

Original Research Article

# Assessing Domestic Violence and Its Causes against Women of Urban Slum of Nepal

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## ABSTRACT

To assess the causes of domestic violence against women of selected urban slums and determine the association between the causes and domestic violence of Nepal. For the study Modified Health Belief Model was adopted and the survey approach was applied. Descriptive design was adopted and study was conducted in Shanti Tole-1 and Kajipokhari-18 of Pokhara Metropolitan Municipality and purposive sampling was used to collect 120 samples. Data was collected by using interview technique and finally the data was analyzed using SPSS for Windows Version 16.0. Out of 120 women, 60.0% of women witnessed domestic violence and 42.5% of women suffered from domestic violence. Majority of women 86.3% were abused by their husband only. Most of the women 35.3% complained of having physical violence only followed by 27.4% suffered from both physical and emotional violence. The common causes cited for domestic violence are substance abuse 96.1% and lack of economic stability 84.3%. Slapping/kicking/chocking/punching 95.7% was the most common form of physical violence used. Hence, Domestic Violence was high in the slum and there was significant association between the causes and the domestic violence except substance abuse. Also these results provide vital information to assess the situation to develop public health interventions, and to sensitize the concerned agencies to implement the laws related to violence against women.

**Keywords:** Domestic Violence, Urban Slum, Nepal

## INTRODUCTION

According to American Medical Association (AMA), domestic violence (DV) is defined as a pattern of physical, sexual and/or psychological abuse by a person with whom the victim has had an intimate relationship. [1] DV is an important cause of morbidity and mortality for women in every country where these associations have been studied. [2] Each country has unique factors that contribute to the nature of DV in particular area. [33] In the year 1993 United Nations general resolution of 1993 declared violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relation between men and women which have led to domination and discrimination

against women by men to prevention of full advancement of women. [22]

Globally, a project conducted to find out the prevalence of intimate partner violence in Texas, 37.7% of Texas women and 26.8% of Texas men experienced at least one type of abuse over the course of their lifetime. [4] The number of domestic violence cases reported to police in ten year 2006-2007 was 110. [5] On 5 May, 2009 the Legislature Parliament of Nepal passed the Domestic Violence (Crime and Punishment) Act, which defines physical, mental, sexual, financial as well as behavioural violence as domestic violence. [6]

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2012 recorded 3574 women across the country were subjected to violence in the year 2011 out of 2707 cases was of domestic violence. [7] WOREC Nepal has documented total 105 cases on Violence against Women in the month of Baisakh 2069 (April 13 to May 13, 2012) out of 53 were documented cases of DV. [8]

Though the volume of evidence has been increasing globally, very few studies have been carried out in Nepal to assess the prevalence of violence in different settings and populations. As domestic violence against women becomes increasingly recognized and discussed, an important question is being raised concerning its magnitude in different settings, and its causes, consequences and related risk factors. Likewise, there is increasing recognition of the need for better data on the effectiveness of different interventions. [9] Thus, based on the above studies we felt to undertake the present survey to assess prevalence and case regarding domestic violence among women.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in selected slums of Pokhara Metropolitan Municipality, Nepal. A survey approach was applied for this research. Non experimental descriptive approach was used for the research design. Interview technique was used to collect the data. The constructed tool was given to five experts for content validity as per the suggestions and

recommendations of the experts necessary modifications were made in the tool. The final tool consisted of 8 socio demographic Performa, 30 questions to identify domestic violence and 18 questions to find out the specific cause of domestic violence. A total of 120 samples were taken for the data analysis. Purposive sampling technique was used. Women of all age group were included while those women who were not willing to participate in the study were excluded from the study. The main objective of the study is to identify domestic violence against women and to determine the association between causes and domestic violence against women of selected urban slum of Nepal. Descriptive and inferential statistics analysis was performed using SPSS package version 16. Administrative permission was taken from Manipal College of Medical Sciences MCOMS (Nursing program) and chairperson of selected community areas of Pokhara. Verbal consent was taken from participants.

## RESULTS

Domestic violence is more common in age group 36-45 years (51.7%). Majority of women suffering from domestic violence were from joint family (46.2%). 46.7% employed and 100% of divorced women. Most of the women suffering from domestic violence had family income NRs (10001-20000) and 46.2% had two children (Table 1).

Table 1. Cross tabulation of sample characteristics and domestic violence (n= 120)

Sample Characteristics	Domestic Violence		Total (%)	Chi-Square		df	Significance
	Yes (%)	No (%)		Calculated	Tabulated		
<b>Age</b>				1.448	7.82	3	NS
18-25 years	9 (37.5)	15 (62.5)	24 (100)				
26-35 years	15 (41.5)	21 (58.3)	36 (100)				
36-45 years	15 (51.7)	14 (48.3)	29 (100)				
45 years and above	12 (38.7)	19 (61.3)	31 (100)				
<b>Type of family</b>				0.316	3.84	1	NS
Nuclear	33 (40.7)	48 (59.3)	81 (100)				
Joint	18 (46.2)	21 (53.3)	39 (100)				
<b>Education</b>				0.127	5.99	2	NS
Illiterate	32 (43.2)	42 (56.8)	74 (100)				
Secondary	18 (41.9)	25 (58.1)	43 (100)				
High School	1 (33.3)	2 (66.7)	3 (100)				
<b>Employment</b>				0.512	3.84	1	NS
Employed	21 (46.7)	24 (53.3)	45 (100)				

Unemployed	30 (40.0)	45 (60.0)	75 (100)				
<b>Table 1 to be continued...</b>							
<b>Marital Status</b>				7.761	7.82	1	NS
Married	47 (45.6)	56 (54.4)	103 (100)				
Unmarried	3 (37.5)	5 (62.5)	8 (100)				
Widow	0 (0.0)	8 (100.0)	8 (100)				
Divorced	1 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (100)				
<b>Family Income</b>				5.594	7.82	3	NS
≤ NRs 5000	29 (51.8)	27 (48.2)	56 (100)				
NRs 5001-10000	19 (32.5)	39 (67.5)	58 (100)				
NRs 10001-20000	3 (60.0)	2 (40.0)	5 (100)				
≥ NRs 200001	0 (0.0)	1 (100.0)	1 (100)				
<b>Number of Children</b>				0.515	7.82	3	NS
None	7 (38.9)	11 (61.1)	18 (100)				
One	9 (45.0)	11 (55.0)	20 (100)				
Two	18 (46.2)	21 (53.8)	39 (100)				
More than two	17 (39.5)	26 (60.5)	43 (100)				

S= Significant, NS= Not Significant

According to our study, (60.0%) of women have witnessed domestic violence and (42.5%) of women suffered from domestic violence. Majority of women were abused by their husband only (86.3%) followed by in laws only (3.9%), parents only (3.9%), both husband and in-laws (3.9%) and husband and parents both (2.0%) (Table 2).

**Table 2. Witness, Sufferers and Abusers of Domestic Violence**

	Frequency (%)
<b>Witness of Domestic Violence</b>	
Yes	72 (60.0)
No	48 (40.0)
<b>Women Suffering from Domestic Violence</b>	
Yes	51 (42.5)
No	69 (57.5)
<b>Distribution of abuser</b>	
Husband only	44 (86.3)
In laws only	2 (3.9)
Parents only	2 (3.9)
Husband and in-laws both	2 (3.9)
Husband and parents both	1 (2.0)

**Table 3. Type of Violence**

Type of Violence	Frequency (%)
Physical Violence Only	18 (35.3)
Emotional Violence Only	4 (7.8)
Physical Violence and Emotional Violence	14 (27.4)
Physical Violence and Sexual Violence	2 (3.9)
Physical Violence and Economic Violence	1 (2.0)
Physical, Sexual and Emotional Violence	6 (11.8)
Physical, Sexual and Economic Violence	5 (9.8)
Physical, emotional, sexual and economic violence	1 (2.0)

Table 3 represents that majority of women suffered from physical violence (35.3%), both physical and emotional violence (27.4%) followed by physical, sexual and emotional violence (11.8%), physical sexual and economic violence (9.8%), emotional violence (7.8%), both physical and sexual violence (3.9%) both

physical and economic violence (2.0%) and physical, emotional, sexual and economic violence (2.0%).

The main cause of domestic violence is substance abuse (96.1%), lack of economic stability (84.3%), doing things that they don't like (72.5%), not doing household chores properly (52.9%), going out without permission (33.3%), talking to male friends (21.6%) followed by refusal of sex, extramarital affair of husband and lack of legal implication (15.7%) (Table 4).

**Table 4. Frequency and percentage of causes cited for domestic violence**

Causes	Frequency (%)
Substance Abuse	49 (96.1)
Lack of economic Stability	43 (84.3)
Doing things that they don't lie	37 (72.5)
Suffered from similar kind of problem when he/she was child	7 (13.7)
Infertility	3 (5.8)
Not having a son	7 (13.7)
Refusal of Sex	8 (15.7)
Disobeying or fighting with in-laws	6 (11.8)
Not doing household chores properly	27 (52.9)
Talking to male friends	11 (21.6)
Going out without permission	17 (33.3)
Lack of sexual satisfaction	6 (11.8)
Dowry	5 (9.8)
Extramarital Affair	8 (15.7)
Lack of legal implication	8 (15.7)

Table 5 represents specific acts of violence used against the women who had physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence.

According to Table 6, there was no significant association between substance abuse and domestic violence. A significant association was found between other causes and domestic violence.

**Table 5. Percentage of specific type of violence used against the women**

Type of Violence	Frequency (%)
<b>Physical Violence</b>	
Slapping/kicking/choking/punching you	45 (95.7)
Hurting with object	93 (83.0)
Threatening without object	20 (42.5)
Threatening to kill	27 (57.4)
Throwing object on you	33 (70.2)
<b>Sexual Violence</b>	
Pressure for Sex	10 (100.0)
Angry when not given	10 (100.0)
Forceful sex	8 (80.0)
Hurt you while having sex	3 (30.0)
<b>Emotional Violence</b>	
Was insulted or made to feel bad about yourself	29 (100.0)
Was belittled or humiliated in front of other people	29 (100.0)
Perpetrator had threatened to hurt someone you cared about	6 (20.7)
Does not include you In decision making	29 (65.5)
<b>Economic Violence</b>	
Steals	5 (71.4)
Withholds money for essential things like food and medical treatment	3 (42.8)
Exploits for financial gain	5 (71.4)
Prevents from working	4 (57.1)
Controls choice of occupation	5 (71.4)

**Table 6. Cross tabulation of causes and domestic violence**

Causes	Domestic Violence		Total	Chi-square		df	Significance
	Yes	No		Calculated	Tabulated		
<b>Substance Abuse</b>							
Yes	49	2	51	1.120	3.84	1	NS
No	0	69	69				
Total	49	71	120				
<b>Lack of economic Stability</b>							
Yes	43	8	51	90.665	3.84	1	S
No	0	69	69				
Total	43	77	120				
<b>Doing things they don't like</b>							
Yes	37	14	51	72.374	3.84	1	S
No	0	69	69				
Total	37	73	120				
<b>Suffered from similar problem when the abuser was child</b>							
Yes	7	44	51	10.050	3.84	1	S
No	0	69	69				
Total	7	113	120				
<b>Infertility</b>							
Yes	3	48	51	4.163	3.84	1	S
No	0	69	69				
Total	3	117	120				
<b>Not having a son</b>							
Yes	7	44	51	4.163	3.84	1	S
No	0	69	69				
Total	7	113	120				
<b>Refusal of Sex</b>							
Yes	8	43	51	10.050	3.84	1	S
No	0	69	69				
Total	8	112	120				
<b>Disobeying or fighting with in laws</b>							
Yes	6	45	51	11.597	3.84	1	S
No	0	69	69				
Total	6	114	120				
<b>Not doing household chores properly</b>							
Yes	27	24	51	8.545	3.84	1	S
No	0	69	69				
Total	27	93	120				
<b>Talking to male friends</b>							
Yes	11	40	51	4.135	3.84	1	S
No	0	69	69				
Total	11	109	120				
<b>Going out without permission</b>							
Yes	17	34	51	16.384	3.84	1	S
No	0	69	69				
Total	17	103	120				

Table 6 to be continued...							
<b>Lack of sexual satisfaction</b>				6.796	3.84	1	S
Yes	6	45	51				
No	0	69	69				
Total	6	114	120				
<b>Dowry</b>				8.545	3.84	1	S
Yes	5	46	51				
No	0	69	69				
Total	5	115	120				
<b>Extra marital affair</b>				7.059	3.84	1	S
Yes	8	43	51				
No	0	69	69				
Total	8	112	120				
<b>Lack of legal implication</b>				11.597	3.84	1	S
Yes	8	43	51				
No	0	69	69				
Total	8	112	120				

S= Significant, NS= Not Significant

## DISCUSSION

Findings of this study showed that 60.0% of the women witnessed domestic violence, 42.5% of women suffered from domestic violence. Similarly, a study conducted to examine the association between the prevalence of domestic violence in relation to the different socio-economic classes in Central Trinidad found out that prevalence of domestic violence was 41.0%.<sup>[10]</sup> A cross sectional study done to estimate the prevalence of domestic violence and identify the reasons of it among women in low socioeconomic areas in urban Karachi prevalence of physical violence was found to be 80.0%.<sup>[11]</sup> In contrast, in this study 35.3% of women suffered from physical violence.

A study conducted to explore the root cause and consequences of domestic violence in Nepali society found that alcohol taker is the major cause of domestic violence accounting 40% of domestic violence.<sup>[12]</sup> Similarly, a study was conducted to examine the association between the prevalence of domestic violence in relation to different socio-economic classes in Central Trinidad found that the most prominent reason cited for the physical violence was drug and alcohol abuse accounting for 39.0%.<sup>[10]</sup> Likewise, in this study the most common case cited for domestic violence was found to be substance abuse (96.1%).

A cross sectional study done to determine the domestic violence against

adult and adolescent females in Rural West Bengal revealed that among the women exposed to domestic violence 72.7% of husbands acted as perpetrators.<sup>[13]</sup> Similarly, in this study among the women exposed to domestic violence 86.3% of husbands acted as perpetrators.

A survey study carried out to determine the self reported prevalence of domestic violence and associated risk factors in Sivas, Turkey revealed that verbal violence (53.8%) was frequent type of violence used.<sup>[14]</sup> In contrast, in this study physical violence 93.3% was most frequent type of violence used.

Health policy should be strictly implemented to promote prevention of domestic violence at community level through active mobilization of health workforce and Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs). There should be strict law to punish the perpetrators of domestic violence so other cases of domestic violence will be reduced. On the other hand a strong needs to emphasize on women empowerment focusing basically on marginalized and minority groups. There is also a need to initiate early reporting mechanism against domestic violence in the community. The study findings are limited women residing in selected slums in Pokhara. A comparative study can be done with different groups of women from different slums. The similar research study may be organized involving greater population so as to make generalization of

findings a possibility.

## CONCLUSION

The major finding of the study was that domestic violence in the selected slum was 42.5%. The causes of domestic violence cited were substance abuse, lack of economic stability, doing things that abusers don't like, abusers suffering from similar kind of problem when he/she was a child, infertility, not having a son, refusal of sex etc. and there was significant association of causes and domestic violence. Early reporting mechanism against domestic violence, emphasis on women empowerment program and proper laws for the punishments against the violation of the laws are important to control the cases of domestic violence.

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