

A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF
VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN NEPAL



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in collaboration with
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Executive Summary

Background

Violence against women and girls (**VAW & G**) in its different forms has been known to exist in the Nepali society since time immemorial. However, due to the sensitive nature of the issue no factual information was available. This "Situational Analysis of Violence Against Women and Girls in Nepal" is thus a pioneering effort undertaken in the hope of assessing the situation to bring about positive changes. The major findings of this study are listed below.

Major Findings of the Study

A **VAW & G** Definition for the Nepalese Context

".....Any act of gender based violence that results or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life".

Defining **VAW & G** in the Nepali context is a complex matter, however, since it is seen to widely exist in all forms in Nepal, it would be appropriate to adopt the above definition provided in Article I of the UN Commission on Status of Women Declaration which has also been endorsed by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

VAW & G can thus be defined as violation of a woman's personhood, mental or physical integrity, or freedom of movement. It is the result of unequal power relation between women and men. Underlying this power relations patriarchy which ensures that men, by virtue of their gender, have power and control over women and children. Violence against women and girls thus refers to all forms of violence, including traditional forms of violence in the Nepali context, inflicted on women and girls on account of their gender.

Prevalence of VAW & G

This study has revealed **VAW & G** in Nepal to cut across women and girls of all class, caste age and ethnicity with 95 per cent of respondents attesting first hand knowledge of **VAW & G** incidents. In 77 per cent of the cases the perpetrators were reported to be members of the family. Most **VAW & G** incidents were reported as occurring in the night. In the case of domestic violence, nearly 58 per cent reported it as being a daily occurrence.

Types of VAW & G

Reporting on prevalence of psychological forms of violence was very high with existence of mental and emotional torture being reported by 93 per cent of the respondents. While nearly half the respondents (48%) expressed knowing about sexual harassment in public and work places. Beating is the most common form of physical violence against women and girls in Nepal (82%), followed by rape (30%) and forced prostitution (28%). Polygamy was reported without fail by respondents (64%) in every district and can be assumed to be the most prevalent form of traditional **VAW & G**, followed by the deuki and badi custom which was reported by 60 per cent of the respondents but confined mainly to the two sample districts of Banke and Kanchanpur.

Causes of VAW & G

Economic problems (52%) and alcohol abuse (49%) were seen to be the two leading causes of **VAW & G** incidents, both within and outside the household, followed by torture in police custody (48%). Women's economic dependency on the spouse and extended family were identified as the primary reason (73%) for women not reporting incidents of violence against them, followed by lack of education and the need to keep the family intact due to children (both 49%).

Responses to VAW & G and Legal Considerations

Among the controversial results of this study is the fact that despite torture in police custody being ranked third in the list of causes of **VAW & G**, high faith was shown in the police system as all respondents either reported or suggested that victims could/should report to the police for protection (73%). While the police reported that they tried their best to arbitrate the cases, the NGO sample respondents and medical practitioners felt that the police was not taking enough action to control violence against women even when legal provisions were adequate.

Even though filing a legal case was identified as a possible action against **VAW & G** by 49 per cent of respondents, legal awareness was seen to be very low. Eighty three per cent of respondents expressed the belief that victims were not aware of any legal provisions. Sixty-one per cent of the respondents said that they themselves did not know of any particular legal protection measure for victims.

Effect of Domestic Violence on Children

An equally disturbing picture has been revealed about the effect of domestic violence on children in Nepal. Contrary to popular belief, the study found boys to be more victimised than girls in the 5 to 15 age bracket; however, in the under five years age group, girl children were reported as being more victimised. Children were mostly subject to physical violence, including not being given enough to eat. Psychological disturbances and repetition of the pattern of violence was reported as effects of violence in the lives of children.

Major Findings of Key Informant Survey

Medical Practitioners

Medical practitioners corroborated the findings of the larger survey and reported witnessing all possible types of injuries as a result of **VAW & G** ranging from broken limbs and burns to rape, suicide attempts and murder. They also reported that the degree of injury seemed to worsen with each subsequent incident.

NGOs

Seventy-five per cent of NGOs thought **VAW & G** was widespread in Nepal. NGOs working in the community reported that societal attitude towards the victims was negative and that there was easy acceptance of **VAW & G** in Nepalese society. In fact, in the case of domestic violence, victims were pressurised to stay in the abusive situation.

Police Personnel

All of this sample (100%) were aware of **VAW & G** cases, according to them most cases reported pertained to sexual abuse, assault and girl trafficking. Seventy five per cent were aware of formal and informal agencies and groups responding to and investigating **VAW & G** incidents.

Commercial Sex Workers

All the respondents in this sample reported knowledge of sexual abuse of girl children in the 11 to 15 years age bracket. Eighty six per cent of this sample did not know of any legal protection measure against **VAW & G**.

Conclusion

This study reiterates the gendered nature of violence in the Nepalese society as in all other cultures and societies in the world. Gender violence, through its negative effect on a woman's ability to achieve, serves as a brake in the path of socio-economic development and the empowerment of women. In the patriarchal Nepalese society, the issue of **VAW & G** is yet to be recognised as a major impediment to the progress of women and the development of society. The findings of this research should be utilised to highlight the issue and recognise it as one deserving national attention, especially, if commitment to empowering the women of Nepal is serious and not just tokenism.

Recommendations

Based on suggestions made by respondents as well as on the basis of the existing situation of **VAW & G** in Nepal, the following action programmes are recommended:

- Awareness creation on a national level about non-acceptability of violence against women, girls and children. An awareness campaign should be initiated using both modern and traditional channels of communication and major regional dialects.
- Victims support programmes including provision of safe housing and access to medical services followed by emotional counselling and crisis in-tervention services.
- Nation-wide implementation of a legal programme package including creating legal awareness among women and girls; more dedicated and effective law enforcement; formulation of adequate laws to protect women, girls and children against all forms of violence.
- Orientation and training programmes for police, lawyers, NGOs and medical practitioners on the issue as well as on how to deal sensitively with victims of violence.
- Creation of women's cells in police stations.
- As alcohol abuse is seen to be one of the main causes of **VAW & G**, measures to curb the sale of alcohol to violence-prone personalities should be initiated along with treatment programmes for alcoholics.
- Establishing a network among NGO workers, legal and medical practitioners and the police.
- Encouragement and support to NGOs, CBOs and other civil society working with this issue.

Acknowledgement

SAATHI has been working in the area of violence against women and girls (**VAW & G**) in Nepal since its inception in 1992. In the course of working in this area, SAATHI has successfully established 'Ashreya Shivar', a 12-bed shelter for victims of domestic violence and 'Sumitra' crisis intervention centre. SAATHI has also been able to solicit help and co-operation from the police, lawyers, medical practitioners, and committed individuals who have volunteered to work with persons living under abusive and traumatic situations.

Despite activating an informal network against **VAW & G** in Nepal, providing direct support to victims, and conducting advocacy classes for equality of women, the members and volunteers of SAATHI have often felt a need to examine the real breadth and depth of the problem as it exists in Nepal. SAATHI appreciates working with The Asia Foundation in this national level research on **VAW & G** in Nepal under its USAID/ Empowerment of Women Programme.

The present study is aimed at defining **VAW & G** in the Nepalese context, establishing baseline data on the types, causes and extent of **VAW & G** in Nepal, as well as examining the effectiveness of existing legal provisions and learning from the respondents possible solutions to **VAW & G**. The overall aim is to contribute in the process of empowerment of Nepali women by reducing violence against them.

The research team would like to express sincere appreciation to the Asia Foundation for its financial and technical support in this research. We would also like to thank all the participants of the Focus Group Meeting, advocates who provided legal inputs, the key informants and all our respondents for their interest, time and co-operation in making this research successful.

Arzu Rana-Deuba Ph.
D Team Leader

List of Abbreviations

CBO	Community Based Organisation
HMG	His Majesty's Government
IEC	Information, education and communication
NGOs	Non-governmental Organisations
VAW	Violence against women
VAW&G	Violence against women and girls
VDC	Village Development Committee
<i>Jari</i>	Custom of buying somebody else's wife
<i>Deuki</i>	Custom of buying and offering girls to temples; most of these young girls resort to working as commercial sex workers to earn a living.
<i>Badi</i>	A caste group in which women are traditionally commercial sex workers.

Table of Contents

	Page
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Setting the Scene	1
1.2 Defining VAW&G	2
1.3 Socialisation Process and Nature of VAW & G	3
2.0 Existing Legal Provisions for VAW & G in Nepal.....	6
3.0 Aims and Objectives of the Research.....	7
4.0 Methodology	8
4.1 Constraints and Considerations.....	8
4.2 Study Design.....	8
4.3 Process Design and Finalization of Questionnaire	9
4.4 Data Collection, Tabulation and Analysis of Results	10
5.0 Results of the Survey	12
5.1 Demographic Variables of Sample	12
5.2 Opinions and Attitudes about VAW & G	14
6.0 Reporting on a Single Incident of VAW & G	29
6.1 Knowledge of any incidence of verbal, physical, or psychological violence against a Nepali woman	29
6.2 Identity of the perpetrator.....	29
6.3 When asked to identify the victim of the incident of VAW & G	29
6.4 Frequency and time of the act of violence.....	29
6.5 Whether any weapon was used during the VAW & G incident	30
6.6 Outcome of the violent incident.....	30

6.7	Whether any medical treatment was provided to the victim of the VAW&G incident.....	31
6.8	Attitude of doctors towards victims of VAW & G	31
6.9	Whether they knew if medical help was not given even when it was necessary.....	31
6.10	Attitude of the legal service providing agencies towards victims of violence	31
6.11	Main causes of known VAW & G incident.....	31
7.0	Effect of Domestic Violence of Children	33
7.1	Knowledge of assault on children within the household.....	33
7.2	Known types of violence children are most subject to are as follows	33
7.3	Perceived impact of domestic violence on children	33
7.4	When asked if they though children ranaway from home due to domestic violence.....	33
7.5	Perceived best protector of children inside the home in case of domestic violence.....	34
8.0	Finding of Key Informant Survey.....	35
8.1	Medical Practitioners.....	35
8.2	Survey of Police Personnel.....	36
8.3	Non-governmental Organisations	37
8.4	Commercial Sex Workers	38
9.0	Discussion of Results and Recommendations	43
10.0	Conclusion	47
11.0	Recommendations for Action Programmes	49

Map

Map 1 :	Map of Nepal and Survey Districts.....	10
---------	--	----

Diagram

Diagram 1:	Multi-Staged Purposive Sampling Method Applied for Sampling of the Research on VAW & G	11
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Case Studies

Kanchi:	A Victim of Child Marriage	4
Malati:	A Victim of Domestic Violence	17

Figures

Figure 1:	Bar Graph and Pie Chart on Prevalence of Psychological VAW & G	14
Figure 2:	Bar Graph and Pie Chart on Prevalence of Physical VAW & G	15
Figure 3:	Bar Graph and Pie Chart on Prevalence of Traditional VAW & G Practices	16
Figure 4:	Pie Chart on Prevalence of Psychological VAW & G According to Geographical Location.....	19
Figure 5:	Pie Chart on Prevalence of Physical VAW & G According to Geographical Location.....	20
Figure 6:	Pie Chart on Prevalence of Traditional VAW & G According to Geographical Location.....	21
Figure 7:	Bar Graph and Pie Chart on Types of Actions to be Taken After a VAW & G Incident.....	23
Figure 8:	Bar Graph and Fie Chart on Perception of Reasons Preventing Women from Reporting Incidents of Violence	24

Figure 9:	Bar Graph and Pie Chart Types of Support Needed for Victims VAW & G	26
Figure 10:	Bar Graph and Pie Chart on Role to be Played by Family/Friend During Violent Incident	28
Figure 11:	Bar Graph and Pie Chart on Information about Identity of Victims of VAW & G	30
Figure 12:	Bar Graph and Pie Chart on Main Causes of VAW & G	32
Figure 13:	Pie Chart on Perception about Best Protector of Children Against Domestic Violence	34
Figure 14:	Personal VAW & G Experience of Commercial Sex Workers.....	39

Annexure

Annex A:	List of Advocates Providing Technical Assistance	51
Annex B:	Name of Sample VDCs and Municipality Wards	52
Annex C:	Proceedings of Focus Group Meeting	53
Annex D:	Questionnaire and Schedules for Survey on Violence Against Women and Girls in Nepal	55
References	66

CHAPTER

1

Introduction

1.1 Setting the Scene

Violence Against Women and Girls (**VAW & G**) has continued throughout history unreported and unchallenged. At the end of the 20th century, the sisterhood of womankind have found a common cause and a common voice to protest against the over 2000 years of their violation and victimisation. Though this recent world- wide mobilisation to condemn **VAW & G** as a human rights violation has encountered centuries of silence and tolerance as an obstacle, a lot of progress has been made on a global level in the past few years. The International Conference on Human Rights in 1993 was a milestone in highlighting women's human rights and the issue of VAW in the international arena.

The most recent culmination of the international movement to empower women, the Fourth World Conference on Women organised in Beijing in September 1995, also identified 'violence against women' among its 12 critical areas of concern. The high priority given to this issue by the women of the world is reflected by the fact that it is included in the Platform for Action to which all attending member state governments have expressed commitment for implementation in their respective countries.

In keeping with this international trend, in Nepal too, since the re-establishment of democracy, women's voices have become louder in protest against atrocities against them in the name of religion, culture and poverty. **VAW & G** is thus, taking centre stage on a national level, especially with the commitment of His Majesty's Government (HMG) to the Platform for Action at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 and the growing activism of women and NGOs.

1.2 Defining VAW & G

"... Any act of gender based violence that results or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life....."

This definition of Article 1 of the UN Commission on Status of Women Declaration has been also adopted by the UN Conference on Women's Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as paragraph 114.

Article II of the same Declaration states that **VAW & G** should be understood to encompass but not be limited to the following:

- (i) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence, violence related to exploitation.
- (ii) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, intimidation at work, in educational institutions and other public institutions, trafficking of women and forced prostitution.
- (iii) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetuated or condoned by state, wherever it occurs.

VAW & G can thus be defined as violation of a woman's personhood, mental or physical integrity, or freedom of movement. It is the result of unequal power relation between women and men. Underlying this power relation is patriarchy, the social structure that is constructed, reinforced and perpetuated by socio- political institutions put in place by men and which thereby ensure that men, by virtue of their gender have power and control over women and children. Violence against women thus refers to all forms of violence, including traditional forms of violence in the Nepali context, inflicted on women on account of their gender.

Another comprehensive definition of **VAW & G** drafted by the inter-American Convention on Women and Violence (1991) states that

" VAW includes any act, omission or conduct by means of which physical, sexual or mental suffering is inflicted directly or indirectly through deceit, seduction or threat, harassment, coercion or any other means on any women with the purpose or effect of intimidating, punishing or humiliating her or of maintaining her in sex stereotyped roles or of denying her of human dignity, sexual self determination, physical mental and moral integrity or of undermining the security of her person, her self respect or her personality or of diminishing her physical or mental capacities."

This definition challenges the persistent and wide spread tolerance of violence against women by trying to outlaw a broad range of practices to which many women are subjected but which few are equipped to challenge.

1.3 Socialisation Process and Nature of VAW & G

Socialisation Process

Most cultures of the world are patriarchal in nature. In the socialisation process while women are taught to be non-aggressive, submissive, soft-spoken, tolerant and timid, men are taught aggression, violence, boldness and to be in control. Eastern cultures especially, put high value on the feminine virtues of women, thus reinforcing myths of women's 'helplessness'. All these socio-cultural values hold true in the context of Nepal. Women are socialised to put very low value on their status and worth. A woman's identity is always dependent on that of a man's - her roles are primarily identified in terms of whose daughter (her father's), whose wife (her husband's), and whose mother (her son's) in the society. Thus, women are seen as having to be under the 'protection' of a male member of her immediate family or kinsmen. A woman not under the 'protection' of a man is regarded with suspicion and doubt. The high value put on being 'protected' and on virginity and purity conditions women from retaliating against violence or tolerating it quietly.

Another important factor which results in a number of women becoming victims of violence is the lack of women's economic rights in Nepal. Though in the broader sense of the term women may seem to have economic rights, in practice women enjoy very few economic rights and are dependent on the male members of the family. Fear of losing any economic rights due to social sanction also leads to women tolerating violence and abuse in silence.

Nature of the Perpetrator

Many commonly held beliefs pose an obstacle in the real understanding of the nature of **VAW & G**. One is that perpetrators are under the influence of drugs, mentally deranged and/or incapacitated at the time the crime was committed. The fact is perpetrators are often normal, respectable and can be considered "productive" members of society. Frequently, they are aware of what they are doing and their acts of violence are repeatedly and consistently done over time. This pattern of violence is assimilated into their relationships, whether in the private or public sphere. Society silently condones this behaviour and thus conditions males and females to accept this as a fact of life. For example, in the case of rape, there is the sexist excuse that the assailants were after all only male and vulnerable to the charms of the victim. Aggravating this is the false notion that the victims 'had it coming' to them and no decent woman could ever be raped.

These popular notions hide the fact that beneath the unexamined beliefs and common perceptions are patterns of behaviour that are based on ethics of domination - where the misuse of power of a few to control the many is condoned. Furthermore, given the gender expectations for men to be aggressive and be "in control" and for women to be passive, nurturing and dependent - it takes very little for men to target women for violence.

In conclusion, it could be said that **VAW & G** is a manifestation of the following complex interactive factors:

- values and attitudes that are derived from and contribute to gender in-equality;
- gender prescriptions that vest power on men;
- a culture of violence; and
- the resulting psychological make up of both victims and perpetrators.

Some Basic Issues in VAW & G

Some basic and common issues which cut across all national and cultural boundaries in the context of **VAW & G** are:

- It cuts across all classes and all ages.
- Many women have experienced **VAW & G**.
- It is under-reported.

CASE STUDY 1 *KANCHI* *A Victim of Child Marriage*

The story of Kanchi illustrates what many young Nepal! girls are having to undergo today.

Kanchi is 15 years old. She lived with her parents at her maternal grandfather's home. Kanchi is

literate and was always willing to perform most household chores and unknowing of life's troubles lived the happy life of a young girl. However, it has been sometime that all has changed for her.

Recently widowed, 60 year old. Murali Prasad is the richest landlord of the village. All the villagers know him and frequent his house. Kanchi's grandfather, Hari Bhakta, was also a friend of the landlord. Due to his widowed state Murali Prasad was looking for a companion for himself, but was hesitant to air out his wishes for fear of rejection due to his age. Upon learning this Hari Bhakta assured him that his

wealth alone would attract a large number of proposals. Pleased, Murali Prasad promised Hari Bhakta rewards for his assistance in this direction.

Hari Bhakta envisaging the opportunities lying ahead devised a plan. He suggested marrying Kanchi to Murali Prasad. Kanchi's parents were sceptical due to the age difference. However, being illiterate and ignorant, their uncertainty was soon overridden by Hari Bhakta's insistence and his argument that all of Murali Prasad's wealth would become Kanchi's one day.

Ultimately, the marriage took place. But married life for Kanchi is miserable. The age difference has proved too much for her. Murali Prasad is invariably reprimanding and bullying Kanchi about every small issue. Kanchi can do nothing but tolerate her misery in silence and with tears.....

- It must be viewed as a very serious societal problem and not just a problem of women.
- It is life threatening for many women and has grave consequences on their physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual well being.
- It also impacts heavily on the families of victims and survivors.
- VAW & G disempowers women, impeding their full participation in the community, and therefore, hinders their contribution to society's development.
- It is a women's health issue.
- It is a political issue - since it emanates from and is perpetuated by a patriarchal and sexist political structure.
- Responses to **VAW & G** are inadequate.

Some Common Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls

In distinguishing the forms of **VAW & G** the following have been identified :

- Domestic violence
- Sexual slavery, prostitution and international trafficking of women
- Incest
- Reproductive rights violation
- Rape
- Sexual harassment
- Sex discrimination
- Medical abuse
- Abuse of women with physical and mental disabilities
- Culture bound practices harmful to women
- Ritual abuse within religious cults
- Marital rape
- Pornography and abuse of women in media
- Abuse of women in refugee or relocation camps
- Custodial abuse
- Female foeticide
- Dowry related violence and murder.

Scenarios of Violence and Betrayal:

Reasons for Girls Becoming Sex Workers

"I was deceived into the profession through false promises".

"After coming to Kathmandu from my village, I stayed with my brother who subjected me to frequent verbal abuse. In order to escape it, I ran away from home and stumbled into this profession."

CHAPTER

2

Existing Legal Provisions for VAW & G in Nepal

The kingdom of Nepal has ratified all major human rights treaties including the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The democratic Constitution (1990) of Nepal guarantees equal protection and non-discrimination based on gender to all Nepalese citizens.

An examination of the law of the land reveals that there are no specific laws that define or treat **VAW & G** in Nepal as a special form of violence. Current Nepalese law does not provide for a specific act to book perpetrators of **VAW & G** or create support systems for women victims of violence. However, there are special acts regarding rape, incest, intent to rape, bestiality, general assault, trafficking of women for prostitution provided within the new National Civil Code (Naya Muluki Ain) of the country. For example, Article 10 of Rape states that the victim is entitled to obtain half of the perpetrator's property, similarly Article 4 of the Husband and Wife Act ensures that a woman gets her share of the property if the husband does not provide her food, clothing and shelter or mistreats and abandons her. The same applies if he brings another wife.

But some forms of **VAW & G** such as domestic violence have not been specifically addressed by any law. Therefore, victims of domestic violence seeking redress can only approach justice through existing provisions. In the current context, it becomes necessary to accept these provisions for certain acts and the penalties prescribed as being preventive and controlling mechanisms being used by the law. The law of the country does not obligate the government to establish any support system or rehabilitation measures for the victims of **VAW & G**. (See Annex A for names of advocates who provided technical assistance for this section).

CHAPTER

3

Aims and Objectives of the Research

This research has been undertaken with the following objectives:

- To define violence against women and girls in the Nepali context.
- To establish data about the types, causes, and extent of violence against women and girls in Nepal.
- To examine whether specific types of violence against women and girls are peculiar to different survey areas.
- To examine knowledge of existing legal protection measures against violence against women and girls.
- To learn about possible solutions to the problems of violence against women and girls.

CHAPTER

4

Methodology

4.1 Constraints and Considerations

In the process of designing the survey on violence against women and girls, (**VAW & G**) attempt was made to select representative units from the known universe. Since cost and time were the main constraints in adopting the probability sampling method, it was decided to use a multi-staged non-probability purposive sampling method for this survey. The researchers decided on purposive sampling while selecting potential districts for better representation of the causes and effects of existence of incidents relating to **VAW & G**.

The knowledge of the research team about the socio-cultural issues and the ethnicity of Nepalese people has been instrumental in deciding the sampling units for the survey on **VAW & G**. In selecting the first stage sampling units consideration was also given to gender thus giving equal importance to male and female respondents of selected households. Representation of ecological regions, multi-religious groups and ethnic groups have been considered in the urban and rural, sampling units. Efforts were also made by the researchers to collect information about the existence of **VAW & G** in various regions of the country before deciding on the sampling units. Thus, a widely representative sample has been selected for the study.

4.2 Study Design

Sampling

To collect primary data to test the existence of **VAW & G** in the country, the researchers decided to adopt the direct interview method of information collection based on a set of questionnaires with the target covering approximately 1,250 respondents comprising 50 percent male and 50 percent female respondents. Given the size of sample, from the point of view of efficiency, a large number of sample clusters were framed as the second stage of selection of sampling units and the elements to be selected were assumed spread over the clusters.

Five districts were selected to represent the five development regions of the country as well as Nepal's ethnic diversity, topography and urban-rural divide. The five districts thus selected were: Kathmandu Valley, Jhapa, Banke, Nuwakot and Kanchanpur [See Map 1). As illustrated in Diagram 1, these five districts were the primary units for sampling on the basis of judgement method. Three Village Development Committees (VDC) and/or wards were selected from each district to frame the second stage units in order to make a cluster of units for selection of approximately 83 households from each VDC making a total of 250 households sampled from each selected district. [See Annex B for names of VDCs and wards). The simple random sampling method was used to select the households.

As the research design emphasized equal representation in the sample from both genders, enumerators were directed to strike a balance in the selection of either a male or a female respondent as the lowest sampling units from each selected household. The enumerators visiting households for filling questionnaires were carefully instructed to keep in mind the purpose of the survey and its representatives.

Survey of Key Informants and Case Studies

In addition to the 1,250 filled questionnaires collected from the general sample population, the research design also included interviews with members of the society most likely to come into frequent contact with **VAW & G** cases and victims. Thus, 20 doctors, 20 NGOs, 20 police officers and 20 commercial sex workers were included in the survey as key informants. The research team also recorded case studies to complement the survey findings.

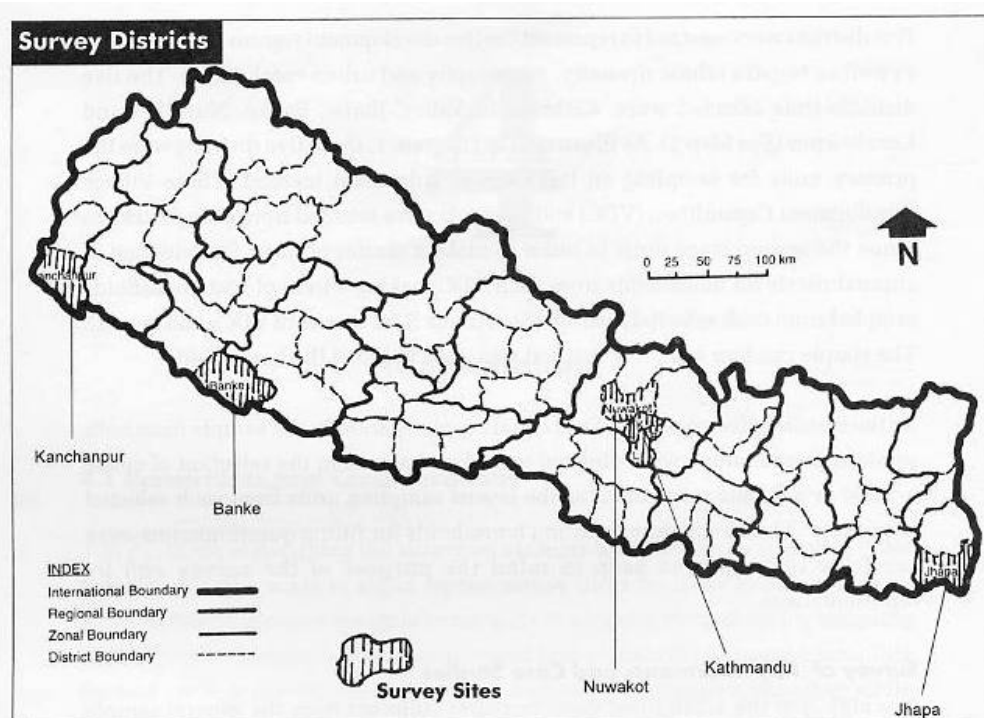
4.3 Process Design and Finalization of Questionnaire

Initial Draft Questionnaire

In view of the type of survey, the research team developed an objective type questionnaire with multi-choice alternatives and close-ended answers. Multi-choice alternatives to particular questions were provided to facilitate the respondents and help them in finding the best answers of their choice, since the issue of **VAW & G** is relatively new and complicated.

Focus Group Meeting

In order to discuss and deliberate on the content, flow and appropriateness of the basic questionnaire designed by the research team and to exchange ideas and views of experts on the subject of **VAW & G**, a day-long focus group meeting was organised by SAATHI. (See Annex C for Proceedings of the Focus Group Meeting and the list of participants).



Professionals, experts and representatives of various NGOs involved in working in related areas were invited and actively participated in the focus group discussion. The focus group discussion was highly instrumental in refining the content and organisation of the questionnaire. Based on the discussions the final 45 questions were divided into four sections on: demographic variables; attitudes and opinions; reporting of one particular incident of **VAW & G** and the effect of domestic violence on children. The final questionnaire was comprehensive and easy to understand by both the interviewers and respondents. The questionnaire was pre-coded for the ease of computer processing and data analysis.

The final questionnaire (Annex -D) was translated into Nepali and pre-tested.

Pre-testing Questionnaire in the Field

In order to examine the appropriateness and the level of clarity of the questionnaire a pre-test was carried out by the enumerators in different localities of Kathmandu Valley. The sequence of questions was changed based on the feed-back received before finalisation.

4.4 Data Collection, Tabulation and Analysis of Results

Orientation and Training of Enumerators

The skill, knowledge and sensitivity of enumerators play a dominant role in making

surveys a success. SAATHI contracted a group of experienced enumerators and research assistants capable of taking responsibility of such work. However, it was necessary to orient them to the objectives of the research and the process of collecting information. Thus, required orientation was given to all enumerators involved in the survey field work.

Field Supervision

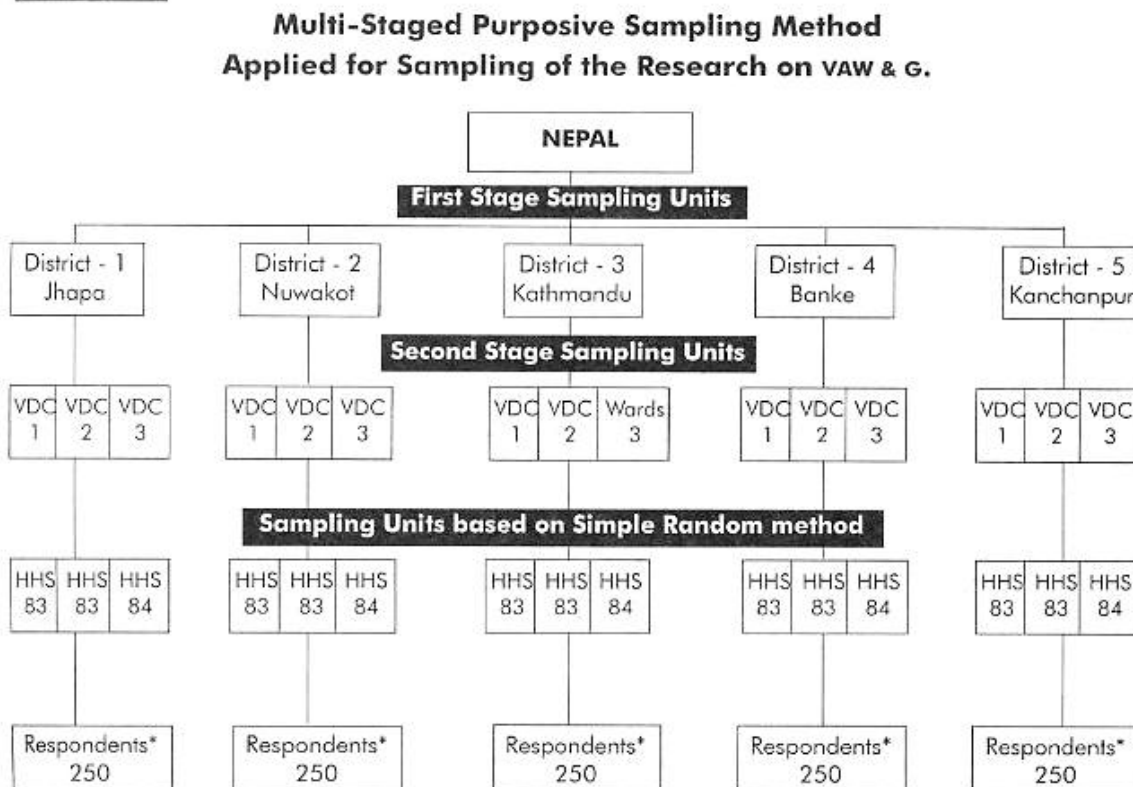
Field supervision is considered an important aspect of research studies based on the purposive sampling method such as this one. Provision also was made to respond to queries and resolve complications encountered by the enumerators in the field during the survey. In absence of supervisor in the field during enumeration, the enumerators were instructed to contact members of the research team in case of any confusion or complication during data collection.

Collection of data in all the five districts was started towards the end of December 1996 and continued upto April 1997.

Tabulation of Data and Data Analysis

All collected data was tabulated and analysed using appropriate statistical tools.

DIAGRAM 1



*A total of 1,250 respondents were interviewed from the five districts.

*Individual respondents were selected by interviewers at their own discretion.

CHAPTER

5

Results of the Survey

5.1 Demographic Variables of Sample

5.1.1 Male-female representation

- 51 per cent of the respondents were women and 49 per cent men.

5.1.2 Marital status of the respondents

- 86 per cent of the respondents were married and 14 per cent either single, divorced or widowed.

5.1.3 Type of family

- 74 per cent of the respondents lived in joint families while 26 per cent lived in nuclear families.
- Average size of family of sample was 6.22 members per family, which is one member more than the national average of 5.2.

5.1.4 Urban-rural divide

- 43 per cent of the respondents lived in urban areas while 57 per cent lived in rural areas.

5.1.5 Representation of caste/ethnic groups in the sample was:

More than 13 caste and ethnic groups were represented in the sample out of which:

- 24 per cent were Kshetri
- 21 per cent were Brahmin
- 21 per cent were Gurung, Lama, Tamang, Bhote
- 8 per cent were Newar
- 5 per cent were Tharu
- 5 per cent were Dami, Kami, Sarki
- 4 per cent were Magar
- 4 per cent were Rai, Limbu

- 2 per cent were Nau, Bar
- 2 per cent "were Muslim
- 1 per cent were Gharti/Bhiyal
- 1 per cent were Girl, Pun, Sanyasi
- 0.35 per cent were Ahir, Teli, Sudi, Mushar

5.1.6 Educational Status

- Of the total respondents 55 per cent of the women were illiterate in comparison to 27 per cent of the men.
- 12 per cent of the men had passed the secondary level and 8 per cent of them had cleared SLC while only 7 per cent of women respondents had passed the secondary level and 3 per cent had cleared SLC.
- Of the total sample 11 per cent of men had attained higher education while only 3 per cent of women had done so.
- In the caste configuration, most educated were the Newars, followed by Brahmin, Rai/Limbu and Kshetri respondents.
- The highest percentage of illiterates were found to be amongst the Tamang, Lama, and Gurung group followed by the Damai, Kami, and Sarki and the Giri, Puri, Sanyasi respondents.

5.1.7 Economic Status Pattern

- Of the urban and rural households sampled about 48 per cent of men in both categories reported having sufficient income and the rest insufficient income.
- Among the women only 37 per cent reported having sufficient income.
- Of the total sample 62 per cent were involved in the agricultural sector; 23 per cent reported they were housewives; 5 per cent were involved in the business sector; 5 per cent in government service and teaching; 4 per cent were labourers and 1 per cent social workers.

Scenarios of Violence and Betrayal:

Reasons for Girls Becoming Sex Workers

"An unknown individual guaranteed me a trip and forced me in to this profession".

"After holding a marriage my husband said that he would take me abroad for a trip and then sold me to a brothel".

5.2 Opinions and Attitudes about VAW & G

5.2.1 Knowledge About Types of Violence Prevalent in Nepalese Society

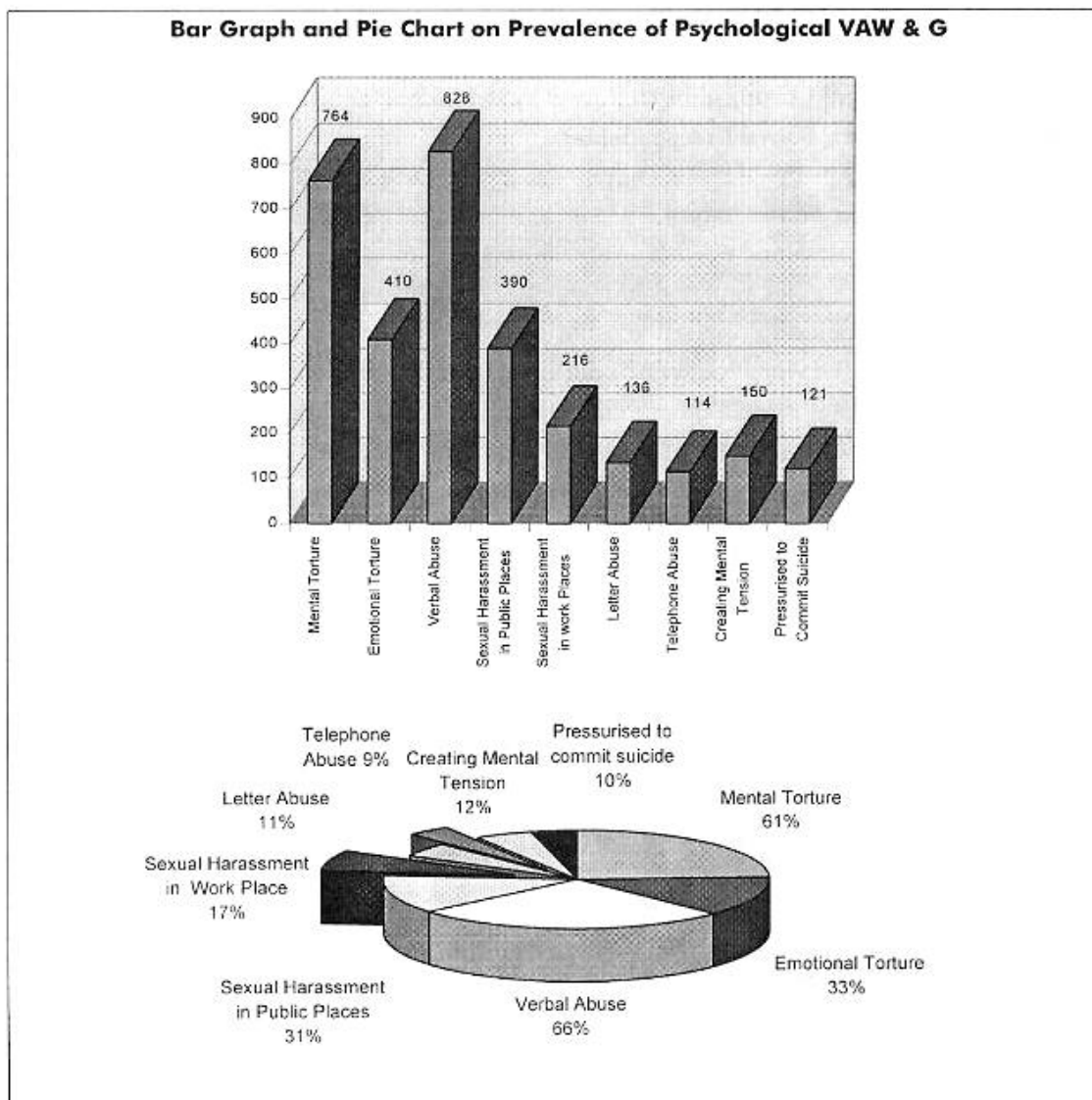
Psychological Violence

Among types of psychological violence:

- 61 per cent reported knowing about mental torture
- 32 per cent reported emotional torture
- 31 per cent reported sexual harassment in public places
- 17 per cent reported sexual harassment in the workplace.

(See Figure 1)

FIGURE 1



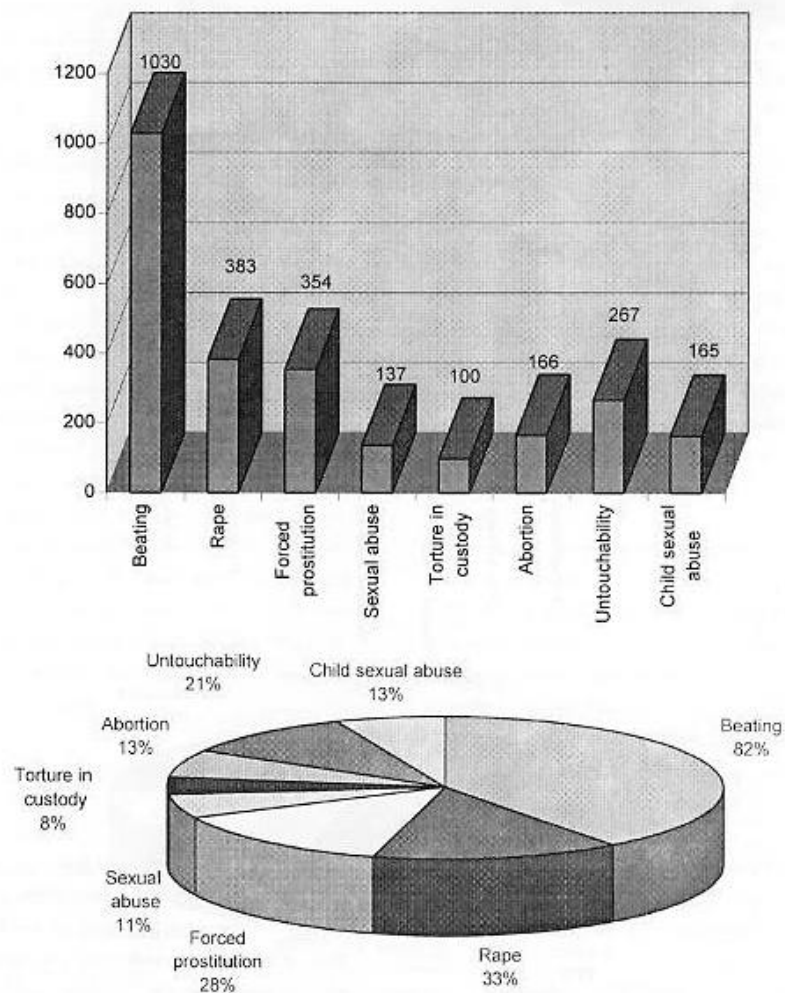
Physical Violence

Among types of physical violence:

- 82 per cent reported beating
- 66 per cent assault
- 30 per cent rape
- 28 per cent forced prostitution
- 21 per cent untouchability
- 13 per cent abortion
- 13 per cent child sexual abuse.

FIGURE 2

Bar Graph and Pie Chart on Prevalence of Physical VAW & G



Traditional Violence

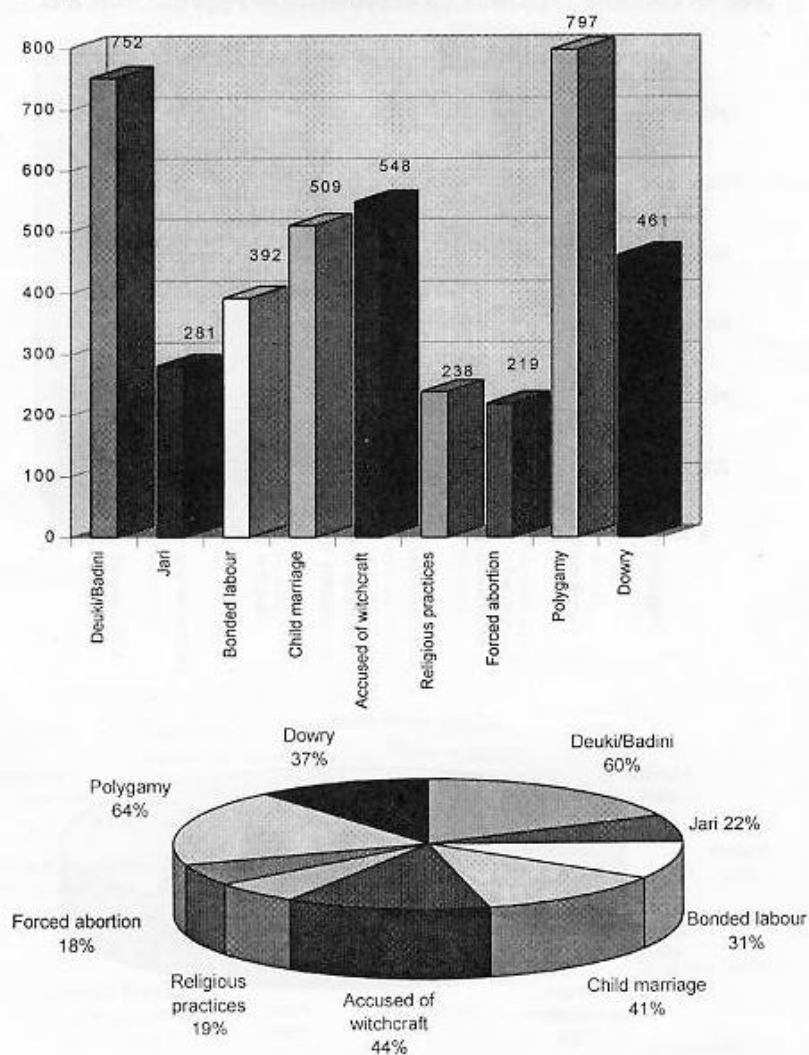
Among traditional forms of violence against women:

- 64 per cent reported polygamy
- 60 per cent reported deuki/badini custom
- 44 per cent reported accusations of witchcraft
- 41 per cent reported child marriage
- 37 reported dowry related violence
- 31 per cent reported bonded labour
- 22 per cent reported jari custom.

(See Figure 3)

FIGURE 3

Bar Graph and Pie Chart on Prevalence of Traditional VAW & G Practices



CASE STUDY 2
MALATI
A Victim of Domestic Violence

Malati, was born and raised in a village of Sindhupalchowk district. Married twenty years ago at the age of fifteen to a man who was then twenty-eight, she is at present living in the heart of Kathmandu city with her three daughters and two sons aged sixteen, fifteen, eleven, eight and seven respectively. Her husband no longer lives with her. But he does frequently come to her place in the daytime to quarrel and ends up beating her seriously before leaving. The children too get beaten and thrown around when they try to check their father from beating their mother.

Malati narrates her story with a sad voice and tear drops start to roll down her bony cheeks. Her sixteen year old daughter sitting beside her, also starts weeping.

Things had not been so bad for Malati in the initial ten years of marriage. She and her husband had moved to Kathmandu just after their wedding. Her husband who was originally a law enforcement officer had quit the service and had started to work as a motorcycle dealer and was earning well. Malati too was helping her husband save money and soon they had constructed four houses in the Kathmandu area. Her husband was fond of her and had even registered one of the houses in Malati's name. But he would occasionally flirt and go around with younger girls. However, with some respect for the marital knot he used to stop going after other girls on Malati's objection at least for some interval. He never used to beat her or use harsh words at her. The children too were getting the fatherly love and the attention they needed.

However, the last ten years has not been kind at all to Malati. For the last ten years of her married life, Malati's husband has always been going around with girls half his age. This time Malati's requests and objections were totally ignored by him. Malati tried very hard to persuade her husband to change, but he refused to listen. In fact, he would beat her mercilessly after going out with other girls. Until Malati gave birth to her first son his reason was that since she couldn't give him a

son, she was an unfit wife. But after that his reason was that she looked too old and ugly, thus an unfit wife to be seen with him in society. He has already sold the three houses he owned for money he needed to spend on the girls. He even brought the girls to the house and sometimes forced Malati to sleep in the same bedroom.

Finally, when Malati couldn't bear it anymore she went to the police. But the police couldn't do much. They would just advise and warn her husband and let him go free. Things got worse and her husband started living with one of the girls who was almost as young as his sixteen year old daughter. He started visiting Malati almost once a day to get her signature on the documents saying that she has given her house to him.

The house where Malati lives is the only house that remains among the four they had owned earlier. This house has five floors and Malati is living with her five children in the top most floor. Malati has given all the other floors on rent. She supports herself and the children with the rental money ever since her husband abandoned her. She is very concerned about her children's future and this house is the only means which provide them the basic necessities.

Malati is not ready to give this house to her husband at any cost. As a result her husband comes to her place daily to quarrel and beat her. He has told her that he is already dead for her and he cannot stand her putting on bright saris, red tikas or even bangles. Whenever he finds Malati wearing any of these, he gets very angry. He tears off the sari, scratches her forehead ruthlessly and crushes the bangles on her hand.

Once Malati even tried to commit suicide by taking poison, but was saved by her tenants who rushed her to the hospital on time.

While ending her story Malati sighs hopelessly and sees no solution to her problems.....

Analysis of VAW & G in Nepal on the Basis of Geographical Location

While analysing prevalence of types of mental violence in Nepal on the basis of geographical and rural/urban occurrence, the following picture emerged.

- Psychological violence was most prevalent in the urban metropolis area of Kathmandu.
- Physical violence was seen to be most prevalent in the hill district of Nuwakot.
- Traditional forms of violence against women was most common in the mid-western terai district of Banke.
- Of the psychological forms of **VAW & G**, harassment over the telephone in form of verbal abuse was identified as the most common **VAW & G** problem with reporting of incidents as high as 86 per cent .by the urban Kathmandu sample.
- Similarly, 57 per cent of the Kathmandu sample reported being victims of abusive letters as a common form of **VAW & G**, followed by sexual harassment in the work place (42%) and sexual harassment in public places (33%).
- Suicide due to mental torture was reported by 25 per cent of the sample of Nuwakot district.
- Forced prostitution was reported as the most common form of physical violence against women by respondents of the Nuwakot district (34%); followed by sexual abuse and rape (32%).
- Torture in police custody was also most frequently reported by the sample from Nuwakot (28%). From among other districts, respondents from Kanchanpur also reported a relatively high percentage for torture in custody (25%).
- Respondents from Kanchanpur also showed concern about the sexual abuse of women with 27 per cent reporting awareness of such incidents.
- The most common traditional form of violence against women in Nepal was seen to be polygamy which was reported without fail by respondents from all districts, with the highest reporting from Nuwakot (33%) and the lowest from Kathmandu (12%).
- The traditional **VAW & G** practice of 'deuki/badi' was reported by 51 per cent of the respondents from Banke and by 49 per cent of respondents of Kanchanpur.
- Bonded labour was also seen as common in the Banke and Kanchanpur districts with 45 and 35 per cent of respondents respectively reporting this form of **VAW & G**.
- The tradition of 'jari' was also reported by 42 per cent of the respondents of Banke.
- **VAW & G** related to dowry was also seen as being prevalent in Banke with 38 per cent of respondents reporting knowledge of such incidents.

(See Figures 4, 5, & 6)

FIGURE 4

**Pie Chart on Prevalence of Psychological VAW & G
According to Geographical Location**

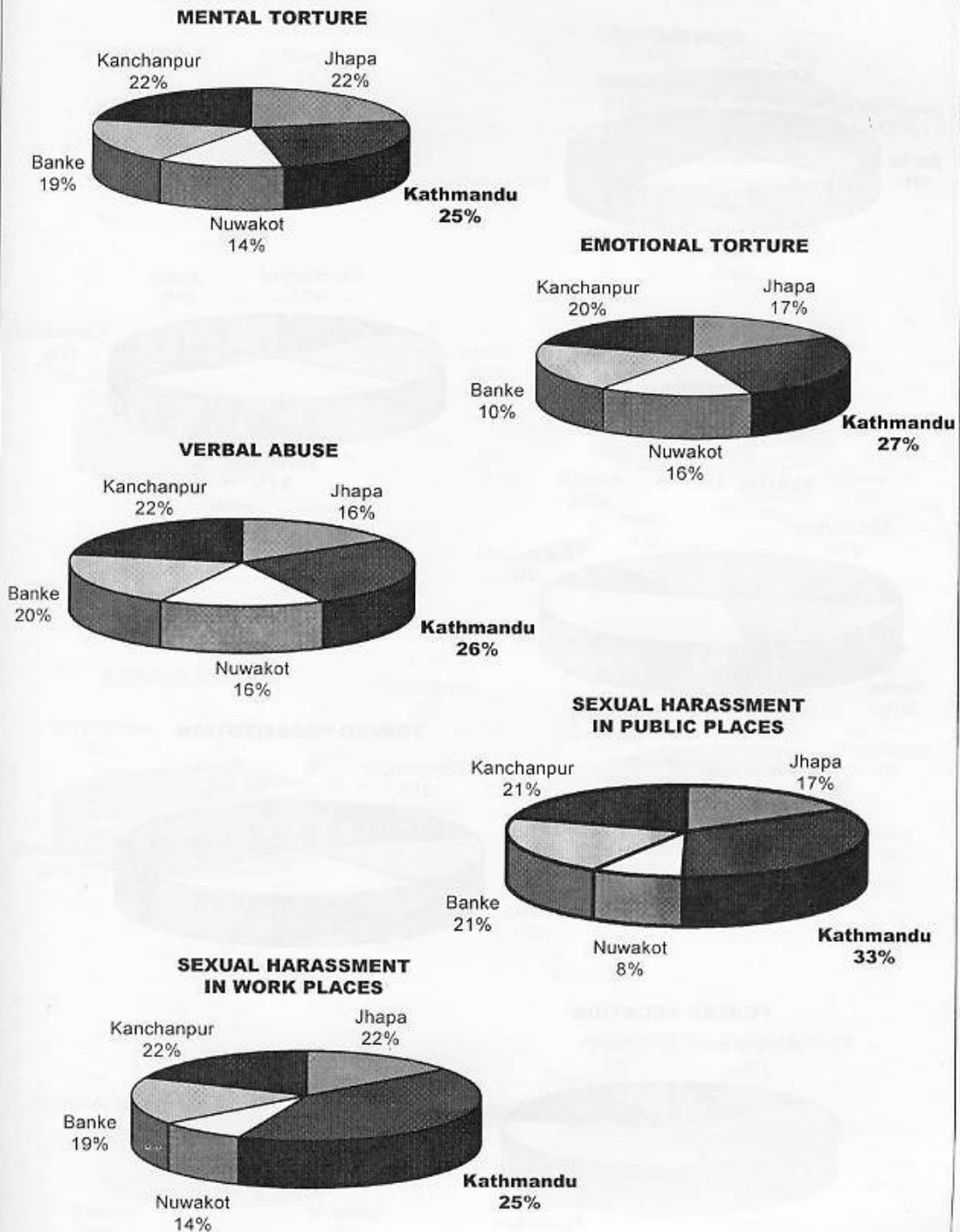


FIGURE 5

**Pie Chart on Prevalence of Physical VAW & G
According to Geographical Location**

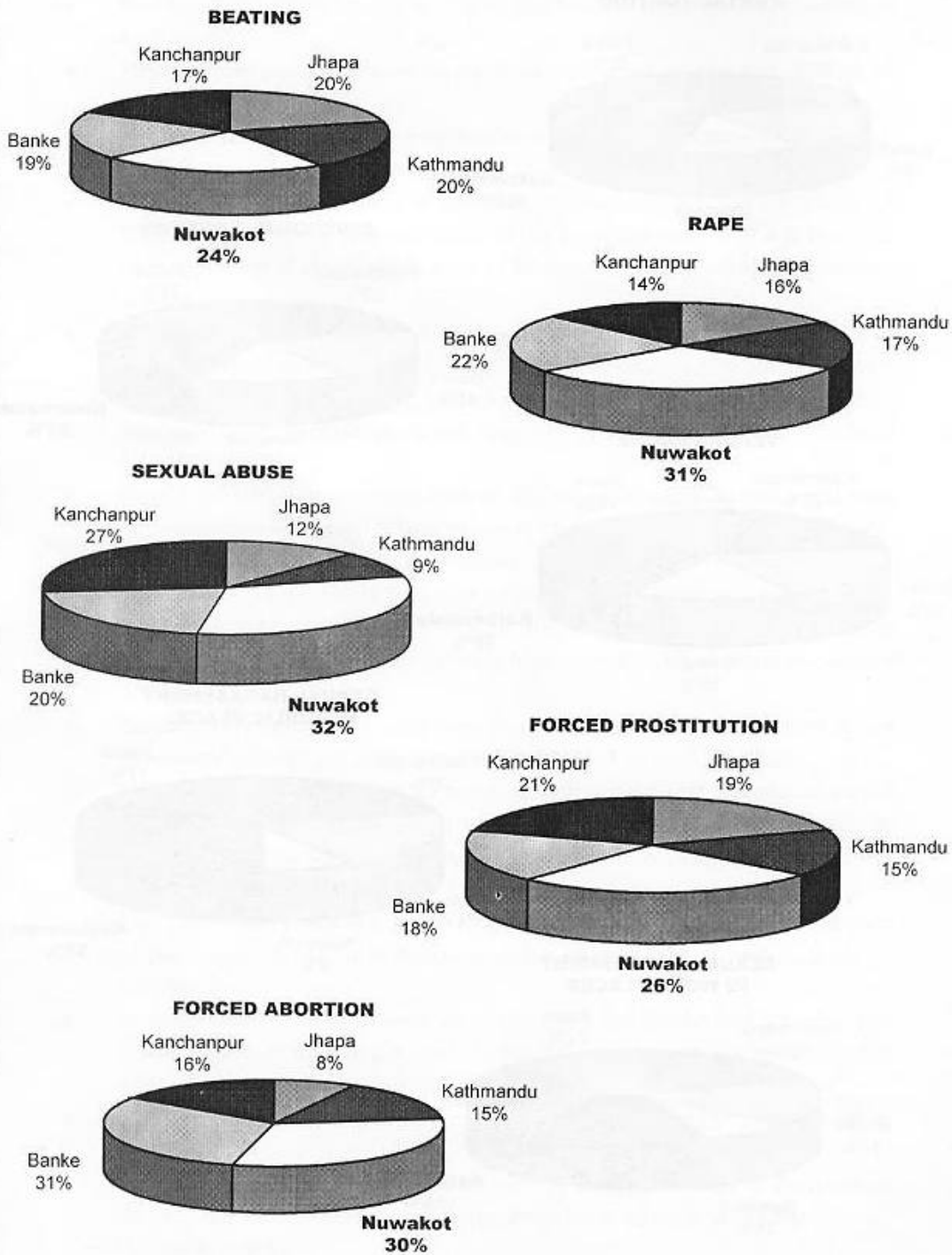
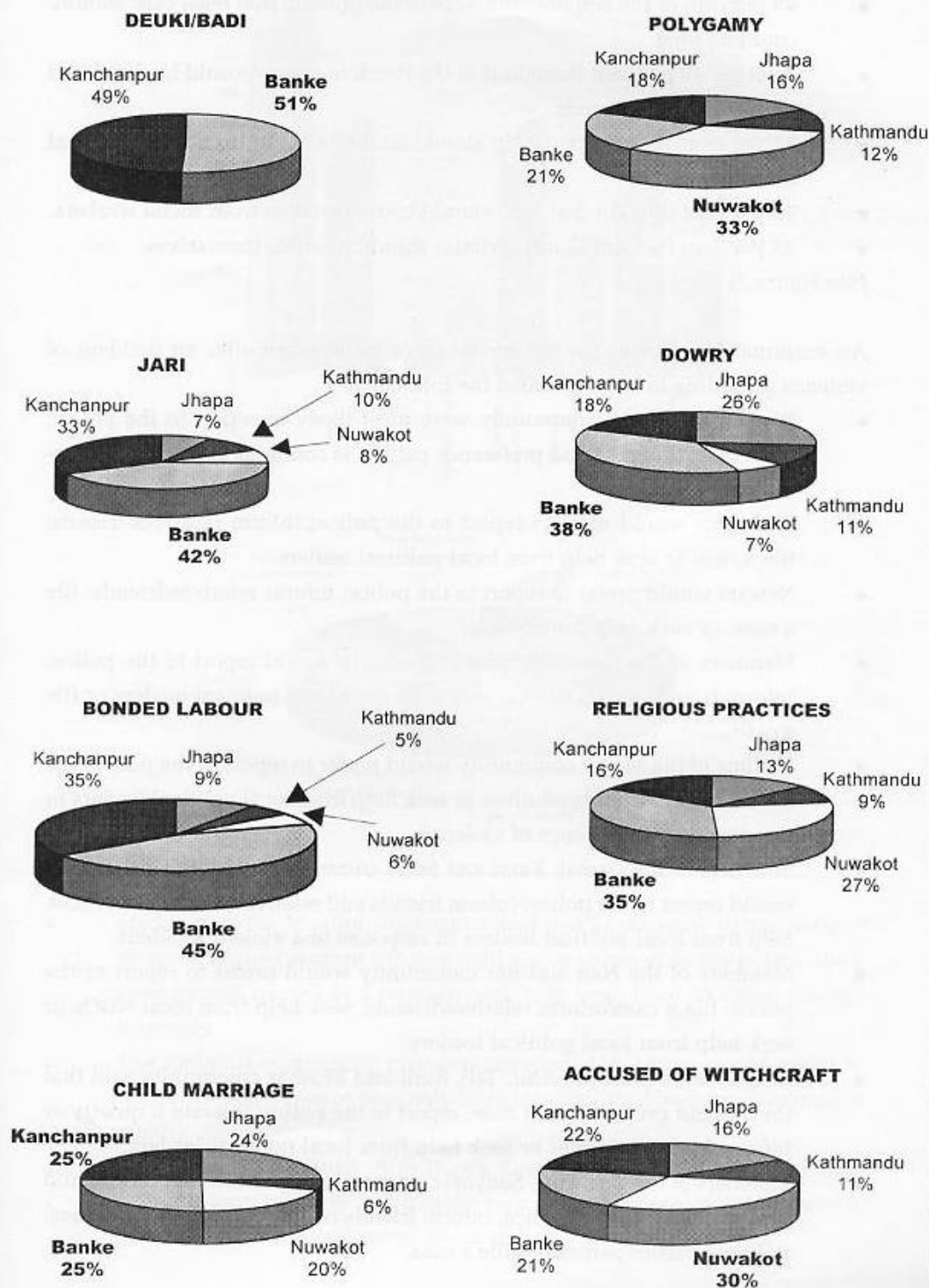


FIGURE 6

Pie Chart on Prevalence of Traditional Forms of VAW & G According to Geographical Location



5.2.2 Responses to what should/could a victim usually do following an incidence of violence:

Analysis of the overall sample showed that:

- 73 per cent of the respondents were of the opinion that police reports should/could be filed.
- 49 per cent of the respondents were of the opinion that legal case should/could be filed.
- Another 49 per cent thought that the incident should/could be discussed with family and friends.
- 37 per cent thought that help should/could be taken from local political leaders.
- 25 per cent thought that help should/could be taken from social workers.
- 23 per cent thought that the victim should retaliate themselves.

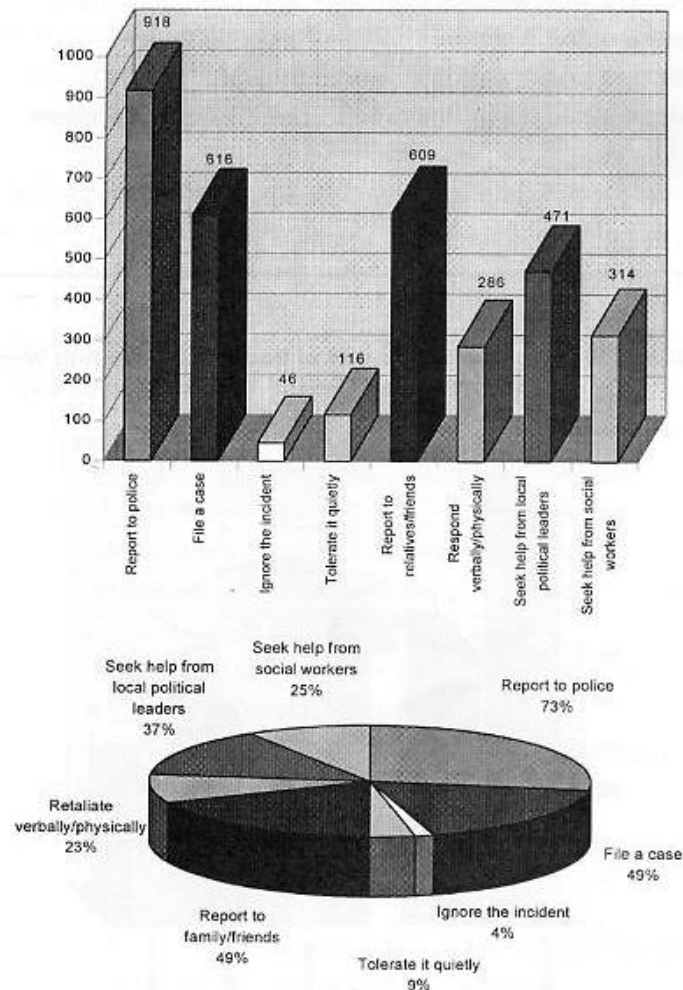
(See Figure 7)

An examination of probable actions taken or to be taken after an incident of violence according to caste revealed the following:

- Women of Kshetri community were most likely to report to the police; file a case; this response preference pattern is common to the Tharu community as well.
- Brahmins would mostly: report to the police; inform relatives/friends; file a case or seek help from local political leaders.
- Newars would prefer to report to the police; inform relatives/friends; file a case; or seek help from NGOs.
- Members of the Rai and/Limbu community would report to the police, inform friends and relatives; seek help from local political leaders or file a case.
- Victims of the Magar community would prefer to report to the police; file a case; inform friends/relatives or seek help from local political leaders in response to an incidence of violence.
- Members of the Damai, Kami and Sarki community responded that they would report to the police; inform friends and relatives; file a case or seek help from local political leaders in response to a violent incident.
- Members of the Nau and Bar community would prefer to report to the police; file a case/inform relatives/friends; Seek help from local NGOs or seek help from local political leaders.
- Respondents from the Ahir, Teli, Sudi and Mushar community said that they would prefer to file a case; report to the police; tolerate it quietly or inform friends/relatives or seek help from local political leaders.
- Members of the Giri, Puri, Sanyasi community responded that they would prefer to report to the police, inform friends/relative; seek help from local political parties/persons or file a case.

FIGURE 7

Bar Graph and Pie Chart on Types of Actions to be Taken After a VAW & G Incident



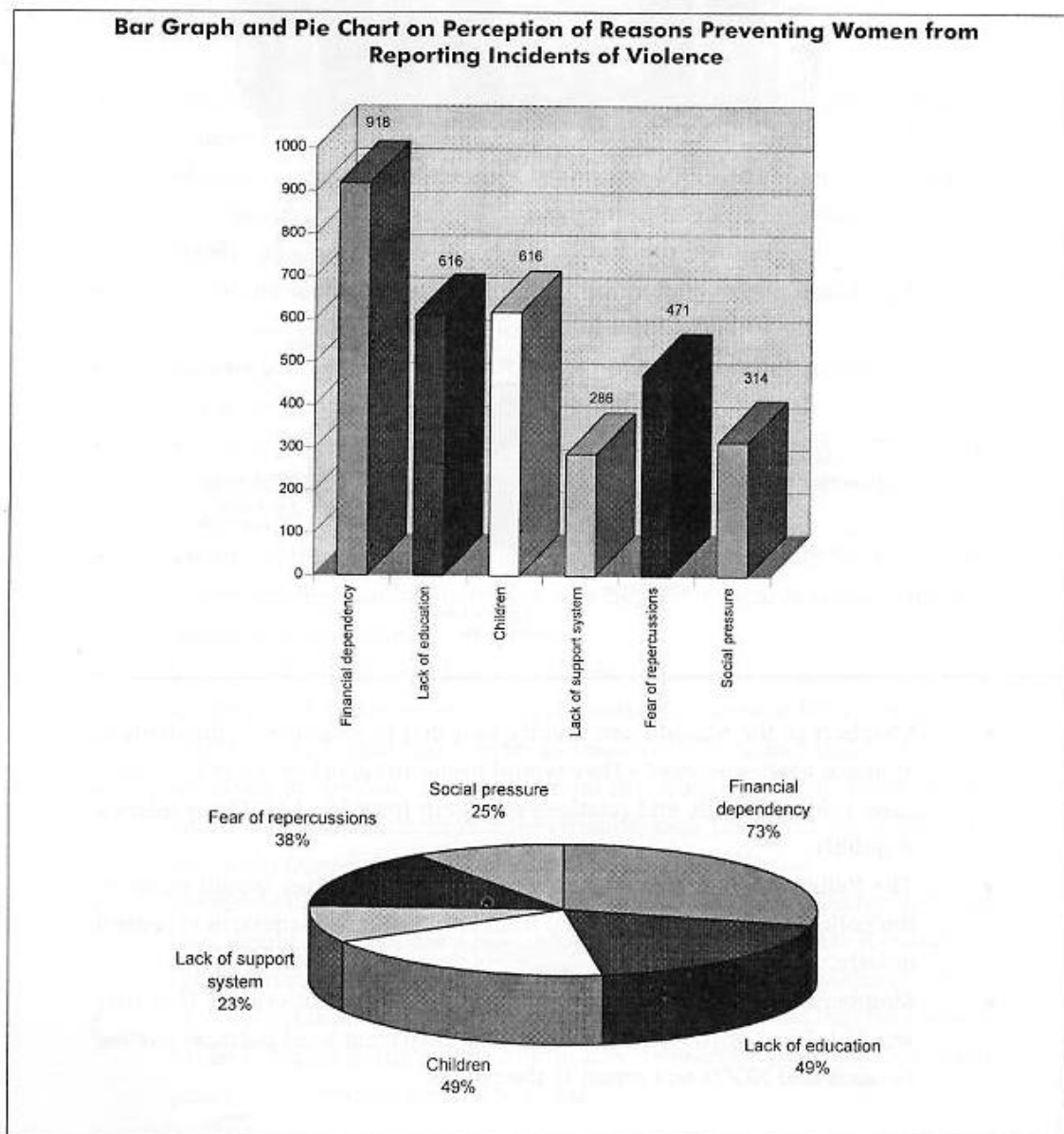
- Members of the Muslim community said that in response to incidents of violence against women - they would prefer to report to the police; file a case; inform friends and relatives/seek help from local NGOs or tolerate it quietly.
- The Rajbansi community members responded that they would report to the police; file a case or seek help from local political leaders; or tolerate it quietly.
- Members of the Gharti, Bhiyal and Kumal communities said that they would inform relatives and friends; seek help from local political parties/persons and NGOs and report to the police.

5.2.3 Perceived reasons that prevent women from reporting an incidence of violence:

- 73 per cent cited financial dependency
- 49 per cent cited lack of education as the main reason
- 49 per cent cited keeping the family intact for the children
- 38 per cent said it was due to fear of repercussions
- 25 per cent said it was due to social pressure
- 23 per cent said it was due to lack of social support systems.

(See Figure 8)

FIGURE 8



*5.2.4 Perception whether physical or psychological **VAW & G** incidents should be reported:*

- 93 per cent of the respondents agreed that all physical incidents of **VAW & G** must be reported, while 7 per cent of respondents were not in agreement.
- 79 per cent of respondents agreed that all incidents of psychological **VAW & G** should be reported while the rest of the respondents (21%) were not in agreement.

*5.2.5 Queried about whether **VAW & G** should be tolerated at all:*

* 93 per cent of the respondents replied **VAW & G** should not be tolerated in silence while 7 per cent of respondents said it was all right to tolerate VAW & G.

5.2.6 Perceived types of support required to assist victims of violence:

The following were identified as the types of support required for helping women and girls victims of violence:

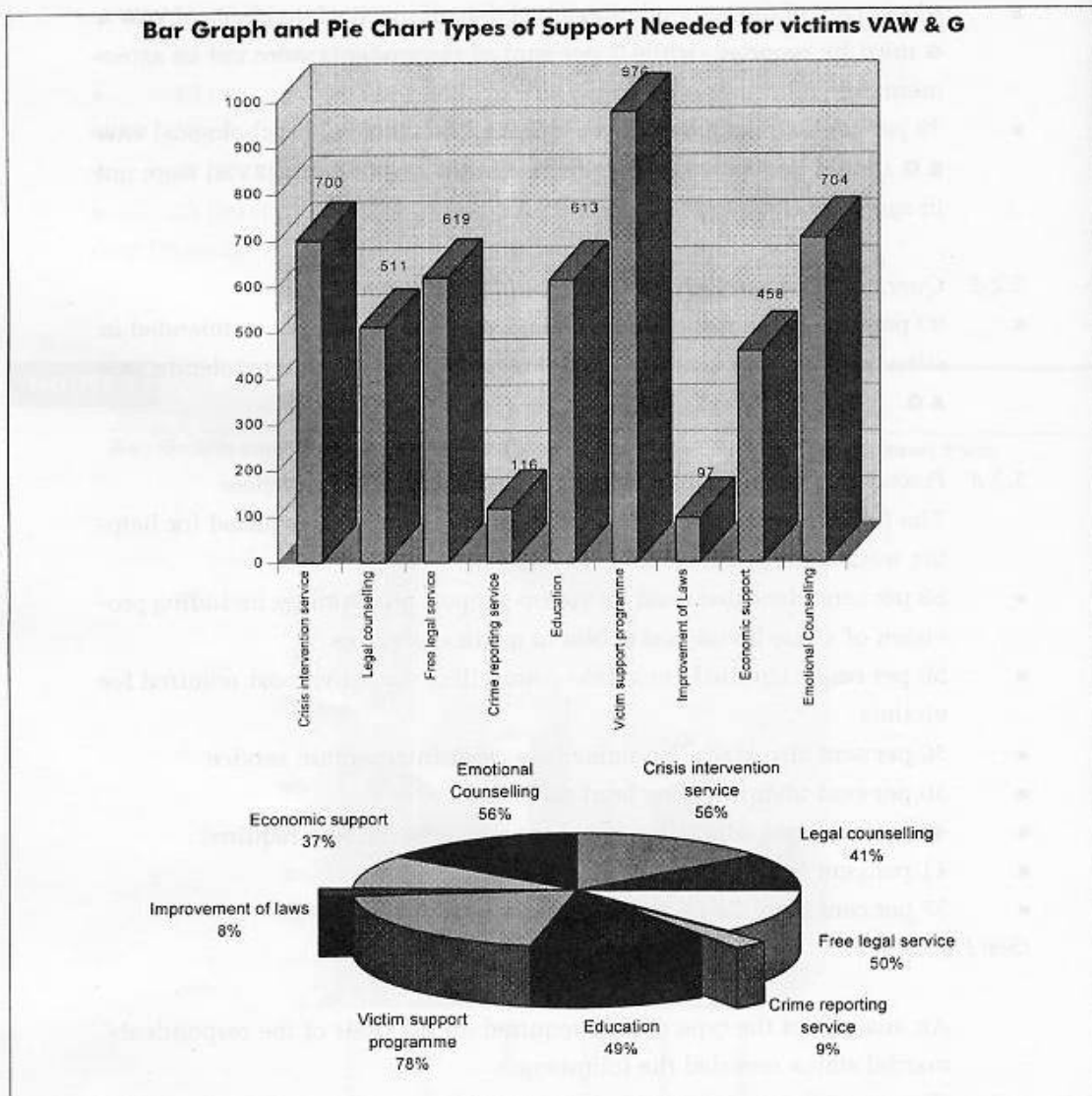
- 58 per cent identified need for victim support programmes including provision of a safe house and access to medical services
- 56 per cent identified emotional counselling as being most required for victims
- 56 per cent also identified immediate crisis intervention service
- 50 per cent identified free legal services
- 49 per cent said education and awareness creation was required
- 41 per cent identified legal counseling
- 37 per cent identified economic support for victims.

(See Figure 9)

An analysis of the type of help required on the basis of the respondents' marital status revealed the following:

- The married sample identified emotional counselling, followed by crisis intervention services and awareness programmes and free legal services as the most important services.
- The unmarried sample, however, identified crisis intervention, emotional counselling, free legal services and awareness programmes as the most essential services.
- The widowed respondents identified the following as the interventions most required for victims of violence: emotional counselling, crisis intervention services, awareness programmes followed by arrangement of safe house, free legal service and financial support.

FIGURE 9



5.2.7 Perceived level of awareness of victims about legal provisions for their protection:

- 83 per cent of the respondents said the victims were not aware of any legal provisions for their protection
- However, 17 per cent the respondents said the victims did know about legal protection measures.

5.2.8 Personal knowledge about laws providing women protection from acts of violence:

- 24 per cent of the respondents said they knew that the *National Civil Code* had provisions for protecting victims of violence
- While 10 per cent quoted the law against the trafficking

- 5 per cent quoted child rights law and labour laws
- However, 61 per cent of the respondents said they did not know of any particular legal protection measure for women victims of violence.

5.2.9 Perception about whether the existing legal provisions were sufficient:

- 87 per cent of the respondents felt that the existing measures for protection from violence were not sufficient, while 13 per cent said they were sufficient.

5.2.10 Perception about role to be played by family and friends during incidents of violence against women:

- 73 per cent of the respondents were of the opinion that family members and friends should provide help during a violent incident by physically trying to stop violent acts
- 36 per cent reported other types of interference measures should be taken
- 19 per cent said family/friends should try to reason with perpetrator
- 6 per cent of the respondents felt family and friends should not interfere at all during an incidence of **VAW & G**.

(See Figure 10)

5.2.11 Knowledge about shelters or safe houses where victims of violence could take shelter, following an incidence of violence:

- 50 per cent of the respondents did not know of shelters or safe houses a victim could go to after a violent incident
- However, 14 per cent of the respondents said they knew of a shelter
- 36 per cent did not respond.

5.2.12 Knowledge of organisations which provide assistance to women victims of violence:

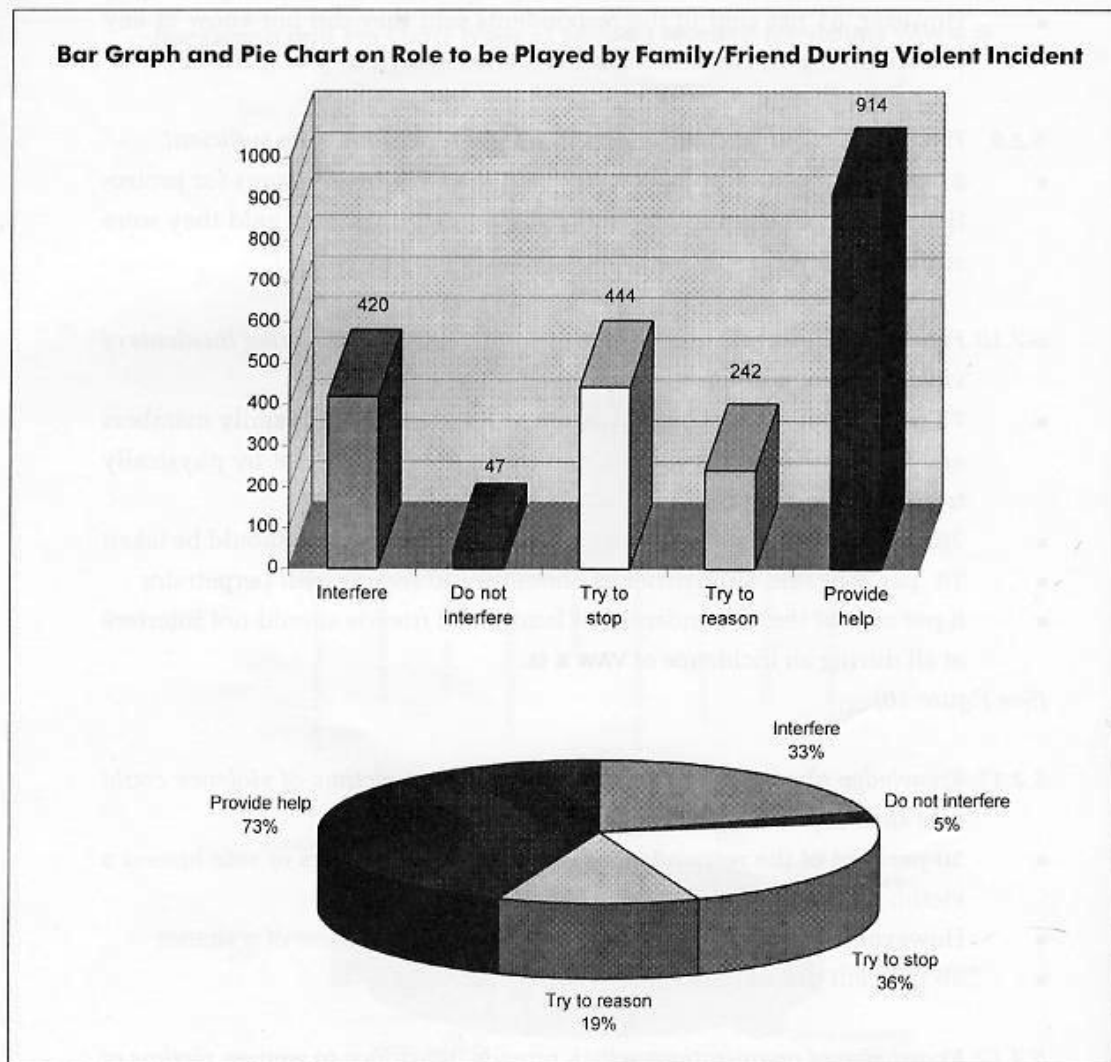
- 80 per cent of the respondents said they knew of an organisation which would assist women victims of violence
- However, 20 per cent said they did not have any information about such organisation.

Scenarios of Violence and Betrayal:

Reasons for Girls Becoming Sex Workers

"I was born in the hills and fell prey to deceptions of the landlord of the area. I was kidnapped one day, drugged and made unconscious and forced in to this profession".

FIGURE 10



*5.2.13 Opinion as to whether schools could play a role in providing children with information related to **VAW & G**:*

- 95 per cent of the respondents felt providing information about violence against women and girls at high school level would help in lowering the number of incidents, however, 5 per cent felt it would not help.

5.2.14 Opinion about whether the media could play a constructive role in dealing with the issue of violence against women:

- 95 per cent of the respondents felt the media should/could play a key, proactive role in the issue of **VAW & G**, while 5 per cent felt it could not.

CHAPTER

6

Reporting on a Single Incident of VAW & G

6.1 Knowledge of any incidence of verbal, physical, or psychological violence against a

Nepali woman:

- 95 per cent of the respondents said they knew of at least one such incident where a woman was verbally, psychologically or physically abused. Only 5 per cent of respondents said they did not know of any such incident.

6.2 Identity of the perpetrator:

- 77 per cent of the perpetrators of violence against Nepalese women were reported as being from within the family, whereas only 23 per cent of the perpetrators were from outside the family.

6.3 When asked to identify the victim of the incident of VAW & G:

- 32 per cent of the respondents said they were neighbours
- 17 per cent said they were close friends
- 14 per cent said they were distant relatives
- 11 per cent said they themselves were the victims
- 9 per cent said they were acquaintances
- 8 per cent said they were family members.

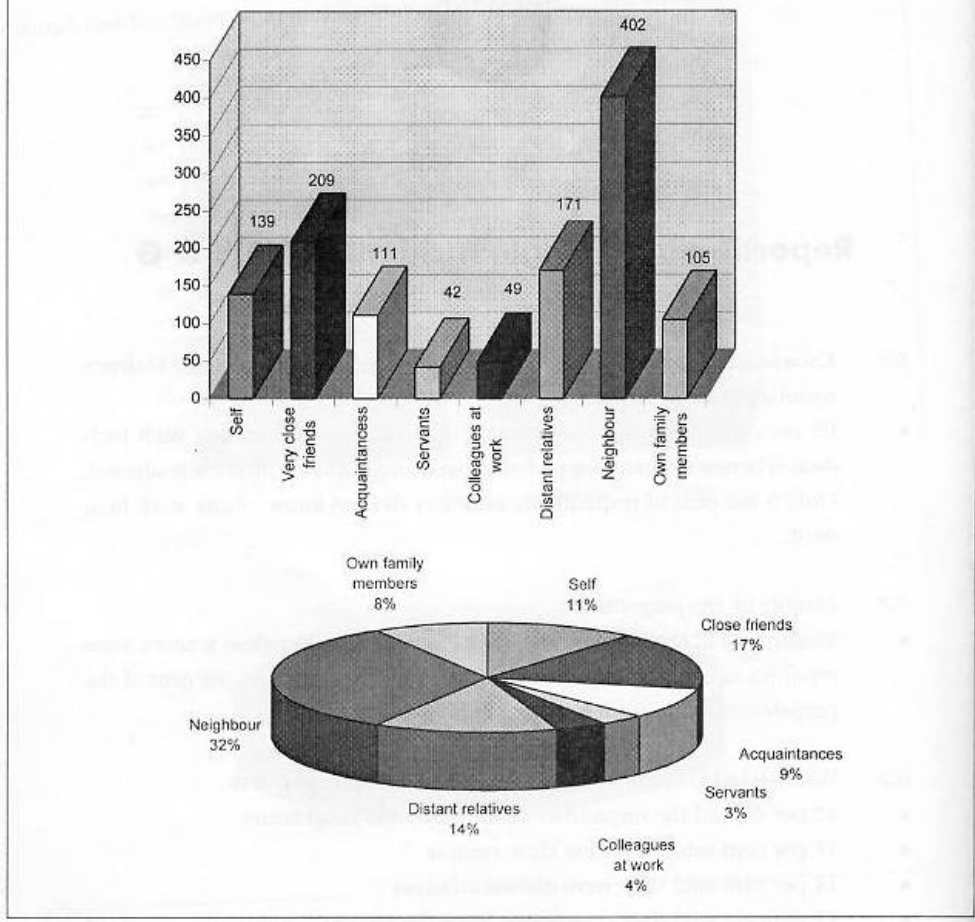
(See Figure 11)

6.4 Frequency and time of the act of violence

- In the case of domestic violence 88 per cent reported occasional violence, while 64 per cent reported monthly incidents, 58 per cent daily and 55 per cent weekly incidents.
- It was also reported that most **VAW & G** incidents occurred in the night followed by daytime and morning.

FIGURE 11

Bar Graph and Pie Chart on Information about Identity of Victims of VAW & G



6.5 Whether any weapon was used during the VAW & G incident:

- 67 per cent of respondents said that physical bodily power was used during most incidents such as blows, boxing and beating
- 4 per cent reported the use of weapons, and
- 2 per cent reported the use of domestic tools.

6.6 Outcome of the violent incident:

- 68 per cent of the respondents said it caused mental stress and emotional disturbance
- 19 per cent reported simple injuries
- 2 per cent even said it led to death
- 11 percent did not respond.

6.7 Whether any medical treatment was provided to the victim of the VAW & G incident:

- 50 per cent of the respondents reported that medical treatment was not taken after the incident
- 14 per cent of the respondents reported medical treatment was provided and the rest said they did not know what happened after the incident.
- Though this pattern was true for all caste groups, the Gurung and Tamang caste were seen to be the most likely ethnic group to provide treatment to victims of violence (47% of victims of this community were reported as being provided treatment).

6.8 Attitude of doctors towards victims of VAW & G:

- 54 per cent of the respondents said the doctors were usually helpful and sympathetic
- 34 per cent said the doctors dealt with them as with any other patient
- 12 per cent said doctors were careless and negligent.

6.9 Whether they knew if medical help was not given even when it was necessary:

- It was reported that in 18 per cent of cases medical attention was not given even when seriously required.

6.10 Attitude of the legal service providing agencies towards victims of violence:

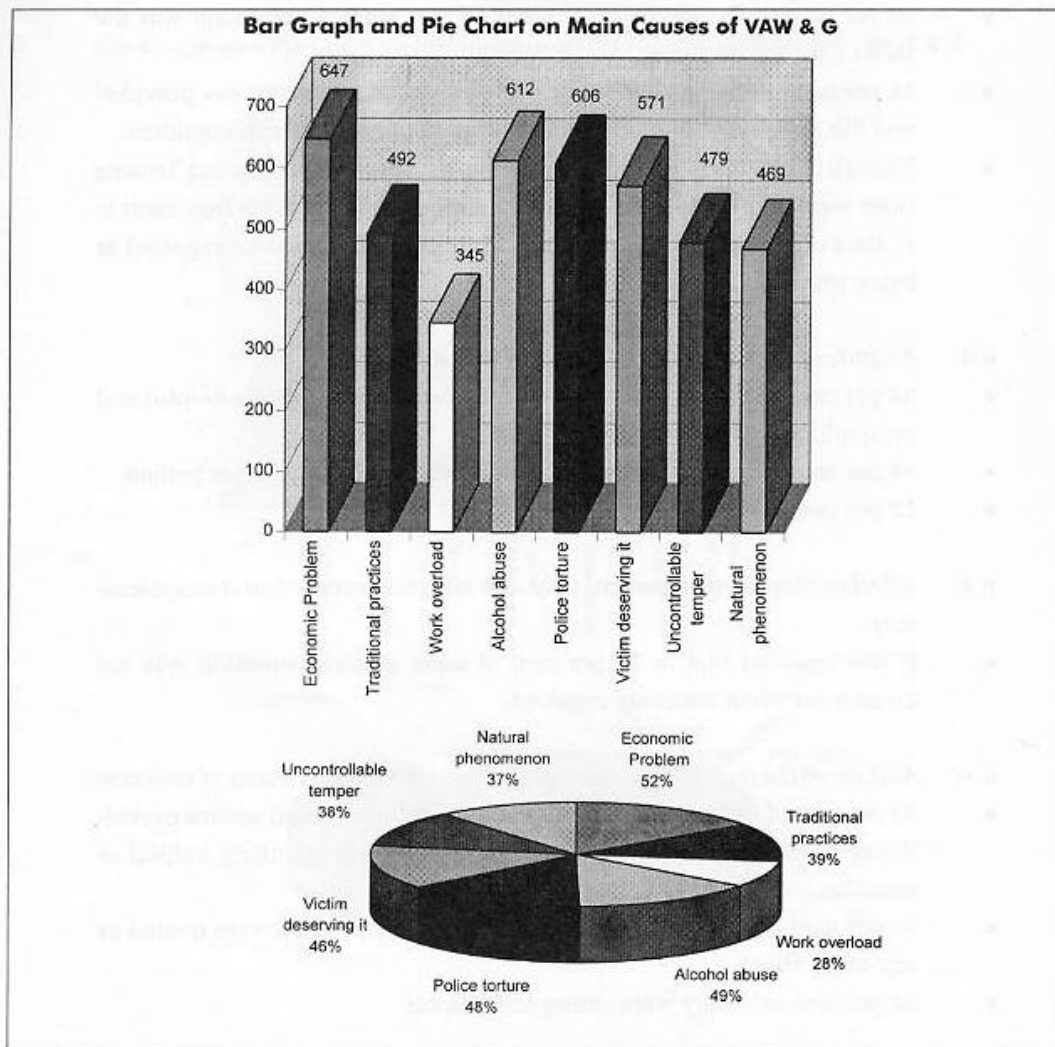
- 34 per cent of the respondents felt that the attitude of legal service providing agencies towards victims of VAW & G was not particularly helpful or sensitive
- 39 per cent of respondents said it was normal and they were treated as any other client
- 28 per cent said they were caring and helpful.

6.11 Main causes of known VAW & G incidents:

- 52 per cent of the respondents identified economic problem as the primary cause of domestic violence
- Alcohol abuse was identified by 49 per cent
- 48 per cent of incidents were reported as due to torture in police custody
- 46 per cent was seen as the victim deserving it
- 39 per cent saw it as due to traditional practices
- 38 per cent was due to uncontrollable temper
- 37 per cent thought VAW & G was a natural phenomenon
- 8 per cent of the respondents were of the opinion that having only female children was a cause of violence against women.

(See Figure 12)

FIGURE 12



Scenarios of Violence and Betrayal:

Reasons for Girls Becoming Sex Workers

"While studying my parents suddenly wanted to marry me off. In order to escape this Iran away from home and somehow got into this profession".

"While working in a shop in Darjeeling, a girl friend forced me to go to unknown places, committed acts of physical violence against me, stole my jewellery and forced me into this profession"

CHAPTER

7

Effect of Domestic Violence on Children

7.1 Knowledge of assault on children within the household:

- The highest percentage (17%) of children assaulted were reported to be male children between the ages of 11 to 15 followed by male children between the ages 5 to 10 years (13%) and female children between ages 11 to 15 years (8%). Thus the research revealed boys to be more victimized than girls between the age of 5 to 15 years.
- However, in less than 5 years of age category nearly twice the percentage of girl children were reported to be assaulted in comparison to boys.

7.2 Known types of violence children are most subject to are as follows:

- 33 per cent children are victims to physical violence within the house-hold
- 31 per cent reported verbal and 26 per cent mental abuse
- 18 per cent of respondents reported children not being given enough food to eat as a form of domestic violence against children.

7.3 Perceived impact of domestic violence on children:

- 15 per cent respondents opined that children from violent homes grow-up to become violent adults
- 10 per cent reported that it led to physical disabling
- Another 10 per cent were of the opinion that domestic violence led to suicide even among children
- The rest did not respond.

7.4 When asked if they thought children ran-away from home due to domestic violence:

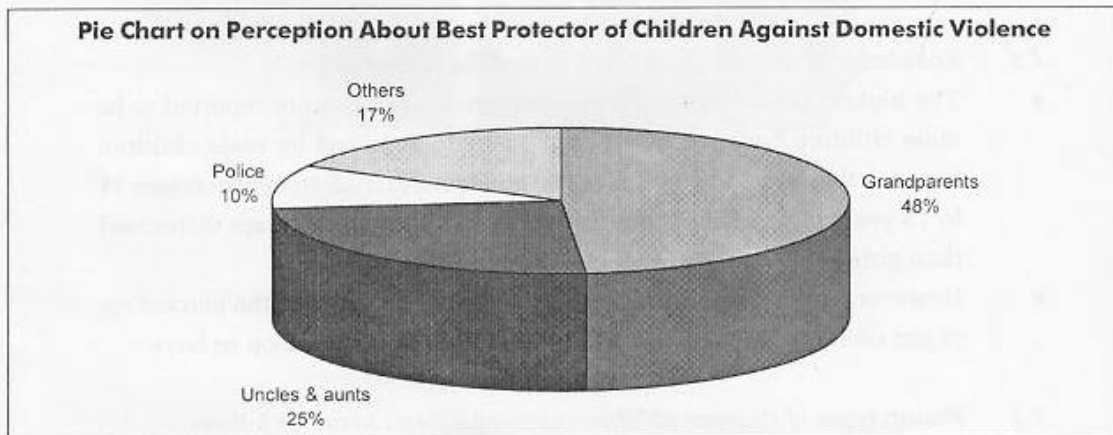
- 29 per cent of the respondents felt domestic violence to be a reason for children running away from home, while the rest said it did not lead to children running away from home.

7.5 Perceived best protector of children inside the home in case of domestic violence:

- 48 per cent said grandparents were the best protectors of children against violence, followed by uncles and aunts (25%), others (17%) and lastly the police (10%).

(See Figure 13)

FIGURE 13



Scenarios of Violence and Betrayal:

Reasons for Girls Becoming Sex Workers

"While studying my parents suddenly wanted to marry me off. In order to escape this Iran away from home and somehow got into this profession".

"While working in a shop a girl friend forced me to go to unknown places, committed acts of physical violence against me, stole my jewellery and forced me into this profession"

CHAPTER

8

Findings of Key Informant Study

Professionals in three areas, namely, NGOs, the police force and medical practitioners have been identified as key informants as they are most likely to come into frequent contact with victims of **VAW & G**. Commercial sex workers were also interviewed as a high risk group for **VAW & G**. Recorded in this chapter are their perceptions, understanding and knowledge of the existence of types of violence against women and girls in Nepal, in all the study sites. The extent of violence against women as well as possible solutions for its reduction was also discussed with the key informants.

8.1 Medical Practitioners

"In my career, I have seen small injuries to big injuries.... but I can't forget a woman who visited me with her one ear in one hand!"

Medical Practitioner

Twenty medical practitioners were interviewed from the study areas. Consultations were also held with spokespersons of the country's three major hospitals, i.e., the Bir Hospital, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH), and the UMN Patan Hospital. This section elaborates the findings and recommendations made by the medical practitioners.

- Frequency of **VAW & G** female patients is seen to increase just after the weekend but victims of alcohol abusers frequent the hospital at other times of the week as well.
- Most of the medical practitioners reported encountering cases of small injuries followed subsequently by bigger injuries in cases of domestic violence.
- Some of the longer serving health workers and hospital staff reported all possible types of injuries as a result of **VAW & G** ranging from broken limbs and burns to rape, suicide attempts, suicides and murder.

- The respondents were of the opinion that some of the victims report the real cause of the injury only after confidence building and counselling.
- Most of the medical practitioners reported that they treat domestic assault cases 'similarly' as other cases. Only one reported 'treatment needs to be different because of different level of mental stress'.
- Almost all of the medical practitioners felt that there should be special training and orientation programmes to handle **VAW & G** cases.
- Most of the respondents thought that the service of police personnel was not up to mark in cases of domestic or other types of violence against women and girls.
- Identification of modes of better co-ordination with the police followed by orientation on medico-law was also seen as an urgent need for both police officers and medical practitioners.

8.2 Survey of Police Personnel

"As there are no special legal provisions to handle cases of either domestic or any violence against women and children cases, I feel public awareness is the best solution."

Police Official

During the survey, a total of 20 police officials were interviewed to assess the situation of violence against women and children. The findings of the survey are as follows:

- All the respondents were aware of the prevalence of violence against women and children in Nepal. According to them, the cases were mostly related to sexual abuse, assault and girls trafficking followed by child labour. Other types of violence that are commonly reported were dowry, rape, incest, abortion, polygamy, prostitution and murder.
- All the respondents said they extended their full co-operation to reduce these types of incidents in their area. Records of such incidences were maintained and categorised under *Civil Code, Article No. 121, 2049 BS* and the *Public Cases Related Act, 2049 BS*. Nearly 75 per cent of the police personnel quoted these two laws as related to **VAW & G**.
- The reported incidents range between two to three in a sub police post to 120 per month at the **Hanuman Dhoka, Kathmandu** District Police Office. The cases were usually reported to the police during the official working hours even though the incident may have taken place in the evening or night. This was more apparent in areas without electricity while in urban areas, the trend was to report incidents as and when it happened.
- When asked 'What do you generally do when you are called to a domestic dispute in which a woman or girl has been assaulted?', nearly 60 per cent of the surveyed police personnel said they registered a case in the police station while 35 per cent said they tried to settle the incident at the site and arranged for both parties involved to compromise.

- 35 per cent of the police personnel reported being called in to intervene and separate the **abuser** from the victims. Depending on the intensity and the nature of the incidence, nearly 70 per cent of the respondents said they remove an abused or an abusive person from the scene under the *Civil Code, Article No. 121 Act, 2049 BS* and the *Public Cases Related Act, Act 2049 BS*. Those persons were usually kept under police custody or at a victims support centre where available.
- 65 per cent of the police personnel usually initiate an investigation even if an abused woman or girl does not want to file a case. In cases where women were seriously injured, they were first provided medical care and counselling services before the police investigation was initiated.
- Nearly 75 per cent of the police personnel were aware of the existing formal or informal groups and agencies responding to and investigating violence against women and girls such as women's cell and crime investigation groups. However, 25 per cent of the respondents were not aware of any such groups.
- 35 per cent of the respondents had undergone some training to deal with and investigate cases of **VAW & G** and they also mostly keep records of such incidents.
- Nearly half the respondents were aware of **NGOs** that help such victims.
- The respondents believed that the police force's ability to respond sensitively to cases of violence against women and girls can be increased through training (55%), allocation of more resources (30%), raised public awareness (30%) and some suggested establishing more police women cells (10%). Some 15% of the respondents did express their desire not to have any political interference in such cases.

8.3 Non-governmental Organisations

A total of 20 NGOs were approached to assess their understanding and knowledge of violence against women in Nepal, the following are their opinions:

- Understanding of **VAW & G** ranged from 'lack of human rights', 'forceful attack', 'a product of gender biased traditions', 'physical and mental stress', '**feudalistic** mentality of men', 'injustice and exploitation', 'actions categorised as destructive by the laws', 'prevented from realising one's true potential', 'lack of social security', 'restricted mobility', 'sexual abuse', 'actions against human rights' to 'assault, exploitation, rape, murder, child prostitution, child labour', 'any action without consent', 'torture-physical or mental', 'economic and physical exploitation' and 'exploitation of the opportunity for development'.
- 30 per cent of the NGOs reported providing some kind of related services such as awareness raising activities, training, counselling, acting as a pressure group, while 70 per cent said they did not provide any services for victims of violence.

- 75 per cent of the NGO respondents thought that there is widespread violence victimizing both women and children; while 15 per cent thought it is widespread amongst women only and 10 per cent opined it was wide-spread amongst children.
- 80 per cent of the respondents thought the existing legal measures were adequate to combat the problem while 20 per cent thought they were inadequate.
- Over 60 per cent of the respondents thought that the police was not taking enough action to counter the situation while nearly 35 per cent thought that police action was sufficient.
- On the level of concern of the general public about the problem of violence against women and children, nearly half the respondents mentioned people were generally unconcerned while 25 per cent said people want to see culprits punished and considered it a criminal act.
- All the respondents said that though social attitudes towards such crimes are negative there was no real social pressure to prevent the abuse of women and children.
- In fact, nearly 75 per cent of the respondents thought that there was social pressure for the victims to stay with the abuser in case of domestic violence.
- The respondents elaborated a wide range of possible causes of violence. Nearly 60 per cent of respondents thought lack of proper education and employment was a major cause followed by patriarchal social structure, gender discrimination, poverty and economic dependence, tradition of tolerance, ignorance about human and legal rights, polygamy, religious practices and beliefs, drug and alcohol abuse.
- The NGOs working in this area reported facing social sanctions while trying to help the victims (50%), political pressure (30%) and financial pressure (25%).
- 50 per cent respondents found the surrounding community having a negative attitude towards the perpetrators of **VAW & G** while the 50 per cent said the community was gender biased and blamed the women.
- Nearly 20 per cent of them felt they did not get enough co-operation in these activities from the community.

8.4 Commercial Sex Workers

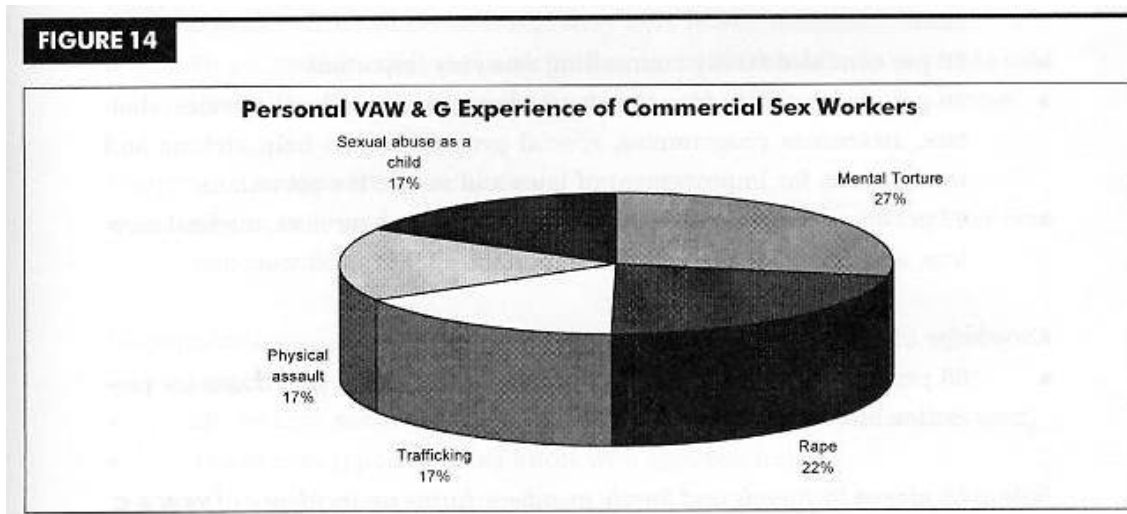
Among the 20 commercial sex workers contacted for the survey only 35 per cent (7) were willing to participate in the survey:

Knowledge, Opinions and Attitudes

VAW& G personally experienced

- 27 per cent had experienced mental torture, followed by rape (22%), trafficking (17%), beating and physical assault (17%), and sexual abuse as a child (17%).

(See Figure 14)



- A number of them also reported having been victim to psychological, verbal violence and harassment in the workplace as well as child marriage and as having contemplated suicide (all these factors were reported by 28% of the sample of commercial sex workers).
- 14 per cent of them admitted being victims of forced abortions.

Recommended action to be taken after an incident of violence:

- Most commercial sex workers thought that an act of **VAW & G** should be reported to the police (84%) or that they should seek help of NGOs (70%). The third alternative seen by them was to either file a case, seek help from friends and relatives or from local political leaders.
- 28 per cent of them thought the victim should retaliate themselves.

Perceived reasons preventing a victim of violence from reporting the incident:

- Lack of education was identified as the primary cause for keeping quiet by all the respondents.
- 42 per cent of respondents believed economic dependency, ignorance of the available services, tradition and children to be reasons for women not reporting incidents of **VAW & G**.
- 28 per cent thought it was due to lack of shelters, fear of repercussions, social pressure, lack of self-confidence, and mistrust of law enforcing authorities.

*Whether acts of **VAW & G** should be tolerated in silence or reported:*

- 98 per cent of this sample of respondents agreed that any act of **VAW & G** should be reported.

*The following were identified as the types of assistance required for victims of **VAW & G**:*

- 84 per cent identified emergency rehabilitation centres as the first requirement.
- 70 per cent said family counselling was very important.
- 56 per cent gave importance to legal counselling, free legal services, shelters, awareness programmes, special programmes to help victims and mechanisms for improvement of laws and restrictive provisions.
- 42 per cent thought emotional counselling, hotline services, medical services, and financial support was important.

Knowledge about legal provision:

- 86 per cent of respondents did not know of any legal provisions for protection of victims of **VAW & G**.

*Role to be played by friends and family members during an incidence of **VAW & G**:*

- 56 per cent said that friends and family should assist the victim.
- 42 per cent said friends and family should stop the violence.

Knowledge of place where the victims can take shelter:

- 72 per cent of respondents did not have any information about where victims of **VAW & G** could go for shelter.
- 86 per cent also responded that they did not know of any organisation which provides assistance to victims of violence.

*Whether schools could play a key role in dealing with the issue of **VAW & G**:*

- 56 per cent of respondents said that schools could play a positive in creating awareness about **VAW & G**, however, 44 per cent said they could not.

*Whether the media should play a role in dealing with **VAW & G**:*

- All the respondents agreed that the media could be very instrumental in dealing with **VAW & G** and suggested programmes for creating public awareness through drama, songs and awareness raising and reporting the true stories.

Reporting about One Particular VAW & G Incident

First hand knowledge of any physical, verbal or psychological VAW & G incident; and identity of perpetrator and victim:

- 56 per cent of the respondents said they knew of at least one incident of physical, verbal or mental **VAW & G**, while 44 per cent said they did not know of any such incident.
- 70 per cent of respondents of this group identified the perpetrator as an outsider while 28 per cent said they were family members.
- 70 per cent identified the victims as themselves while 14 per cent said they were close friends and 14 per cent said they were acquaintances.

Frequency and time of the incidence:

- 44 per cent said such incidents occurred sometimes while 28 per cent said they occurred daily.

Response to query about medium of violence:

- 44 per cent said physical power was used.
- 28 per cent said weapons such as wooden sticks and pipes were used.
- 14 per cent reported being burnt with cigarette butts.

Responses to query about outcome of the VAW & G incident:

- 56 per cent said it resulted in mental anguish and torture.
- 28 per cent it led to minor injuries.
- In the case of rape 14 per cent said it caused HIV-AIDS.

Responses to queries on whether medical help taken and the attitude of the medical practitioners:

- 70 per cent of respondents said they did not take any medical help and even when medical help was taken the medical practitioner was seen as being not co-operative or negligent by 42 per cent of the respondents. Interestingly enough none of the respondents said the medical practitioners were helpful.
- Apparently, in 42 per cent of the cases, medical help was not taken even when it was required.

Perceived attitude of legal practitioners towards victims of VAW & G:

- 42 per cent felt that legal practitioners behaved in a normal manner towards victims of **VAW & G** while 28 per cent said they were negative.

Reasons as to why the respondent became a commercial sex worker:

- 42 per cent reported financial pressure and betrayal as the primary causes
- Another 42 per cent blamed it on ignorance
- 14 per cent said it was due to traditional norms/social evils, drudgery of work and drugs, suspicion/jealousy.

Effect of Domestic Violence on Children

All the respondents in this sample (100%) said they knew of girls between the ages of 11 to 15 years who were victims of sexual abuse.

When asked about the types of violence they had personally witnessed against children:

- 86 per cent said they had witnessed psychological violence
- 70 per cent said they had witnessed physical violence
- 42 per cent said they had witnessed verbal violence.

Asked their opinion on the effect of domestic violence on children:

- 70 per cent of respondents said it had a negative psychological impact on the children and they became psychologically disturbed
- 56 per cent said children become violent individuals themselves
- 56 per cent it could lead to mental and physical disabilities
- 42 per cent it caused feelings of insecurity and unhappiness
- 28 per cent said it led to lack of interest in education, degenerative social behaviour and that children could even commit suicide.

CHAPTER

9

Discussion of Results and Recommendations

*"A wife married is like a pony bought;
I'll ride her and whip her as I like".*

Chinese Proverb

Violence against women has evolved in part from a system of gender relations which posits that men are superior to women. This idea of male supremacy and the dominance of women is often reflected in the laws and customs of societies. Thus violence against women is an extension of a continuum of beliefs that grants men the right to control women's behaviour. Change in this behaviour would require extensive change in power and control relations between the genders as well.

Description of the Respondents

The respondents of this study can be described as encapsulating a true picture of the Nepalese society. More women than men were seen responding to the questionnaires even when the sample was deliberately designed as 50 per cent men and 50 per cent women. Women's literacy rate was very low in comparison to men in the sample as is true in the larger Nepali population as well. Most of them were involved in the agricultural sector and more women reported themselves as not having enough economic resources in comparison to men.

Prevalence, Type and Perpetrator of VAW & G

A disturbing picture of **VAW & G** has emerged in this research. Violence against women is seen to be highly prevalent in the Nepalese society, 95 per cent of all respondents reported having first hand knowledge of **VAW & G** incidents. In the high risk group (commercial sex workers) all the respondents reported first hand knowledge of **VAW & G** incidents. **VAW & G** incidents were reported as mostly occurring in the night, under the cover of darkness and on weekends and in most cases of **VAW & G**, physical bodily strength was reported used. In the case of domestic violence nearly 58 per cent was reported as a daily occurrence.

All the respondents were unanimous in their response that **VAW & G** should not be tolerated in silence but suggested bringing the perpetrator to book, especially more so in the case of physical violence (93%) than psychological or emotional violence (79%).

The respondents of the survey reported physical beating (82%) to be the most common form of **VAW & G**. In a similar study conducted in Malaysia among a sample of 60 battered women, 92 per cent reported being kicked, punched or slapped (Abdullah et al, 1995).

In most cases the incidents of **VAW & G** in Nepal were seen to result in mental anguish (67%) and stress followed by injuries and in some cases (2%) even death.

In 77 per cent of the cases the perpetrators of **VAW & G** was seen to be a family member. Studies conducted in other countries of the world also reveal women to be most at risk from men they know. A 1987 study conducted in Sao Paulo Women's Police Station showed that of more than 2,000 battery cases registered in a time period of five months, 70 per cent of all reported incidents took place inside the home and that in almost all cases the abuser was the woman's husband or lover (Americas Watch, 1991). This trend was also observed in Brazil where 50 per cent of rapes reported in 125 women's police stations were committed by family members. A recent survey in India revealed that of all the cases a psychiatrist sees 40 per cent are of those persons who abuse their wives (Cosmopolitan Magazine, June 1997).

Though the social norm and practice is not to intervene in an incident of domestic violence as it is seen as a "family matter", the respondents overwhelmingly said friends and relatives should intervene. Violence between intimates should be seen equally if not more dangerous than violence in the streets. Studies have shown that in the United States more than 80 per cent of all assaults committed by spouses and former spouses result in injuries, compared to 54 per cent of assaults by strangers. Victims of marital violence have the highest rates of internal injuries and unconsciousness (Lentzner and DeBerry, 1980).

However, in this study the high risk group (commercial sex workers) reported 'outsiders' as the perpetrator of **VAW & G** in 70 per cent of the cases.

Causes and Protection Measures

Economic problems and alcohol abuse were seen as the main causes of **VAW & G** incidents both within and outside the home. Responses given also seem to identify the patriarchal structure of the society to be a major cause of **VAW & G**. A Malaysian study also showed jealousy followed by alcohol abuse to be the main causes of **VAW & G** (Abdullah et al., 1995). Thus, in the Nepali case, social factors such as economic problems and traditional gender roles can be seen as a definite reason for **VAW & G** as well as psychological problems such as alcohol abuse and repetition of violent behaviour patterns due to socialisation within violent families. Alcohol as a major cause

of **VAW & G** has also been cited in studies in Western cultures (Dobash, 1979). Begetting daughters was also seen as a cause of **VAW & G**, especially, of abandonment and polygamy.

On the side of the victims, reluctance to report an incident of **VAW & G** was seen as mainly being due to financial dependency (73%), lack of education and wanting to keep a family intact for the children (49%). Also cited were reasons such as fear of social sanction. These findings were further reinforced by the key informant sample of NGOs who reported that though violence against women and children was widespread, the community at large was generally unconcerned about the victims. Also instead of pressure or sanction against the perpetrators, the victims were pressurised to stay with the abusers in the case of domestic violence. In fact the NGO groups reported having to face social sanction and even political pressure for trying to help victims of violence.

The police was viewed as the first recourse for protection that most victims turn to or should turn to by all caste and ethnic groupings of the sample as well as by the key informants and the high risk group. This reveals a strong faith in the police force in Nepal and interviews with police personnel reinforced the reasons for this faith. Most police personnel interviewed reported trying to mediate towards reconciliation rather than to fulfill a role of law enforcement. Similar results were also found in a study conducted by the United Nations in 1989. One of the reasons cited by the police for their tendency to mediate is also because in most cases the victims are reluctant to press charges and also due to the limitations of existing laws. Identification of the limitations of existing laws for dealing with **VAW & G** by both the police and lawyers seems to suggest drafting of more effective laws, especially for domestic violence. The police personnel also identified a need for being trained in order to be more responsive to the needs of the victims. A suggestion has also been made by police personnel for mass awareness campaigns about **VAW & G**.

Among the controversial results of this study is the fact that though high faith was shown in the police system, third in the list of causes of **VAW & G** was torture in police custody. Also the NGOs felt the police was not taking enough actions to control violence against women even though legal provisions were adequate. Besides the police, family and friends, local political leaders and social workers were seen as other members of the society who could provide assistance to the victims of **VAW & G**.

Though legal actions such as filing a case against the perpetrator was also seen as

an action to be resorted to after an incident of **VAW & G**, there was generally a very low level of knowledge among victims about laws under which they could seek protection. A number of respondents also felt that existing legal measures were not sufficient for protecting victims of **VAW & G**.

The attitudes and responses of medical practitioners were not seen to be sympathetic by the high risk group. On the part of the medical practitioners, they reported mostly dealing with the victims as any other patient but they also acknowledged the need for training to be able to handle them more sensitively. Medical practitioners also reported a pattern in the intensity of abuse in case of domestic violence which would begin with minor injuries and follow with more serious injuries in the subsequent incidents. This finding is corroborated by the findings reported from other countries around the world (Heise et al., 1994).

The types of injuries reported by medical practitioners ranged from broken limbs, burns to rape and even death of victims. They also reported that most victims would not confide what caused the injuries. In almost half of the cases, medical help was not taken after an incident and in 18 per cent care was not given even when seriously required.

Nepalese medical practitioners acknowledged the fact that there was a need for better co-ordination between them and the police in order to provide more effective assistance to the victims. In a study at a large urban hospital in the United States, it was found that 90 per cent of doctors in their interactions with women who were unquestionably **VAW & G** victims, omitted to obtain a psychosocial history, or ask about sexual or physical abuse and about safe living arrangements (Warshaw, 1989).

Violence Against Children

An equally disturbing picture has emerged on the existence of violence against children in Nepal.

In the case of domestic violence, contrary to belief, boys were found to be more victimised than girls, especially, between the ages of 5 to 15 years. However, in the under five age group, girl children were reported as being more victimised. Children were mostly subject to physical violence, including not being given enough to eat as punishment. The high risk group (commercial sex workers) said all of them knew of girl children who had been sexually abused.

Most of the respondents, including the high risk group said that violence in the lives of children makes them psychologically disturbed persons and more prone to becoming violent adults. Family members were seen as the most appropriate persons to intervene and protect children in the cases of domestic violence.

CHAPTER

10

Conclusion

Why violence against women? Why is violence against men not an issue for gender and social activists in Nepal and other parts of the world is an oft raised query. Why indeed not? An in-depth and critical analysis of the pattern of violence reveals that though women can be violent, most violence that causes injury is perpetrated by men against women.

Statistics from all over the world show that in the predominant majority of cases, rapists are all men, as are persons booked for assault and battery. The gendered nature of most violent crime is especially evident in statistics. In most nations, between 80 to 90 per cent of homicide offenders are male and an even higher share of those whose victims are adult women are male. In Canada, for example, about 95 per cent of the killers of women (females 15 years or older) are male (Gartner and McCarthy, 1991).

The effects of **VAW & G** is much more far-reaching than the one incident under immediate consideration. Gender violence, through its negative effects on a woman's ability to achieve, serves as a brake in the path of socio-economic development and the empowerment of women. A study by Thapa et al (1994) on sexual harassment in public places in Nepal revealed instances where girls had dropped-out of college due to extreme sexual harassment and thus closed the door to chances for bettering themselves.

Women who are victimised and have to live in constant fear cannot participate in development programmes designed to benefit them. The mobility of women gets restricted by a vicious circle of threat to their 'purity' and physical harm. The first step towards the empowerment of women will have to be the guaranteed security of a safe environment for them inside and outside the home as a basic human right.

However, in the traditional patriarchal mode of the Nepalese society, the issue of **VAW & G** is yet to be recognised as a major impediment to the progress of women and development of the society. Most development programmes, even programmes for advocacy of women's rights and health overlook **VAW & G** as an issue of any consequence. Therefore, this research should be utilised as a resource to highlight the issue and recognise it as one deserving attention, especially, if commitment to the empowering Nepalese women and developing the country is serious and not just tokenism.

CHAPTER

11

Recommendations for Action Programmes

The respondents and key informants of this situation analysis have provided some suggestions for mitigating violence against women in Nepal, some of which are given below. Additional recommendations for action programmes have also been made in the following passages.

Creating Awareness

The media has been identified as capable of playing a key proactive role in awareness creation about this issue. A national level awareness programme using all modern and traditional channels of communication (i.e. tv, radio, the school system, non-formal education system, folk songs, street theatre) should be designed on the social non-acceptability of violence against women as well as to create awareness among the women themselves about their human right not to be abused. IEC material based on research needs to be developed in Nepali and all major regional languages for distribution.

Victim Support Programme Package

The need for a nation-wide victim support programme package was identified. This package would need to include provisions for: emotional counselling, legal counselling, crisis intervention, safe houses and shelters, prompt access to medical services, as well as victim rehabilitation programmes. The victim support programme should also include counselling and treatment for the perpetrators, and other members of the family as most cases are seen to be those of domestic violence.

Orientation and Training Programme for Key Persons

Training and orientation on VAW & G for police personnel, lawyers and medical practitioners have also been identified as an area requiring intervention. It is also suggested that orientation on **VAW & G** be provided to NGOs working in all parts of the country.

Creation of Women's Cells in Police Stations

As police has been identified as the most important law enforcement agency for dealing with **VAW & G** victims, it is recommended that the government be lobbied for establishing more women cells in police stations to facilitate handling **VAW & G** cases.

Legal Measures to Combat VAW & G

Strident legal measures should be designed and enforced to protect women and girls against violence, especially domestic violence. Family courts should also be established for expediting arbitration of such cases. To make the legal system successful, however, requires an aware constituency of women, therefore there exists a national need for legal literacy and awareness programmes for women and girls.

Steps to Deal with Alcohol-related VAW & G

As in a number of incidents of **VAW & G**, the influence of alcohol has been identified as a key reason, measures should be identified to (a) stop the sale of alcohol to persons with a definitive record of violence (b) treat alcoholism among individuals prone to violence.

Formation of a National Network on VAW & G

The findings of the study point to the need for developing a national level network against **VAW & G**. This network should have as its members NGOs and all relevant government agencies such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, the police, lawyers associations and associations of medical practitioners.

Support to NGOs and CBOs working against VAW & G

Positive actions must be taken to technically and financially support NGOs and CBOs working in the field with **VAW & G** victims. This would require donors and the government recognising and internalising **VAW & G** as an area of critical concern for all Nepalese women.

ANNEXURE

ANNEX A

List of Advocates Providing Technical Assistance

The Study Team would like to express gratitude to the following advocates for their voluntary technical assistance in the situational analysis of **VAW & G** in Nepal.

1. Sr. Advocate Dr. Shanta Thapaliya
2. Advocate Sapana Malla Pradhan
3. Advocate Ram Prakash Bhandari
4. Advocate Sanju Thapa

ANNEX - B

Name of Sample VDCs and Municipality Wards

Jhapa District

Goldhap VDC

Khudunabari VDC

Baluwadi VDC

Nuwakot District

Dhyangfedi VDC

ChhapVDC

Bungtang VDC

Kathmandu Valley

Ason and Indrachowk area of Kathmandu Municipality

Patan area of Lalitpur Municipality

Farping VDC

Jorpati VDC

New Baneshwor area of Kathmandu Municipality

Kalimati area of Kathmandu Municipality

Banke District

Raniyapur VDC

Kohalpur Municipality

Radhapur VDC

Kanchanpur District

Rauteli Bichawa VDC

Pipaladi VDC

Jhalari VDC

ANNEX - C

Proceedings
of
Focus Group Meeting
on

"Violence Against Women in Nepal"

Venue: Hotel Orchid
(7 December 1996)

Minutes of the Meeting

1. The Focus-Group meeting was organised at Hotel Orchid on 7 December 1996. Participants from various governmental and non-governmental organisations were invited. They were requested for input for finalizing the draft questionnaire, prepared for the situational analysis of "violence against women and girls in Nepal". A total of 17 participants were present at the meeting.
2. Following a brief introduction of the participants, Dr. Arzu Deuba opened the meeting and gave an introduction of SAATHI and its activities. Information on the survey and its aim and objectives were also presented. The Project Coordinator, Ms. Pinky Singh Rana, further elaborated on the survey and its objectives and discussed the agenda of the day.
3. Interesting and valuable suggestions were contributed as the questionnaire was read out. It was mentioned that 750 respondents could not speak for the entire nation and the selection of only three districts would bring out a very regionally imbalanced result. It was strongly recommended that the Far Western and mountainous region should also be included in the survey.
4. Ms. Ruth Finney Hayward's suggestion that the survey be on girls as well as women was approved by all the participants. Therefore the title of the survey was changed to "Violence Against Women and Girls".
5. A sub-section on the effect of domestic violence on children was also incorporated. With regard to the children CWIN was to be requested for information on the street children along with their reasons for being on the roads. The police was to be requested for records on the violence against women and children.
6. It was unanimously agreed that the questionnaire should be filled in by trained surveyors to yield better and more accurate data from the respondents.

7. It was realised that on the basis of the present draft questionnaire it would be difficult to ascertain whether the response dealt with one particular incident or a general opinion. The draft questionnaire was therefore suggested to be divided into a total of four sections.
 - Section I - General background of the interviewee
 - Section II - Recounting a particular incident
 - Section III - General ideas and opinions of interviewee
 - Section IV - Effect of domestic violence on children
 - Section V - Questions to be put to the medical personnel, the police and NGOs
8. Overall the meeting proved extremely fruitful. At the end of the meeting the participants requested SAATHI for a final version of the questionnaire and the report on the outcome of the survey.

Participants of Focus Group Discussion: Ruth Finney Hayward, UNICEF/Regional Office; Bandana Rana, SAATHI; Shobha Gautam, Sancharika Samuha; Prativa Subedi, WAC/N; Basanta Kunwar, Nepal Police; Geeta Upreti, Nepal Police; Sajani Amatya, SAATHI; Bhuwaneswari Satyal, CCSD; Sandhya Shrestha, CWIN; Rekha Regmi, NSU; Amrita Karthak, AGNW/UMN; Sanju Thapa, LACC; Rajshri Shrestha, LACC; Mandira Sharma, CVICT; Pramila Shah, SAATHI

The meeting was convened and coordinated by Arzu Rana-Deuba and Pinky Singh Rana.

ANNEX D

Questionnaire for Survey on Violence Against Women and Girls in Nepal

The survey is being conducted by SAATHI in collaboration with The Asia Foundation to research in to the nature, type and extent of violence against the women and girls in Nepal. Individual information is confidential and will not be released to any person or organisation. The accumulated data will be statistically analysed and used for research purposes only.

Section I (to be filled in by the interviewer)

1. Questionnaire Number:.....
2. Name of District:
3. Name of VDC or Municipality.....
4. Name of Surveyor:.....

Section II (Based on the interviewees' response)

1. Name (Optional).....
2. Caste/Ethnicity.....
3. Sex: Male 1 Female 2
4. Religion:.....
5. Mother Tongue.....
6. Marital Status: Married 1
Unmarried 2
Widowed 3
Single 4
7. Type of Family: Joint Family 1
Nuclear Family 2
8. Family Size

Age (in years)	No. of male	No. of female
0 to 10		
11 to 20		
21 to 30		
31 to 40		
41 to 50		
Above 50		

9. Level of Education

Husband (Please ✓)	Educational Level	Wife (Please ✓)
1	Illiterate	1
2	Literate	2
3	Literacy Training	3
4	Primary Level	4
5	Secondary Level	5
6	SLC Pass	6
7	Higher Level (Specify)	7

10. Occupation

Husband.....
Wife.....

11. Economic Status (per month):

Husband (please ✓)	Economic Status (per month)	Wife (please ✓)
1	Enough	1
2	Not enough	2
3	Some Surplus	3
4	Economically Dependent	4
5	Economically Independent	5

Section III (Opinions and attitudes)

1. What forms of violence against women and girls do you know which exist in your community?

Psychological Violence	Please ✓ as appropriate	Physical Violence	Please ✓ as appropriate
Mental torture	1	Beating	1
Emotional torture	2	Rape	2
Verbal assault	3	Forced Prostitution and Trafficking	3
Sexual harassment in public places	4	Sexual Exploitation	4
Sexual harassment in the work places	5	Torture in police custody	5
Abuse Through Letter	6	Abortion	6
Abuse Through Telephone	7	Incest	7
Other mental torture	8	Child Sexual Abuse	8
Forced to Commit Suicide	9	Others 9	
Traditional practices	Please ✓ as appropriate		
Deuki/Badi custom	1		
Jari	2		
Bonded Labour	3		
Child Marriage	4		
Accused of Witchcraft	5		
Religious Practices	6		
Forced Abortion	7		
Polygamy	8		
Dowry/related violence	9		
Untouchability	10		
Others.....	11		

2. In your option what should a woman do following an incidence of violence?

Possible actions following a violent incident	Please ✓ where appropriate
Report to police	1
File a case	2
Ignore the incident	3
Tolerate it quietly	4
Inform relatives/friends	5
Respond verbally/physically	6
Seek help from Local Political Leaders	7
Seek help from NGOs/Social Workers	8
Others (please specify)	9

3. In your opinion what may be the causes that prohibit a woman from reporting an incidence of violence?

Reasons that prevent women from reporting incidents of violence	Please ✓ where appropriate
Financial dependency	1
Lack of education	2
Ignorance of available services	3
Tradition/Culture	4
To keep marriage intact for children	5
No place to go to/ Lack of support systems	6
Fear of repercussions	7
Social pressure, e.g. family prestige	8
Negative attitude of concerned authorities	9
Lack of confidence	10
Lack of trust in the law enforcing agencies	11
Attitude of male domination	12
Others (please specify)	13

4. In your opinion, physical violence of any kind should be reported.

Strongly agree1
 Agree..... 2
 Disagree.....3
 Strongly disagree.....4
 Don't know5

5. In your opinion, physical violence should be reported.

Strongly agree1
 Agree..... 2
 Disagree.....3
 Strongly disagree.....4
 Don't know5

6. In your opinion traditional violence against women should be tolerated.

Strongly agree1
 Agree..... 2
 Disagree.....3
 Strongly disagree.....4
 Don't know5

7. What can and should be the means of protection and support for the victims of violence?

Preferred Types	Please ✓ where appropriate
Crisis intervention services	1
Emotional Counselling	2
Family mediation	3
Legal counseling	4
Free legal service	5
Hotline telephone service	6
Medical service facility	7
Safe house provision	8
Awareness programme	9
Victim support programme	10
Improvement of laws & restrictive provisions	11
Economic support	12
Others	13

8. Are the victims aware of the legal or other provisions for their protection?

Yes.....

No.....

8.1 Do you know of any laws which protect the rights of women against violence

Civil Codes 1
Labour Act 2
Child Rights Act 3
Laws against Trafficking 4
Others 5
Don't know 6

8.2 Do you think that the existing legal provisions are sufficient

Yes.....

No.....

9. What roles can family/friends play during incidents of violence against women and children?

Interfere 1
Not interfere 2
Stop the violent acts 3
Try to reason 4
Provide help to victim 5
Others (please specify) 6

10. Do you know of any shelters or safe houses in your area where victims of violence can take shelter?

Yes.....1

No.....2

Don't Know.....3

11. Do you know of any other organisations besides SAATHI, providing assistance to women and girl victims of violence?

Yes.....1

No.....2

12. Do you think schools can and should play a major role in providing with information related to violence against women and girls?

Yes.....1

No.....2

13. Can the media play a constructive role in dealing with the issue of violence against women and girls?

Yes.....1

No.....2

Section IV

(Reporting of One Incident Known Personally to Respondent)

1. Do you personally know of any verbal, psychological or physical incident of violence against a Nepali woman?

Yes.....1

No.....2

If yes, who was the perpetrator?

Family member (give relationship) 1

Outsider (specify) 2

Others (specify) 3

Can you estimate the age of the victim and the perpetrator?

Age of Victim ...

Age of Perpetrator ...

2. Who was the victim?

Identity of the victim	Please ✓ where appropriate
Self	1
Close friends	2
Acquaintances	3
Servants at home	4
Colleagues at work	5
Helpers at work	6
Distant relatives	7
Neighbours	8
Family Members	9

3. What was the frequency and time of the act of violence?

(Frequency)	Time			
	morning	afternoon	evening	night
Daily				
Weekly				
Monthly				
Occasionally				

4. What (if any) types of weapons were used during the incident of violence?

Hands/physical body power 1

Weapons 2

Household utilities/tools 3

Others (specify) 4

5. What was the outcome of the violent incident?

Mental stress	1
Small injuries	2
Disability	3
Broken limbs/fractures	4
Death	5
Others (specify)	6

6. Was medical treatment provided after the violent incident?

Yes.....1 No.....2

6.1 If yes, what was the attitude of the doctor?

Normal	1
Helpful	2
Unhelpful/Careless	3

6.2 What was the attitude of the law enforcing agencies?

(police force, lawyers, NGOs, others)

Normal	1
Helpful	2
Unhelpful/Careless	3

7. In your opinion what was the cause of the violence?

Causes of violence	Please ✓ where appropriate
Economic problem	1
Traditional practices	2
Work overload	3
Alcohol abuse	4
Drug abuse	5
Jokingly (as a prank)	6
Suspicion/jealousy	7
Violent nature	8
Doubts of unfaithfulness	9
Dominating nature	10
Dowry	11
Sexual problems	12
Family matters	13
Male chauvinistic attitude	14
Police torture	15
Victim deserved it	16
Violent temper	17
Sometimes it happens	18
Greed	19
Second wife	20
Others (specify)	

8.1 If the violent incident was related to children was it due to

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Having daughters only | 1 |
| Lack of children | 2 |
| Because of children | 3 |

Section V
Effect of Domestic Violence on Children

1. Do you know any children who are victims of domestic violence? If yes, please tick the appropriate alternatives

Age	Boy	Girl
Less than 5 years		
5 – 10 years		
11 – 15 years		

2. What forms of violence do you know children being subjected to?

Type of violence	Please ✓ where appropriate
Emotional	1
Verbal	2
Mental	3
Physical	4
Sexual abuse	5
Heavy workload to girls	6
Insufficient food	7
Others (specify)	8

3. In your opinion, what might be the effect of domestic violence on children?

Effect of domestic violence on children	Please ✓ where appropriate
Feeling of insecurity	1
Unhappiness	2
Negative psychological impacts	3
Loss of interest in studies	4
Become mentally disturbed	5
Physical impairment	6
Retarded intellectual development	7
Copying violent behaviour patterns	8
Become helpless	9
Commit suicide	10
Others (specify)	11

4. Do you know of any children who have run away from home due to domestic violence?

Yes.....1 No.....2

5. In cases of domestic violence who might be the most appropriate person to help the children? (Obtain information from children where possible)

Persons who can help the children	Please ✓ where appropriate
Police	1
Grandparents	2
Uncles and aunts	3
Maternal uncle and aunts	4
Others (specify)	5

Personal comments of the interviewer:

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Section VI

Schedule for Key Informant Survey on Violence Against Women and Girls in Nepal

(Questions for Non-Governmental Organisations)

1. How do you define violence against women and girls?
2. What kinds of support and services do you provide to victims of violence?
3. What means do you take to prevent violence against women and girls?
4. In your opinion, how widespread are the problems of violence against women and girls?
5. Do you think that the existing legal provisions are adequate?
6. What is the role of the police in incidents of violence?
7. In your opinion, what is the level of concern of the general public on the issue of violence against women and girls?
8. Does the society regard violence against women positively or negatively?
9. Is there any social pressure for the victims of violence to stay with the abuser?
10. Do the victims discuss the problems between themselves?
11. In your opinion what are the main causes of violence against women and girls?
12. Are there any other organisations in your work area with the victims of violence against women and girls?
13. What are the problems faced by your organizations in attempting to address the issue of violence against women and girls?
14. What is the attitude in your community towards incidents of violence?

(Please provide the responses in a separate paper)

Section VII

Schedule for Key Informant Survey on Violence Against Women and Girls in Nepal

(Questions for Medical Personnel)

1. How many female patients do you see per day whom you think may have undergone violent incidents?
2. What was the nature of their injuries?
 - 2.1 Small injuries
 - 2.2 Big injuries
 - 2.3 Broken limbs
 - 2.4 Rape
 - 2.5 Burnt
 - 2.6 On the verge of death
 - 2.7 Others (specify) .
3. In your opinion do the victims usually tell the true cause of their injuries?
4. Do you handle domestic assault cases differently from the assaults from strangers? If so, why?
5. Do you take into account the behaviour of the victim while documenting the medical history?
6. In your opinion, what should be done in order to maximize the efficiency of the medical personnel while trying to solve cases of violence against women and girls?
7. Do you feel that the services provided by the police is sufficient?
8. Do you encounter any political pressure while dealing with cases related to violence against women and girls?
(Please provide your responses in a separate paper)

Section VIII

Schedule for Key Informant Survey on Violence Against Women and Girls in Nepal

(Questions for Police Personnel)

1. What is your general attitude towards incidents of violence against women to which you are called ?
Casual ()
Negligent ()
Supportive ()
2. What are the types of incidents of violence against women and girls which you have encountered? (Please specify)
3. What was the frequency of the cases of violence against women and girls reported to the police within the last six months?
4. At what time are the violent incidents usually reported?
5. What do you generally do when you are called to a domestic dispute in which the woman has been assaulted?
Report the case to a superior ()
Separate the abuser from the victim ()
Mediate the case on site (out of court) ()
Others —————(specify) ()
6. Have you ever removed an abusive person from the scene? If yes, for how long and under what legal conditions ?
7. Where do you keep the abuser ?
8. If an abused woman does not want to file a case, do you initiate an investigation ?
9. Under what circumstances do you file a case ?
10. Are there any formal or informal groups and agencies responding to and investigating violent incidents against women and girls?
11. Do you have any special training to deal with and investigate cases of violence against women and girls?
12. Do you maintain a record of all cases of violence against women and girls?
13. Do you know of any other organisations which support victims of violence?
14. What immediate steps should be taken in order to improve the efficiency of the police personnel in dealing with this issue?
15. Any other information ?
(Please provide your responses in a separate paper)

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