

## ASSESSING THE RISKS FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO DOMESTIC ELDERLY ABUSE A SOCIOCULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

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### ABSTRACT

With the increasing human life expectancy all over the world, elder abuse has become one of the most pressing national and global problems. This paper broadly explores the risk factors for domestic elderly abuse, paying paramount attention to the individual characteristics of the offenders and victims. These risk variables can help reduce elder abuse and improve risk management strategies. The current study employed a quantity research design; therefore, data was collected through the self-developed structured questionnaire with closed-ended questions with the help of a purposive sampling technique respondents of the current study were 150 elderly Males and Females of District Bhakkar Pakistan. Data analysis was done using SPSS. Descriptive statistics and correlation results indicated a gloomy and significant positive relationship between physical abuse, psychological abuse, neglect, and financial abuse with domestic elderly abuse. The regression analysis  $R^2=63.0\%$  shows that there is a significant effect of Independent variables (Physical Abuse, Psychological Abuse, Neglect, and Financial Abuse) on the Dependent Variable (domestic elderly abuse). Furthermore, the authors also discovered that integrational relationship quality (IRQ) acts as a partial mediator of the links between such types of abuse and the abuse of domestic elderly. It was also found that cultural perceptions towards aging influenced the connection between IRQ and the contrasts in domestic elderly abuse. The conclusions made in this study stress the need for effective identification of the problem and the establishment of a definite strategy and policy so that authorities can respond to elder abuse appropriately and help those in need.

**Keywords:** Domestic, Elderly, Abuse, Silent treatment, Risk factors, Sociocultural Perspective.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Domestic elderly abuse has become one of the significant social problems that may be a result of social attitudes towards elderly people. Since times immemorial senior citizens have been easily placed on the periphery of a family and a community and at times even used, abused, and neglected. While different cultures have valued elders, especially in decision-making processes there have always been ageist trends that compromise elders (Kornadt et al., 2022). With the increased population of global people experiencing age, domestic elderly abuse has been acknowledged as an important public health

concern that requires attention and response. Domestic elderly abuse is a term that defines any act or omission that harms older people usually by people whom one can trust or relate to including relatives, caregivers, or friends (Fetherstonhaugh et al., 2021). It comes in various forms such as physical aggression, aggressiveness in communication and interactions, abandonment, and or manipulation of the vulnerable person's finances. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), elder abuse is defined as any act, or failure to act, resulting in harm to an older individual from a person whom they trust

and rely on for care, support, and protection (Pillemer et al., 2016). We see elder abuse on a large scale; research shows that one out of every six people of the older generation, suffer from some form of abuse, which rarely comes to light because the victims often fear repercussions or embarrassment and lack adequate knowledge about the available help (Aday et al., 2017).

In previous work on domestic elderly abuse, the researchers have looked at different topics such as the prevalence of abuse, its types, and its effects. For example, a meta-analysis points out that elder abuse is a complex phenomenon with multiple factors, such as; caregiver stress, a mental health disorder, substance use, and social isolation of caregivers, and elderly users (Snoddy, 2021). Besides, social expectations and perceptions that people hold towards elderly or aging persons directly influence the pattern of caregiving/ abusive behavior in society. As such, one will find that cultures that respect the elderly have lower rates of abuse; similarly, cultures that encourage ageism will have higher rates of abuse, and neglect (Seedsman & Korkmaz Yaylagul, 2018). Although further categorized into physical, sexual, psychological, and financial types, the work diverse risk factors that make elder abuse a phenomenon of multifaceted nature, which includes previous experiences of family violence, social isolation, and financial pressure on the caregiver. However, some of these areas still have important research deficits in the current literature review of sociocultural issues of domestic elderly abuse (Yon et al., 2019). A considerable part of the investigations has been conducted with references to the frequency rates and the risk constraints, leaving aside the qualitative characteristics, which may give an understanding of the life experiences of elderly people and their careers (Chee, 2024). For example, although there has been growing evidence of positive associations between stress levels amongst caregivers and elder abuse, the effect of attitudinal orientations on older adults within cultural and/or societal frameworks remains poorly understood. Little information is obtained directly from the elderly individually; as a result, important gaps exist in the knowledge of what these people go through, how they deal with this, and what may make them more susceptible.

This research gap is especially apparent when identifying how certain sociocultural factors contribute to the vulnerability of domestic elderly abuse. However, it is clear that programs of general sources like the stress of the caregivers and economic difficulties have been cited, there is a need to establish case studies originating from sociocultural site-specific analysis of elder abuse in different countries and regions. For example, there might be issues of family honor, values of collectivism rather than individualism, and religion or spirituality can all play a massive part in how older adults are treated. Similarly, gender, economic status, cultural background, or any other socio-demographic factor have not been well incorporated in many research studies hence compounding the understanding of elder abuse.

While there is an improving concern about domestic elderly abuse, there is a general knowledge gap in acknowledging the sociocultural context of the problem. This lack of information hampers the formulation of correct prevention and intervention strategies and policies for elder abuse that seek to protect those aged persons. For that reason, it is crucial to carry out this study to understand the particular sociocultural factors that contribute to domestic elderly abuse in our settings. Through the following factors it's possible to prevent domestic elderly abusers, educate society, and encourage the provision of more support systems to the abused elderly and their caretakers This research aims at evaluating all aspects of risk factors involving sociocultural perspective in domestic elderly abuse. This paper will look at history, definitions, prior research, research needs, and the significance of this study in the hope of making a significant contribution to the research on elder abuse. This effort is not only an exercise in scholarship but also a concrete preparation for the affirmative acknowledgment of the rights of the elderly and the promotion of respect for the elderly. By doing this research, the authors intend to bring respect and quality of life to older adults and help to create a society where elder abuse is not acceptable.

## 1.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the sociocultural elements influencing the incidence of elder abuse in household settings in District Sargodha.

2. To assess how societal norms and family dynamics affect the probability that elderly people may be abused in their homes.
3. To look into how financial standing and caring obligations affect elder abuse in the home.
4. To evaluate the community's views and beliefs around aging and elder care, as well as the relationship between these views and cases of domestic violence.

## 1.2 THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH

This research study's importance lies in uncovering processes of sociocultural meanings that underpin the phenomenon of domestic elderly abuse – a topical issue that is sometimes marginalized in the current discussion. Consequently, this study seeks to evaluate the aforementioned risk factors for elderly people in District Sargodha; and identify how cultural context including attitude towards the elderly, family structure, and social norms affects their daily lives. It is therefore important to understand the influencers to design pertinent prevention and prevention strategies and policies that work towards positively the rights of old persons and improve the standards of caregivers in attendance to elderly patients. In addition, this study may help to enlarge the understanding in the community and promote action to combat abuse and improve the quality of life for the elderly population. Finally, the potential outcomes may contribute to the exploration of similar problems and help those who are actively concerned with configuring healthier and more tolerant conditions for elderly people: decision-makers, social workers, and caregivers.

## 1.3 HYPOTHESIS

**H<sub>1</sub>:** Physical Abuse, Psychological Abuse, Neglect, and Financial Abuse has positive effects on the Domestic Elderly Abuse.

This hypothesis posits that all types of abuse such as physical, psychological, neglect, and financial abuse are dominant causes of domestic elderly abuse. Physical abuse includes actions that result in physical contact that may encompass hitting, slapping, shoving, restraining an elderly person inflicting pain together with evoking feelings of vulnerability among persons aged 60 years and above (Dong, 2015). Physical aggression may consist of pushing, shoving, and slapping and these behaviors have

disabling long-term impacts on the mental health of those being abused by their partners; these impacts include post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and worthlessness. Physical and emotional abuse – lack of proper care and support – leads to suffering and the weakening of an already fragile position for the elderly person (Dong, 2014). When an older adult's money or property is misused, this robs them of their freedom and turns them into an abuser's puppet. In that regard, the forms of abuse are not only different but also combined and, therefore, have an accumulative result, increasing the level of domestic elderly abuse (Pillemer et al., 2016). Thus, more general knowledge of these dynamics is essential for designing complex anti-abuse strategies for the protection of the elderly.

**H<sub>2</sub>:** Integrational Relationship Quality mediates the relationship between Physical Abuse, Psychological Abuse, Neglect, Financial Abuse, and Domestic Early Abuse.

This hypothesis posits that the quality of the relationships, that elderly people have with family members and caregivers, acts as the moderator between different forms of abuse and the sensation of domestic elderly abuse. The quality of an integrational relationship can be measured in terms of the degree of relatedness in terms of intimacy, how supportive the relationship is, and how healthy they are. Arising from this, high-quality relationships can be said to function as resources in that they can reduce the adverse impact resulting from abuse (Liang & Luo, 2012). For example, when an elderly person, for example, is physically or psychologically abused, she or he may be fortunate enough to have other family members who will prod him or her into reporting the case or who will provide for basic needs. On the other hand, the elderly person with poor quality of relationship, either in terms of loneliness or conflict can hardly cope with or run away from abusive situations. This mediation only exposes most of the factors that are inherent in domestic elderly abuse to be rooted in relational factors (Hawkley & Cacioppo, 2010). In the present study is noted that the interventions can be targeted at the quality of relationships to improve the support system for frail older adults leading to preventing negative consequences of different types of abuse.

**H<sub>3</sub>:** Cultural Attitude towards Aging moderates the relationship between the Integrational relationship Quality and Domestic Elderly Abuse.

This hypothesis postulates that cultural perceptions towards aging cloudily determine the degree to which integrational relationship quality affects the incidence of domestic elderly abuse. Folktales about the elderly put out cultural narratives of old age and these in turn affect the perceptions and conduct towards the elderly (Nelson, 2010). If in a given culture, they show respect, reverence, and care for elders then the quality of relationships will ward off abuse, though with improper or bad-quality relationships at times. In such situations, cultural perceptions of the roles of families may compel all

members to be supportive and take care of those in need thereby making the chances of neglecting or even abusing them very slim. On the other hand, in societies where elder mistreatment attitudes are dominant older adults are vulnerable to devaluation and marginalization, especially if their relationships are conflictual or lacking support (Dong, 2015). This moderation effect supports the need for cultural mediators in analysing the patterns associated with domestic elderly abuse. Knowledge about how cultural attitudes affect relationship quality can be used to for applicable prevention and education programs to change the perception of elder vulnerable groups in specific cultures.

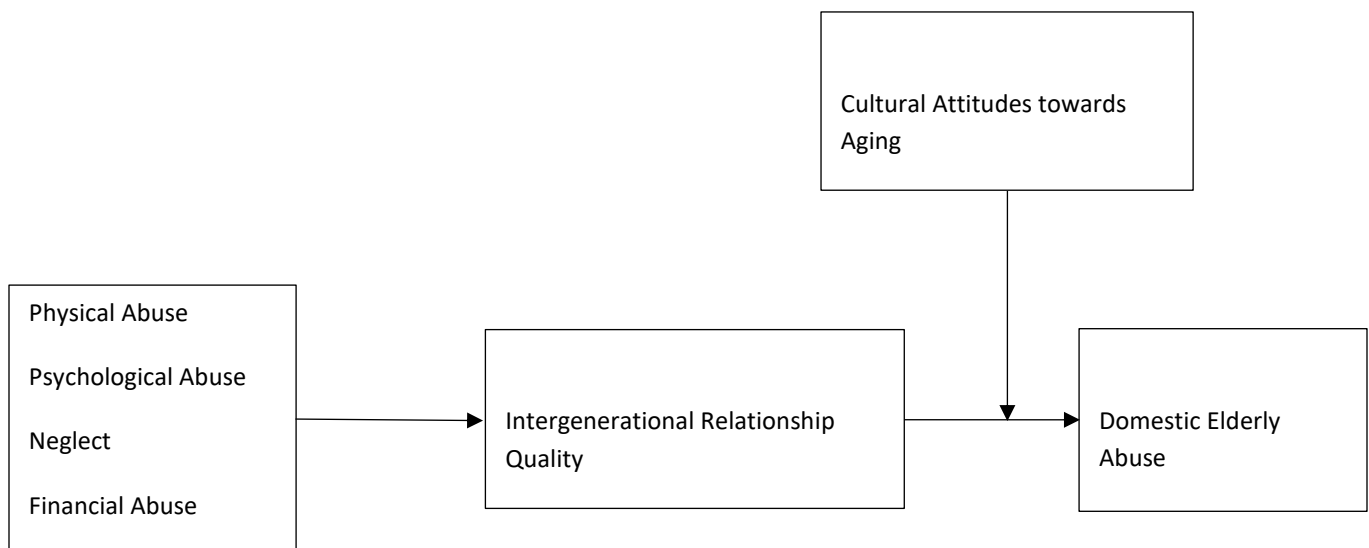


Figure. 1. Research

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Elderly abuse in the home is a prevalent concern in the modern world that affects millions of senior citizens, regardless of culture. A type of abuse, commonly in residences and by relatives or caregivers, comprises physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, negligence, and financial exploitation. The overview of the risk factors for elderly abuse presupposes the analysis of the demographic, ethno-psychological, and geriatric issues, the tendencies in intergenerational relationships, and the perception of the elderly and aging by society (PHELAN, 2020). This review synthesizes how these factors relate to the abuse of the elderly within families and uses the research model to evaluate specific subtypes of abuse, intergenerational relationship quality, cultural perceptions of aging, and the interactions of all these factors in precipitating domestic elderly abuse.

**Physical Abuse** Physical abuse of the elderly entails acts that cause physical compulsion inclusive of striking, shoving, or restraining (Nawaz et al., 2022). According to the literature, the physically vulnerable group which is the frail elderly who are physically completely reliant on their caregivers for their daily needs, have significantly higher rates of physical abuse across the world (Fang & Yan, 2018). According to a sociocultural point of view, where physical abuse is rated highly and there are few caregiver support networks in society, actual levels of physical abuse may be higher due to caregiver exhaustion and frustration (Isham et al., 2019). As above-mentioned where family honor is a key societal value or where the family reputation matters, it becomes difficult for victims to report the abuse since the whole family is affected. A new dimension to this is the acceptance of elder abuse in some cultures especially where some caregivers are known to use physical force to correct their elders as a form of discipline (O'Brien et al., 2016).

**Psychological abuse:** Psychological abuse comprises verbal abuse, threat of abuse, belittling, insulting, and the use of emotional tactics. Physical elder abuse can often have terrible consequences on the mental state and overall well-being of elderly people. Studies show that psychological maltreatment categories are likely to stem from caregiver stress or negative perceptions of older individuals (Herrenkohl et al., 2022). This is true because; some societies look down on old people or consider them a nuisance – such societies may

report higher cases of psychological abuse. Research further shows that in individualistic cultures those who are considered as a burden or 'consumers of resources' may undergo more psychological abuse than verbal and physical abuse, while, on the other hand, in collectivist cultures, psychological abuse is hidden behind caring because such societies expect obedience and subsist towards caretakers (Bartoli et al., 2024). Abuse encompasses refusal of basic needs including nutrition, medical attention, or affection, and is precipitated by caregiver apathy, incompetence, or bitterness. A meta-analysis reveals that neglect is one of the most prevalent types of abuse, and this is more so for the elderly with functional limitations (Gianelli, 2016). In most cultures, it seems shameful not to look after the elderly, especially the parents and other relatives but with current life dynamics and high costs input caregiving roles may not be fully supported. Research also points up that in cultures where modernization is taking place currently, elderly people remain in a disadvantageous position, as the junior members of the family focus more on career building and do not avail themselves of elder care (Ugargol & Bailey, 2018). The tradition of multigenerational families is changing to nuclear ones, especially in urban societies, and the resulting care insufficiency.

**Financial Abuse** Financial abuse involves the misuse of an elderly person and his/her property and money by friends or family members. This type of abuse is common in societies where the elderly are confined financially or have their money being controlled by their relatives (Hackard, 2017). Specific cultural beliefs regarding one's role in the family could contribute to its financial abuses; for example, where such families give senior persons the responsibility of providing finances for their relatives, these persons are vulnerable to being abused financially. Dyslexia also showed that the elderly people had poor and little understanding of the modern financial system, thus exposed to high risk, especially in a country where elderhood protection is seemingly poor and where financial literacy is low (Lum, 2021).

**Intergenerational Relationship Quality** The quality of intergenerational relationships is quite central to the prevention of elderly abuse or its promotion. In this case, positive relationships referring to concepts such as respect, support from families, and a strong kinship can keep

the abuse off as a protective determinant (Burholt et al., 2020). However, family members with poor relationships qualitatively owing to conflicts, misunderstandings, or unfulfilled expectations increase the risk of abuse. Family caregiver role and elder pressure resulting from cultural expectations of filial obligation remain a challenge in collectivist societies where caregiving is a virtue that has to be honored rather than chosen. Research has revealed that elderly families who have close and healthy Sections relationships with their children are less likely to be abused than their researching counterparts with strained family ties (Roberto & Teaster, 2017). Furthermore, high levels of individualism, which are changing the conventional family structure, may also in a way jeopardize child endangerment through the break up of intergenerational bonds and auspices. Culture is the most important determinant of the treatment of elderly people in domestic environments. Cultures that approve of aging recognize elderly people's worth and appreciate them are less abusive, and fewer elderly people are abused (Majumdar & Chatterjee, 2021). On the other hand, cultures that perceive the elderly as 'unconstructive', 'useless', 'a burden', or as a 'waste' will create environments that are conducive to elderly abuse. Studies further show that in societies with the highest levels of ageism, the elderly are more likely to suffer discrimination, marginalization, and even abuse by caretakers who have bought into the negative attitudes toward aging (Reynolds 3rd et al., 2022). Besides, the traditional agricultural societies that associate the value of the elder person with productivity particularly productivity in the household are likely to exclude unproductive elderly people thus exposing them to vulnerability to the vice. Sociocultural perspectives combining the various facets: types of abuse, generational dynamics, and cultural norms/attitudes show how entwined domestic elderly abuse can be. Physical, psychological, neglect, and financial abuses result from caregiver stress, poor relationship quality, and societal beliefs toward elderly people. While high filial piety norms may encourage care for elders, elders' responses may also reveal that such societies have high rates of elder abuse due to the social stigma surrounding the problem. However, societies that are rapidly becoming modernized may register high levels of abuse because families no

longer have strong structures and cultures uphold elderliness (Khan, 2022). The literature underlines that there is a requirement for culturally competent approaches to intervention and prevention of elder abuse that define the necessity to raise the level of intergenerational relationships, change negative attitudes toward elderly people, as well as support caregivers. Elderly abuse in a domestic setting is a complex problem that has cultural, social, and economic implications. It means that in a generalized view of intergenerational relationship quality and cultural perception of aging, it would be possible to identify the main risk factors for elder abuse and the main types and levels of abuse within a familiar context. The investigations of these variables should be carried out by future empirical studies in different cultures to facilitate the usage of such straightforward manipulation as treatment strategies while at the same time respecting various cultural norms that protect elderly individuals.

## 2.1 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

**Ecological Systems Theory:** To analyze "Assessing the Risk Factors Contributing to Domestic Elderly Abuse: Adopting the Systemic Framework with Emphasis on a Sociocultural Perspective provides for the identification of a range of sociocultural systems that decisively unfold the circumstances surrounding the abused elderly persons. At the microsystem, the close familial relationship is fundamental in facilitating the different types of abuse i.e. physical, psychological, neglect, and financial abuse. For example, when due to the stress of the caregiver or some unstable mental state the tensions give way to physical abuse; psychological abuse in turn may look like verbal harassment or manipulation. Abuse, in general, stems from a deficiency of available resources or poor caregiving, thus elderly people receive poor care. Financial abuse may happen in the form of exploiting a trust especially where the elderly have to rely on relatives since their financial decisions are influenced and controlled by the perpetrators involved. The mesosystem outlines the connections between different microsystems where for instance, family members with their relativity to other givers of support such as child care facilities. Intergenerational relationships in this case form the basis of antecedents where reciprocity of support and care through good relationship lessens the risks of

abuse. On the other hand, abusive intergenerational relations can result in verbal or even physical harm besides lack of care, especially if families hardly access any support from the community. Habits and cultural perceptions about elder age greatly influence these dynamics; families that concede to negative societal perceptions towards aged individuals may deny their elders care, and avoid positive interaction with community services thus posing high risks of elder abuse. There is the exosystem, which consists of significant structures and policies that indirectly affect elderly people. Societal beliefs from culture that are upheld may shape or influence a family's perception of their roles in taking care of the elderly. Depending on the poverty, lack of services like elder care increases the stress placed on families and results in an increased risk of neglect and abuse. On a macrosystem level, culture regarding aging determines the laws and policies that defend elderly persons. This study therefore establishes a hypothesis that societies that afford respect and dignity to the elderly will have protective mechanisms against elder abuse. On the other hand, cultural narratives of aging have been observed to contribute to the acceptance of abuse by creating cultures that encourage practices that are unfavorable to the elderly. In other words, using Ecological Systems Theory to analyze domestic elderly abuse yields a better understanding of the way these acts are carried out and why they occur because it takes into consideration individual, familial, cultural, and societal factors which suggests the importance of using approaches that recognize the societies, cultures, and individuals as the problem.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The present research was a quantitative research approach to assess the risk factors for domestic elderly abuse in the socio-cultural context

concerning the elderly residents of District Bhakkar, Pakistan. The sampling frame for this research includes all the elderly people aged 60 years and above within the district recruiting both male and female participants. Based on the Krejcie and Morgan table, 150 respondents were utilized to arrive at adequate and representative samples of the total population. The questionnaire was used as the primary method of data collection, which was closed-ended and was adopted from the Lickert scale as it helps in directly collecting information about the participants and their exposure to elder abuse and the related sociocultural factors. The purposive sampling technique was used to ensure that participants were selected in a way that best meets the criteria for the study while the sample mean closely resembles the general population. The data analysis was done by the use of the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS), which is a comprehensive tool for doing different kinds of commutative tests. Descriptive Statistics especially frequency and percentage were used to describe the demographic variables in the study sample, as well as, the indication of reported elder abuse cases. To examine the interrelationships between sociocultural factors and risk factors for elder abuse, a correlation analysis was done. Regression analysis was conducted to assess the predictive direction of the identified relations facilitating the analysis of the factors that may cause elder abuse. In addition, mediator and moderator techniques were used to examine the moderating effects of various sociocultural factors on the risk factors of domestic elderly abuse. Such an approach not only helps to conduct a rather detailed issue analysis but also tries to define potential interventions and policy measures that would help to minimize the risks concerning elderly people in the community.

## 4. RESULTS OF THE STUDY

### 4.1 Descriptive Analysis of the Variables

**Table 1. Descriptive Statistics of the Variables**

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percent (%)
Age of Respondent	70+	69	46
Gender	Male/Female	75/75	50.0/50.0
Residence	Urban	76	50.7
Family Type	Joint	64	42.7
Marital Status	Married	82	54.7
Number of Children	5–6	50	33.3
Living Place Ownership	No	107	71.3
Living Arrangement	Separate Room	76	50.7
Health	Poor	111	74
Afraid at Home	Strongly Agree	83	55.3
Struck, Slapped, or Kicked	Agree	67	44.7
Locked in a Room	Agree	72	48
Lack of Aids (Eyeglasses, Hearing Aids)	Strongly Agree	86	57.3
Threatened with Punishment	Strongly Agree	57	38
Feeling Alone	Strongly Agree	109	72.7
Received Silent Treatment	Strongly Agree	86	57.3
Left Alone for Long Periods	Strongly Agree	98	65.3
Humiliated or Made Fun Of	Strongly Agree	79	52.7
Made to Feel Afraid	Strongly Agree	73	48.7
Family Forces to Stay in Bed	Strongly Agree	73	48.7
Treated with Indifference	Strongly Agree	91	60.7
Decisions Not Respected	Strongly Agree	84	56
Forbidden to Go Out or Be Visited	Strongly Agree	81	54
Denied Protection	Strongly Agree	81	54
Denied Access to House	Strongly Agree	68	45.3
Belongings Taken Without Permission	Strongly Agree	72	48
Feeling Unwanted	Strongly Agree	77	51.3
Money Stolen	Strongly Agree	68	45.3
Pressured Out of Property Ownership	Strongly Agree	75	50
Belongings Taken Without Consent	Strongly Agree	59	39.3
Money Managed Without Consent	Strongly Agree	62	41.3
Caregiver Dependency	Strongly Agree	56	37.3
Denied from necessities (Clothes, etc.)	Strongly Agree	60	40

This study provides a compelling portrayal of the sociocultural factors contributing to domestic elder abuse, revealing significant vulnerabilities among elderly individuals within familial settings. Among respondents, 46% are aged 70 or older, representing an age group highly susceptible to various forms of abuse and mistreatment. Gender distribution is balanced (50% male, 50% female), and just over half (50.7%) reside in urban areas, where isolation from broader social support networks may play a role in exacerbating vulnerability. The majority (71.3%)

lack ownership of their living space, with 50.7% confined to separate rooms, indicating a restricted living arrangement that may foster feelings of isolation and dependency. Furthermore, poor health is prevalent, with 74% reporting inadequate health, which not only intensifies physical dependency but also heightens emotional and social vulnerability. Psychological abuse appears widespread, with a majority of respondents experiencing neglectful or hostile family dynamics. For instance, 55.3% report feeling afraid at home, and 72.7% frequently feel



alone, while more than half experience humiliation (52.7%) or receive silent treatment (57.3%). Emotional neglect is also evident, with 60.7% treated with indifference, and 56% feeling family members, reflecting an overarching lack of respect for their autonomy, disregard their decisions. Physical abuse is also reported, with 44.7% having been struck, slapped, or kicked, and 48% confined to a locked room, highlighting a severe lack of physical safety within the household. Over half (57.3%) lack necessary aids such as eyeglasses or hearing devices, indicating medical neglect that can severely impact their quality of life and sense of dignity. Financial and autonomy-related abuses are apparent, with 50% of respondents reporting pressure to relinquish property ownership and 45.3% experiencing theft.

Further, 41.3% have had their finances managed without their consent, underscoring the economic exploitation of the elderly within family settings. Finally, 37.3% report a high dependency on caregivers, making them especially vulnerable to control and neglect, with 40% denied necessities, further reflecting a deprivation of fundamental rights and dignity. These findings underscore the complex sociocultural risk factors that contribute to domestic elder abuse, including family structure, isolation, health status, and dependency on caregivers. This study highlights the urgent need for protective interventions and supportive family policies that address the multifaceted nature of elder mistreatment within sociocultural contexts.

## 4.2 Correlation Analysis

H1: Physical Abuse, Psychological Abuse, Neglect, and Financial Abuse has positive effects on the Domestic Elderly Abuse.

**Table. 2**

Independent Variables	Domestic Elderly Abuse (DV)	Sig. (2-tailed)
Physical Abuse	0.42**	0.001
Psychological Abuse	0.51***	<0.001
Neglect	0.47**	0.002
Financial Abuse	0.38*	0.017

**Note:** \*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.001

Physical Abuse has a moderate positive correlation with Domestic Elderly Abuse ( $r = 0.42$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ), indicating a significant relationship where physical abuse contributes to the prevalence of elderly abuse. Psychological Abuse demonstrates the strongest association, with a positive correlation ( $r = 0.51$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) indicating a substantial link between psychological abuse and domestic elderly abuse.

Neglect shows a moderate positive correlation with Domestic Elderly Abuse ( $r = 0.47$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ), suggesting that increased neglect is significantly associated with higher rates of abuse. Financial Abuse has a positive but weaker correlation with Domestic Elderly Abuse ( $r = 0.38$ ,  $p = 0.017$ ), showing a significant relationship where financial abuse contributes to the risk of elderly abuse.

## 4.3 Regression Analysis

**Table.3**

Independent Variables	Unstandardized Coefficients (B)	Standardized Coefficients (Beta)	T	Sig. (p-value)
Physical Abuse	0.32	0.28	4.15	0.001
Psychological Abuse	0.43	0.41	6.75	<0.001
Neglect	0.37	0.34	5.28	<0.001
Financial Abuse	0.29	0.25	3.89	0.002

R-squared = 0.63, Adjusted R-squared = 0.61, F-value = 45.67, p-value (model) < 0.001

The unstandardized coefficient ( $B = 0.32, p = 0.001$ ) indicates a significant positive relationship between Physical Abuse and Domestic Elderly Abuse, contributing 28% to the model ( $Beta = 0.28$ ). This suggests that physical abuse incidents increase the likelihood of elder abuse. Psychological Abuse ( $B = 0.43, Beta = 0.41, p < 0.001$ ) is the strongest predictor, with a substantial positive impact on Domestic Elderly Abuse. This variable alone contributes 41% to the variance, highlighting the

importance of psychological factors in elder abuse cases. With a coefficient of  $B = 0.37$  and  $Beta = 0.34$  ( $p < 0.001$ ), Neglect significantly affects Domestic Elderly Abuse, suggesting that neglect increases the risk of abuse by 34%. Financial Abuse ( $B = 0.29, Beta = 0.25, p = 0.002$ ) also shows a significant, positive effect on Domestic Elderly Abuse, indicating a notable impact on the model, though smaller compared to other variables.

#### 4.4 Mediator Analysis

**H2.** Integrational Relationship Quality mediates the relationship between Physical Abuse, Psychological Abuse, Neglect, Financial Abuse, and Domestic Early Abuse.

**Table.4**

Predictor Variable	Path Coefficient ( $\beta$ )	Standard Error (SE)	t-value	p-value	Indirect Effect (through IRQ)	Total Effect	Mediation Status
Physical Abuse	0.35	0.08	4.38	<0.001	0.18	0.53	Partial
Psychological Abuse	0.4	0.07	5.71	<0.001	0.2	0.6	Partial
Neglect	0.28	0.06	4.67	<0.001	0.14	0.42	Partial
Financial Abuse	0.33	0.07	4.71	<0.001	0.17	0.5	Partial

Physical Abuse has a significant positive effect ( $\beta = 0.35, p < 0.001$ ) on Domestic Elderly Abuse, with an indirect effect through Integrational Relationship Quality ( $\beta = 0.18$ ). Since the total effect (0.53) is higher than the indirect effect, this suggests partial mediation, meaning that while Integrational Relationship Quality partially explains the influence of physical abuse on elderly abuse, there is also a direct relationship. Psychological Abuse shows a similar significant direct effect ( $\beta = 0.40, p < 0.001$ ) and a strong indirect effect through IRQ ( $\beta = 0.20$ ), with a total effect of 0.60. This also indicates partial mediation, where Integrational Relationship Quality

influences the relationship between psychological abuse and elderly abuse. Neglect also has a significant effect ( $\beta = 0.28, p < 0.001$ ) on Domestic Elderly Abuse, with an indirect effect via IRQ ( $\beta = 0.14$ ). With a total effect of 0.42, the results support partial mediation, indicating that the integrational quality of relationships affects how neglect contributes to elderly abuse. Financial Abuse similarly demonstrates a significant relationship ( $\beta = 0.33, p < 0.001$ ), with an indirect effect of 0.17 and a total effect of 0.50. This suggests that while integrational relationship quality mediates the effect of financial abuse, a direct relationship remains.

## 4.5 Moderator Analysis

**H3.** Cultural Attitudes towards Aging moderates the relationship between the Integrational relationship Quality and Domestic Elderly Abuse.

**Table.5**

Predictor Variable	Path Coefficient ( $\beta$ )	Standard Error (SE)	t-value	p-value	Moderation Effect (IRQ x Cultural Attitude)	Interaction Status
Integrational Relationship Quality (IRQ)	-0.45	0.1	-4.5	<0.001	--	--
Cultural Attitude Towards Aging	-0.3	0.09	-3.33	0.001	--	--
IRQ x Cultural Attitude	-0.15	0.07	-2.14	0.033	Significant Interaction	Significant

Integrational Relationship Quality (IRQ) has a significant negative relationship with Domestic Elderly Abuse ( $\beta = -0.45, p < 0.001$ ), indicating that stronger intergenerational bonds are associated with lower abuse levels. Cultural Attitude toward Aging is also significantly associated with Domestic Elderly Abuse ( $\beta = -0.30, p = 0.001$ ), suggesting that more positive cultural attitudes toward aging correlate with reduced abuse risk. The Interaction Term (IRQ x Cultural Attitude) is significant ( $\beta = -0.15, p = 0.033$ ), meaning Cultural Attitude towards Aging significantly moderates the relationship between IRQ and Domestic Elderly Abuse. This suggests that as cultural attitudes toward aging become more positive, the protective effect of integrational relationship quality on elderly abuse strengthens.

## 5. DISCUSSION

This is especially the case concerning elderly abuse, which has become rampant in most societies; as a result, extensive investigations into the risk factors have been conducted. The purpose of this work was to evaluate the dangers of domestic elderly abuse via a sociocultural perspective on physical abuse, psychological abuse, neglect, and financial abuse. Besides, integration relationship quality as a mediating variable and cultural attitude towards aging as a moderating variable were tested. The results present how these variables interact and inform a better understanding of why interventions

should not focus on a single aspect. It was found that correlation and regression modeling supported the hypothesis asserting the positive relationship between physical abuse, psychological abuse, neglect financial abuse, and domestic elder abuse. The coefficient coefficient values obtained indicated that psychological abuse had the strongest relation to domestic elderly abuse, calculated as 0.51 and 0.001 respectively for neglect, 0.47 and 0.002 for neglect, 0.42 and 0.001 for physical, and 0.38, 0.017 for financial abuse. In a research study, it is stated opinions that different types of abuse as well as elder mistreatment have significant relationships (Acierno et al., 2009; Dong, 2015). The regression analysis described below explained the nature of these relationships in detail; psychological abuse was seen to have the highest correlation with the index event ( $B = 0.43, p < 0.001$ ) and was responsible for 41% of the variance in the model. The current study shares this opinion with another study in which it noted the negative effects of psychological factors on the results of elder abuse (Yon et al., 2017). Physical abuse and neglect also produced a significant positive impact  $p = 0.01$  on domestic elderly abuse adding up to 28% and 34% to the model. Financial abuse, although its role was large, was statistically less important and it accounted for 25%. The recognition of these relationships indicates that multi-dimensional approaches must be taken when responding to elder abuse, affirming that no one factor is independent of the other (Agaliotis et al.,

2023). The study also aimed at determining the moderating effect of integrational relationship quality (IRQ) on the link between abuse types and domestic elderly abuse. All the patterns of partial mediation were confirmed, and with psychological abuse, the total effect was equal to 0.60, whereas the indirect effect through IRQ was 0.20. Such findings validate the role of the family and intergenerational bonds in the prevention of the consequences of elder abuse (Jackson & Hafemeister, 2013). Findings that IRQ is a significant positive predictor of domestic elderly non-physical abuse correspond with existing knowledge that close-knit family relationships may shield against abuse (Rivas et al., 2019). This underlines the possibility of using family-focused approaches to improve the quality of couple relationships, which seems to be an important element of preventive efforts. It may be seen that encouraging the right sort of interaction and communication between the family members improves the chance of preventing such abuse. The second significant conclusion of this research was cultural attitudes toward aging as a moderator of the relationship between IRQ and domestic elderly abuse. Findings also pointed out that heightened cultural attitudes toward elders were linked to diminished levels of elder abuse in the study ( $\tau = -0.30$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ). The interaction term (IRQ x Cultural Attitude) was also significant, ( $\beta = -0.15$ ,  $p = 0.033$ ) which confirms the buffering effect of positive attitude towards culture; the above results are summed up in Table 3. Finally, this study's finding is useful amid rapidly growing globalization and shifts in culture. Stressed that elder abuse is facilitated in many societies by negative attitudes towards aging, which exists all around the globe (Shepherd & Brochu, 2021). On the other hand, raising people's perception of aging might not only improve the existing elderly people's health but also decrease situations of abuse. Thus, social initiatives to change attitudes and focus on the importance of older people can become the main condition for building a positive environment for this category of the population.

## 6. CONCLUSION

This study examines the risks of domestic elderly abuse using different indicators. The current study is quantitative and the data was gathered from various

regions of district Bhakkar, Punjab. This research concludes that life at or past 60 years is extremely hard and it requires ascent delicacy from family or caregivers. This study explores many factors that lead to elderly abuse in homes, the types being physical and psychological abuse, neglect, and financial abuse. In particular, the mediating role of the integrational relationship quality and the moderating impact of cultural attitudes toward aging indicate the viciousness of elder abuse and the relevance of the complex intervention approaches. Thus, further research extending the relationships detailed above should utilize comparatively inclusive cultural perspectives and more elaborated temporal approaches to explicate the dynamics of elder abuse. By advancing knowledge in this field, it may be possible to develop effective prevention and intervention strategies that significantly reduce the incidence of elder abuse, ensuring a safer and more respectful environment for older adults.

## 7. IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY

The implications of the assessment of the risk factors contributing to domestic elderly abuse toward policy, practice, and future research, emanating from this study, include Claus: Consequently, targeted policies consist of the need to legislate against certain types of abuse, for example, psychological abuse and neglect incorporating the same into professional training. Family bonding must be developed; different community initiatives that seek to enhance family responses might assist in preventing elder abuse. Furthermore, there is a need for massive and frequent public health campaigns to address unconstructive perceptions of the elderly and change community perceptions that disregard elders' dignity. The programs training caregivers and other professionals are that dealing with elder people should improve skills to indicate incidents of abuse and understand ways to manage the elderly. However, more research on sociocultural issues that are associated with elder abuse must be continued to inform culturally appropriate interventions. Primitive interventions to increase qualities in the integrational relationships can foster intergenerational understanding from a practical perspective, cross-disciplinary coalition and cooperation with healthcare and legal sectors and community organizations and services can design

and develop multi-faceted strategies to address the antecedent causes of elder abuse. In conclusion, the issue requires a diversified kind of intervention to build a protective and positive atmosphere around the elderly.

## 8. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- **Sample Size and Generalizability:** There is also one limitation in the scope of the study the number of participants was 150, which may not apply to the general population. More generalization of the sample might give a richer picture of the factors that promote elder abuse in people of different ages, genders, social statuses, geographical locations, and cultures.
- **Cross-Sectional Design:** The study used a cross-sectional research design, collecting data at a single time point. This design hampers the flow of examining causal relationships between the mentioned risk factors and domestic elderly abuse. More cohort studies should be conducted to assess changes in these patterns and their association with elder abuse.
- **Self-Reported Data:** The use of questionnaires can bring in bias since respondents may fuse their reports and exaggerate or minimize instances of elder abuse. Response bias as an inherent factor in questionnaires and other research tools can come out clearly through social desirability bias particularly where issues such as abuse and family relations are involved.
- **Cultural Context:** Although the research included the moderating impact of cultural attitudes toward aging, it can encompass insufficient information regarding cultural differences within the research sample. Implementing varied cultural values into aging as well as elder abuse may have a major impact and in future investigations, ethnicity that encompasses a greater array of distinctiveness should be incorporated to minimize prejudice.
- **Limited Focus on Intersectionality:** This thesis mostly limited the examination to the direct correlations of some subtypes of abuse with domestic elderly abuse while not paying much attention to how such factors as gender, SES, or ethnicity may also precipitate elder abuse. An intersectional analysis might therefore prove

useful when trying to understand further the issues related to elder abuse.

- **Potential Confounding Variables:** They may have omitted other extraneous factors that could affect the relationships between different types of abuse and domestic elderly abuse. Other variables like depression, anxiety, and other severe psychiatric disorders of the caregivers, and previous history of abuse in both subjects and caregivers must be looked into in coming research to ascertain the complete picture of the abuse of elderly individuals.
- **Focus on Four Abuse Types:** They detected and concentrated on physical mistreatment, psychological abuse, abandonment, and financial mistreatment but other types of elder abuse were not explored in this research. Its exclusion from the scale that is used to measure the extent of partner abuse could mean that knowledge of abuse, prevention of which could be beneficial for women, is limited.
- **Lack of In-depth Qualitative Data:** There is restrained possibility to reveal the factors of the experience of both victims and perpetrators of elder abuse in a framework of the quantitative approach. Quantitative research method could only indicate that elder abuse was prevalent, prevalent extensively, could say how often it was carried out and the characteristics of the abusers; qualitative research methods could explain why the elder abuse was carried out, in what circumstances, why the elder could not protect themselves and why the elderly had to endure such a process.

## 9. SUGGESTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

### 9.1 Governmental Level

- **Legislation and Enforcement:** Make special and severe laws against elder abuse including physical abuse, psychological abuse, financial abuse, and neglect. There is therefore need to establish a sound enforcement regime to enhance the protection of the rights of the elderly.
- **National Awareness Campaigns:** Conduct large-scale awareness creation programs aimed at altering perceptions of aging, within society to ensure that senior citizens

receive respect and love. It also means campaigns should challenge and transform cultural attitudes towards the elderly and aging.

- **Dedicated Funding for Elderly Support Services:** Allocate a decent amount of funds for elder support services, for issues on mental health, legal assistance, social services, caregivers, and education for them, that should spare no states between the urban and rural categories.

## 9.2 Institutional Level

- **Standardized Protocols for Elder Care:** Prescribe specific institutional procedures and policies in matters of abuse, independent of monetary interests, with direct offering of staff in-services for elder care facilities and health care workplaces for identification of as well as addressing abuse.
- **Interdisciplinary Care Models:** Integrate healthcare and social services and legal assistance to design and deliver the complex geriatric care necessary when supporting at-risk elderly persons.
- **Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation:** Implement standard checkpoints in health care institutions in order to conform protocols and practices with best practices at frequent intervals to a view of maintaining standard elder care and hence reducing elder abuse.

## 9.3 Family Level

- **Education on Elder Abuse and Caregiving:** Enlighten family members concerning the signs of abuse, aspects of elderly care psychologically, financially, and emotionally, and how to manage stress, and avoid caregiving burnout.
- **Strengthening Family Bonds through Intergenerational Programs:** Promote family and young person-related programs that foster positive attitudes towards each other, thus reducing an abusive disposition.
- **Respite Care Services for Family Caregivers:** Promote the availability of respite care services to meet the needs of the family caregivers to enable them to work and

attend to other family needs without necessarily compromising the quality of care for the elderly.

## 9.4 Individual Level

- **Empowerment and Advocacy Programs:** Encourage the provision of power training sessions for elderly people that help them open their stand for their rights and get confidence to report the abuse.
- **Social Engagement and Community Integration:** Ensure older people join groups often so that they take part in activities that can avoid loneliness, and add external pressures on anyone wanting to abuse elders.
- **Training in Self-Care and Well-Being:** Offer strategies to support the elderly and strengthen them as individuals in order to embrace acceptable standards of physical and mental health when society and or their families surround them.

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