Prevalence of Domestic Violence: Before and During Pregnancy in Urban Settlement, Pakistan

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FOCUS OF PRESENTATION

- **Socioeconomic background of Pakistan**
- **Socioeconomic background of women in Pakistan**
- **Current study design and methods**
- **Findings**
- **Recommendations**
- **Way forward**

PAKISTAN'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Population: approximately 187 million – (UNDP, 2008)

Ranks 125th out of the 169 countries on the Gender Development Index (GDI) – (UNDP, 2010)

Ranks 99th out of 109 on the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) (UNDP, 2010)

6th most populous country in the world UNDP, 2008

PAKISTAN'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Around 33% of the Pakistani population still live under the poverty line

Ranking 145 out of 187 countries in the Human Development Index

The GDP value of Pakistan represents 0.34 percent of the world economy.

45 million people are severely food-insecure and almost 40 percent of children are underweight.

Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement survey (PSLM 2008-2009)

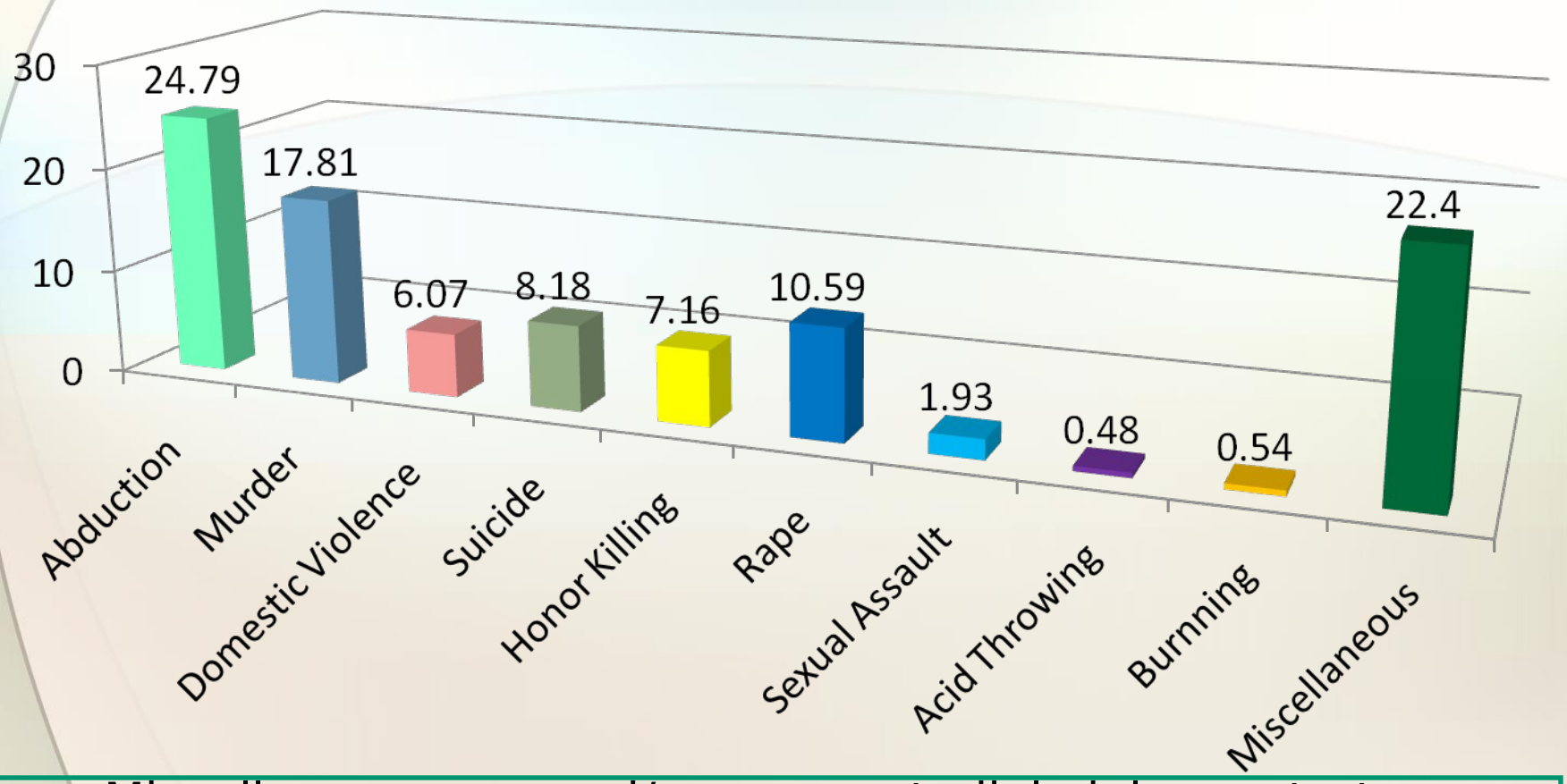
Daily Times
Friday, December 14, 2012
Launch of report on CEDAW
'Govt's efforts to improve affairs of women not effective'
By Ali Hassan
ISLAMABAD: Aurat Foundation on Thursday organised the launch of Pakistan Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) alternative report on 'Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 2012'.
According to the report, various attempts made by the government to improve the socio-economic and
Operating Officer Naeem Mirza, while elaborating the process of producing the NGOs alternative CEDAW report, said that Aurat Foundation has been preparing the 'shadow report' on CEDAW for a couple of years.
"[T]he major impediments to gender equality and the elimination of discrimination are an ambivalent political will on part of the state, and resultant-by its institutions; the absence of a firm commitment to the inherent principles and a reluctance to own the state's
Earlier in the day, Foundation, in collab with Insan Foundatio also arranged Women's Assembly, organisations are w advance women's e ferent levels.
The event women from v backgrounds activists, par students and opportunity experiences, tions in promo security in all the region

TRIBUNE
Thuesday, June 17, 2012
Violence against women
Laws can't protect women from outdated traditions
Sociopolitical system, patriarchal society, absence of political will cited as major factors
Violence against women in 2011
OUR CORRESPONDENT
ISLAMABAD
Despite the enactment of laws, violence against women (VAW) is on the rise, according to a report prepared by a non-
men survived after paying compensation. Activists called for a change in the mindset and stringent measures to curb the menace.
The chief guest, former
In most cases of siah kari (honour killing), the women were killed on the jirga's orders but the men

THE NEWS
Tuesday, Oct 23, 2012
ALARM BELLS
4,585 cases of violence against women reported in 2012
Myra Imran
Islamabad
Reflecting an alarming rate of violence against women (VAW) in the country, a qualitative review of VAW statistics by the Aurat Foundation (AF) reveals that in the first six months of 2012, a total of 4,585 such cases were reported in the media across
the prevalence es of violence Pakistan has cent as com- January to nitored sto- ed that d women get of vio- of VAW women, who
Around 59 per cent of the victims were below 18 years of age, 31 per cent were 19-36 years old and 9 per cent were over 36 years of age. The FIR has been registered for nearly 65 per cent of the reported cases of violence against women.
Shared exclusively with 'The News', the statistics show that 69 per cent of violence against women incidents were reported from Punjab with Lahore, Okara and Sargodha topping the list of districts with highest reported cases. Apart from these districts, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Gujrat, D G Khan, Pakpattan, Muzaffargarh, Sahiwal and Sheikhupura are among the 15 top districts with highest number of VAW cases.
Despite extensive efforts to control honour killing incidents, 436 such cases were reported in
murder. Sindh was marked for second highest number of reported VAW cases.
"It is important to consider here that women in Punjab are more able to reach law enforcement and media as compared to women in KP or Balochistan," said National Coordinator AF Rubawa Hadi while talking to 'The News'.
Among total number of VAW incidents, 3,153 cases were reported in Punjab, 1,027 in Sindh, 283 in Khyber Pakhtunkhawa and 78 cases were reported in Balochistan. Murder was the most prevalent crime against women reported in Sindh and KP. Around 15 per cent of the reported VAW cases from KP were of the murder.
According to the monitored data, suicide was also reported
Jan-June 2012. Low number of total cases reported from Balochistan might be an indicator of the fact that it is more difficult for women to gain access to media or other sources to report this violence.
In Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 44 VAW cases have been reported. The report terms 44 cases as disproportionally high. Abduction and kidnapping was the most prevalent crime against women in Islamabad and 33 per cent of the reported cases were of abduction or kidnapping.
Abduction and kidnapping was the most commonly reported incident of violence against women from all over the country. A total of 1,086 incidents of abduction and kidnapping were reported which amounts to nearly one fourth of
marriages of choice as kidnapping by the groom. So, these figures might include incidents where choice marriages have been wrongly reported to the police as kidnapping or abduction incidents.
A total of 435 rape and gang rape cases were reported in the first six months of 2012, honor killings were the fifth most frequently reported category of VAW (346 cases) and there were total 289 cases of domestic violence reported in last six months. There were 50 cases of sexual assault, 46 cases of acid throwing and 32 cases of burning were also reported. Another 1160 cases of VAW fell under the miscellaneous category.
Rabeea Hadi said that for the last 4 years, the Foundation has been releasing its annual report on status of VAW in Pak-

DAWN
Tuesday, June 17, 2012
Cases of violence against women rising, says report
By A Reporter
ISLAMABAD, July 16: As many as 42,888 cases of violence against women were registered all over the country from 2008 to 2011, while there was 6.74 per cent increase in such cases between 2010 and 2011.
This was disclosed in a report titled 'Situation of violence against woman in Pakistan', launched by Aurat Foundation here on Monday.
Justice (retired) Mallick Rivaz, former chairperson of National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), who was chief guest at the launching ceremony, said these were many crimes behind violence against woman but the root cause was perhaps women's dependance on men and men's approach that women were their dependent and hence their property.
Anis Haroon, member former chairperson of the NCSW, said current data showed a rise in cases of violence against women but still this was a tip of the iceberg, adding the actual face of violence against women could be much higher.
She said though violence against women also happened even in developed countries, in Pakistan this was more problematic and cruel as there was no system of addressing the issue. Cases of 'honour' killings are normally reported as land dispute cases, she added.
Nasreen Azhar, a women rights activist and former member of the NCSW, while presenting the findings, said violence against women was continuously increasing.
Shaigan Sharoof Mallik, Secretary Ministry of Human Rights, agreed that only 40 per cent cases of violence against women were reported and even of the reported cases only 40 per cent were registered with the police.
In almost 80 per cent of the cases, he added, the criminals were acquitted. Reports say most of the perpetrators of violence against women were found to be relatives of the survivors or the victims, such as husband, brother, cousin, father, uncle, father-in-law, brother-in-law, son or stepson. Honour killing is almost always committed by males against female family members who are accused of having brought dishonour upon the family.
During 2011, out of the total 8,539 cases of violence, 6,185 were reported in Punjab, 1,316 in Sindh, 694 in KP, 198 in Balochistan and 146 in Islamabad. Less reporting in Sindh was due to the damage done by the floods in July 2011. The floods not only damaged the main infrastructure but also led to the loss of official judicial and crime records. The natural catastrophe greatly disturbed the reporting mechanism of violence against women.
Moreover, with an overall 6.74 per cent increase in violence against women from 2010 to 2011, so many as 2,089 cases of abduction, 1,575 murders, 640 domestic violence, 758 suicide, 718 honour killings, 327 rape cases, 170 sexual assault, 44 acid throwing, 25 burning, 1,702 miscellaneous cases against women were recorded.

REPORTED CASES OF VAW – 2008 - 2011



Miscellaneous = vanni/swara, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted murder, land encroaching

Background

- The parent study was designed to look at a range of socio demographic, psychosocial, nutritional, and clinical factors associated with infectious morbidity and pregnancy outcomes among mothers and infants.

- A prospective cross sectional study of pregnant women in Hyderabad, Pakistan, a city of about 1,000,000 inhabitants.

Literature Review

- A study conducted on the prevalence and types of domestic violence perpetrated by men revealed that 100% reported “ever shouting or yelling” at their wives, including during pregnancy.

  32.8% of the men admitted to ever having slapped their wives, and 77 % admitted to ever engaging with them in nonconsensual sex. (*Sheikh, 2000)*

Literature Review Cont…

- 70-90% women in Pakistan experience domestic violence. (Human Rights watch, 2009)

- In Pakistan, family structures, lack of legal support, gender inequity, women's social status and their financial dependency on men are highly associated with domestic violence. (Niaz, 2003; Rabbani et al., 2008)

Aim

To determine the prevalence and types of domestic violence before and during pregnancy among women living in urban community in Hyderabad, Pakistan

Methods

- **Design: Cross sectional study**
- **Site : Hyderabad , Sindh, Latifabad unit 3,4,5 & 10**
- **Participants:**
  - **Women in their 20th to 26th week of pregnancy (confirmed by ultrasound),**
  - **Permanent residents (i.e., intending to remain in the area for the next six months),**
  - **Provided informed consent.**
- **Sample: 1324 women**
- **Domains of Tools: Demographics and Domestic violence**

Results

- 51 % of women experienced some form of abuse prior to or during pregnancy and 20% alone were physically or sexually abused.
- In both time periods, about one-third of the women experienced verbal abuse.
- Prior to pregnancy 30% of respondents reported only verbal abuse in the six months while 16% reported physical or sexual abuse.
- During pregnancy, the rate of verbal abuse decreased modestly to 24% but continued relatively unchanged for physical and sexual abuse.

Result s cont…

- The husband is the most frequent abuser; the mother in law accounts for about 10% of physical abuse overall.
- Slapping was the most common form of physical abuse, while marital rape was the most common form of sexual abuse.
- Most participants responded to abuse either by fighting back verbally or by keeping quiet.
- 16% of the women who were abused thought of suicide as a response.

RESULTS

- Examined 1,376 Pregnant women for prevalence of Depression and associated factors in Hyderabad, Pakistan.

- 42% of women who experienced physical and/or sexual abuse and 23% experiencing only verbal abuse had depression/anxiety compared to 8% who reported no abuse.

- The mean AKUADS-SF scores increased with increasing severity of abuse.

International Journal of Social Psychiatry, 55(5), 414-424

Prevalence of Anxiety, Depression and Associated Factors Among Pregnant Women of Hyderabad, Pakistan

Karmaliani, R., Asad, N., Bann, C. M., Moss, N., McClure, E. M., Pasha, O., Wright, L. L. & Goldenberg, R. L. (2009)

- Women who were physically and/or sexually abused during the six months prior to their pregnancy were far more likely to have Depression/Anxiety as compared to those who did not experience any abuse (OR = 9.25, 6.11–14.00).

- In all 67 (45%) of the 148 women expressing suicidal thoughts reported attempting suicide.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers

- Need to identify family based programs to promote the health and safety of women and unborn child.
- Training program is needed to provide appropriate support, economic development and counseling for women.
- Include socio-economic component of health into health professional education curriculum.
- Involvement of men/husbands

Recommendations for the Researcher

Further research is needed:

- Qualitative research is needed to explore how women in Pakistan define domestic violence and effective responses
- To develop an in-depth understanding of “staying quiet” as a common and protective response.
- Development of contextually relevant instrument to measure domestic violence or validate WHO tool in a national study.
- To identify how sexual assault is defined in an intimate relationship.

Recommendations for Policy Maker

- Develop training programs that prepare all stakeholders to respond to family violence.
- Collaborative efforts by federal and state governments to gather and analyze complete and comparable data and for resource allocation.
- Continuous development and evaluation of preventive strategies/frameworks and programs for reducing violence against women.
- Integrate mental health into primary healthcare and during antenatal and postnatal period

Repeal
Hudood Ordinance
Now!

Gender Reform Actions Plans (2005)

Mental Health Act (2001)

Human Trafficking Ordinance (2002)

LEGAL REFORMS, NEED AWARENESS AND IMPLEMENTATION

Domestic Violence Bill (2012)

Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace (2010)

SHELTER/SUPPORT SYSTEMS

1. Aurat Foundation
2. Rozan
3. Shirkat Gah
4. Simorgh
5. Benazir Bhutto Women Crisis Center
6. Dastak Charitable Trust
7. Depilex Smile again Foundation
8. Acid Survivor Foundation
9. Ansar Burney Trust
10. AASRA
11. Edhi centres/Foundation
12. Women Shelter Organization (WSO)
13. Panah

Family Modal As Way Forward

WAY FORWARD

INCREASING MALE INVOLVEMENT

- Use of this strategy is not prevalent in Pakistan
- Until male involvement is increased, VAW will continue to be seen as a woman's issue and a domestic issue
- Challenge male perceptions of gender norms, gender inequity, masculinity, etc.
- Important in addressing issues of women's mobility

Challenge:

To make every PERSON count we must design and test community out-reach programs that are INTERGENERATIONAL

Research Team Members

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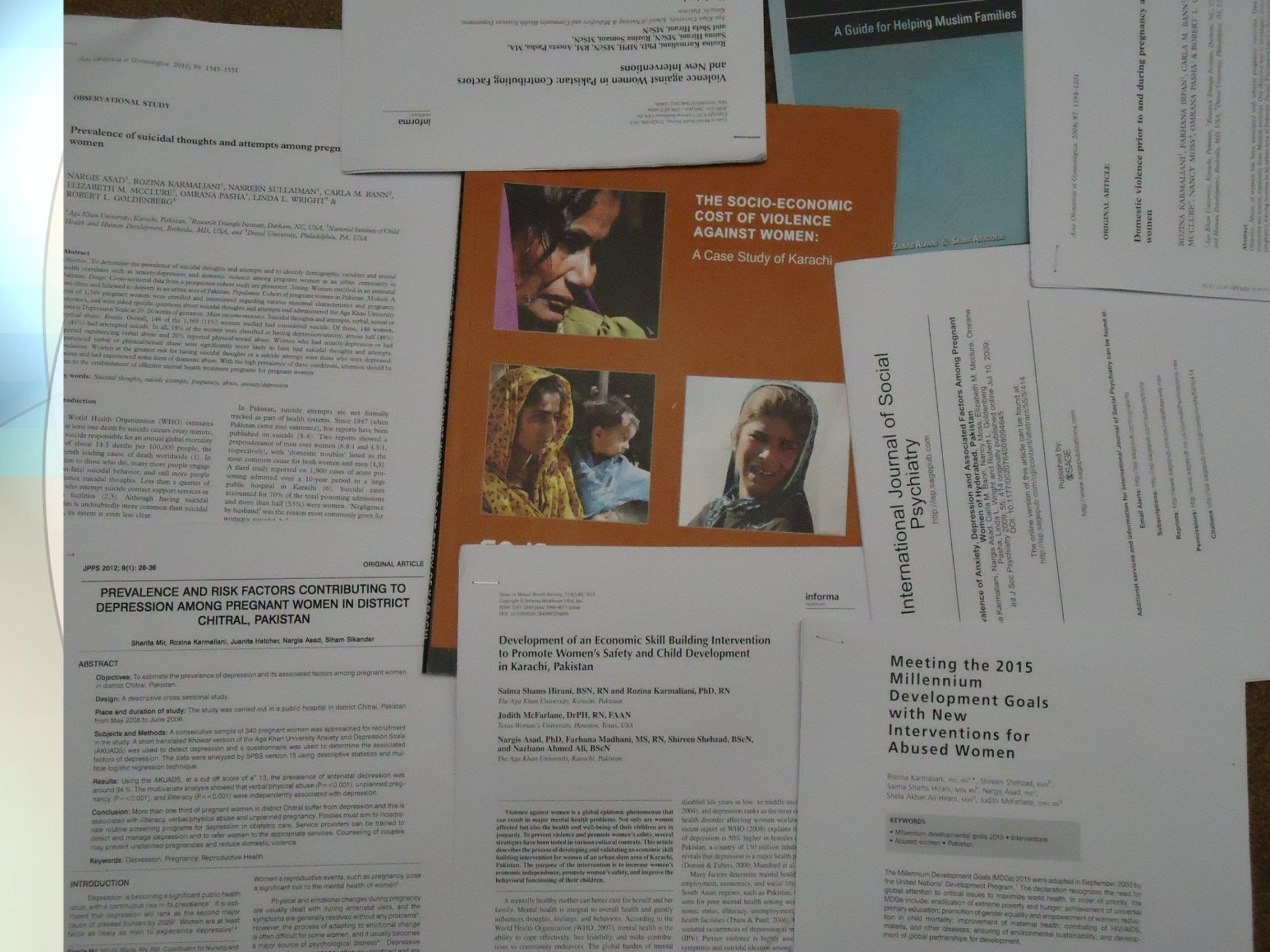
THE RESEARCH TEAM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THANK YOU!

Peace & Health

QUESTIONS?