

## **Misogyny, the Conspiracy to Rift the Genders**

Asghar Ali Mahar<sup>1</sup> Muhammad Sajid Khan<sup>2</sup> Muhammad Ajmal<sup>3</sup> Syed Imtiaz Ali Rashidi<sup>4</sup>

### **Abstract**

*This paper embarks on an exploration of misogyny, disrupting the prevailing narrative that attributes it solely to malevolence entrenched in religious bias, illiteracy, or patriarchal frameworks. This inquiry unfolds as a profound journey to unravel the intricate causes behind why certain men nurture animosity towards women, a gender inherently intertwined with their existence. Departing from the commonplace notion that misogyny is a product of preconceived prejudice, the hypothesis posits alternative roots, such as revenge, deprivation, or frustration. The literature review traverses historical and contemporary perspectives, exposing the pervasive link between misogyny and violence, delinquency, and unsafe behaviors. This paper distinguishes misogyny from sexism, illuminating its far-reaching implications on women's health and societal dynamics. Contrary to traditional perspectives, the study contends that misogyny transcends exclusive ties to religious doctrines, identifying it as a psychological issue with multifaceted origins. Employing a deductive approach, the research employs surveys, interviews, and case studies, encompassing diverse demographics to unravel the complexities surrounding misogyny. Findings challenge preconceived notions, asserting that social behavior, power dynamics, and authority distribution are pivotal in fostering misogyny. The results underscore the imperative to reevaluate the roots of misogyny and advocate for a nuanced understanding beyond religious or educational scapegoats, this research strives to contribute to a more comprehensive discourse on gender relations and lay the groundwork for effective interventions against misogyny.*

**Key Words:** Misogyny, Gender Relations, Social Behavior, Power Dynamics, Psychological Origins, Societal Interventions

### **Introduction**

Women have always been the center of thought, the primary consideration, and the most exciting desire for men. However, men have been made to look like monsters to women under the guise of misogyny; 80% of the literature undertaken for this study demonstrates it. Can a writer be such a pessimist? It is a misconception that only men can be misogynistic. In fact, if a man as a father could be misogynistic, then a woman as a mother-in-law could be in some cases

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<sup>1</sup> Civil Judge Judicial Magistrate, Research Officer, Legal Research Cell (LRC), High Court of Sindh Karachi Pakistan, 03003153758, [Asghara78@gmail.com](mailto:Asghara78@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> Senior Civil Judge (family Division) Narowal, Punjab Pakistan.

<sup>3</sup> 1st Civil Judge Sadiq Abad Punjab Pakistan.

<sup>4</sup> Advocate/Former Civil Judge, High Court, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan

too. It is a terminological conspiracy to cause a rift between the genders. Misogyny has nothing to do with religion, theology, patriarchy, or not being educated. Instead, it can be a psychological problem with a person who is influenced by customs. Otherwise, both sexes possess an instinctively divine bond and unconditional love for each other. This is inductive research that focuses on the question of whether or not hating women is a social tendency based on customs and practice rather than discrimination based on gender.

### **Misinterpretation and misuse of the term "misogyny"**

It was more shocking than the media-hyped news that a father pierced a newborn baby girl aged 7 days with five bullets in order to have his first child, a boy<sup>5</sup>, heard that Edhi (the social welfare organization) discovered 375 bodies of infants, including newborn girls, who had been exterminated due to misogyny.<sup>6</sup> It is necessary to probe into the issue of misogyny.

Misogyny seems to be a word that self-creates the difference between the natural duo. It is true that men and women are created for each other, but servitude for both may be difficult without the other. However, some extremely sensitive organizations have created a schism by introducing words like misogyny. Women have always been the victims of a society dominated by men, but they have also been the most loved, needed, and important statues, like queens, saints, and payamber. The word "misogyny" is very deceptive because it makes it sound like women have always been seen as unwanted in society. If we ponder on it, most of the time it has been shown to be relevant to religion. Even though the opposite is true, no religion is safe from being accused of being unfair.

The self-created word "misogyny" is actually a conspiracy against both genders. Both are instinctively attracted to each other and naturally need and crave company. Otherwise, or in the absence of either, the subject can lose its balance of life and mental peace. As with Elit Roger, he has been held up as an example of a very bad case of sexism toward women. While his video demonstrates the adverse fact, he craves the company of girls to be loved and have a girlfriend. But when he was ignored, which he felt very bad about, it made him even more depressed, which led to revenge, not hate.<sup>7</sup>

About 80 percent of the literature that has been reviewed has promoted misogyny as the reason for the difference between men and women. The girls, who would expect the boys to be good after reading such a piece of literature, might have sketched the man, a monster against women. Several women would never endure hearing a word against their partner. It is also a fact that defends the case of men that not a hundred percent of his reactions are misogynistic. Fathers, brothers,

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<sup>5</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RWN1YFk-MU\\_JvQoshBd2pvMLyxsAaXkF/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RWN1YFk-MU_JvQoshBd2pvMLyxsAaXkF/view?usp=sharing)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-43892189> and <https://archive.org/details/elliottrodgermanifestomytwistedworld>

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

sons, husbands, and many others have unconditional love and bond with each other for their daughters, siblings, and wives.

### **Salient Features**

This article is an attempt to find out what really causes misogyny. It is a search for an answer to the question, "Why does a man hate the other gender, without which he could not survive?" Misogyny has become an extreme form of hatred toward women because of discrimination based on gender. Misogyny is the killing of women or taking away their basic rights. It also includes keeping women locked up for a variety of reasons, some of which are not good, like wanting a boy as the first child, continuing a dynasty, killing in the name of honor, fearing property distribution, etc.

The topic is not new, and there is a lot of information about it that is easy to find. Nevertheless, most authors have said that religion is what makes it happen or makes it more likely to happen. From that point of view, this article is a little bit of work using a deductive study to look into the question and come to a more refined conclusion, which goes against that point of view.

The main point of this essay is that misogyny is a psychological problem and not a religious, theological, patriarchal, or illiteracy problem. Miscarriage, abortion, and the murder of newborn girls are not the only causes of misogyny.

It is a mistake to think that religion would want to kill off one gender because it is better than the other. However, for a prosperous life, chores or errands could be authoritatively classified to deal with the routine smoothly. When humans were just starting out, divine books came to guide them, take into account the different abilities of men and women, and set some limits. However, the goal was not to put one gender down and help the other. To ascertain this argument, quantitative research has been undertaken.

For this quest, the questions are framed as,

1. Whether misogyny is a result of religious bias?
2. Is it because of illiteracy?
3. Whether it is an outcome of social behavior owing to the distribution of power and authority, etc.?

The objectives of the article are: -

1. To determine which factors actually encourage and entice men to oppose the opposite gender.
2. To examine and probe the religious aspect and the role of religious education.
3. To evaluate whether society, education, customs, taboos, and illiteracy are behind misogyny, conduct a survey to compare the effects of illiteracy and literacy.

## **Literature Review**

For this quest, the literature review has come up with about 99.9% of the same terminology used with pessimistic ideology, which might create a chaotic situation within genders in the future, encouraging rebellion within; it is claimed that misogyny is a hatred, dislike, or mistrust of women. Misogynistic attitudes have been linked to violence, delinquency, and unsafe sexual behaviors. In women, misogyny predicts poor health outcomes, according to Jill A. Stoddard and Joanne Bagshaw.<sup>8</sup> Misogyny is defined as the "dislike of, contempt for, or ingrained prejudice against women". 87% of women have experienced sexual harassment at some point in their lives.<sup>9</sup> Experts no longer consider misogyny and sexism to be interchangeable terms. According to Kate Manne, misogyny is an ideology based on controlling and punishing women, rather than a random hatred of women.<sup>10</sup>

The same definition was first mentioned in Classical Greece as a disease, and it became a common term in English in 2012. Online misogyny is on the rise, often in the form of coordinated attacks. Several influential philosophers can be traced back to misogynistic ideas among prominent western thinkers. Margaret J. Rinck claims that misogynist "misuse of the biblical ideal of submission" is common in Christian social culture. There is a misconception that Islam is regarded as a promoter of misogyny in its most heinous forms.<sup>11</sup> Religious and cultural beliefs that portray women as dangerous, defiled, or polluting are examples of misogyny. Self-hatred or self-objectification can lead to women adopting misogynistic beliefs. Misogyny also helps to keep women's status as the second sex.'

Ghitis contends that women can be misogynists without hating themselves. According to Hoover, Hillary Clinton's bathroom break during a debate was "disgusting". They claim Trump's blunder is an invitation to look into what happens when a misogynist ID is tempered. Misogyny arises from a sense of vulnerability among those who see themselves as the underdog. The misogyny of Rush Limbaugh appeals to the dissatisfied, aggrieved, resentful, and bitter. During her campaign, Hillary Clinton faced misogynistic attacks from all sides.<sup>12</sup> As a young woman pursuing a STEM career, she saw a lot of misogyny. You'll only come across as a jerk if you mansplain and maninterrupt.<sup>13</sup> Misogyny is popular right now, but it has a long history. In response to an anti-woman pamphlet published in the 17th century, the term "woman" was coined. Andrea Dworkin's

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<sup>8</sup> Aug 14, 2019 What is misogyny?blackburncenter.org

<sup>9</sup> An Overview Of Misogyny | BetterHelp. www.betterhelp.com,

<https://www.betterhelp.com/advice/general/an-overview-of-misogyny/>. Accessed 1 Apr. 2022.

<sup>10</sup> What's the Difference Between Misogyny and Sexism? | HowStuffWorks. people.howstuffworks.com, 12 Sept. 2019, <https://people.howstuffworks.com/misogyny-and-sexism.htm>.

<sup>11</sup> The Spiritual Life. slife.org, 4 Jan. 2021, <https://slife.org/misogyny/>.

<sup>12</sup> Boston Review. bostonreview.net, 11 July 2016, <https://bostonreview.net/forum/kate-manne-logic-misogyny/>.

<sup>13</sup> The Odyssey Online. www.theodysseyonline.com, 7 Sept. 2020, <https://www.theodysseyonline.com/misogynistic-behaviors>.

critique, "Woman Hating," popularized misogyny in the 1970s.<sup>14</sup>

Islam honors women by allowing them to choose their spouse and keep their surname. The family is extremely important in Islam. The man is in charge of the family's financial well-being, while the woman is in charge of the family's physical, educational, and emotional well-being.<sup>15</sup>

In her book "Reconciliation, Islam, Democracy, and the West," the late Benazir Bhutto (Shaheed), who served as an ex-prime minister and chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), stated that the Holy Quran contains numerous examples of respect for women in leadership roles and acceptance of women as equals. She also stated that the Holy Quran does not discriminate against women. In accordance with Islamic laws, it is forbidden to humiliate, beat, or otherwise torment a woman.<sup>16</sup>

A breach of the very first word in the Holy Book, which is "Read," is to prevent a female from receiving an education. Read is all that is written there; there is no mention of "Men Reading." This is a requirement that must be followed by all believers, not only the men among them. Because the teachings of Islam only allow for equality. During the Middle Ages, Islam was responsible for the construction of some of the largest libraries and institutions in the world, and it encouraged the development of the arts and sciences. The Prophet Muhammad accorded women the same status as men in all aspects of life, including commerce and armed conflict (PBH). In Islam, women's rights have been legislated, and the Quran elevates women's position to be equivalent to that of males.<sup>17</sup>

As her father's eldest child, she led the battle for democracy in Pakistan when the time came to take up her mantle and legacy and lead the political party. No one among her father's followers objected on the grounds of gender. This was the gender equality in Islam she was raised with. She has fostered gender equality in her son and two children. Islam, as far as she knew, has emphasized the necessity of gender equality.<sup>18</sup>

The Quran was created during a period when many people believed that women were less significant than males. Wearing the burqa, for example, stems from tribal traditions that have no validity in Islam. Gender traditionalists became social revisionists, relying on restrictive interpretations of the law. There is no differentiation between the sexes in Islam. Women, like men, can have positive religious attributes. The idea of emancipation espoused by Islam has been subtly

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<sup>14</sup> What Does Misogyny Look Like? (Published 2019). [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 9 Mar. 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/08/style/misogyny-women-history-photographs.html>.

<sup>15</sup> Admin, Site. Ask A Muslim. [www.ask-a-muslim.com](http://www.ask-a-muslim.com), 7 June 2020, <https://www.ask-a-muslim.com/en/women%20rights-in-islam/>.

<sup>16</sup> Benazir Bhutto, *Reconciliation, Islam, Democracy, and the West*, Pub Edition January 2008, ISBN: 9780061809569, Australia HarperCollins Publishers (Australia) Pty. Ltd. 25 Ryde Road (PO Box 321) Pymble, NSW 2073, Australia <http://www.harpercollinsebooks.com.au>

<sup>17</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> *ibid.*

replaced by tribal traditions and submissive values created by authoritarian institutions, which have deprived women of their rights. The hypocrisy of cultural standards has cast a shade over Shariah's rights to gender equality.<sup>19</sup>

The western countries believe that women have no rights in Islam, and they are oppressed. A man has preference over women, they are forced to cover themselves, less share in the inheritance, and testimony of two women is equal to that a man. The best reply to this misconception is drawn from the Quran, The Almighty Allah stated "*O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear Allah, through whom you ask one another, and the wombs. Indeed Allah is ever, over you, an Observer*".<sup>20</sup> In Islam, man and woman have equal rights, but there is a degree of preference, which man enjoys over a woman. It is so because man burdens himself with more responsibilities and duties. He strives and makes efforts to earn for his family, to make them happy. No such responsibility is placed on the shoulder of a woman. Man is responsible for the social and economic needs of his family. He is the protector of a woman. The Almighty Allah ordains in the Holy Quran "*Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has made one of them to excel the other, and because they spend (to support them) from their means...*".<sup>21</sup> Man look after his family. Thus, in such a manner he enjoys the slightest preference. However, they enjoy equal rights. As Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ said in his last sermon "O People, it is true that you have certain rights over your women, but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under Allah's ﷻ trust and with his permission."<sup>22</sup>

The men do not compel women to cover themselves, actually, these are the commandments of Almighty Allah ﷻ. He ﷻ orders both men and women to lower their gaze and guard their genitals against illicit acts. So that they may protect themselves from obscenity, and immorality. The coyness and morality protect the relations of the couple and save them from adultery. In some cities of the world i.e., California staring at a woman amounts to sexual harassment.<sup>23</sup> So doesn't it amounts to restriction? The man-made law can never prevail over the laws legislated by Almighty Allah ﷻ. So, imagine how protective and ideal would be the commandment of The Holy Quran for women. Almighty Allah ﷻ ordains in The Holy Quran "*Say to the believing men that they cast down their looks and guard their private parts; that is purer for them...; surely Allah is aware of what they do. And say to the believing women that they cast down their looks and guard their private parts and do not display their ornaments except what appears thereof*

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<sup>19</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> The Holy Quran 4:1

<sup>21</sup> The Holy Quran 4:34

<sup>22</sup> Last Sermon of Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ delivered: 632 A.C., 9th day of Dhul al Hijjah, 10 A.H. in the 'Uranah valley of Mount Arafat

<sup>23</sup> *Birschtein v. New United Motor Mfg., Inc.*, 92 Cal. App. 4th 994 (2001).

and let them wear their head-covering over their bosoms, and not display their ornaments except to their husbands..."<sup>24</sup> In another verse, He ﷻ promulgates "O Muhammad! say to your wives and your daughters and the omen of the believers that they let down upon them their over-garments; this will be more proper, that they may be known, and thus will not be given trouble; and Allah is forgiving, Merciful".<sup>25</sup> There is no denying of the fact that a man takes more share of the inheritance. The Almighty Allah ﷻ stated in The Holy Quran "The male shall have the equal of the portion of two females".<sup>26</sup> The straightforward answer to this issue is that all the needs and requisites of women in the Islamic system are being taken care of by their fathers, brothers, and husbands. The men have no right over the earnings and inheritable property of women, and even she is not required to seek permission from her husband to spend her wealth. On the contrary, it is the duty of a woman's father, brother, or husband to maintain her, and provide clothing, food, and shelter. Therefore, it appears that half of the share of a woman is more profitable and preserves able as compared to a man. On the other hand, many countries in the world pay half of the salary of a man to a woman. This thing appears to be unjustifiable, and there is no such concept in Islam. Moreover, Muslim scholars point out that Islamic inheritance distribution is broad. An assessment of the various cases of distribution of inheritance property reveals several cases where men and women get equal shares. Pertinent to the testimony of a woman in Islam, Almighty Allah ﷻ states "...And call in to witness from among your men two witnesses; but if there are not two men, then one man and two women from those whom you choose to be witnesses, so that if one of the two errs, the second of the two may remind the other."<sup>27</sup> When two women's testimony is calculated to that of one man's testimony, it does not mean that there is some weakness or flaw in her mentality or defect in humanity. Instead, it is due to her smaller amount of social participation. The verse reveals that the role of the second woman is limited to the extent of reminding the first, whence she forgets. The second woman is the guarantor of the first's testimony and plays an optional role to ensure correctness; nothing more. Islam offers women a reputable share in society and acknowledged all their rights, which they did not have during the time of ignorance.

### **State Hypotheses and Their Correspondence to Research Design**

Actually, it is a mental state that could be the result of a definite incident in life that makes a particular person go against a specific woman, not against the whole concept of feminism. which could be revenge, deprivation, or frustration. It is not

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<sup>24</sup> The Holy Quran 24:30-31

<sup>25</sup> The Holy Quran 53:59. and The Holy Quran 4:11

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.pay-equity.org/info-time.html> and Al-Dawlibi 1983 and The Holy Quran 2:282

<sup>27</sup> Holy Quran Surah Al-Baqarah (The Cow) 2:282

propaganda by which men predetermine against the opposite gender, without whom life is unable to be led. Women can't be encouraged, promoted, or educated to be killed by any religion. Men, on the other hand, have been given the power to be leaders and protectors in all religions. In the case of animals, you will never find a female animal as a leader or authoritative figure; it is always a male. Are these misogynistic? It is natural that rulers are made of men, and women have been given the force to rule over rulers. Misogyny is unconcerned about literacy or illiteracy; it is instinctive for a male to be attracted to females; they require, crave, and always remain the center of attention. There are many examples of parents who are not literate giving their daughters and other female family members education and equal rights, as well as bad examples in countries where people are more literate. However, not the whole society, but there could be some cases. What could a family, parents, or guardians have witnessed or experienced that caused them to be so protective of their females? There may be a good reason for these rules, but they have been portrayed as the opposite.

To dig out the answers in support of the claim that the research, interviews, and surveys have been conducted in the areas where most cases of misogyny have been reported, the media got hype. Questionnaires have been prepared to obtain specific results. Interviews have been conducted in order to ascertain the facts and eliminate those that have been predicated on hearsay evidence. This deductive methodology has been used to conduct research on quantitative types. The purpose of the survey is to study the perceptions of the community related to the topic.

## **Method**

For the collection of primary data, survey methods have been used. It was formulated to include questions relevant to the research topic. The participants were selected, and the questionnaire was distributed among them, online and off. It consists of open-ended and close-ended questions.

## **Division of task**

Participants were divided into four groups based on age, gender, profession, and literacy level. Each participant was to be interviewed and fill out a questionnaire. The students of the law college participate in that hard and time-consuming job as volunteers. The opinion of the general public from the area in Karachi (Layari), where it is mostly reported that the cases of newborn babies' bodies being found were conducted to collect the real facts and reason behind the incidents.

## **Participant (Subject) Characteristics**

The subjects were 50 women who had lost their babies. 50 male heads of the families educated and 50 uneducated, 50 female heads of the families educated and, similarly, 50 uneducated in one group for which students of the law college participate as volunteers. One ground had to interview the professionals. 100 male



doctors and 100 female gynecologists were given questionnaires to collect answers with opinions on the topic. Organization EDHI and CHIPA male workers and 20 female workers were interviewed and given questionnaires to fill in. The opinion of the general public from the area in Karachi (Layari), where it is mostly reported that the cases of newborn babies' bodies being found were conducted to collect the real facts and reason behind the incidents. 100 bureaucrats, judges, and different businessmen were interviewed and given questionnaires to get answers.

### **Sampling Procedures**

Most of the girls, especially those who were victims of the indictment of losing babies, remain reluctant to answer or participate. At the same time, doctors and gynecologists protected their patients' anonymity while also seeking assurance for themselves. The male head of the family participated fairly and replied frequently. The female heads of families, on the other hand, were hesitant to reveal anything. Workers from the NGO EDHI and CHIPA participate under the condition of anonymity. Residents of the area openly discussed the topic and participated graciously.

### **Sample Size, Power, and Precision**

It consists of 50 questions with open-ended and closed-ended answers. All the participants in the group remained consonant with the first two questions, scoring a negative 40 out of 50. However, on the third question, there were differences in opinions.

### **Result**

The cumulative result of the participants' answers was that religion, education, etc. have no concern with misogyny, but social behavior. It is an outcome of social behavior owing to the distribution of power and authority, etc.

### **Conclusion**

Misogyny and sexism have nothing to do with gender, religion, or education. It is the result of the social behavior effect of customs, usages, and other similar elements. Women, like males, may be extremists in their reactions to the same or opposite gender. This conspiracy theory was concocted by the individual and intentionally introduced to sow discord between the sexes. And the same card has been used in many circumstances with various facts, occasionally with animosity toward religion, and occasionally with civilizations based on a lack of education. It has always been utilized by the user for his personal gain.