

# A Study of Propensity Factors Leading to the Runaway in Girls

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The study was conducted to identify the causes and features of women for seeking shelter at Dar-ul-Aman located in Quetta city.

**Study Design:** Observational / descriptive study.

**Place and Duration of Study:** This study was conducted at Department of Behavioral Sciences and Community Medicine Quetta Institute of Medical Sciences (QIMS), Quetta Cantt from July 2015 to December 2015.

**Materials and Methods:** The sample of 20 girls was taken from Dar-ul-Aman and interview schedule was administered, to assess the cause of the various variables was taken along with the case histories.

**Results:** After collection of the data the results were analyzed in the light of the objective to the study. It can be said that conflict in family, unhealthy influence of mass media, marriage problem, bettering wife or abusive husband are the factors or reasons leading to runaway.

**Conclusion:** Sample can be collected from different Dar-ul-Aman and should not only be collected from Dar-ul-Aman but also from various other places such as police stations, film studios, red light areas and from those houses where such girls reach. To get more reliable result. It may be suggested that sample should be large enough to get more valid results.

**Key Words:** Propensity, Runaway, Girls

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## INTRODUCTION

The present study was conducted to find out the different reasons that why women come in Dar-ul-Aman. Women have to play while living different roles in a society which is divided into the men sphere of the household and the outer world of finance, markets, politics and power.<sup>1</sup>

Prior to Islam the social status of women was very inferior. She has no status except maid, servant or slave. People utterly disliked the birth of daughters in their homes. This was an era when the daughter had been engraved alive. The Islam fourteen hundred ago equalized the woman with man and released her from the slavery of men, in which she had been entrapped for centuries. Islam recognized the veneration of woman by declaring her most respectable because she keeps the best qualities as mother, sister, daughter and wife.<sup>2</sup>

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Pakistan is an Islamic country but according to the other Asian countries woman is also considered as second class citizen here too. She does not have such rights which she deserved. The role of woman is of prominent importance in development of every society but woman can play their role

effectively only when they are provided with the opportunity. This fact is less for an Islamic state that woman is being exploited in every sphere of life. Woman is prey of unjust treatment whether it is playground, field of education, facilities of health, chances of employment and domestic problems and now this era.<sup>3</sup>

So women like other family members must as rightful members of the family, rejection, and physical or emotional, exploitation creates feelings of insecurity and inferiority and may compel them to leave the safety of home. In Pakistani society it is taboo for female to leave their home without the permission of parents or husbands. Women who dare to do this are ostracized for life. They have violated the "Izzat" and honor of the family and such condemned women is Dar-ul-Aman.<sup>4</sup>

The age limits of subjects were 15 to 22 years old. This period is called adolescence period. Adolescence is a bridge between childhood and adulthood and widely recognized as a stage associated with substantial changes.<sup>5</sup>

This period of age which is selected for study, is important because this period is traditionally been

represented as a stormy, transitional period of development and ready to carryout and desire, they must have formed into action. They are passionate, energetic, rebellious often idealistic, they are slaves of their passions. According to psychoanalytical theory the adolescent displace oedipal conflict into love objects, outside the family. This period is often marked by considerable turmoil and even delinquency.<sup>6</sup> Girls left their home due to physical, mental and emotional torture and conflict with their parents.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Dar-ul- Aman**

It is a home, established by social welfare department of the government to provided shelter to women, who are compelled to level their homes, because they are either not acceptable to their relative or they lose their economic support. The main role of Dar-ul-Aman is to look after and feed these women and try for their physical and economical rehabilitation. The social worker and the field officer working under the women, persuade their relatives to accept them back in the family and also make arrangement for their marriage. Instructors are engaged to teach sewing, knitting and dress making to these inmates, who wish to learn a profitable craft. So, Dar-ul-Aman is the only place where the girls feel secure and get all the necessities like home.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

A purposive technique was used in this study. The sample was selected in the Dar-ul-Aman Quetta. It was consisted of 20 females and belongs to different rural and urban areas. The age range is 15-22.

#### **Hypothesis:**

1. Conflict in the family greater the chance of running away.
2. Low socio economic status is factor of girls running away.
3. Unhealthy influence of mass media increases the tendency of running away.
4. Marriage decision increases the chance of running away.
5. Battering wife increase the tendency of running away.

**Procedure:** Having specified the problem, the suitable sample was taken from Dar-ul-aman. a special written permission for data collection obtained from superintendent of Dar-ul-Aman. The researcher interviewed the individual in private, to remove the possible of their answers being affected, rapport was developed by telling them that is for their help and their identification will never be disclosed. Approximately half an hour was spent on each subject. Although the schedule was made of Urdu but according the demand of subjects' questions was asked in Pashto.

## **RESULTS**

**Table No.1: Conflict in the family greater the chance of running away.**

Variables	Yes	No
Divorce + Separation of Parents	14 (70 %)	6 (30%)
Death of Parents	12(60%)	8(40%)

**Table No.2: Low socio economic status is a factor of running.**

Variable	Yes	No
Facilities of life available in home	14 (70%)	6 (30%)
Need Fulfillment	13 (65%)	7 (35%)
Joint family System	8(40%)	12(60%)

**Table No.3: Unhealthy influence of mass media increases the tendency of running away.**

Variable	Yes	No
Showing romantic type of movies	13 (65%)	7 (35%)
Becoming a heroin	15 (75%)	5 (25%)
Adaptation of heroin character in near	12 (60%)	8 (40%)

**Table No.4: Marriage decision increases the chance of running away.**

Variable	Yes	No
Parents interested in their marriage	10 (50%)	10 (50%)
Conflict with parents in the choice of life Partner	12 (60%)	8 (40%)

**Table No.5: Battering wife increase the tendency of running away**

Variable	Yes	No
Unpleasant relation with husband	12 (60%)	8 (40%)
Usually quarrel with husband	13 (65%)	7 (35%)
Physically abused by her husband	15 (75%)	5 (25%)
Husband were not fulfill their need	14 (70%)	6(30%)

## **DISCUSSION**

In this study five hypothesis are tested. The purpose of the study is to find out the reason of running away. The 1<sup>st</sup> hypothesis is conflict in the family greater the chance of running away. This hypothesis is supported because 14(70%) girls left their homes due to family conflict. 2<sup>nd</sup> hypothesis "low socio economic status is a

Factors of running away from homes. After the calculation and analysis of data it appears that most of runaway girls were not left their house due to low socio economic status, (4600, 5000) 3% girls belongs to low socio economic status (600-1000). 3rd hypothesis is, mass media increase the tendency of running away. This hypothesis is supported because calculations show that girls were influenced by the heroine characters of films and tried to adopt those characters in actual life. Data shows 13 (65 %) of runaway girls used to see romantic films and 15(75 %) wanted to become a heroine like them. After seeing films 12 (60%) girls wanted to adopt that character in real life. This percentage indicates that girls of this age 15-22 usually impressed negatively by movies. That is why it can be said that the unhealthy influence of mass media increase the tendency of running away. 4th hypothesis is the problems related to marriage decision increase the tendency of running away. This hypothesis also gains support. This study shows that 10 (50%) of girls thought that their parents were not interested in their marriage and 10(50 %) of girls had conflict with their parents in the choice of life partner. So when parents impose their decision girls rebel and leave the home. So marriage problem increase the inclination of running away. 5th hypothesis is battering wife increase the tendency of running away. This hypothesis is supported 12(60%) of girls had unpleasant relation with husbands. 13(65 %) girls had quarreled usually with husbands. 15(75 %) girls had abusive husbands, 14(70 %) husbands were not fulfilled their need. Every girl wanted to enjoy the life after marriage, but when their wish is not fulfilled and they had abusive drug addictive, sexual husband then they leave the home. It can be said that conflict in family, unhealthy influence of mass media, marriage problem battering wife or abusive husband are the factors or reasons leading to runaway.

## CONCLUSION

An intensive study be conducted on wide scale to get more reliable result, for this purpose following sampling strategies can be adopted.

- Sample can be collected from different Dar-ul-Aman and should not only collected from Dar-ul-Aman but also from various other places such as police stations film studios, red light areas and from those houses where such girls reach. To get more reliable result.
- It may be suggested that sample should be large enough to get more valid results.
- It may be recommended that to increase the validity of results both the husbands and wife should be interviewed.
- In order to get significant result, researcher should include equal number of subjects for each group.

**Conflict of Interest:** The study has no conflict of interest to declare by any author.

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