



Gender issues regarding low income families in Multan: An analysis through Entity Relation diagram and its precedence representation by Hierarchy Chart.

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Abstract

The study is done to analyze the family gender issues in such families which are low income. Rigid cultural patterns have major effects on the lives of the women. Due to these cultural patterns women are considered inferior in families and society. So it is very clear that now due to such cultural patterns and customs women are stuck of in different type of gender issues. Women from low income family status have to face many restrictions and constraint during their life span. They are less empowered, not have decision making power in home. They are also to face the mobility issue due to security and due to her modesty even she has no right regarding her property, access in health facilities, fear of violence and not allowed to participate in the economic activities. All these issues and their relationship in this article is seen by using some common entities in these issues and there relevance along with this after understanding the relevance a hierarchy of these issues is developed by their dependence on each other

Keywords

Gender Issues, Low income, Analysis, ERD (Entity Relation Diagram), Hierarchy Chart

Introduction

Gender refers to the social roles and standing differences between male and female in society. Gender is defined as the social roles which assign to male female by the society and these roles define by the social, cultural and economic institutions of society (Anderson. 1988). Today women are playing very vital role in the economic progress and also working for reducing the poverty from the society. No doubt women are participating in economic activities but they are still less paid than the man. These wage gaps are due to some gender discriminated practices which are creating hurdle for the women empowerment. we can easily measure the women poverty ratio by different way like as they do not have the access to financial resources, or not have the independence to use of finance, right to possess the land or less chance in accessing of education and also not having importance in the family matter decisions. It became worse when female has to face the sexual exploitation due to their low socio economic status.

Poverty and low income

Poverty is a global issue and women and the children are more vulnerable due to poverty in the underdeveloped countries. Women are facing the different type of the discriminated practices due to the economic practices all across the world and especially in South Asia context. Low income means the people who earn low and they are living under the poverty line. There are many variables that we can use to measure the poverty, some of them are the education level of choices for professions and the social status and social class of the individual, group. In more to understanding of this phenomenon mean that low income people have to face many inequalities in acquiring of different type of resources in society.

Gender issues

As cultural construction of the male and female role called gender. So sometime these expected role of male and female create different type of disputes between the male and female and sometime male domination exists behind these disputes.

ERD (Entity Relation Diagram)

An ERD is a diagram which shows the explanatory representation which shows the integrity of different attributes of a statement. In which the main entities are inter-related with the sub entities or the entities attributed and create the relationship. It is good way to representation of entities and their relationship with each other through graphically. An entity has the basic of data which can be presumed as an object or its storage. ERD's had many aspects and types which defines the properties of ERD's with respect to their complexity.

ERD have a structure of a skeleton in which all the functions are joined together so that a sequence of relationships can be seen in a full functional manner. The types of synchronized relationship in an ERD are with a manner of one to one, one too many and many to many order. This order shows the complexity of the work with a certain manner and as well as a certain level compatibility. (Habib.B, Akhter.J. 2014)

Most prevailing gender issues in society concerned with females



Social

There are several issues of gender in society; those facing both gender but women are most vulnerable group of society. Socially they face several issues as like restrictions on their mobility. They not allowed moving from one place to another place due to unsafe public places and lack of security issues they not move. Another problem women face in society is lack of decision-making power. They have no capability to make decision according to their own will. Lack of decision-making power in women is due to stereotype and social taboos those attached with women. Due to these stereotypes women have no decision making power as well as they face mobility issues and issues those concerned to development sector. The reason is that, women consider as less capable to involve in development work due to these stereotypes. The role of women in family and society is also stereotypical. She performs her duties according to social patterns of society and those are male centered. There are different stereotypical and cultural settlement customs in feudal system in which women used as settlement commodity as like custom of vani, sawara. Women also used as dispute settlement as like badle salah. In feudal areas, most discriminatory acts those concerned with women are marriage with Quran as well as bride selling.

Family

Not only at social level women face issues but they also face problems at family level. At family level, women bear different discriminatory and painful behavior or abusive language, shouting. They also face different types of violence in family as like verbal (remarks or comments having insulting attitude, taunting and insulting behavior or language in front of other family members or relatives). Not only verbal violence they also face physical violence (i.e. beating, physical abuse, enforced relationships or intimate relations, injuries, slapping and killing) and psychological violence (mental torture, lack of trust) as well as sexual violence (marital rape, sexual abuse) . Not only they face this violence but also they bear non-cooperative behavior from male family members, lack of access to health care centre due to restrictions on their mobility. Women have no access to educational institutes because their male members not allow them to get education, and their basic rights also deprived by male members of family because they thought that freedom and awareness of women became challengeable for them therefore they forced to perform without their own will. If woman spoke out for her rights then their family boycott her or isolated from her and their behavior became non-cooperative.

Employment or economic activities

In private sphere women faces different types of gender-based violence but in public sphere women face also problems especially in employment due to social stereotypes as women have no capability to work in public world she only capable for private sphere and children nurturing. Therefore, at this base those women not capable she not gains high rank jobs, only male positioned at higher level. They have fewer chances of promotions due to male domination. In employment women face discriminatory behavior in hiring, training and wages, as female seats in employment are fewer as compared to males and they have fewer wages as compared to males. Women face sexual harassment in employment as well as at workplaces therefore mostly women not participate in economic activities due to fear of harassment.

Health

Women health issue is most common among third world countries because in these countries female is most vulnerable one. There are different reasons of her ill health, as they have no proper diet during their childhood to married life therefore in pregnancy women face different complexities in childbirth. At time of childbirth women not allowed to enter in hospital due to restrictions by male family members. In some situations, risk of child or mother mortality rate increases due to lack of medical facilities. These facilities in rural areas are fewer in number and people have no awareness about reproductive health of women, therefore women not take proper attention toward their health.

Education

Female education in third world countries especially in Pakistan is less in percentage as compared to male education. Female not get education due to cultural and stereotypical patterns of society those not permit women to get education. Not only cultural patterns but family also discriminate females in their education because males in family member not allow their women to go out from the private sphere. Therefore, women not get education properly because their family not interested in girls education but they prefer their male Childs to get their education. In education field women also face biasness because women have less opportunities to gain jobs in educating field as well as the patterns, textbooks are also male centered and discriminate women as well as bound women to private world.

Violence

Women face different types of violence and discrimination in different areas of life. As at domestic level women bear domestic violence which may be psychological, physical, verbal or sexual but in social or in public world she face different types of violence as sexual harassment as well as verbal abuse at workplace or public places, women trafficking for the sake of prostitution. As well as less chance in employment, unequal wages in economic activities. Women basic rights like reproductive rights violated in private as well as in public world.

Gender Discrimination practices in Pakistan

There is many gender discrimination practices in Pakistani society which are also contributing in increasing of poor economic status of women in the country, the best role which is defined by the customary practices in to stay at home and to work house chores and on the other hand men is earning sources for the families.



Women share in society

Analytically women are participating in economic development and struggling against poverty by turning their unequal wages as well as unpaid work in private sphere. Fighting and struggling against poverty is an important account, which can give a direction to women work. Since 1990, poverty from gender view point gained importance. Women handle dual burden of work (professional and household) for the sake of economic development and outcomes of their participation in economic field results in better economic condition of domestic life. In rural areas, women condition is much worse due to poverty as compared to urban women, because they are living in better way as compared to rural women. Pay gaps are results of different socio economic problems, which devalue the work of women in the labor market. Women poverty ratio usually measured by different kinds of variables and measurement scales. Different factors downgrade the status and role of women in society like mobility constraints employment and economic participation in public life. Women are less independent economically and they have minimum opportunities and access to different economic resources. Financial and economic exploitation of women is a challenge, which persistently torturing developed as well as developing countries of the world. Women have no land possession rights as well as inheritance rights due to different social patterns. Women have no socio political and economical decision-making authority. They have less access to basic opportunities, like educational and economical opportunities due to marginalized role in the society and family. Due to poverty women, face sexual discrimination and exploitation and their condition is plight due to that violence. (Mahmood, S. 2015)

Women status and economic condition is not same across the world. Many women living in poor economic conditions in different societies and communities, but there is no welfare system for such poor women. If such welfare system existed in these communities but not take care of poor women. They are neglected group of such communities and ignored by these welfare organizations. The fact is that women have greater risks of poverty as compared to men because they have no jobs in opposite to men. Job markets continuously introducing different paid works for women but due to dual burden sometimes women fail to come up this status and they have different problems and interruptions and leaves in their employment which finally end in their being disadvantaged. Females have different socio economic problems in the labor market due to exploiting economic policies and behaviors in poor and rich countries. Senior women become retired sooner than men because they have different problems in accession and re-accession in job markets. (The Beijing Platform for Action, 2000)

Gender issues at household level due to low income and poverty

The measurement of poverty in relation to household income is most prevalent method. Generally, participation of women in labor force is very low in male dominated societies. Because gender based division of labor, bounded women to household work also limits their approach to different material, social, political and economic resources. Due to domination of male in economic sphere then if females participate in economic progress then their work is less payable as compared to men. Women job work considered less valuable as compared to men job work due to low status in society. Almost all around the world's countries, combining payable and unpaid work of women is more than men work. Females earning on average mean 24 percent lesser than men earning do. Men work fewer hours as compared to women, because women do work more hours and they have lesser possibility of receiving pension. Women mostly involved in different household jobs due to different reasons (i.e. sexual exploitation, cultural barriers and social exclusion). Males not allowed their women to work in public life due to security problems; therefore, they work in household environment. The United Nation agency founded some sort of relationship exists between women income and the quality of work which she does as well as socio economic status of women society. Due to poverty, women have not skills to earn money therefore their earning is lesser than men earning do. There is difference between experts, skillful and in-experts and unskillful labor wages in the labor market by employers. In this way, women are most disadvantaged group of society, because they have less educational skills as compared to men, therefore they have less income in contrast to men income. So women have low wages therefore they have not capacity to run their household affairs independently. In labor market, women have fear of different sexual insecurities even they have senior professional positions, therefore in Pakistan male family members not allow their women to work in public sphere. In Asian countries, statistics from different studies shows that women have work is less paid and their earning is less as compared to men due to regional changes and cultural patterns as well as selected jobs occupations for females.

Problem Statement

Gender Issues are widely spread in our society. These different type of gender issues are effecting women differently. So, due to these female are facing many discrimination not only in society also in family. Different gender issues like workplace harassment, unequal share in the inheritance, no access in health facilities are most common and more important in the area of South Punjab, Pakistan. So the main purpose of this research paper is to highlight the different type of gender issues which are widely spread in our society and how they are hurdle in the empowerment of women.

Methodology

Qualitative and quantitative methodologies were used by the researcher to conduct the research about the examined the gender issues within the low income families of the Multan. Rigid cultural patterns were focused by the researcher which caused of gender issues in low income families and also hurdles in the socio economic empowerment of the women.

Universe / Population

Universe of the current study was families of different areas of Multan and target population was the such families of Multan which have income level below the Rs. 20,000/-.



Sample Size

Sample size of current study was 150 families having the income level below the Rs. 20,000/- selected by researcher.

Sampling technique

Random sampling technique used by the researcher to select the different families from the different areas of Multan. The main purpose of the sampling is to selecting of some elements from the population through which research can draw a good conclusion about the whole population. A selected sample unit is a single participant from which the measurement is taken. Here we can define that population is the collaboration of all elements about which we make conclusion about any topic.

Pre-testing

To check the validity of questionnaire was checked by the pre-testing. 10 different respondent from different families pre-tested and after this pre-tested the issues in irrelevant questions are rewrite and some were excluded.

Tool for Data collection

For data collection of the present study researcher constructed a semi structured interview schedule. Keeping in view the issue of uneducated population researcher adopted the interview. The arrangement of question in questionnaire was the schedule with a logical sequence, first section about the introduction, family, background for creating the friendly environment and then questions were asked about their families and families life and then come to main concerning area in which questions asked about the issues which related to gender.

Contents of the Questionnaire

Drafting and selecting and writing of questions starts when the researcher prepared a complete and comprehensive list of questions to investigate the phenomenon and decided what the process to be used for collection of information so the questionnaire was divided into three main sections, and four sub-sections:

Section One

This section consist the background and demographic information about the respondent. In which age, area, family type and income level of respondent included.

Section Two

This section included measurement scale for different issues which caused gender problems. In this section research tried to find the main basic causes that creates the gender issues which the family patterns and why sex create the inferior status of women in the four wall of the home.

Section Three

This section included measurement scale for gender issues which related to the community. How community or the public make hindrance in the life of the females if some women tried to participate in social and public life.

Section four

This section included measurement scale for gender issues which caused of the violence within the family and society. In this part of questionnaire respondent tried to explore the point which justified that violence is the best solution to got over the independence of female.

Section five

This section included measurement of scale for gender issues related the health problem and social patterns which do not allow a female to access of the health facilities.

Section Six

This section included the information regarding the issue which creates due to economic dependency and also due to the participation in economic activities.

Data Analysis

The data has through the detail interpretation of the views got from the respondent and then in detail interpretation.

Explanation

In this article a wide combination of techniques showing the relations of entities are describe in below. These techniques are computational and shows the interconnectivity of themes which are explain in this article. Here through the ERD different gender issues are showing there direct and indirect relations with other gender issues which are prevailing in our society. As we know that women's are facing many issues at family, employment, health level and due to these she is still

have hidden role in the society. She is facing the issue like discrimination, restricted customary practices, and different stereotypes roles. So here in below different categories are define through their sub categories with ERD diagram.

Women position in family and society

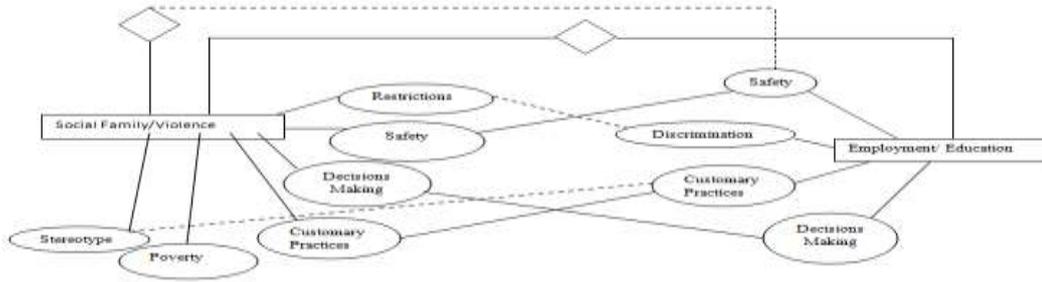


Fig 1. Relationship ERD between social family/violence and employment/Education

To keep silence the voices of women against current social structure males use mechanism of violence in family and society in Pakistan especially in South Punjab. Such patterns of violence are violation of universal human rights as well our constitution of 1973, which assure both male and female have equal right to live, liberty to do any act and having equal honor, dignity, pride and physical safety. Their right to freedom restricted by different thoughts of safety, protection and honor. Distribution of power resources between men and women relations is unequal and that causes different types of violence those historically existed in different societies and cultures. Gender relations are socially constructed and social construction is male dominated therefore that gave authority to male over female, this authority and domination in gender relations resulted in gender discrimination.

In South Asia especially in Pakistan, the nature of violence against women has various kinds like as sexual abuse, slapping, beating, psychological and physical torture, injuries, female infanticide and female genital mutilation, honor killing, rape, women selling and trafficking, karo kari, marriage with Quran, qasas, murder etc. one most important violence to compel women for illicit sexual activities. Lack of awareness and knowledge to women it is difficult to make judgment about violence against women. Many cases of different types of violence never reported due to strict cultural patterns and keeping in mind family dignity, for sake of children as well as fear of family’s controversies. It studied that, women face various kinds of violence by their partners and family members. Because women not independent economically and their families not support them for any legal activity for their own protection and safety, in contrast if any women took legal step her family boycott her because they think that it’s shameful for them as their women took legal step for any violence. Therefore, women not take legal steps because family honor attached to women dignity and if she carried, any case then society blamed her that she is not good woman and that affect her family dignity. Because males too conscious about their family honor, if they lose that honor then they put to death. Due to elder sister legal action against any violence then her other younger sisters marriage proposals became difficult. Violence against women is major problem which caused by strict cultural patterns and stereotypes and that started from early childhood. In childhood, girl’s child restricted to play other gender games and that thing restraint her mental capabilities. These rigid patterns and norms create barriers for educated females in development sectors because they not effectively participate due to these practices. Through social, political and economic reformation in society, participation of women can be beneficial in development sector. Through reforms, educated women also became source of inspiration for other women. To regenerate gender equality in society, family is the first and foremost unit, which play important role to breakdown gender unequal structures in society.

Family and dependent

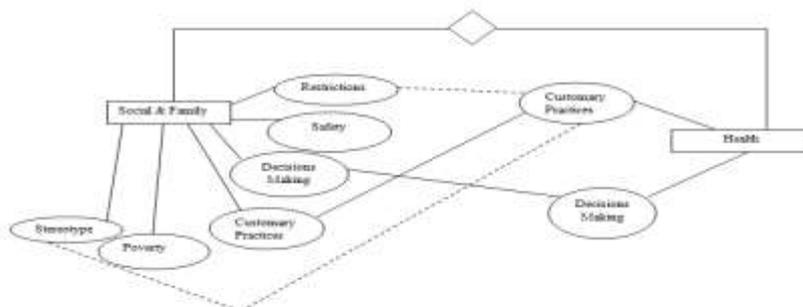


Fig 2. Relationship ERD between social family/violence and Health

Gender differences are creation of male dominated society and dominance of male in the family life and these differences creates complications and complexities between male and female relations. Dominance of male is due to social practices and cultural patterns, these social patterns affect both men, and women lives through different customs, traditions and norms. Our social patterns and norms disallow women economic independency within the family and social structures and such patterns bounded women to depend on family. Women have not easy access to health care centers, proper nutrition

resources and education attaining as well as women have lack of social, economic and political resources. Sometimes these lacks creates mental depression and psychological illness in women, which is risky for the quality of life as well as this also, cause barrier to economic growth of women as well as society. It is obvious that women are agent of change because they are first source of socialization of a child in role of mother and they can give a new estate to coming generation and a source of well-being for hereafter generation. Impacts of male dominated culture results in inequalities and imbalances in family relations and these imbalances create gender biases or discrimination between men and women. Due to male domination gender biases affects institutional as well as non-institutional cultural practices, patterns and norms. Such discriminatory inequality patterns do not allow women access to economic resources and therefore women dependent to her family for her economic needs.

Relationship

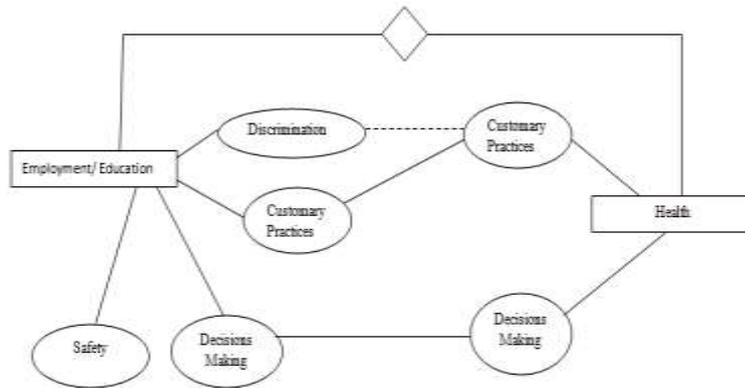


Fig 3. Relationship ERD between Employment and Health

Women those involve in different economic activities and work in public sphere have dual burden of work. They not only do professional work but they also have duty to manage household activities. That dual burden disturbs her mental as well as reproductive health. Psychological illness disturbs her physical strength and some time that disturbance results into high mortality rates and especially during pregnancy, her survival became quite difficult. In South Punjab, women have less access to different economic resources. Because their male family members conscious about their family honor and they associate that honor and dignity to their females, therefore they not allow their females to work in public sphere, because they not bear that their family honor work in public sphere even they have minimal resources for survival.

Culture

Patriarchal culture and patriarchy is dominant in Pakistan. Both male and female have different social worlds in Pakistan. These social worlds based on the productive and reproductive roles. The public and outer sphere dominated by male and female limited to private sphere and that sphere considered as suitable and protected place for women due to rigid cultural patterns, which not allow women to work in outer world. Males also dominate in private sphere because they dominate over women economically and they dictate allocation of resources. However, in comparison women work considered as less productive. Her efforts taken for granted and considered as duty of women to serve whole family. Only women have duty to socialize and nurture her children due to cultural norms those gave low status to women. In Pakistan, males considered as breadwinner therefore parents gave their male children's better education, better economic opportunities and gave them training for better economic resources. However, very few women not get basic education and women considered as domestic, they only limited to household activities, and they trained by their family how to become a good mother and faithful wife. They also trained how to serve family and sacrifice for family especially for males therefore women not active in public world. In Asian countries including Pakistan, women socialize by their family to compromise their personal needs and interests in front of family interests. In feudal areas girls not allowed to get better education even if they want to get it. Therefore, very few women got education also very less number of women work in public sector but workers have double duties of household and professional works. The purpose of the research is to study different cultural rigid patterns those gave superior status to men and giving inferior status to women.

Health

Women have less access to health care facilities due to lower socio economic status in the society. Females may have experience differential access to health care units and food resources from childhood. When females considered as submissive then their general health including reproductive health affected at all levels of life. There are different reasons of women health issues. First, there is lack of basic health care centers in rural areas therefore women faces problems due to rigid cultural patterns those not allowed women to travel lonely. They have mobility problems due to dependency on males in patriarchal culture. Therefore, they have not easy access to health care units in case of any disease due to dependency on males because their males no allowed them to go alone for medical checkup. Insufficient food supply is another reason of women ill health because in Pakistani culture male is breadwinner therefore to generate maximum income its necessary to provide good food to men not to women because she not earns money. In this way, that inequality disturbs her physical as well as mental growth. Mostly in rural areas women faces different reproductive health problems due to early marriages because they have less control on sexuality. Another problem is lack of awareness, as mostly

women are not educated and unaware about healthy life style therefore they face health problems. In rural areas less number of trained people, therefore women not cured properly. For better treatment, they face mobility problem due to dependency on males as well as transport problems. Deprived and underprivileged health conditions are results of discriminatory behaviors in providing health care facilities as well as ignoring half population health problems.

Inter and intra Relationship of Entities and sub-entities regarding gender issues through hierarchy chart

A entity relation hierarchy chart describes the common factors between the theme. Their diagrammatical representation is connected by a connector and the relationship of entities and sub entities is shown through dotted lines among the different gender issues which are prevailing in our society. We took the such gender issues which are most common and mostly interlink with each other and mostly effect the women's lives at different spheres of life. (Habib.B, Akhter.J. 2014)

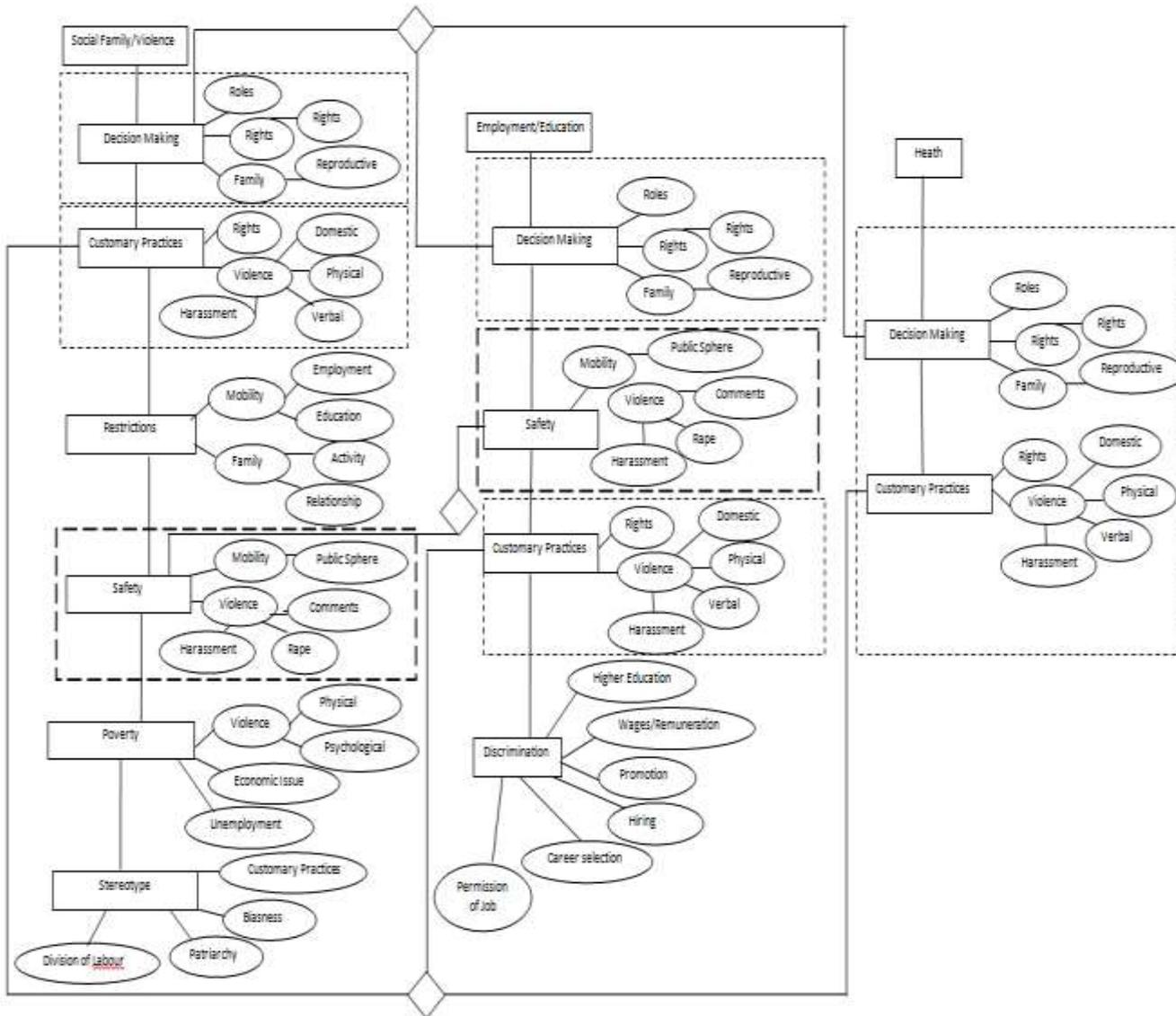


Fig 4. Relationship of Entities and sub-entities regarding gender issues through hierarchy chart

Conclusion

Women poverty is increasing day by day at world level. In developed and developing countries women economic discrimination creating harmful impacts. Due to less economic growth, women participation in almost all sectors is minor. Women are at high risk in poorer communities due to poverty and lower status and socio economic restrictions. Due to social norms, insufficient information, practice and training women are restricted to earn money. Gender based discrimination and social biases not only barriers for women development but also bringing economy down. Females those are illiterate and unprofessional mostly they work as unpaid family members have low status in society as well as women those are professional also face discrimination. Household inequalities existed in food distribution and resource distribution among male and female family members. Those women who suffer different chronic diseases are at higher risk as compared to healthy women. Women not allowed to various kinds of facilities and they have no authority and access to administrative and productive resources due to rigid cultural patterns. In rural areas, women have not their own lands and if they have any property then their male family members have authority to manage that property. In urban



areas due to changing patterns women also involving in different occupations but they works as laborer not authoritative persons. Women those are entrepreneurs also less progressive and exploited due to interposer activities. Less educational opportunities, less access to health care facilities and less access to different other economic resources creating rigid male dominated society. All over the world, women have less access to resources as well as they are marginalized group of society but in developing countries including Pakistan, women have very less representation in economy. Discrimination against women started from their early life because they have less access to education and health care units. In Pakistan, especially southern Punjab women have less education due to less number of educational institutes as well as strict cultural patterns. Those females who are highly educated not participate in professional fields due to their rigid family thought as well as their life partners not allowed them to work outside. Women have less economic access and employment opportunities due to rigid cultural thoughts.

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