



## Mystery of Female Homicide Offenders: Criminal Justice Practitioners' Perspective

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### Abstract

This study examines female homicide offenders from the perspective of criminal justice practitioners, with a particular emphasis on the offender's traits and motives that may have an impact on the homicide and the circumstances surrounding the violent homicide act. Following a theoretical analysis, the empirical part presents the research findings by using an integrated research methodology that includes data collection and interpretation through applying a single pen portrait qualitative analysis technique. The information was gathered from in-depth interviews with criminal justice practitioners including Judges, Prosecutors and Police Officials, and also examined additional information shown or provided by them as form of documents like First Information Reports (FIRs) and investigation reports regarding homicide cases. The data detected and identified the forms of brutal act exhibited, the social contexts and situations in which female offenders were placed as convicted. The typology, pattern and techniques of homicide based on the motives behind. The findings showed that prototype of homicides committed by the females, majority were responsible for spouse killing and some close family relatives and other individuals well-known to them. Furthermore, inferences made and indicated that they have Lack of capital assets, deprived of social and legal rights and a history of aggressive behavior are the most frequent causes.

**Keywords:** Female Offenders, Motives, Homicide Victims, Criminal Justice Practitioners

### 1. Introduction

Females are most vulnerable of being tortured, battered, assaulted, raped and even murdered by a male on the name of honor mainly. Despite all of these, females are getting less attention and the least protection from our society on violence cases especially and notably in cases where the act is committed by the intimate partner it would not be punished in our society. Why some females become perpetrators, are they actually cruel or ruthless? or circumstances make them like. They seem weak and feeble, lack in physical strength, this is general perception about them. According to famous comic actor and film maker Charlie Chaplin "This is ruthless world and one must be ruthless to cope with it". is this quote applicable to real world?

Women in Pakistan occupy about half of the total population, not supposed to have any recognition with crime as per their life pattern, therefore Female victims are quite less in number than the male offenders in Pakistan. In our society a husband is adhere to the values of Islam and fully responsible to provide food, shelter and protection to his wife. As per labeling theory and according to symbolic interactionists' perspective, crime is mostly associated with males because of their dominating position and if females are most common victim in fatal family violence and homicidal attempts. It is usually perceived that men are more violent and aggressive in nature while women are perceived other way around. And shown by many non-government organizations, much suppressed figure of our society. Most of the researchers have proofed that women are the only victim of violence. And many international agencies are providing financial support to the local organizations for campaign purpose.

Research studies regarding patterns of homicide in a society can be one of the formative steps in developing strategies to prevent this crime. Many developed countries have focused to conduct research studies on the patterns of homicide and well documented while in Pakistan a few medical researchers has focused on the patterns of homicide. The direction of such research studies needs to be emerged towards the prevention and control of homicidal acts (Marri, 2006).

It has been claimed by many authors and researchers that crime in females is constantly increasing more rapidly. As we are observing through media that spousal murder cases have increased in recent years and majority of the offenders are females. It has also been observed that there is trend of organized crime mostly by the younger age females. According to Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) monitoring report, high number of murder cases registered in Punjab. In physical harm category Punjab reported 80% cases in twenty-two districts. Lahore district registered most attempted murder FIRs and district Faisalabad reported 51 murder cases and 54 attempt of murder and 95 case of hurt registered the highest in number in First information Reports (FIRs) among the all monitored districts. And majority of the murder cases were reported in districts of Punjab (FAFEN, 2011). According to the report of Ministry of Human Rights Commission Punjab has the highest number in murder cases in both sexes (Male and Female). The highest number of female prisoners were incarcerated in murder cases and majority of them were never visited by their families. (Ministry of Human Rights, 2020)

The Criminal Justice system of Pakistan generally is perceived very inefficient and has so many loopholes. Criminal Justice System' procedure first commence with the investigation of police. Police department is mainly considered responsible for the faulty investigation the mislead further procedure of homicide cases. Practitioners of criminal justice system play significant role in determining who is regarded as criminal. These practitioners exercise various forms of powers including governmental, authoritarian and disciplinary. Since 2005, the criminal justice system in Pakistan consist on three major institutions like Prosecutors, Police and

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Judiciary. Initially prosecutors were not considered as part of this system. Prosecution in Pakistan is observed helpless that is totally dependent and crammed between Police and Judiciary and both institutions are most powerful, potent and influential in Pakistan. Prosecutor has no authority to direct or advice investigation officer about the collection of evidences during investigation. The prosecutor is merely allowed to scrutinize the report submitted by the investigation officer.

During investigation very significant proofs and most relevant evidences omitted unintentionally by the investigation officers. Prosecutor is not allowed to interfere investigation process and cannot direct the investigator about adequate legal provisions apply. Furthermore, the prosecutor has no power to dismiss the case; instead they have to submit all same along with opinions of witnesses to the magistrate. As a result, prosecution in Pakistan only serves as a postman between judiciary and police. Most of their stations lack adequate office space where employees can work properly, how miserable the prosecution system is presently. Insufficient funds and mishandling of the government consequently resulted in inefficient criminal justice system (Jamshed, 2018).

There are various circumstances acts as driving forces for homicidal attempt. Female offenders in Punjab are committing this crime because of lack of empowerment, motivational and emotional factors.(Khalid A and Khan N, 2013). The highest level of aggression found the main cause of Homicide cases found in all societies while the motive for these Homicide cases has remained the same. Now in recent years Infidelity is getting one of the major reasons of homicide. Infidelity leads to feelings of jealousy and rivalry (Kumar A. Sharma L & Narwal S. 2018). Understanding the motivations behind female killers and their patterns of violence require greater psychological perspective. The Pakistani media is performing a significant role in increasing awareness and changing the stereotype images of women. Women have found ferocious in intentional homicide and highly involved in methodically planned murders. Furthermore, majority of the victims are their close relatives. (Walayat, 2013)

As per comprehensive report of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published in 2011, a large proportion of female prisoners, about 40% of the total female prisoners were in cases of murder. And according to another report published in 2013 on Global Study on Homicide highlighted Pakistan as highest in homicide rate in comparison with other south Asian countries. Social, legal and political changes are immediately required to alleviate suffering of extreme violence by both sexes. Systematic discrimination of women by social, medical and legal institutions is highly culpable for intimate partner homicide perpetrated by both sexes. A legal system's illegal and unacceptable. The law should be utilized in its function to not merely punish but to deter and propagate.

### **1.1. Research Questions**

- How do Female Homicide offenders are characterized by Criminal Justice Practitioner?
- What is the typology and patterns of Homicide cases among the female Homicide offenders?
- What are the psychological, demographical, environmental and geographical factors affecting the females for attempt of homicide like psychological (mental stress, aggressive behavior, mistrust, infidelity and stock-home syndrome), demographical (age, education, income, health, marital status, age at marriage, occupation, family, religion,) geographical (location (urban, rural), spatial, climate, temperature, humidity) and environmental factors (culture, traditions, customs, political, technology and community) influence effect on women offensive attitude?

### **1.2. Research Objectives**

- To acquire criminal Justice officials' perception and practices about female homicide offenders
- To explore the causes and determinants of homicide offences
- To look in the patterns and typology of homicide offences

### **1.3. Significance Overview**

According to Global Crime Index crime rate is increasing every year, Pakistan 3rd highest ranked in crime of eight South Asian Countries. and earlier eighty three District Police Officer offices across the country were monitored by FAFEN in 2011. including one in Islamabad Capital Territory, 12 in Balochistan, 19 in Sindh, 28 in Punjab, and 23 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They did this to obtain information on 32,379 FIRs that were filed for 27 offenses covered by the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). Punjab has highest number in crime and highest in homicide cases among female offenders. One of the major issue in Pakistan criminal justice system that majority of the females acquitted prior to being found guilty of any crime and felony. As of mid-2020 66 % of the incarcerated women were detained before the courts had concluded their trials (Jabeen, K. 2022) First Information Reports (FIRs) lodges against females has increased in numbers. There were 1,399 female inmates across the country and 920 in Punjab in the year 2021.

The literature reviewed for this research found gaps those were need to be addressed. Many studies have been conducted on female criminals in Pakistan, but those studies do not provide the holistic approach of homicide cases. And the respondents of those studies were only offenders. What I have observed the findings just based on the offenders' opinions that was inappropriate to find out the real facts and determinants of homicide cases. The significance of opinion of criminal justice practitioners can never be denied. The directly investigate the homicide case and well aware of whole situation and circumstances. Since the legal studies has developed interest in empirical research on opinions of criminal justice practitioners. The judicial opinions and court judgments are further converted in case laws.

Implications for this study may have potential impact on future research opportunities, methodological decisions and theories. Therefore, in order to broaden the scope of research objectives in the relevant field, it is necessary to develop some unique methodological techniques and research tools. As of yet, there is not any single book or review article dealing with methodological challenges faces the researches especially working on criminal justice practitioners' perspectives. Despite being quite through, certain generic work on empirical legal research done by Leeuw, F and Schmeets (2016).

## 2. Literature Review

Homicide in Islam is the fifth greatest sin and considered as a heinous crime against humanity. Islam strongly condemned this act of crime. The divine punishment of murderers is explicitly mentioned in the verses of Holy Quran, if anyone knowingly murder a believer will suffer in hell, where he will remain and Allah will punish him, curse him and prepare a sever retribution for him (Greatest Sins, volume 1, Al-Islam.org, Surah An Nisa 4, 93).

Eighty percent of the victims killed by females are either lovers or family members. Research on this category of offenders need to be start with the origins of femininity, family history and stereotypes in order to understand this phenomenon completely. women are generally considered be socialized to suppress anger or conceal emotions (Adler, 2002) It is believed that these women are acting contrary to what is considered appropriate behavior for women (Schneider, 2000).

The female homicide offenders were observed diverse in reactions. some are based on aggression and repulsive. Females are believed that they are not capable of having such courage to kill any human. But on the other way round some possess liberal thoughts and strive to put in strong reasons and logic of killing. However there is very important point to be noted that female homicide offenders are not rare anymore yet in less numbers comparing with male offenders. Female homicide offenders in Pakistan are demonized by the media. So many stories are created surrounding their life, pre and post of the incident, They are particularly criticized and demonized by media as they are only responsible for everything bad and suppose to run the society in a better way (Morrissey, 2003).

According to Lilly, Cullen, and Ball (2014), huge number of Homicides and murders are caused by socio- economic problems. Disadvantaged individuals are more vulnerable and prone to violent actions. It is also important to mention that some deprived individuals or persons are may be stigmatized which leads them to become even more worsen. Criminality with regard to of Female homicide offenders elaborated as natural inherent/innate tendency. Females who were not able to develop in to feminine females with tailored attributes associated with women. The characteristics of those female criminals are more masculine as compared to other females, short hair, face with mole and masculine features. Female criminals have the ability to adjust more quickly than a man to physical and mental pain moreover, female criminals are psychological passive and in-stable in behavior.

Previous studies has shown that most of the female perpetrators were illiterate and majority were married and lived in joint family system. A research study entitled "sociological study of incidence of murder with special reference to rural females was carried out in Multan. The results of this study shown that married female perpetrators were illiterate and their spouse were also illiterate. Furthermore they belong to joint family system with poor and rural background (Mazhar 1981).

Homicide research on gender and family, violence, gender and homicide providing conceptualizations that often confusing and misleading. A subject that particularly pertinent to homicide and family violence is the extent to which violence against women is simply a cause of domestic violence. Such incidents should be dealt as gender specific phenomenon that is mostly considered by identifiable patterns of male domination, Homicide patterns support the view that female homicide offenders differ in homicide methods and weapons. The female homicide offenders more likely to use knife typically used in kitchen. Females in nature found more defensive in case of intimate victim especially. Female offenders more likely to murder in self-defense (Cazenave & Zahn, 1992).

The intimate partners murder mostly occurs in the backdrop of violent relationship. There are several reasons why women might plan premeditated killings, or they might kill spontaneously in response to their negative feelings during domestic conflicts. The perpetrators often have common history of abuse, unemployment, and criminal activities. The same findings were consistently found in previous researches (Voce & Bricknell, 2020). The association between Victim and Offender can be of different types in relationships. determined on the basis of the victim's connection to the alleged offender. The relationship types were combined for this analysis into the following various categories: Intimate partner victim was spouse or ex-spouse. Victim was the offender; This relationship type is used to describe situations in which one or more people were identified as participating in a crime incident and were both the victim and the offender. Examples of these situations include domestic disputes. Non-intimate individuals comprises on the victim a child, grandchild, grandparent, in-laws, another family member, parents or sibling, step child, step parent, and step sibling. Friend or Other Known Person, this category includes victim was a friend, neighbor, employee, employer, house maid and otherwise Known. and sometimes relationship is unknown (Smith. E, 2021). Victimization through abuse: They were grownup in harsh psychological circumstances during their childhood, most of them have some kind of trauma, economically deprived or disadvantaged families and history of being victim of abuse. prior to being incarcerated, they were under educated with limited opportunities and been unemployed for a long time period . such social issues leads a woman towards psychological problems and these psychological factors greatly effect females' decisions to commit murder (Lama V, 2020).

## 3. Methodology

This research study carried out qualitative research technique to utilize the convenience and opportunistic concerns of criminal justice practitioners. The practitioners were specifically dealing with homicide cases including (Police officers including prisons department officials, judges and prosecutors). Respondents' personal information was strictly ensured confidential and secrecy provisions was also be taken in account. Key informant approach utilized to gather direct knowledge from the practitioners particularly having first hand information. Then interviews were conducted by following Consensual Qualitative Research (CQR) process in-depth interviews were conducted with Criminal Justice Practitioners. CQR is most appropriate technique to conduct in depth research based on personal experiences (Hill. Et al, 2005). Practitioners were selected with purposive sampling technique that is also called judgment sampling. So, twenty five interviews were conducted from judges, Lawyers and police officials employed in various district of Punjab. Interviews were taking place with the view of convenience and comfortability of the practitioners. Some interviews were conducted in their respective offices and some over the phone. This phase build up understanding of their current

practices and opinions about their experiences dealing with female homicide offenders. The rationale of this form was to seek the driving forces behind the homicide cases within the practitioners' perspective.

Pen portrait analysis technique provides broad interpretation of data. this technique is used for critical qualitative analysis. Tayler and Tayler during the year 2004 applied same technique to investigate the experiences of small business owners regarding food safety management system. This type of technique applied to over the issue of fragmented opinions and respondents and provides the opportunity of innovation and creativity to collect information in connection with ontological and epistemological approach of researcher (Hollway and Jefferson, 2013).

## **4. Results and Discussion**

### **4.1. Characteristics of Female Homicide Offenders**

The majority of the practitioners were believed that age, cast, religion and even geographical locations do not have any association with homicide cases. but most of them observed the age of female offenders was below 40 years while some said above 40 years. They pointed out illiteracy has significant association with homicidal attempt. The female homicide offenders they observed were majority illiterate even they never attended school at primary level. They observed majority were non professionals housewives and a few of them were doing house keeping jobs. The practitioners noticed that geographical location in case of female homicide offender does not matter at all, though majority of them were belong to rural areas of Punjab and a very few found from cities. As for as Social Status is concerned, married females have more complex life as compare to unmarried. They noticed majority homicide offenders were married, barely a few unmarried were involved in homicide cases.

### **4.2. Causes/Motive and Reasons of Homicide**

Causes or reasons those rout a female towards violent crime like homicide are almost similar among the female homicide offenders. but there is variation in facts and circumstances of one case to another to accused / convicted females. Some females may have personal reasons like revenge, aggression and retaliation in relation.

### **4.3. Deprivation of rights**

Social Rights are indispensable for everyone but these are marginalized in our country. The reason why females turn to violent is because of the social factors. Most of the females are deprived of their social and cultural rights like right to education, right to marriage with their own choice, right to live life with adequate standards, right to good health, right to recreation and freedom from discrimination. rather they are facing so many social pressures and restrictions from their family and society. Majority of females can not participate in any kind of decisions not even directly related to them. Though it seems strange that do not right to have good mental and physical health that is totally being ignored. . In Punjab, the majority of women live in highly controlled environments. They are ignorant of their legal rights, particularly if they lack in literacy, and as we all know, our society devalues divorced women, but widows are respected and receive greater support and respect. Thus , majority females are totally unaware of their legal right, females who prone to murder are those who are deprived from their social, cultural and legal rights. they are actually ignored and neglected that results physical and mental illness. they become patients of anxiety and depression that leads to aggression and violent behavior. some practitioners pointed out that majority of females in Pakistan are not allow to marry a person with their own will therefore, majority are the victim of forced marriage. And after marriage if they are in strain relation not allowed to file divorce even compelled to be humble and forced to live in that relation. This study's patterns and causes are comparable to other numerous international studies on female-perpetrated homicides. The lower social status of women in India is reflected as same as in this type of homicide cases (Kethineni, 2011).

### **4.4. Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence against females is one of the major cause that was not highlighted by the majority of the practitioners. They perceive illiteracy and poverty are main reason behind homicide cases those also leads to female towards infidelity, obsession and revenge and they become unfaithful to their spouses and have illicit relations. And use that persons for their cause of murder. The female homicide offenders are not only the murderers but they are abusers too.

### **4.5. Family Issues**

Family issues, strain relations and infidelity prevailing in most of homicide cases, such causes are very tangled and unique in nature. Female offenders those are sufferers and perpetrators spontaneously are nearly likely to have endured the most horrifying attempt to murder and such acts remains in minds for a long period of time. Most of them were observed isolated not accepted by the society as before. Their offence of homicide is never forgotten by their relatives too even though the circumstances and reason of their killing might be clearly understood by them (Ewing, 1990).

A few indicated that forced marriages and the poverty are the main reasons. While only two practitioners indicated illiteracy and no one stated that geographical location matters. And not even one pointed out and found ever any homicide incident based on drug addicted female homicide offender (Alsawaiqa, RO, 2021).

### **4.6. Offenders' Personality traits**

Majority of the practitioners mentioned they observed during interrogation that aggression, Jealousy and immoral behaviors are very common in female offenders. This actually makes sense when aggression takes into account as one of the risk factors that lead to violent behavior, that also probably raise the risk for other conditions either directly or indirectly prone to homicidal attempt. Furthermore, investigation played significant role and necessary to comprehend the progression of risk exposures and the emergence of disorders in connection with aggression and violent conduct in females by the practitioners. The highest level of aggression found the main cause of Homicide cases found in all societies while the motive for these Homicide cases has remained the same. Now in recent years Infidelity is getting one of the major reasons of homicide. Infidelity leads to feelings of jealousy and rivalry (Kumar A. Sharma L & Narwal S. 2018). So, this is not surprising when majority of the practitioners consider the risk factors that lead to violent

behavior is aggression. Most of the practitioners pointed out that majority female homicide offenders are illiterate and weak in moral values, they do not feel shame in infidelity. Some practitioners stated that female homicide offenders are impatient, lethal and cruel in nature. while a very few practitioners mentioned that some females suffers by some psychological issue like postpartum after the birth of newly born baby. Females who kill their infants and children either because of any mental disorder or anger on husband. None of the practitioners observed female offenders with the addiction of drugs.

**Table 1: Practitioners' View of Female Homicide Offenders**

Sr. #	Circumstances	Offender-Victim Relationship	Cause/Motive	Offence description /Method
01	Anxiety & aggression	Spouse	Revenge, strained relationship, Illiteracy/ infidelity	poison, trapped someone to murder
02	Aggression & anger	Spouse & own children	Revenge , deprivation of right of divorce/ self-help	sleeping pills, throttled
03	Aggression	Spouse	Violence/ to get rid off drug addicted	Sharp blunt object
04	Jealousy, Anxiety and depression	Relatives & Spouse	Poverty, illiteracy/ Infidelity	Poison, Throttled
05	Aggression	Spouse	Revenge, Forced Marriage/infidelity	Gun shoot, intoxicants
06	Immoral behavior	-do-	Forced Marriage/ Infidelity	sleeping pills, sharp blunt object
07	Postpartum depression, Anxiety	Own Children /Spouse	Poverty, Forced Marriage/ media influence	squeezing throat and sharp edged object (Knife)
08	Aggression	Spouse	poverty / Domestic Violence Media influence	Any blunt object available at home (Danda, Sota or Knife)
09	Jealousy and aggression	Spouse and Relatives	social media and TV dramas negative influence/infidelity	Poison, garroting strangling dupatta (throttled)
10	Aggression	Spouse	illiteracy retaliation/ Violence	Sleeping pills, poison
11	Jealousy and Aggression	In-laws and spouse	illiteracy, Retaliation / Violence	Sleeping pills, poison or gun shoot
12	Selfish and immoral behavior	Spouse	poverty, Infidelity husband refused to divorce	Sleeping pills, burn the body and throttled
13	Cruel behavior, Impulsive and impatient	-do-	illiteracy, strained relationship, suffocated in marriage/infidelity	intoxicated drugs, suffocate by strangling cloth
14	Aggression & anger	own children & Spouse	illiteracy, unemployed husband, strained relationship	poison, sleeping pills
15	Jealousy, Aggression	lover's wife or close relatives and spouse	extra marital affair (immorality) media influence	refused to marry and to get rid of husband (self-help) refused to divorce
16	live in imaginations and fantasy world	Spouse	illiteracy, immorality, internet (social media) infidelity	gun shot from lover
17	lethal and extreme behavior	spouse and children	Retaliation, domestic violence, drug addicted husband	sleeping pills, suffocate with pillow or firearm
18	Immoral behavior	-do-	illiteracy, self-help( to get rid of husband)	poison, trapped someone to murder
19	Aggression & anger	spouse and children	Domestic strained relationship deprived of divorce right	sleeping pills or Any object available at home (Danda, Sota or Knife)
20	aggression, immoral	-do-	illiteracy, husband's extramarital affair	squeezing throat and sharp edged object (Knife)
21	Aggression & immorality	-do-	illiteracy/infidelity, media influence	sharp blunt object (knife or Axe)
22	Aggression	-do-	illiteracy , deprived of rights	sleeping pills, trapped someone to murder
23	Aggression, immorality	-do-	Illiteracy, immorality, Media influence, infidelity	poison, sleeping pills and trapping to murder
24	Aggression & immoral behavior	-do-	Illiteracy infidelity, media influence	Poison, trapping someone to murder
25	Aggression, immorality	-do-	Illiteracy, immorality, Media influence, infidelity	sleeping pills, trapped someone to murder

#### **4.7. Circumstances and techniques**

The practitioners also highlighted that they found very different and exceptional circumstances and situations of homicide cases in case of female homicide offenders as compare to male homicide offenders. Retaliation, revenge for harming themselves or someone in offender's family, females were not found the direct killers in most of the homicide cases rather they admitted and accused in plotting murder of their husbands. Married females those who were forced for arrange marriage were found involved in extra marital affairs. Some of them plotted murder after knowing of the affair with other man. And majority of the practitioners experienced observed the same kind of homicide cases under the above mentioned circumstances. None of the practitioners observed any case where female murdered in self defence or to save someone else's life. As far as the techniques are concerned, similarities were found, initially the victim is intoxicated by giving sleeping pills, poison or other intoxicated drugs and then tools were found like knife, axe, scarf and rob.

The determinants and contributing factors of females who kill their own offsprings are very unusual and they have extremely awful and terrible experiences instead of to that of females who experiences to murder their own abuser. The two major determinants those are common in most of female homicide offenders are psychological and emotional causes that motivates them (Mann, 1992).

#### **4.8. Homicide description and Victims**

According to practitioners majority homicide victims: were well known to female homicide offenders. Victim are mostly their intimate partner/Husband, close relatives in blood relation or their children. The majority of the practitioners observed same and stated that the victims are mostly well known to them, the married female homicide offenders are not much different as compare to unmarried female homicide offenders. The most common victims are the blood relatives while in case of married female perpetrator is their intimate partners. Some of them expressed themselves remorseful during their prosecution the court trials but majority married who killed their husbands do not feel regret. Practitioners shared their experiences with dealing unique homicide cases as appended below:

#### **4.9. Siblings as victim**

A unique and a tragic murder experienced by a police official in khanewal city, a female killed her own brother with the help of her husband. She gave him poison first and then squeezed his neck with her scarf. while her accomplice was capturing the murder scene on his smartphone. The female name Maya was in relationship with Ehtesham, who was owner of a medical lab in khanewal city for three years. Ten months before this incident, they went to court and registered marriage. She was a christian and renounced her native religion and converted to Islam. The fascination of love deprived them both of their thinking ability. She were feeling her brother as obstacle in their marriage. As he was the aggressively disagree with her decision of marriage. And moreover, similarly at her conversion to Islam. Her brother questioned her sister about the authenticity of her conversion to Islam. However, she refused to admit but he said, if even a speck of truth is found about her conversion, he will kill her. When Maya found out about the her brother's intentions of firearms from close friends. she was frightened and convinced and provoked her husband Ehtesham to kill him. Her brother began to humiliate her husband. One day he came to visit them, unaware of his tragic end. Her sister mixed poison in tea and later, Maya put a scarf around his neck and started pulling in the opposite direction with all her might and meanwhile, her husband capturing video on his mobile phone. In this video, Maya was seen laughing when she was pulling scarf around her brother's neck. They both confessed to the crime and were taken into police custody".

#### **4.10. Children as victim**

The case described below is about a mother who killed her own son about 2 months of age. this kind of murder called infanticide. It was a murder of a child within a year,

- A case was registered against Mst. Safina under FIR-439 on 14/06/2021. She killed her own son with a sharp blunt knife. The deceased (murderer) Muhammad Ali aged about eight months was a minor by age. Her father-in-law was the complainant in this case and he forgiven her on the name of Allah Almighty and submitted request to relevant court that he has no objection if the accused is acquitted from the charge of murder. The accused Mst Safina was belonged to Sambrial District Sialkot, she was acquitted from the charge on the basis of compromise. The accused Mst. Safina Shamshad is on bail.

#### **4.11. Husband as Victim**

- A woman Mst. "A" age of 50 years was Muslim and belonged to Ahle Tashi sect. She was a single child of her parents. She were married and had eight childern four sons and four daughters, living in extended family. her husband was addicted to drugs and not used to work and earn something to run family. Even due to poverty none of her child went to school ever. She was victim of physical abuse, her husband used to violent with her and mostly physically abused. Her husband was a drug addict, and because of his unpleasant habits, she demanded a divorce, but he did not agree with her. One day her husband demanded Rs.500 because he knew that she had money. She told him that she was saving this money for their younger son's schoolbooks. He wanted to waste money on gambling, but she continuously refused to fulfill his demand, and then he started to beat her badly. One day her husband when again started to beat her and then, she picked up a sharp edged weapon and attacked him. And he died at the spot. Her brother-in-law nominated the name of her elder daughter and son in F.I.R, along with her. The Session Court announced death sentence for her, and life imprisonment for her daughter and son. Four Years later, when they appealed in The High Court against the decision of The Session Court. Her daughter was released but for the other two the punishment remained the same. Mrs. "A" also appealed in The Supreme Court and waited for decision. After eight years of imprisonment, she was released. She felt guilty and not satisfied after the commission of murder because she always thought about gathering her family. None of her family members supported her or dealt with her case. Her relatives also did not come to see her. She was completely satisfied the decision of The Court. She suggested to control such crime that everybody should know about achieving the way

of basic rights. In the above case the perpetrator was illiterate and belong to a low income family. She was married and living in joint family system. She was a victim of domestic violence by her husband .

- A women, Mrs. "B" was 45 years old. She had five brothers and five sisters. They were all illiterate and married. Her husband's qualification was matriculation, and he was a bus driver for profession. She had ten children, five sons and five daughters. Her monthly income for all sources was Rs.20,000. She was illiterate and can recite The Holy Quran. She belonged to the Sunni Sect. She had never been to jail before. She said that her husband always used to abuse her. Her husband never took interest in his children and wife. He also never fulfilled their basic needs. He mostly spent nights out, he was drug addict and smokes with Heroine. Many unpleasant habits were found in him. He earned but spent it on other activities. He was also involved in other women. Whenever Mrs. "I" requested her husband for home expenditure. He started to treat her. Many times, Mrs. "I" demanded to him to give her divorce, but he refused her. One day when he returned home, it was the same situation. Then she poisoned her husband, and when he slept, she throttled him. He died at the spot. Mrs. "B" accepted that she was when this happened. She said no one motivated her, now her parents had to deal with her case. Her elder brother-in-law nominated three people in F.I.R. She had no alternative priority without committing murder. The people registered with her in the murder case were not involved in this plan. She did not know about them nor met them before. She was not satisfied with the police investigation because they received corruption. The Session Court announced death sentence for her and life in imprisoned for other two. She also appealed in The High Court. The Court did not change her death sentence. After eight years she was released. The attitude to the staff was good. Due to her actions her family was affected badly. If The Supreme Court changed her death sentence into life imprisonment. Then in future she would look after her family. She suggested to control such crime that someone should be cooperative and should be careful of their blood relation.
- A complaint lodged against Asyia case no. under section 302 PPC by the Father of deceased that her daughter-in-law killed his son violently and intentionally. the reason of murder was strain relation between them. The complainant blamed her that she had extramarital affair . when her husband got knew about her affair. then she plotted murder with her the co-accused. First she gave him sleeping pills and then burned the body of her husband. After that she through the body of deceased in to the Agriculture fields.

#### **4.12. Other Victims**

A very few practitioners experienced females who murdered other than their close relative. A case was as described by a prosecutor as appended below:

- Mst. Najma, offence u/s 302 PPC, was in police custody. she was sentenced for life imprisonment Now she has acquitted on orders of supreme court. She had an affair with a police constable and interested to marry him and she had illicit relations with him. when the constable refused to marry her She was ruthless women for the sake of her revenge she kidnapped the 5 years old nephew of that police constable and killed him with the support of her mother. she cought his legs and mother put the duppatta around his neck and strangled tightly. though this case was beyond the any shadow of doubt. from the high court both of them were sentences life time imprisonment. but they filed appeal to supreme court and by taking benefit of doubt Mst. Najma is on bail while her mother is still in jail.

#### **4.13. Homicide Methods and techniques**

As per practitioners point of view, typology of Homicide cases by motivation was noticeable organized among the female homicide offenders. Female generally adopt variety of ways and techniques. And they were observed to be more cruel, violent and reactive especially to kill a person who had previously victimized them. The female homicide offenders use following techniques and methods to kill.

- They mostly use sleeping pills and poison or any kind of tranquilizers
- Some use cloth to strangle the throat
- Some uses sharp blunt objects like knife (Churi) or Axe.
- Pestle was also observed in many cases that is made of wood also called Sota in local language
- Avery few used firearms and gun

#### **4.14. Influence of Media and Infidelity/Extra Marital Affair**

The media sensationalized the homicide cases and depicted negative and bad image of females (Cruze et al, 2006) particularly places focus on infidelity instead highlighting the main causes especially when the victim is husband. That creates a horrific picture of murders into their homes. And on the other hand violence shown in television dramas and movies making individuals violent in behavior. The motivation behind homicidal attempt, as per practitioners' point of view, infidelity is the major cause especially in spousal homicide, media influencing through dramas that is leads females towards immoral and negative behaviors. Those negative attitude leading couples in strained relationships and they feel suffocation in marriage.

#### **4.15. Practitioners' Perspective of Punishment**

Majority practitioners highlighted that most of the female offenders are being acquitted by taking the benefit of doubt and some who have convicted are on bail on sympathetic grounds to look after their children. Moreover, they suggested that female offenders should also be treated same as male offenders are treated. The Apex court of Pakistan held many times in their decisions regarding maintainability and non-maintainability of capital punishment in homicide cases. However not yet decided whether it should be implemented or not. Capital punishment in the following situations was not suggested by practitioners.

- When intention to kill is not proved.
- where murder committed in result of sudden provocation
- Where it is caused in self-defense.

- Where matter of investigation involved.
- where murder was committed in revenge
- Where the accused is found as a minor.
- where the accused is found psychological ill
- When accused is declared innocent during investigation
- When the accused has infant or small children
- When the accused appeared as the last care taker of her family.
- When she confesses her guilt at an early stage

So most of the practitioners do not recommend Death Penalty for female homicide offenders. when If they proven guilty in court of law, penalty of life time imprisonment should be exercised, but majority of females are being acquitted and befitted on the basis of compromise between the parties in some cases and mostly are on bail and acquitted by taking benefit of doubt. The practitioners claimed that a very few number of female homicide offenders remain incarcerated, especially those who do not have any family support.

## 5. Conclusions

As per practitioners' perspective, age, religion, cast and sect have no association with homicide cases among the female offenders. The female offenders are mostly motivated by infidelity, aggression, jealousy and very few often in retaliation of violence. Some evidences proved that not all the females homicide offenders were suffered from violence and abuses. not a single practitioner mentioned that self-defense was the motive instead most of them indicated that female homicide offenders were involved in extra marital affairs. Majority females are accused to plot murder, they kill their husbands as self-help reason with the help of friend in relation. And the question, why a mother could have killed not just any other but her own child? In such cases, practitioners found no evidence of revenge, grudge or grievance linking to child victims, though they described anger and revenge were the main reasons against their father. There was no greater emphasis on the females mental state of mind at the time of the incident because it is becoming harder to comprehend why a women would do a murderous act against a kid that is yet dependent on her, though child rearing is their responsibility.

Females homicide offenders were also noticeably observed lack in education and skill and they do not have right to own any kind of property (home) and majority were not empowered and financially stable. Females in our society are being oppressed and inequality still exist despite of powerful campaign by media, government and non government organization. They are not yet independent in making decisions about their own lives. Forced marriages is very common practice in Pakistan though our religion Islam permits woman to marry a person with their own will and choice. Cultural barrier are very strong not so supportive for women rights. Most of the time they are snubbed to talk about their rights of marriage of divorce. Majority of females in Pakistan live in very socially restricted environment. they are unaware of their social and legal rights especially when they are illiterate and as we know our society dis-respect a divorced female while a widow is honored and have more more support. Media is positively associated with homicide cases among female offenders especially when they are illiterate, so it is negatively influencing them. Lastly and most important point raised by the practitioners that most the female offenders are being acquitted by taking the befit of doubt and those who are convicted also on bail and acquitted on sympathetic grounds So this current situation of judgment may also influence females criminal behavior.

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