



**Effect of Patriarchy on Spatial Mobility in Female Urban University Teachers and  
Students**

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**Abstract**

**Aims:** The aim of this study was to inspect the relationship between patriarchy and spatial mobility of women in urban areas of Pakistan. The literature shows that women who faced more patriarchy had a restricted spatial mobility. This study will further add to the literature. The concept of patriarchy and male dominancy was explained through the Marxist theory of patriarchy.

**Methodology:** The research is quantitative in nature and convenient sampling method was used to collect the data. The sample included total of 200 urban women out of which 100 were female university students and 100 were female teachers mainly from Lahore.

**Data Analysis:** SPSS has been used to analyze the data. First descriptive statistics have been used to present study variable frequencies and percentages. Then factor analysis was run to check the validity of the self-constructed scales. Normality and reliability was also checked. To check the relationship between patriarchy and spatial mobility spearman correlation and regression was used.

**Results:** Alternative test Spearman correlation was run and the results were significant ( $-0.56^{***}$ ) which showed that when patriarchy is high the spatial mobility of women is low. Multiple linear regression results revealed that patriarchy emerged as a significant negative predictor of spatial mobility ( $R^2 = F(1,198) = 60.06, p < .001$ ).

**Conclusion:** The study concludes that patriarchy restricts the spatial mobility of female university students and teachers from the urban region. Further research can be conducted on this area with a larger sample across more cities in Pakistan.

### **Introduction**

Patriarchal culture and attitudes have been a part of the traditions and way of life in in most societies of the world. The literal meaning of the word patriarchy is '*the rule of the father*' (Akgul, 2017). Patriarchy is a system in which men are in power and they have a control over women's lives and decision-making. Patriarchy defines men as the stronger gender and links male masculinity with characteristics such as: powerful, aggressive, muscular and authoritative. In patriarchal societies male power and dominance can be seen in both the private and public sectors. Within the homes fathers and husbands are considered as the head of the family. Majority of the decisions are taken and controlled by the male members of the family. For instance, the family schedule, the budget and where and when to spend the money, how many kids a husband and a wife want and even small things like when should one watch television or what is consumed.

Similarly in public sectors men are more powerful. They have more job opportunities, economic power, more salaries, higher ranks and more accessibility. Men are seen more in politics, sports sector, businesses and arm forces as compared to women. We can observe patriarchy in our daily activities as well; it is considered that men are wiser and comparatively women are irrational and emotional (Johnson, 2016). Patriarchal states have laws made in such a way that the legal system favors men. In other Muslim dominated states, like Jordan and Lebanon, women are treated as second class citizens through unfair or neglectful laws (Olorunshola, 2016).

### **Background:**

In many places in the world women have recognized this problem and they have spread awareness on how to eradicate it. Due to feminist movements, marches and campaigns

women are coming in power and trying to end patriarchy to some extent. However due to many reasons patriarchy still persists. Pakistan is also one of those countries in which women are oppressed and mistreated. Women with economic power face less male dominance and control but even in the urban areas two third of the women are oppressed (Hussain S. &, 2020). Patriarchy affects women by restricting their autonomy, exposure, power and spatial mobility.

Spatial mobility is the movement of a person across different locations (Manuela, 2011). Going to places like schools, hospitals, friend's house, malls, restaurants or even a different city or moving abroad. Due to the patriarchal setup of Pakistan women are mainly confined to their homes and they only leave if there is something very necessary like going to schools, colleges or hospitals. The movement of a woman from one place to another is challenged by both her family and the society. In a household, woman's mobility is controlled and questioned by the male heads of the family. In the workplaces or education institutions, women feel threatened by their male colleagues, fellows or seniors. As women are considered weak they also have more chances of getting harassed by men outside the home- including the workplace, schools, or public spaces (Sadrudin, 2013). Other local research confirms that even when women need medical help, family and in-laws prevent women from seeking health services outside the home due to patriarchal traditions of associating honor with women remaining within the home (Saeed, 2017).

In Pakistan generally women are considered the weaker gender, who need to be controlled within the home (Zakar, 2013). The public sector, political offices, and public spaces have very little representation by women (Chauhan, 2014). A local research highlights that women from different Sociodemographic classes have different patterns of

mobility, with the upper classes having comparatively more freedom (Mumtaz, 2005). Also, women have better mobility if they are accompanied by some relative or friend whether it is a male or a female.

It is also true that with every passing day life is becoming easier for women in Pakistan with regard to movement and mobility. Women are being encouraged to find employment and earn money and even enter the fields and areas which are stereotypically known for men, such as politics, law and sports. Even in rural areas girls are sent to schools to study. Women are getting awareness especially through social media and because of different movements, campaigns and messages they are being empowered and seeking independence (Queresh, 2019).

**Theoretical Framework:**

According to Marxist theory patriarchy originated due to the control of private property by men (Farrelly, 2011). As men controlled the resources and income, they also held power over women's lives and practices. Marxist theory explains that men with more economic control are more easily able to control and dominate the weaker gender. The powerlessness of women also affects their movement and advocacy of women, thus preventing them from being able to fight for their rights, and in fact remaining trapped in a state of false consciousness. Where men are associated with employment and financial autonomy, women are exclusively involved in home and child care. This further limits their independence and decision-making.

**Study Aims:**

The aim of this study is to find a relationship between patriarchy and spatial mobility of urban women of Pakistan specifically of Lahore. The objective is to try and understand if

urban women still face patriarchal barriers to mobility, thus affecting their opportunities for employment, advancement and wellbeing. Based on the study findings, recommendations will be presented on needed reforms to support women students and teachers with respect to spatial mobility.

### **Research Question:**

The main research question for this thesis is: Does patriarchy restrict the spatial mobility of urban women, specifically university teachers and students?

## **Literature Review**

### **International Research:**

Many women are not allowed to do jobs by their husbands due to male chauvinism and superiority. Men are not comfortable with their wives to leave their houses and work due to several issues. Some associate women with prestige and veiling and others feel that it is a masculine thing to do. They do not let women do jobs just because they do not want them to earn and be superior and they just want them to be a part of the kitchen. A study from Bangladesh, also a patriarchal society, revealed that in order to work women had to negotiate and faced great exploitation (Choudhury, 2013). Patriarchy is justified by many societies through religious beliefs, cultural and political systems. Religion and culture is used to keep women within the walls and prevent them from employment and social mobility (Zhao, 2016). Most literature however confirms that women from rural backgrounds face more restrictions to mobility than urban women (Ismailbekova, 2013).

Some studies also argue that women themselves may prefer to remain within the home in order to avoid gender discrimination, lack of respect, or harassment from men outside the homes or at the workplace (Kiaye, 2013). Restricted mobility and cultural barriers usually forces women to work within the home, which limits their opportunities for professional advancement (Xheneti, 2019). Research also shows that it is the spouses and family members who limit the movement of women outside the home (Carrim, 2016; Khan, 2011). Research from Africa suggests that restrictions to movement prevents women from accessing education, health services, and opportunities for leisure (Porter, 2011). Surprisingly, even non-Muslim women face considerable barriers to spatial mobility and freedom to make their own life decisions (Shin, 2011). Majority women in the South Asian region prefer to remain at home as they do not feel safe traveling outside the home and using public transport (Huq-Hussain, 2013). Another study explains that mobility is only legitimized for women if there is a necessity; like if there is no male member in the family available (Siwach, 2020).

## **Methodology**

### **Research Design:**

This is a cross-sectional research, using a quantitative survey.

### **Operationalization of Variables:**

For this research; the Independent variable (IV) is ‘patriarchy’ and the dependent variable (DV) is the ‘spatial mobility of women’.

### **Hypothesis:**

H1: Urban women (specifically university teachers and university students) who face more patriarchy and male domination have less spatial mobility



**Sample:**

Convenience sampling method has been used. Due to the coronavirus pandemic and permission issues, the selection criterion was limited to urban university students and teachers (both university and school) who were sampled through Google survey. The target was to sample 200 women including 100 university students and 100 teachers across urban Pakistan and mostly Lahore. Students were mailed the Google survey through Whatsapp and closed Facebook student society groups, based on permission. Teachers were surveyed through publicly accessible websites which accessed the email addresses of female teachers across urban areas of Pakistan. Many teachers were also sampled through references and personal network.

**Tools:**

The questionnaires had two parts. The first part (Appendix C) consisted of demographic questions that asked about the characteristics like age and marital status. The second part of the questionnaire had sixteen questions related to patriarchy (male domination) and spatial mobility. This was a perception-based survey and used a 5 point scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

**Ethics of Research:**

Informed consent was taken from the participants and they were provided complete information about the study objectives and it was ensured that the participants fully understood the questions and were not pressurized to fill the form. Participants were assured of anonymity and confidentiality and that they had the right to withdraw at any point.

**Procedure:**

The questionnaires were distributed online through Google survey. After collecting the data, the responses of the participants were studied and analyzed. The Google survey settings made sure that the personal information of any participant was kept confidential.

**Data Analysis:**

To analyze the data the statistical software SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences v.25) was used. Descriptive statistics were used which included frequencies, percentages, mean, minimum, maximum and standard deviation. Factor analysis was used to test the construct validity of the scale. Spearman correlation was used to check the relationship between the independent and dependent variables. Finally linear regression and multiple regressions were tested for both the variables. Significance levels of  $p < 0.05$  were considered significant for this study.

**Budget:**

There is no budget for this study as the data was collected online.

## Results

**Socio-demographic results:**

Table 1 presents the socio-demographic information of the participants (age, marital status, occupation and social class). Majority (62%) of the participants are single. Majority students are from private universities (69%) and similarly majority of the teachers sampled are also from private universities (66%). Nearly all the participants belong to the upper middle class (46%) or the middle class (46%).

**Table 1**

*Descriptive statistics of demographic values*

Variables	F	%
Age(M=29.45; SD=9.38)		
Marital Status		

Single	124	62.0
Married	69	34.5
Divorced	04	02.0
Other	03	01.5
<b>Occupation</b>		
Public university student	33	16.5
Public university teacher	32	16.0
Private university student	69	34.5
Private university teacher	66	33.0
<b>Social class</b>		
Lower middle class	03	01.5
Middle class	93	46.5
Upper middle class	92	46.0
Upper class	12	06.0

### Factor Analysis:

Table 2 presents the factor analysis of the six items that measured the variable patriarchy.

The factor loading for patriarchy items were all greater than or closer to the value 0.5

except question number 6.

**Table 2**

*Analysis of Items in Patriarchy scale*

	Initial	Extraction
1. Most of the household financial decisions are made by the male member of the family.	1.000	.480
2. I obey my father more than I do my mother.	1.000	.907
3. I cannot leave my house until my father or husband has given me permission.	1.000	.553
4. I have to focus more on the domestic work.	1.000	.522
5. I have to listen to the final decision made by my father or husband.	1.000	.632
6. My morality is judged on the basis of what I wear.	1.000	.216

Table 3 shows the factor analysis of the nine items that measured spatial mobility of the participants. The result shows that all the items were greater or closer to the value 0.5.

**Table 3**

*Analysis of Items in Spatial mobility scale*

	Initial	Extraction
7. I make plans with my friends less often as compared to my brother or male cousins.	1.000	.434
8. I can get in trouble if I reach my house late at night.	1.000	.485
9. I have to return to my house before the sunset.	1.000	.597
10. A male member of the family accompanies me if I have to travel out of the city.	1.000	.544
11. I chose the university/workplace that is near my house.	1.000	.455

12. I have to be cautious when I am outside my house.	1.000	.566
13. I cannot take a job which requires night shifts.	1.000	.527
14. I am less likely to go outside my house unless it is very important.	1.000	.653
15. I do more online shopping as it is hard for me to leave the house.	1.000	.460

Table 4 presents the normality and reliability of both dependent (patriarchy) and independent (spatial mobility) variables. Shapiro-Wilk Test was run to test the normality for the distribution of data for both the variables patriarchy and spatial mobility. The data was normally distributed for mobility as the values of skewness and kurtosis were within the range. The Cronbach's value for patriarchy was a little less than 0.7. The value for spatial mobility was above the recommended value i.e. 0.7.

**Table 4***Psychometric properties of Study Variable*

Variables	M	SD	S Error	Range	Skewness	Kurtosis	Cronbach's alpha
Patriarchy	.206	4.933	.05813	-12-12	1.138	8.990	.655
Mobility	-.290	6.769	.05318	-18-18	.076	-.279	.817

**Spearman correlation results:**

Table 5 shows the Spearman correlation results of patriarchy and spatial mobility.

According to the results patriarchy has a significant negative relationship with spatial mobility. This means that as patriarchy increases the spatial mobility of women of the sample decreases.

**Table 5***Spearman correlation results showing relationship between patriarchy and spatial mobility.*

-Variables	N	1	2
Patriarchy	200	-	
Mobility	200	-.56***	-

**Regression:**

Table 6 reports the linear regression results for the study. The predictor variable patriarchy was entered and the regression model was significant with results including:  $R^2 = .23$ ,  $F(1, 198) = 60.06$   $p < .001$ . The predictor patriarchy emerged as a significant negative predictor of spatial mobility, indicating that when male domination is high, women face barriers to spatial mobility.

**Table 6**

*Linear regressions of patriarchy and spatial mobility.*

Predictors	B	95% CI for B		SEB	B	R <sup>2</sup>	ΔR <sup>2</sup>
		LL	CL				
Step 1						.23***	.23***
Constant	-.20	-.29	-.10	.05			
Patriarchy	-.44	-.55	-.33	.06	-.48***		

Table 7 shows the results of multiple linear regression results for the study. The regression was run for all the independent variables including age, marital status, occupation and social class. The relationship of patriarchy with these variables was not significant. The prediction model was statistically insignificant ( $F(4,195) = 1.16$ ,  $p = .330$ ,  $R^2 = .02$

**Table 7**

*Multiple regression model for patriarchy*

Model	Coefficients					
	Unstandardized co-efficient B	Standardized co- efficient Std.Error	B	Sig	95% CI for β	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
(Constant)	.44	.32		.17	-.19	1.08
Age	-.003	.009	-.04	.71	-.02	.01
Marital status	.13	.13	.10	.30	-.12	.38
Occupation	.03	.06	.05	.56	-.08	.15
Social status	-.17	.09	-.13	.08	-.35	.02

Dependent Variable: Patriarchy

The Prediction model was statistically insignificant,  $F(4,195) = 1.16$ ,  $p = .330$ ,  $R^2 = .02$

Table 8 represents the multiple regression of the variable spatial mobility the independent variables, including demographics such as age, marital status, occupation and social class. The results showed that spatial mobility had a significant relationship with these variables. The prediction model was statistically significant,  $F(4,195)=2.52, p=.043, R^2 = .05^*$

**Table 8***Multiple regression model for spatial mobility.*

Model	Coefficients					
	Unstandardized co-efficient B	Standardized co- efficient Std.Error	B	Sig	95% CI for $\beta$	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
(Constant)	-.73	.29		.012	-1.31	-.16
Age	-.004	.008	-.05	.61	-.02	.01
Marital status	-.011	.12	-.009	.93	-.24	.22
Occupation	-.020	.05	-.03	.72	-.13	.09
Social status	.25	.09	.21	.004	.08	.42

Dependant Variable: Spatial Mobility

The Prediction model was statistically significant,  $F(4,195)=2.52, p=.043, R^2 = .05^*$ 

## DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to find a relationship between patriarchy and spatial mobility of urban teachers and university students of Pakistan. A self-constructed questionnaire was used to measure both the variables patriarchy and spatial mobility. The study tested the hypothesis that the more the urban women faced patriarchy the less spatial mobility. Results show that the hypothesis of this study is proven correct. Another local study from Pakistan's federal capital also confirmed that female students have restricted mobility; however the working women had more mobility in comparison (Ferdoos, 2016).

Local research also confirms that in Pakistan women do not have permission to move outside the home unless there is permission from male members of the family and necessity (Ferdoos, 2016). Another local research revealed that majority of women did not

have permission for decision making, spending their own money, and mobility (Hussain S. &, 2020). Despite the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in many ways Pakistani women still face traditional and patriarchal barriers to spatial mobility (Ali, 2006). One study reveals that women who are assertive in being mobile are culturally associated with compromising family honor (Adeel M. Y., 2017). Even successful women entrepreneurs faced restrictions on social mobility and faced discrimination for being active and creative income earners (Mahmood, 2012).

The multiple regression results for spatial mobility shows that women with improved social class have improved spatial mobility. This implies that Pakistan needs more support and interventions for spatial mobility of lower class and disadvantaged women. The findings have implications for women's further opportunities and capacity building. Studies confirm that women who face restrictions on mobility, also suffer from lower social status and fewer opportunities for income generation (Jaim, 2020). Another study confirmed that women who were from upper social class were more mobile (Adeel M. &, 2018). Contrarily, local research suggests that regardless of social class women in Pakistan face restricted mobility and violence in public spaces (Rizvi, 2014).

### **Limitations**

There were some limitations of this study and the major one was the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Due to which more women could not be surveyed and the sample size was small. Also, a standardized scale was not used to measure both the variables patriarchy and spatial mobility. For future research it is recommended that a bigger sample is taken and women from different areas and backgrounds of Pakistan be surveyed to understand more dimensions and problems related to spatial mobility and its consequences.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

This study finds a relationship between patriarchy and restricted mobility of urban women in Pakistan. This study further adds to the literature by contributing that the urban university students and teachers of Pakistan face patriarchy which affects their spatial mobility. The results suggest that Pakistan is in need of interventions in the urban regions. Firstly, both women and men both should be given awareness about the importance of women having freedom for mobility in order to pursue work and leisure time. Secondly, perhaps improved safety and protective laws will make women feel safer to move around freely in urban spaces and also encourage male relatives to give freedom to women. In lieu of this it is recommended that separate public transport like exclusive buses and rickshaws for women should be introduced more and more for a safer travel and mobility.

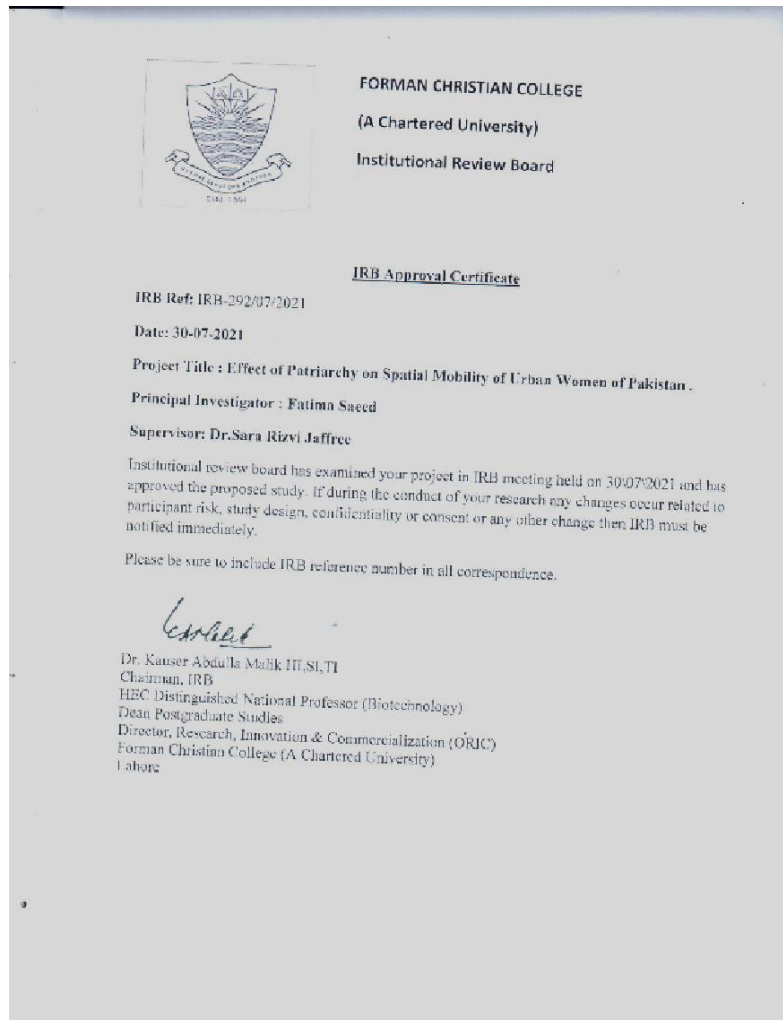



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**Appendix A****IRB form.**

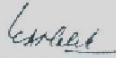
 **FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**  
(A Chartered University)  
Institutional Review Board

**IRB Approval Certificate**

**IRB Ref:** IRB-29/07/2021  
**Date:** 30-07-2021  
**Project Title :** Effect of Patriarchy on Spatial Mobility of Urban Women of Pakistan .  
**Principal Investigator :** Fatima Saeed  
**Supervisor:** Dr.Sara Rizvi Jaffree

Institutional review board has examined your project in IRB meeting held on 30/07/2021 and has approved the proposed study. If during the conduct of your research any changes occur related to participant risk, study design, confidentiality or consent or any other change then IRB must be notified immediately.

Please be sure to include IRB reference number in all correspondence.

  
Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik III,SI,TI  
Chairman, IRB  
HEC Distinguished National Professor (Biotechnology)  
Dean Postgraduate Studies  
Director, Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC)  
Forman Christian College (A Chartered University)  
Lahore

**APPENDIX B****INFORMED CONSENT FORM**

(Please detach this section and return it to the researcher)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby agree to participate in Fatima Saeed's research entitled "Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Female Education" in a sample of Pakistan. I have read and understood what participation entails as set out in the information sheet. I understand that:

- Participation in this study is voluntary
- No information that may identify me will be included in the research report, and my responses will remain confidential
- I may withdraw information from the study at any time
- There are no risks or benefits associated with the study

---

Signature

---

Date

## APPENDIX C

### Questionnaire

#### Demographics

1. Age:
2. Marital status:
  - A. Single
  - B. Married
  - C. Divorced/ Separated/ Widowed
3. Occupation
  - A. Public University Student
  - B. Private University Student
  - C. Private University teacher
  - D. Public University Teacher
4. Social Class
  - A. Upper class
  - B. Upper middle class
  - C. Middle class
  - D. Lower middle class

Sr	Select how much do you agree or disagree with the statements below (Ordinal)	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
2	Most of the household financial decisions are made by the male member of the family.	1	2	3	4	5
3	I obey my father more than I do my mother.	1	2	3	4	5

4	I cannot leave my house until my father or husband has given me permission.	1	2	3	4	5
5	I have to focus more on the domestic work.	1	2	3	4	5
6	I am supposed to listen to the final decision made by my father or husband.	1	2	3	4	5
7	My morality is judged on the basis of what I wear.	1	2	3	4	5
8	I make plans with my friends less often as compared to my brother or male cousins.	1	2	3	4	5
9	I can get in trouble if I reach my house late at night.	1	2	3	4	5
10	I have to return to my house before the sunset.	1	2	3	4	5
11	A male member of my family accompanies me if I have to travel out of the city.	1	2	3	4	5
12	I chose the university/workplace which is near my house.	1	2	3	4	5
13	I have to be cautious when I am outside my house.	1	2	3	4	5
14	I cannot to take a job which requires night shifts.	1	2	3	4	5
15	I am less likely to go outside my house unless it is very important.	1	2	3	4	5
16	I do more online shopping as it is hard for me to leave the house.	1	2	3	4	5