

Status and Dimensions of
Violence Against Women in Nepal



ANBESHI
REALITY REVEALED

A Year Book on
Violence Against Women
2016



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**Reality Revealed
Status and Dimensions of Violence
Against Women in Nepal**



**ANBESHI 2016
A Yearbook on Violence Against Women**



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The many forms of violence against women (VAW) are oppressive and discriminatory, and cause physical, mental, and economic harm. They are not examples of random victimization, rather, they are associated with inequality between women and men and the strategies to perpetuate or entrench that inequality. Women are experiencing different forms of violence in Nepali society and forced to be affected disproportionately just because they are women. The stereotyped conception and mindset towards women trigger violence against them. From the women's standpoint, violence against women is a severe crime that violates women's human right, right to dignity, right to mobility, and right to control over body, control over resources and right to life.

WOREC Nepal emphasizes, collecting and publishing an accurate and reliable statistics on violence against women is an important, effective and instrumental activity to raise societal awareness and pressurize the government and other concerned authorities to make them accountable as well as take some coherent action against such violence in order to eradicate the VAW. Better understanding of the dimension, nature, correlation, and magnitude of violence against women; suffice the ground for reliable study that arrives at some general conclusions for policy implications.

WOREC initiated publishing “Anbeshi” Status and Dimensions of Violence against Women in Nepal, Reality Revealed as an annual publication since 2008. It is as an attempt to shed light on various forms of violence prevailing in Nepali society and its adverse effect on women and girls. By publishing the results of VAW through Anbeshi, WOREC has been contributing to create a paradigm shift in understanding violence against women. VAW was confined to silent sufferings some years ago, but gradually over the years, increasing ratio of reported VAW cases has been breaking the culture of silence. It has resulted in shifting in social behavioral arena and has also contributed to enlargement of VAW as a public agenda.

Purpose of Anbeshi 2016

- To analyse the situation of VAW for evidence based advocacy with the government to formulate relevant laws, policies, and action plans towards eliminating VAW in Nepal.
- To identify key areas that needs to be effectively addressed by the government which will ensure survivors’ access to justice To identify the needs of VAW survivors in order to advocate for the establishment of relevant support mechanisms.

Methodology

National wide Sample

WOREC associated WHRD are spread over all 75 districts of Nepal to collect information regarding VAW. Incidences of VAW are either reported by the concerned victims/survivors or their friends and relatives, or they are detected by the WHRDs and reached for counseling. These are all incorporated in the sample. However, this may not constitute the total, because there is possibility of underreporting.

Uniform Tool

A tool is formulated to collect the case by WOREC. This constitutes their socio-economic and demographic information with causes and consequences of VAW (Appendix). This tool was a blended of quantitative and qualitative nature depending the type of information.

Collection of Information

The intake forms were used to collect the information by trained counselors and case workers and case managers of WOREC. The information collection process used both ways of detection of event by personnel and also the reported cases by the victims or anyone on their behalves to institutional outlets of WOREC. The reference period is maintained for this study as from 2014 to 2015.

Data Processing and Analysis

Data were entered in data processing software SPSS, and were further edited as well as analyzed to suit the report format.

Ethical Considerations

The following ethical guidelines were taken into consideration for the research.

- The consent of related individual was taken before filling in the case of survivor or victim. In case of minors, consents of parents or close relatives were taken.
- The respondents were ensured about the anonymity and confidentiality of information they supply, and their permission was sought.
- They were also informed that the data would not be analyzed in personal level and the report was to be published.
- No any kind of coercive method was used, neither physically nor psychologically. They were not also given any assurance or any materialistic benefit against

information. They participated in this study voluntarily.

- During filling in the intake forms the communicating language didn't contain any degrading, discriminatory versions or other unacceptable slangs that could be offensive or rhetoric for the respondents.
- Privacy of respondents was maintained.

Study Limitations

The study compiles the articulation of cases of violence at the community level from various district as analyzed and reported by the women human rights defenders and other various staffs of WOREC's working districts.

WOREC acknowledges the problem of underreporting cases of VAW, and as such Anbeshi 2016 does not claim to represent the full picture of VAW in Nepal, rather it is expected that this report will provide a glimpse of the violence suffered by women across the country.

This study serves as one method to review the in-take form that is used in the data collection process. The in-take form will be subsequently subjected to an internal review process to be adapted for future investigations and research projects in order to better represent the problem of VAW in Nepal.

During the period of the earthquake relief effort, WOREC used the Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) intake format. The categories of occupation and education were not included in the GBVIMS format; therefore the 820 cases recorded during this time do not provide data on occupation and education of survivors.

Key Findings

"Anbeshi 2016" is prepared on the basis of collected and documented cases of VAW from July 2015 to June 2016 by WOREC and Women's Human Right Defenders (WHRDs).

This year WOREC documented total 1,775 VAW cases from around the country, and the analysis of this book is exclusively based on those reported cases.

Domestic Violence

WOREC defines domestic violence as violence taking place inside the home and committed by a husband, intimate partner, or family member. Domestic violence accounted for 1,300 of the total recorded VAW cases (73%). Seventy-eight percent of the perpetrators were the women's husbands; women between 17 and 35 years of age are disproportionately highly affected; and 90% of the women were married, suggesting that women in earlier years of marriage are more likely to face violence, and/or that older married women are less likely to report violence. Seventy-seven percent of domestic violence survivors were literate. The majority of women either worked in their own households (38.3%) or in agriculture (30%). The majority of women were from the Hill Janajati ethnic group.

Social Violence

Social violence takes place due to social constructions like caste hierarchy and can include acid spraying, labor exploitation, allegations of witchcraft and subsequent punishments, threats, and character assassinations. A total of 218 VAW cases were documented as social violence (11.3%). Neighbors perpetrated 70% of these cases. Fifty-two percent of social violence survivors were literate, but 33% had only limited literacy. Seventy-two percent of women were married, and 52% were between the ages of 17 and 35. The occupation statistics were similar to those of the domestic violence category: women working in their own households accounted for 35% of cases, while women working in agriculture accounted for 22% of cases. The majority of women were from the Hill Janajati ethnic group.

Rape

Rape is non-consensual sexual intercourse through the use of physical force, threats, or intimidation. Rape is a human right violation of sexual autonomy, integrity, and right to dignity of an individual whether woman, man, or transgender. There were a total of 103 cases of rape (6%). This data includes 76 cases of rape and 27 cases of attempted rape. Of the total cases, 61% of the perpetrators were neighbors. Minor girls below the age of 16 are the most vulnerable, accounting for 43% of a total rape cases, followed by women between the ages of 17 and 25 (37%). Reflective of their age, the majority of survivors were students (48%) and were unmarried (73%). Seventy-six percent of survivors were literate; thirty-three percent were from the Hill Janajati ethnic group.

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is any sexual act committed against someone without that person's given consent. It is one of the most shameful acts that leave no age group untouched. There were a total of 84 (5%) sexual violence cases documented. The highest percentage of sexual violence was committed against women between the ages of 17 and 25 (55%). The higher percentage of cases of girls under the age of 16 who were raped, compared with the lower percentage of cases of girls under 16 who experienced sexual violence (19%) could suggest that girls can identify rape as a criminal act, but may not be aware that sexual violence (including harassment and groping) are reportable offences. Intimate partners perpetrated 35% of cases, followed by neighbors (21%). About 80% of sexual violence survivors were literate. Fifty percent of cases involved unmarried women. The majority of survivors were students (34%), followed by women working in agriculture (26%). Twenty-one percent of survivors were from the Terai Janajati ethnic group and 20% were from the Hill Janajati ethnic group.

Murder

A total of 20 (1.1%) cases of murder were documented this year, of which 9 cases were attempted murder. Fifty percent of the murdered women were between 17 and 25 years of age. The perpetrators were mostly husbands (50%). Seventeen of the women were married. Thirteen of the women were literate, but most had only basic literacy. Six women were from the Terai Janajati ethnic group, five were from Terai Dalit, four were Terai Non-Dalit, two were Hill Janajati, one was Chhetri, one was Hill Dalit, and one was Muslim. The majority of the women worked in their own households.

Trafficking

There were a total of 26 reported cases of trafficking of women. Thirty-eight percent of the perpetrators were neighbors, followed by family members (35%). Seventy-seven percent of the trafficked women were married. Seventy-three percent of the trafficked women were literate. The highest percentages of trafficked women were found among the age groups 17-25 and 36-45. Women working in agriculture accounted for the highest percentage (62%). The majority of trafficked women were from the Chhetri ethnic group (31%).

The low number of WOREC's recorded trafficking cases could indicate that women who return to Nepal after being trafficked are not aware that they are the survivors of a crime due to a lack of education on the subject. It could also suggest that many trafficked women do not return after being trafficked.

Suicide and Other Types of VAW

WOREC includes suicide as a type of VAW, not for the act itself, but for the reasons behind a woman's decision to take

her own life; women are often driven to commit suicide after experiencing acts of violence. This year, 17 women were reported to have committed suicide. The majority of the women were between 17-25 years old and were married. About half of the women were literate, and the majority worked in either agriculture or their own households. Most the women were from the Terai Janajati ethnic group. There were an additional seven VAW cases categorized as “other types of violence”, including cases of abduction and abandonment. Though these cases are less frequent than other forms of VAW, they should not be ignored.

Age Profiles and VAW

VAW affects every age group. Women between 17 and 25 years old account for the highest percentage of the VAW survivors (32%), closely followed by women aged 26-35 years (31%), 36-45 years (16%), 46-55 years (7%), and girls under 16 (7%), and women aged above 56 years (7%). This data could indicate that women experience more violence after they are married, or that girls under 16 years of age do not report their experiences of violence due to a lack of education on the subject or a fear of stigmatization.

Education and VAW

Literate women accounted for the highest percentage (73%), while 27% were illiterate. Among the literate women, 28% had a secondary education¹, 24% had limited literacy², 18% attended primary education³, 18% attended

¹ Secondary education includes grades six through eight; typically children aged eleven to fourteen years old.

² This includes women who never attended formal education, but were able to read and write basic words such as their name and address.

³ Primary education includes grades one through five; typically children aged five to

higher secondary education⁴, 6% attended adult literacy classes⁵, 5% completed an undergraduate degree⁶, and 1% completed graduate degree⁷. The higher rates of violence against literate women suggest that traditional education alone is not sufficient to prevent violence. It can also be inferred that illiterate women are less likely to report their experiences of violence. Further research is needed on this issue.

Marital Status and VAW

The highest percentage of reported VAW cases were found among married women (81%). Conversely, 13.7% of women were unmarried, followed by 3% who were widowed, 1% who were single, separated, or divorced, and 0.3% who were living with their partner. These figures correlate with the high percentage of domestic violence cases. Due to this correlation, it can be argued that women are at greater risk of violence after they are married.

Ethnicity/Caste and VAW

The highest number of cases were reported by the Hill Janajati (26.8%), followed by Hill Dalit (15%), Brahmin (14%), Chhetri (12%), Terai Dalit (7%), Terai Non-Dalit (5%), Muslim (2%), Others⁸ (1%), and Terai Janajati (0.2%). The percentages of reported cases do not necessarily suggest that one ethnic group is more violent toward women than

⁴ Higher secondary education includes grades 11 and 12; typically students are aged 16-18 years old.

⁵ This includes women who became literate as adults and could read and write more than basic words.

⁶ This includes only women who completed an undergraduate degree, not women who attended classes and dropped out before being awarded a degree.

⁷ This includes women who have a Masters and/or PhD.

⁸ "Others" includes Marwari, Bangali, Jain, Punjabi/Sikh, unidentified others, or unmarked answers.

another; rather they simply serve to show that women who experience violence come from a variety of ethnic groups. The percentages could be representative of the populations of ethnicities situated closest to the WOREC district offices. The higher percentages of reports from women of the Hill Janajati and Hill Dalit communities may also suggest that those women are more empowered to report these crimes. It also indicates further research is needed on this subject.

Occupation and VAW

The majority of the women who experienced violence worked in their own households (34.3%), followed by agriculture (28%), labor (14%), studies (13%), business (4%), tailoring/knitting (2%), teaching (1%), foreign employment (1%), non-governmental service (1%), other (1%), domestic help⁹ (0.3%), social work (0.3%), and governmental service (0.1%). The high percentage of women who have experienced violence working in their own households correlates with the high rate of domestic violence.

Impact of VAW

Regarding the impact of VAW on survivors, the figures shows that 47% of the women suffer from a mental impact, 23% suffer a physical impact, 17% suffer a social impact, 10% suffer an economic impact, and 3% suffer from a combination of all previously stated impacts.

Perpetrators of VAW

A survey on the relationship between the women and the perpetrators revealed that husbands (59%) and family members (19%) were the most common perpetrators, followed by neighbors (15%), intimate partners (2%), others (2%)¹⁰, strangers (1%), friends (1%), and supervisors/

⁹ "Domestic help" means providing cleaning and cooking services in another person's home.

¹⁰ Others includes teachers, fellow students, and supervisors/employers.

employers (1%). This reflects the findings that the majority of reported cases were categorized as acts of domestic abuse perpetrated by husbands against their wives. Furthermore, perpetrators usually target women they know well: the majority of cases of social violence, rape, sexual violence, and trafficking were committed by the women's neighbors, family members, and intimate partners. Although husbands were the most frequently reported of all recorded perpetrators (due to the most frequently reported type of violence being domestic violence), neighbors were more frequently reported as perpetrators of social violence, rape, sexual violence, and human trafficking. More research on the motives of people who commit acts of VAW would be useful to design education and advocacy campaigns that target potential and current perpetrators in an effort to prevent violence from occurring.

Incidents of VAW and Geographic Regions of Nepal

The highest percentages of VAW cases were reported from the Terai region (52.4%, 930 cases), followed by the Hill region (29%, 515 cases), and the Mountain region (18.6%, 330 cases). These figures do not necessarily suggest that the majority of VAW occurs in the Teri region; it is equally possible that cases in this area are more frequently reported than the Hill and Mountain regions. See Annex 1 for the map of geographical regions in Nepal. More research is required to make a definitive conclusion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

VAW and Geographic Regions of Nepal

Incidents of VAW have reportedly taken place across all geographical regions. As in the previous year, the Terai region had the highest number of reported VAW cases (930 cases, 52%), followed by 515 cases (29%) in the Hill region, and 330 cases (19%) in the Mountain region.

It should be noted that the nominal rate of reported cases from the Mountain region does not necessarily indicate that VAW occurs there less frequently in comparison to other regions, as it is well known that a large number of cases remain unreported for several reasons including the remoteness of the area, the challenging topography, a lack of access to media, and a lack of awareness on women's rights.

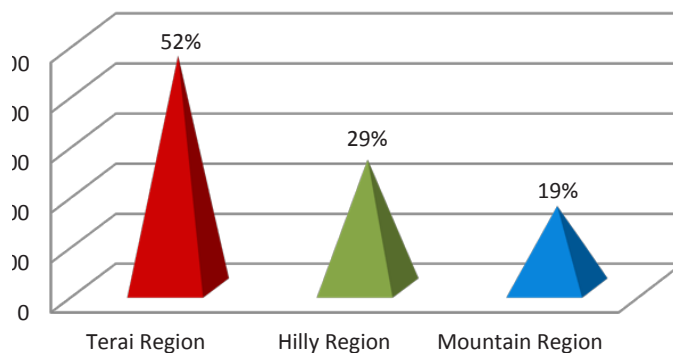


Chart 1: Cases of VAW from three geographical regions

DIFFERENTIALS IN VAW

Age Profile and VAW

Violence against women is prevalent throughout life cycle of a woman, which may occur in the form of sex selective abortion even before a girl child is born to her older ages in the name of window or allegation of witch-craft. VAW doesn't leave girls and women of any age untouched. However, there are observations that confirmed women between the ages of 17 and 35 are more likely to experience violence. For the purpose of this study, age has been divided into six groups. Thirty-two percent of survivors belong to the age group 17-25, followed by 26-35 (31%), 36-45 (16%), under 16 (7%), 46-55 (7%), and above 56 (7%). The data shows that women of all age groups suffer from some form of violence. Women of the age groups 17-25 and 26-35 are the most vulnerable.

The lower percentage of incidents involving girls (of the age group below 16 years), could show that women are more likely to experience violence after they are married. This correlates with the finding that married women face

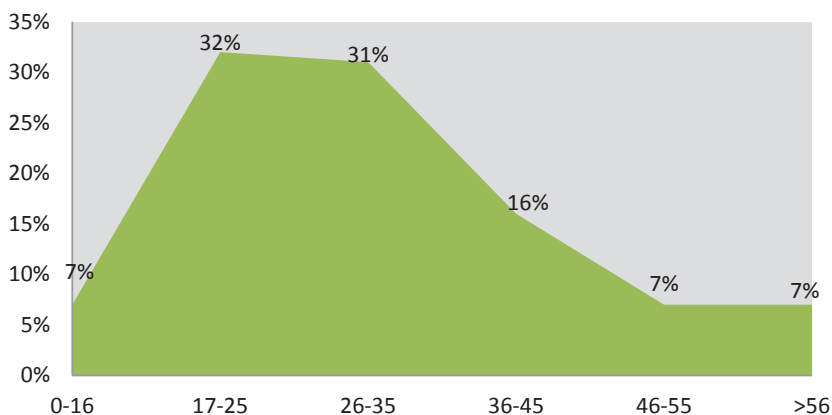


Chart 2: Age Profile and GBV

the majority of violence. An alternate explanation is that girls 16 years of age and younger are less likely to report crimes committed against them because they have not yet learned about their human rights, or they are unwilling to report a crime committed against them by an older person due to the large power imbalance between a child and an adult. As for the lower incidence of cases perpetrated against women aged 46 or older, it is possible that the perpetrators more often target younger women who are considered more attractive. Alternatively, it is possible that older women experience equal levels of violence, but have a different generational mindset, and believe the violence they experience is part of their culture rather than a criminal offence.

Education and VAW

Education is widely considered an important means to educate people to end VAW. However our study reveals that about 73% of VAW survivors were literate women, whereas 27% of survivors were illiterate women. Among the literate women, 28% attended secondary education, followed by 24% with limited literacy, 18% attended primary education, 18% attended secondary education, 6% attended adult literacy classes, 5% had an undergraduate degree, and 1% had a graduate degree.

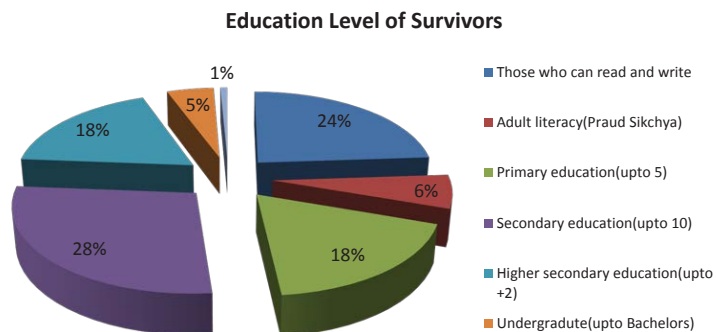


Chart 3: Educational Status of Survivors

It is believed that educational reforms can play an important role in preventing VAW by increasing school safety, empowering women through education, and promoting better attitudes and practices among students with regards to women's human rights. Many international studies have reliably shown that women with higher levels of education have a lower risk of being physically or sexually abused, though the link between education and violence is not necessarily linear. Our findings showed a higher incidence of violence perpetrated against literate women than against illiterate women. One explanation is that when women are literate and aware of their rights, they are more likely to speak out against the injustices they face. They seek legal and other forms of help, which is considered unacceptable in a male dominated society; but by standing up for their rights, they become targets for retaliatory violence. An alternative explanation is that illiterate women may not want to report incidents, in part because they feel that it is impossible for them to access legal resources and the justice system. As noted by Lamichhane, Puri, Tamang, and Dulal, "studies conducted elsewhere have also presented conflicting results, with some studies showing higher education to be protective while others show higher education as a risk factor."

Marital Status and VAW

Married women account for the highest percentage of all reported VAW cases (81%), followed by unmarried women (13.7%), widowed women (3%), divorced women (1%), single or separated women (1%) and women living with their partners (0.3%).

In Nepal, most women are married at an early age, and are expected to be submissive, quiet, disciplined, and loyal to their husband. Women may be less empowered to protect themselves against violence as a result of their

Marital status of the Survivors

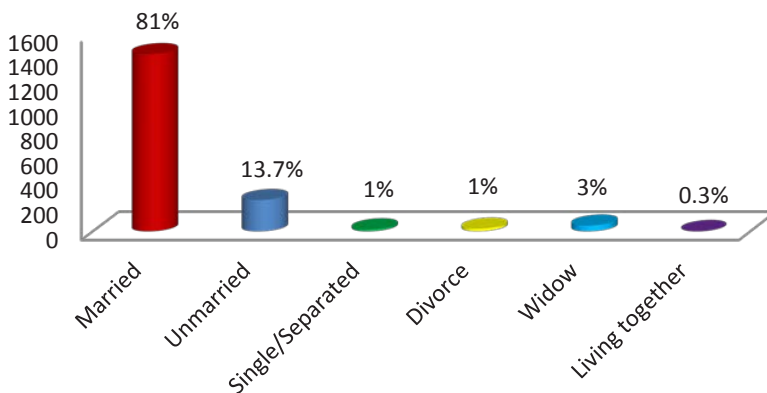


Chart 4: Marital Status and VAW Survivors

young age at the time of marriage. The age difference may result in ineffective communication with husbands. Studies conducted in Egypt and other countries have also reported the inability of women to effectively communicate their problems and misunderstandings as a trigger for sexual violence. , However, contrary to our findings, a study from South India reported a higher likelihood of violence with increased communication between partners. In Nepali culture, marriage is thought to protect women from violence. However, the results of this study demonstrate the inaccuracy of this belief. A potential contributing factor to the high incidence of violence within marriage in Nepal is that young women enter into marriage with no information about sexuality, nor the skills to negotiate sex, and are thus highly vulnerable to sexual abuse within their marriage (Pradhan, Poudel, Thomas, and Barnett, 2011).

Ethnicity/Caste and VAW

In Nepal, the concepts of ethnicity and caste are intrinsically linked.

“In the 2001 Census around 81 percent of Nepalese reported their religion as Hindu, thus locating themselves within the caste system. But for the most part over the last several hundred years and even earlier in some areas, whether they were Hindu or not, all Nepalis were socially defined by the caste system...for most people living in the territorial boundaries of the modern Nepali state...the caste system has been a major determinant of their identity, social status, and life chances.”

While the caste system has changed over time, it remains an important social organizing system in Nepali culture. The ethnicity/caste categories in this report were determined

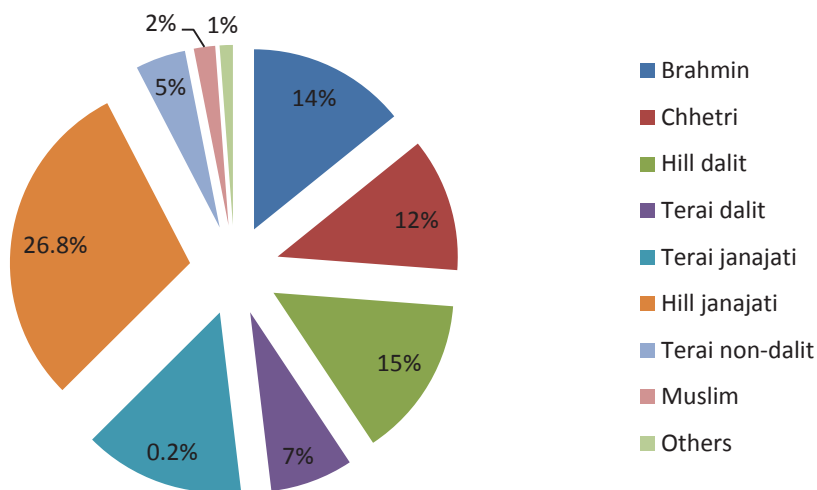


Chart 5: Ethnicity of the Survivors

based on categories from the Nepal Central Bureau of Statistics and self-identification of the women and their family members who reported acts of VAW. The highest numbers of VAW cases were reported by Hill Janajati (26.8%) followed by Hill Dalit (15%), Brahmin (14%), Terai Janajati (14%), Chhetri (12%), Terai Dalit (7%), Terai Non-Dalit (5%), Muslim (2%), and Others(1%). Lower reporting of violence from certain ethnic groups could be due to poor socio-economic conditions, language barriers, a lack of political voice, a lack of awareness, and a lack of access to support networks. Lower castes have historically been marginalized, and still face discrimination today. In some castes, women are oppressed because of their position in the caste hierarchy and their secondary status in the patriarchal society, and do not feel confident enough to report the violence they face due to their fear of reprisal. Women of lower castes are often illiterate because of their inferior socio-economic conditions. There are many different languages spoken in Nepal by the various ethnic groups, thus an inability to communicate in the necessary language could pose a barrier to a woman's ability to report a crime. The ethnic groups that reside in the more geographically challenging areas of Nepal have less access to support networks due to the lack of road access.

Occupations and VAW

The majority of the women worked in their own households (34.4%) and in agriculture (28%), followed by labor (14%), studies (13%), business (4%), tailoring/knitting (2%), teaching (1%), foreign employment (1%), non-governmental service (1%), other (1%), domestic help (0.3%), social work (0.3%), and governmental service (0.1%). More research is needed on the correlation between women's occupations and their risk to acts of violence. It would be helpful to understand how women's locations and relationships to coworkers affect their risk of experiencing different types of violence.

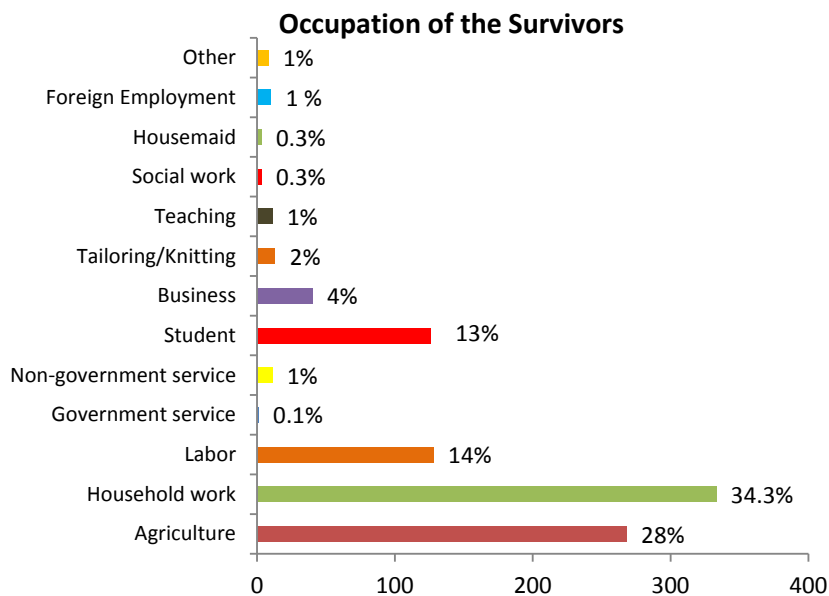


Chart 6: Occupation of the Survivors

Impact of VAW

Violence against women leaves various short term and long term impact on women. Its consequences are seen not only on women's body, psychology but it has great impact on women's social relation and position as well. The impact of VAW was analyzed with respect to their social, economic, physical and psychological differentials. Forty-seven percent of women reported suffering from a mental impact, 23% suffer a physical impact, 17% suffer a social impact, 10% suffer an economic impact, and 3% suffer from a combination of all previously stated impacts¹¹. Although a negative mental impact from violence is very common among survivors, it does not receive as much attention as

¹¹ Impacts are self reported, thus come from survivors of violence, and do not include the statistics of murdered women and women who have committed suicide.

other more visible impacts of violence. Fear of retaliation and the memory of the violence demonstrated during the incident leave a deep-seated emotional trauma. Women and girls in violent relationships are at a heightened risk of experiencing psychological and behavioral problems, including depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, substance abuse, and post-traumatic stress disorder. When women are abused and treated inhumanely, the damage to their self-esteem can result in lifelong emotional pain. Women experience mental, physical, social, and economic impacts concurrently, and one type of impact can cause another. This point is important in formulating effective and integrated support systems that provide safe shelter, psycho-social counseling, medical services, legal services, and other necessary support for survivors. The impact of violence can have detrimental consequences in a woman's life and within her family including damaged relationships with her family and community and a loss of income due to stigmatization.

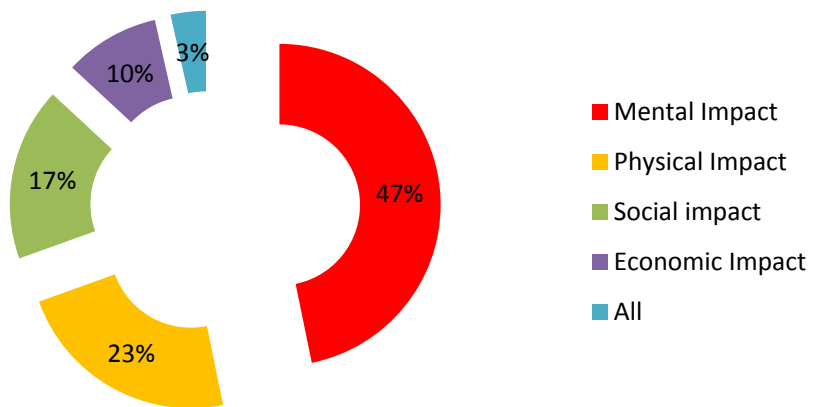


Chart 7: Types of impact on VAW survivors

Perpetrators of VAW

The findings revealed that there is usually a close relationship between the survivors and perpetrators of VAW. In 59% of reported cases, husbands were the perpetrators; followed

by family members (19%), neighbors (15%), intimate partners (2%), others (2%), strangers (1%), friends (1%), and supervisors/employers (1%).

Underreporting of VAW

It is a widely held belief that VAW is a much larger problem than current statistics suggest. The reasons for underreporting acts of violence perpetrated against women are varied. Structurally, the causes for underreporting originate at both the individual level (embarrassment, economic dependency on the perpetrator(s), fear of retaliation) and societal level (imbalanced power relations between men and women, the concept of privacy of the family, the practice of victim blaming).

Stigmatization holds most of the women back, while others due to lack of awareness maintain the cultural belief that the various types of VAW are not criminal acts. In several cases of sexual violence, rape, and trafficking, the women stated that they were unsure whether or not to report the incidents for fear of being rejected by their families and broader communities. In many instances, they feared that their communities would not believe their claims, or that they would be blamed for the incident, rather than the perpetrator. Women have also reported a fear of retaliation from their abusers and communities.

The culture of silence and victim blaming, and the high incidence of violent acts perpetrated by individuals with close legal relationships to the women are factors that prevent women from reporting their experiences of violence. Furthermore, women often remain silent after violent acts in an effort to maintain family prestige and privacy, to preserve the love and affection of their husbands and family members, for fear of the reactions of their husbands and mothers-in-law, or of harming family relations. Women may be intimidated by social, traditional, and cultural

values, and may harbor fears of further physical violence and marginalization. Finally, survivors often lack faith in the justice system.

In terms of varying statistics amongst different ethnic groups, fewer reports of violence from some ethnic groups could be due to their socio-economic conditions, language barriers, a lack of political voice, a lack of awareness, and a lack of access to support networks. Acts of VAW may be underreported in some regions because of the remoteness of the area due to the challenging topography that can lead to a lack of access to media sources and legal resources. If a woman is unaware of the existence of an institution where she can report a crime committed against her, she is much less likely to tell anyone about the incident; likewise, if she cannot access such an institution due to challenging topography and a lack of roads and/or affordable transport, it is unlikely the incident will be recorded. As mentioned previously, illiterate women may underreport the crimes committed against them because they do not know how to access the justice system.

Violence committed against girls may be seriously underreported due to the unequal power dynamic caused by a large difference in age. Only 1% of perpetrators of VAW were 16 years of age or younger, meaning the chances of a perpetrator being as young as the underage girl are minimal. Unmarried girls also decide not to report a rape because it decreases their chances of finding a good offer of marriage in a culture where an unmarried girl's purity is very important. Underreporting by older women aged 46 and above is due to the mindset that women should accept violence as part of their life, specifically perpetrated by their husband and family.

In spite of the large number of survivors of sexual violence,

survivors' family members often do not report incidents for fear of stigmatization by their communities. It is important to know if unreported VAW cases are invisible in the social environment surrounding the survivors (friends, family, neighbors, social services, public health sector), or if communities deal with the incidents in their own ways, in order to design effective advocacy campaigns that target the root of the problem.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Studies have shown that worldwide, domestic violence survivors tend to be women, and female survivors are more likely to experience severe forms of violence. Perpetrators of domestic violence believe that their actions are culturally acceptable and that their targets will not report the abuse.

The Domestic Violence (Offences and Punishment) Act, 2066 (2009) has defined the forms of domestic violence as follows:

- a) **"Physical abuse"** shall mean any act or conduct which is of such nature as to cause bodily harm or injury except the losing and breaking of limbs; holding the person captive, inflicting physical pain or any other act connected therewith and incidental thereto.
- b) **"Mental abuse"** shall mean any act of threatening the aggrieved person of physical torture, showing terror, reprimanding him, accusing him of false deeds, forcefully evicting him from the house or otherwise causing injury or harm to the aggrieved person emotionally and this phrase also denotes discrimination carried out on the basis of thought, religion or culture and customs and traditions.
- c) **"Sexual abuse"** shall mean any conduct of a sexual nature that abuses, humiliates, degrades or otherwise violates the dignity of any person; or any other act that hampers safe sexual relations.
- d) **"Economic abuse"** shall mean deprivation of all or

any property jointly or separately held by the aggrieved person to which he/she is entitled to under the law; or deprivation of, or access to, employment opportunities, economic resources or means.

Domestic violence is a widespread problem in Nepal. Cultural, economic, and religious factors reinforce male dominance and female subservience so thoroughly that neither domestic violence nor the failure to report incidents is unusual. Women are at an economic disadvantage because in traditional Nepali culture, men are expected to earn a living for their families outside of the home, while women are expected to be dependent on the earnings of their husbands and to stay inside the home. As women are often pressured to remain inside the home, it can be difficult for women to find a support network or a location where they can report the abuse. Women's dependence is reinforced in the law, religion, and cultural norms. Moreover, grinding poverty, a lack of jobs opportunity, and alcohol abuse feed the opportunities for violence inherent in a relationship where one spouse is dependent upon the other as well as in society and neighborhood.

Types of Domestic Violence

The data on domestic violence shows that physical abuse accounts for the highest percentage of violence (54%),

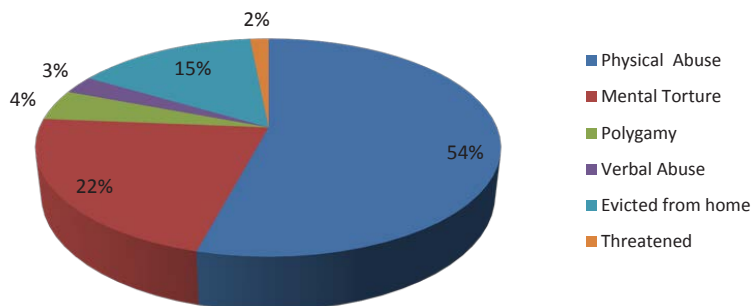


Chart 8: Types of Domestic Violence

followed by mental torture (22%), home eviction (15%), polygamy¹² (4%), verbal abuse (3%), and threats (2%). Perpetrators use different methods to control their targets; and typically start with emotional abuse tactics before escalating to physical violence.

Age and Domestic Violence

Thirty-four percent of survivors were between 26-35 years old, followed by 32% between 17-25, 17% were 36-45, 7% were 46-55, 7% were >56, and 3% were below 16 years old. These figures suggest that domestic violence is more common among newly married women, and/or that older married women are less likely to report violence committed by their husband or family members.

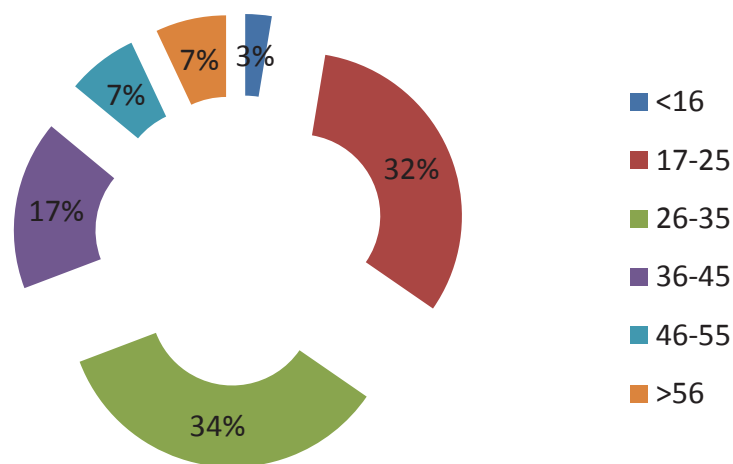


Chart 9: Age of the survivors of Domestic Violence

¹² In Nepal, polygamy is considered a form of domestic violence because often men will take a second wife while being unable to adequately financially support the first wife. This is a form of economic abuse as defined by the Domestic Violence (Offences and Punishment) Act, 2066.

Education and Domestic Violence

Seventy-seven percent of domestic violence survivors were literate, whereas 23% were illiterate. Out of the literate group of women, 27% attended secondary education, whereas 24% had limited literacy, 18% attended primary education, 18% attended higher secondary education, 7% attended adult literacy classes, 5% have an undergraduate degree, and 1% had a graduate degree.

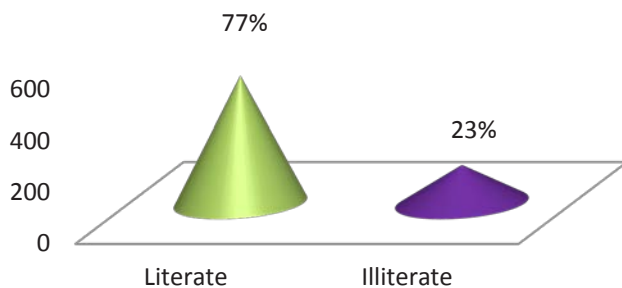


Chart 10: Educational status of Survivors of DV

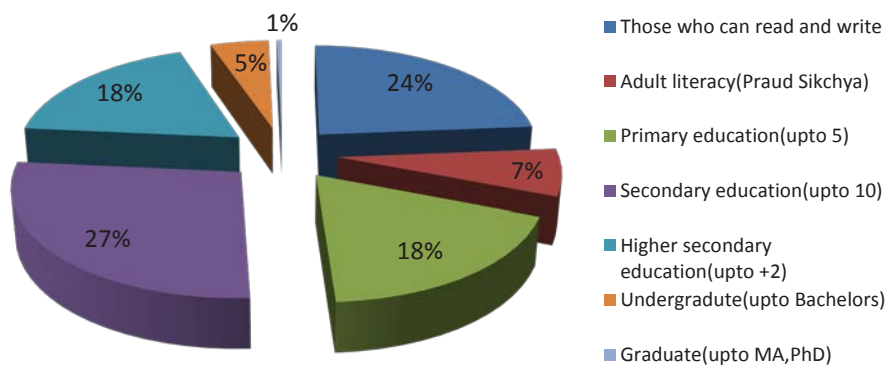


Chart 11: Educational Level of the Survivors

Marital Status and Domestic Violence

Married women accounted for the highest percentage (90%) of all reported cases of domestic violence. Unmarried women account for 6%, followed by widowed women (2%),

separated women (1%), and divorced women (1%). It is logical that married women represented the majority of domestic violence cases as the above figures clearly indicate that perpetrators of domestic violence are usually husbands. **Ethnicity/Caste and Domestic Violence.**

An individual of any ethnicity/caste is at risk of experiencing violence and brutality. The highest number of cases of domestic violence were reported by Hill Janajati (31%), followed by Brahmin (15%), Terai Janajati (13%), Chhetri (13%), Hill Dalit (16%), Terai Dalit (6%), Terai Non-Dalit (3%), Muslim (2%) and other (1%).

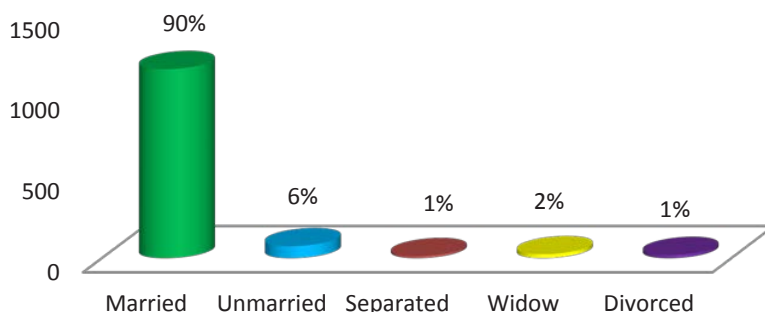


Chart 12: Marital status of the survivors of DV

Occupation and Domestic Violence

Women working primarily in their own households accounted for the highest percentage (38.3%) of domestic violence survivors, followed by those working in agriculture (30%), labor (14%), studies (7%), business (5%), tailoring/knitting (2%), non-governmental service (1%), teaching (1%), foreign employment (1%), domestic help (0.3%), others (0.3%), and social work (0.1%).

Impacts of Domestic Violence

Based on the documented cases, 47% of domestic violence survivors suffer a mental impact, followed by physical impacts (35%), a combination of impacts¹³ (7%), social impacts (6%), and economic impacts (5%).

The impact of domestic violence on women's health is severe, and can include immediate injuries from an assault and psychological distress to long term impact. According to the Joyful Heart Foundation,

“People who are exposed to domestic violence often experience physical, mental, or spiritual shifts that can continue and worsen if they are not addressed. Even though survivors may experience similar types of abuse, responses to trauma often vary from person to person. Many factors can influence how a person responds to short and long-term effects of abuse, such as the frequency of abusive incidents, the severity of the incidents, and the effects on their physical health. The overall impact of domestic violence also depends on an individual’s natural reactions to stress and ways of coping with stressful situations. Other factors can include the age at which the trauma occurred, previous exposure to unrelated traumatic incidents, and the extent of therapy or timing of an intervention.”

As these analyses depend upon the intake form which is taken in an initial stage of the case documentation, hence, the long-term effects of domestic violence have not been fully documented. Many of the physical injuries sustained by survivors cause medical complications as women grow older: arthritis, hypertension, and heart disease have been identified by battered women as directly caused or aggravated by domestic violence suffered early in their adult lives.

¹³ A combination of mental, physical, social, and economic impacts.

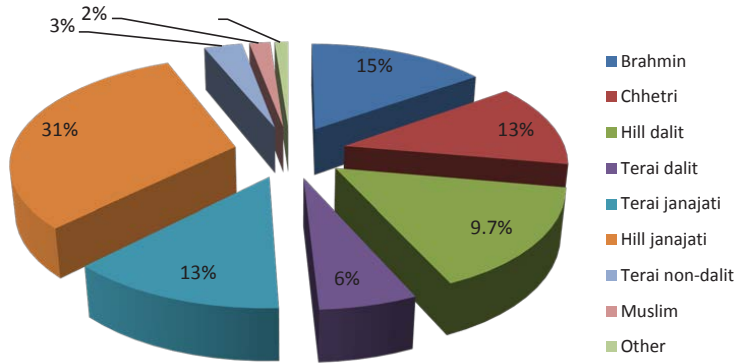


Chart 13: Domestic violence and Occupation of survivors

Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

Husbands represented the largest percentage of perpetrators of domestic violence (78%), followed by family members (22%). This data shows that women are often unsafe in the homes they share with their intimate partners and relations.

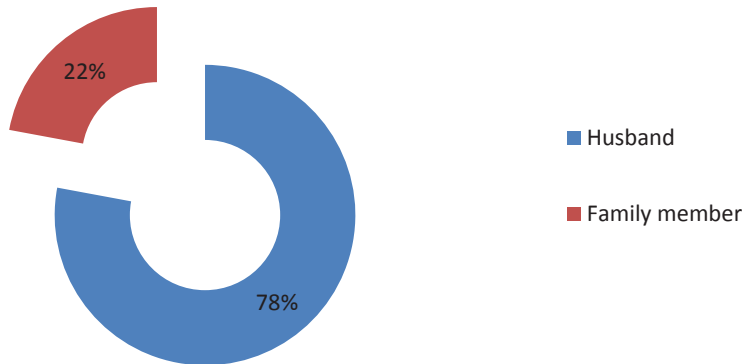


Chart 14: Types of Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

SOCIAL VIOLENCE

Social violence takes place due to social constructions like caste hierarchy and common discriminatory practices, and can include acid spraying, labor exploitation, allegations of witchcraft and subsequent punishments, threats, verbal abuse, and character assassinations.

Forms of Social Violence

Out of 218 reported cases of social violence, 47% of women suffered physical torture, 24% suffer from mental torture, followed by verbal abuse (3%), threats (4%), witch allegations (8%), child marriage (7%), forced marriage (6%), and eviction from work (1%). The data reveals that physical torture is the most prevalent form of social violence in Nepali society. Survivors suffer continued fear of recurrent incidents, which exacerbates mental and emotional trauma.

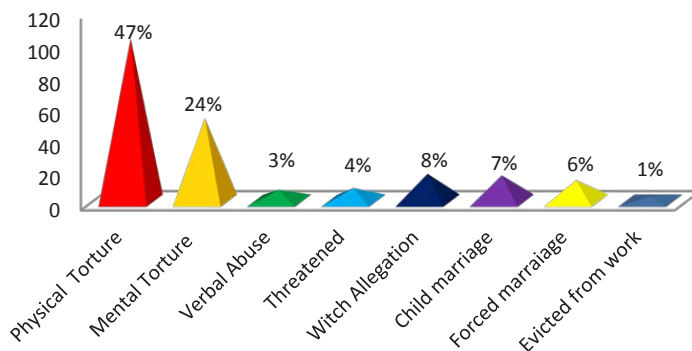


Chart 15:Forms of Social Violence

Survivors of social violence endure harassment, threats, humiliation, exploitation, and physical injuries, and as a result are emotionally and psychologically traumatized. Mental torture can cause anxiety and depression.

Age Profiles and Social Violence

All age groups of women are vulnerable to social violence; however, women aged 26-35 years represented the majority (32%) of survivors. Twenty percent of survivors were aged 17-25, followed by 36-45 (18%), 46-55 (12%), below 16 (11%), and above 56 (7%).

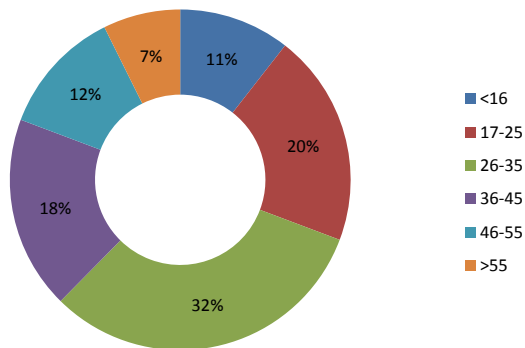


Chart 16: Social violence and the age of the survivors

Education and Social Violence

Fifty-two percent of social violence survivors were literate, whereas, 48% were illiterate. Of the literate survivors, about 33% had limited literacy, 28% attended secondary education, 17% had higher secondary education, 13% attended primary education, 7% attended adult literacy classes, and 2% had an undergraduate degree.

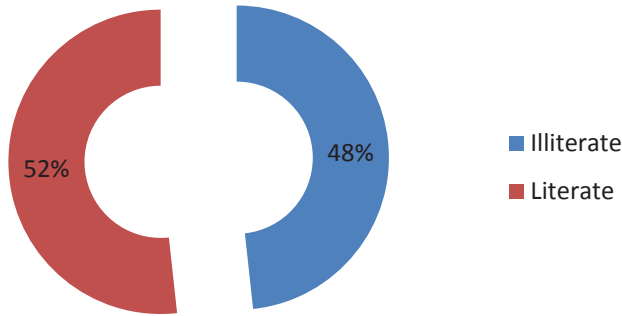


Chart 17: Status of Education and Social Violence

Social Violence and Marital Status

Married women represent the highest percentage (72%) of survivors of all reported cases of social violence. Twenty percent of survivors were unmarried, 6% were widowed, and 2% were divorced. Social violence perpetrated against married women mostly consisted of child and forced marriage, witch allegations, and character assassinations.

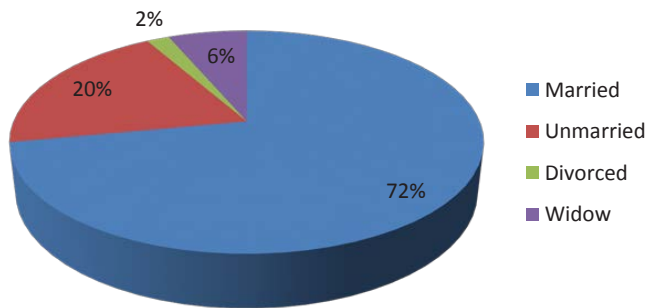


Chart 18: Social Violence and Types of Perpetrators

Ethnicity/Caste and Social Violence

The highest percentage of women were of the Hill Janajati ethnicity/caste (26%), followed by Brahmin (15%), Terai Janajati (14%), Terai Dalit (14%), Hill Dalit (11%), Terai Non-Dalit (9%), Chhetri (7%), and Muslim (4%).

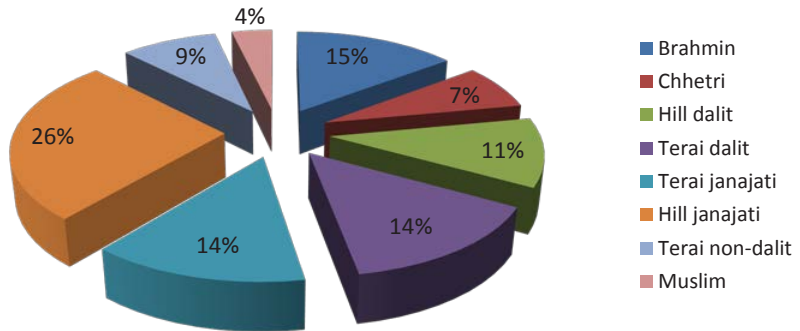


Chart 19: Social Violence and Educational level of the Survivors

Occupations and Social Violence

Women working in their own households accounted for the highest percentage (35%) of reported cases of social violence, followed by those working in agriculture (22%), labor (19%), studies (17%), businesses (4%), non-governmental service (1%), education (1%), and domestic help (1%). It can be inferred from the data on occupation and perpetrators that the majority of survivors working in their own households are most frequently targeted because of their consistent proximity to their neighbors.

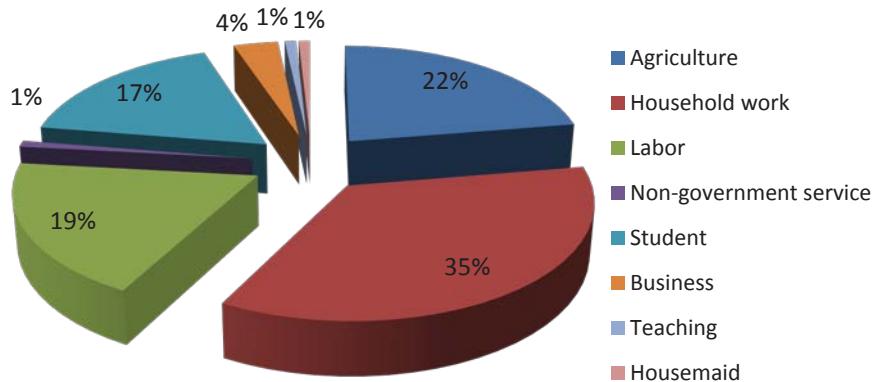


Chart 20: Social Violence and occupation of the Survivors

Impacts of Social Violence

Women who experienced social violence reported a high rate of mental impacts (48%), followed by social impacts (20%), physical impacts (19%), and economic impacts (13%). Social violence has varied impacts on women's lives, often depriving them of economic means and leaving them mentally distraught.

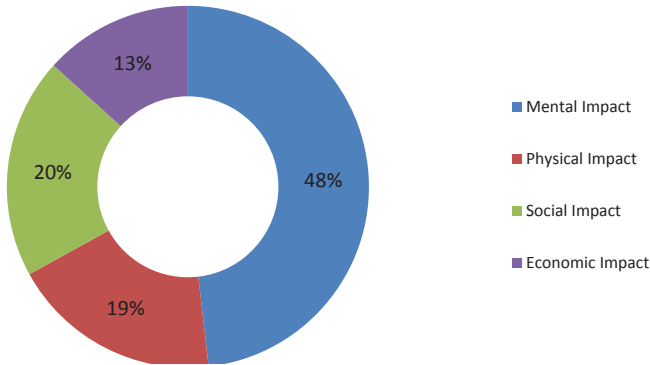


Chart 21: Social Violence and Impact on the survivors

Perpetrators of Social Violence

Neighbors were found to have committed 70% of social violence incidents, followed by family members (9%), husbands (8%), others (8%), supervisors/employers (3%), and friends (2%).

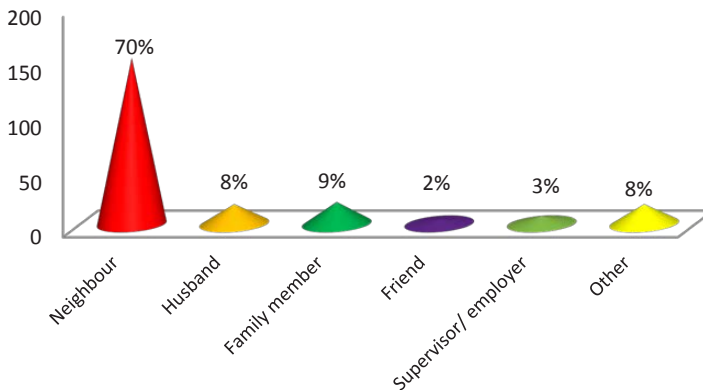


Chart 23: Social Violence and Types of Perpetrators

RAPE

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) defines rape as a form of gender-based violence and discrimination. Nepali law defines rape as unlawful intercourse by a man against a woman by force or threat and against her will. Thus for the purpose of this study, rape is defined as a type of sexual assault involving sexual penetration perpetrated against an individual without their consent. It affects physical, emotional, and psychological well being; and the aftermath has a devastating effect on the survivor's daily life and identity.

Rape is a prevalent crime in Nepal, but due to the sexual nature of the crime, it can be inferred that it is extremely underreported, as sex is closely linked to the societal and cultural ideals of honor and purity. This leads to a higher incidence of rape, as perpetrators cannot be caught and prosecuted if the crime is not reported. Rape can occur within a family, including marital rape or among relatives.

Women are often pressured not to report the crime, or are pressured by their families and communities to marry their rapist because the families and community compels women to marry a rapist to maintain the honor and dignity of family and community. Much of a family's prestige lies in the purity and chastity of the family's women and girls. Their perceived purity

gains the family prestige and status in the community. The control of women's sexuality, thus the preservation of their perceived purity, results in a higher social ranking for the family. The loss of a woman's purity due to abuse can be extended to the other women in the same family, and even the entire community.

The substance, structure, and culture of rape laws have a strong gender bias. While the substantive definition of the law is narrow in its focus, procedural laws are often formulated on the formal model of equality in gender-neutral terms that do not take note of the historical disadvantage which women face. The question becomes more complex if we note how the criminal justice system expects a woman to recount the violent act in a detailed and detached manner, when in some cultures talking about sex is taboo, and women would not discuss such matters even with their close relatives. To the system, a rape survivor is just a witness who has to describe the act, her social and economic realities are not part of trial process.

Rape myths are the "attitudes and generally false beliefs about rape that are widely and persistently held, and serve to deny and justify male sexual aggression against women." Common rape myths include: the assurance that only "bad" girls are raped, that women "ask for it", and that women could resist the rapist if they wanted. These myths allow for shifting the blame from the rapist to the rape survivor. In Nepal, rape survivors are often blamed for their rapes, as it is believed that women provoke their attackers.

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has recommended to Nepal, "State parties should ensure that laws against family violence and abuse, rape, sexual assault and other gender-based violence give adequate protection to all women, and respect their integrity and dignity." Appropriate

protective and support services should be provided for the victims. Gender-sensitive training of judicial and law enforcement officers and other public officials is essential for the effective implementation of the Convention.

Age Profile and Rape

Forty-three percent of rape survivors were aged 16 years or younger, followed by 17-25 years (37%) 26-35 years (6%), above 56 years (3%) and 45-55 years (2%). As the data shows, young girls below 16 years of age are the most commonly affected age group. Childhood violence can have a devastating impact on a girl's life and can increase the risk of continued abuse later in life. Other studies have also shown that young girls are usually found to be more at risk of rape than older women. There is a strong correlation between the age and marital status of rape survivors: 73% of rape survivors were unmarried women and 80% of rape survivors were 25 years old or younger. Women in Nepal are usually married between the ages of 17 and 25. This data could suggest that women are at a greater risk of being raped before they are married, and during their first years of marriage.

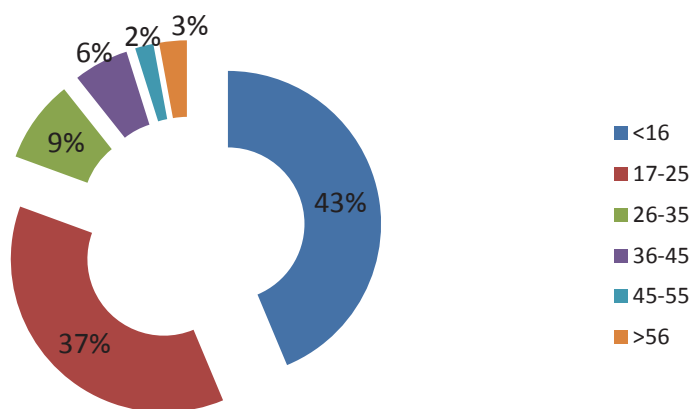


Chart 24: Rape and age of the survivor

Education Status and Rape

Rape among literate women is reportedly significantly higher than among illiterate women. Seventy-six percent of rape survivors were literate, whereas 24% were illiterate. Education equips a rape survivor with the knowledge and attitude to deal with problems after a rape occurs, and can enable her to stand up for her rights. Lack of education disadvantages a survivor because she is less likely to know and understand her human rights. Through these findings, it can be inferred that literate women are more likely to report their rape; and that illiterate women may face the same likelihood and risk, but do not have the knowledge or tools to report the same crime. Among the literate group, 29% of the survivors have attended secondary education, 27% have limited literacy, 26% attended primary education, 12% attended higher secondary education, 4% had an undergraduate degree, and 2% attended adult literacy classes.

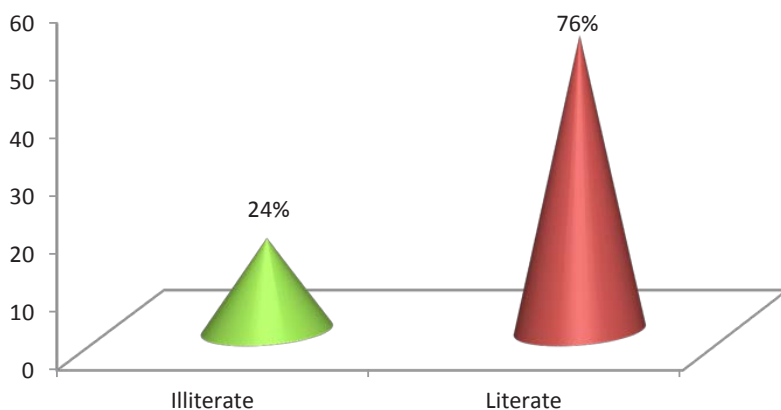


Chart 25: Educational Status of the Rape Survivor

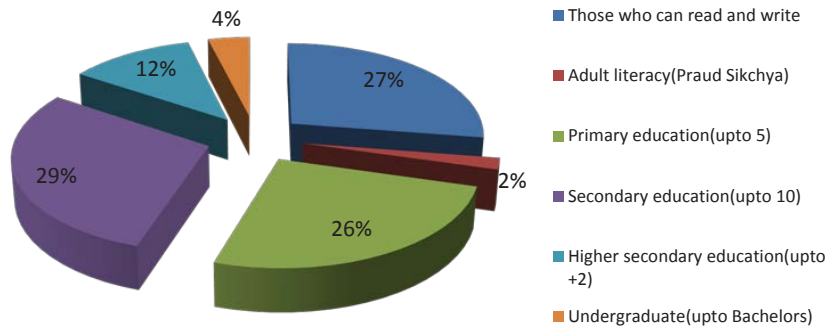


Chart 26: Educational Level of the Rape Survivors

Marital Status and Rape

The highest percentage of all reported cases of rape were found among unmarried women (73%), followed by married women (24%), widowed women (25%), and women living with their partners (1%).

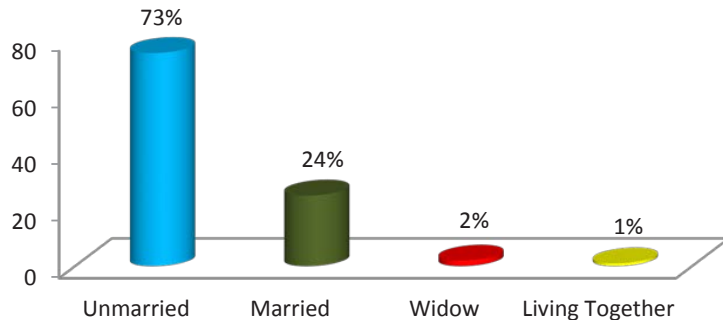


Chart 27: Rape and marital Status

Ethnicity/Caste and Rape

Thirty-three percent of rape survivors were of the Hill Janajati ethnicity/caste, followed by Hill Dalit (18%), Terai Janajati (16%), Brahmin (12%), Terai Non-Dalit (8%), Chhetri (7%) and Terai Dalit (6%).

Occupation and Rape

Forty-eight percent of rape survivors were students, followed by agriculture (16%), their own households (15%), labor (6%), other (4%), business (3%), non-governmental service (2%), tailoring/knitting (2%), teaching (2%), domestic help (1%), and foreign employment (1%). Based on these findings, students are the most vulnerable group. It is found that, students reported being attacked on their way to school, while doing households chores, or while herding their family's livestock.

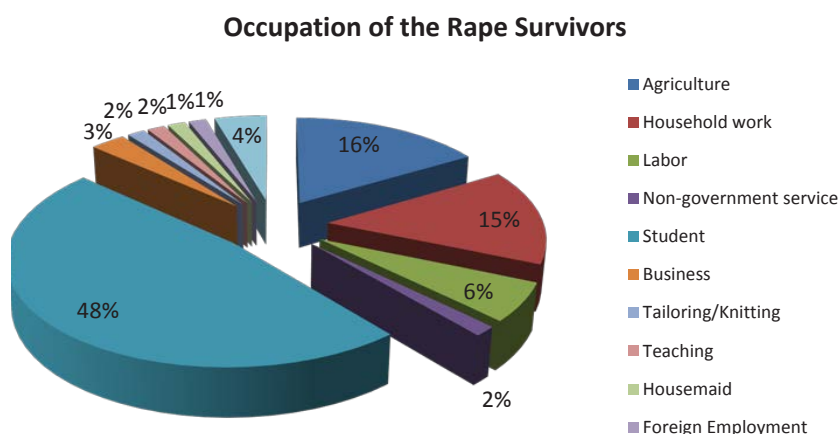


Chart 28: Occupation of the Rape Survivors

Impacts of Rape

Forty-two percent of survivors reported experiencing a mental impact after their attacks, followed by physical impacts (36%), social impacts (12%), and economic impacts (10%). The effects of rape can include both the initial physical trauma and deep psychological trauma. Though rape survivors commonly report injuries and issues with their reproductive health after a sexual assault, the most common and lasting effects of rape are mental health concerns and diminished confidence.

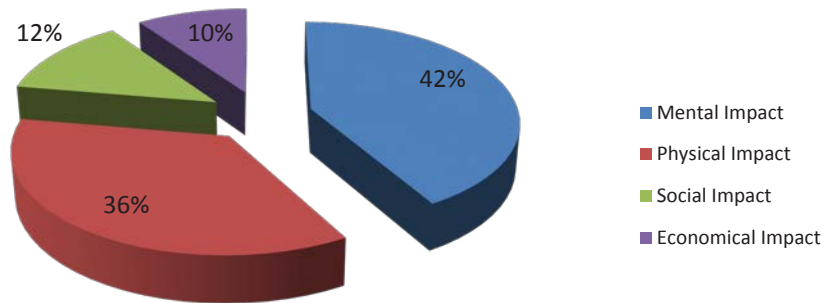


Chart 29: Rape and Impact on the Survivors

Occupation of the Rape Survivors Perpetrators of Rape

The reported data on rape cases revealed that 61% of rape perpetrators were neighbors of the women they targeted. Fifteen percent were people unknown to the women, followed by family members (12%), friends (5%), intimate partners (4%), and husbands (3%). Rape is an extremely traumatic experience, grave violation of human rights and right to dignity. Even the most thorough and fair trials cannot compensate for the agony felt by survivors. Furthermore, it is widely known that in Nepal, perpetrators remain free because of political influences, without fear of condemnation or punishment, and those that are apprehended are rarely punished severely.

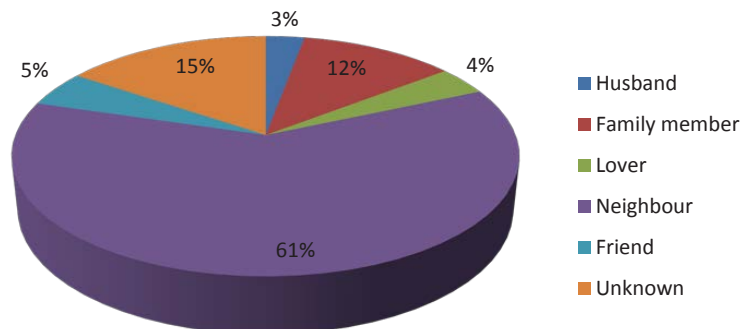


Chart 30: Rape and types of perpetrators

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

WOREC Nepal defines sexual violence as violence of a sexual nature, not including penetration and can include sexual harassment, unwanted sexual advances, unwanted touching, and molestation. The WHO World Report on Violence and Health explains the lack of useful data on sexual violence and provides reasons why women do not report their attacks:

In general, sexual violence has been a neglected area of research. The available data are scanty and fragmented. Police data, for instance, are often incomplete and limited. Many women do not report sexual violence to the police because they are ashamed, or fear being blamed, not believed, or otherwise mistreated. Data from medico-legal clinics, on the other hand, may be biased towards the more violent incidents of sexual abuse. The proportion of women who seek medical services for immediate problems related to sexual violence is also relatively small. Although there have been considerable advances over the past decade in measuring the phenomenon through survey research, the definitions used have varied considerably across studies. There are also significant differences across cultures in the willingness to disclose sexual violence to researchers.

Caution is therefore needed when making global comparisons of the prevalence of sexual violence (2002).

There has been some response by the government of Nepal to cases of sexual harassment. The Supreme Court issued a directive order to the government for the enactment of appropriate laws to protect women from sexual harassment. Similarly, a gender equality law was introduced, amending the chapter on the intention to have sexual intercourse in the Nepal country code to penalize sexual harassment against women.

"The impact of sexual violence extends far beyond rape survivors as their family, friends, and significant others are also negatively affected. Moreover, those who help rape victims, such as rape victim advocates, therapists, as well as sexual assault researchers, can experience vicarious trauma. Future research and advocacy should focus on improving the community response to rape and the prevention of sexual assault."

Age Profiles and Sexual Violence

The data for this year shows a total of 82 cases of sexual violence, of which 55% of the survivors were between 17-25 years old, followed by girls under 16 (19%), 26-35 (15%), 36-45 (6%), and above 46 (5%). Certain forms of sexual violence are closely correlated with the target's youth, such as harassment taking place in schools and colleges.

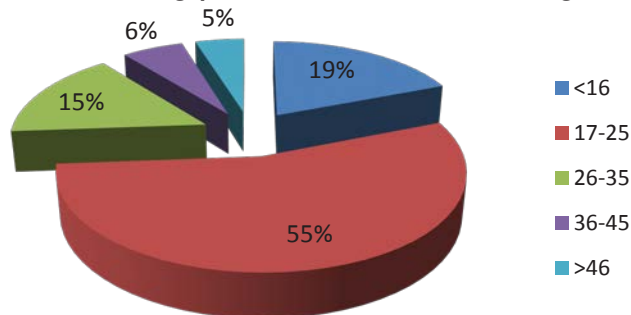


Chart 31: Sexual Violence and age of the Survivor

Education and Sexual Violence

The data shows that literate women are more affected by sexual violence (80%) than illiterate women (20%). Among the literate women, about 39% attended secondary education, 25% attended higher secondary education, 18% attended primary education, 12% had limited literacy, 4% had a graduate degree, and 2% had an undergraduate degree.

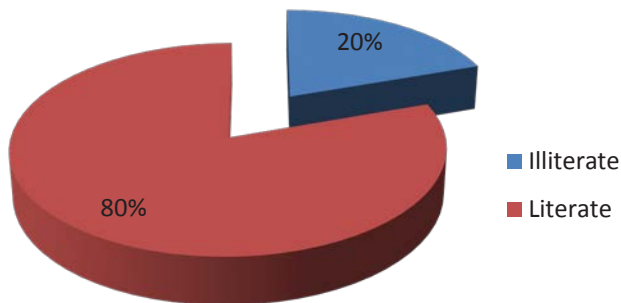


Chart 32: Educational Status of the Survivor

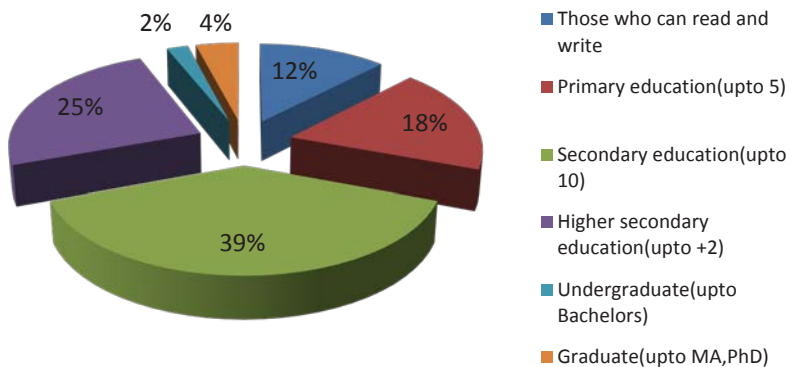


Chart 33: Educational Level of the Survivor

Marital Status and Sexual Violence

The highest percentage of all the reported cases of sexual violence are found among unmarried women (50%), followed by married women (43%), widows (4%), women who were living with their partners (2%), and women who were separated (1%).

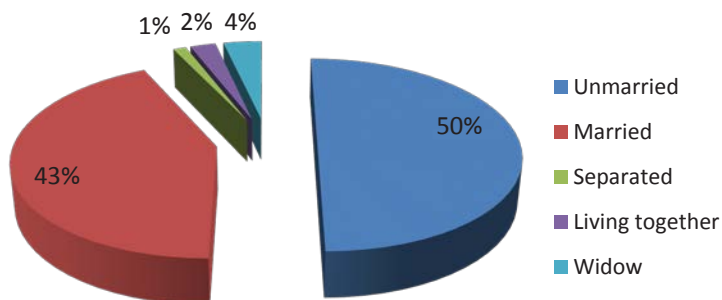


Chart 34: Marital Status of the Survivors

Ethnicity/Caste and Sexual Violence

The highest numbers of cases of sexual violence occurred to women of the Terai Janajati ethnicity/caste (21%), followed by Hill Janajati (20%), Chhetri (17%), Brahmin (13%), Terai Dalit (10%), others (4%), Terai-Non Dalit (2%), and Muslim (2%).

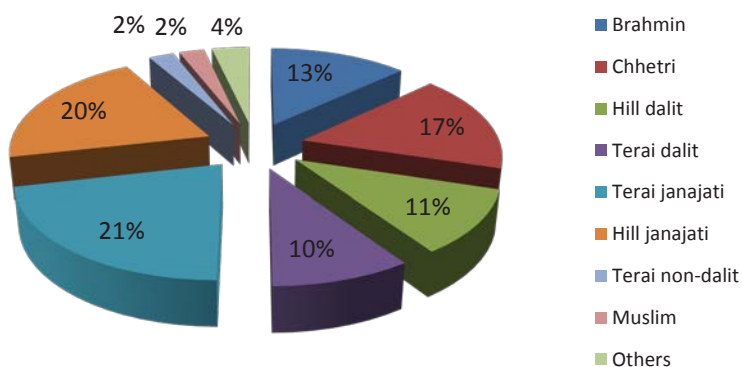


Chart 35: Sexual Violence and Ethnicity of the Survivors

Occupation and Sexual Violence

The data shows that students (34%) are the most affected by sexual violence, followed by women working in agriculture (26%), in their own households (18%), business (7%), labor (6%), non-governmental service (5%), governmental service (2%), and teaching (2%). Women working outside may be more vulnerable to sexual violence as they often work in the fields alone.

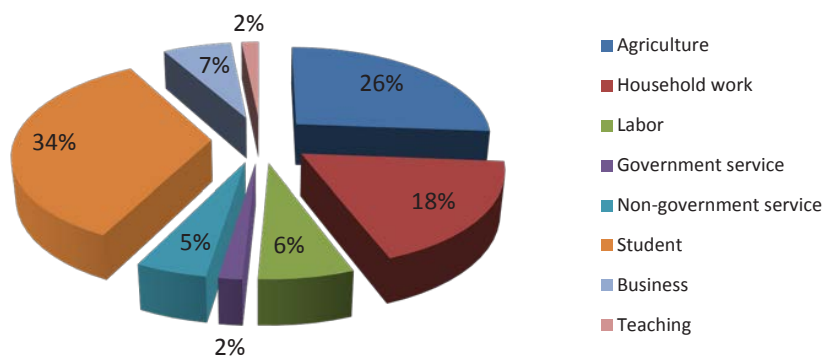


Chart 36: Sexual Violence and Occupation of the Survivors

Impacts of Sexual Violence

Based on the findings, 46% of women reported suffering a mental impact from their experiences of sexual violence, whereas 26% reported physical impacts, 18% reported social impacts, and 10% reported economic impacts.

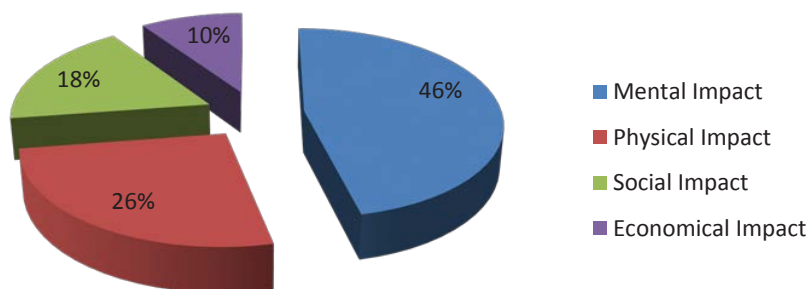


Chart 37: Impacts on Sexual violence on the Survivors

Perpetrators of Sexual Violence

The data shows that intimate partners commit about 35% of acts of sexual violence, followed by neighbors (21%), husbands (14%), others (13%), family members (10%), friends (5%), teachers (1%), and fellow students (1%). The low percentage of husbands who committed the reported act of sexual violence could be due to many women not considering these acts to be criminal within a marriage.

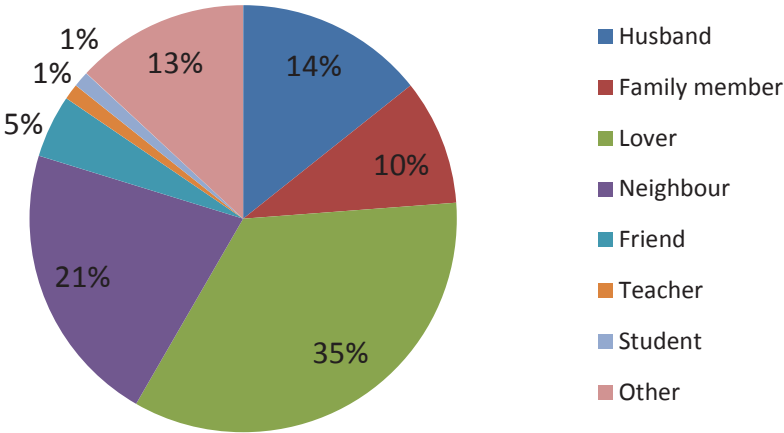


Chart 38: Sexual Violence and types of perpetrators

MURDER

A total of 20 cases of murder and attempted murder were recorded by WOREC Nepal this year, but there may be many more unreported cases. Although there are various reasons for murder, dowry-related murders and murders resulting from witch allegations are the most common.

Age Profiles of Murder Victims

The highest percentage of murder is found among women aged 17-25 (50%), followed by 25-35 (25%), below 16 (10%), 36-45 (10%), and above 56 (5%).

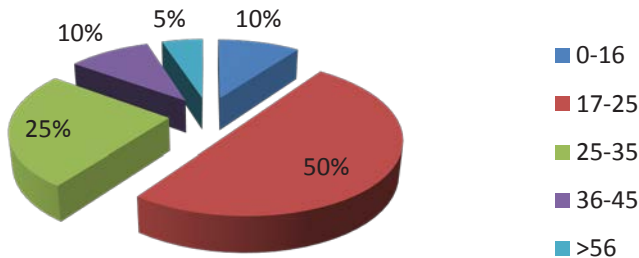


Chart 39: Murder and the age group

Education Levels of Murder Victims

The data shows that 67% of the murdered women were literate and 33% were illiterate. Among the literate women, 67% had limited literacy and 33% attended higher secondary education.

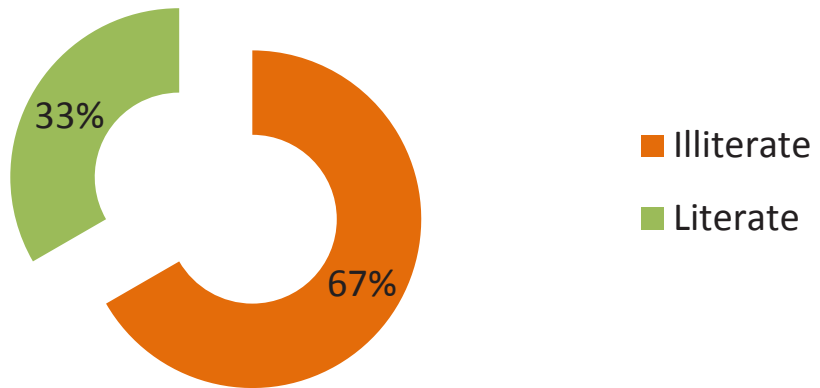


Chart 40: Murder and Educational Status

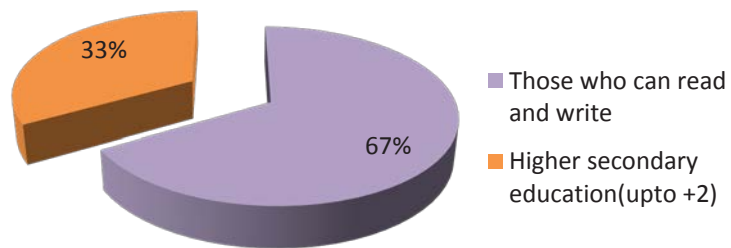


Chart 41: Murder and Educational Level

Marital Status of Murder Victims

Eighty-five percent of the murder victims were married, whereas 15% were unmarried.

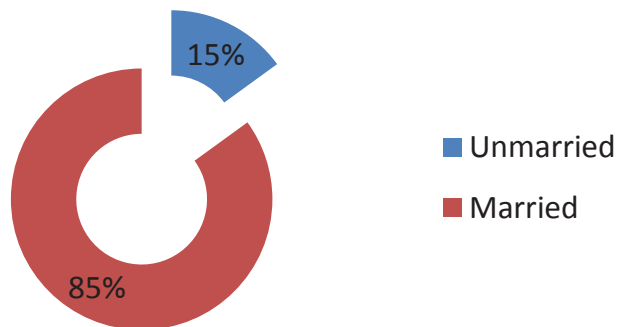


Chart 42: Murder and Marital Status

Ethnicity/Caste of Murder Victims

The highest number of murder victims were from the Terai Janajati ethnic group (30%), followed Terai Dalit (25%), Terai-Non Dalit (20%), Hill Janajati (10%), Chhetri (5%), Hill Dalit (5%), and Muslim (5%).

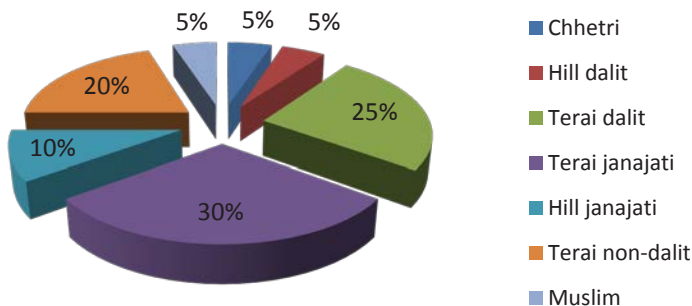


Chart 43: Murder and Ethnicity

Occupations of Murder Victims

Women working in their own households accounted for the highest number of murder victims (50%), followed by women working in labor (15%), agriculture (15%), studies (10%), tailoring/knitting (5%), and other forms of employment (5%).

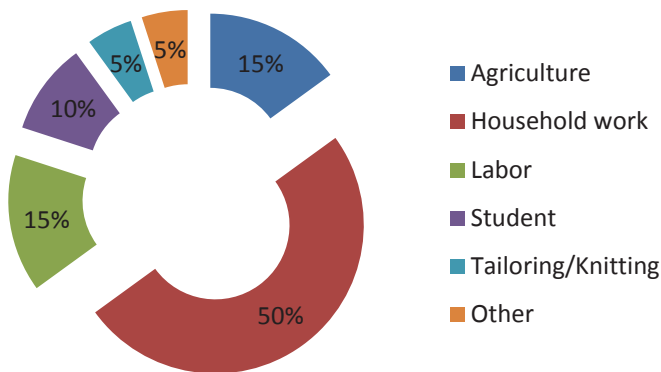


Chart 44: Occupation of the murdered women

Types of Perpetrators of Murder

The perpetrators of murder are mostly husbands of the victims (50%), followed by neighbors (30%), intimate partners (10%), friends (5%), and family members (5%).

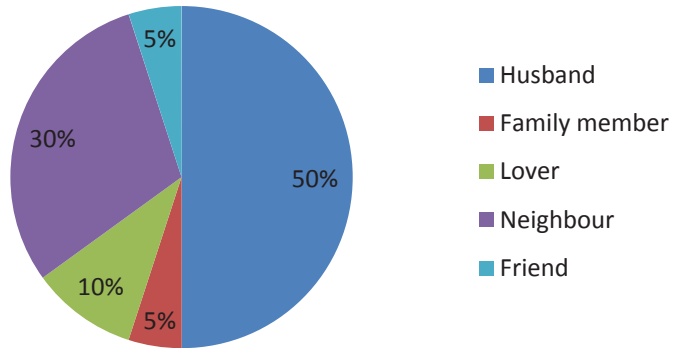


Chart 45: Murder and the types of perpetrators

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, states that trafficking,

“the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

Human trafficking is a heinous crime and a type of violence that is common in Nepal. This crime victimizes not only women and girls, but also men and boys. The government and NGOs have undertaken various initiatives to combat trafficking, but have yet not been able to adequately address the phenomenon.

A lack of awareness about the dangers associated with trafficking may influence its prevalence. Traffickers often visit villages and approach parents with glamorous stories promising a better life and tales of incredible job prospects.

Age Profiles and Trafficking

There were 26 reported cases of trafficking of women and girls. Thirty-one percent of the women were aged 17-25, followed by women aged 36-45 (31%), 26-35 (23%), below 16 (11%), and 46-55 (4%).

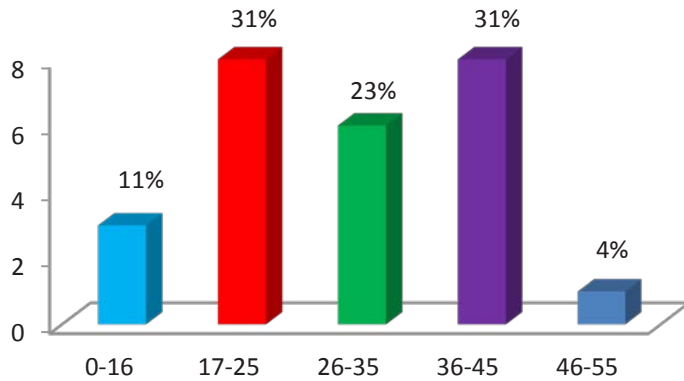


Chart 46: Age of the survivor

Education Levels and Trafficking

Seventy-three percent the survivors were literate and 27% were illiterate. Among the literate survivors, 21% attended adult literacy classes, followed by 16% with limited literacy, 16% who attended higher secondary education, 16% who attended secondary education, 16% who attended primary education, 10% with an undergraduate degree, and 5% with a graduate degree.

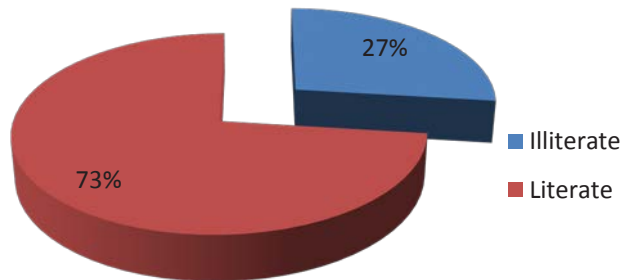


Chart 47: Educational Status of the Survivor

Marital Status and Trafficking

Seventy-seven percent of the trafficking survivors were married, while 23% were unmarried. Given that only 11% of the perpetrators were the women's husbands.

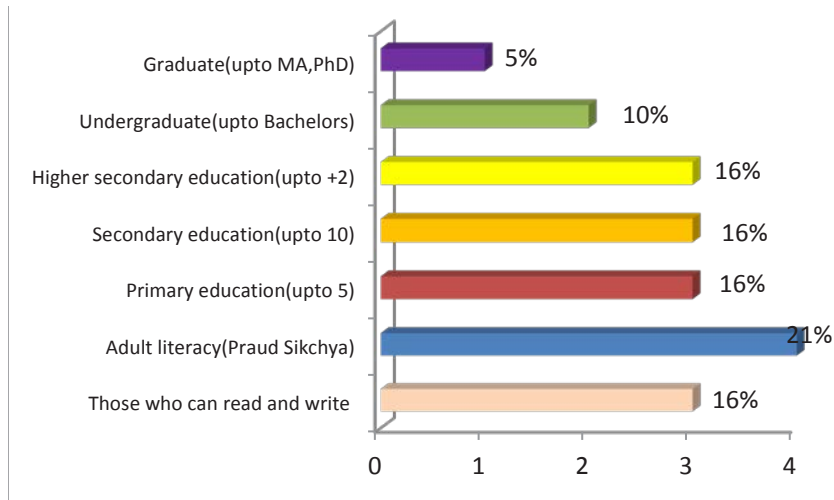


Chart 48: Educational Level of the Survivors

Ethnicity/Caste and Trafficking

The majority of the women were of the Chhetri ethnicity/caste (31%), followed by Terai Janajati (23%), Hill Janajati (23%), Muslim (7%), Brahmin (4%), Hill Dalit (4%), Terai Dalit (4%), and Terai-Non Dalit (4%). According to the 2013 U.S. State Department Human Trafficking Report, traffickers typically target low-caste groups or those that are marginalized in Nepal. Our data matches that statement, however WOREC investigators separated the low-caste groups into separate categories (Terai Janajati, Hill Janajati, Hill Dalit, and Terai Dalit); compiled into one group, 54% of the reported trafficking cases concerned women and girls from lower caste groups. Women and girls from marginalized communities such as those from ethnic minorities, and tribal and religious communities are often left unprotected by weak legal and policy implementation making them much more vulnerable to being trafficked.

Occupation and Trafficking

Women working in agriculture accounted for the highest percentage of trafficking survivors (62%), followed by students (15%), those working in their own households (15%), and labor (8%). More research is needed on whether a woman's satisfaction in her daily work plays a role in her vulnerability to trafficking.

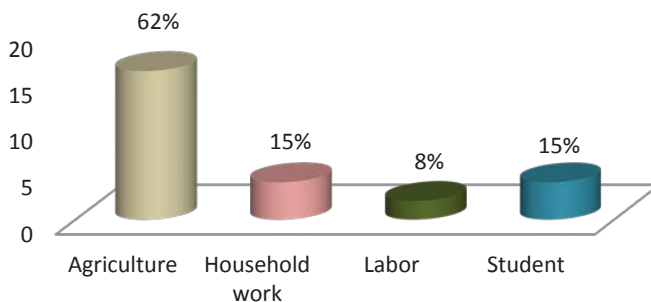


Chart 49: Occupation of the trafficked women

Impact of Trafficking

Forty-six percent of survivors reported experiencing a mental impact from trafficking, followed by 23% who reported physical impacts, 19% who reported social impacts, and 12% who reported economic impacts. Women who return to their families after being trafficked often face issues with reintegration, are often treated as outcasts, and have difficulties in finding employment, and dignified life in society and family.

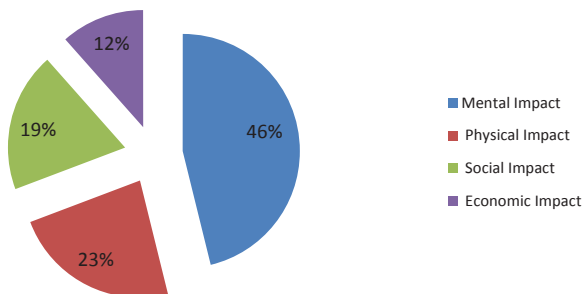


Chart 50: Impact on the Survivors

Perpetrators of Trafficking

The perpetrators of trafficking were mostly neighbors (38%), followed by family member (35%), husbands (11%), friends (8%), teachers (4%), and unidentified individuals (4%). In most cases the perpetrators themselves transport the women and girls, rather than hiring, or being coerced by, a third party. Occasionally, the perpetrators marry the survivors before trafficking them, or assure them that there is a profitable job waiting for them after the trip is complete.

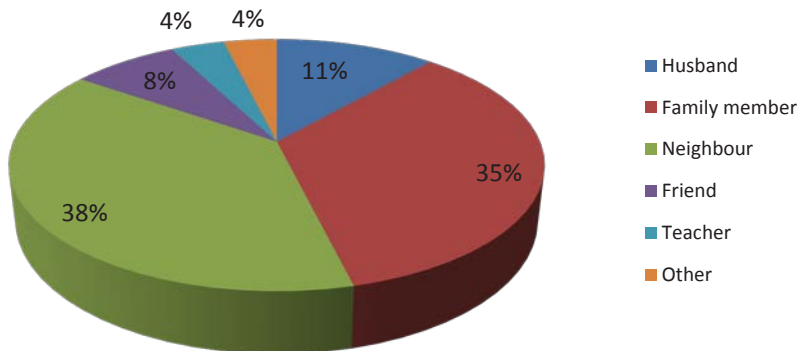


Chart 51: Relationship of the survivor with the perpetrator

SUICIDE

Suicide is included as a type of VAW because the reasons a woman commits suicide are often a result of societal and cultural pressures and practices. For example, dowries are still paid to a groom's family in Nepal; in cases where the families of the grooms make continuing demands for payment to the bride's family who are unable to pay, the newly married girls/women are tortured, and even killed. "In some cases, husbands and in-laws will attempt to extort a greater dowry through continuous harassment and torture, which sometimes results in the wife committing suicide."

Age Profiles and Suicide

The highest percentage of suicide was among women aged between 17-25 years (41%), followed by 26-35 (23%), 46-55 (18%), 36-45 (6%), above 56 (6%), and below 16 (6%).

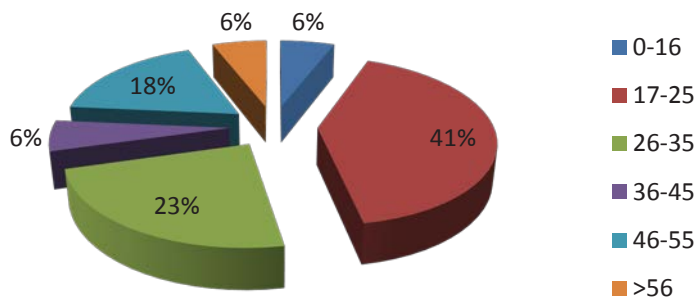


Chart 52: Suicide and Age group

Education Levels and Suicide

Of the total cases of suicide, about 53% of the women were literate and 47% were illiterate. Among the literate women, 34% had an undergraduate degree, 33% attended primary education, 11% had limited literacy, 11% attended higher secondary education, and 11% attended secondary education.

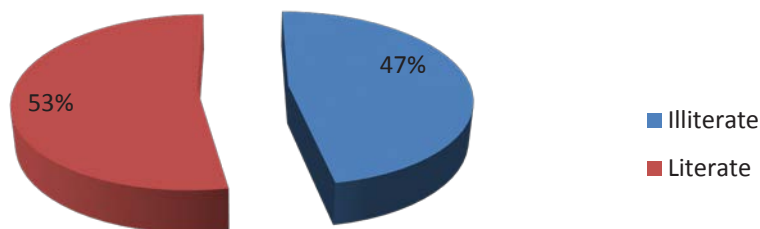


Chart 53: Education status of women

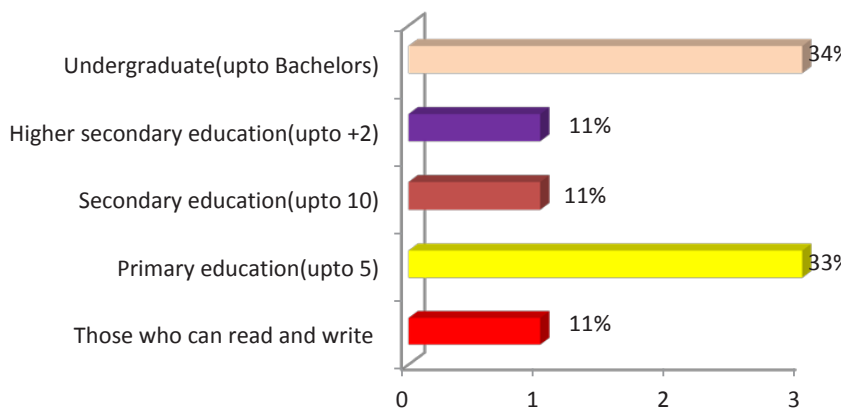


Chart 54: Educational level of the women

Marital Status and Suicide

Fifty-nine percent of women who committed suicide were married, 23% were unmarried, and 18% were widowed.

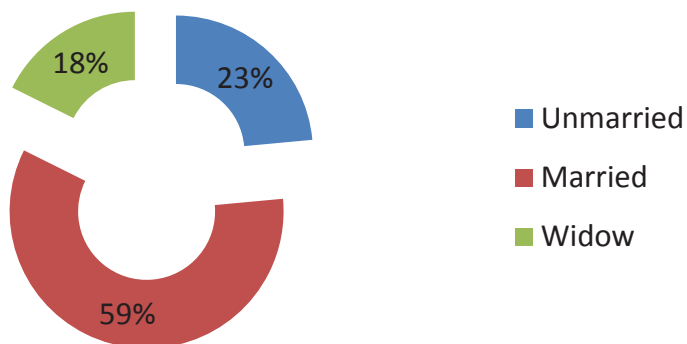


Chart 55: Suicide and Age group

Ethnicity/Caste and Suicide

Forty-one percent of the women were of the Terai Janajati ethnicity/caste, followed by Terai Dalit (23%), Terai Non-Dalit (18%), Hill Janajati (12%), and Chhetri (6%).

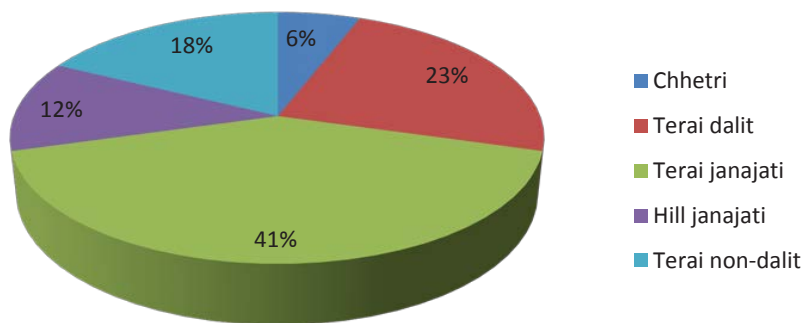


Chart 56: Suicide and Ethnicity

Occupations and Suicide

Women working in their own households (29%) and in agriculture (29%) accounted for the highest percentage of women who committed suicide, followed by students (24%), 12% who worked in labor, and 6% who were teachers.

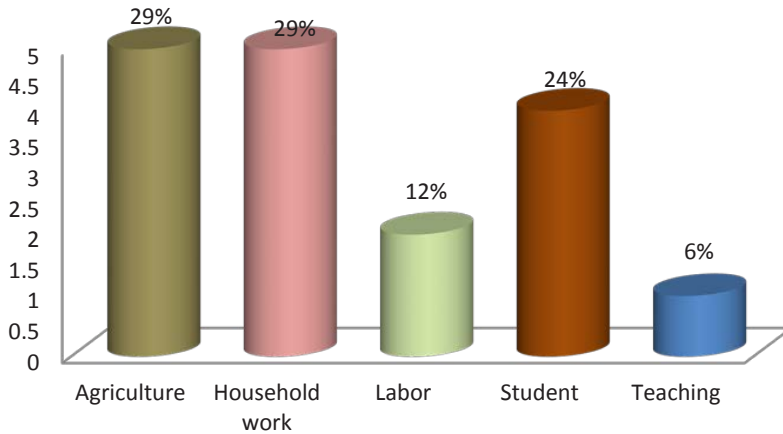


Chart 57: Occupation of the Suicide women

PERPETRATORS

“Every year, violence in the home and the community devastates the lives of millions of women.” The report Perpetrator Risk Factors for Violence against Women, states,

“While efforts have been made to prevent men from perpetrating sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking, these efforts have yet to make a major impact on the rates of violence against women. This is because such efforts often involve overturning long-held cultural and societal beliefs. Given this reality, violence against women will likely continue despite best efforts to minimize women’s vulnerability to such acts unless male risk behaviors are successfully addressed. Boyfriends and intimate partners are the most common perpetrators of violence against women. Acquaintances, such as friends and co-workers of the victim, are the second most common perpetrator of violence against women.”

“Despite greater recognition of gender roles, we continue to raise our boys to be assertive and aggressive, while we raise our girls to be gentle and nurturing.” As seen in our study, husbands and intimate partners are the most common perpetrators of VAW, thus reflecting the unequal power dynamic between men and women that perpetuates the devaluation of

women. In the framework of the patriarchal system, men hold traditional gender beliefs (men are “bread winners,” a woman’s “natural” place is in the home) and conform to masculinity norms, (men must be self-reliant; men must hold power over women). When a man’s entrenched gender beliefs are confronted (for example, with his wife’s desire for independence), it can cause anger and resentment, which in turn can lead to violence.

Age Profile of Perpetrators

Thirty-one percent of the perpetrators were 26-35 years old, followed by 17-25 (19%) and 36-45 (19%). Eighteen percent of the perpetrators were unidentified, followed by 46-55 years old (9%), above 56 (3%), and below 16 (1%). The data suggests that men aged between 17 and 45 are more likely to commit acts of VAW.

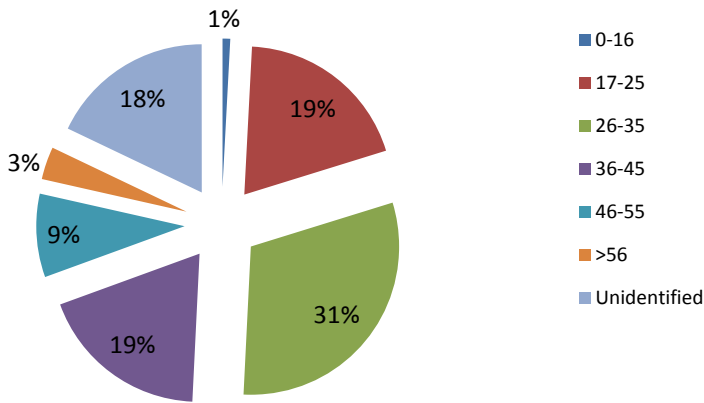


Chart 58: Occupation of the Suicide women

Education Level of Perpetrators

Seventy-two percent of perpetrators were literate, 15% were illiterate, and 13% were unidentified. Of the total literate perpetrators, 29% had limited literacy, followed by 26% who attended secondary education, 20% attended higher

secondary education, 13% attended primary education, 7% attended adult literacy classes, 4% had an undergraduate degree, and 1% had a graduate degree.

The above figures show that most perpetrators are literate. Thus it calls for an urgent action to revise the existing curriculum with gender equity message to change the deep cultural and ideological beliefs that contribute to VAW.

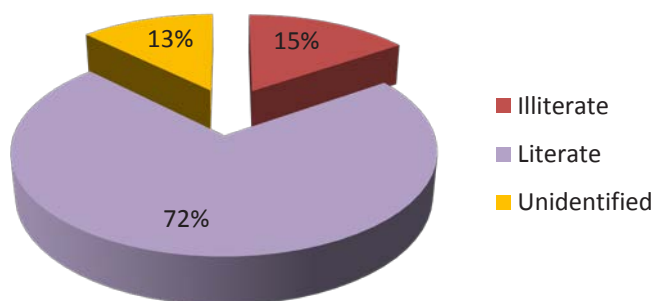


Chart 59: Educational Status of the perpetrator

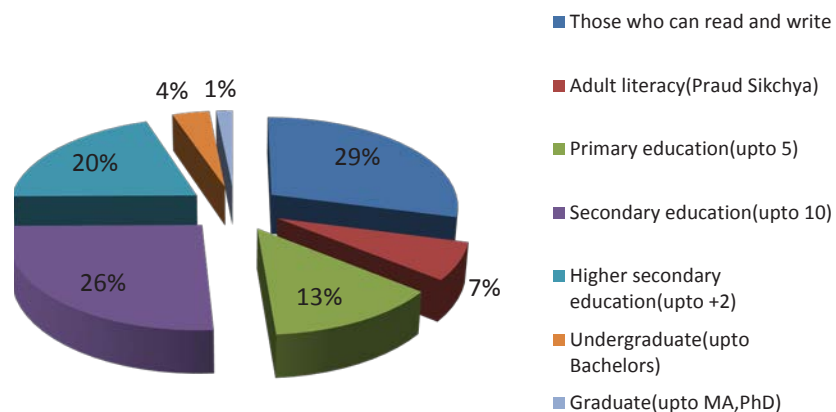


Chart 60: Educational level of the perpetrator

Marital Status of Perpetrators

Eighty-seven percent of the perpetrators were married, 8.5% were unmarried, 3% were unidentified, 1% was separated, and 0.5% were divorced or widowed.

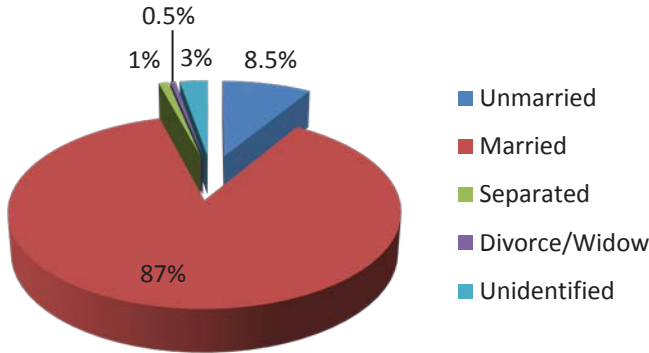


Chart 61: Marital Status of the perpetrator

Occupation of Perpetrators

The majority of perpetrators worked in agriculture (36%), followed by labor (14%), unidentified occupations (12%), foreign employment (9%), business (7%), non-governmental service (3%), studies (3%), army/police (3%), in their own household (2%), governmental service (2%), teaching (2%), driving (2%), unemployed (2%), tailoring/knitting (1%), politics (1%), and other (1%).

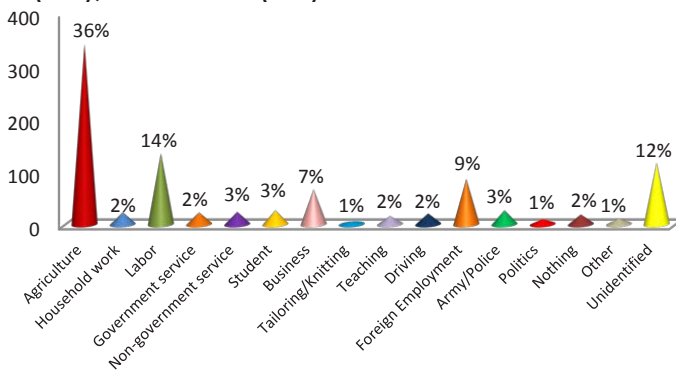


Chart 62: Occupation of the perpetrator

Gender of Perpetrators

Violence against women is perpetuated by both men and women in Nepali society. However, it is evident that men were committing the highest rate of violence against women. Ninety-two percent of perpetrators were male, whereas only 5% were female, and 3% of the crimes were committed by two people: a man and a woman.

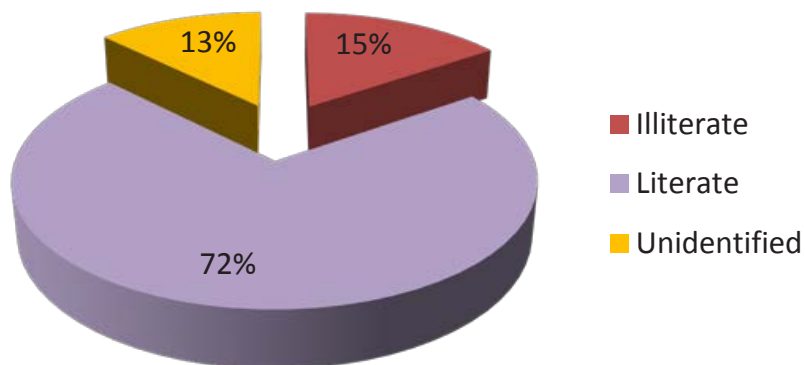


Chart 63: Educational Status of the perpetrator

VAW DURING THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS (EARTHQUAKE)

The devastating and deadly Earthquake (EQ) of 25th April, 2015 and its continuous aftershocks tolled thousands of lives leaving millions of people injured and displaced from rural hilly areas and Kathmandu valley Nepal. Continued strong aftershocks compelled thousands of population remain outside the house. According to Nepal Police, 8,020 lost their lives, 16,033 were injured and 375 are still missing in this destructive earthquake. The districts of Western and Central Development Region including Kathmandu valley were highly affected by the earthquake. During this emergency situation many people were displaced and forced to live in overcrowded and semi-open structures. During these times, laws, order and structures that normally bind all together in harmony, peace, and justice are substantially disrupted. It creates sense of instability, insecurity and fear among all.

During these critical and emergency situation women and adolescent girls become more vulnerable to gender based violence and are even more at risk for abuse, assault and exploitation. Hence, WOREC launched a campaign called "Sneha Campaign: A Campaign of Compassion" to reach out the earthquake survivors and gender mainstreaming program right after the earth quake to address gender-based violence during emergencies in Nepal. In this regard, WOREC planned and established Female Friendly Spaces in twelve

out of fourteen most affected districts by EQ declared by Nepal government with the sole motive to ensure safety and security for women and adolescent girls. Where women and adolescent girls can come at any time, feel safe, share their feelings and emotions, get entertained, relaxed and find way forward from trauma of earthquake and other kind of GBV through case management and recreational services at FFS. "Sneha Campaign: A Campaign of Compassion" spread its services, compassion, and love in Rasuwa, Dolakha, Ramechhap, Okhaldhunga, Kathmandu, Gorkha, Dhading, Kavrepalanchowk, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur by establishing 25 FFS across. The organization itself had also suffered, and several team members were traumatized from losing their homes and loved ones. Nevertheless, they stood together with each others in need of assistance. The support work started in Kathmandu and extended to 12 earthquake-affected districts in coordination with the National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders (NAWHRD).

FFSs provided various essential services including psychological first aid, psycho-social counseling, GBV case management, GBV case referrals; safe shelter, recreational activities, Dignity Kit distribution, and GBV case follow up, and outreach activities including awareness raising and orientation programs. Awareness-raising and orientation/information sharing programs were conducted on various topics including GBV, reproductive health, VAW, women's rights, sexual health, nutrition, hygiene, human trafficking, risk identification and reduction, and how to access the services available to them.

During the critical and emergency situation women and adolescent girls become more vulnerable to gender based violence and are even more at risk for abuse, assault and exploitation. Hence, GBV case management was an essential activity of FFS to ensure safety, security and

protection of women and girls. The main objective of GBV case management was to ensure the access to justice of survivors. Identifying the need of the survivor various services were delivered respecting the choice of survivors. Case management activities involved various types of necessary services such as case identification, referrals to relevant and applicable body with the consent of survivors, assisting in police and legal process, counseling, escorting and providing safe shelter, regular follow up of documented GBV cases etc. Confidentiality and ethical measures were considered primarily while handling GBV cases. Over a period of time, FFS was established and recognized as a referral central for GBV cases where GBV survivors are referred by community and camp leaders, teachers, police, WDO, and other humanitarian and development actors. In some cases outreach workers also refer survivors to FFS centers when they are identified during outreach work.

WOREC documented a total 820 GBV cases during the "Sneha Campaign: A Campaign of Compassion" from 12 EQ affected districts. However, it is to note that these all GBV cases were not happened exactly during the Internal Displacement Camps (IDPs) resulted by the earthquake. But when FFS were established after the earthquake in these places women and girls found the space more secure and reliable to express and report against GBV cases which they had been experiencing since long back. It further indicates that female friendly spaces should be established that secures an enabling environment where women and girls could feel free and secure to report against the violence they experience.

Of the total 1,775 reported VAW cases, 820 cases were reported from the 12 relief districts between June 2015 to July 2016. Of these, 20% were reported from Dhading, followed by Rasuwa (19%), Gorkha (19%), Dolakha (11.7%), Sindhupalchowk (8%), Kathmandu (7%), Okhaldhunga (3%),

Nuwakot (3%), Kabrepalanchowk (3%), Bhaktapur (1%), Ramechhap (1%), and Lalitpur (0.3%).

Types of Violence

The majority of reported cases were incidents of domestic violence (80%), followed by social violence (13%), rape (4%), and sexual abuse (3%).

Age Profiles

The majority of survivors in the earthquake-affected districts were between the ages of 26 and 35, followed by 16-25 (26%), 36-45 (18%), 46-55 (11%), over 56 (10%), and under 16 (5%).

Marital Status

The majorities of survivors of the reported VAW cases in the earthquake-affected districts were married (80%), followed by unmarried women (15%), widowed women (3%), and divorced women (2%).

Ethnicity/Caste

The majority of survivors in the earthquake-affected districts were Hill Janajati (49%), followed by Brahmin (22%), Hill Dalit (21%), Chhetri (6%), and other groups (2%).

Perpetrators

The majority of the perpetrators of reported incidents in earthquake-affected districts were the women's husbands (61%), followed by family members (23%), neighbors (10%), other individuals (4.7%), supervisors/employers (1%), and friends (0.3%).

Impacts

Forty-six percent of survivors in the earthquake-affected districts reported experiencing physical impacts from their attacks, whereas 33% reported suffering mental impacts, and 21% reported suffering economics impacts.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF VAW CASES

Media plays an effective and crucial role in the fight against violence against women and girls. As media is considered as the eye, ear and limbs of society, it plays greater role in creating a milieu to mitigate and minimize the violence against women. Media generates an effective awareness and sensitizes mass of people by exposing, highlighting, and condemning violence against women. Henceforth, WOREC Nepal closely scrutinizes all the daily news papers publish in Kathmandu and collect the highlighted VAW cases. Meticulous effort is invested to filter and make sure of no repetition and duplication of cases published as same case get space in all the news papers. A total of 267 cases of VAW were reported by national media outlets from June 2015 to July 2016, and are analyzed in this section.

Cases of VAW and Geographic Regions in the Media

Of the 267 VAW cases reported by the media, 53% were from the Hill region, followed by 42% from the Terai region, and 5% from the Mountain region. This differs from WOREC's findings that the majority of cases were reported from the Terai.

Types of VAW in the Media

A large majority of the VAW cases reported by the media were categorized as rape (42%), followed by murder (27%), domestic violence (9%), social violence (7%), attempted rape (5%), sexual violence (5%), attempted murder (3%), and trafficking (1%). This differs from WOREC's findings that domestic violence was the most frequently reported type of VAW, whereas rape accounted for third most reported cases.

Forms of Domestic Violence in the Media

Of the domestic violence cases reported by the media, 61% were categorized as physical violence, followed by mental torture (26%), and polygamy (13%). WOREC also

reported that physical violence was the most common form of domestic violence followed by mental torture.

Forms of Social Violence in the Media

A large majority of the social violence cases reported by the media were categorized as physical torture (52%), followed by mental torture (19%), dowry-related crimes (10%), acid attacks (9%), forced marriage (5%), and witchcraft allegations (5%). WOREC also reported the most common type of social violence to be physical abuse, followed by mental torture.

Age Profile of VAW Survivors in the Media

The majority of VAW survivors reported by the media were below 15 years of age (42%). Nineteen percent were 16-25, 17% were of an unknown age, 9% were 26-35, 7% were 36-45, 2% were 46-55, 2% were 56-65, and 2% were over 65 years old. WOREC reported the highest percentage of violence occurring to women aged 17-25, however this correlates with the higher percentage of domestic violence reported.

Marital Status of VAW Survivors in the Media

The majority of VAW survivors reported by the media were married women; whereas 34% were reportedly unmarried, and 2% remain unknown. WOREC also had a higher frequency of cases of VAW perpetrated against married women.

Perpetrators in the Media

According to media reports, the majority of perpetrators of VAW had no relation to the survivors (38%). Eighteen percent of the perpetrators were reportedly family members, followed by husbands (17%), neighbors (15%), friends (4%), intimate partners (3%), teachers (3%), and students (2%).

This differs greatly from WOREC's findings that women usually have a close relationship to the perpetrator.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

Anbeshi2016 records and analyzes VAW cases reported to WOREC offices in an effort to draw more attention and stimulate action by members of our society and concerned stakeholders to prevent VAW.

The key findings include:

- There is usually a close relationship between the survivors and perpetrators of VAW;
- Married women accounted for the highest percentage of VAW cases;
- Women aged 17-35 are more likely to experience and/or report violence;
- Domestic violence is the most common form of VAW;
- The majority of women who experienced VAW were literate to some degree.
- Minor girls below the age of 16 are the most vulnerable, accounting for 43% of a total 103 rape cases

National-level data and research on the different aspects of VAW is scarce. Although patriarchal systems and social norms limit evidence gathering, there is sufficient documentation to suggest that the impacts of violence on women's physical and mental health are wide-ranging and severe, and in the worst cases, have led to death through murder or suicide.

Globally, VAW has gained increasing recognition as a human right issue, as a reproductive health issue, and as a development issue that affects not only women, but society as a whole. Nepal has ratified international laws and human rights treaties that have focused on the protection of the rights of women, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and CEDAW. However, the lack of effective implementation mechanisms of national laws in the

domestic sphere remains causative factors of continuing incidences of VAW. In addition to reactive measures including legal implementation mechanisms and support services, preemptive measures must also be put in place including education campaigns that must be designed using well-researched prevalence data. Although the Domestic Violence (Crime and Punishment) Act has been enacted, the findings of this report suggest that equal attention must be given to activities improving women's autonomy in order to decrease their dependence on husbands and male family members who so frequently commit acts of VAW. The media can play an effective role in disseminating information on the current statistics of VAW and the resources available to help survivors report and seek support for the acts of violence committed against them.

Recommendations

Keeping present context at heart, below are some recommendations that come forward from the study:

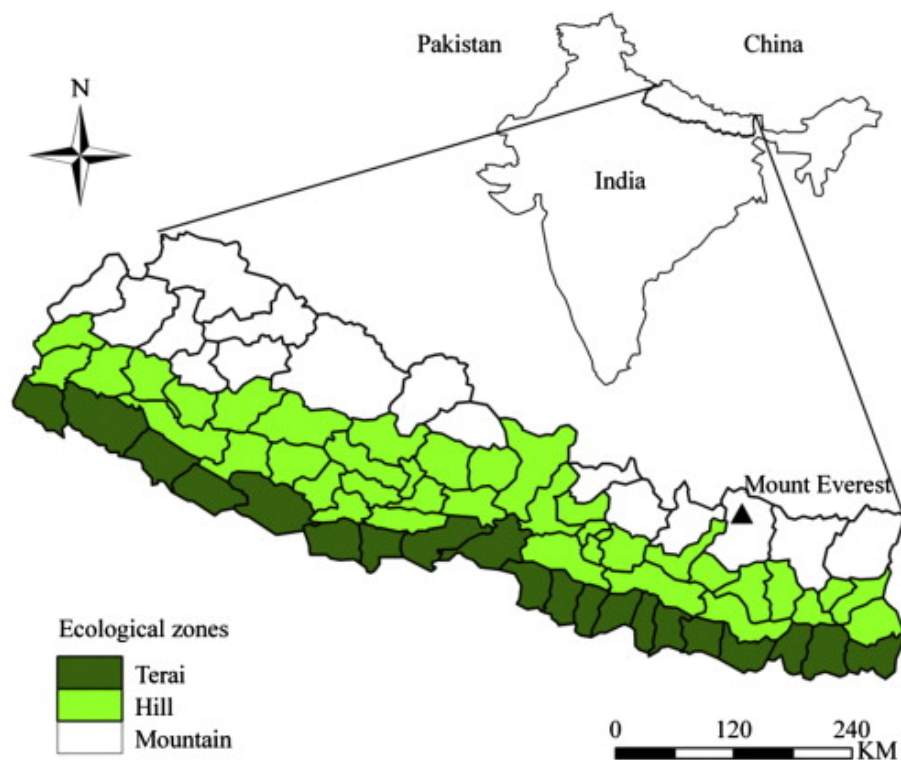
- Patriarchal attitudes are ingrained in all the social institutions which need to be challenged. Incorporation of a gender-friendly perspective is needed to effectively address women's issues and change societal attitudes towards VAW.
- It is important to raise awareness in the community through engagement of people from different groups to help change the dominant views that are detrimental to women. Government should ensure that communities including family members know about the cause and consequences of VAW and also ensure that communities, particularly men and boys, understand the rights of women and girls to prevent and respond to cases of VAW.
- The government should ensure that women and girls are empowered to take decisions and actions in response to domestic violence. They should be able to challenge discriminatory attitudes and beliefs, particularly of

husbands and family members.

- A holistic approach including amendment in discriminatory laws is required to address all forms of discrimination and violence against women. It is imperative to ensure that there is survivor friendly support network and mechanism;
- Ensure quick, fair, accessible and affordable legal process to encourage survivors to speak up against violence and seek justice to demand rights to live with dignity.
- Similarly, a better Witness Protection System needs to be ensured to encourage none cases of VAW go underreported.
- Likewise, government officials like judges, lawyers, police officers, public sector officials, and over all employee of these institution in general should be trained to be gender sensitive to facilitate the reporting of crimes and provide protection to the survivors.
- Finding of the study showed that mental illness has emerged as the primary health impact for the survivors of VAW. There is an urgent need to focus on psycho-social counseling and safe house facilities for these survivors.. Thus, it is important to train community level health workers as psycho social counselors and each health facilities should have provision of women friendly psycho-social counseling services so that women can access to these services without any fear and discrimination.
- Mobile health camps and outreach clinics, and counseling centers should reached to the remote areas. There should be proper follow-up and monitoring mechanism adopted by the District Health Offices for the regular and effective implementation of these services.
- Adopt preventive measures including public information and education programs to change gender stereotype conception, role and status of women in society. Raise awareness about gender equality VAW including harmful traditional practices to ensure women's right.

- It is found that most of children and minors are vulnerable to sexual violence and rape. It is indispensable to increase state support to children of sexual violence to protect human rights of children. To ensure their rights to safe education and opportunity to pursue life in a dignified way the government needs to ensure that all forms of sexual violence are specifically and individually criminalized.
- It is recommended that easy access to support and protection mechanism for survivors should be effective and efficient, One Stop Crisis Management Center (OSCMC) needs to be expanded strengthened throughout the country that can provide comprehensive services. The Fast Track Court should be in place to speed up the justice process for the survivors. Similarly, to increase reporting of VAW women friendly environment and networks should be ensured and quality of service and safety in the safe house should be improved.
- Effective witness protection system should be practiced to ensure protection of survivors and witness against all threats and intimidation.
- The government must support, protect, and ensure safety of women human rights defenders and also to those who are committed to eliminating violence against women, as they face threats and risk of violence. The state should respect the UN declaration on Human Rights Defenders adopted on 9 December 1998 so that WHRDs/HRDs can work freely and without fear of reprisal. .
- It is difficult for women to achieve justice due to the culture of impunity in which the perpetrators remain unpunished. The political influence must stop shielding perpetrators, and must proactively enforce the rule of law to ensure women's human rights.
- Civil Society Organizations should increase their collaboration to build the collective movement to combating and end VAW.

ANNEX 1 : Map of the three geographical regions of Nepal



Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2011.10.006>

END NOTES

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Women experience different forms of violence in Nepali society and forced to be affected disproportionately just because they are women. Patriarchal social structure and the stereotyped conception towards women trigger violence against Women. From the women's standpoint, violence against women is a severe crime that violates women's human right, right to dignity, right to mobility, and right to control over body, control over resources and right to life. WOREC Nepal emphasizes collecting and publishing an accurate and reliable statistics on violence against women is an important, effective and instrumental to raise societal awareness and pressurize the government and other concerned authorities to make them accountable as well as take some coherent action against such violence in order to eradicate the VAW.

WOREC initiated publishing "Anbeshi" Status and Dimensions of Violence against Women in Nepal, Reality Revealed as an annual publication since 2008. It is as an attempt to shed light on various forms of violence prevailing in Nepali society and its adverse effect on women and girls. Anbeshi 2016 is prepared on the basis of cases of violence against women documented from July 2015 to June 2016 by WOREC and Women's Human Right Defenders (WHRDs) from all over the country.



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