

Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in Kohalpur Municipality of Banke District, Nepal

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Abstract

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is abuse that occurs in a close relationship. The main purpose of this study is to determine the forms and risk factors associated with violence as well as the effect of demographic elements on IPV. The population of this study was all the women of the reproductive age group in Ward No. 7 of Kohalpur Municipality Banke district, Nepal. For this study 151 married women aged 15-49 years were selected from Kohalpur municipality by using convenience sampling method. Data were collected through the interview schedule and attitude scale. The researcher has found that 33.11 percent respondents strongly agreed that they were afraid of their husbands and 53.64 percent respondents strongly agreed that their husbands physical forced to have sex. Likewise, 17.21 percent respondents pointed IPV is due to lack of education and 55.62 percent due to gambling and drinking behaviors of their husbands. Similarly, 6.62 percent respondents pointed out that it is due to fewer dowry system. IPV, a serious problem, has long-lasting effects on individuals, families and society also. So this has to be prevented. To reduce the proportion of IPV, healthy, respectful, understanding and an appropriate environment has to be promoted instead of violent relationships.

Keywords: Intimate partner violence, psychological violence, sexual violence, health, consequences, spouse violence

Introduction

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is abuse or aggression that occurs in a close relationship. It is used to describe physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression by a current or former intimate partner, to include current or former spouses, boyfriends/girlfriends, dating partners, or sexual partners (Breiding, Basile, Smith, Black, & Mahendra, 2015). IPV can take a number of forms, including physical, psychological and sexual violence. When a person hurts or tries to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, or using another type of physical force, it is termed as physical violence. Sexual violence is forcing or attempting to force a partner to take part in a sex act, sexual touching, or a non-physical sexual event (e.g., sexing) when the partner does not or cannot consent (Kapia, et al., 2017). Psychological violence is the use of verbal and non-verbal communication with the intent to harm another person mentally, emotionally or to exert control over another person (Dutton, Kaltman, Goodman, Weinfurt, & Vankos, 2005). The use of alcohol, education level, personality disorders, acceptance of violence, past history of abusing partners, male dominance over the family, economic stress, a man having multiple partners, the disparity in educational attainment, poverty, weak legal sanctions against IPV within marriage, lack of women's civil rights and broad social acceptance of violence are risk factors of IPV (Antai, 2011).

Globally, 35 percent of women had experienced either physical and/or sexual IPV or non-partner sexual violence. Nearly one third (30%) of all women who have been in a relationship, had experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner. As many as 38 percent of all murders of women are committed by intimate partners (WHO, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine , & South African Medical Research Council, 2013).

In Nepal, 14 percent of women have experienced one or more forms of spousal violence in the past 12 months. The most common type of spousal violence women experience is physical violence (23%), followed by emotional violence (12%) and sexual violence (7%). Almost one-third of women in the Terai (32%) report experiencing spousal physical, sexual, or emotional violence, compared with less than one-fifth of women in hill (20%) and mountain (19%) zones. Province wise, women in Province 2 (37%), followed by Province 5 (29%) and Province 3 (26%) are most likely to experience spousal physical, sexual, or emotional violence, and those in Province 4 (16%) (Ministry of Health, New ERA, & ICF, 2017).

IPV affects individuals, family and community; it often results in physical and emotional injuries in addition to that may result in death. The prevalence of IPV against women is not well documented. The great concern is that these women are not aware of men's abusive tendencies. This problem emerged as a concern from reviewing such literature. It is found that the abuse of women is associated with the value, traditional belief and culture. Not all women know where to go when they face violence and abuse. This is exacerbated by the fact that IPV occurs in a domestic relationship and may be understating in nature. When the matter becomes worse victims become helpless this may arise due to lack of facilities such as health service, guidance and access of counseling centers. No research has been conducted on such issues in Banke district. Hence, it is necessary to carry out the research entitled "IPV Against Women". This study focuses on determining forms and risk factors associated with violence by intimate partners as well as the effects of demographic elements on violence. The researcher has conducted the research in Kohalpur Municipality of Banke district, Nepal.

Methods

This study was based on a cross-sectional research design. There is one sub-metropolitan city, one municipality and six rural municipalities in Banke district. Among them, Kohalpur Municipality was selected as the study area. The population of this study was all the women of the reproductive age group of Kohalpur Municipality, Ward No. 7. There are altogether 736 married women belonging to the age group 15 to 49 years in Ward No. 7 of Kohalpur Municipality, among them, 151 married women in the age group 15 to 49 were selected by the Convenience Sampling Method. The sample size was based on a sample size formula for 95% confidence, margin error 5% and an estimate of population proportion 14%, this proportion was the percentage of women experiencing any type of violence in their life within a year. The sample was calculated by using the following Cochran's formula.

$$\text{Preliminary sample size } (n_0) = \left(\frac{Z_{\alpha}}{E} \right) \times P \times Q = 185.011$$

$$\text{And final sample size } (n) = \frac{n_0}{1 + \frac{n_0}{N}} = 149.85$$

Necessary data were collected through the interview schedule and attitude scale. An interview schedule was used to collect general information and risk factors. An attitude scale was used to collect information associated with forms of IPV. To meet the objectives of the study, the researcher prepared an interview schedule and attitude scale. Before making final tools, the prepared tools were pre-tested among 16 married women (age 15-49 years old) of Kohalpur Municipality and it was analyzed. Then it was improved as per the need. After preparing the final tools, the tools were translated into the Nepali language for the convenience of the interviewees. The researcher got permission to collect data from the municipality, then visited the area according to the purpose of the study for consulting key respondents. Then the researcher filled up the Interview Schedule and attitude scale by conducting door to door visits. Before starting the interview, the researcher ensured rapport relationship by informal sharing with key respondents and an explanation of the purpose of the study.

The collected data were entered into the computer and analyzed subsequently using SPSS version 20. The descriptive statistics that were used to analyze data were frequency and percentage analysis, then important findings of the study were presented. The bivariate data analysis method was also applied using the chi-square test.

The ethical standards of research were maintained. Respondents were asked for verbal consent before data collection started. They were made aware of the purpose of the study. They were assured that the data collected from them will be used purely for research purposes and will be kept completely confidential, use and protection of information, respects their culture and customs would be maintained and that they were free not to respond or to discontinue the interview at any time.

Results

Psychological Violence

Psychological violence is a form of abuse, it includes verbal abuse, constantly criticizing, threats to beat, saying or doing something to make the other person embarrassed.

Table I. Description of Psychological Violence of Respondents

Variable	Agree strongly		Agree somewhat		Neither disagree nor agree		Disagree nor somewhat		Disagree strongly	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	No	%
Feeling unsafe in their own home	63	41.72	41	27.15	14	9.27	16	10.59	17	11.25
Feeling ashamed of things	65	43.05	36	23.84	17	11.25	17	11.25	16	10.59
Afraid of husband	50	33.11	48	31.78	20	13.24	16	10.59	17	11.25
Feeling of Keeping prisoner	48	31.78	46	30.46	22	14.56	17	11.25	18	11.92
Feeling of no power , no protection over life	53	35.09	34	22.51	27	17.88	18	11.92	19	12.58
Hide the truth	57	37.74	32	21.19	20	13.24	23	15.23	19	12.58
Feeling of owned and controlled	56	37.08	30	19.86	19	12.58	26	17.21	20	13.24
Had terrifying action	55	36.42	29	19.20	18	11.92	16	10.59	33	21.84

In the above table, 41.72 percent respondents strongly agreed that they were feeling unsafe in their own homes and 9.27 percent respondents neither disagreed nor agreed with that statement. While 33.11 percent respondents strongly agreed on afraid of husband, 31.78 percent respondents strongly agreed that they feel like staying in prison; 36.42 percent felt some terrifying action from their intimate partners. The reason behind such data in table I may be because low educational status of women, economic stress and male dominance in the family.

To find out the association between different demographic variables and psychological violence experienced by women from their intimate partners, chi-square test is applied. The following table shows the summary findings of this test.

Table 2. Association between Women's demographic Variables and Psychological violence on them

Psychological violence	Age		Education level		Religion		Ethnicity		Occupation	
	χ^2	Sig.	χ^2	Sig.	χ^2	Sig.	χ^2	Sig.	χ^2	Sig.
Feeling unsafe in their own home	18.22	0.792	35.25	0.019*	14.35	0.279	17.53	0.352	33.4	0.221
Feeling ashamed of things	25.94	0.356	39.23	0.006*	10.79	0.547	19.52	0.243	34.31	0.191
Afraid of husband	29.18	0.214	50.68	0*	15.66	0.207	23.23	0.108	35	0.17
Feeling of Keeping prisoner	38.5	0.031*	50.5	0*	26.05	0.11	30.91	0.014*	41.85	0.045*
Feeling of no power protection over life	32.29	0.12	48.98	0*	31.77	0.002*	31.75	0.011*	41.57	0.048*
Hide the truth	32.16	0.123	24.71	0.213	31.22	0.002*	54.24	0.00*	33.4	0.221
Feeling of owned and controlled	29.55	0.2	36.9	0.012*	26.89	0.008*	31.45	0.012*	36.21	0.137
Had terrifying action	43.45	0.009*	25.97	0.167	9.11	0.693	22.68	0.122	37.95	0.099

*significant at 5%

Among eight factors of psychological violence on women two factors, 'Hide the truth', and 'Had terrifying action' are found not associated with educational level (p -value > 5%) and other remaining factors are found significantly associated (p -value < 5%). For a similar test of association between psychological violence factors and religion, ethnicity is found not associated which shows that there is a similar pattern of psychological violence among different religious and ethnic women.

Physical Violence

Physical abuse is the infliction of pain on a person.

Table 3. Descriptions of Physical Violence

Variable	Agree strongly		Agree somewhat		Neither disagree nor agree		Disagree nor somewhat		Disagree strongly	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Pushes and shoves	37	24.50	40	26.49	18	11.92	19	12.58	37	24.50
Hits and punches arms and body	25	16.55	40	26.49	19	12.58	25	16.55	42	27.81
Threatens with a weapon	22	14.56	41	27.15	19	12.58	26	17.2	43	28.47
Beats when drinks	20	13.24	40	26.49	22	14.56	22	14.56	47	31.12
Hits, punches or kicks face and head	33	21.85	38	25.16	14	9.27	24	15.89	41	27.15
Tries to choke, strangle	24	15.89	43	28.47	21	13.90	19	12.58	43	28.47
Knocks down and kicks or stomps	18	11.92	43	28.47	18	11.92	19	12.58	53	35.09
Throws dangerous objects	16	10.59	36	23.84	24	15.89	21	13.90	54	35.76

The above table clearly shows that 24.50 percent respondents reported being pushed and shoved by their husband, 14.56 percent respondents noticed of being threatened with a weapon by their husband, 16.55 percent respondents reported of having hit and punched arms and body, 21.85% percent respondents noticed that their husband punched or kicked face and head, 15.89 percent of the respondents reported that their husbands try to choke them. Thus it is seen that majority of the respondents experienced physical violence by their husbands. The use of alcohol, drug, personality disorders, acceptance of violence and history of abusing partners are some of its main reasons.

The following table shows test statistics and p-value to find out the association between respondent’s demographic profile and violence experienced by them from their ultimate partner.

Table 4. Association between Physical Violence and Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Physical Violence	Age		Education level		Occupation		Ethnicity		Religion	
	χ^2	Sig.	χ^2	Sig.	χ^2	Sig.	χ^2	Sig.	χ^2	Sig.
Pushes and shoves	23.84	0.471	18.3	0.565	20.73	0.837	16.15	0.443	13.45	0.337
Hits and punches arms and body	31.89	0.13	22.04	0.339	28.52	0.437	22.35	0.132	9.38	0.67
Threatens with a weapon	22.24	0.565	18.7	0.542	17.23	0.944	19.89	0.225	14.89	0.247
Beats when drinks	28.49	0.24	20.1	0.449	25.8	0.584	9.92	0.871	15.21	0.23
Hits, punches or kicks face and head	35.13	0.066	12.9	0.883	31.71	0.286	14.45	0.566	9.58	0.652
Tries to choke, strangle	33.35	0.097	25.4	0.186	26.67	0.536	28.46	0.028*	12.52	0.405
Knocks down and kicks or stomps	44.38	0.044*	35.9	0.07	39.55	0.274	19.68	0.478	18.81	0.222
Throws dangerous objects	40.01	0.021*	29.2	0.084	23.06	0.73	18.14	0.126	15.99	0.192

*significant at 5%

In the above table, physical violence has been described by different eight factors. The P-value for ‘Knocks down and kicks or stomps’ and ‘Throws dangerous objects’ with Age is found less than 5%, so there is a significant association between these variables; but the p-value for remaining other factors with Age are more than 5%, thus there is no association between other factors representing physical violence and Age of respondents. Also, the p-value for the education level of respondents, occupation, and religion with all the factors of physical violence is found more than 5%, so there is no association between physical violence experienced by respondents and their education, occupation and religious background. The variables of Ethnicity and Tries to choke are found associated because the p-value is less than 5%. But, ethnicity and other factors representing physical violence are not associated (p-value > 5%). This data makes us clear that most of the forms of physical violence are independent of religion, educational status and ethnicity in the sample population, it may occur in any sub-sample uniformly.

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is a serious infringement upon a woman and one which can result in significant physical and psychological trauma to the victim.

Table 5. Descriptions of Sexual Violence of the Respondents

Variable	Agree strongly		Agree somewhat		Neither disagree nor agree		Disagree somewhat		Disagree strongly	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Physically forces to have sex	81	53.64	28	18.54	6	3.97	9	5.96	27	17.88
Sexually abused	29	19.20	54	35.76	19	12.58	16	10.59	33	21.85
Badly hurts while having sex	20	13.24	42	27.81	35	23.17	17	11.25	37	24.50
Partner injures my breast or genitals	20	13.24	42	27.81	35	23.17	17	11.25	37	24.50

The above table shows that out of 151 respondents, 53.64 percent respondents noticed that they strongly agreed about their husband physically forced to have sex, 19.20 percent respondents strongly agreed that their husbands sexually abused them, 13.24 percent respondents strongly agreed that their husbands badly hurt them while having sex and 13.24 percent respondents strongly agreed that their husbands injured their breast or genitals. Thus the data clearly shows that women are experiencing sexual violence by their intimate partners. The main reason for experiencing such violence even from the intimate partner may be due to a lack of sex education resulting in sexual coercion.

The following table shows the summary findings for the test of association between demographic variables and sexual violence experienced by women from their husbands using χ^2 test.

Table 6. Association between Sexual Violence and Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Sexual violence	Age		Education level		Occupation		Ethnicity		Religion	
	χ^2	Sig.	χ^2	Sig.	χ^2	Sig.	χ^2	Sig.	χ^2	Sig.
Physically forces to have sex	18.3	0.788	22.85	0.296	41.44	0.049*	25.3	0.065	26.92	0.008*
Sexually abused	32.56	0.114	24.27	0.231	31.96	0.276	25.49	0.062	24.37	0.018*
Badly hurts while having sex	29.43	0.204	31.35	0.051	39.44	0.074	31.96	0.010*	25.09	0.014*
Partner injures my breast or genitals	21.98	0.581	26.7	0.144	40.73	0.057	21.73	0.152	25.07	0.014*

*significant at 5%

While testing the association between the demographic profile of the respondent and their experience of sexual violence, these variables are found associated (p -value < 5%). However, the association between all the factors of sexual violence are found not associated (p -value > 5%) with demographic variables other than religion. This makes us clear that sexual violence is independent of age, education level, occupation and ethnicity in the sample population, it may occur in any sub-sample uniformly.

Risk Factors of IPV

Nothing is possible without any cause and effect. Such as without any cause violence also cannot take place. So to the occurrence of violence, there should be some reasons for IPV. Respondents' perceptions of those reasons are mentioned below.

Table 7. Descriptions of the Risk Factors Associated with IPV

Risk factors of IPV	Number of Responses	Percent
Less Education	26	17.21
Gambling and drinking behavior of the husband	84	55.62
Less dowry	10	6.62
Birth of daughter	14	9.27
Because of Co-wife	13	8.60
Substance abuse	23	15.23

*Multiple responses

The above table presents that 17.21 percent of respondents pointed out less education as one of the reasons for IPV whereas most respondents (55.62 %) stated gambling and drinking behavior of husband as the other reason for IPV. Similarly, 6.62 percent of respondents pointed out less dowry, 9.27 percent of respondents pointed out the birth of a daughter, 8.60 percent of respondents pointed out Because of co-wife, and 15.23 percent of respondents pointed out Substance abuse. It shows that diverse reasons are responsible for the IPV. The roots of all causes are interlinked to the patriarchal society. The male chauvinist social system lacks women's accessibility to every aspect of social life.

Discussion

The discussion has been made by dividing two areas of the study forms and risk factors of IPV against women.

Forms of IPV

The major findings of this study related to Psychological violence is that out of total 151 respondents, 41.72 percent respondents strongly agreed of Feeling unsafe in their own home. Likewise, 43.05 percent respondents strongly agreed with Feeling ashamed of things, and 35.09 percent respondents strongly agreed with Feeling of no power, no protection over life. Similarly, 33.11 percent respondents strongly agreed of Afraid of husband and 31.78 percent respondents feeling keeping prisoner. Moreover 36.42 percent had experienced Terrified action. Other studies explore that women reporting emotional violence were most likely to report that their husband insulted them or made them feel bad about themselves (9%) and 5 percent of women said that their husband threatened to hurt or harm them or someone close to them (Ministry of Health, New ERA, & ICF, 2017). Other similar study found that 15.8 percent respondents noticed that they were sometimes ever humiliated, 7.4 percent respondents noticed that threatened with harm and 21.2percent respondents noticed that they were sometimes insulted/ made feel bad (Yaya, Kunnuji, & Bishwajt, 2019). It is concluded that there is no similarity between these studies results. Some reasons may be level of education, cultural context, economic status of family and due to the different contexts of study, sample size, inclusion and missing data. So the report states different findings concerned with psychological violence.

The study results concerned with the forms of Physical violence show that 24.50 percent respondents reported being pushed and shoved by their husband, whereas 14.56 percent respondents were being threatened with a weapon by their husband. Similarly, 16.55 percent

respondents reported that their husbands hit and punched arms and body, and 21.85% percent respondents noticed that their husband punched or kicked on face and head. Moreover, 15.89 percent of the respondents reported that their husbands tried to choke them. Yaya, Kunnuji & Bishwajit (2019) Stated that 11.5 percent respondent noticed they sometimes faced pushed/ shook/ thrown something by their intimate partner, 29.5 percent respondents experienced slapping and 10.4 percent respondents noticed that their husbands made wound/ broke bones. Similar previous studies have addressed that 12 percent of women reported that they were being pushed, shaken, or having something thrown at them by their husband, 9 percent reported having their arms twisted or hair pulled and being kicked, dragged, or beaten up, and 8 percent have reported that their husband punched them with his fist or with something else that could hurt them. Four percent of women reported that their husbands tried to choke them or burn them on purpose (Ministry of Health, New ERA, & ICF, 2017). The above were concerned with different contexts, so the study report addresses different findings. The present study shows an increasing rate of physical violence. The main reasons which may be perceived are rising unemployment, conflict, inequality, right of property, value, belief and culture.

The result of the present study shows that 53.64 percent respondents strongly agreed about their husbands physically Forced to have sex, 19.20 percent respondents strongly agreed that their husbands sexually abused them, 13.24 percent respondents strongly agreed that their husbands Badly hurt and injures their breast or genitals while having sex. Yaya, Kunnuji & Bishwajit (2019) found that 6.7 percent respondents noticed their husbands Forced them into unwanted sex. Other research shows that 6 percent respondents reported that their husband used physical force to have sexual intercourse with them when they did not want to, 4 percent reported that their husband physically forced them to perform other sexual acts they did not want to, and 3 percent reported that their husband forced them with threats or in other ways to perform sexual acts they did not want to (Ministry of Health, New ERA, & ICF, 2017). It is concluded that different contextual studies showed different rates of sexual violence. Sexual violence which heavily depends on context, culture, environment and dynamics interplays varied factors.

Risk Factors associated with IPV

The study result addressed different risk factors that were associated with the IPV. As regards this, 17.21 percent respondents pointed out that the reasons for IPV is a lack of education, whereas most respondents (55.62%) stated that it is due to gambling and drinking behavior of their husband. Similarly, 6.62 percent respondents pointed out less dowry as the reason, 9.27 percent due to the birth of a daughter, 8.60 percent because of co-wife and 15.23 percent respondents pointed out substance abuse as a risk factor of IPV. The result of the chi-square test shows that out of eight forms of psychological violence, six forms are found significantly associated with the education level of respondents but two out of eight forms of psychological violence are found significantly associated with the occupation of the respondents. Also, two forms of physical violence 'Knockdown and kicks or stomps' and 'throws dangerous objects' are found associated with Age of respondents, similar to that ethnicity and 'Tries to choke' is

found associated while using the chi-square test of independence. Tiwari & Shrestha (2018) state that affair with other women and alcohol consumption habit was highly significant predictors for the IPV. Another study reveals that 19.04 percent respondents agreed upon the fact that the cause of female victimization is lack of education and 26.66 percent due to economic problems. Similarly, 6.66 percent respondents pointed out cultural belief, 21 percent respondents pointed out patriarchy society, 14.28 percent respondents pointed out the drinking behavior of husband, 4.76 percent respondents pointed out less dowry, 2.85 percent respondents suggested polygamy and last 4.76 percent respondents were found to have reported by the birth of a daughter (Sharma, 2017). Atteraya, Gnawali & Song (2014) addressed that female illiteracy, low economic status, violent family history, regarding family background, whether or not the husband was an alcoholic, the husband's level of education, and a higher number of children were the risk factors associated with the IPV. It is concluded that different contextual studies where were consulted addressed that the similar risk factors associated with the IPV. It shows that diverse reasons are responsible for the IPV. The roots of all causes are interlinked to patriarchy society. IPV affects all parts of society. So it is required to reduce. Use a public health approach that addresses risk and protective factors for IPV so as to prevent it as well.

Conclusion

IPV is the systematic, intentional use of physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse that one person in a domestic relationship exerts over their partner in order to maintain power and control. The result of this study shows that respondents are at risk of violence from their intimate partners. That 41.72 percent of the respondents felt they are unsafe in their own home, 33.11 percent respondents pointed out that they were afraid of their husband, and 24.50 percent respondents strongly agreed that their husband pushes and shoves them. Likewise, 53.64 percent respondents noticed that their husbands physically forced to have sex, 37.08 percent respondents noticed that their husbands forced to engage in sexual activities. The present study found that lack of education, gambling and drinking behavior of the husband, dowry, the birth of a daughter, the existence of a co-wife and substance abuse are major risk factors of IPV. Many forms of psychological and physical violence are found significantly associated with the husband's education level. This study shows that IPV is in high risk and a burning issue. IPV has the function of keeping women where they are i.e. within the house in a powerless position. Consequently, women became an instrument through which the social system reproduces itself and through which systemic inequality is maintained. This is not good, so women should be encouraged to take part in education, employment and political fields to achieve equal opportunity and reduce these constraints, and at the same time laws, rules, and regulations should be implemented effectively.

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