

Exploring the Nature and Extent of Dating Violence among College Students in Nepal



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Background

- Dating violence (DV) refers to abuse or mistreatment that occurs between “dating partners”
- DV includes psychological or emotional violence (Controlling behaviours or jealousy), physical violence (hitting or punching) and sexual violence (non-consensual sexual activity and rape)
- Recent research has increasingly focused on DV especially rape in a dating relationship
- There is not a single study focused on DV in Nepal



Background (contd..)

- Studies conducted in other countries show that adolescent (10-19) and youth (15-24) are more at risk for DV
- Unwanted sexual behaviour (assault, rape) remains all too common among college students in USA (27.5%)
- Research from Euro-American contexts reveals that dating relationships are often characterized by physical (12-59%) and sexual violence (15-77%)
- Many young women also reported fear and emotional trauma



Background (contd..)

- DV is not only an important personal and social issue but also important from the public health point of view
 - It is associated with negative mental health outcomes (depression and suicide ideation)
 - Increased participation in health risk behaviours (cigarette smoking, alcohol, and other drug use)
 - Sexual risk behaviours (early initiation of sexual intercourse, lack of condom use, more sex partners)
- DV does not appear consistently associated with gender, race or ethnicity



Rationale

- More than one third of Nepal's population consists of young people
- Despite this, poor attention is given to their behavioural patterns and reproductive health problems
- Violence in dating relationship has always been a neglected topic from researchers, policymakers and programme designers
- No strategies or programmes are proposed in newly developed Government adolescent reproductive health strategies
- A possible reason could be the lack of systematic documentation on this issue



Rationale (contd..)

- Concrete evidence is needed for policy formulation and the design of education programs and health services
- The proposed study will be 'eye opening' for policy makers and programme planners and will create public and government attention to this issue
- Study findings will be very useful for Government agencies, NGOs and right activists to advocate on the issue and to design appropriate SRH interventions



Objectives

- **Specific objectives:**

- To understand student attitude towards different forms and context of DV particularly in Nepalese cultural setting
- To explore the underlying factors that contribute and perpetuate DV
- To explore male and female experiences of violence within dating relationships

- **Ultimate objective:**

- To help programme administrators or educational and health planners identify ways effectively to improve SRH of adolescents and youth



Research Questions

- How do Nepalese students define DV? Do they vary by gender?
- How do adolescents and youth perceive DV?
- What are the typologies of DV?
- What are the factors that place adolescents and youth at heightened risk of, and protect them from DV?
- What are the common coping strategies used by males and females to overcome DV?



Research Hypothesis

- **Substance abuse** (alcohol/drug use) is associated with DV
- Lack of knowledge about sexual matters is associated with DV
- Lack of a support system is associated with DV
- **Contextual or community level factors** (socio-economic development, poverty), **cultural norms on gender and sexuality** (e.g. patriarchal cultural arrangements), **community norms regarding physical and sexual violence** are also associated with DV



Study Design and Methods

- Both quantitative and qualitative components
- For the quantitative study
 - An anonymous Self Administered Questionnaire (SAQ)
- For the qualitative study
 - Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)
 - In-depth interviews

Sample Size & Sampling Procedure

● Quantitative

- Cross sectional study: Total sample 1280 (male 640, female 640)
- Multi-stage random sampling technique
 - *Step I:* 20 Colleges will be sampled using systematic random sampling technique
 - *Step II:* From the selected college, two classes will be randomly selected.
 - *Step III:* From the selected classes, 64 students (32 male and 32 female) will be randomly selected

● Qualitative (Purposive sampling)

- Focus group discussions (12)
- In-depth interviews (15)
- In depth case histories (10-15)

Types of Information to be Solicited

Tools	Types of respondents	Sample size	Selection method	Information to be solicited
Quantitative study				
1. Self administered structured questionnaire	Male and female students	1280 (640 in each)	Multi-stage random sampling technique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Socio-demographic characteristics ▪ Attitude towards DV ▪ Experience of DV ▪ Perceived factors that cause DV ▪ Extent and types of DV ▪ Knowledge about social welfare/legal services available to those affected by violence
Qualitative Study				
1. Focus group discussion	Male and female students	12 (6 in each)	Purposive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Definition and terminology of DV in Nepali context ▪ Perception on DV ▪ Attitudes towards social and cultural construct that perpetuate violence against female and male students ▪ Perceived factors that cause DV ▪ Perceived coping strategies needed to be adopted by female and male students
2. In-depth interview	University teachers, Lawyers and Doctors	15 (5 in each)	Purposive (who have served/deal with such victims)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Situations in which DV takes place ▪ Law for perpetrators ▪ Health/support system ▪ Perceived reasons for seeking/not seeking services
3. In-depth case histories	Students who have experienced dating violence	10-15	Purposive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Situation in which DV takes place ▪ Attitude towards perpetrators ▪ Types of problems faced after DV ▪ Care seeking behavior ▪ Coping strategies adopted by students

Data Management & Analysis

- **Quantitative**

- Questionnaire will be coded and entered in SPSS
 - Univariate, bivariate and multivariate analysis

- **Qualitative**

- Information (FGD, in-depth interviews) will be transcribed into Nepali and will be translated into English
 - After reviewing the FGDs and in-depth interview transcripts, the major themes and concepts will be identified and will be coded in ATLAS Ti

Duration of the Study

Activity	1st-3rd month	4th-6th month	7th-9th month	10th-12th month
Preparatory Review of relevant literature	X			
Phase I				
Finalization and translation of research instruments for pilot study	X			
Site selection	X			
Recruitment and training of RAs	X			
Data collection (FGD)	X			
Data analysis	X			
Phase II				
Preparation of structured questionnaire/check-list for in-depth interview		X		
Finalization and translation of research instruments for pilot study		X		
Data collection (Fieldwork for quantitative and qualitative survey)		X		
Data analysis for both quantitative and qualitative data			X	
Report and policy briefs preparation				X
Dissemination workshop				X
Preparation of scientific papers				X

Research Team & Budget



- **Research team**
 - Principal investigator
 - 4 Research assistants (2 male, 2 female)
- **Dissemination/publication**
- **Budget**
 - USD 12000



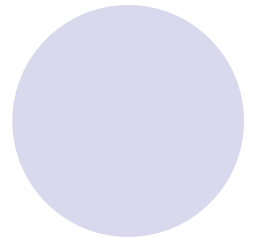
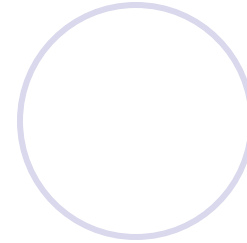
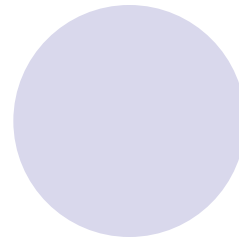
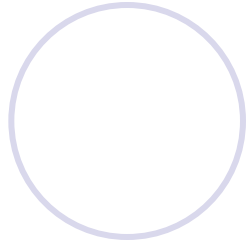
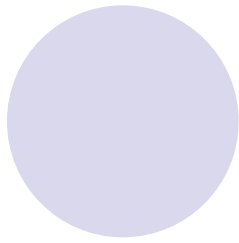
Ethical Issues

- Consent process
 - Approval from administrators of the sampled college will be taken
 - Consent form will be written as the cover page of the questionnaire
 - Participant will be asked if s/he wants to continue or not participate at all
 - Participants will be reminded that they are free to refuse, to comment or quit the interview at any time if they do not wish to continue
- Confidentiality of all participants enrolled in this study will be protected to the fullest extent possible
- Participants will not be identified by name or any other identifying information on any documentation



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Thank You