

Factors Associated with Intimate Partner Violence among Married Women

Sailaja Ghimire,¹ Sushmita Ghimire,² Reshu Agrawal Sagtani,³ Shambhu Kumar Upadhyay³

¹Nepal Health Research Council, Ramshah Path, Kathmandu, Nepal, ²Asian College of Advance Studies, Lalitpur, Nepal, ³Patan Academy of Health Sciences, Lagenkhel, Lalitpur, Nepal.

ABSTRACT

Background: Intimate partner violence refers to any behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship. Various factors such as alcohol or substance abuse, history of violence in family, extra marital affair, educational status, socio-economic status, decision making power, and established gender role are linked with Intimate partner violence. This study aims to identify the prevalence of different forms of intimate partner violence and its associated factors among married women in Shankharapur municipality of Kathmandu District.

Methods: A concurrent triangulation design was used. Quantitative data were collected from 602 married females while qualitative data was collected from 11 participants. Multivariate logistic regression was done using Stata MP13 version. Thematic analysis was done for qualitative data. Triangulation of both quantitative and qualitative findings were done.

Results: The prevalence of Intimate partner violence was found to be 22.1%. After logistic regression, it was found that women's involvement in community groups had lower odds (AOR 0.67, 95%CI 0.6-0.7) of IPV as compared to those who were not involved in community groups. Additionally, findings from the qualitative study showed female being victims of different forms of violence.

Conclusions: Still, Female are the sufferers of violence behind the closed doors and mitigation strategies should have to be adopted from different levels of government to control intimate partner violence.

Keywords: Intimate partner violence; Kathmandu; mixed method; triangulation.

INTRODUCTION

World Health Organization (WHO) listed physical attack, psychological abuse, forced sexual contact and various forms of controlling behaviour under description of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).¹ Population based surveys done by WHO in 48 different countries showed the prevalence of IPV ranging from 10% to 69%.² The prevalence of spousal violence in Nepal is 26%.³ The determinants of IPV are similar across most of the countries. Family history of violence, disputes between husband and wife, decision making power of the man, established gender roles in the society, control and aggression are the determinants of IPV in South Asia.⁴ In the context of Nepal, power differences and inequalities between spouse endanger women to IPV.⁵ Besides this, female illiteracy, poverty, history of violence, low decision making power, education of the husband are linked with IPV.⁶ Under such context, this study was designed to identify the prevalence and the factors

associated with IPV.

METHODS

This was a cross sectional study with concurrent mixed method design⁷ conducted in Shankharapur Municipality for the duration of six months. Sample size of 488 was determined by taking the prevalence of spousal violence (26%)³, design effect of 2, and non-response value of 10%. Three stage cluster sampling technique was used for data collection. At first stage, one third of the total clusters of municipality were selected by Probability Proportionate to Size (PPS) method. In second stage, three clusters were selected by using simple random sampling technique. In third stage, all the married women (602) from the selected clusters were then surveyed and weighted analysis was done on the obtained data (Table 1). Thematic analysis was done for qualitative data using Qualitative Data Analysis in R (RQDA) software. Then, the triangulation of both qualitative and quantitative findings was done.

Correspondence: Sailaja Ghimire, Nepal Health Research Council, Ramshahpath, Kathmandu, Nepal. Email: sailajaghimire35@gmail.com, Phone: +9779849353295.

Table 1. Weight Calculation.

Wards	Number of household	Cumulative frequency	Sel probability 1	No Of Cluster	Selected cluster	Sel. Prob 2	Design weight	Sample size	Sample take	Raw Weight	Raw weighted hh	Normalized weight
1	830	830		8								
2	392	1222	0.22	3		0.33	13.50	398	396	13.57	5375.03	1.16
3	463	1685		4								
4	459	2144		3								
5	643	2787	0.36	2		0.5	5.48	85	82	5.68	466.55	0.48
6	583	3370		11								
7	632	4002		11								
8	575	4577	0.32	3								
9	717	5294		9		0.33	9.20	129	124	9.57	1187.69	0.82
Total	5294			54				612	602		7029.28	
									Sampling fraction	0.085		

RESULTS

A total of 602 married women were included in the study. Majority (86.2%) of them belonged to age group (25-64) years and more than half (50.2%) lived in nuclear family. Mean age of the participants was 41.8 years. Five indicators (education, ownership of house/land, membership of community group, cash earning and household decision making) were used to developed women’s empowerment index.⁸ Almost half

of study participants (48.4%) were at moderate level of empowerment.

Among total respondents, husband’s information was obtained from 579 participants only. Husbands of more than 80% of the respondents belonged to the age group (25-64) years with mean age of 44.8 years. Around four out of five husbands (81.5%) of the study participants were literate (Table 2).

Table 2. Distribution of participants according to their socio-demographic, empowerment related characteristics and husband’s characteristics.

Variables	Un -Weighted Number (n) (%)	Weighted	Variables	Un-Weighted Number (n) (%)	Weighted
Age-group			Cash earning		
15-24	40 (6.6%)	40.4 (6.7%)	No	346 (57.5%)	336.9 (56.7%)
25-64	518 (86.0%)	518.8 (86.2%)	Yes	256 (42.5%)	256.9 (43.3%)
65+	44 (7.3%)	42.6 (7.1%)	Ownership of house/land		
Mean age=41.8 years			No	504 (83.7%)	497.31 (83.7%)
Family type			Yes	98 (16.3%)	96.6 (16.3%)
Nuclear	304 (50.5%)	302.2 (50.2%)	Membership in community group		
Joint /Extended	298 (49.5%)	299.5 (49.8%)	No	180 (29.9%)	180.0 (30.3%)
Occupation of the respondent			Yes	422 (70.1%)	413.9 (69.7)
Agriculture	383 (63.6%)	377.5 (62.7%)	Involvement in household decision making		
Business	38 (6.3%)	38.7 (6.4%)	None	369 (61.3%)	357.5 (60.2%)
Service	20 (3.3%)	21.2 (3.5%)	1-2 decisions	116 (19.3%)	118.3 (19.9%)
Labours	11(1.8%)	11.42(1.9%)	3 decisions	117 (19.4%)	118.2 (19.9%)
Homemaker	150 (24.9%)	152.3 (25.4%)	Educational status of husband		
Age of husband			Literate	463 (79.9%)	473.6 (81.5%)
15-24	18 (2.9%)	18.5 (3.1%)	Illiterate	116 (20.0%)	107.2 (18.5%)
25-64	497 (82.6%)	500.5 (83.2%)	Occupation of husband		

65+	87 (14.5%)	80.8 (13.8%)	Agriculture	281 (48.5%)	283.7 (48.9%)
Alcohol consumption by husband			Business	95 (16.4%)	95.4 (16.4%)
Yes	376 (64.9%)	376.3 (64.8%)	Service	94 (16.2%)	88.9 (15.3%)
No	190 (32.8%)	191.1 (32.9%)	Labours	67 (11.6%)	69.7 (12.0%)
Don't know	13 (2.2%)	13.4 (2.3%)	Foreign employment	42 (7.2%)	43.0 (7.4%)

Table 3. Distribution of participants according to the different forms of violence.

Variables	Un-Weighted	Weighted	Variables	Un-Weighted	Weighted
Physical Violence	Number(n) (%)	Number(n) (%)	Emotional Violence	Number (n) (%)	Number(n) (%)
Push/shake/throw something	70 (11.6%)	68.4 (11.5%)	Belittled/ humiliated	106 (17.6%)	103.8 (17.5%)
Slap	71 (11.8%)	69.5 (11.7%)	Intimidated or scared	61 (10.1%)	57.5 (9.7%)
Twist arm/pull hair	65 (10.8%)	63.5 (10.7%)	Threatened with harm	107 (17.7%)	105.2 (17.7%)
Punch with his feet	54 (8.9%)	52.8 (8.8%)	Controlling Behavior		
Kick/drag	51 (8.5%)	49.3 (8.3%)		Gets angry if she speaks with other man	75 (12.5%)
Try to choke/burn with purpose	34 (5.6%)	32.6 (5.5%)	Often suspicious that she is unfaithful	52 (8.6%)	49.0 (8.2%)
Threatened/attack with knife/weapon	35 (5.8%)	33.8 (5.7%)	Restricts her from seeing friends	53 (8.8%)	50.1 (8.4%)
Sexual Violence			Restricts her contact with family	59 (9.8%)	56.7 (9.5%)
Physically forced sexual intercourse	72 (11.9%)	70.64 (11.8%)	Wants to know where she is all the times	53 (8.8%)	50.7 (8.5%)
Forced to do something sexually degrading / humiliating	52 (8.6%)	51.2 (8.6%)			

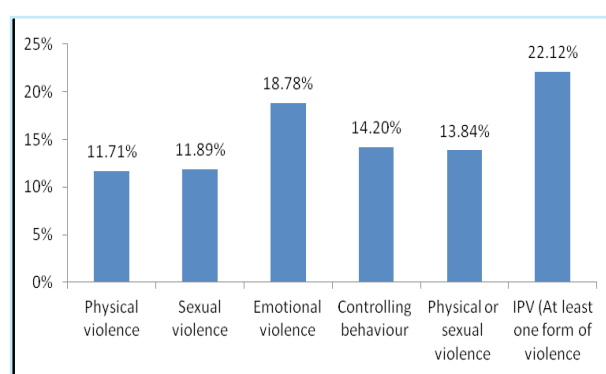


Figure 1. Prevalence of different forms of violence.

Figure 1 shows that 22.1% of the participants had experienced at least one form of the violence whereas around 14% had experienced physical or sexual violence.

Table 3 highlights the different forms of violence (physical violence, sexual violence, emotional violence and controlling behavior). In terms of physical violence, 11% of the study participants were pushed/shaken/ thrown something or slapped. Approximately 12% of the respondents were forced to have sexual relations. Likewise, in case of emotional violence, 17.7% of

the respondents were threatened to be harmed. In controlling behavior 12.2% of the respondents used to get angry, when respondents spoke with other man.

These findings were also supported by information obtained from the qualitative processes which are outlined here.

Physical violence took place in the form of beating, pushing the wife, throwing articles to hit her, not giving enough food to eat, threatening with weapons, feeding poison, and trying to burn with the purpose with the intention of committing murder.

He beats me, scolds me and does not give me food to eat. He hit me with hoe and tried to injure my head. Once, he tried to feed me poison, but by seeing this situation my children cried a lot so he left after beating me for some time. - 44 year, illiterate female

Victims of the violence were forced to have sexual relationship despite of their desire to have sex. Females had to provide sexual pleasure to their husband against her will and also they are forced for sexual acts even after menopause.

He becomes angry if he does not get chance to have sexual relations and hits me with anything he finds nearby. - 44 year, illiterate female

He forces me to have sexual relationship with him, in spite of my desire. To avoid this, I sleep with my daughter. If anyway, he finds me alone, he forces me to have sexual relationship. - 56 years, illiterate female

Even though the victims of the violence were in trouble due to sexual violence but those issues were not raised openly in the community.

Female are forced to provide sexual satisfaction to their husband. If, a female has to provide sexual satisfaction to their husband against their will, it is sexual violence. But these issues do not arise openly in the community. Female only share these problems if they are close to each other. -36 years, female municipality staff

Emotional violence mainly took place in the form of verbal abuse to the females either in public place or

privately. Most of the respondents reported that their partner humiliated them by using very vulnerable words in front neighbors' and in laws.

He scolds and underestimates me in front of daughter in law. Because of his behaviour my daughter in law also misbehaves me. -56 years, illiterate female

Controlling behavior took place in the form of suspecting partners if they talk with unknown people, not giving enough food to eat, restriction to talk with the neighbors and relatives and depriving women of money and property.

My husband has also banned my neighbors to talk to me. He even suspects me even if I talk to other males. I eat dinner early in the evening as he does not give me food to eat after he comes home. Once, I asked him for the property, he replied me that, "if I have the intention of giving the property to you, I would not have registered it in my name". -40 years, literate female

Table 4. Socio-demographic and empowerment related variables associated with IPV.

Variables	Unadjusted Analysis		Variables	Unadjusted Analysis	
	OR(95%CI)	P-Value		OR(95%CI)	P-Value
Age group		0.2	Age of husband		0.04*
15-24	1		15-24	1	
25-64	0.9 (0.2-4.5)	0.8	25-64	0.5 (0.3-0.8)	0.02
65+	1.6 (0.6-4.1)	0.16	65+	0.6 (0.3-1.1)	0.06
Occupation		0.001*	Occupation of husband		0.25
Agriculture	1		Agriculture	1	
Business	1.1 (0.4-3.1)	0.7	Business	0.6 (0.1-3.4)	0.4
Service	0.4 (0.1-0.7)	0.02	Service	0.7 (0.3-1.4)	0.2
Labours	1.5 (0.5-5.1)	0.3	Labours	0.8 (0.3-2.3)	0.5
Homemaker	1.0 (0.6-1.9)	0.7	Foreign employment	0.3 (0.04-2.5)	0.1
Education level of husband		0.06	Alcohol consumption by husband		0.01*
Informal	1		No	1	
Primary	1.5 (1.2-1.8)	0.01	Yes	1.5 (0.8-2.9)	0.1
Secondary	0.5 (0.2-1.2)	0.08	Don't know	0.4 (0.6-2.6)	0.2
Educational score		0.07	Women involvement in decision making		0.6
None	1		0	1	
Primary	1.2 (0.3-4.8)	0.6	1-2	1.2 (0.7-1.9)	0.2
Secondary	0.7 (0.2-1.9)	0.2	3	1.0 (0.4-2.5)	0.9
Cash earning		0.9	Membership score		0.02*
No	1		No	1	
Yes	1.0 (0.6-1.7)	0.9	Yes	0.6 (0.4-0.8)	0.02
Level of empowerment		0.1	Ownership of land/house		0.1
Low	1		No	1	
Moderate	0.7 (0.5-1.0)	0.05	Yes	0.7 (0.4-1.3)	0.1
High	0.4 (0.1-1.6)	0.1			

Table 5. Factors associated with IPV.

Variables	Adjusted analysis		Variables	Adjusted analysis	
	AOR (95%CI)	P value		AOR (95%CI)	P value
Occupation of respondents			Occupation of husband		
Agriculture	1		Agriculture	1	
Business	1.5 (0.9-2.6)	0.1	Business	0.6 (0.12-2.9)	0.3
Service	0.6 (0.3-0.9)	0.05	Service	0.8 (0.3-2.1)	0.4
Labours	1.5 (0.8-2.9)	0.09	Labours	0.7 (0.2-2.3)	0.4
Homemaker	1.3 (0.8-1.9)	0.1	Home-maker	0.4 (0.43-3.82)	0.2
Alcohol consumption by husband			Educational score		
No	1		None	1	
Yes	1.4 (0.6-3.5)	0.2	Primary	1.1 (0.3-3.4)	0.8
Don't know	0.6 (0.1-3.4)	0.3	Secondary	0.8 (0.2-3.0)	0.5
Women membership score			Ownership of land		
No	1		No	1	
Yes	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.001*	Yes	0.7 (0.4-1.3)	0.2

Variables such as age of husband, alcohol consumption by husband, occupation of respondent and membership score have p value less than 0.05 and other variables age group of respondent, educational level of respondent, occupation of husband, educational score, ownership of land/house and level of empowerment has p value less than 0.25. However, after Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) test, variables: age group of respondent, educational level of respondent and level of empowerment were dropped as VIF was more than two. Hence, remaining variables were taken for the multivariate analysis (Table 4).

From the multivariate analysis, it was found that women's involvement in community groups had lower odds (AOR 0.67, 95%CI 0.63-0.71) of being suffer of IPV (Table 5).

DISCUSSION

The prevalence of physical IPV is 11.7%, sexual violence 11.9%, emotional violence 14.2% and controlling behaviour 17.8%. The proportion of respondents who had experienced both physical and sexual violence in this study is 9% which contradicts with the findings of Nepal Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) 2016 which reported the prevalence of spousal physical, sexual and emotional violence to be 26%. Most common type of spousal violence is physical violence 23%, followed by emotional violence 12% and sexual violence 7%.³ This might be due to the difference in the study site and age group of the participants. Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), Pakistan reported 34% of the participants had experienced spousal physical, sexual and emotional

violence, followed by emotional violence 28% and physical violence 23%.⁹ Study done in Ghana reported the prevalence of physical violence 40%, sexual 35%, and emotional violence (58%).¹⁰ Almost half of study participants were at moderate level of empowerment followed by more than two third of the respondents at low level of empowerment and 15.2% at high level of empowerment. The findings are concordant with the findings of NDHS 2011, which reported high level of empowerment (17.1%), moderate (48.3%), and low level of empowerment (34.5%).⁸

The percentages of low empowered participants were higher in the current study with comparison to the NDHS report. The studies conducted at Bangladesh have showed the contrast findings with 34.7% of women at high level of empowerment and 65% of women are low empowered. This difference in the result might be due to the difference in the measurement dimensions of the women empowerment index. In the study done in Bangladesh, women empowerment was measured in four dimensions namely: mobility, decision making power, employment status, headship of respondent in the household.¹¹

The bivariate analysis showed that alcohol consumption by husband had independent significant association with IPV. However, the result is not found to be significant in multivariate analysis. In contrast to the current study, this variable is found to be significant in other studies done in Nepal, India and Serbia.^{6, 12} The variable ownership of land and house is not found to be significant with IPV in this study. The results from systematic review had shown similar findings in the countries like Nepal,

Burkina Faso, Egypt, Jordan and Mali. However, result is found to be contradictory in countries like Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Honduras.¹³ In quantitative data analysis, education was not found to be significantly associated with IPV. However, qualitative data revealed education as one of the major contributors of IPV. Study done in Nepal and Bangladesh both showed significant relation of education with IPV.^{6, 8}

In this study, It was found that women's involvement in community groups had lower odds (AOR 0.67, 95%CI 0.63-0.71) of being sufferer of IPV. Another study done in Nepal had also revealed that the poverty and financial stress as the factors associated with past exposure to IPV.¹⁴ Further, the study done at western districts of Nepal have also identified the women's socioeconomic dependence to their husband as a main risk factor of IPV.¹⁵ The current study demonstrates no association between women involving in decision making process and IPV. However, the similar study done in Nepal reported mutual decision making among couples for contraception, husband's non-controlling behavior to wives and feeling of friends among couples as factors which are protective against IPV while low level of empowerment, practices of hiding, tolerating violence made females more vulnerable to IPV.¹⁶

There are few limitations to this study; it is a cross sectional study hence causal inference could not be drawn. This study was conducted in a municipality of Nepal so; external validity of the study findings beyond the target municipality is limited. IPV is a sensitive issue and women fear to report it, thus, underreporting can still be present. During qualitative data analysis, there might have been loss of original meaning of some information due to direct translation into English.

CONCLUSIONS

Bivariate analysis showed that age of husband, alcohol consumption by husband, and occupation of respondent had independent significant association with intimate partner violence. The multivariate analysis revealed that involvement in community groups has reduced risk of IPV which suggest that women's empowerment index is very essential factor for the upliftment of the status of women in the society for reducing the risk of IPV. Besides, qualitative studies revealed poverty, illiteracy, low educational level, not being involved in income generating activities, not being able to perform household and agricultural works, social norms and traditions as the factors attributed to IPV.

Findings showed that still female are the sufferers

of violence behind the closed doors and mitigation strategies should have to be adopted from different levels of government to control IPV.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are thankful to all the faculty members of School of Public Health of Patan Academy of Health Sciences and all the study participants.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest

REFERENCES

1. World Health Organization PAHO. Understanding and addressing violence against women [Internet]. World Health Organization. 2012. Available from: https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/77432/WHO_RHR_12.36_eng.pdf;jsessionid=8D840515E3ABE07436FDFB4EF20CF058?sequence=1
2. World Health Organization LS of H and TM, Council SAMR. Global and regional estimates of violence against women [Internet]. Geneva, Switzerland; 2013. Available from: https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/85239/9789241564625_eng.pdf?sequence=1
3. Ministry of Health - MOH/Nepal, New ERA/Nepal, and ICF. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Available at <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR336/FR336.pdf>
4. Niaz U, Hassan S, Tariq Q. Situational Analysis of Intimate Partner Violence Interventions in South Asian and Middle Eastern Countries. Partner Abuse [Internet]. 2017;8(1):47–88. [Article]
5. Gibbs A, Corboz J, Jewkes R. Factors associated with recent intimate partner violence experience amongst currently married women in Afghanistan and health impacts of IPV: A cross sectional study. BMC Public Health. 2018 May 3;18(1). [Article]
6. Atteraya MS, Gnawali S, Song IH. Factors Associated With Intimate Partner Violence Against Married Women in Nepal. J Interpers Violence. 2015;30(7):1226–46. [Article]
7. Choosing a Mixed Methods Design [Internet]. Centre for Innovation in Research and Teaching. Available from: https://cirt.gcu.edu/research/developmentresources/research_ready/mixed_methods/choosing_design
8. Tuladhar S, Khanal KR, K.C. L, Ghimire PK, Onta K. Women's Empowerment and Spousal Violence in

- Relation to Health Outcomes in Nepal, Further Analysis of the 2011 Nepal Demographic and Health Survey. 2013;(March):1–59. [\[Download PDF\]](#)
9. Studies NI of P, ICF. Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017-18 [Internet]. Islamabad, Rockville; 2019. [\[Download PDF\]](#)
 10. Tenkorang EY. Women ' s Autonomy and Intimate Partner Violence in Ghana. Guttmacher Inst [Internet]. 2018;44(2):51–61. [\[Article\]](#)
 11. Sanawar SB, Majumder S, Misu F. Women's empowerment and intimate partner violence in Bangladesh: Investigating the complex relationship. 2018;(March). [\[Article\]](#)
 12. Violence A. Intimate partner violence and alcohol [Internet]. 2006. Available from: https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/factsheets/fs_intimate.pdf
 13. Peterman A, Pereira A, Bleck J, Palermo TM, Yount KM. Women's individual asset ownership and experience of intimate partner violence: Evidence from 28 international surveys. Am J Public Health. 2017 May 1;107(5):747–55. [\[Article\]](#)
 14. Clark CJ, Ferguson G, Shrestha B, Shrestha PN, Batayeh B, Bergenfeld I, et al. Mixed methods assessment of women's risk of intimate partner violence in Nepal. BMC Womens Health. 2019 Jan 28;19(1). [\[Article\]](#)
 15. Ghimire A, Samuels F. Understanding intimate partner violence in Nepal through a male lens. 2017;(March). [\[Download PDF\]](#)
 16. Niaz, Unaiza Hassan, Sehar-un-nisa , Tariq Q. Situational Analysis of Intimate Partner Violence Interventions in South Asian and Middle Eastern Countries. Partner Abuse. 8(1). [\[Article\]](#)