

Abstracts

Conclusions Results from the research project are being used to both prepare an evidence-informed template for IPV intervention for police in New Brunswick and improve training for police officers.

983 THE PREVALENCE OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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Background Women experienced violence in many different forms. It may be physical, sexual, psychological, economical, social and cultural abuse but most commonly is the combination of these. Studies have shown that the rate of intimate partner violence (IPV) against women is still a public health problem. It has both physical and psychological consequences to the victim.

Description of the problem This study was conducted with the aim of determining the prevalence, background characteristics of women and perpetrators and severity of injury.

This was a hospital based cross sectional descriptive study among 6914 women, above 15 years of age attended to the ER, Yangon General Hospital. 134 women who were due to intimate partner violence were interviewed by trained persons using a structured questionnaire.

Results The findings showed the rate of IPV against women is 1.94% and occurred commonly in young aged of 21–30 years. Alcohol use of male partner was significantly associated with violence. The nature of physical injuries ranged from minor injuries such as abrasions or bruises to major conditions as fractures and internal organ injury. Women with low education and socio-economic status were more commonly to be committed by their intimate partners.

Conclusion The findings indicate that prevalence of IPV against women is increasing and commonly occurred in young age. The majority of women who experienced IPV have low socio-economic and education status. There is strong correlation of IPV with alcohol usage of male partner. Prevention of IPV against women should be an urgent public health priority. There should be policies and laws which limits people from alcohol abuse. Health policy makers should plan for possible interventions on prevention of intimate partner violence including provision of education. Health care providers need to be sensitised to the issues of intimate partner violence in order to recognise and treat early.

984 EXPERIENCE OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AMONG UNIVERSITY LEVEL FEMALE STUDENTS IN KATHMANDU

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Background Intimate partner violence (IPV) is considered as a private matter, remains hidden and only partly reported in Nepal. Secondary data shows that IPV is increasing in Nepal. Family members and husband are the most common perpetrators for IPV. Available literature indicates the situation is worse among females with poor socio-economic status and lower literacy. No separate evidence of the situation among educated females is

available. This study explored violence experienced by university female students and its association with background variables.

Methods This is a cross-sectional survey of female students conducted in 2014 under MENTOR-VIP. The survey questionnaire comprised of 7 sections adopted from WHO's Women's Health Study tools. 500 students (total 2,300) were sampled and 370 were interviewed. Among them 123 were married. Logistic regression was applied to assess the association of independent variables on intimate partner violence. Ethical approval was obtained from the Research Division of Tribhuvan University.

Results Prevalence of intimate partner violence was high (33%); married students also experienced physical violence. Married students who have land ownership, employed, member of community groups and higher level of husband's education were less likely to experience physical violence. Married students who do not have own land ($OR = 2.92$), not employed ($OR = 1.21$) were more likely to experience violence than those having own land and employed. Similarly, lower level of husband's education ($OR = 3.35$) and unskilled jobs ($OR = 1.56$) were associated to higher occurrence of violence compared to university level of education and white collar job or working abroad.

Conclusions This study found that intimate partner violence also exists among Nepalese females in higher education. The results provided diverse understandings of lifetime experience of intimate partner violence and would contribute to design intervention and future research agenda in this regard.

985 WHAT DOES LIBERALISATION AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN HAVE TO DO WITH MALE VICTIMISATION?

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Background Previous studies on gender differences in aggression focused on physical aspects of the behaviour, and often showed males more aggressive than their female counterparts. This though, does not mean women are non-aggressive. In this paper, we examine the nature of women's aggressive behaviour towards men in their intimate partner relationship in two different societies.

Methods The present study employs complementary methodologies to provide quantitative and qualitative data on intimate partner aggression. It applies the construct direct and indirect aggression to investigate aggressive behaviour in heterosexual intimate relationships in Ghana using the Direct Indirect Scales for Adult (DIAS-Adult), ($n = 1204$), and by analysing ethnographic interviews and observations conducted over two years in Bosnian Muslims in Närpes, Finland, in order to have a holistic and culturally meaningful perspective on aggression.

Results Females were found to victimise and perpetrate aggressive acts more than males in Ghana. Findings on Bosnian Muslim women in Närpiö reveal the presence of direct verbal aggression and indirect aggression towards their intimate men partners. Survey and ethnographic findings within the two cultures converge in suggesting that women also employ aggression to deal with frustrations and conflict.

Conclusions Through changing times, women are becoming increasingly active in their "male-dominated" societies and are becoming much more independent and self-motivated. From the two study results, we glean that developmental efforts to empower women have an impact on their use of aggression in