

SO YOU KNOW.....

The Raj and Silverman study of 160 South Asian women (who were married or in a heterosexual relationship), recruited through community outreach methods such as flyers, snowball sampling, and referrals in Greater Boston, found that:

- 40.8% of the participants reported that they had been physically and/or sexually abused in some way by their current male partners in their lifetime; 36.9% reported having been victimized in the past year.
- 65% of the women reporting physical abuse also reported sexual abuse, and almost a third (30.4%) of those reporting sexual abuse reported injuries, some requiring medical attention.
- No significant difference was found in the prevalence of domestic violence between arranged marriages [typically refers to marriages arranged by parents or relatives of each member of the couple] and non-arranged marriages.
- 11% of South Asian women reporting intimate partner violence indicated receiving counseling support services for domestic abuse.
- Only 3.1% of the abused South Asian women in the study had ever obtained a restraining order against an abusive partner.

Raj A, Silverman J. Intimate partner violence against South-Asian women in Greater Boston. *Journal of American Medical Women's Assoc.* 2002; 57(2).

SAWERRAA hosts
Third Annual Event
Sunday, May 7, 2006
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

At
Mahatma Gandhi Center
717 Weidman Road
St. Louis, MO 63011

Panel Discussion

“Through the eyes of a Child”

Come listen from the experts about the domestic violence and its impact on children.

Come meet SAWERRAA's volunteers and learn about the work done at SAWERRAA

Enjoy Refreshments and snacks while looking at the displays and exhibits

Bring along friend(s) or relative(s) who have not heard of SAWERRAA

For more information

Contact

SAWERRAA: 314-551-0006

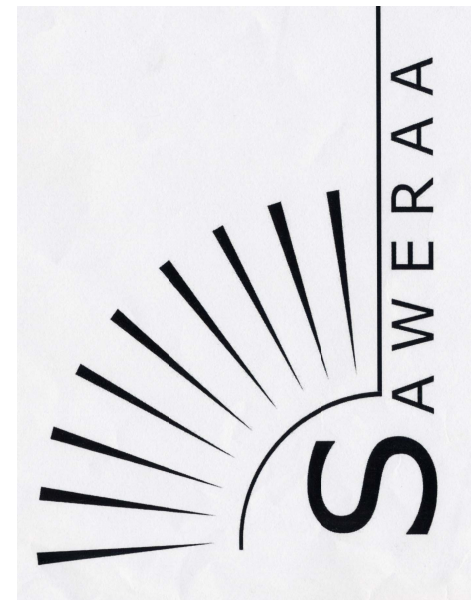
Anjali: 314-283-9320

Helpline: 1-877-SAWERRAA
1-877-729-3722

24 hour helpline
Counseling
Emergency Assistance
Language Assistance
Community Education

www.sawerraa.org

Office Tel: 314-551-0006
Office Hours: 10 am to 3 pm
Monday through Friday



No one deserves to be abused

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Domestic Violence Destroys Families

Mohammed Haroon's taxicab blew up in a massive explosion that rattled windows in his neighborhood. His wife, Shahpara Sayeed, burned to death. Mohammed had doused Shahpara with gasoline, locked the doors, and tossed lit matches into the cab. It was broad daylight with many people around, but it happened so fast that Shahpara was dead almost before anyone could react. Mohammed fled, but was later arrested.

Thirty-one year old Shahpara had been married for two and a half years and had been in the country less than two years.

Although husband and wife were related to each other prior to their arranged marriage, they had a tumultuous relationship. It is believed that the childless couple argued over having children and money.

Shahpara came to the United States on a visa for religious scholars, though she didn't work for a living. She was a homemaker who, her mother says, loved to cook and sew. Mohammed, a cab driver, had entered the US illegally. The couple lived with his brother in a one bedroom apartment in Uptown Chicago. They lived devoted Islamic lives and were involved in the Masjid (Mosque) located in the basement of their apartment complex. Shahpara, who hardly left her home, wore a nikab (a scarf that covers the face below the eyes) and burka (a long gown worn over the clothes).

Qamar Jahan, Shahpara's mother, said in a phone interview that her daughter called her two to three times a month but always in the

"After this murder, I felt very bad, Why didn't I ask? Maybe there were some fights, but I didn't ask, I feel bad in my heart" said Shahpara's uncle

presence of her husband. The last time they spoke, Shahpara was hysterical and sobbed loudly, and then the phone went dead. If only we had known this would happen, Qamar Jahan cried, we would have kept her in Pakistan.

Shahpara's maternal uncle Qureshi, her only relative living in the US also lamented, "Why didn't I ask? Maybe there were some fights, but I didn't ask, I feel bad in my heart." He regretted keeping silent.

According to court documents, Mohammed confessed to killing his wife. Although the Prosecutor had intended to seek the death penalty, the case never went to court as Mohammed died in prison.

*Originally Published in Chicago Tribune, June 3, 2001
Tribune staff reporters: Teresa Puente and Noreen Ahmed-Ullah*

Jaggi, Tonushree. 2006. "[Apna Ghar: Domestic Violence and Reaching Out to Chicago's Faith Communities.](#)" Harvard College Project Report, The Pluralism Project.<http://www.pluralism.org/affiliates/student/jaggi/index.php>

Points to ponder:

- *Should relatives and friends intervene if they feel there is a problem in a relationship of someone they know?*
- *What is the proper way to help friends or relatives if you perceive a problem?*
- *What role can religious institutes play in helping couples who are having problems or victim of domestic violence?*

**Do you know someone who is suffering from abuse? Do you wish you could do something but you do not know what to do?
Contact SAWERAA and learn about domestic violence and how you can help someone you know is abused.**

**Make the call:
314-551-0006 or 1-877-739-3722.**

Power Imbalance may breed abuse of power

Domestic violence is pervasive in all societies irrespective of culture, ethnicity, religion, age and socio-economic class. The impact of domestic violence and a community's and individual's response to domestic violence varies depending on the political, social and religious definitions of gender and the relationships between genders in the larger context.

Patriarchy is evident all over the world. The deeper the claws of patriarchy, the stronger the imbalance of power between male and female. Institutionalized patriarchy entitles power to one group of people who may abuse their privileges and creates an environment where domestic violence may occur, sometimes with no fear of reprimand or accountability.

Having power over others is not uncommon or unusual, but what is it used for? Power can be used to bring about change for the betterment of a society such as advocating to bring equality or peace and raising the quality of life for individual, families, communities, and world at large or to harm others.

We have all been born with the power to choose and also the right to fulfill our needs and desires. The clashes of desires and hopes are inevitable in the world where each one of us have our own individual needs, desires and hopes we wish to fulfill. The dilemma is how do we go about getting what each one of us want or is it always possible to fulfill all our needs and desires? Whose needs and desires get fulfilled and whose do not? Society has given unequal power to a person or a group of people based on gender, caste, wealth or status who get to fulfill all their wants and desires at the cost of others.

Domestic violence is about unequal and unjust power between and among genders taken as an entitlement by one person over other with no accountability.

It is important to recognize that most people with power do not abuse it. Equally, it is important to recognize when abuse occurs and take the necessary steps to stop it. If you or someone you know is being abused, please call 1-877-SAWERAA.