

Chapter 7

A Study of Honor– Based Violence in the Republic of Iran

Madhulika Mishra

Institute of Legal Studies and Research, GLA University, Mathura, India

Tanishtha Anand

Amity University, Noida, India

ABSTRACT

Honor-based violence encompasses acts of violence and homicide perpetrated under the pretext of safeguarding the perceived honor or integrity of a family or community. Rooted in deep-seated cultural and traditional ideologies, this form of violence is particularly prevalent in select regions. The Republic of Iran stands out as one such nation where honor-based violence presents a significant challenge. In Iran, honor killings are predominantly driven by the notion that a woman's conduct or choices have tarnished the reputation or dignity (Matabangsa, 2011) of her family or community. These actions may include rejecting an arranged marriage, seeking divorce, or engaging in relationships outside of societal norms. Honor killings are viewed as a means to restore familial honor and preserve social cohesion (Chesler, 2010). It is important to note that honor killings are not exclusive to Iran or the Islamic world. They occur in various cultures and religions across the globe. However, the focus of this chapter is to examine the context of honor-based violence specifically in Iran.

The existence of honor-based violence in Iran is deeply intertwined with the nation's social, legal, and cultural fabric. One of the key factors contributing to the persistence of this practice is the legal system, which, in many cases, provides leniency to perpetrators of honor killings. The Iranian Penal Code allows for reduced

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sentences for those who commit honor-related crimes, under the justification of defending family honor (Goodarzi, 2012). This legal leniency not only perpetuates the cycle of violence but also sends a message that such acts are somewhat acceptable under the guise of cultural norms.

In addition to the legal framework, social attitudes and cultural beliefs play a critical role in the perpetuation of honor-based violence. In many communities within Iran, the concept of honor is inextricably linked to the behaviour and actions of women. Women's chastity (Kian, 1997), obedience, and adherence to traditional gender roles are often seen as reflections of the family's honor. Any deviation from these expectations, such as pursuing higher education, seeking employment, or choosing one's own partner, can be perceived as dishonourable and warrant severe repercussions.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS CHAPTER

1. This chapter aims to study the prevalence of Honor- based violence in Iran.
2. This chapter reviews instances of Honor killings in Iran.
3. This chapter aims to study various factors that may be contributing to the commonness of honor based violence in Iran.
4. This chapter analysis the existence of Human Rights in Iran along with the existing laws that govern the Republic of Iran.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The aim of this chapter is to develop a comprehensive understanding of honor killings. Information was gathered from a wide range of sources, including library records, newspapers, magazines, interviews, surveys, and online databases. A qualitative research approach was employed to meet the study's objectives, utilizing both primary and secondary sources. To minimize bias, key participant characteristics such as ethnicity, age, and gender were carefully considered during the research process.

The findings from the primary and secondary research confirm that honor killings constitute a violation of the fundamental right to life with dignity and represent a significant human rights issue on a global scale. The research indicates that honor killings are not confined to any specific region but are a widespread phenomenon with deep historical roots. This issue has often been underestimated at the national level and neglected by international bodies, including the United Nations.

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