

Abstract

The Present study aimed to investigate the relationship between partner violence, psychological distress and body image perception in female sex workers. Sample of the study consisted of ($N=60$) female sex worker with the age range of 18-40 years. Data was collected from different areas of east and central Lahore. Severity of violence against women scale 46 items Marshall, (1997), Kessler psychological distress scale (Kessler, 2002) 10 items and body esteem scale Revised (Franzoi & Shield, 2013) were used to measure study variables. Statistical data was analyzed by using SPSS. Statistical analysis included correlation, regression analysis, t test and one way Anova. Significant relationship was found between partner violence and psychological distress whereas partner violence was the significant predictor of psychological distress. 56 female sex workers out of 60 female sex workers from the data were clinically distressed. Body image perception was significantly positively high in female sex worker whereas body image perception was not significantly correlated with partner violence. There was significant negative relationship between body image perception and psychological distress. Income of sex workers was significantly positively correlated with psychological distress. Age and duration of the profession significantly related with violence and psychological distress. Findings suggest a need to address the issues attached to sex work and the forms of violence they face from their intimate partners.

Key words; female sex worker, partner violence, body image perception,