made a variety of initiatives to combat VAW. In addition to general police operations, there are government and non-government shelter homes, victim relief centers, a one-stop crisis center, and a nationwide helpline. Some NGOs are attempting to raise awareness about violence and promote positive social and family values due to a lack of integrated state-run programs. Their activities and efforts, on the other hand, are rarely regarded as beneficial. In comparison to the population, all of these services are fragmented, inefficient, and inadequate. Due to a lack of awareness, the majority of people are unaware of services (Rahman, 2020).

Furthermore, implementing governmental organizations and agencies, particularly law enforcement authorities, are unaware of their domestic violence duties due to a lack of proper training. According to rights-based organizations, service providers are unfriendly, and law enforcement officials are unavailable and unwilling to examine complaints (Human Rights Watch, 2020). Women are also trapped in violent households and are compelled to look for alternate lodging because they are unable to leave due to the lockdown (Nahar cited in Daily Star 2020). Illiteracy, lengthy leisure hours, the ineffectiveness of law enforcement agencies, the length of the case procedure, political pressure, illegal money gains, and the village court's passivity, according to a study, all enhance the risk of domestic and public violence (Khanam and Meem, 2018). Even though the GOs and NGOs have formed committees to focus on this issue, domestic law implementation mechanisms are missing. UN agencies encouraged governments to give legal aid, secure shelters, and hotlines for victims of domestic violence to fight the crisis (UN Women, 2021).

Bangladesh's government must respond by adopting a specific domestic violence policy, implementing coordinated support services, and enforcing appropriate laws. Above all, it is critical to recognize the patriarchal culture and the gender imbalance in society, as well as to take effective actions to overcome these issues (Rahman, 2020). Because of the numerous activities and programs

carried out by NGOs, people in NGO working regions filed the uppermost number of violence complaints compared to people in government intervention areas, according to research (Khanam and Meem, 2018). Many non-governmental groups have attempted to create and implement projects to alleviate the problem of VAW and girls and its wide-ranging significance (Stanley, 2012).

In Bangladesh, non-governmental groups collaborate with the government to avoid violations using a variety of means. They support women's empowerment by offering housing, medical support, conciliation, counseling, financial or entrepreneurial assistance, legal aid, and legal literacy are all examples of services that can be provided to victims, as well as organizing rallies and demonstrations (Khanam and Meem, 2018). A study also examines the role of non-governmental organizations in ending VAW by providing financial assistance, and legal aid, raising incidents of awareness, reporting, or filing, and gaining access to relevant public services, such as counseling for survivors, including immediate refuge and medical care for survivor women, as well as other emergency measures (ibid).

According to WHO, the majority of NGOs operate in reproductive rights, reproductive health, women's health, women's health, women's refugees, and VAW (WHO, 1997). The work of these groups is widely acknowledged to include not only activism, but also the development of methods, resources, and counseling to meet the needs of women (WHO, 1997). In a nutshell, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provide a variety of services to improve and develop the poor conditions of rural and urban women, as well as to protect them from violence and harassment, by providing welfare, technical assistance, protective programs such as legal and emergency economic assistance, and conducting research for women's development. They also contribute to the development of a sustainable society by promoting and advocating for human rights and gender equality.

Weaknesses of the Existing Legal Protections for Women

There are adequate organizations, laws, and policies in Bangladesh e.g., National Girl Child Advocacy Forum, Karmajibi Nari, Durjoy Nari Shangsha, Sex Workers Network of Bangladesh,

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Rights and Women, Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Rights and Women, Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Rights and Women, Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Rights and Women, Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Rights and Women, Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Rights and Women, Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Rights and Women, Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Rights and Women, Bangladesh The Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929; The Dowry Prohibition Act of 1980; The Family Courts Ordinance of 1985; The Muslim Family Law Ordinance of 1961; The Muslim Marriages and Divorces (Registration) Act of 1974; The Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act of 1939; The National Human Rights Act of 2009; The Domestic Violence (Prevention) Act of 2009; The Muslim Marriages and Divorces (Registration) Act of 1974; The Muslim Marriages and Divorces (Registration) (Judicial Portal of Bangladesh 2020). The mentioned laws have been ratified by the Bangladeshi government, but they are not being strictly enforced (Right Vision News, 2009).

The main priority area of the existing laws for the protection of women's and girls' rights is the strengthening of sanctions rather than prevention techniques (Coomaraswamy, 2001). In marriage and divorce, the bulk of these laws and ordinances discriminate against women, child custody, and maintenance (FAO, 2021). Despite the country's inadequate implementation and prejudiced law enforcement institutions, the legal protections for women and girls are comparable to those in different parts of the world (Wiegard, 2021). According to policymakers, lack of execution of existing laws, delays in legal proceedings, a lack of knowledge on women's rights, sensitivity, and weak infrastructures are all factors that contribute to discrimination and violence in Bangladeshi society (Khan and Ritti, 2017).

Bangladesh's government has set specific goals to achieve gender equality by focusing on safe, accessible, and cheap transportation for women and children, as well as increasing living standards, which are drawn from SDGs such as health and wellbeing, quality education, economic growth, and decent job, sustainable city and population, peace and justice (Bangladesh Planning Commission, 2018). To protect women's rights and promote

gender equality, the government aims to eliminate discrimination, personal violence, including human trafficking and sexual harassment, as well as damaging societal customs such as child marriage and coercive marriage (Khan and Ritti, 2017).

Some measures, in particular, remain unmarked and must be addressed for improved service delivery, such as ensuring access to justice and victim services, such as women's refuges and shelters, ensuring adequate resource and funding allocation, ensuring emergency responses, rehabilitation, and protections, and ensuring emergency responses, rehabilitation, and protections (CEDAW Committee, 2011), and To impose beneficial outcomes, perpetrators must be held accountable for their actions, ensuring transparency and accountability (CEDAW Committee, 2011; The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, 2011; and Johnson, Ollus, and Neyala, 2008). According to the findings, Bangladesh needs to eradicate discrimination, abolish violence, reform and strongly implement present laws, establish civil society organizations, and raise societal awareness to attain gender equality.

CONCLUSION

Violence Against Women (VAW) is still a major issue in Bangladesh, affecting women's lives in both the family and social spheres. In the vast cases, they are brutally beaten and, in some circumstances, murdered. Because the victim's murder is never discussed, the victim's family is denied legal justice and protection. Feminists blame the perilous situation on existing rules and procedures, as well as the patriarchal worldview of persons in positions of authority, such as advocates and law enforcement agencies. Women are more susceptible as a result of the patriarchal social and family framework, which raises the rate of violence. Amid the pandemic, women's violence is on the rise. People's jobs and working capacities appear to be dwindling as a consequence of the Covid-19 severe pandemic crisis. People in the lowest-paying jobs are obliged to work longer hours. On the other hand, as a result of canceled orders and other organizational cutbacks, several employees are losing their jobs.

Furthermore, the government's lockdown policy adds to the layoff victims' anguish. Because

of the aforementioned reasons, people felt driven to spend more time at home. They are sometimes more abusive toward women and children while they are at home. Even when their parents did not give them, children chased their playing equipment and instruments, according to the study. Parents have been known to strike their children as a result of their children's constant demands. According to the study, which was published amid the Covid-19 pandemic, joblessness, mental melancholy, economic stress, wife's high expectations, kid disturbance, and male controlling attitudes and deeds are all factors that contribute to VAW. During Covid-19, the paper investigated the significant link between a husband's long-term presence at home and VAW.

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