



महिला पुनर्स्थापना केन्द्र (ओरेक)

Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)

Date: May 31st May 2021

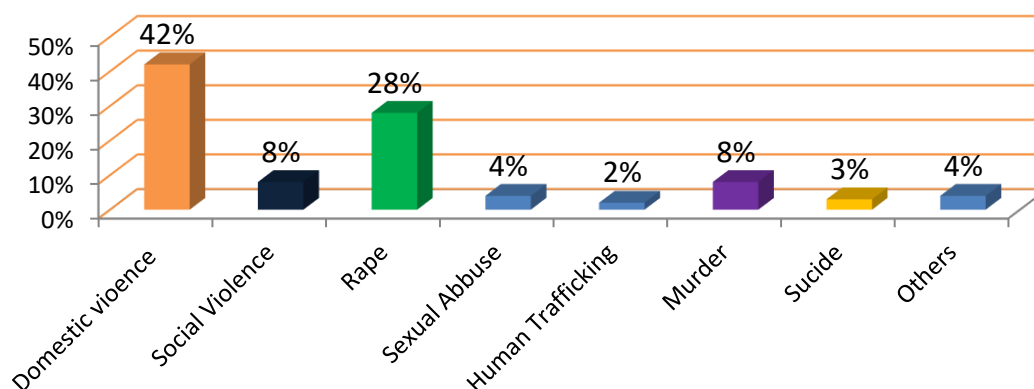
Press Release

97 cases of violence against women and girls recorded during the first 16 days (April 29-May 14, 2021) of prohibitory order

The second surge of Covid-19 has yet again shaken the world, with the number of infections continuing to rise. In Nepal, with the passing days, a situation is unfolding that looks chillingly familiar from the first wave of Covid-19 in 2020. Covid-19 cases are skyrocketing, hospitals are overwhelmed, and the economic fallout has further pushed people into uncertainty and fear. As the Nepal government continues to issue prohibitory order, the attention is focused on containing Covid-19. Thus, at present, maintaining the social distancing, imposing restrictions on movement and 'stay at home' protocol has been placed to prevent from getting Covid-19.

However, it is of great concern that such mass efforts to curb the spread of Covid-19 have only put many women and children at risk of gender-based violence (GBV), as many of the factors that trigger violence against women and children are compounded by preventive confinement measures. As the frequency of cases on GBV has increased since the lockdown began, there is no denying that the Covid-19 has only exacerbated GBV and intensified the shadow pandemic of violence against women and girls.

Lockdown and Types of Violence against women (April 29 to May 14, 2021)



In the last 16 days since the lockdown, WOREC has recorded 97 cases of violence against women and girls (April 29 to May 14, 2021), out of which 41 domestic violence cases have been recorded. This indicates that many women and children are stuck in their home with their abusers during the prohibitory orders, making them more vulnerable to domestic violence.

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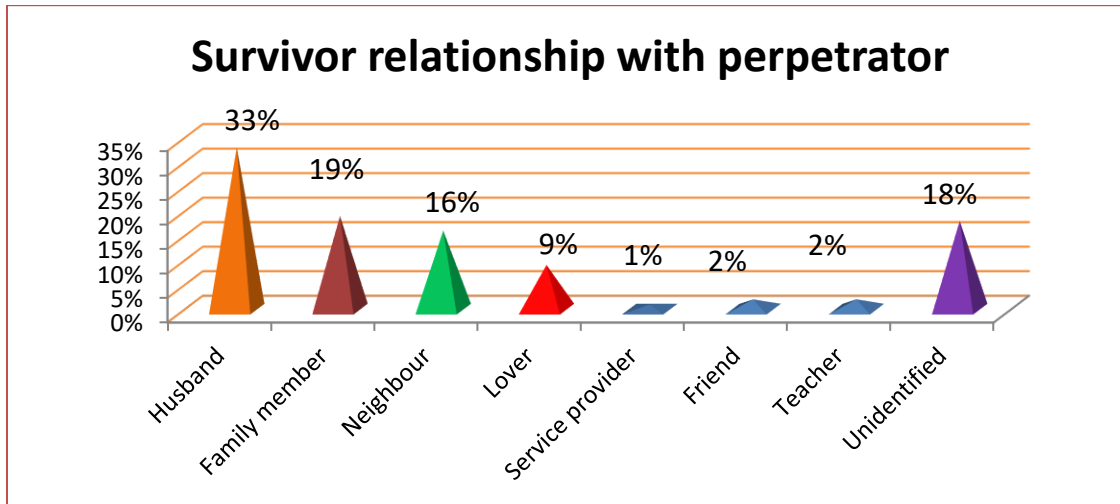
महिला अधिकार तथा सामाजिक न्यायमा आधारित दिगो विकासको प्रवर्द्धनका लागि जुटौं ।



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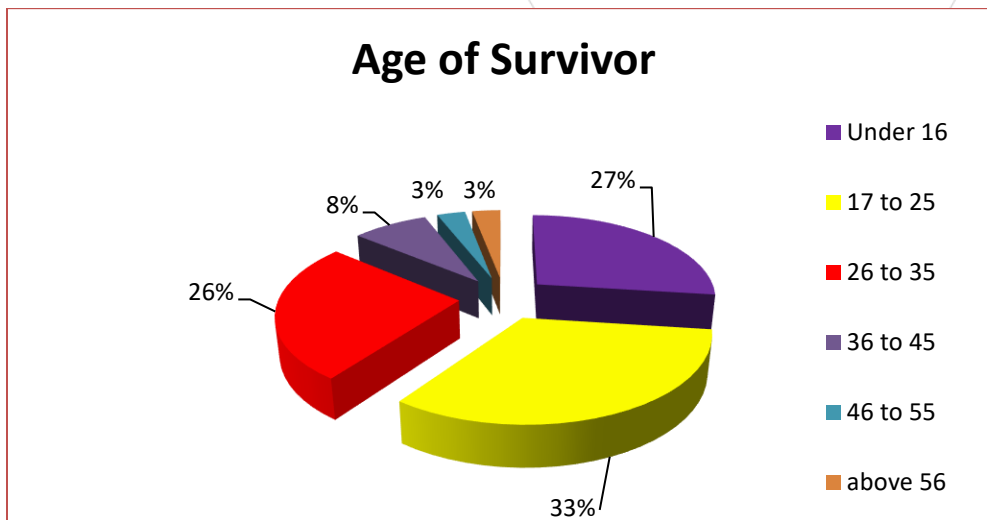
Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)

Along with that, WOREC recorded 27 cases of rape, 8 cases of murder, 8 cases of social violence, 4 cases of sexual abuse, 3 cases of suicide, 2 cases of trafficking, 2 cases of attempt to suicide due to violence against the survivors and in 2 cases, survivors were abandoned.



The highest number of perpetrators to commit violence against women are husbands, followed by family members and neighbours. In 32 cases, perpetrators are husbands, and in 18 cases, perpetrators are family members. Among the cases of violence, 16 cases have been committed by neighbours, 9 by boyfriends, 2 by friends, 1 by service providers and 2 cases, perpetrators are teachers.

Out of 27 cases of rape, 1 case is of marital rape while 9 are committed by neighbours, 1 by a family member, 4 by boyfriends and in 12 cases of rape, perpetrators are yet to be identified.



The age analysis of these documented cases shows that women and girls age 17-25 years have been most affected, where 32 women and girls fall under this age group. Similarly, 25 women within the age of 26-35 and 26 are



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Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)

below the age of 16.

Looking at the cases that came in direct contact with WOREC, it has been found that women and girls are reluctant to speak out in many cases of violence since the perpetrators are family members. The lockdown and fears of the Covid-19 have even impacted women's avenues of redress as many support and rescue organizations are closed, courts have not yet resumed, and the police are preoccupied with other matters. Furthermore, many women cannot even leave home to stay elsewhere or file a police report as there is no transportation. As a result, many women and girls have neither registered complaint at the police station nor have given complaints to any authorities for support.

Violence against women and girls is the shadow pandemic growing amidst the Covid-19 crisis, and we need a collective effort to stop it. For this, the government should address this problem by bridging the gaps to ensure that prevention measures and essential services are maintained and implemented during the crisis

The 97 cases of incidents have been documented through 2 hotlines run by WOREC, 23 psychosocial counsellors, Women Human Rights Defenders, and community-based organizations. Among these, 28 cases were collected from different media.

Recommendations

1. A conducive environment should be created for women and girls to report violence committed against them. Police, Judicial committee, mediation committee should work actively to stop violence and ensure access to justice.
2. The local government should encourage women and girls to report violence against them. To ensure the constitutional right to violence-free life, supportive mechanisms like need-based safe shelter, counselling, health and legal support should be continued by adopting safety measures.
3. Every health institution should resume required services for pregnant women for child delivery and universal child immunization services. Birthing centres, primary health post, hospitals should be provided with required safety equipments and resources for the regular delivery of these services. Likewise, access to contraceptives should be ensured.
4. Considering the possibility of violence and vulnerability on women, girls and LGBTIQ+ individuals, there should be separate quarantine spaces for them with gender-friendly bathrooms and toilets.
5. Every local body should arrange to resume a hotline with the services of reporting complaints, feedback mechanism, required support and referral for women in any difficulty or affected by gender-based violence.
6. Every local body should facilitate cases of violence against women and girls that have not been reported due to lockdown. Information of service providers should be widely disseminated.
7. Ensure access to remote counselling services and primary psychological assistance to survivors.
8. To address the situation where the survivors of violence cannot leave their homes due to lack of transportation, the local police and the local government should facilitate and assist in arranging transportation as per the need.
9. The amount of dedicated funds can be utilized from Gender Based Violence Prevention Fund to legal aid, psychological treatment, and psychosocial counselling services and rehabilitate the survivors.
10. Food and relief packages should be distributed to women and children in need.



महिला पुनर्स्थापना केन्द्र (ओरेक) Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)

11. Arrangements should be made to prepare and distribute home isolation kits, including food, safety equipment and essential medicines for Covid-19 patients.
12. Immediate relief in the form of cash assistance should be given to those women, adolescents and sexual minorities who have lost their jobs during the lockdown.
13. A list with the details, including the contact numbers of the service providers, should be widely disseminated.

Thank You.

Lubha Raj Neupane
Executive Director, WOREC

