

A Review on Impacts of Violence Against Women (VAW) on Socio Economic Development Sector

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Abstract— Violence against women (VAW) is any act of physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse which occurs either in home or community against women such as domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, honor killings, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, forced prostitution, trafficking of women and so on. This study is based on the secondary sources of data to assess the socio economic impacts of violence against women in national and global scenario. Violence against women (VAW) was found affecting socio economic sector such as agriculture, manufacturing and service sector. Therefore, government should formulate and effectively implement strict laws and procedures to deter crime, safeguard underprivileged groups and punish perpetrators.

Keywords— Socio economic, secondary sources, women, VAW.

I. INTRODUCTION

Violence against women (VAW) is one of the type of gender-based violence that encompasses harm and abuse to women on a physical, sexual, psychological and economic level. Domestic violence against women can take the form of intimate partner violence (IPV), rape, sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking and cyberbullying. According to Krantz and Garcia (2005) VAW is a serious violation of women's human rights. The nature of violence against women differs from one nation to another (Cousineau and Rondeau, 2004). De Judicibus and McCabe (2001) claimed that the traditional gender-role attitudes are associated with greater flourishing environment for violence against women. Gender-based violence is widespread in Nepal and is a public health problem. In the past ten years, women's entrepreneurship has been recognized as a significant untapped source of economic growth (Georgeta, 2012). Violence against women (VAW) is a widespread global issue, with more than one-third of women worldwide having experienced VAW (World Health Organization, 2013). The physical and mental health of women is negatively affected by violence against them for a very long time. It can result in substance misuse, bodily harm, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, and even death. It also has a financial cost in terms of medical expenses, lost wages from the victims' inability to work, and an impact on workplace efficiency. Finally, violence against women inhibits efforts to reduce poverty and advance human rights, as well as efforts to achieve gender equality.

According to a study conducted by Puri (2023) in Nawalparasi district of Nepal had found that along with the enforcement of laws against intimate partner violence (IPV) their findings indicate that special attention should be paid to women during a crisis time, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, particularly those who experience other household stressors. Gender-based violence is becoming more prevalent in Nepal. Nepal is experiencing a significant social issue with violence against women. Stakeholders must work together to increase awareness, strengthen legal enforcement, and offer required resources to survivors in order to address gender-based violence. A gender-sensitive public health response to violence against women has also begun to be promoted by the government, as has the Safe Cities Campaign.

The root causes of Gender Based violence (GBV) are "gender inequality, abuse of power, and harmful norms." Governments must take action to guarantee that all laws and policies are in line with the recognized international commitments of the state in order to control violence against women. Teaching and training to police, prosecutors and other law enforcement professionals is necessary to combat GBV. Women who face violence must also receive proper support services. Governments must develop initiatives that give women access to economic and educational resources. Consent-based education should be taught in schools so that kids can learn about respect, healthy relationships, and gender-based violence (UNHCR, 2020).

Violence against women is a global public health problem and a human rights issue with devastating consequences for the physical and mental health of women, their families, and society at large. World Health Organization, (2013) defines violence against women as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or in private life. Campbell and Soeken (1999) had found that 40%–52% of women residing in USA and Mexico were found experiencing physical violence by an intimate partner. Intimate partner violence refers to the abuse taking place usually between husband and wife. World Health Organization, (2002) had divided violence into three broad categories viz. self-directed violence, interpersonal violence and collective violence. In many parts of the world including Nepal there is still social preference of boys over girls. According to Miller (2001) the social preference of boys over girls leads to sex selective abortions of females by identifying the sex of fetus through ultra sound technique. Women and girls were found victimized in the name of dowry. Dowry is the payment to be made to the groom's family to marry daughter. Dowry has been the one of the major reasons for the disputes in families where the groom's family demanding more than the bride's family leading to dowry related deaths of women and girls in certain parts of India and other South Asian countries (Gangrade, 1995). According to Rabbani et al. (2008), a number of factors play a role in the occurrence of gender-based violence (GBV) in Pakistan. Among the contributing causes include poverty, a lack of education, a lack of support for and protections for GBV victims, a lack of women's empowerment and a lack of women's representation in government.

Women engage in decision-making processes in both public and private enterprises, according to the results of a study carried out in Malaysia by Ismail (2023), but multicultural education is still in its infancy. When someone is harmed due to their gender identity or expression, it is referred to as gender-based violence. It can take many different forms, such as cyberbullying as well as physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. The United Nations has identified gender-based violence against women as a global health and development issue, and numerous pieces of legislation, public awareness campaigns, and action programs aimed at reducing gender-based violence have been put into place globally (Russo, 2006). It can afflict persons of any gender identity or expression, although it is more common among women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) people. Heise (2002) cites several instances of gender-based violence, including dowry-related murder, marital rape and selective malnourishment of female children, forced prostitution, female genital mutilation, and mistreatment of female children. The government of Nepal has put in place a range of legislative, regulatory, and programmatic actions to protect women and advance gender equality in order to combat gender-based violence.

II. METHODOLOGY

Secondary sources of data serve as the foundation for this study. Various reports and studies that were published by governmental and non-governmental organizations were reviewed and analyzed qualitatively to assess the impacts of violence against women on socio economic development sector.

III. DISCUSSIONS

VAW has a profoundly negative effect on socioeconomic development of any country including Nepal. Women who experience this type of violence may have difficulty getting an education and finding employment, leading to poverty and poor health outcomes. Additionally, this violence can lead to gender-based discrimination in the workplace, as well as psychological trauma and physical injury. This in turn limits the ability of women to fully participate in the socio-economic development of their country, making it difficult for a nation to achieve its development goals.

In addition to a human rights issue violence against women has devastating impacts on the physical and mental health of women, their families, and society at large. Generally, VAW is encountered high during the time of disasters and clashes between or within the country. In this context, Bradely et. al (2023) suggests that VAW should be integrated into all emergency responses when a climatic disaster occurs. The perpetration of Violence against women can be identified in patriarchal privilege, poverty, childhood violence and negligence of substance abuse and mental health concerns (Gibbs et al., 2020). The VAW is generally three type's i.e self-directed, interpersonal and collective (Figure 1). The self-directed violence is caused by suicidal behavior and self-abuse while the interpersonal violence is caused by family or partner or community. The members of family subjected to VAW may be children, young girls or adolescents and women of reproductive age. The collective violence is caused by social, political and economic situations of the country.

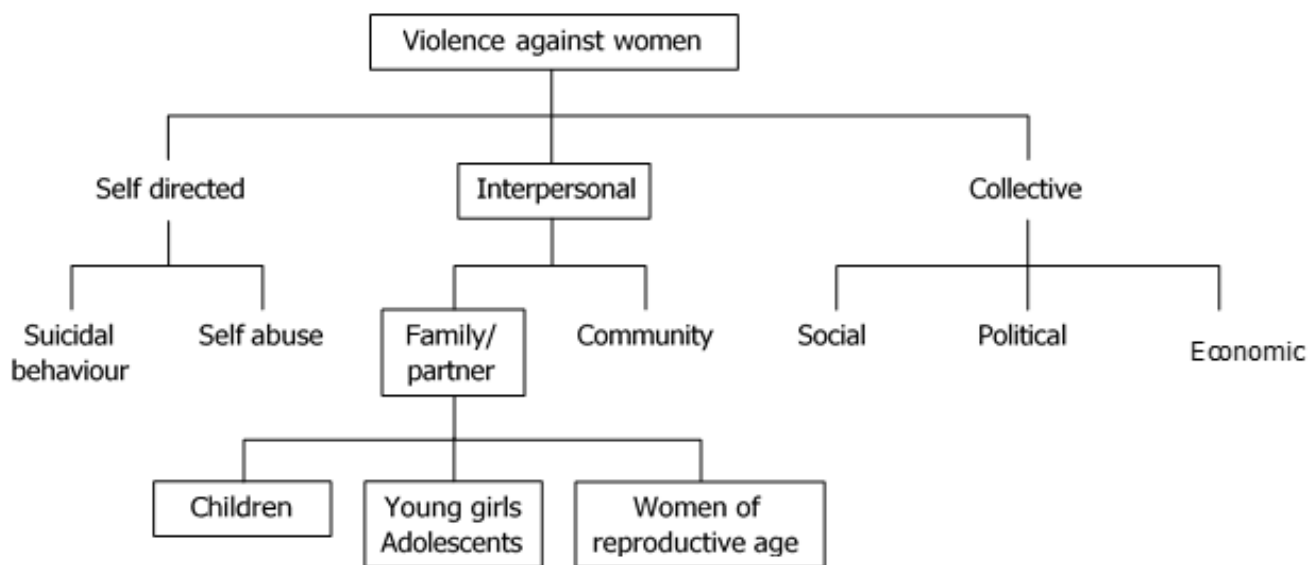


FIGURE 1: Types of violence against women

Source: Krantz and Garcia (2005)

3.1 The major impacts of VAW on agriculture sector

Violence against women can have a devastating effect on the agricultural sector of a country. **For example**, when women experience violence, they are more likely to suffer from poor physical and mental health, which can lead to decreased production and productivity of agriculture sector eventually leading to lowered income for female farmers.

According to Agriculture and Livestock Diary (2023), majority (72.8 %) of female are engaged in a agriculture and the violence against women can often lead to isolation, which contributes to a lack of access to information, tools, and resources, making it difficult for them to keep up with changes in this sector and take advantage of agricultural opportunities. The relationship between VAW and women farmers is closely interrelated with each other because women farmers are highly vulnerable to the various forms of gender-based violence. In many communities, women farmers are targeted due to their high status in the community, making them more likely to experience physical, psychological, and sexual abuse. Furthermore, they often lack access to resources such as land, water, and knowledge that could enable them to succeed with their farming endeavors. This can further increase their vulnerability to violence and limit their ability to improve their livelihoods.

3.2 The major impacts of VAW in primary production sector, manufacturing sector and service sector

In the **primary production sector**, violence against women has been found to limit women's access to land and farming resources. **For example**, when women are victimized by violence they may lose their access to agricultural land or other key resources, thus decreasing their ability to make a living.

According to study by World Health Organization, (2021) one in four young women were found experiencing intimate partner violence by the time they reach mid-twenties. However, only 14% of countries were found recognizing their risks and include specific services for them in national policies.

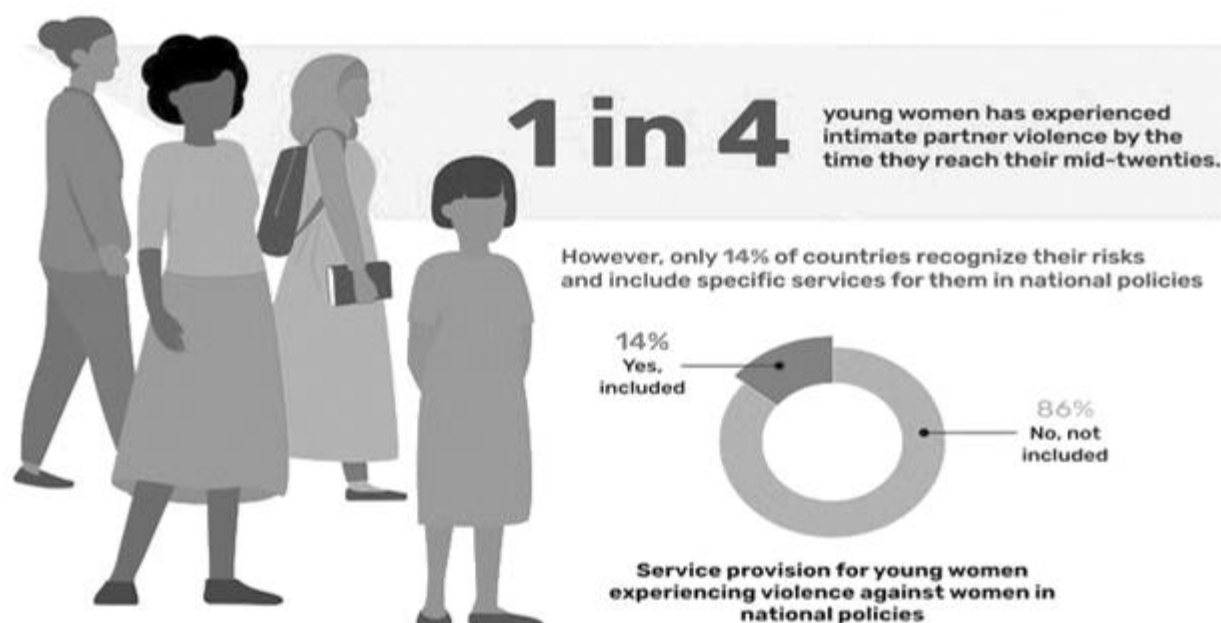


FIGURE 2: Intimate partner violence against women

Source: (World Health Organization,2021)

In the **manufacturing sector**, violence against women can lead to a decrease in women's participation and employment within industrial settings. **For example**, when women experience violence, they were more likely to skip work, thus leading to reduced wages and fewer opportunities for advancement.

In the **service sector**, violence against women can have implications for women's ability to access high-level professional positions. **For example**, when women experience violence were more likely to experience lower job satisfaction and lower levels of job authority than their male counterparts. This could diminish women's career prospects and limit their ability to advance in their fields. In the same context the study of Hossain (2021) in Bangladesh women engaged in garment industry were found exposed to different discrimination and structural violence. It clearly reflects that women are highly vulnerable to violence in their work place as well. According to Medica Mondiale (2023) the violence against women has many faces such as sexism in society, gender stereotypes, discriminatory laws, a lack of political participation, healthcare services do not cover needs of women, unpaid care work, direct physical, psychological and sexualized violence (Figure 3).



FIGURE 3: The violence against women has many faces

Source: (Medica Mondiale, 2023)

IV. CONCLUSIONS

VAW is a worldwide issue that needs to be addressed by comprehensive and focused interventions with the active involvement of all concerned stakeholders. In this study, VAW was found having significant effects on socio economic development of the country. Therefore, government should take careful consideration in formulation and effective implementation of policies against VAW, strengthening the community involvement and public education campaigns about gender equality, increasing access to justice and legal aid services such as legal education and counseling to survivors of gender-based violence and creation of efficient monitoring and reporting systems to gather information and reduce the violence against women and girls.

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