

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST MARRIED WOMEN
IN LEKHNATH MUNICIPALITY OF KASKI DISTRICT**

A Dissertation

**Submitted to Tribhuvan University, Faculty of Humanities and
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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that **Sunita Subedi** has completed the dissertation entitled **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST MARRIED WOMEN IN LEKHNATH MUNICIPALITY OF KASKI DISTRICT** under my guidance and supervision for partial fulfilment of the requirement for Master of Arts in Sociology (M.A.). I am satisfied with her dissertation, therefore I recommend the dissertation committee for the evaluation and approval.

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The dissertation entitled **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST MARRIED WOMEN IN LEKHNATH MUNICIPALITY OF KASKI DISTRICT** prepared by **Sunita Subedi** has been evaluated and accepted for partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of Master in Sociology.

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ABSTRACT

This thesis has focused on the domestic violence against married women of Lekhnath Municipality of Kaski district. This study exposes the general condition of Nepali women and their experience on different types of domestic violence. The prominent focus of this study is to find out the socio-economic conditions of married women and to identify the consequences of DVAW.

This study is based on both primary and secondary sources of information. The sample of 90 married Kumal women has been taken from 120 households of Kumal to identify the causes and consequences of domestic violence against married women. Primary data has been collected through intensively interview method with structured questionnaire developed. Observation, key informants interview and case study methods were also used to explore and triangulate the field information. Similarly secondary data has been collected through web-sites, books, NGO, INGO's report and journals.

The study found that main causes of domestic violence were traditional norms and values towards married women, lack of education to women and household head, early marriage, poverty, mobility of women without consent of family, ownership on the property, nature and type of marriage and family. The research findings also clearly indicate that alcohol intake was major cause of violence against married women.

It was found that 75.6 percent of respondents suffered from domestic violence which is very high. A look at the age factor of the victims indicates that majority (20.6%) of them were between the age of 30 to 34 years and 17.7% of between the ages of 25 to 29 years which means the rate of violence is high in active reproductive age. The result of this study also reveals that domestic violence was huge among those women whose education level is below class ten. Analyzing on the basis of type of marriage of the respondents it was found that 64.5% victims were from arranged marriage group where as 35.5% from love marriage. Similarly the percentage of victims was 60% and 40% from joint and nuclear family respectively. This research also indicates that husbands have engaged in domestic violence with their wife which was 58.8%. It

is seen that mother in laws and father in laws had also committed domestic violence in large number of household with daughter in laws which is 16.2 and 14.7% respectively. Overall, economic, social/family and educational factors were the major contributing factors for domestic violence against married women.

From the research, it was found that among different types of domestic violence; almost all (97.1%) women have suffered from verbal violence, 89.7% were victims of psychological violence, 51.5% women faced physical violence and 30.9% suffered from sexual violence.

The study findings further pointed out that, out of 90 respondents 61 respondents had different types of psychological problem due to domestic violence. Among them, majority (42.6%) had tension, 24.6% women were suffered from constant fear, depression was also seen in 16.4 percent women, 9.8% wanted to leave their husband home and 6.6% women had suicidal feelings. This study also revealed that physical problem of women due to domestic violence ranged from mild to severe form where 45.7% were suffered from sprain and 14.3% had head area injuries. This study also showed that consequence of sexual violence on women where 14.3% women were suffered from marital rape, 42.8% suffered from unacceptable sex acts, 28.6% from forceful sex and 14.3% were victims of vulgar sex. After being the victim of different type of domestic violence, most of the women even didn't seek support from different means. The research had found the reason behind this problem which was: 25% victims had hesitation to report, 22.1% victims were afraid of re-victimization, 8.8% felt lengthy process of formal justice authorities, 17.6% of victims were because of bribing formal authorities and majority of victims i.e. 26.5% didn't report to concerned authorities because of public shame of family honour. Based on the study findings, it is recommended that prevention and early detection of domestic violence can reduce many morbidity and mortality of women.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Letter of Recommendation	i
Approval Letter	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Table of Contents	iv
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
Acronyms and Abbreviations	ix
Abstract	x
CHAPTER – I: INTRODUCTION	1-9
1.1 General Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	3
1.3 Objectives of the Study	6
1.4 Significance of the Study	6
1.5 Conceptual Framework of the Study	7
1.6 Limitation of the Study	8
1.7 Organization of the Study	9
CHAPTER – II: LITERATURE REVIEW	10-29
2.1 Theoretical Perspectives	10
2.2 Religious & Historical Basis	14
2.3 The International Scenario of VAW	17
2.4 The South Asia Scenario of VAW	18
2.5 Domestic Violence & Marriage	20
2.6 Domestic Violence against Women in Nepal	21
2.7 Types of Violence against Women	26
2.7.1 Physical Violence	26
2.7.2 Sexual Violence	26
2.7.3 Psychological or Emotional Violence	27
2.7.4 Traditional Violence	27
2.7.5 Economic Violence	27
2.8 Legal Provisions on VAW	27

CHAPTER – III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	30-33
3.1 Selection of Study Area and Justification	30
3.2 Research Design	31
3.3 Population and Sample Size	31
3.4 Nature and Sources of Data	32
3.5 Technique of Data Collection	32
3.5.1 Interview Schedule	32
3.5.2 Key informants' interview	33
3.5.3 Observation	33
3.5.4 Case Study	33
3.6 Data Analysis and Presentation	33
CHAPTER – IV: SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS	34-42
4.1 Age Category	34
4.2 Age at Marriage	35
4.3 Types of Marriage	36
4.4 Types of Family	37
4.5 Education	38
4.6 Ownership	39
4.7 Control of Property	39
4.8 Occupation	41
CHAPTER – V: EXPERIENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	43-54
5.1 Experience of Violence on the Basis of Age	43
5.2 Experience of Violence on the Basis of Occupation	44
5.3 Experience of Violence on the Basis of Education	46
5.4 Experience of Violence According to Type of Marriage	48
5.5 Experience of Violence According to Type of Family	49
5.6 Experience of Violence on the Basis of Ownership	50
5.7 Experience of Violence on the Basis of Perpetrator	51
5.8 Experience of Violence on the Basis of Need Consent for Mobility	52
5.9 Experience of Violence on the Basis of Use of Alcohol	53

CHAPTER – VI: CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLENCE	55-62
6.1 Types of Violence Faced by Women	55
6.2 Psychological Consequences of Domestic Violence	56
6.3 Physical Consequences of Domestic Violence	57
6.4 Sexual Violence	57
6.5 Consequences of Traditional Violence	59
6.6 Reproductive Health Problems	60
6.7 Barriers to Seek Support	61

CHAPTER – VII: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	63-69
7.1 Summary	63
7.2 Conclusion	67
7.3 Recommendation	68

REFERENCES

ANNEXS

Annex- One: Interview Schedule

Annex- Two: Check-list for Key Informants

Annex- Three: Name list of Key Informants

Annex- Four: Map of Lekhnath Municipality

Annex- Five: Photos from the Field

LIST OF TABLES

	Page No.
Table 4.1: Distribution of Age Specific Groups	30
Table 4.2: Age Specific Groups at Marriage	31
Table 4.3: Types of Marriage	32
Table 4.4: Types of Family	32
Table 4.5: Level of Education	33
Table 4.6: Women Share of Ownership	34
Table 4.7: Control of Women's Property Ownership	34
Table 4.8: Women's Participation in Occupation	35
Table 5.1: Distribution of Women Facing Violence	37
Table 5.2: Women Experiences Violence on the Basis of Age	38
Table 5.3: Experience of Violence by occupation	38
Table 5.4: Violence Experiences by Women on the Basis of their Education	39
Table 5.5: Violence by Type of Marriage	40
Table 5.6: Distribution of Violence according to Type of Family	40
Table 5.7: Violence on the Basis of Ownership	41
Table 5.8: Experience of Control of Property Ownership	41
Table 5.9: Experience of Violence on the Basis of Perpetrator	42
Table 5.10: Violence on the Basis of Need Consent for Mobility	43
Table 6.1: Psychological Consequences	44
Table 6.2: Consequences of Domestic Violence	45
Table 6.3: Consequence of Sexual Violence	45
Table 6.4: Consequences of Traditional Violence	46
Table 6.5: Reproductive Health Problems	47
Table 6.7: Barriers to Seek Support	48

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page No.
Figure 1.1: Conceptual Frame Work	7
Figure 5.1: Bar diagram of domestic violence by occupation	43
Figure 5.2: Bar diagram of domestic violence on the basis of education	44
Figure 5.3: Bar diagram of domestic violence on the basis of type of marriage	45

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CEDAW	:	Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women.
CREHPA	:	Centre for Research on Environment, Health and Population Activities
DDC	:	District Development Committee
DVAMW	:	Domestic Violence against Married Women
DVAW	:	Domestic Violence against Women
GDI	:	Gender Development Index
ICPD	:	International Conference on Population and Development
INGO	:	International Non Governmental Organization.
IPV	:	Intimate Partner Violence
NGO	:	Non Governmental Organization
UK	:	United Kingdom
UN	:	United Nations
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	:	United Nations Children's Fund
UNICEF	:	United Nation Children's Emergency Fund
USA	:	United States of America
VAW	:	Violence against Women
WOREC	:	Women's Rehabilitation Centre