Mediating lack of social interaction and financial stress in domestic violence during Covid-19: post covid-19 policy scenario in Pakistan

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic that has shaken the global economy, production and trade has also impacted social and domestic life. In this study, the impact of COVID-19 has been investigated on lack of social interaction, financial stress, and how it affects domestic violence in a developing country like Pakistan. The modified scale has been validated using confirmatory factor analysis. Purposive sampling and snowball sampling techniques were used to collect data from 200 respondents in Punjab, Pakistan, for data analysis through SPSS and SmartPLS. The results showed that COVID-19 has a significant influence on lack of social interaction and financial stress. Lack of social interaction and financial stress also increased domestic violence during covid-19. This study appears to be the leading research determining the impact of COVID-19 on lack of social interaction, financial stress, and domestic violence, especially in a developing country like Pakistan.

Keywords: covid-19, lack of social interaction**,** financial stress, domestic violence, pakistan

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Introduction

Combating the emerging coronavirus in 2019 has become a global priority in infectious disease management *Corona Virus Disease 2019* (COVID-19). Between days 2 and 14, the most prevalent symptoms are pyrexia, exhaustion, dry cough, myalgia, and dyspnea (Wang et al., 2020). The pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has demonstrated an insufficient response to the looming global crisis, particularly anxiety. Human experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic may be mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually harmful. During the covid-19 pandemic risk of violence increases due to increased time at home with abusers, increased pressure, separation from social networks, and restricted access to essential services (WHO, 2021). Owing to the specific environmental pressures associated with COVID-19, it is expected that an unusually large proportion of the country's population will acquire an unequally distributed depression (World Health Organization, 2020).

Indeed, human beings are known as social animals because, generally, they cannot live in isolation, but the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly altered the nature of social interactions. Following the World Health Organization's classification of COVID-19 as a pandemic (February 11, 2020), public health professionals and authorities have advocated

social isolation as the primary strategy for preventing SARS-CoV-2 transmission. In most countries, all age groups, including academic personnel and students, were guided to avoid physical social contact as well as participation in social and community activities, family gatherings, and public gatherings. With only a few exceptions, people returning from more severely affected areas, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health issues were forced to isolate themselves by national governments. This study demonstrated that a lack of social interaction has a negative impact on people's mental and physical health for COVID-19. However, there is considerable evidence that a lack of social interaction can have a detrimental impact on physical health (HoltLunstad et al., 2010; Steptoe et al., 2013). The rise in anguish felt by many Americans because of social isolation is a natural reaction.

The Economic Participation and Opportunity sub-index has the second-highest gender disparity among the four components of the index. To date, the nations with the lowest disparities in Economic Participation and Opportunity are Lao People's Democratic Republic (91.5 percent), Bahamas (85.7 percent), Moldova (81.1 percent), Iceland (84.6 percent), Latvia (82.2 percent), Burundi (85.5 percent), and Sweden (81.0 percent). On the other hand, the nations with the highest economic gender disparities include Iran (where only 37.5 percent of the gender space has been addressed), India (32.6 percent), Pakistan (31.6 percent), Syria (28.5 percent), Yemen (28.2 percent), Iraq (22.8 percent), and Afghanistan (18 percent). Financial stress is a psychophysiological response to the perception of injustice, ambiguity, and danger in managing financial resources and in making decisions. Financial loss during Covid-19 is a serious socioeconomic problem and another risk factor for psychological disorders. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a profound financial stress worldwide. "A condition that is the result of financial and/or economic events that create anxiety, worry, or a sense of scarcity, and is accompanied by a physiological stress response". Additionally, the fiscal strain of the lockdown had an effect on the family's financial status and husband's attitude, exacerbating the matter. This epidemic should serve as a wake-up call for everyone to develop a solid financial strategy that considers appetite risk, habit savings, and adaptability to income shocks.

Presently, an additional 20 countries have gender disparities of up to 80% or more in executive positions. Women account for 14.7% of management jobs across all 20 nations, implying an 83 percent gender disparity. Morocco has a share of 13% (85 percent of the gap), Bangladesh has a share of 11% (88 percent of the gap), Egypt has a share of 7.4 percent (92 percent of the gap), Saudi Arabia has a share of 6.8 percent (93 percent of the gap), Pakistan has a share of 5% (95 percent of the gap), and Yemen has a share of 4.1 percent (96 percent gap). Violence against women, regardless of when, where, or how, is a heinous violation of their human rights. There are multiple kinds of violence against women, all of which can be harmful to the health of mothers and children. Violence against women may result in major physical, emotional, sexual, and reproductive health issues, including STDs, HIV infection, and unintended pregnancies. Under the most severe circumstances, violence against women may be fatal. The consequences of violence are often long lasting. Violence of any kind may have a lasting effect on a woman's well-being for the remainder of her life. This is intolerable, and the dangers of violence against women and their children that they confront during the present COVID-19 crisis cannot be overlooked.

According to the WHO, almost one in three (30 percent) at some point in their lives, women all over the world, victims of physical and/or sexual violence by intimate partners, or sexual assault by non-partners. Due to Pakistan's patriarchal society, over 90% of married

women allegedly face sexual and physical abuse, which is considered a private family issue and not a reportable crime (A. M. Baig et al., 2020; M. A. M. Baig et al., 2020). This bleak reality is ingrained in our culture, and is a blatant violation of human rights under international law. Additionally, women experience prejudice and violence on a daily basis because of Pakistani society's cultural and religious traditions. Domestic violence is a pervasive social and public health concern in Pakistan (Baig et al., 2020). Violence against women is a significant form of human rights abuse with far-reaching consequences for victims, their families, and society as a whole. Domestic violence is the most prevalent type of violence occurring inside the family or within a partnership that assumes cohabitation (Nittari et al., 2021). Currently, the rates of violence against women are increasing, which is especially concerning during COVID-19, as the epidemic impacts practically every nation and has a substantial negative influence on health, economics, and social aspects.

Taking Pakistan as an example, in this article, independence from culture, religion, history, and nation is required to fully realize human rights in general, but because women's rights are different, this strategy is claimed to be inadequate. This study used cross-sectional data from a developing country in Pakistan. According to estimates, domestic abuse affects approximately 70–90% of Pakistani women. The majority of violence occurs between intimate partners. Domestic violence against women has increased by 300 percent in China; 50 percent in Brazil; 30 percent in Cyprus, France, and New Zealand; 25 percent in the United Kingdom (UK); and 20 percent in Spain in the aftermath of the COVID-19 epidemic (Graham-Harrison et al., 2020; Bradbury-Jones and Isham, 2020; New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse, 2020). According to Pakistan's Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO, 2021), domestic abuse charges against women have increased because of COVID-19 regulations. Domestic violence is seen as a private concern in Pakistan, since it happens inside the family and hence is not an acceptable subject for evaluation, intervention, or policy reform (Qureshi, 2020).

If a person is experiencing financial trouble, this is considered a trigger for "stress." During this difficult period of COVID-19 financial hardship, a lack of social connection contributes to an increase in stress levels associated with individuals. In Pakistan, women face societal, psychological, and emotional abuse. As a result, the risk of domestic violence increases, especially among women who are already in an abusive relationship (Munir et al., 2021).

Although previous research has been conducted on domestic violence in developed countries, few studies have been conducted in terms of Covid 19 and especially in developing countries such as Pakistan. This unique study explored the impact of COVID-19 on financial stress, lack of social interaction and domestic violence, and the mediation effect in Pakistan. Additionally, it highlights activities that may be undertaken to mitigate the negative consequences of financial devastation caused by the epidemic. Undoubtedly, the COVID-19 pandemic is a major stressor affecting mental health worldwide. Female aggression is significantly predicted by financial strain and lack of social support. This research is also beneficial for policymakers and government agencies, as they can focus on these outcomes to reduce domestic violence against women.

Research Method

The study contributes to the understanding of the psychological effects of COVID-19 on domestic violence in Pakistan. Several theoretical contributions are made by this study. First, it empirically established links between the psychological impact of COVID-19, social

isolation, financial stress, and domestic violence among Pakistani citizens, which had previously been overlooked in the literature. Previous studies used various psychological theories to investigate the causes of domestic violence. All of the most popular theories allow the perpetrators to use power and control, but the role of power and control depends on the theory. Violence as object relations theory, attachment theory, and trauma theory is in the psychodynamic theory being discussed. Control theory, resource theory, ecosystem factor theory, and social isolation theory are all discussed. Cognitive/behavioral theory was created using social learning theory, behavioral genetics theory, reactive aggression theory, and learned helplessness theory. In this study, the researcher focused on two major theories: social interaction theory and feminist theory.

Bandura's (1993) study of conditioned behavior and male endorsement of physical and psychological violence against women was addressed by the social learning theory (Brown et al., 2005). The social learning hypothesis best explains domestic violence. What is the purpose for introducing this hypothesis? Albert Bandura's social learning theory emphasizes the importance of observing, modeling, and imitating the behavior, attitudes, and emotional responses of others, and it addresses the interaction of environment and cognitive variables that affect human learning and behavior. When used to explain a person's violent or antisocial behavior, this hypothesis suggests that the individual witnessed violent behavior among parents, siblings, or both. What does the theory of social learning say about violence? According to the social learning hypothesis, violence is a learned habit that can be exacerbated by stress, alcoholism, or lack of resources. From a young age, our parents taught us how to behave. Conditioned behavior is a result of the social context of domestic violence, which is based on the frequency of abuse used to instigate violent acts. According to exchange theory, males commit abusive acts against women because they see them as necessary activities for controlling and dominating (Galles & Cornell, 1985).

Feminist theory argues that the majority of societies have patriarchal social phenomena (Renzetti, 2018). What is Feminist theory? Feminist theory is the theoretical, fictional, or philosophical extension of feminism. It aims to examine gender inequality through gender politics, power dynamics, and sexuality. Many feminist theories deal with the advancement of women's rights and interests and criticize these social and political situations. What is the significance of the feminist theory? Feminist theory helps us to better understand and deal with unequal and oppressive gender relationships. What is the significance of feminism? Feminism promotes equality for both sexes. Gender roles (a set of rules that dictate how a person should behave based on their gender) can harm both men and women. It is also unethical to pressure boys to play the gender role.

The findings of this study confirm that during the current COVID-19 outbreak, these factors contributed to the impact of COVID-19, financial stress, social isolation, and their impact on domestic violence. These findings add to the literature and support the theoretical foundation. Furthermore, this pioneering study empirically tested the underpinning theory to examine the impact of COVID-19, situational depression, and their impact on domestic violence among Pakistani citizens.

The model shown in figure 1 below provides a framework for understanding the connections between the variables.
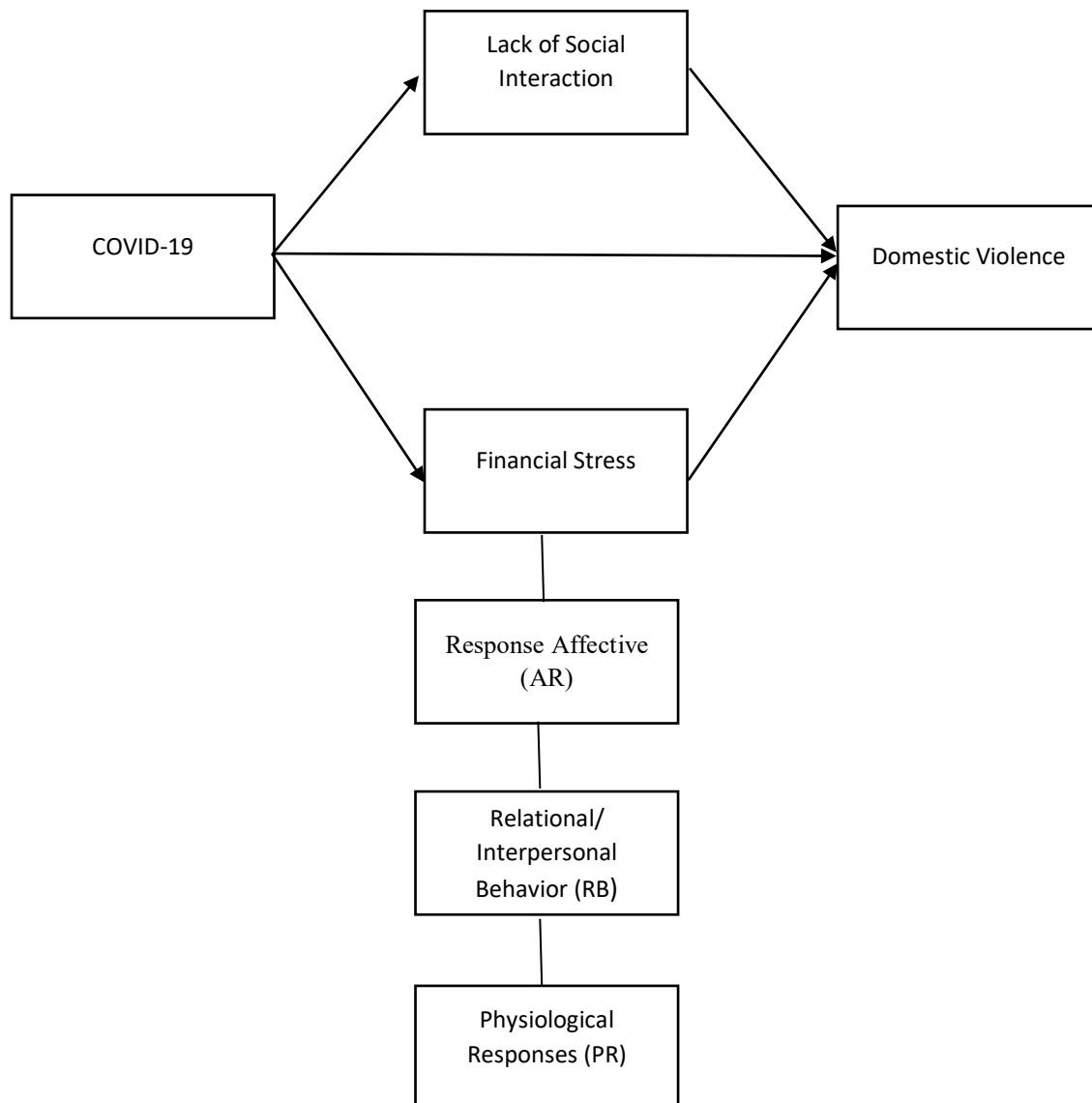

Figure 1. Conceptual Framework
Source : processed by author, 2024

This study investigates the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on domestic violence in Pakistan, while providing broader context on the global gender gap. It highlights that while many countries have made significant progress in closing gender gaps in health, some populous countries such as China, India, Azerbaijan and Pakistan are still lagging behind, largely due to imbalanced sex ratios at birth. The study notes that norms of son preference and gender-biased prenatal sex selection practices contribute to this imbalance, with China and India accounting for the largest share of missed girl births worldwide. The pandemic has exacerbated the problem of domestic violence, with reports from across the country showing an increase in cases handled by shelters and women's organisations. In Pakistan in particular, calls to hotlines nearly tripled as the pandemic worsened, with women reporting the highest number of cases. The research design for the Pakistan study used a purposive sampling technique, reaching 200 female respondents via social media platforms in major cities in

Punjab. The survey consisted of two sections: a demographic profile and a 61-item Likert scale measuring the impact of COVID-19 on violence against women and associated factors. The study used several measurement scales, including a modified version of the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) to assess participants' levels of anxiety and distress during the pandemic. Additionally, a financial stress scale was developed based on a three-dimensional conceptual framework, and an adapted version of the Attitudes to Domestic Violence (ADV) survey was used to measure domestic violence. The researchers acknowledged the challenges of collecting survey data during the pandemic, noting that face-to-face interactions were limited for safety reasons, and that electronic surveys posed potential risks to women who were being closely monitored.

In this graphic ponder, purposive and snowball inspection strategies are utilized. From May 22, 2023, to June 20, 2023, a web study was used to gather data. The entire survey information was kept mysterious to preserve information astuteness and dodge individual predispositions. Moreover, a web survey had a custom setting that constrained clients, as it was one reaction. Online surveys were conveyed through email and social media stages (WhatsApp, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram) because of the wide scope of focal points, being technology-based (fast and innovative) and cost-free. Since the endless larger part of LinkedIn contacts are experts with a wage source, they were chosen to gather the foremost relevant overview information. People (for the most part well-known) who win and oversee their funds were essentially focused on other social media stages such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram. Data collected from these cities which are highlighted in the figure 2).

Figure 2. Data preparation and analysis method
Source : processed by author, 2024

Results and Discussion
Covid-19 and Domestic Violence

Domestic violence statistics in Pakistan are concerning, even before the COVID-19 pandemic(Martins et al., 2020). According to academic researchers, in the general population, the lifetime prevalence of domestic violence ranged from 10.2 percent to 65.0 percent (Chen and Xia 2015). This study tested the following hypotheses regarding the

association between the COVID-19 pandemic and the occurrence of domestic violence among women as a result of economic stress and social isolation (Zhang, 2020). Consider the number of family violence reports received by local police in Punjab. Based on the foregoing, the current study asserts that as a result of Covid-19, domestic violence has increased, as have social and public health issues, which have long been a problem in Pakistan. Thus, the following hypothesis is proposed:

H1: COVID-19 has a significant positive impact on Domestic Violen*ce*

COVID-19 and Financial Stress

According to the World Bank, a pandemic could put 88–115 million people in extreme poverty by 2020, nearly half of whom live in South Asia (Sarkar et al., 2020). Respondents were asked to rate their level of financial stress in the year preceding the survey on a scale of 1 to 5. Additionally, they were asked to rate their financial stress in the months leading up to February 2020. We compared these to determine whether the pandemic increased financial burden. They were also asked whether, in addition to the financial burden, they or their partners had lost their jobs or suffered wage cuts in the past year. Based on the discussion above, the current study concluded that covid-19 causes financial stress and, as a result, mental health problems, which are a persistent problem in Pakistan. Thus, the following hypothesis is formulated:

H2: COVID-19 has a significant positive impact on financial stress.

COVID-19 and Lack of Social Interaction

In Pakistani society, socialization and social activity are highly valued, and people value social interactions. As a result of blockades and social distancing, many routine activities are disrupted and people's emotional stress is increasing. COVID-19 and the government's response to it will have long- and short-term consequences for everyone is health. One source of concern is the growing lack of privacy and social interaction caused by COVID-19 and its subsequent blockade and the consequent strengthening of unfair gender norms. Pakistan claims that the isolation from the community caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a rapid increase in depression and anxiety in the context of the Punjab lockdown similarly, Sijia Li et al., (2020), an online survey conducted before and after the official epidemic declaration on January 20, 2020 found that negative emotions and susceptibility to social risks increased, and positive emotions and life satisfaction scores decreased. I found out. Little attention should be paid to the impact of peer interactions on the lives of adolescents despite the fact that adolescent health professionals emphasize the crucial importance of peer interactions in adolescent development has not been paid (Patton et al., 2018). The host communities of the Cox's Bazar and Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh and the host communities of the Palestinian and Syrian refugee camps in Jordan show contrasting pandemic reactions. Based on the foregoing, the current study concluded that covid-19 increases the lack of social interaction and, as a result, the ongoing social and public health problems in Pakistan. Therefore, the following hypothesis is developed:

H3: COVID-19 has a significant positive impact on lack of social interaction

Financial Stress and Domestic Violence

Employment is a commonly used indicator of financial health and stability. This pandemic serves as a reminder to everyone to have a solid financial plan in place that considers the risks of appetite, savings patterns, and resilience to income shocks. This one-of-a-kind study examined the impact of COVID-19 on individuals' personal finances in India and Pakistan. As a result, actions must be taken to mitigate the negative effects of financial stress caused by the pandemic. Studies on trans-social domestic violence show that there is a strong inverse relationship between financial stress and the risk of women being victims of domestic violence. As social class grows, so does the likelihood of being a victim of domestic violence. According to a new study from the University of California, Davis stressed the COVID-19 pandemic due to the loss of income and inability to pay for housing and food, often exacerbating the silent epidemic of domestic violence. Based on the preceding discussion, the current study concludes that financial stress has an impact on domestic violence and, as a result, social and domestic problems in Pakistan, which is a continuing issue. Thus, the following hypothesis is formulated:

H4: Financial stress has a significant positive impact on domestic violence.

Lack of Social Interaction and Domestic Violence

In fact, family is our society's most important institution. Internal family dynamics can affect a child's future development both positively and negatively ways (Alshareef et al., 2015). Unfortunately, the virus has permanently altered the land conditions. Because medicine knows so little about the virus, it has determined that 'lockdown' appears to be the only cure for the time being. Most companies in Pakistan are closed, and due to their limited economic power and social interaction, Pakistan will face difficulties in the coming years (Government of Pakistan, 2020). There is a widespread misconception in modern society that violence occurs only among low-income families. Domestic violence occurs in all sectors of society, regardless of cultural, religious, social, legal, or economic factors. Lack of social interaction, pandemic-related psychological and economic stressors, and the potential increase in negative coping can lead to an unprecedented surge in domestic violence (van Gelder et al., 2020). Based on the discussion above, the current study concluded that a lack of social interaction has an effect on domestic violence and, as a result, on COVID-19 in the general population, which is a persistent problem in Pakistan. Thus, the following hypothesis is proposed:

H5: Lack of social interaction has a significant positive relationship with domestic violence.

COVID-19, Financial Stress and Domestic Violence

Financial constraints and pressures pose psychological difficulties as most of Pakistan's population works in the private sector or is employed on a daily basis, with 24% of the total population living below the poverty line and 38.8% poor. I made it worse. According to new data, domestic violence has increased worldwide since the outbreak of Covid-19, according to new data. Over the past year, an estimated 243 million girls and women aged between 15 and 49 have been victims of physical or sexual violence in the hands of intimate

partners. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on violence applies to a larger pattern as violence against women tends to increase during disasters and illnesses.

For example, during the 2014 Ebola outbreak, parts of Sierra Leone experienced a 65 percent increase in teenage pregnancies, most likely as a result of expanded assaults amid the scourge. An assortment of components contributes to the increment in savagery against ladies amid open well-being emergencies. This segment distinguishes three components that contributed to expanded viciousness and diminished bolster amid the spread of COVID-19: expanded introduction to culprits due to lockdown orders and care obligations, activating unpleasant situations for culprits, and diminished back administrations. Financial stress is a strong predictor of violence before the pandemic. According to the study's findings, the widespread is related to an increased chance of savagery against women in current cohabiting connections, most likely as a result of a combination of money-related push and the need for social interaction. Based on the preceding discussion, the current study asserted that during covid-19, financial stress increases domestic violence, thereby increasing social and public health problems, which is a persistent problem in Pakistan. Thus, the following hypothesis is formulated:

H6: Financial stress significantly mediates between Covid-19 and domestic violence.

COVID-19, Lack of Social Interaction and Domestic Violence

In spite of the fact that the open wellbeing benefits of social removing, confinement, and quarantines are well set up and required for diminishing the hazard of coronavirus malady transmission (COVID-19), the disease caused by the COVID-19 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2), When considering the impact of domestic violence, there are also likely consequences. According to the current study, covid-19 financial stress increases domestic violence and, as a result, psychological problems, which is an ongoing issue in Pakistan (Yasin, Iqbal, 2020). Thus, the following hypothesis is formulated:

H7: Lack of social interaction significantly mediates between covid-19 and domestic violence

Table 1. Demographic Profile of the respondents

Demographics	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
20 years or less	12	6%
20 - 30 years	105	52.5%
30 – 40 years	65	32.5
40 years and above	18	9%
Education		
Intermediate or less	56	28%
Bachelors	79	39.5%
Masters or above	65	32.5%
Length of Marriage		
Less than 5 years	25	12.5%
5 – 10 years	78	39%
11 – 15 years	68	34%
16 years or above	29	14.5%
Number of Children		
1 - 2	86	43%

3 - 4	94	47%
5 and above	20	10%
Source of Income		
Government Job	40	20%
Private Job	145	72.5%
Business	15	7.5%
Family Monthly Income		
10,000 -20,000	69	34.5%
21,000 – 40,000	89	44.5%
41,000 or above	42	21%

Source : processed by author, 2024

Table 1 illustrates the statistical profiles of the respondents who participated in this study. The majority of the respondents 105(52.5%) were 20-30–long time ancient. In terms of formal instruction, 79 (39.5%) respondents expressed that they had a Bachelor's degree. Most of this study's respondents, 78 (39%) were 5-10 a long year of marriage. On the other hand, 94(47%) respondents had to 3-4 children. Regarding the source of salary, most respondents 145 (72.5%) expressed that they were working in a private division. A total of 89 (44.5%) respondents claimed that their families were between 21,000 and 40,000.

Data Analysis

This research analyzed information using SPSS and SmartPLS 3.2.8, which may be a fast-growing second-generation strategy, as prescribed by (Hair et al., 2014). The authors recommend running bootstrapping with 5000 subsamples to realize critical comes (Hair, et al. 2017). Previous studies have found that partial least-squares structural Modeling (PLS-SEM) is effective. Because computing comes about and begins to build, the procedure is predominantly covariance-based auxiliary condition demonstration (CB-SEM) (Afthanorhan 2013; Hair et al., 2014). In PLS-SEM, in addition to the structural model, two models must be run: the measurement model and the structural model. A measurement model was used to assess the instrument's validity and reliability. A structural model is used to test the proposed hypotheses. As a result, this study used the repeated indicator approach, which is recommended in the literature on smart PLS, to model the second-order factors in the PLS analysis (Hair, et al., 2017).

When utilizing self-reported surveys to gather information, common strategy changes must be examined, particularly when both indicator and basis factors are obtained from the same individual (Podsakoff *et al.*, 2003). Podsakoff and Todor (1985, p.65) too expressed that "concerns almost same-source inclination or common strategy fluctuation emerge constantly when self-reported measures gotten from the same test are utilized in research." Within the writing, a few arrangements to this issue have been proposed. A common strategy for recognizing this issue is Harman's single-figure test. Usually fulfilled by running a foremost component figure examination of all major developments (Podsakoff and Organ, 1986). Prove strategy predisposition exists when a single figure develops from the figure investigation or when one common calculation accounts for a larger part of the covariance among the measures (Podsakoff *et al.*, 2003). Our examination uncovered a six-factor arrangement with an add up to change clarified of 79.962 percent and the primary calculation clarifying as it was 38.46 percent, affirming that common strategy inclination was not a major issue in this regard.

Measurement Model

Following Henseler et al. (2009), we used a two-step strategy to test the show. Within the to begin with step, the estimation demonstrates assessed utilizing concurrent legitimacy incorporates the normal extricated change (AVE), Cronbach's alpha (α), composite unwavering quality (CR), and discriminant legitimacy. To meet the focalized legitimacy criteria, things with inadmissible loadings less than 0.40 were expelled from the demonstration (Hair et al., 2014). According to Hair et al. (2017), merged legitimacy is affirmed by the least AVE ranges of 0.559 to 0.878 and CR ranges of 0.909 to 0.960 (see Table 2).

Table 2. Convergent Validity

First-Order Constructs	Second-order Constructs	Cronbach's Alpha (CA)	Composite Reliability (CR)	Average Value Extracted (AVE)
COVID-19		0.935	0.945	0.610
Domestic Violence		0.883	0.909	0.559
Lack of Social Interaction		0.955	0.960	0.633
Affective Reaction		0.909	0.932	0.735
Physiological Responses		0.882	0.913	0.679
Relational Behavior		0.911	0.933	0.738
	Financial Stress	0.948	0.955	0.878

Source : processed by author, 2024

Discriminant Validity

Two strategies were utilized to evaluate discriminant legitimacy: Fornell and Larcker's (1981) criteria and heterotrait-monotrait (HTMT) (Henseler et al., 2015). To establish discriminant legitimacy based on the Fornell - Lacker criteria, the square root of the AVE for the develops ought to be more prominent than its correlation with other factors within the demonstration (Hair et al. 2017). See table 3.

Table 3. Fornell-Larcker Criterion

	COVID-19	DV	FS	LSI
COVID-19	**0.781**			
Domestic Violence	0.387	**0.748**		
Financial Stress	0.323	0.289	**0.937**	
Lack of Social Interaction	0.803	0.468	0.365	**0.795**

Source : processed by author, 2024

Table 4 illustrates that the discriminant legitimacy estimation comes about from the development to guarantee discriminant legitimacy (HTMT) proportion basis, and the stacking and cross-loading, as well as the heterotrait-monotrait, were also assessed. Moreover, the prescribed HTMT values (Table 4) were less than 0.85 (Henseler et al., 2015). As a result, these factors fulfilled the criteria for discriminant legitimacy.

Table 4. *Heterotrait–Monotrait Criterion*

	COVID-19	DV	FS	LSI
COVID-19				
Domestic Violence	0.424			
Financial Stress	0.343	0.320		
Lack of Social Interaction	0.847	0.507	0.384	

Source : processed by author, 2024

Model Fitness

The standardized root cruel leftover (SRMR) esteem of 0.069 is less than 0.08 and demonstrates that the show fits well (Hair et al., 2017). Cross-validated redundancies (Q2) shown in Table 5 are more noteworthy than zero, demonstrating that the show has little to medium pertinence (Hair et al., 2017). According to Hair et al. (2017), the coefficients of assurance (R2) of 0.19, 0.33, and 0.67 show that the exogenous variable has little, medium, and significant impacts on the endogenous variable, respectively. Be that as it may, the Falk and Mill operator (1992) considers an R-square esteem of 0.10 to be satisfactory. As a result, exogenous factors had a minor direct effect on endogenous factors (see Table 5).

Table 5. Quality of the Model and Fit Indices

Endogenous Constructs	R Square	SRMR	Q^2
Domestic Violence	0.236	0.069	0.128
Financial Stress	0.105		0.063
Lack of Social Interaction	0.646		0.404

Source : processed by author, 2024

Measurement Model of the Study

In the measurement model, conceptual variables are linked to measured variables, which is the equivalent of a factor analysis (as shown in figure 3).
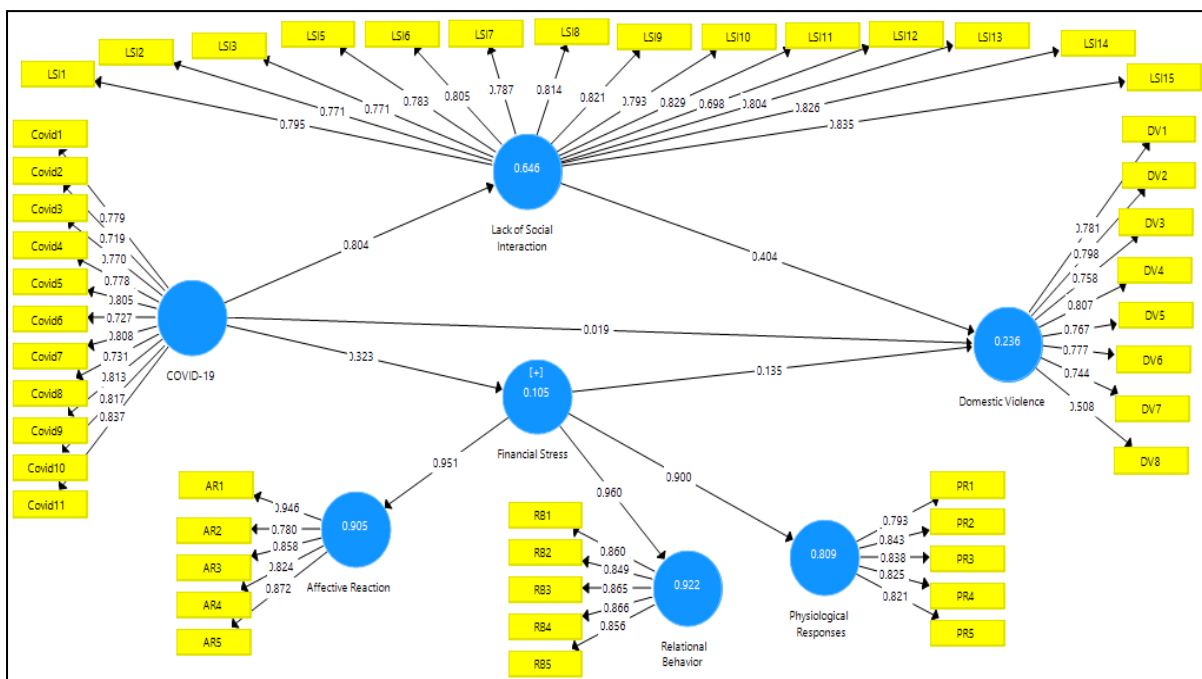

Figure 3. Measurement Model of the Study
Source : processed by author, 2024

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Structural Model

Regarding the direct effects, 4 form 5 hypotheses were positively significant and supported (see Table 6 and Fig. 4). However, COVID-19 did not have a significant positive influence on domestic violence (β = 0.019, t = 0.310, or p >0.378). Thus, H1 was not supported (Fig. 4). Meanwhile, COVID-19 had a significant positive relationship with financial stress (β = 0.323, t = 7.327, or p >0.000), supporting Hypothesis 2. Moreover, the results of Hypothesis 3 revealed that COVID-19 has a significant positive relationship with lack of social interaction (β = 0.804, t = 25.249, or p >0.000), supporting H3. Likewise, financial stress has a significant positive relationship with domestic violence (β = 0.135, t = 2.131, or p >0.016), thus supporting H4, and a lack of social interaction has a significant positive relationship with domestic violence (β = 0.404, t = 5.683, or p >0.000), thus supporting Hypothesis 5.

Table 6. Structural Model

| Hypotheses	Relationship	Path Coefficient	T-value	P Values	Decision
H1	COVID-19 -> Domestic Violence	0.019	0.310	0.378	Not Supported
H2	COVID-19 -> Financial Stress	0.323	7.327	0.000	Supported
H3	COVID-19 -> Lack of Social Interaction	0.804	25.249	0.000	Supported
H4	Financial Stress -> Domestic Violence	0.135	2.131	0.016	Supported
H5	Lack of Social Interaction -> Domestic Violence	0.404	5.683	0.000	Supported

Source : processed by author, 2024
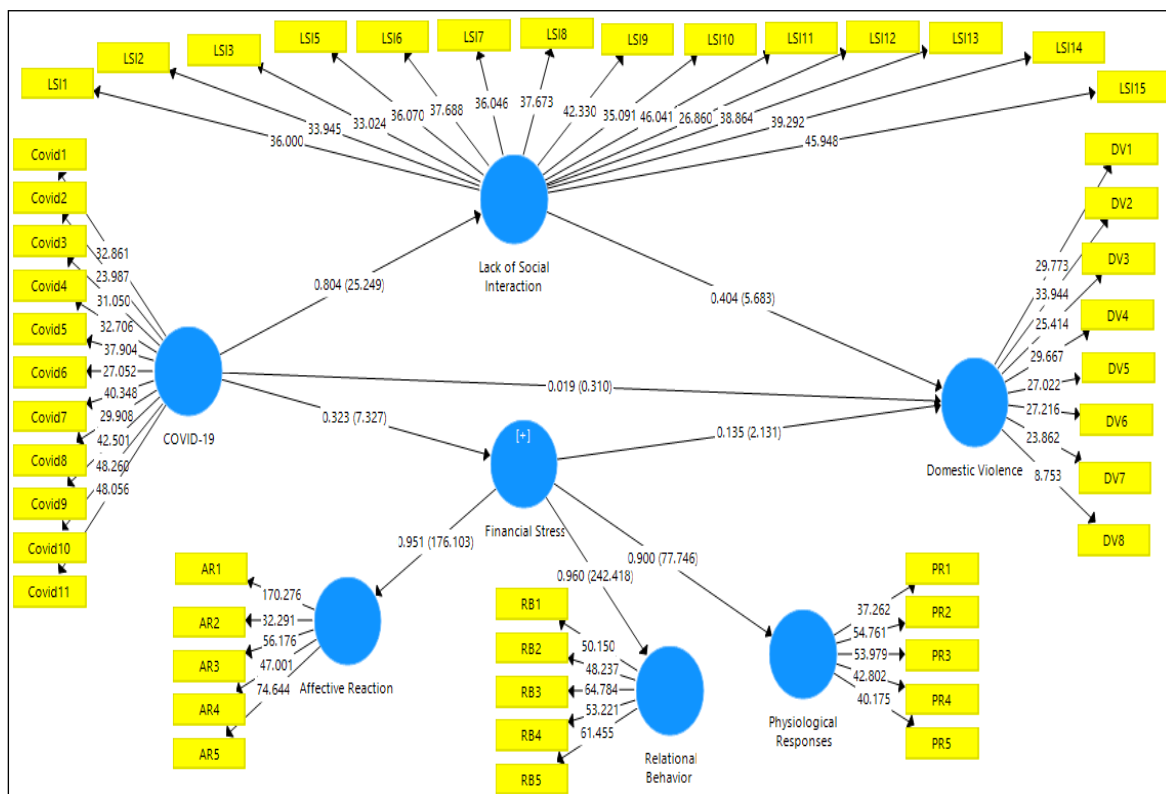
Figure 4. Structural Model
Source : processed by author, 2024

Indirect Effect

With respect to interceding impacts (see Table 7), the results show that the budgetary stretch intercedes the relationship between COVID-19 and residential savagery (β = 0.043, t = 2.062, p >0.019). Subsequently, underpins theory 6. In addition, the need for social interaction also intervened in the relationship between COVID-19 and household viciousness (β = 0.324, t = 5.706, p >0.000), subsequently bolstering speculation 7.

Table 7. Indirect Effect

Hypotheses	Relationship	Path Coefficient	T-Value	P Values	Decision
H6	**COVID-19 -> Financial Stress -> Domestic Violence**	0.043	2.062	0.019	Supported
H7	**COVID-19 -> Lack of Social Interaction ->Domestic Violence**	0.324	5.706	0.000	Supported

Source : processed by author, 2024

The spread of COVID-19 could be a rapidly advancing situation that influences all perspectives of life. Later, it appears that the virus's coordinate impacts, as well as the auxiliary impacts of measures such as lockdowns and the money-related toll they force on the populace, have had a particularly negative effect on mental well-being. The reason for this ponders is to see the impact of Covid 19 on household savagery, as well as the part of social isolation and financial stress as arbitrators. The primary hypothesis is not upheld by the discoveries, which appear that there is no interface between COVID-19 and residential savagery that as it may, in case of moment and third theories the widespread, that is, COVID-, has been found that a need for social interaction and budgetary stretch have critical positive connections. COVID-19 has had a coordinated effect on individuals' individual accounts. Moreover, the overview incorporates a portrayal of Pakistan's individual funds. A statistical representation of the study is clearly presented.

Verifiably, since the flare-up of the pandemic, worldwide rates of mental ailments, especially coronavirus-related mental ailments, have increased. In Pakistan, many studies have found that coronavirus has a critical mental effect. In any case, the normal level of uneasiness and obsessional contemplations caused by COVID-19 is higher than the cut-off scores that essentially decrease social interaction among people, which is the essential reason for the critical positive relationship between the need for social interaction and COVID-19. Selye (1936) was one of the first researchers to define stress as the physiological state. The endless majority of the tests detailed small to no coronavirus uneasiness or fixations, with 14.6 percent announcing clinically critical broken uneasiness and 19.6 percent detailing risky fixations with COVID-19. In Pakistan, the rates of misery, uneasiness, and push were higher.

According to Roesch et al. (2020), physical violence against women by and large increments in scale and nature amid any normal catastrophe, such as the Zika and Ebola plagues, since they each had a noteworthy effect on the financial and social lives of standard individuals. Additionally, the fourth and fifth speculations were backed by the discoveries, which indicated that both mental factors, such as the need for social interaction and monetary stretch, increased residential savagery among people. Additionally, it appears that the 6th and seventh speculations are also supported, as a need for social interaction and money-related push essentially intervenes in the relationship between COVID-19 and household viciousness.

Conclusion

This study hypothetically illustrates how Covid-19 widespread may contribute to higher rates of residential viciousness, agreeing to preparatory information. The Covid-19 energizes three major roads in Pakistan: monetary stretch, expanded social confinement, and residential savagery. This ponder illustrates how people reacted to a particular money-related possibility of COVID-19The discoveries is interesting and may be credited to a number of variables, counting the need for COVID-19 social interaction, strength, and culture.

This study sheds light on the availability of financial stress to deal with financial shocks and distinguishes those most defenseless amid such turbulent times. The data indicate an increment in the number of reports of viciousness. Individual restriction measures amid covid-19 are a perilous chance figure for residential savagery, which may be exacerbated by variables such as near contact between casualties and abusers in terms of shared space and time. Stretch is exacerbated by the need for social interaction, money-related stretch, mental components, and the need for openings for casualties to elude mishandles.

In spite of governments' vocal commitments to diminishing household savagery, the variables contributing to higher rates of savagery posture are a genuine hazard of fixing the region's advance over the final 25 years. The discoveries of this consider appear to indicate that the widespread has had a critical impact on different viewpoints of back in Pakistan. The person's wage has decreased, whereas costs have expanded. These discoveries seem to help the government and policymakers in creating modern rules, directions, and arrangements to benefit the economy.

This study experienced a few limitations while conducting this investigation. First, due to the COVID-19 lockdown, it was troublesome to pick up coordinates for the common populace of the nation to fill out surveys. As a result, data were collected from 200 respondents, restricting the generalizability of the results. The current ponder has a few noteworthy qualities as well as a few impediments. One of the qualities of the study is that it was conducted during the early lockdown period. This provides critical experiences in the early stages of the spread, when individuals are still altering to the news of COVID-19. The level of uneasiness and fixation with COVID-19 during this period was an opportunity to consider the starting effect of the infection. The test estimate provides sufficient proof to test the speculations considered. Data were collected from women living in only five major cities in Pakistan (Lahore, Faisalabad, Jhelum, Rawalpindi, and Sargodha). However, future researchers should continue to study the psychological impact of COVID-19 on the general population in developing countries as the pandemic spreads. Despite this being the first study of its kind to be conducted in Pakistan during the COVID-19 lockdown, it highlighted the sensitive issue of violence against women. Future research can be qualitative or mixed. The findings of this study will spark an evidence-based debate on violence against women and contribute to existing scientific knowledge, particularly during a country's depression phase. Pakistan is a volatile country with significant gender disparities (Naz, 2011). Ladies within a nation confront social avoidance and destitution (Raza & Murad, 2010). Despite a few advances in settling gender-based issues, sex uniformity remains a challenge that should be considered nearby other develops.

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