

# Domestic Violence against Married Women in Kaski District, Nepal

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## Abstract

*Violence against women is a very complex and widespread issue in different societies. This study was done to identify the experience and causes of domestic violence in Nepalese context. The main objective of this study was to assess domestic violence among reproductive aged women of 15-49 years in Pokhara Sub Metropolitan city of Kaski, Nepal. A cross-sectional descriptive research design was used for this study. Samples were selected from multistage sampling technique. Semi-structured interview schedule was used. After analyzing data, it was found that (41%) of the respondents belong to the age group 35-44 years of age. Most of the females (89.5%) faced different kind of violence in their life from their family members. Women are suffering from psychological violence 84.2%, physical violence 83.2%, sexual violence 86.3% and cultural violence 87.4%. The causes of the violence are disobeying the husband 96.8% and alcoholism. Most of women's husband 82.10% had habit of drinking alcohol. Women are being violated by their husband as well as their family members. There is a high prevalence of violence among female who are involved in labor work. Despite of high level of violence, women are not working against it in order to maintain their confidentiality and fear of losing their social prestige. Domestic violence is the most thoughtful social condition that threatens women's physical and mental health. It is also legal and health challenges on women's health and happiness. It is one of the most important issues so awareness is necessary for social justice.*

**Keywords:** Domestic violence, married women, physical violence, psychological violence

## Introduction

The domestic violence is the main violence against women which is present in corner of the world. It is an ongoing social injustice to women which reflect a power imbalance based on Gender. Local social norms, traditional and cultural beliefs determined the extent of the violence (Chaudhary et al., 2010). The World Health Organization (WHO) 2005 stated that, Domestic violence is the physical violence that includes sexual coercion, physical threats and psychological abuse by family members, and spouse. Control in a different action, enforcing physical isolation control in access to information and services are also a form of violence. It is also the major global issues of human right. Physical and sexual violence by her spouse was 15-71% at some points in their lives. The violent behavior faced by female includes consensual sex at an early age, multiple partners, transactional sex, and heavy use of alcohol or drugs.

The major problem among women's is Intimate partner sexual violence. It has serious moments on women's mental and physical health, including their reproductive and sexual health. It may lead to temporary disabilities to suicidal attempts by the victims (Sinha et al., 2012). More than half 56 percent of Eastern Indian women were suffering from all forms of violence. The perpetrator was husband as well as other family members. They revealed that the main cause of violence is inadequate and late payment of dowry. The failure of women to perform expected duties in the family also leads to the violence (Babu & Kar, 2009).

A study done by Tamang (2009) showed that the common forms of Violence against Women in Nepal are: traditional violence as Deuki pratha, Jhuma, Badipratha Choupadi; Girl trafficking as sexual violence, rape case, and sexual harassment; family involvement in violence as domestic violence, polygamy, childhood marriage, dowry related violence makes women physical, and mental torture. The report of NDHS 2011 showed that among 15 -49 years women, 22% were suffering from physical violence at least once from 15 years of age. Twelve percent of women age experienced sexual violence at least once in their life. Overall, one- third of married women were suffering from any form violence in the past 12 months. In Nepal, women were not looking for help from others. About two in three women have never shared their problem to anyone.

The study was done in Paropakar hospital Thapathali, showed that sexual violence from the husband is common, husband committed physical violence (25%) or sexual violence (30%) against their wives in a year. Marital rape is common to almost 50% of sexual violence (Chaudary et al., 2010). The study was done to identify the domestic violence among married women in Pokhara.

## Data and Methods

Pokhara sub -Metropolitan city is small and developing as a tourism city. Besides, there is wide diversity in terms of economic, household, demographic, socio-cultural, and other health care practices. The research in a different area of the country was found but the study was not found about the condition of women living in the Pokhara sub-Metropolitan, so the title was selected. Study site was Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan city. Cross-sectional descriptive research design was used. The sampling was done by using a multistage sampling technique. That is the mixture of probability and non-probability sampling. At the first stage of sampling, the Kaski district from the Gandaki zone was selected purposively. At the second stage, Pokhara municipality was selected purposively, then ward no 7 was selected randomly from twenty-eight wards of Pokhara. The sampling unit for this survey was a married women of ward no 7, Pokhara sub metropolitan city. At the final stage of sampling, the selected married woman living in rented houses were selected by using purposive technique. For the individuals, one married woman from perceived affected female aged 15-49 years at the time of survey was interviewed among the rented house of this ward no 7, Pokhari Patan Tol Bikash .There are altogether 190 households rented inhabited by labor or daily wages workers people, among them married women of the reproductive age (15-49) years are 130.

Formal permission was taken from the authorized persons and institutions. Data collection approval was taken from the ward no 7. Interview schedule and Observation were used as data collection instruments to collect primary data from respondents. Beside the interview, non-participant observation was carried out parallel for their behavior analysis, food, and clothing they are using, their facial expression, gesture, posture, location etc. which helped to find out bit more nonverbal ideas/clues on the study factors. Non-probability purposive sampling technique was used to select the respondents. Data was collected after explaining the purpose of the study and taking verbal consent from those who want to participate in the study. Respondents were explained about the nature of the study and data were only used for study purpose. The data was collected from the field by administrating structured interview schedule. The collected data were rechecked by the investigator to ensure the completeness of the data. The data was analyzed by using simple statistical tools, presented in tables.

The collected data were kept confidential. The special relationship between the respondent and the researcher was not exploited in any way. Data obtained from field study has not been misinterpreted and misused. Socio-cultural norms, values, and rites of the study area have been respected in all phases of research.

## Results and Discussion

**Table 1**

*Background Characteristics of Respondents (n=95)*

Characteristics	Frequency	Percent
Age of the respondents		
15-24	18	18.9
25-34	37	38.9
35-44	39	41.1
45years	1	1.1
Religion		
Hindu	83	87.4
Buddhism	10	10.5
Christian	1	1.1
Muslim	1	1.1
Caste/Ethnicity		
Bhramin	25	26.3
Chettri	14	14.7
Dalit	18	18.9
Janajati	38	40.0
Education status		
Illiterate	5	5.3%
Primary	42	44.2%
Secondary	38	38.9%
higher secondary	10	10.5%
Occupation		
Housewife	49	51.6%
Working women	46	48.4%
Types of family		
Nuclear	65	68.4
Joint	30	31.6
Types of marriage		
Arrange	40	42.1
Love marriage	55	57.9

Number of children		
No children	4	4.2
One children	47	49.5
Two children	40	42.1
More than two	4	4.2

### Background Characteristics of Respondent's Husband

The education and occupation of the perpetrators are also an equally important factor. This study has collected the data regarding the education of the respondents' husbands who are seen as the main perpetrators.

**Table 2**

*Background information of Respondent's Husband*

	Number	Percent
Age		
15-24	5	5.3
25-34	29	30.5
35-44	46	48.4
45	15	15.8
Education status		
Illiterate	2	2.1
Only literate	16	16.8
Primary	21	22.1
Secondary	44	46.3
Higher secondary	12	12.6
Occupation of husband		
Agriculture	5	5.3
Service	12	12.6
Trade	13	13.7
Labour	56	58.9
Driver	9	9.3

The table 2 illustrates most of the husband were educated 46.3 percent respondents husband have passed secondary level. The verbal abuse was reported by the service holder. Verbal abuse was frequently reported and business class occupational group.

### Prevalence of Domestic Violence among Married Women

Violence has several different forms in different cases. The major types are physical, psychological or emotional and sexual which are seen in the respondents of this study too.

**Table 3**

*Type of Violence among Married Women (n=95)*

Types of Violence	No	Percent
Mental/psychological violence	80	84.2
Physical	79	83.2
Sexual	82	86.3
Cultural	83	87.4

### Multiple responses

#### Psychological/ Emotional Violence

Psychological violence is also another form of violence faced by the respondents.

**Table 4**

*Form of Violence Experienced by the Respondents*

Form violence felt by the respondents	Always	Seldom	Never
Mental violence			
Do not give to go to parents' home	34(35.8)	23(24.2)	38(40)
Insisted on knowing where respondent always	47(49.5)	25(26.3)	23(24.2)
Irritated /suspicious/angry if she have talk to other	45(47.4)	33(34.7)	17(17.9)
Did not permit to handle money	35(36.8)	25(26.3)	35(36.8)
suspicious/angry if wife talked to other man	37(38.9)	38(40)	20(21.1)
Accused of being unfaithful	37(38.9)	31(32.6)	27(28.4)
Treated like a servant	31(32.6)	22(23.2)	42(44.2)
Did not allow to take part in decision making	30(31.6)	35(36.8)	30(31.6)
Away from home for days or week without informing or giving money.	28(29.5)	27(28.4)	40(42.1)
He was unfaithful to her extramarital relationship.	27(28.4)	26(27.4)	42(44.2)
Did not react against his relatives /agreed with his relatives ,when they insulted wife	26(27.4)	25(26.3)	44(46.3)
Insulted wife in front of others	30(31.6)	28(29.5)	37(38.9)
Threatened to harm her physically	25(26.3)	42(44.2)	28(29.5)

<b>Physical Violence</b>			
Slapped the wife	44(46.3%)	32(33.7%)	19(20)
Beat her on other body parts	39(41.1%)	37(38.9%)	19(20)
Twisted her arm /pulled hair	38(40%)	38(40%)	19(20)
Pushed or throw something on her	38(40%)	38(40%)	19(20)
Punched her with fist or some object	38(40%)	40(42.1%)	17(17.9)
Kicked her dragged her	38(40%)	38(40%)	19(20)
Attack with knife and somewhat weapons	35(36.8%)	38(40%)	22(23.2)
<b>Cultural Violence</b>			
Menstrual isolation`	42(44.2%)	41(43.2%)	12(12.6)
<b>Sexual Violence</b>			
Forcedly Sexual relationship when respondent not interested	59(62.1%)	23(24.2%)	13(13.7)

The table 4, showed that 35.5% spouse were suspicious and want to know where the respondent always. The 46.3% women explained their husband slap them, 62 percent of women explained, they were forced to have sexual intercourse always when she was not interested.

### Causes of Violence

During the life time the women experienced any form of violence directly or indirectly. Most of the female faced any form of violence, 89.5% have faced violence. It can be said that most of the female were suffering from any kind of violence in their lifetime in any form.

**Table 5**

*Association between Selected Background Characteristics and Domestic Violence*

Variables	Domestic violence		P value
	Experience	Not Experience	
Age of the respondents			
15-34	14(14.7%)	4(4.2%)	.091
35-45	71(74.7%)	6(6.3%)	
Education of the respondent			
Illiterate	3(3.2%)	2(2.1%)	.084
Literate	82(86.3%)	8(8.4%)	
Occupation of the respondent			
Working	39(41.1%)	7(7.4%)	.190
Nonworking	46(48.4%)	3(3.2%)	

Type of marriage			
Arrange	37(38.9%)	3(3.2%)	.511
Love	48(50.5%)	7(7.4%)	
Duration of marriage			
less than 5 years	14(14.7%)	6(6.3%)	.005*
More than 5 years	71(74.7%)	4(4.2%)	
Drinking habit of husband			
Absent	7(7.4%)	3(3.2%)	.069
Present	78(82.1%)	7(7.4%)	

\*Fisher’s Exact Test *P* value <0.05 significant

Table 5 showed that Most of the respondent’s spouse had drinking habit of alcohol and most of them experience violence during drunk. This study showed that 82.10% had habit of drinking habit and they also perform physical and verbal abuse to their wife during drunk. There is statistically significant association between marriages. In the long term marriage women are also suffering from different form of violence.

**Response of Women on Domestic violence**

**Table 6**

*Forms of Domestic Violence Experienced by the Respondents*

Response	No	Percent
Keeping silence	58	61.1%
Going natal home	4	4.2%
Seek legal support	1	1.1%
Help from women group	25	26.3%
Yelling out	7	7.4%

The women keep silence 61%, going natal home 4.2%, help from women group 26.3%, only 1.1 % women seek legal support which may be due to their prestige in the society.

**Discussion**

Domestic violence is insulting behavior by a person in an intimate relationship or family. The different forms include physical, mental and sexual abuse. In Nepal, Gender discrimination has diverse forms in different castes, creeds, religions, and communities. The study revealed that most of the respondents were between the ages of 35-44 years which comprised of (41.1%).

Violence faced by the respondents was psychological/emotional violence, physical violence, Cultural violence etc. The prevalence of domestic violence are psychological violence is (84.2%), physical violence (83.2%), sexual violence (86.3%), cultural violence (87.4%). This result was consistent with findings from Sinha et al., (2012).

Among the women (89.5%) experienced any form of domestic violence in her life time. This is accordance with the study by Misra.et.al. (2014). More than half housewives were suffering from violence and their husband were involved in labor work. The study shows the main cause of violence is alcoholism. The women have experienced high prevalence of domestic violence. It was seen that their husband drink alcohol that is (82.10%), Studies carried out in India and globally have also this problem which was similar to this study Misra.et.al. (2014).

In spite of suffering from the violence among the affected women 63% did not share their problems with others, 9.47% share with social workers. The women response regarding seriousness and coping mechanism of violence was keeping silence 61.1%, ask help from women group 26.3%, going mothers' home and only 1.1 % seek legal support. These findings are similar to the study done by (Kamat et al., 2010). The respondents keep silent due to their social prestige and their dependency towards husband. Most women who faced violence had not done anything to avoid violence from their husbands. The women experienced that the violence increase with the increase of their age. That also increases with giving birth and increase the number of the children. Most of the perpetrator of the violence is spouse. Due to the thinking of social prestige, women do not complain their problem to others. But a few number of female reacted by going to maternal home after fighting with spouse.

## Conclusion

Most of the reproductive age women were suffering from any form of domestic violence globally. Among them most of the women are suffering from their husband. Majority of the respondent's husbands are alcoholic. Some of them use vulgar word, behave roughly, and do not trust their wife. Verbal assaults are common form of violence. Women are familiar with physical and psychological violence, but ignore the sexual violence. But they are suffering from all types of violence. The major cause for domestic violence is alcoholic husband. Domestic violence can be control by making strict rule and regulation for selling the alcohol. In spite of different organizations are working against women there is still presence of violence in our

society even growing. There is a need to initiate programs to address discrimination and stop violence. Community awareness and strict social norms regarding prevention from domestic violence and punishment for the perpetrators. Gender sensitization and legal advocacy should be increased to women. Awareness program should include the place and person to seek for help in case of violence.

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