

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS FOR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AMONG MARRIED WOMEN IN PALPA DISTRICT, LUMBINI, NEPAL

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Abstract

Background: Intimate partner violence (IPV) is any form of violence that occurs on a physical, sexual, emotional, or financial level between partners, whether they are currently or were previously coupled. Intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence against women are violations of their human rights. **Title of the study:** Contributing factors for intimate partner violence among married women in Palpa district, Lumbini, Nepal. **Objectives:** To identify the prevalence and contributing factors of intimate partner violence among married women. To assess the relationship between women's empowerment and intimate partner violence among married women. **Materials and method:** A descriptive cross-sectional study design was adopted for the study. Sample size was 352 and purposive sampling technique adopted to select the sample. Data was collected by face to face interview using pre-tested questionnaire during April, May, June and July 2023. Questionnaire related to socio-demographic information, standard valid tool Conflict Tactics Scale tools (CTS) was used as instrument. Data were analyzed using descriptive inferential statistics and multivariate regression with SPSS version 22. **Results:** Out of the 352 respondents, nearly half proportion of respondents (43.2%) were 30-39 years. Half of the respondents (50.3%) had low decision-making levels. Likewise, the lowest proportion of the respondents (16.2%) had a moderate level. More than half of the respondents (58.5 %) had a low level of empowerment whereas only 3.4% of the respondents had a high level of empowerment. Regarding violence, physical was 20.2%, followed by sexual 24.1%, emotional 33.2%, controlling behavior 53.7%, and overall intimate partner violence 68.5%. There was a statistical relationship between intimate partner violence and women's age ($p < 0.010^*$), duration of marriage ($p < 0.009^*$), socioeconomic class ($p < 0.01^*$), member of organization ($p = 0.005^*$), bank account ($p = 0.006^*$), empowerment ($p = 0.020^*$), husband alcohol habit ($p < 0.01^*$) and husband smoking habit ($p < 0.01^*$). **Conclusion:** Based on the findings of this study is concluded that more empowered women had less experiences with intimate partner violence whereas less empowered had more experience of emotional, sexual, and physical abuse as well as dominating actions from their close relationships. Having children, household decision-making and property ownership had no noticeable effect on the prevalence of intimate relationship violence.

Keywords: Intimate partner violence, women empowerment, Nepal.

INTRODUCTION

In their lives, one in three women (30%) will be victims of physical or sexual abuse, primarily at the hands of a close spouse. This is a clear reminder of the extent of discrimination against women and gender inequality. Although certain women are more vulnerable than others, violence can affect any woman, anywhere in the world, regardless of her background, religion, or level of income. The issue of violence against women is widespread and epidemic in scope. It damages women horribly and permanently. Additionally, it negatively impacts the social and economic well-being of their communities, families, and nation⁹. IPV is the term used to describe any actions in a close relationship that cause physical, emotional, or sexual harm to another person. It includes a range of coercive measures, including forced sexual relations, physical violence, emotional violence and various controlling behaviors. Intimate partner violence (IPV) is usually committed by husbands or other close male partners because of their emotional or financial dependence on the violent individuals¹.

METHODOLOGY

A descriptive cross-sectional study design was adopted for the study. Sample size was 352 and purposive sampling technique was used to select the sample. Data was collected by face to face interview using pre-tested questionnaire during April, May, June and July 2023.

Participants were assured for anonymity and confidentiality. No name or personal identification numbers were reflected on the questionnaire. Informed consent was obtained from each respondent. Ethical approval for the study was taken from the Nepal Health Research Council. Research questionnaire consisted of two parts: Part A: Socio-demographic variables of respondents, Part B-Standard valid tool Conflict Tactics Scale tools (CTS) was used as instrument. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics and multivariate regression with SPSS version 22.

RESULTS

The mean age of the respondents was 33.9 year and standard deviation 7.77. More than half of the respondents (58.5 %) had a low level of empowerment whereas the least of the respondents (3.4%) had a high level of empowerment. Regarding violence, physical violence was 20.2%, sexual violence was 24.1%, emotional violence was 33.2% controlling behavior was 53.7% and intimate partner violence was 68.5%. There was statistically significant between intimate partner violence with women's age ($p < 0.010^*$), socioeconomic class ($p < 0.01^*$), member of organization ($p = 0.005^*$), women's empowerment ($p = 0.020^*$), husband alcohol habit ($p < 0.01^*$). Respondents who belong to age more than 30 years have 1.865 times higher odds of having intimate partner violence. More than half of the respondents whose spouses were alcoholics (54.5%) reported experiencing physical violence; 45.5% reported sexual violence, followed by emotional violence (33.8%), controlling behaviors (59.2%) and overall intimate partner violence (81.8%).

Table 1. Distribution of respondents based on types of Violencen = 352

Variables	Violence f (%)	No violence f (%)
Physical violence	71 (20.2)	281 (79.8)
Sexual violence	85 (24.1)	267 (75.9)
Emotional violence	117 (33.2)	235 (66.8)
Controlling behavior	189 (53.7)	163 (46.3)
Overall intimate partner violence	241 (68.5)	111 (31.5)

Above table illustrate that respondents reported experiencing physical violence was 20.2%, followed by emotional violence 33.2%, sexual violence 24.1%, and controlling behavior 53.7% and intimate partner violence 68.5%.

Table2. Sociodemographic characteristics n=352

Characteristic	Categories	Frequencies	Percentage
Age	<20yrs	7	2.0
	20-29	96	27.3
	30-39	152	43.2
	40-49	97	27.6
	Mean age =33.90, min=18, max =49, SD ± 7.70		
Ethnicity	Dalit	87	24.7
	Janajati	152	43.2
	Brahmin/Chhetri	111	31.5
	Others	2	0.6
Type of family	Nuclear	182	51.7
	Joint	170	48.3
Level of education	Primary level	166	47.1
	Secondary/higher secondary	160	45.5
	Bachelor and above	26	7.4
Occupation	Homemaker	152	42.8
	Farmer	106	29.9
	Daily labor	11	3.1
	Business	37	10.4
	Service	46	13.0
Socioeconomic class	Upper middle	113	32.1
	Lower middle	131	37.2
	Lower upper lower	108	30.7
Empowerment	Yes	146	41.5
	No	206	58.5
Household decision-making	Yes	242	68.8
	No	110	31.3
Property ownership	Yes	100	28.4
	No	252	71.6
Member of community organization	Yes	216	61.4
	No	136	38.6
Children	Yes	327	92.9
	No	25	7.1

Above table illustrate that respondents reported nearly half of the respondents were belong to 30-39 years, majority (43.2) of respondents were janajati, half of respondents belong to nuclear family, 47.1% were primary level education, 42.8% were homemakers, 37.2% were lower middle class, more than half (58.5%) respondents had no empowered. Majority (68.8%) of respondents participated in household decision-making. Likewise, only 28.4% of respondents had property ownership, majority (61.4%) of respondents involved in community organization and almost all (92.9%) of respondents have children.

Above table shows that respondents who were more than 30 years more likely (COR=1.86, CI: 3.01, 1.15) than less than 30 years respondents. Likewise primary educated women were more likely (COR=1.74, 95% CI: 1.10, 2.75) experienced of violence than secondary education. Homemaker women were more likely (COR= 2.42, CI: 1.45, 4.03) experienced of violence than paid job and low socioeconomic class were more likely (COR=3.07, 0.18, 0.57)

experienced of violence than middle class. Respondents who had no property ownership were more likely (COR=1.17, 0.52, 1.39) experienced of violence. Likewise, respondents who were no involvement in any community organization (COR=1.99, 0.30, 0.81) and no participation in household decision making women were (COR=1.37, 0.85, 2.21) more likely experienced of intimate partner violence

Table 3. Association between Sociodemographic characters and Intimate partner violence

Variables	Experience of violence				p value
	Yes n(%)	No n(%)	COR	95% CI	
Age in range					
<below 30yrs	61 (58.7)	43(41.3)	1		
Above 30 years	180 (72.6)	68 (27.4)	1.86	3.01,1.15	0.010*
Ethnicity					
Janajati	96(62.3)	58 (37.7)	1		
Others	145 (73.2)	53 (26.8)	1.65	2.59,1.05	0.029
Education level					
Secondary and above	117 (62.9)	69 (37.1)	1		
Primary	124(74.7)	42 (25.3)	1.74	1.10, 2.75	0.017*
Occupation					
Paid job	44 (53.0)	72(26.8)	1		
Homemaker	197 (73.2)	39 (47.0)	2.42	1.45, 4.03	0.001*
Socioeconomic class					
Middle	151(61.9)	93 (38.1)	1		
Lower	90(83.3)	18 (16.7)	3.07	0.18, 0.57	<0.01*
Property ownership					
Yes	66(66.0)	34 (34.0)	1		
No	175(69.4)	77 (30.6)	1.17	0.52, 1.39	0.531
Member of organization					
Yes	136 (63.0)	80 (37.0)	1		
No	105 (77.2)	31 (22.8)	1.99	0.30, 0.81	0.005*
Household decision making					
Yes	119 (67.2)	58 (32.8)	1		
No	122(69.7)	53(30.3)	1.37	0.85, 2.21	0.819

DISCUSSION

This study was designed to find out about women's empowerment and its relationship to intimate partner violence among married women in Tansen Ward no 7 and Ward no 8, Palpa, Lumbini, Nepal. The study population consisted of 352 married women. Demographic findings revealed that nearly half of respondents (43.2%) were 30-39 years and 2 % were <20 years. The mean age of respondents was 33.90 years, Mean ±SD =33.9 ±7.70, the minimum age was 18 years and the maximum age was 49 years. Almost all of (92.9%) of respondents have children. the proportion of respondents (47.1%) were primary and generally literate and the least proportion of respondents (7.4%) had up to a bachelor's and above the level of education. Regarding occupation nearly half the proportion of the respondents (42.8%) were homemakers. Nearly half of the respondent's husbands (49.7%) have up to a higher secondary level of education. Regarding Socioeconomic class, the highest proportion of respondents (37.2%) belonged to the lower middle socioeconomic class whereas only 0.3 % of respondents belonged to the lower socioeconomic class. Majority of respondents (80.7%) had their bank account and more than two-thirds of the respondents (71.6 %) had no property ownership. Likewise, almost all of the respondents (95.2%) had use of media. Majority of respondents (61.4%) of respondents had been involved in community organizations. Almost all of the respondents (97.2%) of respondents had no smoking habits followed by no alcohol habits (93.8%). Similarly about two- third of the respondents' husbands (68.8%) had no alcohol habit and more than half of the

respondents' husbands (55.7%) had alcohol habit. Half of the respondents (50.3%) had low decision-making levels and the lowest proportion of the respondents (16.2%) had a moderate level. More than half of the respondents (58.5 %) had a low level of empowerment and only 3.4% respondents had a high level of empowerment. Present study's findings revealed that 26.5% of primary educated women experienced physical violence and 31.9% of experienced sexual violence. Contrary to this study findings conducted in Bangladesh among 3933 married women aged 15-49 years revealed that more than half (52.8%) of women was experienced physical violence and 18.3% was sexual violence³. In terms of the various forms of violence, this study found that 20.2 % of the women had experienced physical violence, which was followed by sexual violence (24.1%), emotional violence (33.2%), controlling behavior (53.7%), and overall intimate partner violence (68.5%). These findings of this study was consistent with the study conducted in Nepal among 4210 women of reproductive age (15-49) married women. The study revealed that, 23.4% of respondents were experienced of physical violence, followed by 17.5% emotional, 14.7% sexual and 32.4% overall prevalence of intimate partner violence². Similarly, another study conducted in Bangladesh among 3933 married women aged 15-49 years, revealed that 47.4% of respondents experienced physical violence while only 16.4% experienced sexual violence by their husbands³. Similar study was conducted in India among 15-49 years married women 64,607 prevalence of physical violence was 29.2%, sexual was 6.7% emotional was 13.2% and overall IPV was 32.8%⁵. Similar study was conducted revealed among 3,666 married women aged 15-49 years revealed that prevalence of emotional violence was 36.4% and physical violence was 18.4% in Pakistan⁶. Current study findings revealed that more than half of the respondents' husbands (55.7%) had an alcohol habit and more than one-fourth (26.5%) of women were involved in cash earning services. This study is consistent to the study conducted among 3562 women in Nepal revealed that 65.7% reported that their husbands did not drink alcohol and two-thirds (67.4%) of respondents did not have any cash earnings⁴. In contrast of this study conducted among 21,234 married in Afghanistan was carried revealed that more than half (55.54%) of Afghan women were experienced of physical, psychological, or sexual abuse by their intimate partners. accounted for the IPV cases more than half (50.52%) of respondents were experienced of Physical violence⁷. Current study revealed that respondents whose husbands were alcoholic experienced of physical violence was 2.604 times (1.46-4.68) more likely occurs than nonalcoholic husbands. The findings is consistent to the study conducted in India among 64,607 respondents whose husbands were alcoholic experienced of physical violence COR 3.40 times CI:3.3-3.5) more likely occurs than nonalcoholic husbands⁵.

CONCLUSION

The present study concluded that empowered women had less experience of physical violence. Empowered women had less experience of physical, sexual, and emotional violence and controlling behaviors by their intimate partner in life. There was no significant role of decision-making in reducing intimate partner violence. Local as well as national level programs should be launched to promote women's empowerment to be suitable for all levels of women such as economic empowerment programs for women, which can provide them with greater independence and reduce their vulnerability to

abuse. Community-based interventions and support networks can play a vital role in providing emotional support, counseling, and referrals to specialized services.

Conflict of interest: None

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