

Situation of Gender Based Violence against Women and girls in Nepal

✍️ *Radha Devi Dhakal**

Abstract

Various forms of violence against women and girls were found to be prevalent throughout the life-cycle of women as a global phenomenon. Worldwide one third women experience physical or sexual abuse in their lifetime. The terms gender based violence and violence against women are used interchangeably. Women and girls are experiencing violence in their lifetime regardless of their age, religion, caste, marital status and pregnancy as well. They are facing violence at home, work place, public transport, public places.

Key word: gender based violence, domestic violence,

Background

Violence means the form of crime. In its sharp meaning, it denotes to hate or dominate more extremely to kill. Almost the entire society is directly to kill. Almost the entire society is directly or indirectly affected by violence (khanal, 2007).

Violence Against Women/Girls (VAW/G) was declared to be a violation of human rights by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1993 in its Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. It's true that all women deserve a life with the opportunity to be educated, to be respected, to work, to be healthy and to participate in all aspects of public life as men. Yet in every country in the world, women and girls live within the limitations of rigid gender norms, which frequently result in disproportionate access to essential services and major violations of their human rights. (Annual Report 2014, INSEC)

Violence against women is one of the most brutal threats to human development. One in three women has been subject to physical or sexual violence. (Human Development Report 2015, UNDP). Because of having variety of forms of violence, women in Nepal even in worldwide undertake most of the unpaid care work, which includes mainly housework (such as preparing meals, fetching firewood, collecting water and cleaning) and care work (such as caring for children, the sick and older people) in the home and community. Due to their disproportionate share of care work, women have less time than men for other activities, including paid work and education.

Data and Methods

This article basically focuses to reveal the situation of violence against women and girls in Nepal. In this article, have different secondary sources of data, books, authorized websides of government and other articles have been applied.

Findings

Historically, violence against women and girls has been in existence in Nepali society. Asituation analysis conducted by SAATHI (1997) on violence against women in Nepal revealed that 93% had exposed to mental and emotional torture, 82% were beaten, 30% raped, 28% forced in to

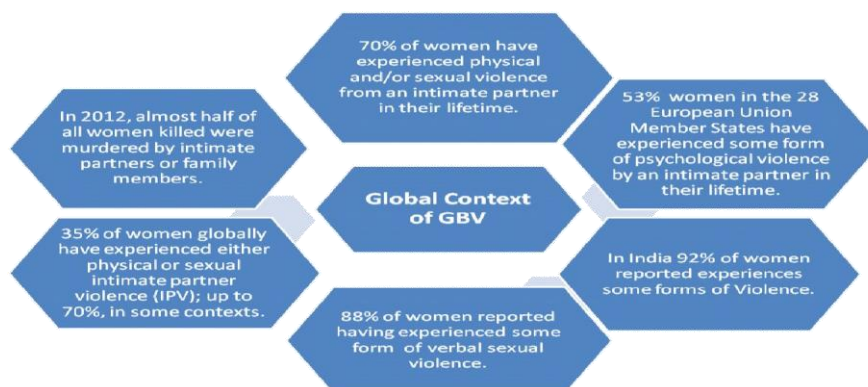
prostitution, 64% reported polygamy. The maternal mortality study conducted by Family Health (1998), revealed that higher suicide rate among women of reproductive age group. Another report from Nepal reported that maternal mortality accounts for the highest number of women's deaths each year, followed by suicide. Almost five hundred cases of suicide were reported to Nepal police in 2003-2004 (Asia foundation, 2004). The census recorded half million women living in polygamous marriages (DFID), and other studies have shown that polygamy is a serious cause of depression for women in Nepal (SATHHI 2001).

The study called Samata performed in 2005 revealed that majority of the respondents (80%) suffered from psychological abuse. Psychological abuse was one of the safest methods for the perpetrators. Second major type of violence faced by women was physical assault.

Global Scenario of GBV

According to a global research conducted by UNWOMEN in 2014, 70% of women have experienced physical and or sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime. Detail statuses have given in following chart

Figure no. 1 Global Scenario of GBV



(Reference: UN Women Global Report On GBV : 2014)

Figure 1. shows the global reference of gender based violence stander against women and girls. According to the figure, around the world 88 percent of women reported having experienced some forms of verbal sexual violence and 92 percent of women reported experience some forms of violence in her life times. Likewise, 35 percent of women have experienced either physical or sexual intimate partner violence in her life time.

National scenario of violence against women

violence is the most common and most frequently occurring against of women and girls in Nepal. Data for the study year unveils the alarming figure against violence against women and girls.

Table no. 1. Situation of violence against women and girls in Nepal, recorded by to Nepal police office.

Fiscal year	Rape	Attempt of rape	Trafficking	Abortion	Polygamy	Child marriage	Domestic violence	Witch craft
2070	677	245	144	28	350	19	1800	28
2071	912	414	185	18	421	15	6835	39
2072	981	562	181	17	518	23	8268	43
2073	1089	452	212	22	463	20	9398	28
2074	1139	531	227	26	465	29	11652	24

Source: Nepal police 2075

The table no. 1 shows that, only the registered cases of violence against women and girls at Nepal police since fiscal year 2070/ 2074. Among the reported cases of violence domestic violence cases is high in every fiscal years. Secondly, rape cases is highly reported followed by polygamy and attempt of rape cases, trafficking, child marriage abortion and witch craft assertion.

Table no. 2. Situation of violence against women and girls, reported by WOREC

Form of violence	Percentage
Physical torture	51.6
Mental torture	2.1
Polygamy	15.2
Threaten	0.7
Verbal abuse	11.5

Source: anweshi 2016

Table no. 2 shows, Physical torture is the major contributor which is around 51.6 percent followed by mental torture, polygamy, threaten and verbal abuses allegation. physical violence is the most common and most frequently occurring form of VAW reported in WOREC . Data for the study year unveils the alarming figure against domestic violence.

Conclusion

Violence against women and girls has been in existence and a widespread in Nepali society but still unreported problems are there in Nepal. Very few cases have been reporting. Sent percent women have experienced violence at least one time in their lives time but only one third women have been speaking against VAW, rest of women still need to be empowered to speak against VAW.

After reviewing the all secondary data and literature, this study came in a conclusion that the labour division between men and women seems unequal and discriminatory, because of unequal labour division and discrimination, women being involved in unpaid job, feeling low steam caused most of the women being dependent to men that derived to be vulnerable to violence.

Violence against women and girls is related to their lack of power and control, as well as to the social norms that prescribe men and women's roles in society and condone abuse. Inequalities

between men and women cut across public and private spheres of life, and across social, economic, cultural, and political rights; and are manifested in restrictions and limitations on women's freedoms, choices and opportunities. These inequalities have been increasing women's and girls' risks of abuse, violent relationships and exploitation, for example, due to economic dependency and limited survival and income-earning options, or discrimination under the law as it relates to marriage, divorce, and child custody rights. Violence against women and girls is not only a consequence of gender inequality, but reinforces women's low status in society and the multiple disparities between women and men.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Oxfam, 1998, 'Violence against women', Gender and Development Journal, Volume 6, no.3, November, Oxfam, Oxford.

Gender-Related Violence: Scope and Relevance
Author(s): Judy El-Bushra and Eugenia Piza Lopez
Source: Focus on Gender, Vol. 1, No. 2, [Violence; Military and Civilian Strife] (Jun., 1993), pp. 1-9
Published by: Taylor & Francis, Ltd. on behalf of Oxfam GB
Stable

Gelles RJ, Straus MA. Intimate violence: the causes and consequences of abuse in the American family. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1998.

BRIDGE (development - gender), Institute of Development Studies, Report No 55, University of Sussex, 2000.

Khanal, T.P., 2007, "violence against women in Nepal" In population magazine, vol.v,(148)
[SAATHI, 2001, Study on the psycho-social impact of violence against women and girl's with special focus on Rape, incest and polygamy.

UN, 1993, United Nations Office at Vienna Centre for social Development at humanitarian affairs strategies for confronting Domestic Violence, A Resource Manual (New York: United Nations).

UNFPA, 2005, The States of Women Population of United Nation.

UNFPA, 2003, Violence against world in South Asia, A Regional Analysis, Kathamandu
Deuba A and P rana, 2001, A study on the psycho-social impact of violence against women and SAATHI, Girls with special focus on Rape, incest and polygamy, P.P 4-5.

SAATHI, 1997; WOREC, 2002; Deuba et al 2005; Puri et al, 2007; Puri et al 2010, Puri et al, 2011, Puri et al, 2012.

Manu Smriti, Translation works of Dr Surendra Kumar, Pt Gangaprasad Updhyaya, and Swami Dayanand Saraswati.