

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## MAGNITUDE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG MARRIED WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE (15-49) IN RATNANAGAR MUNICIPALITY-13, CHITWAN

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Domestic Violence is any form of physical, mental, sexual and economic harm perpetrated by person to a person with whom he/she has a family relationship and this word also includes any acts of reprimand or emotional harm.

**Methodology:** A Descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 250 married women of reproductive age of Ratnagar municipality-13, Data was entered and analyzed using SPSS 20, focusing on frequency and percentage.

**Result:** This study identifies the overall prevalence of domestic violence was found to be 14.89%. Where emotional violence was experienced by 21.68% respondents, physical violence was experienced by 15.55% respondents, and sexual violence was experienced by 7.46% respondents.

**Conclusion:** In this study among different forms of violence emotional violence was the most common forms of domestic violence, Slapping, beating, twisting arm, pulling hair, kicking were the commonest forms of physical violence, whereas said something bad, being unfaithful, insulting were the common forms of emotional violence and forced to have sexual intercourse were the common form of sexual violence in my study.

**Keywords:** Domestic Violence, Reproductive age, Married Women, Ratnanagar Municipality

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### INTRODUCTION

Violence is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, a group, or a community that results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury or death psychological harm, mal-development, or deprivation."<sup>1</sup>

According to the Nepal Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2066 (2009) "Domestic Violence" means any form of physical, mental, sexual and economic harm perpetrated by person to a person with whom he/she has a family relationship and this word also includes any acts of reprimand or emotional harm.<sup>2</sup>

More than one million people die each year as a result of violence, and many more are injured. Overall, violence is one of the major causes of death among people aged 15 to 45 years old around the world.<sup>1</sup> WHO indicate that globally about 1 in 3 (30%) of women worldwide have been subjected to either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.<sup>3</sup>

Any woman, regardless of her level of education, nationality, money, religion, age, or ethnicity, can be the victim of domestic abuse. Victims and abusers come from many walks of life. According to various surveys, 10 to 35% of women experience domestic abuse at some point in their life.<sup>4</sup>

Economic dependence, marriage practices, an alcoholic husband, illiteracy, female subservience, and a lack of autonomy for women are all aggravating factors of domestic violence.<sup>5</sup>

Violence can negatively affect women's physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health, and may increase the risk of acquiring HIV in some settings. violence leads to high social and economic costs for women, their families and societies.<sup>3</sup>

Women's violence is universally acknowledged as a major violation of human rights and a public health issue. Threats, coercion, and other forms of domestic violence against women cause physical, sexual, and mental

trauma. Domestic violence is linked to a variety of reproductive health disorders, including sexually transmitted illnesses like HIV, miscarriages, and unsafe sexual behavior. Women of all social and economic strata are victims of domestic abuse, although women in poverty are more likely to be victims.<sup>6</sup>

In both urban and rural women, the prevalence of various forms of violence was similar. Domestic violence is more common in slum regions than it is in the general population.<sup>7</sup>

Dowry-related hostilities, second marriages by husbands, and attacks on women accused of being witches are among the diverse reasons of domestic violence. Every year, tens of thousands of Nepalese women are victims of domestic violence.<sup>8</sup>

The Domestic Violence Act 2066 (2009) has identified violence against women as a crime with punishment for perpetrators. But rarely such crimes are reported to concerned agencies. A person who commits an act of domestic violence shall be punished with a fine of Three Thousand Rupees up to Twenty-Five Thousand Rupees or Six months of imprisonment or both. A person who attempts to perpetrate domestic violence, aids or abets the crime, or incites others to commit the crime is subject to half of the perpetrator's penalty. If a person has been penalized once for domestic violence, the punishment will be doubled if the offender commits the same crime again.<sup>2</sup>

### How to Cite

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## METHODOLOGY

The study used a descriptive cross-sectional design to measure domestic violence among married women of reproductive age in Ratnanagar Municipality-13, Chitwan. It was a descriptive study focusing on women aged 15-49 who were married, excluding those who were unmarried, widowed, disabled, or did not consent.

A sample size of 250 was determined using a statistical formula and cluster random sampling. Data was collected over six months through face-to-face interviews using a semi-structured questionnaire in Nepali, with each interview taking about 15 minutes.

Data was entered and analyzed using SPSS 20, focusing on frequency and percentage. Validity and reliability were ensured through pretesting, consultation with experts, and adjustments based on feedback.

## RESULTS

*Table. 1 Sociodemographic Variable*

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Age of respondent</b>		
15-24	40	16.0
25-34	101	40.0
35 above	109	43.0
<b>Religion</b>		
Hindu	203	81.2
Buddhist	27	10.8
Christian	18	7.2
Islam	2	0.8
<b>Caste</b>		
Brahmin	40	16
Chettri	27	10.8
Janajati	118	47.2
Dalit	63	25.2
Muslim	2	0.8
<b>Education of women</b>		
No schooling	54	21.6
Primary level	131	52.4
Secondary level	65	26.0
<b>Occupation of women</b>		
Homemaker	199	79.6
Agriculture	15	6
Job	11	4.4
Labor	12	4.8
Business	13	5.2
<b>Age at marriage</b>		
Below 20	205	82
30-20	45	18
<b>Age at Marriage</b>		
15-1	139	55.6
30-16	101	40.4
45-31	10	4.0
<b>Family type</b>		
Nuclear family	166	66.4

Joint family	84	33.6
<b>Family Members</b>		
1 to 5	195	78.0
6 to 10	55	22.0
<b>Number of child</b>		
0	18	7.2
1	51	20.4
2	114	45.6
3 and more	67	26.8
<b>Numbers of son</b>		
0	75	30
1	121	48.4
2 or More	54	21.6
<b>Numbers of daughter</b>		
0	74	29.6
1	105	42.0
2 or More	71	28.4
<b>Other family members</b>		
Father in law	66	26.6
Mother in law	73	29.2
Sister in law	17	6.8
Brother in law	19	7.6
<b>Annual income of family</b>		
1lakh - 5 lakhs	218	87.2
6 lakhs- 10 lakhs	32	12.8
<b>Types of marriage</b>		
Love marriage	116	46.4
Arrange marriage	134	53.6
<b>Decision maker</b>		
Father in law	33	13.2
Mother in law	13	5.2
Husband	70	28
Respondent herself	54	21.6
Husband wife jointly	80	32.0
<b>Head of households</b>		
Father in law	57	22.8
Mother in law	15	6.0
Husband	154	61.6
Wife	20	8.0

Table 1 shows the sociodemographic information of the respondents. Majority (81.2%) of the respondents were Hindus. Among 250 participants, majority 47.2% are Janajati, 25.2 are Dalit. 52.4% respondent have primary level education, 26% have secondary level education and 21.6% have no schooling. Majority of 79.6% respondents are homemaker. Majority of 82.5 respondents are married below 20 years' age. 78.0% respondents have up to 5 members in their family and 22% have 6 to 10 members in their family. Majority of 45.6% respondents have only two children, 26.8% respondents have 3 and more child, 20.4% have 1 child and 7.2% have no child.

26.6% respondents are lived with father in law and 29.2% respondents are lived with mother in law. The annual income of the majority of the respondent's family was 1 lakh to 5 lakhs. Majority of 46.4% respondents have done love marriage and 53.6% respondents have done arrange.

**Table:2 variable related to respondent husband**

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Age of respondent husband</b>		
15-25	24	9.6
26-35	98	39.2
36-45	73	29.2
Aabove 45	55	22.0
<b>Education of respondent husband</b>		
Illiterate	15	6.0
Literate	28	11.2
Primary level	133	53.2
Secondary level	68	27.2
Hhigher secondary level	6	2.4
<b>Occupation of respondent husband</b>		
Agriculture	46	18.4
Job labor	29	11.6
	132	52.8
Business	14	5.6
Foreign employment	28	11.2
Unemployment	1	0.4
<b>Respondent husband alcohol consumption</b>		
Yes	188	75.2
No	62	24.8

Table 2 shows that characteristics of respondent's husband. Majority of 39.2% respondent's husbands are 26 to 35 years' age, 29.2% are 36 to 45 years' age, 22% are above 45 years' age and 9.65% are 15 to 25 years' age. Majority of 53.2% respondent husband have primary level education, 27.2% have secondary level education, 2.4% have higher secondary level education, 11.2% respondents husband are literate and 6% are illiterate. Majority of 52.8% respondents husband are labor, 18.4 are involved in agriculture, 11.6% respondents husband have job, 5.6% have business, 11.2 % are gone to foreign employment, and 0.4% are unemployment. Majority of 75.2% respondents husband are drunk alcohol and 24.8% are did not drink alcohol.

**Table. 3 Physical violence**

Types of Voilence	Yes(%)	No(%)
Push shake or throw something	53(21.2)	197(78.8)
Husband ever slap	60(24.4)	190(76.0)
Twist your arm or pull hair	54(21.6)	196(78.4)
Punch with his fit or something that could hurt	55(22.0)	195(78.0)
Kick, drag or beat	54(21.6)	196(78.4)
Burn on purpose	6(2.4)	244(97.6)
Threaten or attack with a knife or other weapon	9(3.6)	241(96.4)
Cuts, bruises, or aches, eye injuries, deep wounds	20(8.0)	230(92.0)

Table 4 represents questions related to physical violence. About 21.2% of women's husband shake her, push her or throw something at her. 24.4% women's are slapped by her husband. 21.6% women's husband pull their hair and twist their arm. 22% women are punched by their husband fit. 21.6% women are beaten by their husband. 2.4% burnt by their husband. 3.6% women's husband threaten or attacked them with a knife or the other weapon. 8.0% women's have cuts, bruises, or aches, eye injuries, deep wounds.

**Table. 4 Type of Sexual Violence by the respondent**

Types of Sexual Voilence	Yes(%)	No(%)
Physically force to have Sexual intercourse even when did not want to	32(12.8)	218(87.2)
Force to perform any sexual acts did not want to	14(5.6)	236(94.4)
Any degrading or humiliating sexual act	10(4.0)	240(96.0)

Table 4 represents the questions related to the sexual violence. Among 250 participants 12.8% women have forced to have sexual intercourse by their husband even when they did not want to. 5.6% women's are forced to perform any sexual acts by their husband when they did not want to. 4.0% women are forced by their husband to do any degrading or humiliating sexual act in past 12 months.

**Table 5. Type of Emotional violencExperienced by respondent**

Types of Emotional Voilence	Yes(%)	No(%)
Husband said or did something to humiliate in front of others	36(14.4)	214(85.6)
Husband jealous when talk to other men	39(15.6)	211(84.4)
Threaten to harm or someone care about	2(0.8)	248(99.2)
Insult and said something that make feel bad (insists/insisted) on knowing (are/were) at all times	110(44.0)	140(56.0)
(Does/did) not permit to meet female friends and family	25(10.0)	225(90.0)
(Does/did) not permit to meet female friends and family	5(2.0)	245(98.0)
(Accuses/accused) of being unfaithful	18(7.2)	232(92.8)
Not given enough food to eat	7(2.8)	243(97.2)
Not care for when were too ill	24(9.6)	226(90.4)
Asked to go for forced abortion	3(1.2)	247(98.8)
Threatened with divorced by husband or in-laws	3(1.2)	247(98.8)
Abused for not bearing son	2(0.8)	248(99.2)

Table 5 represents the questions related to the emotional violence. 14.4% women's are humiliated in front of others by their husband. 15.6% women's husband are jealous when they(respondent) talked to others men. 44.0% respondents are insulted and said something that make them bad themselves by their husband. 10% women's husband insisted on knowing they(respondent) are at all times. 2.0% respondents are husband did not permit to meet their friends and their family. And 7.2 women's husband accused them(respondents) of being unfaithful. 2.8% respondents husband did no given enough food to eat. 9.6% respondents husband did not care them when they were ill. 1.2% women husband asked to go to forced abortion. 1.2% women's husband and in laws threatened with divorced. 0.8% respondents are abused for not bearing son by their husband in past 12 months. In this study, slapping, kicking, dragging, beating, punching, pulling hair, twisting the arms, burning threaten to through weapons and injuring with cutting, deep wounds were defined as physical violence. Physically forced to have Sexual intercourse,

forced to perform any sexual acts, any degrading or humiliating sexual acts were defined as sexual violence. humiliate you in front of others, husband jealousy, threaten to harm, insult you, make feel bad, said something bad, did not permit to meet female friends and family, accused being unfaithful, not given enough food to eat, not care for when too ill, asked to go for forced abortion, threatened with divorced by husband or in-laws, abused for not bearing son were defined as emotional violence. Figure 1 represents the prevalence of domestic violence. The prevalence of domestic violence was found 44.69%. Where emotional violence was experienced by 21.68% respondents, physical violence was experienced by 15.55% respondents, and sexual violence was experience by 7.46% respondents

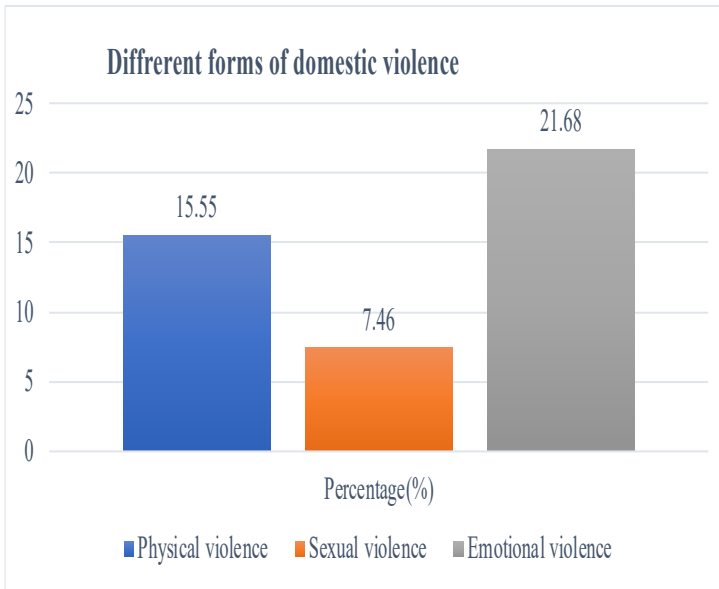


Figure 1: Prevalence of different forms of domestic violence (14.89%)

Slapping, kicking, dragging, beating, punching, pulling hair, twisting the arms, burning threaten to through weapons and injuring with cutting, deep wounds were defined as physical violence. Physically forced to have Sexual intercourse, forced to perform any sexual acts, any degrading or humiliating sexual acts were defined as sexual violence. humiliate you in front of others, husband jealousy, threaten to harm, insult you, make feel bad, said something bad, did not permit to meet female friends and family, accused being unfaithful, not given enough food to eat, not care for when too ill, asked to go for forced abortion, threatened with divorced by husband or in-laws, abused for not bearing son were defined as emotional violence. above figure1, represents the prevalence of domestic violence. The prevalence of domestic violence was found 44.69%. Where emotional violence was experienced by 21.68% respondents, physical violence was experienced by 15.55% respondents, and sexual violence was experience by 7.46% respondents.

Table 6 Anyone else in your family has abused to respondent

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Anyone else in your family has abused</b>		
Yes	12	4.8
No	238	95.2
<b>Who did</b>		
Father in law	3	1.2
Mother in law	7	2.8
<b>Emotional violence</b>	10	4.0

Table 6 represents the respondent's others family members has abused her. 4.8% respondents agree with their others family members have abused them(respondent). 1.2% women`s are emotionally abused by their father in law and 2.8% women`s are emotionally abused by their mother in law.

Table 7: Seek help from others and ways of prevent domestic violence

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Tried to seek help</b>		
Yes	32	12.8
No	218	87.2
<b>From whom</b>		
Own family	10	4
Friends	5	2
Neighbors	12	4.8
Police	2	0.8
Social service organization	3	1.2
<b>Knowledge of law on domestic violence</b>		
Yes	187	74.8
No	63	25.2

Table 7 represents the women`s who was abused try to seek help from others. 12.8% Of women are trying to seek help from others. 4% women`s are trying to seek help from their own family. 2% of women trying to seek help from their friends. 4.8% women are trying to seek help from neighbor, 0.8% women trying to seek help from police and 1.2% women trying to seek help from social service organization. Among 250 respondents 74.8% respondents have knowledge of law on domestic violence.

## DISCUSSION

A descriptive cross sectional study was conducted on “magnitude of domestic violence among married women of reproductive age (15-49) years in Ratnanagar municipality ward no.13 where cluster random sampling technique was used for data collection to find out the prevalence of physical violence, sexual violence, and emotional violence. Where sample size was 250. Violence against women is a major public health problem, which affects physical, mental and reproductive health. The overall prevalence of domestic violence in my study population was found to be 14.89% in past 12 months. A similar finding was seen in Sarlahi- Nepal, where 23.1% of women had experienced different forms of domestic violence in past 12 months.<sup>5</sup>

In my study emotional violence (21.68%) comprised the most common form of violence followed by physical violence (15.55) and least common was sexual violence (7.46%). The higher prevalence emotional violence was seen because of respondent's husband alcohol consumptions. While the study conducted among antenatal attendees at Kathmandu hospital, Nepal shows sexual violence was the most common form of violence which is 17.3% and emotional violence was 16.6% and physical violence was 3.2%.<sup>21</sup>

In my study main perpetrator of all types (physical, emotional and sexual) of domestic violence was women`s husband. This result is consistent with the study from India and other study where the most common perpetrator of physical, emotional and sexual violence was the women`s husband. And other perpetrator father in law and mother in law committed very few domestic violence to the respondents. Similarly, in my study only father in law and mother in law committed only emotional violence to 4.8% respondents, which was 4%.<sup>6,18,21</sup>

In my study 12.8% women`s try to seek help or talk to someone about their experiences of domestic violence. While according to the NDHS 39% women`s try to seek help or talk to someone about their experiences of violence. In my study 4.8% women try to seek help from neighbors, 4% women`s try to seek help from her own family, 2% from friends, 0.4% from

police and 0.4% from social service organization.<sup>12</sup>

## CONCLUSION

In this study among different forms of violence emotional violence was the most common forms of domestic violence, which was nearly twenty-two percent. Slapping, beating, twisting arm, pulling hair, kicking were the commonest forms of physical violence, whereas said something bad, being unfaithful, insulting were the common forms of emotional violence and forced to have sexual intercourse were the common form of sexual violence in my study. In this study husband were the main perpetrator of domestic violence and father in law and mother in law are other perpetrator of domestic violence.

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