

Causes and Consequences of Gender Based Violence against College Girls

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Abstract

Gender based violence was measured based on different questions related to physical violence, emotional violence and sexual violence. The questions were asked to the Bachelor and Masters Level students. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) questionnaires were taken as a reference for questionnaire development. This study entitled "Causes and Consequences of Gender Based Violence against College Girls" is based on the study of Bachelor and Masters Level students of Padmakanya Multiple Campus, Kathmandu. The objectives of the study was to identify the causes and consequences of gender based violence of college students. In this study cross-sectional research design was applied. The Study followed the quantitative approach. From this study it was found that about 34.3 percent of the respondents were experienced violence in their life time. Out of the total case of the emotional violence, more than one fifth (24.2%) were humiliate in front of others followed by insulted or make feel bad (20.6%) and threaten to hurt or harm by someone (13.6%). Respondents who were experienced physical violence, highest percentage (10.6%) were pushed, shook and throw something on her followed by twist arm or pull hair (6.1%), slapped and punched (4.5%), and kicked, dragged and beaten (3.8%). A few of the respondents have experienced the sexual violence (12.1%). Among them, 6.1 percent of the respondents were physically force to perform any other sexual acts followed by physically forced to have sexual intercourse (4.5%) and threatened to perform sexual acts in any other way (1.5%).

Key Words: causes, consequences, gender, violence, college girls

Introduction

According to the UN Declarations (1993), states that, "violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and

to the prevention of the full advancement of women, and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men."

According to the United Nations (2006), "there is no region of the world, no country, and no culture in which women's freedom from violence has been secured." Various forms of violence are more prevalent in specific parts of the world, often in underdeveloped. For example, dowry violence and bride burning is associated with India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. Acid-throwing violence is also associated with these countries, as well as in Southeast Asia, including Cambodia. Honor killing is associated with the Middle East and South Asia. In Africa, female genital mutilation is mostly found, and to a lesser extent in the Middle East and some other parts of Asia. Abduction marriage is still prevalent in Ethiopia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. Bride price abuse related to payment of (such as violence, trafficking, and forced marriage) is linked to parts of Sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania (United Nations, 2006).

Particular regions are no longer associated with specific forms of violence, but such violence was common until quite recently in those places; which is true of honor-based crimes in Southern/Mediterranean Europe. For instance, in Italy, before 1981, the Criminal Code provided for mitigating circumstances in case of a killing of a woman or her sexual partner for reasons related to honor, providing for a reduced sentence (Anand, K. et al., 2011).

There is also debate on the ways in which cultural traditions, local customs, and social expectations, as well as various interpretations of religion, interact with abusive practices. Specifically, cultural justifications for particular violent acts against women are asserted by some states and social groups within many countries claiming to defend their traditions. These justifications are questionable precisely because the defenses are generally voiced by political leaders or traditional authorities, not by those actually affected. The need for sensitivity and respect of culture is for an element that cannot be ignored, thus a sensitive debate has ensued and is ongoing (United Nations, 2006).

There is a history of recognizing the harmful effects of this violence. In the 1870s, courts in the United States stopped recognizing the common-law principle that a husband had the right to "physically chastises an errant wife" (Calvert, R., 1974).

In the 20th and 21st centuries, and in particular since the 1990s, there has been increased activity on both the national and international levels to research, raise awareness and advocate for the prevention of all kinds of violence against women. Most often, violence against women has been framed as a health issue, and also as a violation of human rights (United Nations, 2006).

A study on violence against women in 2002 estimated that at least one in five women in the world had been physically or sexually abused by a man sometime in their lives. According to Venis, S. et al (2002), "gender-based violence accounts for as much death and ill-health in women aged 15–44 years as cancer and is a greater cause of ill-health than malaria and traffic accidents Quintile."

Some characteristics of violence against women have emerged from the research. For example, acts of violence against women are often not unique episodes but are ongoing over time. More often than not, the violence is perpetrated by someone the woman knows, not by a stranger. The research seems to provide convincing evidence that violence against women is a severe and pervasive problem the world over, with devastating effects on the health and well-being of women and children (United Nations, 2006).

Violence can start at any corner in the direct structural and cultural violence triangle and is easily transmitted to the other corners. With the violent structure institutionalized and the violent culture internalized, direct violence also tends to become institutionalized, repetitive, and ritualistic (Galtung, 1990).

Barrie (2008), argues that when women decide what to wear, where to go, how to get there, what time of day to be outdoors, and what affects their sense of security and safety, are they aware that they are afraid of being sexually assaulted? Violence against women, on a global scale, is so common that some experts consider it a "normal" aspect of women's experiences—and yet research on the issue is subjective and inconsistent. *Women and Violence* is a comprehensive look at the issue of violence against women and its many appearances, causes, costs and consequences. Understanding that personal values, beliefs and environment affect an individual's response to—and acknowledgement of—violence against women,

this book addresses topics such as global perspectives on violence, controversies and debates, and social change strategies and activism.

In Hindu society, women have two household corresponds which have two opposed patterns of values and relationships: the patrifocal structure or model centers on the dangerous wife, while the filialocal on the sacred sister and daughter. (Bennett, 2002). Gender based violence is defined by any act that results in physical, sexual, psychic trauma or suffering among women, including threats of such actions and coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether takes place either public or private life (United Nations, 1993 & 1995).

The victims of gender based violence are overwhelmingly women and tend to experience more severe forms of violence. In some nations, gender based violence is often seen as justified, particularly in cases of actual or suspected infidelity on the part of the woman and is legally permitted. Many research has established that there exists a direct and significant co-relation between a country's level of gender equality and rates of gender based violence. Gender based violence is the most under reported crimes in the world for women.

Statement of the Problem

Gender based violence against women is a widespread problem in Nepal. Men inherit and control over property with the attendant responsibility to support parents, wives and children which is also supported by law as well. Dependency of women is reinforced by the law, religion norms and values. Moreover, extreme poverty, unemployment and alcoholism support the opportunities for violence inherent in the dependency relationship.

In a study, 30.0 percent of women in a relationship, experienced sexual or physical violence by their partner. The prevalence approximates of intimate violence by partner can be found about 23.2 percent in developed countries, 24.6 percent in the Western-Pacific regions and 37 percent in the Eastern Mediterranean regions, and 37.7 percent in the South-East Asia regions. (WHO, 2013).

Nepalese society is a predominantly patriarchal, where societal norms and values widely influence the attitudes and responsibilities of the people, these deeply rooted societal customs often lead to gender based violence.

Research Questions

1. What are the causes of gender based violence experienced by Bachelor and Masters Level students of Padmakanya Multiple Campus?

2. To what extent do these forms of violence have consequences on targeted students?

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to identify the perception and experience of gender based violence of college students. The specific objectives of the study are:

- To find the causes of gender based violence.
- To examine the consequence of gender based violence to the targeted students.

Significance of the Study

This study would significantly contribute to understand the various issues relating to gender based violence against women. Specifically, it would be possible to analyze and appreciate, with an aim of reducing, the various causes and effects of gender based violence. Further, the study would be critical to support the victims of gender based violence, the policy makers, in attempts to reduce the crime, based on the adopted effects to groups and individuals. In effect, the various stakeholders and special interest groups would be able to develop mitigation and intervention strategies that would be helpful to the victims, minimizing the crime and promote the harmonious life in the society.

Research Methods

Research Design

In this study cross-sectional research design was applied. The Study followed the quantitative approach.

Study Area

This study was conducted in Padmakanya Multiple Campus, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Study Population

The study population were the Bachelor and Masters Level students of Padmakanya Multiple Campus.

Universe and Sampling

Since, the universe of the study was not known, so, at the first stage, a list of the students currently enrolled in Bachelor and Masters Level were selected through purposive sampling method. In the second stage, 385 (15.09%) respondents were selected out of 2550 respondents through a simple random method.

Data Collection Tools

The questionnaire was primarily used for data collection in this research. The structure and unstructured questionnaire were developed to collect quantitative information with the targeted respondents.

Results and Discussions

This chapter deals with the information obtained from the field survey with a structured questionnaire. Here are eleven tables which are created through the entry of information in the SPSS Program. The tables were generated according to the questionnaire to meet the objectives of the study purpose.

Information of Respondents

It included the age of respondents, caste/ethnicity, marital status and level of education.

Table 1: Information of Respondents

Age of Respondents	Number	Percent (%)
Below 20 Years	78	20.3
20-25 Years	256	66.5
Above 25 Years	51	13.2
Total	385	100.0
Caste/Ethnicity	Number	Percent (%)
Brahmin/Chhetri	262	68.1
Janajati	113	29.4
Others	10	2.6
Total	385	100.0
Marital status	Number	Percent (%)
Married	53	13.8
Never married	332	86.2
Total	385	100.0
Level of Education	Number	Percent (%)
Bachelor	244	63.4
Masters	141	36.6
Total	385	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

It is found from Table 1 out of the total respondents more than two third (66.5%) were of the age 20-25 years and below 20 years were slightly more than one fifth (20.3%). The lowest percentage of the respondents was of the age above 25 years that is 13.2 percent. Similarly, the table shows that out of 385 respondents, the highest percentage of the respondents were from Brahmin/Chhetri which was more than two third (68.1%) followed by Janajati more than a quarter (29.4%) and only 2.6 percent of the respondents were from other caste/ethnicity.

Table 4.1 has shown that out of the total respondents the overwhelming majority (86.2%) of the respondents were never married whereas just 13.8 percent of the respondents were married. Likewise, the table shows that out of the 385 respondents, majorities (63.4%) of the respondents were studying at Bachelor level and minorities (36.6%) of the respondents were studying at Masters Level.

Distribution of Respondents by Living Status

Gender based violence is determined by the status of living of the respondents. In the time of data collection the respondents were residing with different individual and some were living alone.

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Living Status

Living Status	Number	Percent (%)
Parents	193	50.1
Alone	16	4.2
Hostel	109	28.3
Relatives	47	12.2
Others	20	5.2
Total	385	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 2 depicts, out of total respondents, slightly a majority (50.1%) were living with their parents followed by more than a quarter (28.3%) respondents were living in hostel. It is found that 12.2 percent of the respondents were living with relatives whereas 4.2 percent of the respondents reported that they were living alone. Out of the total respondents 5.2 percent reported they were living other than the options provided.

Distribution of Respondents by Experience of Violence

The experience of the violence gives information of different types of violence faced by the respondents in their lifetime. Further description is presented in the following table about the distribution of the respondents by experience of violence.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Experience of Violence

Experience of Violence	Number	Percent (%)
Yes	132	34.3
No	253	65.7
Total	385	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 3 revealed, out of total respondents, more than one third (34.3%) experienced of violence in their life time. About two third (65.7%) of the respondents did not reported any kind of experienced of violence.

Distribution of Respondents by Experience of Different Kinds of Violence

The violence is experienced by respondents in different ways and in front of different person. It is important to know how the violence is occurred.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Experience of Different Kinds of Violence

Emotional Violence	Number	Percent (%)
Say or do something to humiliate you in front of others	32	24.2
Threaten to hurt or harm you or someone you care about	18	13.6
Insult you or make you feel bad about yourself	27	20.6
Total	77	58.4
Physical Violence		
Push you, shake you, or throw something at you	14	10.6
Slap you	6	4.5
Twist your arm or pull your hair	8	6.1
Punch you or with something that could hurt you	6	4.5

Kick you, drag you, or beat you up	5	3.8
Total	39	29.5
Sexual Violence		
Physically force you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want	6	4.5
Physically force you to perform any other sexual acts you did not want to	8	6.1
Force you with threats or in any other way to perform sexual acts you did not want	2	1.5
Total	16	12.1
Grand Total	132	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4 shows, out of total cases of the emotional violence, more than one fifth (24.2%) were humiliated in front of others and 20.6 percent respondents were insulted or make feel bad. Out the total respondents 13.6 percent were threaten to hurt or harm by someone.

Table 4 revealed that out of the total respondents who experienced physical violence highest percentage(10.6%) were pushed, shook and throw something on her followed by twist arm or pull hair were 6.1 percent. It was found that 4.5 percent of the respondents were reported both slapped and punched on her. Only 3.8 percent of the respondents were kicked, dragged and beaten.

Table 4 shows that out of the total respondents, few have experienced the sexual violence (12.1%). Among them who have experienced sexual violence 6.1 percent of the respondents were physically force to perform any other sexual acts followed by 4.5 percent were physically forced to have sexual intercourse. It is found that 1.5 percent of the respondents were threatened to perform sexual acts in any other way.

Distribution of Respondents by Help Seeking Behavior

After the occurrence of the violence there must be help seeking behavior that can help to prevent the reoccurrence of the violence. Out the total respondents more than two fifths (41.7%) have sought for help regarding the violence but more than majority (58.3%) of the respondents did not sought for help.

Table 5: Distribution of Respondents by Help Seeking Behavior

Description	Number	Percent (%)
No	77	58.3
Yes	55	41.7
Total	132	100.0
Respondents Sought for Help	Number	Percent (%)
Family Member	20	36.4
Friends	15	27.3
Relatives	8	14.5
Police	7	12.7
Others	5	9.1
Total	55	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 5 shows, out of total help seeker more than two third (36.4%) of the respondents were sought for help from their family member followed by 27.3 percent were sought for help from friends. Less than one fifth (14.5%) of the respondents were sought for help from relatives and police (12.7%). It is found that 9.1 percent of the respondents were reported to other for help.

Distribution of Respondents by Problems Faced After Violence

When any one suffered from the violence they might face different problems. So, the gender based violence is considered as severe problem. The following table shows that the respondents have faced problems after violence.

Table 6: Distribution of Respondents by Problems Faced after Violence

Problems Faced after Violence	Number	Percent (%)
Less Focused on Education/Work	47	35.6
Trauma	31	23.5
Anxiety and Depression	36	27.3
Started Drugs and Alcohol	4	3.0
Suicidal Thought	14	10.6
Total	132	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 6 shows, out of total respondents, 132 of them faced different problems. Among the respondents who have faced problems due to gender

based violence more than one third (35.6%) of the respondents couldn't focused on their study and work. Slightly more than one quarter (27.3%) of the respondents faced the problem of anxiety and depression. It is found that less than a quarter (23.5%) of the respondents was in trauma. The most pitiable fact was one tenth (10.6%) of the respondents have thought of suicide and 3.0 percent has started drugs and alcohol.

Table 4.8 presents, out of total respondents who were faced the violence during their life time; a quarter (25.0%) of them reported male family members as the perpetrator. It is identified that 18.9 percent of the respondents have reported they were victimized by relatives and 16.7 percent of the respondents were reported neighbors as the perpetrator. Similarly, 15.2 percent of the victims reported female family members as the perpetrator. About 6.1 percent and 4.5 percent of the respondents were reported mother-in-law and husband as the perpetrators respectively.

Distribution of Respondents by Place of Violence

Violence may occur in different places. The respondents have reported various places where they faced the violence in their life time.

Table 7: Distribution of Respondents by Place of Violence

Place of Violence	Number	Percent (%)
Home	40	30.3
School/College	21	15.9
Office	4	3.0
Public Place	32	24.2
Public Vehicle	20	15.2
Others	15	11.4
Total	132	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 7 shows, nearly one third (30.3%) of the respondents were reported home as the place of violence and nearly a quarter (24.2%) of the respondents reported public place as the place of violence. Similarly, 15.9 percent of the respondents reported school and college as the place of violence whereas 15.2 percent of the respondents faced the violence in public vehicle. Likewise 11.4 percent and 3.0 percent respondents reported place of violence as other and office respectively.

Distribution of Factors to Contribute Gender Based Violence

There are various factors that contribute for the occurrence of the gender based violence. The respondents have reported various factors. This information is very important to identify the causes of gender based violence.

Table 8: Distribution of Factors to Contribute Gender Based Violence

Factors Contribute Violence	Number	Percent (%)
Social Norms and Values	105	27.3
Low level of Women Empowerment	65	16.9
Lack of Social Support	51	13.2
Lack of Awareness	54	14.0
Political Situation	38	9.9
Delay in Rights	60	15.6
Others	12	3.1
Total	385	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 8 shows, more than a quarter (27.3%) of the respondents reported social norms and values were the factor that contributed violence followed by low level of women empowerment (16.9%). It was found that 15.6 percent and 14.0 percent of the respondents were reported the factors that contributed the violence delay in rights and lack of awareness respectively. About 13.2 percent, 9.9 percent and 3.1 percent respondents reported the factors that contributed the violence were lack of social support, political situation and others respectively.

Distribution of Preventing Measures of Gender Based Violence

The respondents were suggested various measures of prevention of gender based violence. The following table shows the various preventive measures of gender based violence.

Table 9: Distribution of Preventing Measures of Gender Based Violence

Preventing Measures of Gender Based Violence	Number	Percent (%)
Teach Children about Safety Habit	116	30.1
Immediate Report Crime and Suspicious Activities	98	25.5
Conduct Awareness Campaign	94	24.4
Stop Victim Blaming	41	10.6
Change in Laws	30	7.8
Others	6	1.6
Total	385	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 9 presents, out of total respondents, teach children about safety habit were reported nearly one third (30.1%), immediate report of crime and suspicious activities a quarter (25.5 %) and conduct different awareness campaign, slightly less than a quarter (24.4 %) were reported as the measures to prevent gender based violence. Slightly more than one tenth (10.6%) of the respondents were reported stop blaming to victim and 7.8 percent respondents were reported change in laws of the nation regarding women rights and 1.6 percent reported other.

Conclusions

This study shows that the students of Masters and Bachelors Level are also the victims of violence. Gender based violence is pervasive in different forms, the girls are found to be victims of any caste and economic background. The most pitiable thing is that they can become victims in any place, at any age and by any person. In such a situation they are unable to seek help from different persons and institutions due to the socio-cultural and economic constraints. It can be controlled by the collective efforts of the individual, family, community, institutions and conducting different awareness programs by local and national levels. In this 21st century era, gender based violence is one of the serious problems creating different adverse effects on the life of women.

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