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Institutional Determinants of Public Confidence in Domestic Violence Laws: Evidence from Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence is a huge social and legal issue in most developing countries including Bangladesh. Although laws have been developed to combat domestic violence, they are usually ineffective because people lack awareness, accessibility of institutions and the way they are implemented. This paper will discuss the mechanisms that can either promote or hinder the perceptions held by the populace on the effectiveness of the domestic violence laws in Bangladesh and how these affect the level of trust that the populace have in the law institutions. Speaking from the perspectives of Institutional Theory and the Theory of Legal Consciousness, the study examines how legal knowledge, the availability of legal remedies, and perceived enforcement influence citizens' perceptions of the domestic violence law. It used a quantitative survey and obtained data of 2000 respondents. Structural equation modeling (SEM) was used to analyze the data and test the interconnections among the study variables. The construct reliability and validity of the measures had been established using Cronbach alpha, composite reliability, average variance extracted and discriminant validity tests. These findings show that the perceived effectiveness of domestic violence laws are highly related to legal awareness, legal remedies availability, and enforcement. The adoption of the strongest of these predictors is enforcement. Moreover, the perceptions of the law in the area of domestic violence serve as one of the strongest factors in increasing the confidence people have on the world of law. Through the model, it is estimated that the large difference in the perceived effectiveness and trust in government occurs as a result of institutional performance and legal awareness. The results can be added to the research on the effectiveness of law and institutional legitimacy by showing that the effect of domestic violence laws should be considered not only based on legal texts but also on the perceptions of citizens concerning institutional aptitude and availability. The research also offers policy recommendations to enhance service accessibility to the law and enforcement system in order to maximize the success of domestic violence legislation.

INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence is one of the most widespread violations of human rights all over the world, which involves people of all social, cultural and economic statuses. It is the physical, psychological, sexual and economic abuse that takes place in intimate or family relations (Buchmann, 2022). Even though the problem of domestic violence has become globalized and acknowledged as a social and legal issue that must be taken seriously, the issue still prevails, questioning both legal institutions, policymakers and even social support systems. Legal systems in all governments of the world have come up with framework laws that are aimed at safeguarding the victims, criminalising any form of abuse and also availing redress (Scott & Loncar, 2021). Nevertheless, the efficiency of such law frameworks not only may be relied on legal aspects of the official law but also on the social consciousness, attitude and perception of the legal institutions (Zaccour, 2021).

Domestic violence in developing countries often goes underreported because of social stigma and fear of retaliation and the inability to trust the law. Victims are usually deterred by their cultural norms, gender inequality, and institutional barriers towards seeking legal protection (Tanny, 2022). As such, domestic violence laws and their application and effectiveness cannot be fully

understood without looking at the perceptions of the citizens regarding the law. These are the perceptions of the citizens to influence their readiness to report violence, social support of legal intervention, and even the general validity of the law in combating domestic violence (Sara & Priyanka, 2022).

Bangladesh has made major legislative initiatives to curb the issue of domestic violence by passing the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010. The purpose of this law was to offer a legal safeguard to victims, as well as provide a legal remedy and prevention and support systems (Naved *et al.*, 2023). The Act applies different types of abuse and enables the victims to obtain protection order, residence order and compensation in courts (Montanez & Donley, 2023). With the enactment of this act, the country had taken a positive step towards ensuring that gender-based violence is dealt with and that the most vulnerable people within the family set up are also nurtured.

Although this practice happens within a country bound with legal provisions, domestic violence is still a social problem in Bangladesh (Iyengar, 2019). A large number of studies and reports by international organizations show that large number of women are subjected to some form of domestic abuse at one point in their lifetime.

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Nevertheless, the reported cases are rather low as compared to the estimated prevalence rates (Buchmann, 2022). This dissimilarity implies that legal protection might not be enough to be able to provide successful prevention and protection. Rather, legal awareness, faith in the justice system, cultural orientations and perceived availability of legal services are critical factors that influence the use of legal provisions offered (Islam *et al.*, 2025).

The domestic violence laws are of particular importance to the entire society, since, the way society views them determines how victims will conduct themselves as well as how society is responsive to domestic violence. When people are sure that the law institutions are effective and attentive, the victims will feel more assured to seek protection and report abuse (Ahmed, 2025). On the other hand, when the laws are seen to be ineffective or inaccessible, the victims may opt to keep their mouths shut or utilize the informal dispute resolutions measures. Knowledge about the perceptions of the people hence would offer a good indication of potential disparities between the law and practice (Uzzal, 2025).

Moreover, the analysis of the views on legal effectiveness is also a part of the more general discussion of access to justice and legal legitimacy. The law is not solely dependent on formal authority, but on public confidence and trust as well (Rajendran, 2025). When citizens see that laws are worthy and enforceable, then they tend to obey the law and contain institutional interventions. Conversely, the lack of high trust towards the legal systems by the people can cripple the efficiency of the law as much as the presence of powerful legal texts.

Even though Bangladesh has put in place some programs tackling the issue of domestic violence, there is little empirical study analyzing the perceived domestic violence laws by the citizens. Current literature pays much attention to prevalence rate, victimization, or a legal examination of the legislative environment (Rajendran, 2025). Although such contributions are relevant, comparatively less interest has focused on the effectiveness of domestic violence laws as perceived by ordinary citizens and the effect of awareness and perceptions on the attitude to the legal protection mechanism.

This paper aims to fill this gap through an analysis of the perceptions of the people and perceived efficacy of laws on domestic violence in Bangladesh through the use of survey data. In particular, the study will examine the level of awareness of domestic violence laws among the citizens, their attitudes towards the efficacy of the legal assurances, and their belief on whether the law system is effective in dealing with the incidents of domestic violence (Khokhlova *et al.*, 2023). Through the analysis of these factors, the study will seek to offer a multifaceted picture of the perceptions of the legal systems in the society and its effects on the attitude towards legal interventions (Rahaman, 2024).

This research has its findings that can be discussed in the academic sphere and in the political sphere. Academically, the research article broadens the literature on the topic

of legal knowledge, access to justice and popular legal perception of law as it related to gender-based violence. In professional policy terms, the findings can aid policy makers, practitioners involved in matters of law, and advocacy groups to recognize gaps where legal education awareness, changes in the institutions, or support networks can be required to enhance the relative success of laws against domestic violence.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Conceptualizing Domestic Violence

The problem of domestic violence is well known as a complicated social issue that consists of the trends of the abusive behavior in intimate or family relationships. It involves physical aggression, psychological threats, sexual manipulation, and financial manipulation that are employed to keep another person in check and control to serve as a source of power and dominance (Ahmed, 2025). It is important to note that domestic violence is not a family issue but a severe human rights infringement, which has severe social, psychological, and economic impacts according to scholars (Zaccour, 2021).

The recognition of domestic violence as a human rights problem globally has seen greater legal and institutional action taken in order to ensure that victims are safeguarded and perpetrators made liable. Most of the nations have implemented laws that are specifically aimed at solving domestic violence and offering legal solutions to the victims (Tanny, 2022). These legal systems usually come along with protective measures, criminal sanctions, support programs and special legal mechanisms that aim at easing access to justice.

Although there has been these legal improvements, the occurrence of domestic violence is very high it keeps going on globally (Sara & Priyanka, 2022). The study has shown that structural imbalances, cultural practices and gender power systems tend to keep domestic violence afloat. In numerous cultures, gender stereotypes and patriarchy can potentially cause or even condone abusive behavior, and victims can hardly find the desire or intentions to address the help or turn to the police (Scott & Loncar, 2021).

Legal Frameworks Addressing Domestic Violence

The shift of the law toward addressing the issue of domestic violence has considerable changes that have occurred in the last several decades. Historical methods of legal practice tended to employ domestic violence as a family problem, not as a crime (Naved *et al.*, 2023). Nevertheless, growing awareness of social and psychological victimizations that come with domestic violence has seen several nations implement special legal systems dealing with the subject.

The domestic violence laws generally focus on attaining a number of primary purposes such as protection of victims, preventing recurrence of similar abuse and holding the abusers accountable (Iyengar, 2019). These legislations usually offer measures of seeking the

protection orders, restraining order and emergency legal services. Also, certain systems of law use the support services including shelters, counseling and legal aid to help the victims guide them through the legal system (Islam *et al.*, 2025).

The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010 in Bangladesh is one of the main legislative initiatives which address domestic violence in the country (Sara & Priyanka, 2022). The Act offers a legal system of identifying different abuses forms and developing protection and legal redress mechanisms. It enables the victims to request courts to issue protection order and underlines the role of law enforcement and social services in assisting victims.

Although the introduction of domestic violence laws is a major move towards combating the problem of gender-based violence, researchers affirm that the laws will only work well depending on various factors (Islam *et al.*, 2025). These are institutional capacity, mechanisms of enforcement and legal consciousness of the citizens and the general way the society views domestic violence (Montanez & Donley, 2023).

Public Perceptions and Legal Awareness

The opinion of the people is very important in the success of the law systems. Formally, laws exist but the reality in the workings of the law is how much the citizens are knowledgeable of the law and whether they think that the law will offer any relevant protection. Legal awareness is the knowledge and understanding of the rights of the law, the process and remedies available to persons (Rajendran, 2025).

It is argued by the research that weak legal awareness frequently constrains the efficiency of domestic violence laws (Iyengar, 2019). Without any knowledge of the law or even understanding on how to avail the law, people tend not to seek help under the formal legal mechanism. Rather, the victims can propose informal networks like family members or neighborhood leaders or religious leaders (Uzzal, 2025).

Besides awareness, perceptions on institutional effectiveness also have a high impact on the attitude of the populace towards the law. When people feel that institutions of law are ineffective, partial, or not available, there is a possibility that they will not seek solutions to law as long as they know their rights (Buchmann, 2022). On the other hand, when there is a high level of public trust in the justice system, it is likely to prompt the victim to report the abuse and get some protection (Montanez & Donley, 2023).

Theorists of access to justice point out that the concept of judicial efficacy must be perceived not only according to the formal legal statutes, but also as to how society perceives and experiences it. Knowledge of the way citizens appraise legal systems is thus of important insights into the practice of law institutions (Diaz, 2023).

Domestic Violence Laws and Public Perception in Developing Countries

Research in third world nations shows that there are other social and cultural factors that are vital in developing the social perception towards domestic violence legislation (Gavin & Ellicott, 2025). Cultural beliefs of privacy in family and gender roles in most societies might deter people in reporting cases of domestic abuse. The victims might be afraid that they will become social outcasts, economically dependent, or face revenge of their abuser; these would scare them away to seek justice (Khokhlova *et al.*, 2023).

It is also a product of institutional challenges. The lack of the legal infrastructure, the long time of the court hearing, and the lack of support services are factors that can lead to the lack of confidence of the citizens into the laws regarding domestic violence (Rahaman, 2024). There is likely to be a legal system considered slow or inefficient, and people can wonder whether it is worth seeking legal redress on these cases.

The overall literature in terms of empirical studies that focus on the law and order of domestic violence is not very abundant, especially in reference to Bangladesh (Buchmann, 2022). The majority of the available research is on prevalence of domestic violence or the legal structure as such, but not how the citizens rate the efficiency of these laws. Consequently, there exists a necessity of the empirical research that involves exploration of the connection between legal awareness, social perception, and trust in domestic violence laws (Uzzal, 2025).

Research Gap

Despite the developed legal framework to deal with domestic violence in Bangladesh, empirical studies have not been conducted in large numbers regarding the perception of the population on the laws as well as its functionality. The available literature centers on legal consideration or on the experiences of victims, and it is a vacuum in the perception of the society on the current legislation against domestic violence.

Cognizing the perceptions of people is critical to the effectiveness of legal frameworks since without citizens having knowledge of legal protection mechanisms and being able to trust them to implement these mechanisms, the latter will not be effective. Legal reforms can lose their goals without the reading of minds and knowledge of people (Allan, 2023).

Thus, the proposed research aims at bridging the knowledge gap by analyzing the opinions of people in Bangladesh regarding laws on domestic violence using survey data. The research will contribute to a more detailed insight into the perception of law by the citizens, their attitudes towards it, and their beliefs about its effective use in society and how these beliefs determine the efficiency of the mechanisms of legal protection on the larger scale.

Theoretical Framework

The proposed research is based on the Institutional Theory and Legal Consciousness Theory which, in combination, can serve as a valuable approach to developing the concept of the ways people perceive and assess the laws assisting domestic violence in Bangladesh. Institutional Theory is a concept of how formal rules, laws and institutions shape the behavior of individuals and social expectations. Legal systems act as formal structures that define what is right and wrong to do and offer ways of making sure that some rules are followed and enforced. The examples of the legislation like the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010 in the context of domestic violence is an institutional attempt to control the relations within the family and safeguard the victims of domestic violence (Allan, 2023). The institutional theory suggests that such laws should be more effective based on their enforcement and their acceptance such as the fact that they are in existence or not. Citizens are likely to believe that domestic violence laws are effective protection and justice mechanisms in the aspect of making legal institutions accessible and responsive.

Legal Consciousness Theory is an enhancing theory that deals with the perception and interpretation of the law by individuals in their day to day lives. Legal consciousness

can be described as the perceptions of people concerning their rights and legal responsibilities and how law relates to communities. The level of knowledge that people have on domestic violence laws and their perception of legal institutions determines how they perceive legal protection as significant and valid. The more the citizens are legally aware and confident about the legal institutions, the more likely they might view the domestic violence laws as an effective means of dealing with the instance of abuse (Khokhlova *et al.*, 2023).

Collectively, these theories act as a conceptual basis on how legal awareness, legal remedy accessibility, and perceptions regarding the perceived law enforcement affect the perception of the BDS in Bangladesh regarding the effectiveness of domestic violence laws and trust in the legal institutions.

Conceptual Framework and Hypotheses Development

Based on Institutional Theory and Legal Consciousness Theory, this study proposes a conceptual framework explaining how legal awareness, perceived accessibility of legal remedies, and perceived enforcement influence the perceived effectiveness of domestic violence laws and public confidence in legal institutions. The proposed research model is presented in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Conceptual framework of the study

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Design

The research used a quantitative survey that was cross-sectional in design and in-depth in understanding the perception of justice toward domestic violence as it is perceived by people in Bangladesh. The study aimed to comprehend how the legal awareness and availability of legal remedies and perceived enforcement affect the perceived effectiveness of domestic violence laws and citizen confidence in the legal system. The survey-based design was chosen because it offers an opportunity of the systemized gathering of standardized answers of the large number of participants, which would make it possible to conduct statistical analysis of the associations between the variables of the study.

Data Collection and Sample

A structured questionnaire was used to collect primary data that were gathered among adult respondents in Bangladesh. The final dataset included 2,000 acceptable responses, which is a large enough sample in terms of a structural equation modelling (SEM) analyses. The survey which has been conducted was voluntary and the respondents were advised that their answers would not be revealed and could only be utilized in conducting academic research.

Measurement of Variables

The research involved five latent variables as the legal awareness, the availability of legal solutions, law enforcement of domestic violence, perceived

effectiveness of domestic violence law, and trust in legal institutions. Multiple indicators to each construct were taken to gauge it in line with related literature. The responses were measured in a five-point Likert scale that went between 1 (strongly disagree) and 5 (strongly agree).

Data Analysis

Information gathered was analyzed through structural equation modeling (SEM). Cronbachs alpha and composite reliability were used to determine reliability whereas convergent validity was measured in terms of factor loading and average variance extracted (AVE). Fornell-Larcker criteria test and HTMT ratios were used to determine the discriminant validity. The relations among the model constructs were estimated using maximum likelihood estimation in the lavaan package in R, and model fit was assessed using standard measures such as the CFI, TLI, RMSEA, and SRMR.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive Statistics and Sample Characteristics

The empirical study is conducted on the consideration of survey-responses obtained by 2000 individuals. The data was included as such, but it consisted of demographic factors as well as the measurement items that reflected five latent constructs: the level of legal awareness (LA), the level of access to legal remedies (AC), effect of domestic violence legislation (EN), perception of the effectiveness of domestic violence legislation (EF), and trust towards legal institutions (TR). All of the measurement items were measured on a five-point Likert scale where 1 (strongly disagree) through 5 (strongly agree).

Before the structural analysis, the data has been filtered against missing values, coding mistakes and outliers. The check ensured that the variables had been formatted and were fit to be used in structural equation modeling. The sample is larger than the suggested sample size in SEM analysis and guarantees that estimation of the parameters is robust and statistical power.

Reliability and Convergent Validity

Cronbach alpha, composite reliability (CR) and average variance extracted (AVE) were used to determine the reliability and convergent validity of the measurement constructs. The indicators are used to assess internal consistency and how much measurement items capture latent constructs.

The alpha of the cronbach had a range of 0.879 to 0.901 which is greater than the recommended alpha of 0.70 implying high internal consistency of the used measurement items. The value of composite reliability was also high with a range of between 0.879 and 0.901 which once again makes the constructs reliable.

The average variance extracted (AVE) was used to determine the convergent validity. The AVE values were all higher than the suggested value of 0.50, which means that the latent constructs cover more than five out of ten in the variance of the indicators of the constructs. In particular, the AVE values lay between 0.593 and 0.646, which is an acceptable convergent validity.

These results indicate the existence of a high internal coefficient of the measurement model and that the indicators are sufficient to reflect the intended constructs.

Table 1: Reliability and Convergent Validity of Measurement Constructs

Construct	Items	Loading Range	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite Reliability	AVE
Legal Awareness	LA1–LA5	0.743–0.827	0.89	0.890	0.618
Accessibility	AC1–AC5	0.723–0.798	0.88	0.879	0.593
Enforcement	EN1–EN5	0.753–0.811	0.89	0.887	0.611
Effectiveness	EF1–EF5	0.776–0.825	0.90	0.901	0.646
Trust	TR1–TR5	0.777–0.819	0.90	0.896	0.632

Confirmatory Factor Analysis and Measurement Model Fit

To assess the measurement model and to identify whether indicators measured are sufficient to represent the latent constructs of the measurement, a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was performed. The overall model fit has been shown to be excellent in the results of the CFA.

CFI, TLI, RMSEA and SRMR model fit indices were as follows: CFI = 1.000, TLI = 1.001, RMSEA = 0.000 and SRMR = 0.012. Each of the values is better than the recommended values of the SEM model evaluation, which means that the measurement model fits the data very well.

Table 2: Measurement Model Fit Indices

Fit Index	Value	Recommended Threshold	Interpretation
χ^2/df	0.94	< 3.00	Excellent
CFI	1.000	> 0.90	Excellent
TLI	1.001	> 0.90	Excellent
RMSEA	0.000	< 0.08	Excellent
SRMR	0.012	< 0.08	Excellent

Table 3: Standardized Factor Loadings

Construct	Item	Loading	p-value
Legal Awareness	LA1	0.785	<0.001
	LA2	0.827	<0.001
	LA3	0.762	<0.001
	LA4	0.743	<0.001
	LA5	0.809	<0.001
Accessibility	AC1	0.772	<0.001
	AC2	0.798	<0.001
	AC3	0.768	<0.001
	AC4	0.785	<0.001
	AC5	0.723	<0.001
Enforcement	EN1	0.811	<0.001
	EN2	0.779	<0.001
	EN3	0.754	<0.001
	EN4	0.811	<0.001
	EN5	0.753	<0.001
Effectiveness	EF1	0.825	<0.001
	EF2	0.798	<0.001
	EF3	0.805	<0.001
	EF4	0.815	<0.001
	EF5	0.776	<0.001
Trust	TR1	0.819	<0.001
	TR2	0.787	<0.001
	TR3	0.787	<0.001
	TR4	0.804	<0.001
	TR5	0.777	<0.001

There was statistical significance of standardized factor loading of all measurements items ($p < 0.001$). The factor loadings were between 0.723 and 0.827, and these are higher than the standard acceptable 0.70. These findings suggest that the indicators are highly reflected in their respective latent constructs and they further support the

convergent validity of the applied measurement model.

Discriminant Validity

Two commonly used methods applied in establishing discriminant validity were, the Fornell-Larcker criterion and the Heterotrait-Monotrait ratio (HTMT).

Table 4: Table X. Discriminant Validity Assessment Using the Fornell–Larcker Criterion

	LA	AC	EN	EF	TR
Legal Awareness (LA)	0.79	0.37	0.31	0.57	0.55
Accessibility (AC)	0.37	0.77	0.40	0.59	0.55
Enforcement (EN)	0.31	0.40	0.78	0.60	0.57
Effectiveness (EF)	0.57	0.59	0.60	0.80	0.68
Trust (TR)	0.55	0.55	0.57	0.68	0.80

The Fornell -Larcker criterion states that the square root of the AVE of each construct should be high than the

correlations between the construct and other constructs in the model. The findings suggest that the square root

Table 5: HTMT Ratio

	LA	AC	EN	EF	TR
LA		0.36926152	0.31384197	0.56757791	0.54908949
AC	0.36926152		0.39525028	0.58678526	0.5451899
EN	0.31384197	0.39525028		0.59785782	0.5722681
EF	0.56757791	0.58678526	0.59785782		0.68021656
TR	0.54908949	0.5451899	0.5722681	0.68021656	

of AVE values were higher than those of inter-construct correlations of all the constructs, which validated discriminant validity.

To further enforce these results, the HTMT ratio has been calculated. The empirical constructs were found to be empirically different with the HTMT values having lower values than the recommended value, 0.85 with all construct pairs showing the observed values below that value.

Structural Model Assessment

The structural relationships between the constructs were tested through structural equation model (SEM) after the verification of the measurement model. The structural model assesses the hypothetical connections among the legal awareness, accessibility of legal redress, enforcement of domestic violence legislation, perceived efficiency of the domestic violence laws and trust to legal institutions.

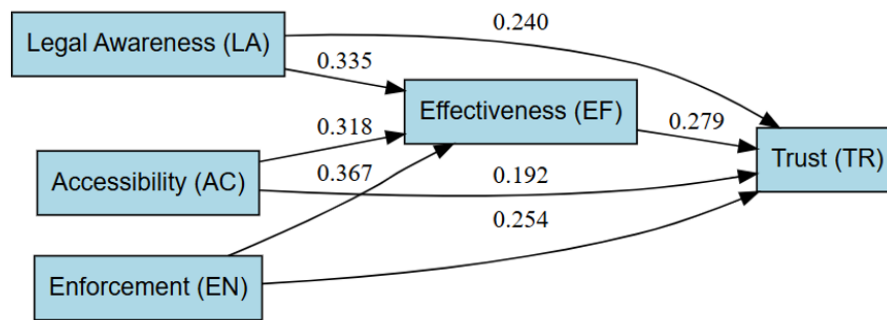


Figure 2: Structural equation model results with standardized path coefficients

Table 6: Structural Model

Dependent	Predictor	Estimate	Std_Error	z_value	p_value	Beta
EF	LA	0.352	0.022	15.824	<0.001	0.335
EF	AC	0.34	0.024	14.436	<0.001	0.318
EF	EN	0.373	0.022	17.013	<0.001	0.367
TR	LA	0.25	0.025	10.204	<0.001	0.24
TR	AC	0.204	0.025	8.04	<0.001	0.192
TR	EN	0.256	0.025	10.431	<0.001	0.254
TR	EF	0.278	0.032	8.788	<0.001	0.279

The structural model shows great overall fit, in line with the measure model results. All the relationships that were tested were significantly accepted at $p < 0.001$.

Effects on Perceived Effectiveness of Domestic Violence Laws

The review points out that the perceived efficacy of domestic violence legislation is considerably affected by legal cognizance, availability of legal solutions, and the application of domestic violence legislation.

Legal awareness exhibited a significant positive effect on perceived effectiveness ($\beta = 0.335$, $p < 0.001$), indicating that individuals who are more knowledgeable about legal protections are more likely to perceive domestic violence laws as effective.

Accessibility of legal remedies also demonstrated a significant positive effect ($\beta = 0.318$, $p < 0.001$). This finding suggests that when legal procedures and support mechanisms are perceived as accessible, individuals are more likely to evaluate domestic violence laws as capable of providing meaningful protection.

Among the predictors, enforcement of domestic violence laws showed the strongest effect on perceived effectiveness ($\beta = 0.367$, $p < 0.001$). This result highlights the importance of effective law enforcement in shaping public perceptions regarding the practical impact of legal protections.

The structural model accounts 40.4 percent of the variance in the perceived effectiveness which means that there is a lot of explanatory power.

Table 7: Effects on Perceived Effectiveness of Domestic Violence Laws

Predictor	Dependent Variable	β	Std. Error	z-value	p-value
Legal Awareness	Effectiveness	0.335	0.022	15.824	<0.001
Accessibility	Effectiveness	0.318	0.024	14.436	<0.001
Enforcement	Effectiveness	0.367	0.022	17.013	<0.001

Effects on Public Trust in Legal Institutions

The findings also indicate that legal awareness, availability of legal redress, and implementation of domestic violence legislation as well as the perceived efficacy of legal system affect the degree to which the populace trusts legal institutions.

Legal awareness was positively associated with trust in legal institutions ($\beta = 0.240$, $p < 0.001$), suggesting that individuals who possess greater knowledge of legal protections tend to exhibit higher levels of confidence in the legal system.

Accessibility of legal remedies also had a significant positive effect on trust ($\beta = 0.192$, $p < 0.001$). This indicates that when citizens perceive legal services as accessible and responsive, their confidence in the legal system increases.

Enforcement of domestic violence laws similarly demonstrated a significant positive relationship with public trust ($\beta = 0.254$, $p < 0.001$). Effective enforcement signals institutional commitment to protecting victims and upholding legal norms, thereby strengthening trust in legal institutions.

Finally, perceived effectiveness of domestic violence laws significantly influenced public trust ($\beta = 0.279$, $p < 0.001$). This finding indicates that when individuals believe that domestic violence laws effectively protect victims and deter abusive behavior, they are more likely to express confidence in the broader legal system.

The model accounts 42.8 percent variance of people trust in legal institution which means that the predictors included in it are very strong predictors.

The empirical evidence is in favor of all the hypothesized relationships. The awareness of the law, availability of legal means and legal enforcement on domestic violence laws play a great role in determining the perceived efficacy of domestic violence laws. Of these predictors, enforcement turned out to be the strongest predictor of perceived effectiveness.

Moreover, institutional conditions like awareness, accessibility, and the enforcement of the law may not be the only factors that affect the public trust in the legal institution, but also the perception of the citizens regarding the effectiveness of the laws against domestic violence. The findings demonstrate the key position of enforcement and perceived effectiveness factors in the development of public trust of the legal system.

Discussion

Overview of the Study

This research paper sought to explore the determinants of the extent of perceptions of people to the success of laws against domestic violence in Bangladesh and how these perceptions affect the perceptions towards the legal institutions. The research employed the Institutional Theory and the Legal Consciousness Theory in testing how legal awareness, the availability of legal resource and perceived enforcement conditions influence apparent effectiveness of domestic violence legislations and

citizens trustworthiness with the law system.

The results present strong empirical data, which supports that institutional and cognitive elements influence the way in which people consider the effectiveness of the domestic violence laws. The findings of the structural equation modeling provide evidence that the awareness of the law, the availability of legal solutions, and enforcing the law play an important role in the perceived effectiveness of domestic violence laws, whereas both institutional and perceptual variables play an important role in creating trust in the legal institutions among the population.

Comprehensively, the results indicate that the perceived efficacy of measures by legal frameworks in supporting domestic violence is not just dictated by the availability of legal charters but also a factor in awareness of the law by the citizens, institutional accessibility perceptions and trusts with institutional enforcement encompassing measures.

The Role of Legal Awareness

Among the key-findings of this research paper is the great positive correlation that exists between legal awareness and the perceived effectiveness of laws against domestic violence. The more people learn about domestic violence law and protection of rights, the higher are the chances that they will use these regulations as efficient methods of victim protection and combating abuse. The results of this finding are in line with the theoretical premises of legal consciousness theory, which notes that a conceived view and interpretation of rules of law as significantly impacts on the interaction of individuals with legal institutions.

Citizens are in a better position to weigh the possible advantages and drawbacks of the legal system when they are knowledgeable of their legal rights and other legal safeguards that are in existence. Heightened awareness can amplify the belief in people that domestic violence laws can offer substantial protection and deterrent. On the other hand, ignorance about the law might also lead to the seeming ineffectiveness or impossibility of legal safeguards.

The findings also show that there is a positive relationship between the legal awareness and the trust between the people in legal institutions. It implies that the information regarding the legal structures is not only influencing representative of the effectiveness of laws but also plays a role in enhancing the institutional legitimacy in general. Victims who are aware of legal procedures would be better placed to regard law system as trustworthy and capable of handling social misconducts like violence in the family.

These results support the urgency of initiatives on legal literacy and the public awareness. Community outreach interventions, legal awareness campaigns, and public education campaigns can all be very useful in empowering the population on the laws applicable to domestic violence and motivating victims to seek legal help. An increase in legal awareness may consequently not only be a way of

improving perceptions of legal efficacy, but also the way of increasing trust in legal institutions.

Accessibility of Legal Remedies

The researchers also established that availability of legal redress has a strong effect on the perceived lawfulness of domestic violence statutes and confidence in the functioning of legal systems. When citizens feel that law institutions are approachable, and sensitive, chances are high that they would feel that law on domestic violence has power to offer positive protection in the face of victims.

Accessibility in this case refers to a number of aspects, such as access to legal problems including access to legal services, legal processes, as well as victim access to institutional assistance without major financial and procedural obstacles. With a good legal system in place, there still can be hindrances to pursue a legal protection related to overly complicated procedures, poor access of legal services or institutional inefficiency.

The connection between accessibility and perceived effectiveness is positive, which demonstrates that the practical practicability of legal systems is a key factor that determines the ways people view legal protections. When citizens feel that legal procedures are too complex or formidable, then they consider legal protections as useless no matter how powerful the underlying laws are.

In addition, accessibility leads to institutional trust. Legal systems are perceived to be inclusive, responsive as well as supportive and this increases chances of being perceived as legitimate by the citizens. The availability of legal systems in the context of domestic violence can portend an institutional interest in safeguarding vulnerable beings and responding to gender based violence.

Such results underline the necessity to enhance institutional accessibility by providing legal aid services, simplified procedures, victim support services, and an easy access reporting mechanism. It is imperative that the victims should have easy access to a legal protection in order to increase the perceived and actual legal effectiveness and institutional legitimacy.

The Importance of Enforcement

Out of the considered predictors, perceived enforcement of domestic violence laws were the strongest predictors of perceived effectiveness. The discovery highlights the significance of enforcement in the context of constructing societal judgment of the legal systems.

The Institutional Theory states that the effectiveness of formal rules and legal provisions depends on how they were applied and activated. Written laws that are not enforcing can have no effect on the behavior but can create a sense of confidence in people. Contrary, a robust enforcement would be taken as an indication of institutional commitment and increases the degree of legitimacy of legal institutions.

The findings suggest that people are more apt to conceptualize the effectiveness of domestic violence laws

when they assume that the law enforcement authorities take complaints seriously and inquire cases adequately and in addition, take those who perpetrate the violence to account. Proper enforcement gives the impression that the legal institutions can administer justice and safeguard a victim.

The enforcement as well is important in creating confidence in legal institutions among the citizens. The citizens will have more confidence in the legal system when they can see the agencies are performing their duty by enforcing laws against domestic violence and taking effective actions against instances of abuse. On the other hand, poor enforcement may destroy confidence among the people and deter victims of abuse to report.

These results would suggest the significance of enhancing the capacity and responsibility of institutions in responding to the occurrence of domestic violence. It is possible that law enforcement training, specialized investigative departments, and better cooperation between legal institutions and organizations that support victims can increase the efficiency of the domestic law enforcement systems and improve the confidence of the citizens in the legal institutions.

Perceived Effectiveness and Public Trust

The other significant observation of the research is that perceived effectiveness of the domestic violence laws has a very strong positive connection with trust of the legal institution among the population. Those people are more likely to declare their faith in the legal system when they think that domestic violence legislation will offer significant protection.

It is a notable observation of the two-way relationship between legal effectiveness and institution legitimacy. The perception of citizenry of the legal institutions as having the capacity to cure societal ills and cushion the weak means that they are likely to view the legal institutions as legitimate and trust-worthy.

Perception of the effectiveness of the law is especially significant in the context of domestic violence as, in many cases, victims of domestic violence have a tremendous obstacle in the form of social, economical, and psychological barriers to seeking help. In case people have a perception that the legal advantages do not work, they would not be willing to report abuse or seek legal redress.

Results hence indicate that the enhancement in the practical efficiency of laws dealing with domestic violence can not only help enhance the security of victims but also the confidence that the general population has in the legal system in general.

Implications for Institutional Theory

Results on this work support major propositions of the Institutional Theory. The findings indicate that the strength of legal frameworks is not only determined by the formal provisions of legal texts but also by the institutional practice like the ability to enforce and the

availability of legal texts.

The institutional theory stresses that behavior should be affected by organizations and legal systems building credibility and legal legitimacy which should be established. The findings indicate that an enforcement and accessibility perception plays a remarkable role in determining how people are assessing the effectiveness of the laws against domestic violence and the validity of legal institutions.

The implications of these results are that institutional practices like enhancing enforcement mechanisms and enhancing the availability of legal services are effective in increasing the perceived efficacy of domestic violence laws as well as the legitimacy of legal institutions.

Implications for Legal Consciousness Theory

The results further lead to the Legal Consciousness Theory which puts emphasis to the importance of individual perceptions and understanding of the law. Legal consciousness involves the way a person perceives his or her rights, the assessment of the legal structure, and also the choice of the engagement to the legal system or not.

The high contribution of legal awareness to the construction of the effectiveness and trust perception points to the seriousness of legal consciousness in the domestic violence legislation. When legal awareness is higher, the larger the range of the issue in which the individual is typically entitled to greater security against legal crimes, the more that individual will view the law as significant and lawful.

Such findings imply that enhancing the legal consciousness by using education and legal awareness can better stimulate the involvement of the people in legal institutions and also make them pursue legal protection.

Policy Implications

This study has a number of policy implications that can be used to enhance the effectiveness of domestic violence laws in Bangladesh.

On the one hand, it is necessary to create more legal awareness among people. The government, civil society and institutions of learning ought to join hands to facilitate popular knowledge on the law of domestic violence and legal safeguards that are in place.

Second, it is important to make legal services more accessible. Essentials such as legal aid programs, streamlined reporting channels and victim support services will diminish obstacles that make accessing legal protection by individuals difficult.

Third, there is need to enhance law enforcement systems to be able to enforce the law on domestic violence. Enforcement outcomes can be enhanced by training the law enforcement personnel, improving the investigative procedures and better coordination among the legal institutions.

Lastly, policy to increase the efficacy of domestic violence acts can also increase the trust of the populace on the

justice authorities, therefore increasing the trust and reputation of the legal system.

Policy Implications

The present research paper has a number of significance to the existing literature. First, it offers empirical data on the issues that may affect popular attitudes toward the laws on domestic violence in the developing country setting. Second, it combines both the Institutional Theory and the Legal Consciousness Theory explaining the applicability of institutional practices and awareness of individuals to influence the perceptions of legal effectiveness and trust. Third, the research gives quantitative data that prove the significance of enforcement, accessibility, and legal awareness in influencing judgments of domestic violence laws by the masses.

This study provides a holistic picture regarding the perception of legal frameworks in relation to domestic violence by the citizens by studying institutional and perceptual aspects.

CONCLUSION

This paper has studied how perceptions about the effectiveness of the laws against domestic violence in Bangladesh affects the masses and what this will show concerning the confidence that the masses have on the institution of law. Based on the Institutional Theory and Legal Consciousness Theory, the study examined the influences of legal awareness, the availability of legal solutions, and the perceived enforcement on the citizen review of domestic violence laws and their trust in the rule of law.

The empirical evidence shows that the three factors of practice used as institutions such as the knowledge of law, the availability of the legal mechanisms and enforcement have a considerable impact on the perceived efficacy of the law against domestic violence. Among these predictors, the perceived enforcement was the strongest factor that has been identified and this points out the core of the process of institution implementation in determining what the people would think about the legal structures. The findings suggest that, the citizens are more likely to hold the view that the legal system can be able to avail substantial protection to them, once the citizens are having the perception that the laws against domestic violence are enforced.

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