



LOVE, CONFLICT AND EXTREME VIOLENCE: EXAMINING THE ROLE OF MARITAL DISCORD AND EXTRA-MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE KILLING OF HUSBANDS AND LOVERS

Author Details

Author Name: Dr. S. Chandra Sekhar

Department: English

College Name: Penna College of Cement Sciences

ABSTRACT

This research paper examines the complex relationship between love, marital conflict, extra-marital relationships, and extreme interpersonal violence, with particular attention to reported cases involving the killing of husbands or lovers. The study explores how breakdowns in mutual understanding, emotional dissatisfaction, communication failures, jealousy, possessiveness, financial pressures, social expectations, and the influence of third parties may interact in exceptional cases of lethal violence. It does not assume that extra-marital relationships or marital conflict inevitably lead to homicide; rather, it investigates the circumstances in which several psychological, social, and relational factors converge and contribute to destructive outcomes. The paper further considers how contemporary communication technologies, changing attitudes toward marriage, individual autonomy, and emotional dependency can reshape intimate relationships. Through a qualitative and analytical approach, the study seeks to understand the progression from relationship discord to extreme violence while emphasizing that infidelity and homicide are distinct phenomena and that criminal responsibility must be assessed on the basis of individual circumstances.

Keywords: Love, Marital Conflict, Extra-Marital Relationships, Spousal Homicide, Intimate Relationships, Jealousy, Emotional Alienation, Violence.

INTRODUCTION

Love and marriage are among the most significant forms of human relationships. Marriage traditionally involves companionship, trust, emotional attachment, mutual responsibility, and social commitment. However, intimate relationships can also experience misunderstanding, communication gaps, emotional distance, jealousy, financial disagreements, and differences in expectations. When such difficulties remain unresolved, the relationship may gradually deteriorate.

Extra-marital relationships add another layer of complexity to marital life. An emotional or romantic attachment outside marriage may develop for different reasons, including perceived emotional neglect, dissatisfaction, attraction, companionship, personal circumstances, or changing expectations. While such relationships may result in separation, divorce, or family conflict, in exceptional circumstances they may become connected with serious violence.

Reported cases in which husbands or lovers are killed in the context of intimate relationships often receive considerable public attention. Such cases are frequently reduced to simple explanations such as betrayal, greed, jealousy, or illicit love. A deeper academic examination, however, requires consideration of the wider interpersonal and social circumstances

surrounding the event.

The present study therefore examines how marital discord and extra-marital relationships may intersect with psychological, emotional, social, and situational factors in exceptional cases of homicide. The study avoids generalizing these behaviours to women, men, husbands, wives, or lovers as groups and instead focuses on understanding individual cases and recurring patterns.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To examine the role of mutual understanding and communication in maintaining marital relationships.

To analyse the relationship between marital discord and extra-marital attachments.

To study psychological factors such as jealousy, emotional dependency, anger, and possessiveness in selected cases.

To examine the influence of social, economic, and family pressures on intimate relationships.

To explore the role of third parties in conflicts involving spouses and extra-marital partners.

To examine how relationship breakdown can, in exceptional circumstances, escalate into extreme violence.

To distinguish between extra-marital relationships and homicide rather than treating one as an automatic cause of the other.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Research on intimate relationships has examined the importance of communication, emotional responsiveness, trust, commitment, and conflict resolution in marital satisfaction. Psychological research on infidelity has identified multiple possible motivations, including relationship dissatisfaction, emotional disconnection, opportunity, individual expectations, and attraction.

Studies of jealousy and intimate-partner violence have also considered possessiveness, fear of abandonment, emotional instability, relationship conflict, and controlling behaviour as possible factors associated with destructive outcomes. Sociological research emphasizes the influence of changing gender roles, economic independence, family structures, social norms, and modernization on contemporary marriage.

Research on homicide within intimate relationships demonstrates that lethal violence is complex and cannot generally be explained by one cause. Previous conflict, jealousy, separation, financial disputes, coercive behaviour, emotional crises, and other situational factors may interact differently across individual cases.

The present study draws upon these psychological and sociological perspectives to examine selected cases where marital discord or extra-marital relationships appear in the background of extreme violence.

METHODOLOGY

This research paper adopts a qualitative, analytical, and interdisciplinary methodology. Selected reported cases involving marital conflict, extra-marital relationships, and the killing of husbands or lovers are examined through secondary sources such as newspaper reports, and sociological research.

In addition to these secondary sources, a supplementary exploratory survey was conducted through social media applications that are widely used by people across different age groups. The survey was intended to gather general perceptions and observations concerning communication, marital relationships, emotional conflict, social-media interactions, and relationship tensions. The responses were treated as self-reported observations and were used to complement the analysis rather than to establish causal relationships.

The study identifies recurring themes including communication breakdown, emotional alienation, jealousy, possessiveness, financial motives, family pressure, third-party influence, and changing relationship expectations. The analysis focuses on patterns and circumstances rather than attempting to establish a single causal explanation.

The study also recognizes the limitations of media reports, publicly available accounts.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

1. Mutual Understanding and Marital Harmony

Mutual understanding is an important foundation of a stable marital relationship. Husbands and wives may differ in personality, expectations, habits, financial priorities, and approaches to family responsibilities. Healthy communication can help couples negotiate these differences.

When communication repeatedly fails, minor disagreements may become persistent conflicts. Emotional distance can develop when either partner feels unheard, disrespected, neglected, or misunderstood.

Such conditions do not produce violence automatically, but prolonged unresolved conflict can increase relational stress

2. Emotional Alienation and Extra-Marital Attachment

Emotional alienation may create circumstances in which an individual seeks companionship or emotional validation outside marriage. An extra-marital relationship may initially be experienced as affection, understanding, or emotional support. However, secrecy and divided emotional commitments can intensify conflict within the marriage. When the external relationship becomes closely connected with decisions about separation, finances, social reputation, or the future, tensions may become more complicated.

3. Jealousy, Possessiveness and Fear of Loss

Jealousy can become particularly significant when an intimate relationship is threatened by perceived betrayal or abandonment. In some extreme cases, possessiveness and fear of losing a partner may contribute to aggressive or destructive behaviour.

Nevertheless, jealousy should not be treated as an inevitable consequence of love. Healthy relationships allow individuals autonomy and encourage communication, whereas possessive behaviour can undermine trust and safety.

4. Influence of Extra-Marital Partners

In some reported cases, an extra-marital partner may become involved in the conflict surrounding a marriage. Emotional dependency, promises about a future relationship, financial interests, pressure, or fear of discovery may influence the dynamics between the individuals.

The presence of a third party, however, does not by itself establish responsibility for a crime. Each person's role must be examined through reliable evidence and, where applicable, judicial findings.

5. Economic and Social Pressures

Financial disputes, property, inheritance, dependency, employment, and differences in economic status can contribute to marital tension. In some cases, emotional and economic motivations may overlap.

Social expectations may also make relationship breakdown difficult. Fear of family reaction, concern about reputation, or pressure to remain in an unhappy marriage may contribute to secrecy and conflict. These pressures should be studied as contextual factors rather than as direct causes of homicide.

6. Technology and Contemporary Intimate Relationships

Mobile phones, social media, and private messaging have changed how people establish and maintain relationships. Digital communication can create opportunities for emotional intimacy beyond the immediate social environment.

Technology itself does not cause infidelity or violence. However, secret digital communication can sometimes intensify suspicion, jealousy, and relationship conflict, especially when trust has already weakened.

7. From Relationship Conflict to Extreme Violence

The movement from ordinary marital disagreement to homicide is neither automatic nor common. Extreme violence generally requires a combination of factors that varies from case to case. Relationship breakdown may coexist with jealousy, anger, coercive behaviour, financial motives, emotional crises, or the influence of other individuals.

Therefore, the phrase "love led to murder" is insufficient as an academic explanation. A more useful approach is to examine the sequence of interpersonal tensions and the broader social and psychological circumstances surrounding each case.

8. The Killing of Husbands and Lovers: A Gender-Neutral Perspective

Cases involving the killing of husbands or lovers should be examined without assuming that women are naturally disloyal or that men are always victims. Both men and women can experience infidelity, relationship conflict, emotional dependency, jealousy, and violence.

The focus of the present study is therefore not to condemn one gender but to understand how intimate relationships can become sites of severe conflict in exceptional circumstances. Such an approach allows the research to remain analytical rather than judgmental.

CONCLUSION

Love and marriage are founded on emotional connection, trust, communication, respect, and mutual understanding. When these foundations weaken, prolonged conflict and emotional alienation may develop. Extra-marital relationships can further complicate such circumstances by introducing secrecy, competing emotional commitments, jealousy, and uncertainty about the future.

The study concludes that the relationship between marital discord, extra-marital relationships, and homicide is complex. An affair or marital disagreement cannot be regarded as a direct or inevitable cause of killing. In exceptional cases, extreme violence may emerge from an interaction of multiple factors, including emotional instability, jealousy, possessiveness, financial motives, social pressure, relationship breakdown, and third-party influence.

Understanding these cases requires moving beyond sensational explanations and examining the human, psychological, and social circumstances surrounding them. Strengthening communication, mutual respect, emotional awareness, counselling, and lawful mechanisms for separation may help individuals address serious relationship problems without resorting to violence.

Ultimately, the study suggests that the breakdown of understanding may create conflict, but the transition from conflict to extreme violence is a separate and exceptional phenomenon requiring careful individual analysis.

WORKS CITED

Buss, David M. *The Dangerous Passion: Why Jealousy Is as Necessary as Love and Sex*. Free Press.

Glass, Shirley P. *NOT "Just Friends": Rebuilding Trust and Recovering Your Sanity After Infidelity*.

DECLARATION

This research paper is an original academic work prepared for publication purposes. The study examines intimate relationships, marital conflict, extra-marital relationships, and extreme violence from socio-psychological perspectives. All secondary sources used in the study should be properly acknowledged, and allegations concerning individual criminal cases should be verified against reliable records before publication.

