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The warzone in Pakistani homes

In this presentation I will discuss the nature, dynamics and implications of violence and conflict at the individual and family level in lower-middle class urban Pakistan. While marital violence may not be comparable to national and international conflicts and wars it has far reaching consequences for those exposed to it and, in turn, for the large society and macrosystem. This presentation is based on my PhD research on children's exposure to inter-parental violence in Pakistan, exploring community attitudes towards marital violence, patterns of children exposure, its incidence and their behavioural, cognitive and emotional responses to it. I also highlight the general level of violence in Pakistan, especially in the home, affecting largely women and children as well as community and government responses to it. It is envisaged that the findings will be used to produce a report for government and social organisations in Pakistan and to lobby for constructive social changes to address the needs of those affected by family violence and conflict.