

# Effects Of Polygamous Marriages On Familial Life

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## Abstract

The current study “Effects of Polygamous Marriages on Familial Life” was carried out in Bajaur under a conceptual framework in which violence was dependent variables while an effect of polygamous marriages was independent variable. Data was collected from 384 respondents from a population of 1, 56, 240 households through Uma Sekaran table. A well thought-out questionnaire was used for data collection. After collection data were entered to SPSS, and uni-variate test was carried out for prevalence of the causes and chi-square was carried out for association between dependent and independent variables. At uni-variate level majority of the respondent strongly agree that polygamous marriages cause family violence. At bivariate level the association between women limited decision making power, limited decision making power due to biological factors and hatred and jealousy among co-wives were found significant with effects of polygamous marriages. It was concluded that polygamy is extensively practiced in the area. Co-wives face hatred, jealousy and insecurity in polygamous families. Similarly father could not provide equal care among wives. Marital education, ensuring basic marital rights, highlights important teachings and implementation of court decisions with true letter and spirit are recommendations in the light of the study.

**Key Words:** Polygamous marriages, familial life, violence, hatred and jealousy.

## Introduction

This is human nature that does not want to live away from society but the interactive nature of human being demanded the need for human being to create the institutions like family, marriage and kinship through which each individual can fulfill their needs and desires. The family, marriage and kinship systems are therefore considered basic pillars of the foundation of human society (Kottak, 2004). Marriage is one of the significant and dignified social institutions which are found in many forms depending on area and social structure. The two major types of marriages include monogamy and polygamy. Monogamy involves one man in marital relations with one woman at a time. Polygamy is defined as marriage of more than one spouse at the same time. Polygamy exists in two main forms (Zeitzen, 2018). Polyandry is defined as the marriage of a female with multiple males at a time (Seawright, 2014). When co-husband is brothers it called fraternal polyandry (Zeitzen, 2018). Polygyny is a marital bond of one male with more than one woman at the same time (Ebrahim and Atteraya, 2020). When the co-wives are sisters it called sororal polygyny (Zeitzen, 2018). Polygamy mostly refers to polygyny, in the current research study the term polygamy will be simultaneously use for polygyny or the marriage of one man to more than one woman at the same time.

Islam permits polygyny with certain legal conditions and limitations. Allah, says in the Holy Quran “then marry other women, who show you well, two, three or four; and if you’re afraid you can’t do justice, then just one (Al-Nisa, 4:3). The Holy Prophet (PBUH) advised against partiality and said “He who practiced polygyny and is not treating each wives equal, he will come on the day of resurrection with one of his side fallen” (Abu-Dawood, 2133; Tirmidhi, 1141). Polygyny is practiced in Pakistan; however Muslim Family Law Ordinance 1961 imposed the legal permission from the arbitration council for a man who want to enter into polygyny, stating that the permission for polygyny will be granted on the basis of valid reason and with the consent of wife (MFLO, 1961). The practice of polygamy is legally permitted and extensively practiced in 850 societies throughout the world and is legally permitted and acknowledged by an extensive variety of nonwestern cultural and religious groups (Moosa, Benjamin and Jennah, 2008). The statistics of 2000 showed that polygamy was practiced in by 28% people in 34 countries (Fenske, 2015). Although polygyny is legal in Pakistan, however less than five percent of the married women reported that their husband had married with more than one wife and only 0.2% of husband had married with more than two wives. The prevalence of polygyny is higher among the people of the age group 45-49 in rural areas. Polygyny is most commonly practiced in Baluchistan while least common in the province of Punjab (Sathar and Ahmed, 1992).

In Pakhtun social structure people violate Islamic values and teachings regarding polygyny, and in Pakhtunwali polygyny is practiced for revenge and this are commonly observed that the first wife is ultimately isolated in family domestic and financial affairs. The practice of polygamy is highly observed in Tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where due to unequal treatment and

violation of religious teachings multiple social and psychological issues leading to violence and other anti-social activities are associated with polygamy.

Among the two major types of polygamy, polygyny is most common and widely practiced although different theories are presented to explain its occurrence. Some people believed that the desire of multiple sex partners is a reason for the incidence of polygyny, whereas others linked polygyny with culture and religion. Polygyny has become a hard topic for debate for the researchers, policy makers and academicians in recent years because the practice has sociocultural and religious explanations. In recent years some of the countries banned completely the practice of polygyny which including some of the Muslim countries, however some of the countries allowed it with strict conditions and limitations. However, polygyny is permitted in most of the Muslim and non-Muslim countries throughout the world including Pakistan. The practice of polygyny is highly observed in the tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The present study is therefore aimed to investigate the measures to find out the effects of polygamous marriages on familial life in district Bajaur.

Polygamy is an emerging issue for the researchers and academicians because of its prevalence and because of the unclear policies of the states about polygamous marriages. Unfortunately due to lot of instabilities in polygamous families, it ultimately leads to violence and conflicts among family members. The issue is identified in the research area that affected families, therefore it is necessary to discuss.

The present research study is conducted only on the effects of polygamous marriages of familial life and the research is conducted only in one district. The researcher used the quantitative method only. In quantitative method the researcher used close ended questionnaire only for the data collection process. The data was collected from members of polygamous families only. Because of the sensitivity of the issue the data was collected from male respondents mostly.

The main objective of this study is “to investigate about family violence and its association with effects of polygamous marriages” while research questions are “what are the effects of polygamy on family life? What are the sources of conflicts in polygamy?” The practice of polygamous marriage is extensively observed in the study area, although very few researchers discussed about the tradition of polygamous marriages in the study area, therefore the researcher selected the current research study.

## **Literature Review**

### **Understanding of Polygamy**

The word polygamy is literally derived from a Greek word ‘polugamos’, which means marrying repeatedly (Jonas, 2012). Polygamy involves more than two partners in a marital relation, a man with multiple wives or a woman with multiple husbands called polygamy. The two main sub parts of polygamy include polygyny and polyandry (Jackson, 2015). Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary, defined polygamy as the marital relations of one man to several women at the same time and vice versa. This definition is a broad and technical knowledge of the multidimensional

that combines the ideas of polyandry (a woman who has more than one husband), and polygyny (A man who has more than one wife) (Tefsy, 2017). The term polygyny means the marriage of a man with multiple women at the same time (Ebrahim and Atteraya, 2018).

### **Prevalence of polygamy in world**

The practice of polygyny is common among many countries of the world like Islamic countries, India, and Africa (Fenske, 2015). The two prominent Muslim countries Turkey and Tunisia legally banned the practice of polygamy. Turkey banned it in 1926 on secular reasons while Tunisia banned polygamy through legislation in 1956 and 1964 on religious reasons. While some other Islamic countries like Iran, Egypt, Pakistan etc. have imposed certain legal conditions and limitations before practicing polygamy (Olawale, 2018). Polygyny is allowed by different cultures, and it is a commonly practiced tradition with Islamic population who practice it frequently (Rosenbaum, 2016). Overall polygyny has been allowed in 80-85% of human societies and it is commonly practiced in Middle East and African countries (Dasgupta & Belle, 2018).

### **Family violence and polygamy**

Violence is a global issue which is predominant all over the world; however its occurrence is in many forms including domestic violence, sexual violence, physical violence, emotional and economic violence depending largely on cultures races and ethnicities (Kaur & Garg, 2008). The documented reports of World Health Organization (WHO) showed that 38% or one third of women face either physical or sexual violence that shows the alarming condition of violence against women throughout the world (World Health Organization, 2019). Violence is observed in many forms in Pakistan including physical harm, sexual abuse and domestic violence (Shaikh, 2003). However the numbers and statistics of violence prevalence is much higher in the rural and urban areas of Pakistan, the prevalence of physical violence was higher in rural areas 56%, while the occurrence of psychological abuse and sexual violence was higher in urban areas 58%, and 55% respectively (Nawaz, & Majeed, 2008). The studies found different forms of violence in polygamous families. Husband does not treat both wives as equal and keeping them busy to protect himself (Gerdemann, 2019). Co-wives competition was commonly observed among polygamous families' studies revealed (Bove & Valeggia, 2009).

### **Theoretical Framework**

#### **Conflict Theory**

Marxist ideology sees marriage and the family as a constantly competitive social system. Arnolds (1990) stated that due to the state of negative interdependence between the elements of a competitive, social system. Because of this conflict, there is a win / lose situation, because what one party gains is loosened for the other party in a very large distribution. Members in polygamous families living under a constant conflict and competition for shared family resources and household activities. Co-wives conflict arises on shared household activities and shared household resources. Similarly children of both wives are in conflict with each other for scarce family resources. Polygamous families face conflict, competition, misunderstanding and disagreement on

family resources, family property and household activities. Because of the nature of the study conflict theory had been selected as a theoretical framework.

### **Research Methodology**

This study was conducted in District Bajaur; comprises of seven Tehsils i.e., Tehsil Khar, Tehsil Salarzai, Tehsil Utman Khel, Tehsil Barang, Tehsil Nawagai, Tehsil Mamund and Tehsil Chamarkand. The total population of district Bajaur was 10, 93,684 as per Pakistan population census report 2017. As per standard household size of Pakistan the total households in district Bajaur were 1, 56,240. On the basis of homogeneous culture a sample size of 384 respondents were selected from a total household 1, 56,240, with the help of Uma Sekaran (2003) table. Furthermore, the said sample size was equally distributed among all tehsils of district Bajaur while data was collected randomly through snow ball sampling procedure in each Tehsil. Detailed questionnaire based on five Likert scale (agree, strongly agree, neutral, dis agree and strongly disagree) for independent variables while dichotomous (yes and no) for dependent variable was used for data collection. The collected data was arranged in ordinal sequence which was then analyzed using uni-variate simple frequency and percentage for prevalence while chi-square statistical test was carried out for checking association at 0.05% confidence level. In the current research study the researcher want to know whether there is any relationship exist among dependent (Violence) and independent variable (effects of polygamous marriages). The dependent variable was indexed and crossed with independent variables for desired results.

### **Results and Discussion**

#### **Socioeconomic profile of the respondents**

##### **Gender of the respondents**

In this study out of total 288 respondents 72.1% were male and 27.9% were female. It is due to the prevailing cultural norms in which males are enjoying superiority over female.

##### **Gender of the respondents**

<b>Statements</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Male	384(100)	277	72.1
Female	384(100)	107	27.9

Values in cell show frequency while values in parenthesis show percentages.

### Age of the Respondents

Table 4.1.2 shows that out of 100% respondents 18.8 % were between the age of 18-28 years, 9.9% had the age between 29-39 years, 31.5% were between the 40-50 years, 39.8% had the age of above 51 years respectively.

#### Age of the respondents

Age of the respondents	Total	Frequency	Percent
18-28	384(100)	72	18.8
29-39	384(100)	38	9.9
40-50	384(100)	121	31.5
Above 51	384(100)	153	39.8

Values in cell show frequency while values in parenthesis show percentages.

### Marital status of the respondents

In this study majority i.e., 69% of the respondents were married and the 30% were unmarried. Similarly, 1% of the respondents were belonging to category any other.

#### Marital status of the respondents

Statements	Total	Frequency	Percent
Single	384(100)	115	30
Married	384(100)	265	69
Any other	384(100)	4	1

Values in cell show frequency while values in parenthesis show percentages.

### Educational status of the respondents

On the basis of educational status 27.6% of the respondents were literate while 72.4% of the respondents were illiterate.

#### Educational status of the respondents

Statements	Total	Frequency	Percent
Literate	384(100)	106	27.6
Illiterate	384(100)	278	72.4

Values in cell show frequency while values in parenthesis show percentages.

### Family type and marital union of the respondents

Table 4.1.4 showed that almost 73.4% belonged to joint family while the rest i.e., 26.6% were from the nuclear family. Similarly, out of 100% 64.8% of the respondents were from monogamous families and 35.2% of the respondents were from polygamous families.

### Family type and marital union of the respondents

Values in cell show frequency while values in parenthesis show percentages.

Family type of the respondents				Marital union of the respondents			
Statements	Total	Frequency	Percent	Statements	Total	Frequency	Percent
Joint	384(100)	282	73.4	Monogamy	384(100)	249	64.8
Nuclear	384(100)	102	26.6	Polygamy	384(100)	135	35.2

### Uni - Variates Analysis

As per nature of the questions incorporated in the questionnaire every respondent was interviewed in form of a series of statement within each selected variable, categorized of five responses (Strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree and strongly agree). The major variables being treated with while asking questions from the respondents were effects of polygamous marriages (Independent variable) and respondents views regarding violence.

### Violence and polygamous marriages

Different kinds of violence found in polygamous families because of complex family circumstances. Questions were asked from respondents regarding Violence. 46.4% of the respondents strongly agree that husband consults their first wife when he wishes to marry another wife” 30.7% of the respondents were agree with the statement, although 11.7% respondents disagree the statement, similarly 9.1% were strongly disagree and 2.1% followed neutral. 44% of the respondents strongly agree that the first wife permits husbands for polygamy because of husband’s family pressure, similarly 32.3% respondents choose agree, although 10.9% respondents were disagree with the statement, 9.4% followed strongly disagree and 3.4% followed neutral. The study of Roy, Hidrobo and Heath, (2020) showed that in many cases of polygamous marriages people may not marry with another without the consent of first wife or without the dissolution of first marriage. In polygamous family co-wives relations depending upon living arrangements or standards of the family” for the above statement out of 100%, 46.4% of the respondents choose strongly agree and 30.2% of the respondents followed agree. However, 12% respondents were disagreeing with the statement, 9.1% of the respondents followed strongly disagree and 2.3% of the respondents were neutral. 50.3% of the respondents were strongly agree that polygamous family face co-wives rivalry and conflicts and 32.6% of the respondents followed agree. Although 8.1% respondents followed disagree, 6.5% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 2.6% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. 47.4% of the respondents choose strongly agree for the statement that co-wives rivalry often arises due to household

activities in polygamous families and 33.1% of the respondents choose agree. However, 8.3% respondents followed disagree, 7.8% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 3.4% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. The research studies of Rossi, (2016) revealed that living in the same household polygamous families lacking cooperation among wives instead they have increased conflict on family domestic affairs. 45.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that husband does not treat first and second wives as equal in family domestic affairs and 30.7% of the respondents were agree with the statement. Although, 10.9% respondents were disagree that husband does not treat first and second wives as equal in family domestic affairs, 9.1% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 3.6% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. The studies of Gerdemann, (2019), found that husband does not treat both wives equal that leads to different forms of violence in polygamous families.

“Wives have limited decision making power in polygamous families” for the above statement the 46.9% of the respondents were strongly agree and 31% of the respondents followed agree. However, 12% respondents choose disagree, 9.4% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 0.8% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. 45.1% of the respondents choose strongly agree that limitation of decision-making power for a wife in polygamous families is due to biological factors i.e. sterility of the wife and 32% of the respondents were agree with the statement. However, 10.4% respondents were disagree that limitation of decision-making power for a wife in polygamous families is due to biological factors i.e. sterility of the wife, 9.1% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 3.4% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. “Limitation of decision-making power for a wife in polygamous families is due to poor economic background” for the above statement the table shows that out of 100%, 46.6% of the respondents choose strongly agree. 30.5% of the respondents followed agree, 11.7% respondents followed disagree, 9.4% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 1.8% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. A study conducted by Lees et al., (2018) concluded that in polygamous relationships women have limited decision making power especially in economic matters of the family.

“Husband’s preference for a particular wife leads to jealousy and hatred towards the most favored wife” for the above statement the table shows that out of 100%, 44.3% of the respondents choose strongly agree. 37.5% of the respondents followed agree, 7.8% respondents were disagree, 6.5% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 3.9% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. The study of Phillips, (2001) found that despite religious teachings wives in polygamous families feel unequal treatment from husband in family matters. “Women in polygamous families feel high level of stress and insecurity due to emotional and physical violence from their husband” for the above statement the table shows that out of 100%, 45.3% of the respondents choose strongly agree. 32% of the respondents followed agree, 11.5% respondents followed disagree, 8.6% of the respondents were strongly disagree and 2.6% of the respondents were neutral with the statement. The research studies of Umeora et al., (2008) showed that women are exposed to emotional and physical violence in polygamous families.



## Violence in polygamous families

Statements		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Husbands consult with first wife before polygyny	384 (100)	35(9.1)	45(11.7)	8(2.1)	118(30.7)	178(46.4)
Wife permits polygyny due to husband family pressure	384 (100)	36(9.4)	42(10.9)	13(3.4)	124(32.3)	169(44)
Co-wives relations depending on living arrangements	384 (100)	35(9.1)	46(12)	9(2.3)	116(30.2)	178(46.4)
Polygamous family face co-wives' rivalry and conflicts	384 (100)	25(6.5)	31(8.1)	10(2.6)	125(32.6)	193(50.3)
Co-wives rivalry arises due to household activities	384 (100)	30(7.8)	32(8.3)	13(3.4)	127(33.1)	182(47.4)
Husband does not treat co-wives as equal	384 (100)	35(9.1)	42(10.9)	14(3.6)	118(30.7)	175(45.6)
Co-wives have limited decision making power	384 (100)	36(9.4)	46(12)	3(0.8)	119(31)	180(46.9)
Limited decision-making power due to biological factors	384 (100)	35(9.1)	40(10.4)	13(3.4)	123(32)	173(45.1)
Limited decision-making power due to economic factors	384 (100)	36(9.4)	45(11.7)	7(1.8)	117(30.5)	179(46.6)
Husband's preference leads to jealousy and hatred	384 (100)	25(6.5)	30(7.8)	15(3.9)	144(37.5)	170(44.3)
Women feel high level of stress and insecurity	384 (100)	33(8.6)	44(11.5)	10(2.6)	123(32)	174(45.3)

Values in cell show frequency while values in parenthesis show percentages.

### Bi - variate or chi Analysis

#### Association of violence with effects of polygamous marriages

Violence in polygamous families can be found in many forms including but not limited to domestic violence, abuse, familial conflict and rivalry, faction and feuds, physical and emotional torture etc. Due to sociocultural values this is common that people do not consult with their wives about marriage with another wife. The result for the statement that husband consult with their first wife for second marriage was found non-significant ( $p > 0.05$ ) with effects of polygamous marriages. In many cases first wife permits polygamy due to husbands' family pressure or divorce etc. in this regard the result for the statement wife permits polygamy because of husband family pressure was found non-significant ( $p > 0.05$ ) with effects of polygamous marriages. The work of Bao, (2008) and Elbedour, et al., (2002) presents that consultation with previous wife/wives and equal distribution of family resources both in cash and kind as well as physical and social could satisfy wives to some extent. Co-wives living arrangements occur in many forms in polygamous marriages i.e., living in a combined household or in a separate household. In this way the co-wives' relations depending on living arrangements was found non-significant ( $p > 0.05$ ) with effects of polygamous marriages. Co-wives rivalry and conflicts are common among many polygamous families. In this regard polygamous families' faces co-wives' rivalry and conflicts were found non-significant ( $p > 0.05$ ) with effects of polygamous marriages. It is observed from the work of

Jankowiak, Sudakov, and Wilereker, (2005) that co-wife's life and relation is always based on competition and conflict on shared husband and his property.

Household activities include domestic responsibilities of wives and children. In this way co-wife's rivalry arises due to household activities was found non-significant ( $p > 0.05$ ) with effects of polygamous marriages. However, it may be due to sensitivity of the study the result was found non-significant. Polygamy may lead to jealousy, competition, disputes over unequal distribution of household resources and the development of mental ill health in the women involved in the relationships (Moosa et al., 2006). Equal treatment of both wives is a serious challenge for husband in polygamous families. The result was found non-significant ( $p > 0.05$ ) between husband does not treat both wives equally with effects of polygamous marriages. It may be because of the sensitive nature of questions the result was non-significant. Although, the studies found different forms of violence in polygamous families and husband does not treat both wives as equal and keeping them busy to protect himself (Gerdemann, 2019; Madhavan, 2002).

Decision making is considered a big challenge for wives in polygamous families. The result for the statement wives has limited decision making power in polygamous families was found significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) with effects of polygamous marriages. Multiple factors are associated with limited decision-making power of women in polygamous families. The result for the statement women limited decision making power is due to biological factors was found significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) with effects of polygamous marriages. However, the result for the statement women limited decision making power is due to economic factors was found non-significant ( $p > 0.05$ ) with effects of polygamous marriages. Some of the researchers believe that polygyny shows the gender discrimination in society due to women lower social status (Exposito, 2017).

Hatred and jealousy among wives are much common among wives in polygamous families. In this regard the result for the statement husband's preference for a particular wife leads to jealousy and hatred was found significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) with effects of polygamous marriages. Studies concluded that co-wives in a constant competition in polygamous families to attain the love and attention from their shared husband (Turly, 2015). Women are exposed to emotional and physical violence from husband in polygamous families. In this regard the result for the statement women faces emotional and physical violence was found non-significant ( $p > 0.05$ ) with effects of polygamous marriages. It may be due to the religiosity of the respondents the results were found non-significant. The studies of Gerdemann, (2019), Kazianga and Klonner, (2006) found that polygamous families observed high prevalence of violence and conflict among wives on household activities.

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### **Association of Violence with effects of polygamous marriages**

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<u>Independent</u>	<u>Dependent</u>
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Statements	Response	Yes	No	Total	Statistics
Husbands consult with first wife before polygyny	SD	27(7)	8(2.1)	35(9.1)	$\chi^2=0.908(0.923)$
	DA	33(8.6)	12(3.1)	45(11.7)	
	N	7(1.8)	1(0.3)	8(2.1)	
	A	87(22.7)	31(8.1)	118(30.7)	
	SA	133(34.6)	45(11.7)	178(46.4)	
Wife permits polygyny due to husband family pressure	SD	30(7.8)	6(1.6)	36(9.4)	$\chi^2=5.686(0.224)$
	D	29(7.6)	13(3.4)	42(10.9)	
	N	11(2.9)	2(0.5)	13(3.4)	
	A	98(25.5)	26(6.8)	124(32.3)	
	SA	119(31)	50(13)	169(44)	
Co-wives relations depending on living arrangements	SD	28(7.3)	7(1.8)	35(9.1)	$\chi^2=1.836(0.768)$
	DA	34(8.9)	12(3.1)	46(12)	
	N	7(1.8)	2(0.5)	9(2.3)	
	A	90(23.4)	26(6.8)	116(30.2)	
	SA	128(33.3)	50(13)	178(46.4)	
Polygamous family face co-wives rivalry and conflicts	SD	21(5.5)	4(1)	25(6.5)	$\chi^2=2.625(0.622)$
	D	23(6)	8(2.1)	31(8.1)	
	N	6(1.6)	4(1)	10(2.6)	
	A	91(23.7)	34(8.9)	125(32.6)	
	SA	146(38)	47(12.2)	193(50.3)	
Co-wives rivalry arises due to household activities	SD	20(5.2)	10(2.6)	30(7.8)	$\chi^2=4.240(0.374)$
	D	26(6.8)	6(1.6)	32(8.3)	
	N	9(2.3)	4(1)	13(3.4)	
	A	101(26.3)	26(6.8)	127(33.1)	
	SA	131(34.1)	51(13.3)	182(47.4)	
Husband does not treat co-wives as equal	SD	26(6.8)	9(2.3)	35(9.1)	$\chi^2=1.208(0.877)$
	D	31(8.1)	11(2.9)	42(10.9)	
	N	9(2.3)	5(1.3)	14(3.6)	
	A	87(22.7)	31(8.1)	118(30.7)	
	SA	134(34.9)	41(10.7)	175(45.6)	
Co-wives have limited decision making power	SD	22(5.7)	14(3.6)	36(9.4)	$\chi^2=11.895(0.018)$
	D	42(10.9)	4(1)	46(12)	
	N	3(0.8)	0(0)	3(0.8)	
	A	90(23.4)	29(7.6)	119(31)	
	SA	130(33.9)	50(13)	180(46.9)	
Limited decision-making power due to biological factors	SD	26(6.8)	9(2.3)	35(9.1)	$\chi^2=9.140(0.058)$
	D	34(8.9)	6(1.6)	40(10.4)	
	N	6(1.6)	7(1.8)	13(3.4)	
	A	96(25)	27(7)	123(32)	

	SA	125(32.6)	48(12.5)	173(45.1)	
Limited decision-making power due to economic factors	SD	27(7)	9(2.3)	36(9.4)	$\chi^2=1.293(0.863)$
	D	34(8.9)	11(2.9)	45(11.7)	
	N	4(1)	3(0.8)	7(1.8)	
	A	89(23.2)	28(7.3)	117(30.5)	
Husband's preference leads to jealousy and hatred	SA	133(34.6)	46(12)	179(46.6)	$\chi^2=10.268(0.036)$
	SD	19(4.9)	6(1.6)	25(6.5)	
	D	24(6.3)	6(1.6)	30(7.8)	
	N	10(2.6)	5(1.3)	15(3.9)	
Women feel high level of stress and insecurity	A	119(31)	25(6.5)	144(37.5)	$\chi^2=0.385(0.984)$
	SA	115(29.9)	55(14.3)	170(44.3)	
	SD	25(6.5)	8(2.1)	33(8.6)	
	D	32(8.3)	12(3.1)	44(11.5)	
	N	7(1.8)	3(.8)	10(2.6)	
	A	91(23.7)	32(8.3)	123(32)	
	SA	132(34.4)	42(10.9)	174(45.3)	

Cell values show frequency, parenthesis values percentages while in last column show  $\chi^2$  parenthesis values show significance level at 0.05% confidence level.

### Conclusion and Recommendations

The study “effects of polygamous marriages on familial life” concluded that male dominance, illiteracy, joint family system and poverty are common in the study area. Furthermore, polygyny is extensively practicing in the study area, while the first wife informed from the husband decision of marrying another wife which shows limited decision-making power of women. Moreover, the polygyny invites insecurity, stress, hate and jealousy among wives. On the basis of the findings of the study, the following were the main recommendations made for future studies; The government might include the record of total cases of polygamous marriages in population census and socioeconomic surveys. The implementation of Muslim Family Law ordinance might be ensured by the governmental authorities and courts with true letter and spirit as well as the recent decisions of Supreme Court and high courts might be implemented in order to prevent the injustice and unequal treatment in polygamous families.

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