# Journal Of Clinical Psychology and Mental Health Care

Open Access Review Article

# Physiognomies of Honor Killing in Developing Cultures

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#### **Article Info**

Received: February 01, 2021 Accepted: February 15, 2021 Published: February 23, 2021

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**Citation:** Saeed S Shafti. "Physiognomies of Honor Killing in Developing Cultures.". Clinical Psychology and Mental Health Care, 2(2); DOI: http://doi.org/03.2021/1.10011.

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#### **Summary:**

An honor killing is a kind of crime, which includes the murder of a family member, the perpetrator's victim certainty that the brought disgrace or scandal for the family, or has disrupted the ethics of a community or a religion with honor values. So, HK is a type of domestic violence in the broadest sense of violence within a family. Both men and women are the victims of shame killing. The threat of murder is used to control behavior, particularly with reference to sexuality and marriage. Committers often do not face negative stigma within their societies, because their conduct is seen as warranted. Though shame killings are often associated with the Asian continent and Middle East, they occur all over the world. In developed societies the majority of honor killings are committed by first generation immigrants against second and third generation to prevent them from becoming westernized. On the other hand, a systematic review of the research literature indicates a paucity of studies relative to the presumed size of the problem, and despite a recent increase in published surveys, persistent methodological limitations limit the generalizability of conclusions. In the present article, which is focused essentially on physiognomies of developing countries, the sociocultural, forensic and psychopathological aspects of honor killing are discussed, while considering that as a double-sided problem demands reciprocal cultural educational changes for maximum compromising and reshaping of collective behavior.

**Key Words:** honor killing; honor crime; shame killing; murder; criminology; criminality; forensic psychiatry; psychopathology.

### Introduction:

An honor killing (HK) or shame killing is a kind of crime, which includes the murder of a family member, due to the perpetrators' certainty that the victim has brought disgrace or scandal for the family, or has disrupted the ethics of a community or a religion with honor values (1). So, HK is a type of domestic violence in the broadest sense of violence within a family. Males can also be the victims of shame killings by relatives of a woman with whom they are perceived to have an unsuitable relationship, or by participating in gay activities (2). Many times, cultural standards and performs including the legal practices related to honor crimes support the practice of killing women for sexual misbehavior and excuse offenders of such crimes from penalty (3). While extra-marital pregnancy is one of the strongest motivators for honor killings and old injuries are a potential sign of ongoing intimate partner violence (4), adult married women constitute the majority of victims of HK (5). A forced suicide, as well, may become a substitute for HK. In this case, the relatives do not directly kill the victim themselves, but force him or her to commit suicide, in order to avoid sentence (6). Human Rights Watch defines "honor killings" as follows: "Honor crimes are acts of violence, usually murder, committed by male relatives against female family members who are perceived to have brought disrepute upon the family (7)". For women, methods of 'dishonor' include communicating with 'unknown' men, being in a room with a man who is not a relative, perceived or actual adultery, running away, premarital pregnancy, or otherwise challenging patriarchal gender norms (8, 9, and



10). Relatives may target a woman because she refuses a order of the nation, and killing looks the only way to remove any prearranged or forced marriage, is the victim of a sexual assault, shame brought by the actions and restore social steadiness, the or seeking divorce - even from an abusive husband. As Amnesty International statement notes: The rule of honor is unforgiving because women on whom doubt has fallen are not given a chance to defend themselves, and family members have no socially acceptable alternative but to remove the stain on their honor by attacking the victim (11). Many honor killings are scheduled by multiple members of a family, sometimes through an official "family council". The threat of murder is used to control behavior, particularly with reference to sexuality and marriage, which may be seen as a responsibility for some or all family members to uphold (9).

for engagement in forbidden manners (1). The incidence of honor killings is very difficult to decide, and guesstimates differ broadly. Though shame killings are often associated with the Asian continent, they occur all over the world. In developed societies the most of honor killings are committed by first generation immigrants against second and third generation to prevent them from becoming westernized (11). As said by advocacy director for Human Rights Watch, the practice of honor killing "goes across cultures and across religions." An estimated 5000 'honor killings' occur every year, with the majority of these in the Middle East and Asia, and their diaspora in Europe, America and Latin America (7). Anthropological writings have made three main arguments about the drivers of HK in societies where these are obvious. First, it is a form of patriarchal social control over women's bodies and sexuality (13). This connects HK to other forms of violence against women and girls, often noting women who are murdered 'in the name of honor' have before experienced other forms of violence from relatives (14). A second part of research highlights economic factors in HK. Broadly, in societies where 'honor killings' are more common, women's bodies may be considered as resources for reproduction, domestic labor, and access to other resources (15). A third argument proposes that According to Kanchan et al. (23), honor killings are graceless and 'honor' is a resource through which families can make social prestige in a community, without recourse to economic or political routes, which for poor families is not thinkable (16).

#### **Background:**

In the Roman Empire the ancient law permitted the murder of daughters and their mistresses who committed adultery at the hands of their fathers and permitted the killing of the adulterous wife's mistress at the hand of her husband (17). In ancient China

relation between honor and female sexuality is an intricate one, and some scholars claim that it is not females' sexuality *per se* that is the 'problem', but rather women's self-determination in regard to it, as well as fertility. In present times, the changing economic and cultural status of women has also been used to explain the incidents of honor killings. Therefore, some investigators argue that the shift towards greater responsibility for women and less for their fathers may cause their male relatives to act in oppressive and sometimes violent manners to regain authority (18).

### **Associated Social circumstances:**

Committers often do not face negative stigma within their Misogynistic views towards women and the place of women in societies, because their conduct is seen as warranted (12). The society, exaggerated concept of family honor and management assassinations are sometimes performed in public to warn the of reputation, preponderance of collectivist cultures, where the other folks within the community of probable penalties family is more important than the person and personal autonomy is seen as a threat to the family and its honor, economic vulnerability, and absence of the rule of law are among the known causes which endorse HK (14). Analysis of data suggests a strong relationship between women reporting 'honor killing' in their family and reporting other violence from household members, which suggests a clustering of violent practices within families. Furthermore, the analysis also highlights a link between poverty and HK (18). Besides, as said by some studies, education is associated with attitudes to 'honor killing' and persons with more education have less patriarchal outlooks (19, 20). On the other hand, legal frameworks can encourage HK. Such laws include, on one side, leniency towards such murders, and, on the other side, criminalization of various behaviors, such as extramarital sex, impolite dressing in public places, or homosexual sexual acts, which may reassure perpetrators of honor killings that people engaging in these activities deserve penalty (21). In fact, legal responses to honor killings and honor based abuse are often weak (22).

## Discussion:

ferocious murders by chauvinists with an antediluvian mind. These are classified separately because these murders are committed for the prime reason of satisfying the ego of the persons whom the victim trusts and always looks up to for support and protection. It is for this sole reason that honor killings demand harsh and strict sentence, not only for the person who committed the murder but also for any person who contributed or was party to the act (23). There is every reason to believe that honor based violence is one of the forms of domestic violence that is being practiced against women all over the world. This type of violence and among the Indigenous Aztecs and Incas, as well, adultery was includes a wide range of crimes, the severest of which is honor punishable by death. During John Calvin's rule of Geneva, killing. While many studies have adopted different definitions for women found guilty of adultery were punished by being drowned HK, it goes beyond ethnicity, class, and religion (24). On the other in the river. Similarly, the French or Napoleonic Penal Code, hand, a systematic review of the research literature on honor which was passed in 1810, permitted killing of an unfaithful wife killings in the Middle East and North Africa indicates a paucity and her mistress at the hand of her husband. It was abolished only of studies relative to the presumed size of the problem. Despite a in 1975. The said penal code passed by Napoleon was copied by recent increase in published studies, persistent methodological Middle Eastern Arab countries, too, where honor killings have a limitations limit the generalizability of conclusions (25). Also, long tradition (17). While, anthropologically, an act, or even despite existence of a significant body of qualitative research, the supposed act, of any female sexual misconduct, upsets the moral resulted findings offer rare quantitative evidence about the root causes of 'honor killings' (26). Without doubt, HK is a phenomenon which is easily processed by unconscious wrongdoing. Disregard to its cultural or personal justifications, mechanism of reaction formation, such as, in obsessive according to the standards of a civilized nation or modern legal compulsive people, or erotic intents in mindful perpetrators. Such system, it is a murder, whether deliberate homicide or an inference is somewhat in accord with the idea of Patel et al. act. Backbone or sense of dignity, which is usually claimed to that provokes HK? As said before, the sense of dignity is overtly core of HK, and perhaps is sensation, which is made up of a number of characteristic, customary and domestic laws by the destroyed person. cultural, emotive, cognitive and customary elements. But, what is Traditionally and socially, there was always a sharp distinction an indelible blot on family reputation that demands corporal between house and whorehouse, on behalf of preserving the safety wiping out? It is a cultural-historical concept that separates and stability of family, as the constituent unit of society. worthy persons from valueless people, dominant authority from Protection or management of household, as like as any Social or group ranking theory, from a Neo-Darwinian stereotypically accomplished. Since, breaking of such orthodox conflict and demand a problem solving strategy. Supposedly, the every violation of principle rules is responded by retribution. resolving strategy includes demolition of contender in the first. While in older nations such sentences could be accomplished by attitude, suppression of the disobedient person in the second blood relatives or head of tribes, in modern civilizations no stance. None of the aforementioned views allows procrastination lawful rubrics. But, even todays and based on the cultural, without omission of one of the antagonists. This is the sentence civil rights is evident. So, more rural, more illiterate, more brazen, or she ventures to transgress the accustomed red lines, and even now it can be valid if there is no supremacy of law, or the civic toleration is lower than the legal threshold. But, why the above process should change? Because in modern society, such a be abused, framed, or camouflaged, by the perpetrators, upset the every society to think about regulatory mechanisms or rules for humanity, and weaken the legal system more than before. From conveying the right of major punishments from persons to a psychopathological view, among personality characters, obsessive compulsive, narcissistic, borderline, antisocial and paranoid traits or disorders can prepare the individual for or behaviors, and promotion of protective institutions, rules and instability, lack of morality, and doubtfulness, respectively. The living of family members, whether elder or fledgling, said qualities can work as triggering dynamics, which can impact can modify reasonably the problem of honor killing. Though right the judgment remarkably in stressful, insoluble and despairing lawmaking is the first step in stopping the said problem, auxiliary of a psychopath or person with sadomasochistic or sadistic personality disorder. In the same way, delusional disorder, family members, then the rest of kindred should not be influenced especially jealous type, erotomanic type and persecutory type, by that bad behavior. The genuineness of misconduct, as well, which is, also, many times hard to prove forensically. Forensically, delusional disorder, in the form of morbid jealousy, is an important psychopathologic cause in homicide, and major is not ordinary even in developed societies. Except than depressive disorder is a key element in homicide-suicide or professional whoredom, which is illegal in many developed intellectual deficiency, too, which is many times unrecognized or morbid symptom in borderline personality disorder, underestimated, can speed up poor judgment, especially in the depressive equivalent in adolescents with major depressive aforesaid morbid conditions. Also, since the victims are often disorder, or bipolar disorder. Likewise, nymphomania (excessive attention-grabbing or good-looking, a possible unconscious or or pathological desire for coitus in a women), a kind of sex ambivalence between hate and love can arouse more easily due to dysfunction. Similarly, sexual relationship with a teenage (≤18

unintentional manslaughter. Therefore, forensically, or from a (27), who believed that perpetrators of 'honor killings' often have criminological viewpoint, it is a harmful, illegal, and irrational motives outside of female adultery (27). What about the situation more or covertly at the core of honor killing, and it is commonly excessively knowable in developing societies, is a passionate announced by the assassin as a kind of retribution for violation of subordinate groups, or moral people from immoral guys, which administrative or commercial office, demands some interior and can be relic of social class struggle, from a Marxian outlook, exterior rules, which are conventionally planned and or sociobiological standpoint, or sign of Satanist naughtiness, instructions may destabilize the household, whether literally or from a theistic or holy view, respectively. All of them result in metaphorically, no transgressing is customarily tolerable. So, perspective, and annihilation of blasphemous being in the third punishment is acceptable out of constitutional rights or existing or negligence because the assumed struggles may not be resolved educational and urbanity of folks a variable level of approval of which is prescribed through history for the rebellious person if he more silly, more impulsive, and more aggressive people can forget or deny the aforesaid civil rights as fast as possible, and act as a heartless executioner in unbearable instants. So, the honor killer accomplishes the role of accuser, prosecutor, and judge, all at once, with no place for legal representative of the accused. In primitive problem solving strategy, is a crime per se, can contemporary era, it is duty of governance and legislative body of authentic public administrations and found such handing over on community feedback. Removal of accelerating rubrics, customs assassination, by way of harsh superego, selfishness, emotive lifestyles, with considering the mutual viewpoints and standard of conditions. HK can be in continuance of earlier bullying conduct resolutions, too, is necessary for the safety of household itself. If safety of family is in jeopardy due to wrongdoings of one of can persuade murdering, thanks to a psychotic state of mind, may not have a similar implication in different civilizations. It depends on culture, tradition, education, attitude, social class, and subjective analysis of issue. On the other hand, sexual promiscuity extended suicide. Also, borderline intellectual functioning or mild societies, too, sexual promiscuity is recognized in psychiatry as a conscious incestuous or erotic feelings in the killer as regards the addiction, is classified in Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of murdered person is occasionally conceivable, because Mental Disorders, 5th edition (DSM-5) (28) as unspecified sexual sensual jealousy than compassionate aspirations, and an envious years old) is equal to rape and acknowledged as a crime in being can assassinate more easily than a kindhearted person, a developing societies. So, while, at least, psychopathology and criminology share some morbid or legal aspects of sexual most of them did not believe in either mercy or divorcing one's misconduct in both developed and developing countries, which wife who has engaged in extramarital sexual relationship (32); a demands necessary treatments or punishments by associated and legitimate administrations, free and out of spousal relationship non-significant gender differences in the attitudes toward honor among men and women are not principally allowable in killings (33). Also, while Eisner et al. had found collectivistic and developing societies. Essentially, in a civilized society, the right patriarchal world view, father's harsh discipline, believe in the of personal execution must be eradicated totally and eternally. importance of female chastity, and low education backgrounds as Only, administrative or community admins, as the only meaningful predictors in support of HK, which was rather similar administrative and jurisdiction representative of entire society, to the outcomes of Payton (14), Eisner et al. (19) and Fulu et al. can decide, according to law, as regards the penalty of criminal (20), Dayan found possible links between female HK frequency citizens. On the other hand, the regime should notice that its and social factors such as low economic status and rapid verdicts and outlooks can act as schema for masses. Therefore, modernization (34). Huda et al., as well, found that people living lawful execution can be a metaphorical rationalization for in rural setups, in comparison with people living in urban setups, next assassinations, too. So, acculturation and promotion of social and older adults, in comparison with adults of younger age groups, graces must target both the wrongdoing of prospective honor and participants belonging to a joint/extended family system, in killers and the transgression of future sufferers. Though HK is comparison with those who belonged to nuclear families, showed banned by law and will be penalized afterwards, the impending more affirmation to honor killing, and so, demographic variables victim also should discern that this is not a one-sided game and play a role in determining and shaping the attitudes and beliefs of must pay back if do immoral or messily. Since, brusque people about the phenomenon of HK (33). Also, while in the study transgression of social standards, which are very different of Gengler et al. (33) religiosity was a strong positive predictor between industrialized and unindustrialized cultures, can cause of personal support for honor-based violence, some scholars new sequences of social problems, the legislative body or believe that the ideology of honor is a cultural phenomenon and parliament, as representative of nation, can demarcate, does not seem to be related to religion, and honor killings likely periodically, right or wrong public conducts, based on the have a long history in human societies which predate many received feedbacks from electorates. Clichéd imitation of foreign modern religions (18, 35). Moreover, the nasty outcome of HK is lifestyles, even if profitable, is not a substantial and firm not restricted to murderer and target. The other family members, educational refinement. Cultural modification is a slow process, as well, can be influenced, more or less, by such dreadful act. not pressurized mutation, which can be endorsed by external routes, as well. Anyhow, since love or sensual matters root deeply in human instincts, its control is not always possible through existent customs or rubrics, and occurrence of encounter is always conceivable. So, HK, as well, cannot eradicate unacceptable sexual relationships or misconduct because it is an everlasting sporadic conduct. On the other hand, HK is not an instinctive phenomenon and is more an individual choice because there are many prostitutes, homosexuals or youngsters with sexual promiscuity, who are in relationship with their relatives, too, and nobody, have ever hurt them due to their sexual or social misdemeanors. As another example, impotent relatively ignore their mate's extramarital affair because they have insight about their own problem and partner's biologic to UN declaration crimes committed in the name of passion, passions. Similarly, studies report that by middle age, 60 percent stressing that all forms of violence against women, were obstacles of men and 40 percent of women have at least one extramarital to affair, which are usually kept secret from the spouse, and if known, rarely account for divorce (29). Regarding the cultural impaired or nullified the enjoyment by women of their human aspects of honor killing, which is a changeable target, too, a series of researches were accomplished in developing countries. For situation worldwide remained quite contrary to the UN example, according to a study in Pakistan, while male students declaration (37). The close connections between all forms of were statistically significantly more likely to report that killing in family violence and HK do suggest that preventive efforts be the name of honor is always justified and were less equivocal targeted at working with families around preventing violence about it compared to female students, cumulatively most of them more generally, in addition to HK specifically (38). Prevention of believed that killing in the name of honor is not always justified HK needs to be an explicit development goal, and is achievable (30). Also, in another survey by Gengler et al., while half of through cultural modification, expanding education, reducing citizens, particularly the youngest age group, report agreement poverty and removing the immunity of perpetrators (38). that physical violence is justified as punishment for female adultery, a third of both men and women say they would support Conclusion: a law permitting violence against a female adulterer (31). a comparable outcome was found by Shaikh et al., who showed While honor killing is an illegal and vicious homicide that that majority of men as well as women considered it reasonable needs to

conclusion similar to the finding of Huda et al. with respect to Moreover, while there is no guarantee for renewal of affection, stability and respect in the remaining household, sometimes the reverse may come about (36). According to a survey by Khatib et al., following HK, families then entered a protracted process of grief compounded by negative social interactions, which led to a form of "social death." The road to social death was a painful and continuous social process, which, for many, never abated (36). HK can be passively supported by an impassive parliament, which is submissive to old-fashioned traditions, due to philosophical resemblance between congressmen and masses or electors. In such a situation, this is the duty of social activists to men highlight the said dilemma and encourage the legislative body to enact favorable bills in support of right conducts. While according the advancement and empowerment of and reaffirmed that violence against women both violated and rights and fundamental freedoms, existing evidences show the

be inhibited legally, considering and suitable to kill one's wife as a mean to save one's honor, and physiognomies is not an insignificant issue. It is a double-sided

problem the demands cultural and educational modification for prospective perpetrators and predictable victims, reciprocally. Justice for killing and discipline for messy behavior, anger management for the impulsive and aggressive person and proper safe shelter for the endangered person, informative strategies for traditional society and proper counseling for anarchic persons are among the helpful tactics. Moreover, teamwork between mental health services and social working organizations for vanishing harmful prototypes, and planned use of media for proper reshaping of collective behavior can be a fruitful policy.

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