

Determinants of Intimate Partner Violence against Women in Pokhara, Nepal

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Introduction

Intimate partner violence (IPV) or domestic violence (DV), a form of gender based violence (GBV), is one of the most common forms of violence against women which includes acts of physical aggression, psychological abuse, forced intercourse, and other forms of sexual coercion, and various controlling behaviors such as isolating a person from family and friends or restricting access to information and assistance (WHO 2002). IPV is a worldwide problem, crossing cultural, geographic, religious, social and economic boundaries (Naved 2003). It is estimated that at least one in three women are subjected to some type of IPV over their lifetime (Bloom 2008). IPV is one of the social and human rights problems society is facing today.

It is evident that women are often at greater risk of being sexually assaulted or exploited, either in childhood, adolescence, or as adults both within family and community (WHO and PATH 2005). They are more likely to be physically assaulted or murdered by someone they know, often a family member or intimate partner (Persson and Wall 2003). In patriarchal societies, IPV is often taken as a private affair and the incidence of violence is mostly curtailed in family pressure. In most cases, the victim prefers silence and the perpetrator easily escapes. Therefore, women become more vulnerable to IPV, particularly, in poor and rural patriarchal communities like in Nepal. It is the most important element of the set of violence against women because of its far-reaching implications on their health, physical as well as psychological, and on overall relative gender status (Heise et al. 2002; Koenig et al. 2003). It also retards socioeconomic development due to its negative effect on women's participation in development projects (Barkat and Majid 2003).

What factors make women vulnerable to IPV? Several determining factors have been proposed. Bandura (1973) proposes that methods for settling family conflicts are often learned during childhood by observing parental and peer relationships. Power theory also assumes that the roots

of violence stem from within the family structure. People often learn the act of violence in childhood by witnessing or experiencing the incidence of violence. Family conflict, social acceptance of violence, and gender inequality forms the environment for domestic violence. The imbalances between husbands and wives may increase the amount of tension and increase the risk of intimate partner violence (Straus 1977; Sagrestano, Heavey, and Christensen 1999). Feminists view that gender roles defined by society places men in positions of power over women and the socially defined gender roles lead to violence against women. Men use various tactics, including physical violence to control and exert their dominance over women (Dobash and Dobash 1977; Walker 1984; Mihalic and Elliott 1997). According to Background/situational model individual's background, such as history of witnessing abuse, aggressive personality, prior use of aggression, social acceptance etc. and situational factors such as interpersonal conflict, substance use, relationship satisfaction, intimacy levels, problem-solving skills, communication styles etc. contribute to the development and maintenance of courtship aggression. Similarly, interpersonal conflict, substance use, relationship satisfaction, intimacy levels, problem-solving skills, and communication styles are responsible for violent behavior (Riggs and O'Leary 1989). Toufique and Razzak (2007) also maintain that DV has been linked to individual, household and demographic characteristics, socioeconomic status, adverse reproductive health outcomes, contextual considerations, etc.

Despite equal treatment to both genders in the constitution of Nepal, cultural, economic and religious factors reinforce male dominance and female subservience. In addition, grinding poverty, lack of jobs, and alcohol abuse feed the opportunities for violence inherent in the dependency relationship. A study on violence in 5 districts of Nepal among 1250 men and women found that 77 percent of violence against women was recorded as being from within the family (UN 2000). A qualitative study made by WHO in 2007 revealed that about half of the married women had ever experienced sexual violence (WHO 2009). Another study in 2009 among 1,296 married Nepalese women aged 15-24 also showed that more than half the women (51.9%) had some form of violence in their lifetime (Lamichhane et al. 2011). Recognizing the existence of sexual violence within marriage in the country, the Government of Nepal passed a law in 2006 which made it a criminal offence for a husband to have forced sex with his wife. However, the victim mostly prefers silence. Because domestic violence in Nepal is seen as a private family affair, and intervention by outsiders is disapproved.

DV/IPV is a serious social problem, but it receives limited public attention in Nepal. Few studies have been made in this field. However, they are not sufficient to determine the factors associated with IPV in the Nepalese context. This paper, based on qualitative and quantitative data, attempts to explore the incidence of IPV and identify demographic, socio-economic and individual determinants of intimate partner violence against women in Pokhara, Nepal.

Methodology

Data and Sample: This paper is based on the data from the study entitled “Determinants of Intimate Partner Violence among Women in Pokhara, Nepal”. The study was conducted by the author on behalf of Social Inclusion Resource Center (SIRC), P.N. Campus Pokhara between November 2011 and March 2012. The study was carried out at Pokhara, one of the four Sub-metropolitan Cities of Nepal, lying in Kaski district of Western Hill Region. In total, 360 women of reproductive age (15-49) were chosen by using a multistage sampling method. In the first stage, Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City was selected purposely. At the second stage, three wards [which were treated as Primary Sampling Unit (PSU)] were randomly selected. At the third stage of sampling, required households (360) within the selected PSUs were chosen randomly. Finally, one of the potential respondents from the selected households was interviewed. For quantitative data, an interview schedule of structured questions was prepared as recommended by WHO and PAATH (2005). Furthermore, in depth interview form 18 women (6 women per ward) was undertaken to obtain qualitative data. There was a separate set of open-ended questions for qualitative data.

Measurement of variables/Operational Definitions: The three types of violence (physical, sexual and psychological) were measured as recommended by WHO and PAATH (2005). ‘*Physical violence*’ is the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing death, disability, injury, or harm. The variable was measured by asking respondents whether their partners/husbands had ever slapped, pushed, hit with fist, kicked or dragged, choked or burnt and threatened or actually used a weapon against her. ‘*Sexual violence*’ is the use of physical force to compel a person to engage in a sexual act against his or her will, whether or not the act is completed. To measure the variable respondents were asked whether their partners/husbands ever forced them to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to. Two additional questions related

to sexual violence were also asked. *'Psychological violence'* is any kind of intentional action or omission, as threats, humiliations, verbal abuse, isolation, deprivation etc. that may result or actually results in psychological suffering, harm or self-esteem dismissing. Psychological violence in the study was measured by asking respondents whether their partners/husbands ever had insulted, humiliated, denigrated, done things to scare and threatened to hurt them or someone they care about. *'Intimate partner violence'* is the act by a current or former partner that harms or may harm physically, sexually and psychologically to his/her partner. The respondent who had received at least one of the three types of violence (Physical, sexual and psychological) was treated as ever experiencing IPV. This variable here has been mentioned as *"Overall IPV"*. *'Autonomy'* is the capacity to manipulate one's personal environment and the ability of making decisions about one's private concerns and those of one's intimates. Autonomy level of the respondents was measured by asking respondents about final say on the decision of health care, large household purchases, household purchase for daily need, visit to family/friend/relatives and food to be cooked. Responses categories were: i) respondent, ii) Respondent and husband/someone else jointly, and iii) Husband/Someone else. The five types of decisions (variables) with three response categories were further merged into a single index (Autonomy index) by using SPSS. *'Living standard'*, the proxy measure of socio-economic status, was measured based on absence and presence of certain household amenities. The household amenities were weighed as recommended by IIPS and ORC Macro (2000) and added to develop the index. The score ranges from 8 to 64. Respondents with score < 14 were treated as being of low economic status, 15-24 as medium and score > 25 as high economic status.

Ethical considerations: Respondents were interviewed in a favorable environment (in the absence of partner/husband and other family members) after their verbal consent. For these, female interviewers were recruited. Names of the respondents were not asked or recorded for confidential reasons. Each respondent was free to skip any question if he/she does not want to answer and drop the interview at any time. All possible measures for reducing harm to respondents as well as the research team were applied as recommended by WHO (2007).

Data Analysis: Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS), version 16 has been used for handling quantitative data. Univariate analysis has been made to explore the sample characteristics and understand the incidence of IPVAW. Furthermore, bivariate analysis (Chi Square test of independence) was performed to examine whether demographic, socio-economic and individual factors associated with incidence of physical, sexual and psychological violence. Qualitative data was transcribed, reduced into required categories or variables and used according to the need of data.

Results and discussion

Univariate Analysis

Sample Characteristics: Of the total sample one 22.8 percent women were aged 15-24, 46.7 percent aged 25-34 and 30.7 percent aged 35 and over. Regarding the marital status, 94.6 percent were currently married and three in five were non-migrant/local. The majority (73.9 percent) of women lived in a nuclear family (with their husband and children only) and 63.3 percent had less than two children. Of total respondents' 91.1 percent were Hindu and the religion of rest women was either Buddhist or other. Similarly, about three in 5 respondents were Brahmin. The percentage of women from other communities was 20. Of total women, 16.7 had obtained no formal education, 21.1 completed primary level, 38.3 secondary/SLC and 23.9 intermediate (+2) and above. The proportion of housewives was quite high compared to women engaged in a job/business and agricultural field. About three in five women were of high economic status and two in five were of medium or low economic status. In addition, 77.2 percent women were of moderate autonomy level and low percent of women (8.3) were of high autonomy level. It means very few women of study area make decisions alone and majority of them make decisions jointly (Table 1).

Table 1: Selected characteristics of sample (N=360) at the time of study			
Demographic Characteristics	Percent/ Number	Socio-economic characteristics	Percent/ Number
Age		Religion	
15-24	22.8 (82)	Hindu	91.1 (328)
25-34	46.7 (168)	Buddhist and other	8.9 (32)
35 and above	30.6 (110)	Educational level	
Marital status		No education	16.7 (60)
Currently married	94.6 (340)	Primary	21.1 (76)
Divorced/Separated	5.6 (20)	Secondary/SLC	38.3 (138)
Number of children		Intermediate (+2) and above	23.9 (86)
No children	12.8 (46)	Occupation	
Two or less children	63.3 (228)	Agriculture or labor	25.6 (92)
Three or more children	23.9 (86)	Housewife	37.2 (134)
Type of family		Service and Business	13.3 (48)
Nuclear	73.9 (266)	Socio-economic status	23.9 (86)
Joint	26.1 (94)	Low	8.9 (32)
Status of migration		Medium	27.8 (100)
Migrant	37.8 (136)	High	63.3 (228)
Local/non-migrant	62.2 (224)	Autonomy level	
Socio-economic characteristics		Low	14.4 (52)
Caste/ethnicity		Moderate	77.2 (278)
Brahmin	58.3 (210)	High	8.3 (30)
Chhetri/Thakuri	17.2 (62)	Notes: a. For each category the total number (N) is 360. b. Figures in the parenthesis denote absolute number	
Gurung/Magar	13.3 (48)		
Damai/Kami and other	11.1 (40)		

Characteristics of Partner/Husband: Information on some important characteristics of respondent's partners/ husbands was also recorded to understand whether it is associated with intimate partner violence. One in four partners/Husbands was involved in agriculture/labor and 37.2 percent in service/business. Occupation of 13.3 percent of partners/husbands was driving/contractor and significant percent (23.9) were employed in foreign countries. About three

in five partners/husbands used alcohol and one in two showed anger to his partner/wife. Moreover, 16.1 percent male partners/husbands either had another wife or extramarital affair.

Table 2: Characteristics of partners/husbands at the time of survey			
Characteristics	Percent	Characteristics	Percent
Partners/Husbands' occupation		Have other wife or affair	
Agriculture and Labor	25.6 (92)	No	83.9 (302)
Service and Business	37.2 (134)	Yes	16.1 (58)
Driver and Contractor	13.3 (48)	Aggressive in nature	
Employed in abroad	23.9 (86)	No	50.6 (182)
Alcohol use		Yes	49.4 (178)
No	41.1 (148)	<i>a. For each category total number (N) is 360</i>	
Yes	58.9 (212)	<i>b. Figures in parenthesis denotes total number for each category</i>	

Incidence of Intimate Partner Violence: The women who had ever faced at least one of three types of violence (Psychological, physical and sexual violence) were treated as women ever experienced IPV. At least three in four (78.3 percent) women had experienced IPV in their lives. A study on violence in 5 districts of Nepal by the UN (2000) had also found that 77 % percent women experienced such violence. A large proportion of women (61.7) had experienced psychological violence. Similarly, one in two women was sexually abused. A qualitative study made by WHO in 2007 also revealed that about 50% of the married women had ever experienced sexual violence (WHO2009). Relatively low percent women (43.9) report ever experiencing physical violence (Figure 1).

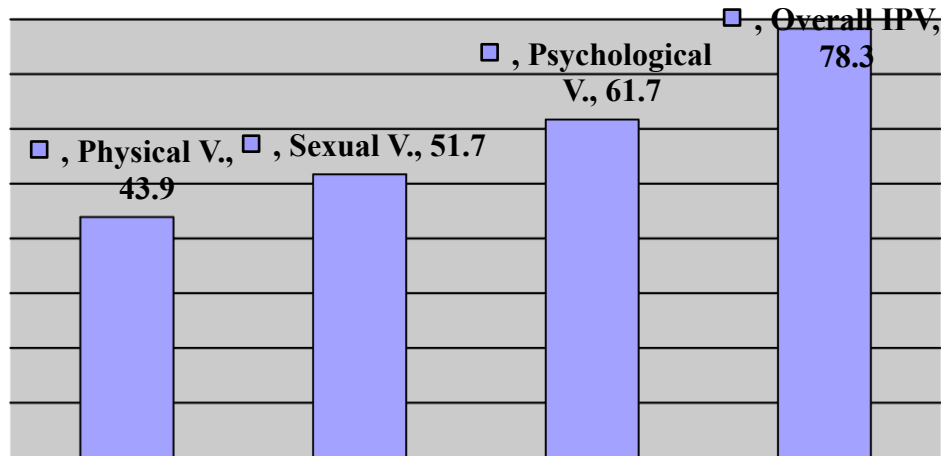


Figure 1: Percent women ever received physical, sexual and psychological violence at the time of study

Case 1

Rita Malla (name changed), aged 27, is living with her husband for seven years after she got married in 2005. When she was asked whether she had ever experienced any type physical violence? She said that *“I am being beaten for 5 years by my husband. He does not need any big issue to do so. Sometimes I should bear the beating for 3 or 4 times per week. I was severely injured two times. I think I would die if father in law would not stop him at the time of beatings. Now it became usual for me like other women of community. I become psychologically disturbed when I think all about my husband’s behavior. I can go nowhere with small children leaving the man. However, I am living by looking the faces of my kids.”*

Bivariate Analysis

Determinants of Intimate Partner violence

Demographic / household Determinants: Table 3 presents percent of women ever experiencing different types of IPV by demographic/household characteristics. Of demographic/household factors, age, number of children and status of migration showed association with at least one type of IPV. Results showed that the percentage of women who received physical, sexual and psychological violence is higher in age 15-34 compared to women

in age 15-24 and 35-49. Particularly, age of women was significantly associated with sexual violence ($P < .05$). Mild association ($P < .10$) was also observed between age and physical violence.

Table 3: Percent of women ever experienced different types of IPV by demographic/household characteristics				
Demographic/Household Characteristics	Physical Violence	Sexual Violence	Psychological Violence	Overall IPV
Age				
15-24 (82)	29.3	48.8	68.3	75.6
25-34 (168)	47.6	64.3	61.9	84.5
35 and above (110)	49.1	34.5	56.6	70.9
Chi Squire	4.638*	11.949**	1.418	3.862
Marital status				
Currently married (340)	42.9	51.8	61.2	77.6
Divorced/Separated (20)	60.0	50.0	70.0	90.0
Chi Squire	1.116	.012	.311	.849
Number of children				
No children (46)	26.1	34.8	56.5	65.2
Two or Less (218)	45.6	62.3	60.5	82.5
Three or more (86)	48.8	32.6	67.4	74.4
Chi Squire	3.525	14.056**	.927	3.861
Type of family				
Nuclear (266)	46.8	53.4	63.2	78.2
Joint (94)	46.8	46.8	57.4	78.7
Chi Squire	.220	.601	.479	.006
Status of migration				
Migrant (136)	42.6	35.3	57.4	69.1
Local/Non migrant (224)	44.6	61.6	64.3	83.9
Chi Squire	0.068	11.731**	.860	5.469**
<i>Notes: a. * = $P < .10$, ** = $P < .05$, *** = $P < .001$</i>				
<i>b. Only positive responses have been presented for the variables in the column.</i>				

The incidence of violence was high among divorced/separated women compared to women currently living with a partner/husband. It is natural because one of the causes of divorce or separation may be physical, sexual and psychological abuse committed by a partner/husband. However, marital status was not significantly associated with any type of violence. Experience of violence among women having two or less children was found high compared to childless women and women having three or more children. Among women having two or less children, at least four in five women had ever received at least one type of intimate partner violence. Particularly, number of children showed significant association with sexual violence. The percentage of women who received physical, sexual and psychological violence was slightly high in nuclear families. It may be due to the lack of parental monitoring or intervention.

The incidence of violence was more common among local/non-migrant women compared to migrants. Three in five non-migrant women were sexually abused compared to less than two migrant women. Status of migration was significantly associated with sexual violence. In case of overall IPV, 83.9 percent local women had ever received at least one type of violence compared to 69.1 percent among migrants. Status of migration also proved significant association with overall intimate partner violence ($P < .05$).

Socio-economic Determinants: Table 4 presents percent of women who report ever experiencing physical, sexual and psychological violence by socio-economic characteristics. Physical and psychological violence seems quite high among Dalit. However, sexual violence is high among Chhetri/Thakuri and Gurung/Magar. About 90 percent of Gurung/Magar and Dalit and other had ever received at least one type of violence. Incidence of violence seems relatively low in Brahmin women. Caste/ethnicity was found significantly associated with all types of violence under study. Nearly all type violence found high among women who adopt Buddhist and other religion, religion was significantly associated with sexual violence only. Significant variation was not observed in nearly all types of violence by the educational level of women. For instance, the percentage of women who received at least one type of violence is about 80 percent for all levels of education except primary level. It means women of low and high educational status equally bear intimate partner violence.

Table 4: Percent of women who ever had experienced physical, sexual and psychological violence by socio-economic characteristics.				
Socio-economic characteristics	Physical Violence	Sexual Violence	Psychological Violence	Overall IPV
Caste/Ethnicity				
Brahmin (210)	38.1	41.9	59.0	70.5
Chhetri/Thakuri (62)	51.6	67.7	74.2	87.1
Gurung/Magar (48)	41.7	75.0	45.8	91.7
Dalit and other (40)	65.0	50.0	75.0	90.0
Chi square	5.850	12.469**	6.412*	9.340**
Religion				
Hindu (328)	43.8	48.2	62.8	76.8
Buddhist and other (32)	43.9	87.5	50.0	93.8
Chi square	.000	9.030**	1.011	2.459
Educational level				
No education (60)	53.3	43.3	66.7	80.0
Primary (76)	55.3	57.9	63.2	73.3
Secondary/SLC (138)	34.8	55.1	58.0	78.3
Intermediate (+2) and above (86)	41.9	46.5	62.8	81.4
Chi square	5.478	2.203	.775	.771
Occupation				
Agriculture and labor (90)	44.4	35.6	62.2	71.1
Housewife (174)	35.6	59.8	62.1	80.5
Service and Business (96)	58.3	52.1	60.4	81.2
Chi square	6.481**	6.968**	.044	1.855
Socio-economic status				
Low (32)	75.0	68.8	68.8	81.2
Medium (100)	40.0	54.0	66.0	76.0
High (228)	41.2	48.2	58.8	78.9
Chi square	6.923**	2.513	1.141	.266
Autonomy level				
Low (52)	53.8	30.8	42.3	69.2
Moderate (278)	41.0	56.1	64.7	79.9
High (30)	53.3	46.7	66.7	80.0
Chi square	2.059	5.798*	4.839*	1.484
<i>Notes: a. * = P < .10, ** = P < .05, *** = P < .001</i>				
<i>b. Only positive responses have been presented for the variables in column.</i>				

There was no variation in overall intimate partner violence (IPV) by the socioeconomic status of women. However significant association was found between socio-economic status and physical violence ($P < .05$). Particularly, high percent (75) women of low socio-economic status had ever been physically assaulted by their partner/husband. Regarding women's autonomy, relatively low percent of women of moderate autonomy level were physically abused by their partners/husband. However, the incidence of sexual and psychological violence among them was high. Percent of women ever received physical, sexual and psychological violence seems quite high among women of high autonomy. It is because the autonomy level of divorced/separated women is high (because they make their almost all decisions alone) but as discussed above incidence of violence among them is high compared to currently married women. On the other hand, the mobility made by women and the decisions made by them may also become the causes of violence because men always try to keep women under their control.

Individual /personal Determinants: Individual characteristics of partner/husband have been treated as personal/individual factors determining IPV. Out of several characteristics, association of IPV with husband's occupation, use or non use of alcohol, has other wife/partner or not and aggressiveness were examined.

Partners/husbands' occupation showed significant association with physical ($P < .05$) and sexual violence ($P < .05$). The incidence of violence was quite high (Physical violence 66.7 percent, sexual violence 79.2 percent and psychological violence 79.2 percent) among women whose partners/husbands' occupation was driving/contractor. More than 90 percent of the women had ever received at least one type of intimate partner violence. Although physical violence is low, sexual and psychological violence seemed high among those women who report that their partners/husbands work abroad. Low physical violence among such women is justified in the sense that their partners/husbands spend much time in foreign countries than their home. Being far from a partner increases love but not the acts of violence. Four in five of such women had experienced at least one type of violence at the time of survey. Physical and sexual violence seems relatively low among women whose partners/husbands work in agriculture/labor and service/business sectors (Table 5).

Table 5: Percent of women ever received physical, sexual and psychological violence by individual/personal characteristics of husband				
Characteristics	Physical Violence	Sexual Violence	Psychological Violence	Overall IPV
Husbands occupation				
Agriculture and Labor (92)	45.7	41.3	58.7	69.6
Service and Business (134)	43.3	49.3	55.2	79.1
Driver and Contractor (48)	66.7	79.2	79.2	91.7
Employed in abroad (86)	30.2	51.2	65.1	79.1
Chi square	8.381**	9.407**	4.674	4.635
Alcohol use				
No (148)	28.4	35.1	44.6	62.2
Yes (212)	54.7	63.2	73.6	89.6
Chi square	12.276***	13.752***	15.493***	19.362***
Has other wife/Wives or affair with other woman				
No (302)	38.4	49.0	57.0	75.5
Yes(58)	72.4	65.5	86.2	93.1
Chi square	11.422**	2.656	8.807**	4.443**
Aggressive in nature				
No (182)	30.8	35.2	42.9	63.7
Yes (178)	57.3	68.5	80.9	93.3
Chi square	12.864***	20.069***	27.546***	23.106***
<i>Notes: a. * = P < .10, ** = P < .05, *** = P < .001</i>				
<i>b. Only positive responses have been presented for the variables in the column.</i>				

High significant association was observed between alcohol use and intimate partner violence. Use of alcohol was significantly associated with all types (physical, sexual and psychological) of violence ($P < .001$). About 55 percent of women, whose partner/husband had ever used alcohol, were physically abused and more than 60 percent sexually and psychologically abused. The percentage of such women who had received at least one type of violence was 89.6. The incidence of violence was also quite high among those women whose partner/husband either had other wives or had affairs with other women. More than 90 percent of the women had experienced intimate partner violence. It means that the partners/husbands who use alcohol are more likely to harm their partners/wives physically, sexually and psychologically. Physical violence was observed high (72.4 percent) among such women compared to the violence faced by women with other

background characteristics. High significant association was also observed between partners/husbands' aggressive nature and all types of intimate partner violence ($P < .001$). Among the women who reported that their partners/husbands have aggressive nature, nearly three in five were physically, three in four sexually and four in five psychologically abused. Of the women, 93.3 percent had ever received at least one type of intimate partner violence.

Case 2

Sabita Pariyar (Name changed), aged 29 years is a permanent resident of Pokhara -17. She has three children. Her husband is a bus driver. Sabita says (with tears in her eyes) her story as *“He is absent at home for 3/4 days and come to stay for a night. He is fully drunk when he comes here. He always says that the meal of my hand is not tasty. Once I said him to take the meal as it is. And he threw the meal plate at me. He never talks about the children's education. He even does not provide sufficient money for their schooling and other expenditures. So I have to manage myself by working in other's home. I don't remember how many times he beats me. If I say something he says that other women are ready to marry with him. I think I am the single women in the world bearing such a burden of pain. Please say me what I can do. I am ready do anything if my husband is punished”*

Case 3

Ramita Thapa Magar (Name changed), aged 25 lives in Pokhara – 9. Her husband is working in Indian Army for 10 years. She said that she is bearing sexual violence from her husband after she got married at 16 years. She said *“I don’t want to remember how I spent my early days of marriage. I did not know anything about sex but he knew well about it. I had to be ready at any time he desired. It would be difficult to complete all works of home and sleep with him all night. I would pray to God to pass the days fast so that he will go to join the battalion (Paltan) soon. At present I do not scare so much as I became mature and started to understand about sexuality. However, it is very difficult to bear him even today. He must drink alcohol every evening and he must have sex after that. During the sexual intercourse, I have to do everything he said and bear everything he does. I cannot escape from it even when I am ill. I cannot explain how difficult it is.”*

Conclusions and Recommendations

Analyses reveal that all types of examined violence (physical, sexual and psychological) prevail in the study area. The incidence of intimate partner violence is quite high. As compared to sexual and psychological violence, the amount of physical violence is low. Qualitative data also encompass the deeply rooted nature and severity of IPVAW.

Age, number of children and status of migration are the main demographic/household determinants of IPV. Women between age 25- 34 and women having two or less children are more likely to be abused physically, sexually and psychologically. Similarly, IPV is high among non-migrant women compared to migrants. As mild association was observed (in Chi Square Test) between the variables and overall IPV, it can be said that demographic/household factors do not strongly affect the incidence of IPV against women.

Of socio-economic variables, caste/ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status and autonomy level determine the incidence of intimate partner violence in the study area. Particularly, women from Brahmin caste are less likely and Dalit women are more likely to face IPV. Similarly, IPV is high among Buddhist women compared to Hindu women. Women of low economic status are more

likely to be physically abused. Moreover, high autonomy is associated with sexual and psychological violence.

Of individual and personal determinants, partners/husbands' occupation, alcohol use, relation or affair with other women and aggressive nature have strong effects on IPV against women. The women whose partners/husbands' occupation is driving/contractor are more likely to be physically, sexually and psychologically abused. Similarly, those women whose partners/ husbands use alcohol and build relationships with other women are also at high risk of physical, sexual and psychological assaults. Results from qualitative information also strongly support it. Usually, partners/husbands with aggressive nature are the perpetrators. As almost all individual/personal characteristics of partners/husbands are significantly associated with physical, sexual and psychological violence, we may infer that individual/personal factors have strong effects on intimate partner violence against women.

As a high proportion of women are physically, sexually and psychologically abused by their partners/husbands, efforts should be made to reduce the incidence of violence. For this, awareness programs and women empowerment programs should be launched at national and local level. Since women of age 24-34, women with two or less children and non-migrant/local women are more likely to be abused by their partners/husbands, the programs should be focused on them. Similarly, such programs should also target the women from Dalit communities and low socio-economic status. As IPV is high among women whose partners take alcohol, use of alcohol should be discouraged by society and concerned governmental organizations. Moreover, society and legal authorities should discourage polygamy and extramarital relationships. As this study confines in identifying demographic, socio-economic and personal/individual factors affecting physical, sexual and psychological violence, further studies should be made to identify other determining variables. Similarly, further study is needed to know how such factors affect the incidence of IPV.

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