

An Empirical Study Of Domestic Violence In Central Asia With Special Reference To Uzbekistan

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Abstract:

Though the Constitution of Uzbekistan guarantees equality for all its citizen irrespective of sex, right to life, liberty and security; particularly protection of honor and dignity along with protection of right and freedom, this research delves to explore the issue of domestic violence in Uzbekistan. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were employed in this research to explore the depth and breadth of domestic violence against women in Uzbekistan. It is reported that married women in Uzbekistan do face domestic violence and most of the domestic violence cases are not reported to the Police as respondents opined that reporting such issues to the police is a matter of last resort. Uzbekistan do not have a robust legal enforcement mechanism to approach directly by the victim of domestic violence. It is further reported that absence of economic independence of the women followed by alcohol and drug abuse; and extra-marital affair contributes to the major causes of domestic violence in Uzbekistan. There is a lack of awareness among the masses of the constitutional and legal provisions; particularly criminal provisions to curb the menace of domestic violence in Uzbekistan and a dedicated legislation is required in Uzbekistan to curb the menace of domestic violence.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Uzbekistan, Empirical, Crime, Women's Right.

Introduction

The Constitution of Uzbekistan both in letter and spirit guarantees equality to all its citizen and the Family Code, 1998 takes special measure to protect the rights and interest of the institution named 'family' in Uzbekistan by chalking out distinctive responsibilities in marriages and family. The Criminal Law of Uzbekistan though does not have a dedicated provision on domestic violence but indirectly addresses the issue by terming it as bodily harm, injury and so on. The 2019 specific legislation on the 'Protection of Women from Oppression and Violence' defined physical, psychological,

economic, and sexual violence, and introduced protective orders for rights of victims of violence to contact rehabilitation centres, helplines, and law enforcement agencies and guarantees confidentiality for victims of domestic violence. The Government of Uzbekistan is further considering drafting a new family code to particularly address the issue of domestic violence in Uzbekistan society. In the backdrop of the national legislations and executive measures, there is a dearth of empirical research on the extent of domestic violence in Uzbekistan. No empirical statistical data were found in the scholarly academic public domain pertaining to this issue and this study fills in this research gap by addressing this issue. Its utility for policy implication, civil society and academia highlights perspective and insights on the issue of domestic violence in Uzbekistan.

Materials and Methods

A sample size of 428 respondents is considered for 95% confidence interval as the population of Uzbekistan is 35,955,400¹ through purposive random sampling based on convenience. Both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies were employed to explore the depth and breadth of domestic violence against women in Uzbekistan. Structured questionnaire along with focused group discussion, in-depth interview and participant observation were conducted in qualitative component. The profile of the sample is depicted through the below listed tables-

Age		
	N	%
18-28	54	12.6%
28-38	160	37.4%
38-48	134	31.3%
48-58	62	14.5%
Above 58	18	4.2%

Table 1: Age-group distribution of the respondents

Education		
	N	%
Undergraduate	137	32.0%
Graduate	174	40.7%
Postgraduate	97	22.7%
Doctorate or above	20	4.7%

Table 2: Education wise distribution of the respondents

Occupation		
	N	%

Unemployed	77	18.0%
Self Employed	157	36.7%
Government Service	135	31.5%
Private Service	59	13.8%

Table 3: Occupation wise distribution of the respondents

Residence		
	N	%
Rural	156	36.4%
Urban	272	63.6%

Table 4: Residence wise distribution of the respondents

Family Type		
	N	%
Living with Husband only	79	18.5%
Living with Husband and Children only	141	32.9%
Living with Husband Children Parents only	134	31.3%
Living alone	74	17.3%

Table 5: Family type wise distribution of the respondents

Marital Status		
	N	%
Unmarried	59	13.8%
Engaged	38	8.9%
Married	273	63.8%
Widowed	19	4.4%
Divorced	39	9.1%

Table 6: Marital Status wise distribution of the respondents

Details of Children		
	N	%
One Children	80	18.7%
Two Children	174	40.7%
Three Children	47	11.0%
More than Three Children	16	3.7%

None	111	25.9%
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Table 7: Children wise distribution of the respondents**Findings and Discussions**

The analysis reveals that 32.24% of the respondents were even unaware of the concept called domestic violence and merely 20.09% of the respondents opined that they were aware of the concept called domestic violence, and others opined that they were partly aware of this concept.

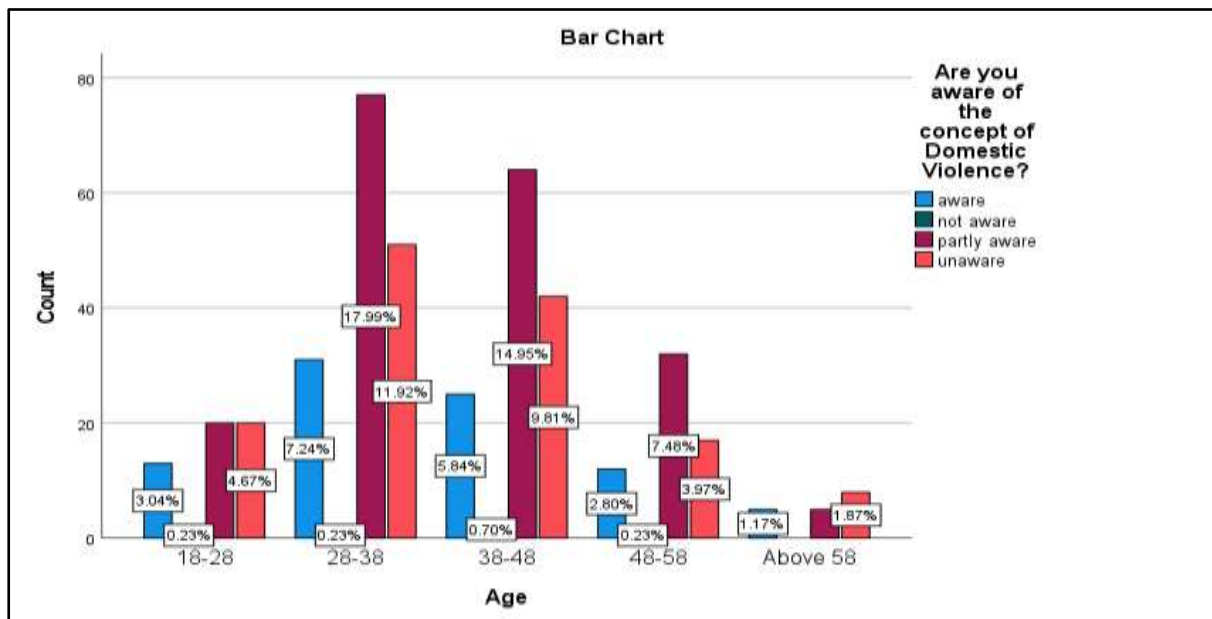


Chart 1: Cross Tabulation of respondents age-wise with the awareness of the concept of Domestic Violence.

The analysis also reveals that 71.03% of the respondents were not aware of the dedicated criminal law provision available against domestic violence in Uzbekistan and merely 28.97% of the respondents were aware of the dedicated criminal law provision available against domestic violence in Uzbekistan.

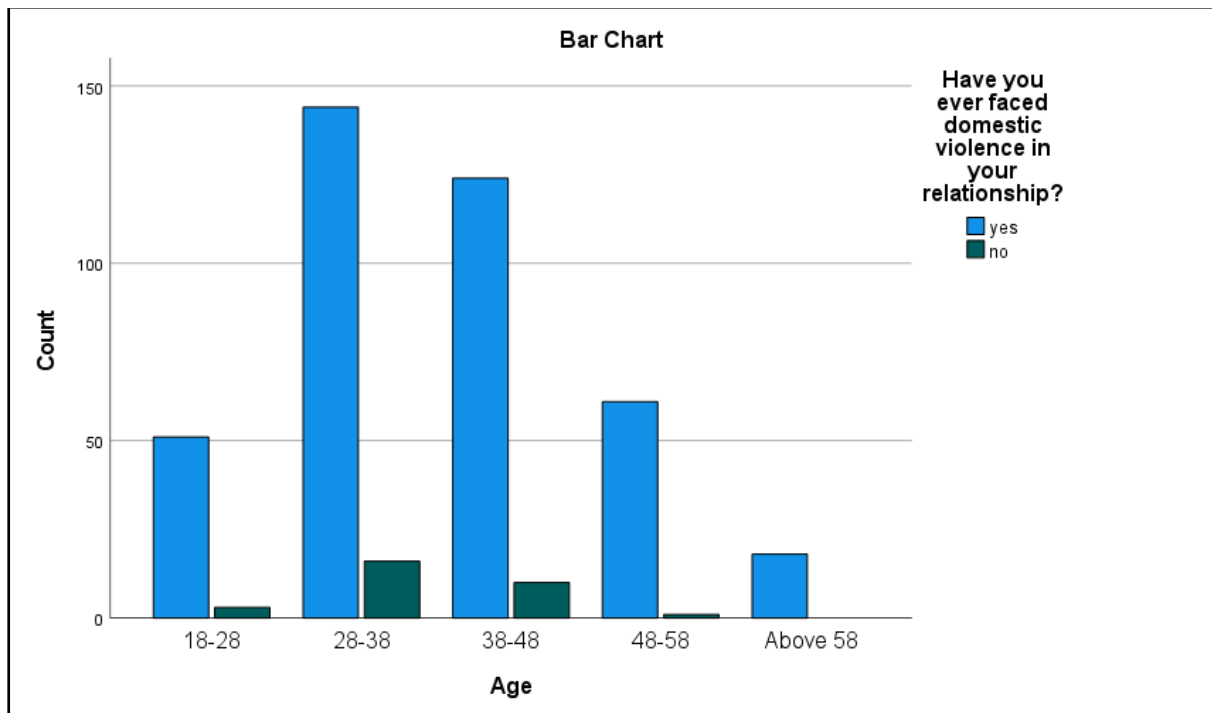


Chart 2: Cross Tabulation of respondents age-wise with facing of domestic violence in relationship.

Whereas 92.99% of the respondents opined that they faced domestic violence in any form in their relationship whereas merely 7.01% of the respondents opined that they did not face any domestic violence in their relationship. It is further concerning that 93.09% of the respondents knew anyone in their family or friend who has faced recurrent instances of domestic violence. 34.35% of the respondents opined that they faced physical form of domestic violence, 14.72% of the respondents opined that they faced psychological forms of domestic violence, 16.82% of the respondents opined that they faced economic forms of domestic violence, and it is concerning to note that 34.11% of the respondents opined that they faced all these forms of domestic violence.

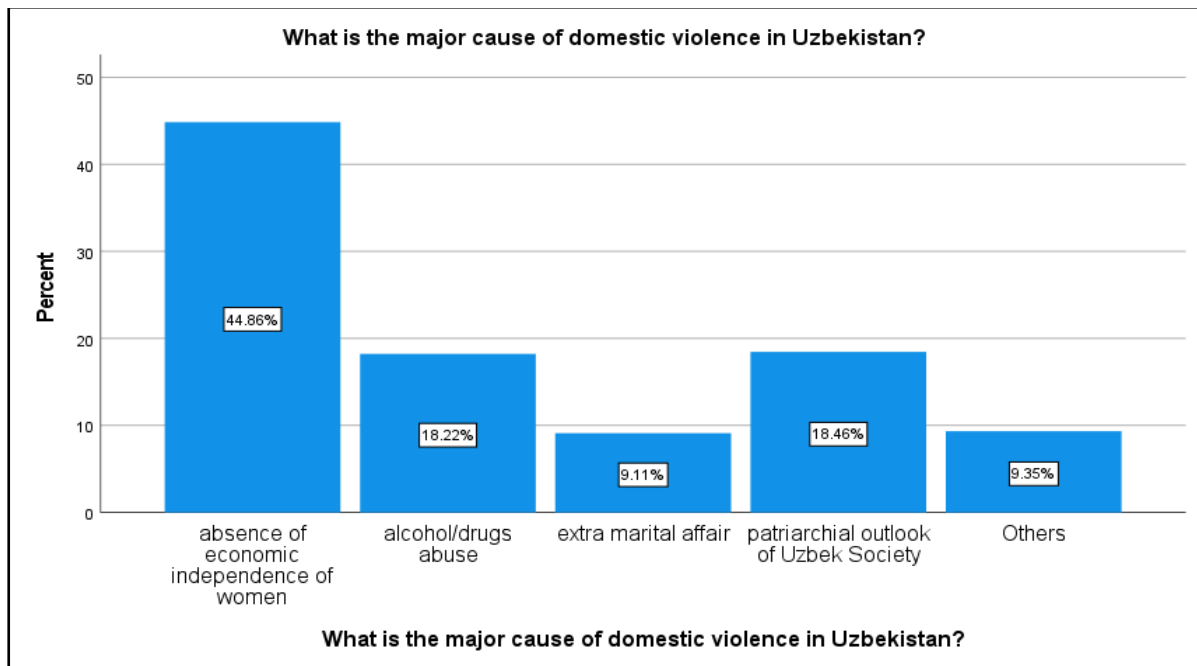


Chart 3: Major Causes of Domestic Violence in Uzbekistan

The analysis further reveals that 35.75% of the respondents did not approach the legal enforcement mechanism to protect their right against domestic violence and it depicts the attitude of the society and the trust in the legal enforcement mechanism which could uphold the rights of the women against domestic violence in Uzbekistan. 77.33% of the respondents opined that sufficient provisions are not available against domestic violence in Uzbekistan and 81.31% of the respondents opined that a dedicated legislation is required to protect against domestic violence in Uzbekistan. The analysis also reveals that 85.98% of the respondents did not receive any help from Police, Court or Women Organization in cases of domestic violence and merely 14.02% of the respondents opined that they got help from police and other civil society organization.

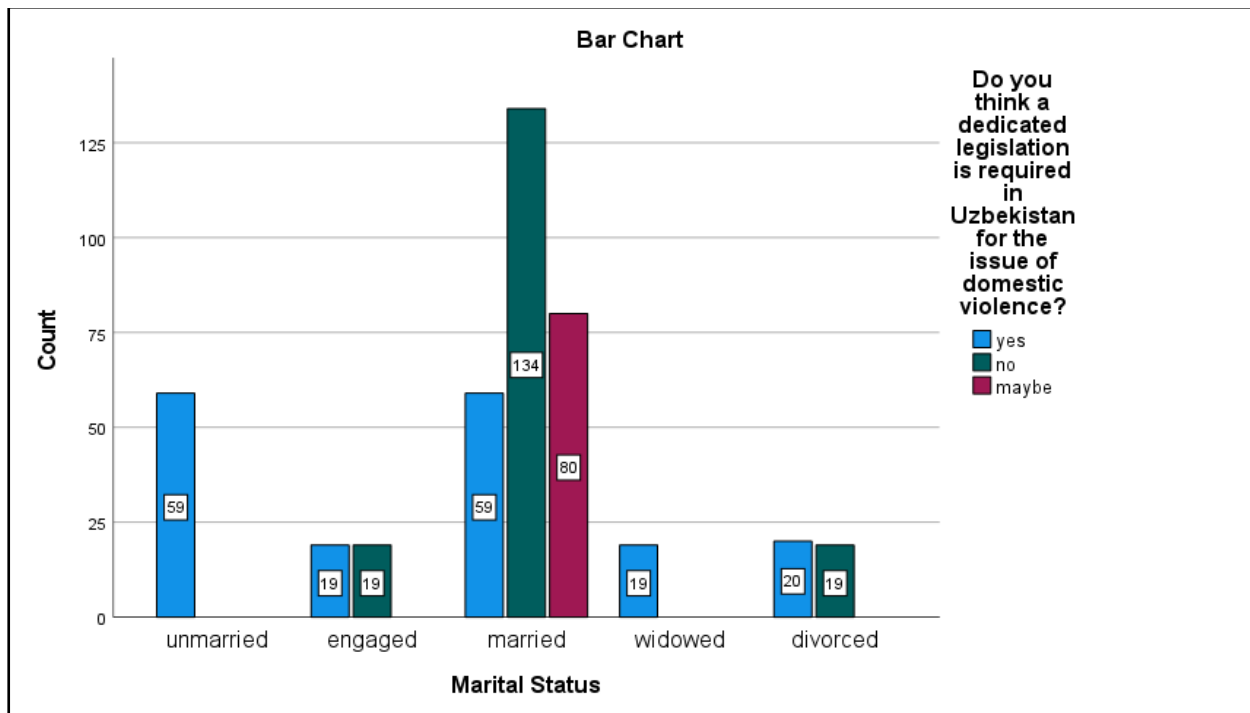


Chart 4: Cross Tabulation of Marital Status with requirement of a dedicated legislation against Domestic Violence.

The analysis of the chart reveals that even unmarried women, women in relationship along with widowed and divorced women do face domestic violence in their relationship in one form or the other, thus a holistic step is to be enacted which addresses the issue of domestic violence in a family which extends to beyond the scope of the institution of marriage.

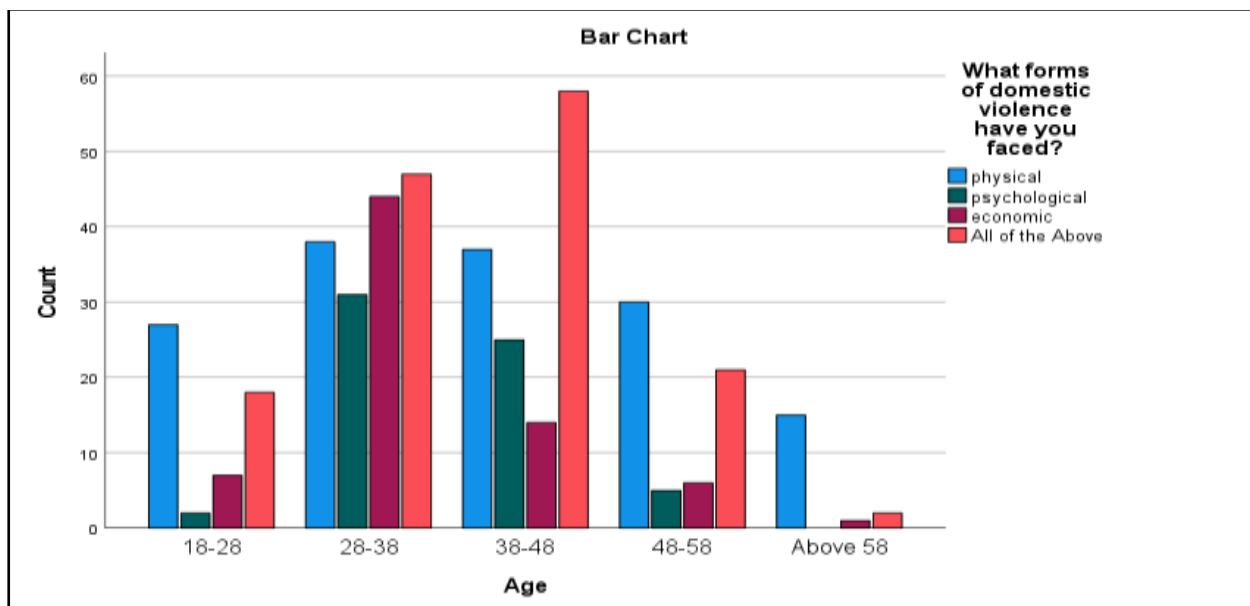


Chart 5: Cross Tabulation of age-group with forms of domestic violence faced.

The analysis of the chart reveals that women in the age-group of 28-38 face mostly physical violence and women in the age-group of 38-48 face all forms of domestic violence including physical, psychological and economic.

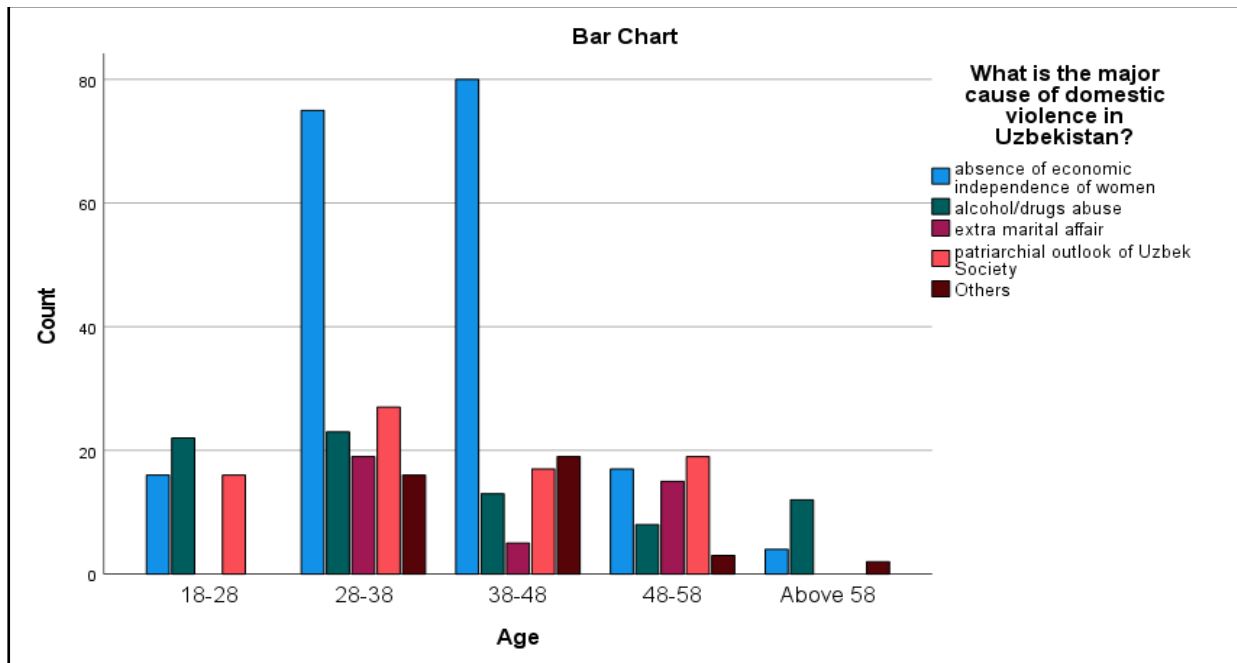


Chart 6: Cross Tabulation of age group with major causes of domestic violence in Uzbekistan

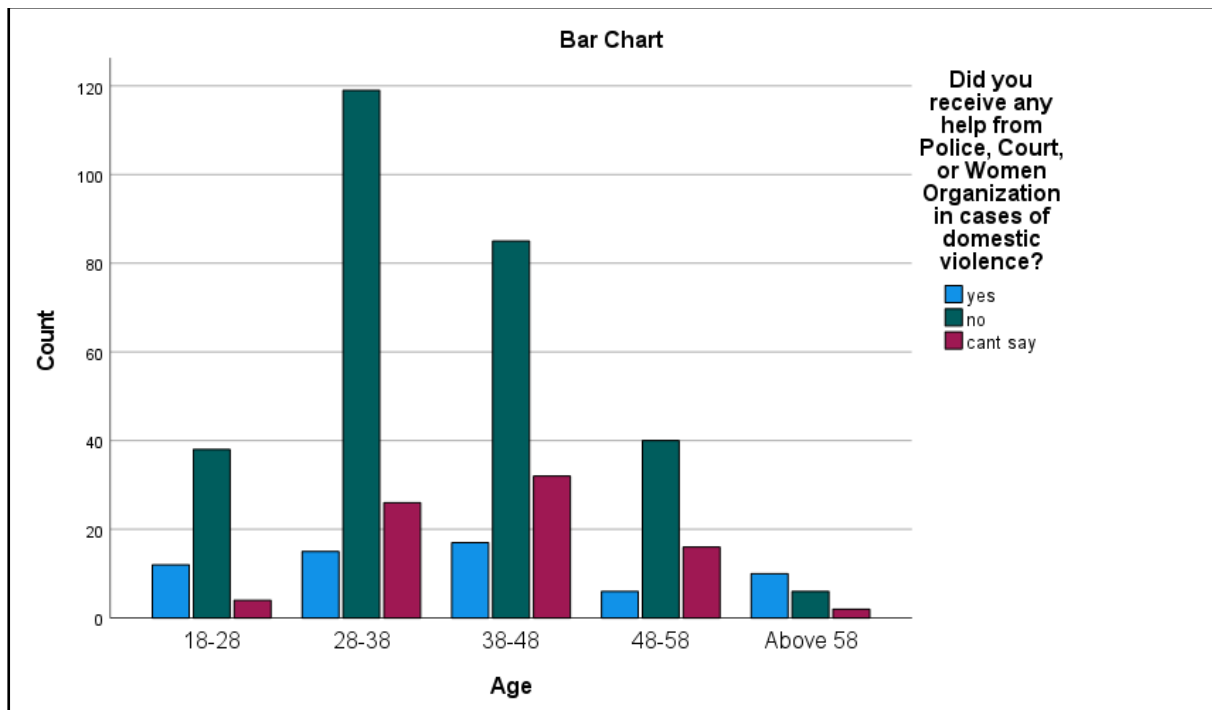


Chart 7: Cross Tabulation of age group with aid received from Police, Court and other civil organization.

Suggestions, Recommendations and Conclusion

As women in Uzbekistan face domestic violence both within and outside the institution of marriage, the definition of victim needs to be widened to encompass any women facing any forms of violence in a family. In all the age group the women in Uzbekistan face domestic violence; particularly in the age-group of 28-38 and 38-48, the awareness and demand for upholding right against domestic violence is also rampant in this age-group. It is also analysed that as majority of the cases are not reported to the Police due to unavailability of a robust legal enforcement mechanism it is recommended to direct specific steps towards it and establishment of women cell in the police station. It is also recommended to take effective and efficient measures for financial independence of the women in Uzbekistan. The awareness in terms of constitutional provision, criminal provision and Family Code against domestic violence needs to be given widespread publicity and enactment of a dedicated legislation to curb the menace of domestic violence is the need of the hour.

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