

# **Domestic Violence Law Implementation Status in Nepal**

A Thesis

Submitted to the Central Department of Sociology, MPhil- PHD Program in Sociology

Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

In the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement of the Degree of Master of Philosophy in  
Sociology

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2024

## DECLARATION

I, hereby declare that this dissertation entitled **Domestic Violence Law Implementation Status in Nepal** which I submitted to the central department of Sociology, Tribhuvan University, is an entirely original work prepared under the guidance of Dr. Bindu Pokharel. I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information received from different sources in the course of writing report. The result presented in this thesis has not ever been presented or submitted or published anywhere, in any purpose till present. I am responsible if any evidence found against my declaration.

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**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

This dissertation entitled "*Domestic Violence Law Implementation Status in Nepal*" has been prepared by Eleeza Tuladhar under my supervision and guidance. This dissertation is found satisfactory in terms of contents. I, therefore, recommend this dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

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**APPROVAL LETTER**

This dissertation entitled "*Domestic Violence Law Implementation Status in Nepal*" was submitted by Eleeza Tuladhar for the final examination by the research committee of the M.Phil Programme in Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Tribhuvan University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Masters of Philosophy in Sociology.

The research committee hereby certifies that this dissertation is found satisfactory and accepted for the degree.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my Supervisor Dr. Bindu Pokharel, Central Department of Sociology, T.U., Kirtipur, who guided me throughout the study. Her patience, enthusiasm, cooperation, suggestion and keen interest in this study are memorable. Her vigorous efforts made me present this research work in this form.

I would also like to thank Dr. Tikaram Gautam for his tremendous support in revision of the dissertation and provide significant inputs and commendable suggestions for finalizing this thesis.

Also, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Youbaraj Luintel, Head of Central Department of Sociology, for his kind cooperation and support during the finalization process.

Similarly, I would like to thank all the faculty of the Sociology department for their insightful teachings for making me able to complete this thesis, and my batch mates for their encouragement and motivation to complete the thesis.

I am equally thankful to the ward office and community members of Kapilbastu Municipality, district police, journalists and social workers and activists of Kapilbastu district who provided me the necessary information during field study. Especially, I would like to thank Mr. Khaga Prasad Chapain and Ms. Bimla Poudel of Saathi's safe house being operated in Kapilbastu for their commendable support in arrangement of the survey, FGD and KII at field level.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank my family members, friends and colleagues who always provided me moral support and inspired me to complete the study.

**Eleeza Tuladhar**

## ABSTRACT

Domestic violence is ubiquitous reality of Nepali homes and societies. Rounded up by the patriarchal rules and regulations, lack of agency and education, women cannot raise their voice but have to endure injustice and violence perpetuated to them mutely.

The government of Nepal has already endorsed the Act related to domestic violence called "Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act 2009, and providing services to the survivors through various mechanisms, however, the trust and confidence of the survivors of the domestic violence is still in question. The problems might be in the attitude and behavior of the service providers, support from the service providers and communities and capacities and confidence in the survivors themselves and other support mechanisms established. Lack of knowledge about the law and the difficult process of government system can also be the reason for less access to the justice mechanism. Therefore, this research tries to explore the implementation status of law related to domestic violence by understanding the knowledge of communities on domestic violence and its law and the perception of the service seekers about the status of service delivery by service providers. The study carried out devising the mixed method of the research implying the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Key Informant Interview (KII) to collect qualitative data while the use of survey questionnaire was done to collect the quantitative data required for the survey.

The survey was conducted in Kapilbastu Municipality, ward No 2 of Kapilbastu district, a total of 50 survey questionnaire were collected from various respondents. Besides, 2 FGD were also conducted, one with the survivors of domestic violence and other with the stakeholders at district. 3KIIs, one with representative of Nepal Police, one with representative of ward office-ward no. 2- Kapilbastu Municipality and one with representative of the shelter home being operated by and NGO named "Saathi" were conducted.

Though various survey on various aspects of domestic violence has been conducted by various researchers, the particular research related to implementation status of law was not seen to my knowledge. The research also tried to triangulate with the other researches and

validates the finding that the knowledge on domestic violence is increasing, but the discrepancies seen among the knowledge of violence and law among gender and caste groups and other socio-demographic variables, especially lower in Dalit, Muslim, people with low education, farmers, daily wage labors, etc.

The study reveals that the implementation status of the law related to domestic violence is not very satisfactory. The community members have less trust in the service providers. The cultural and societal barriers cause women not to report the cases and compromise within family or community. The situation of service providers is not also efficient. People are less aware of different channels of reporting apart from police, and the channels of reporting are very lengthy, tedious and inaccessible which discourage the communities to report the cases. Though some awareness level is increasing in communities, there still need to be put great effort in linking the communities with service delivery mechanism, building their trust and comfort for the effectiveness of the implementation of the law.

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## ACRONYMS

AD-	Anno Domini
BC –	Before Christ
BS-	Bikram Sambat
CBS-	Central Bureau of Statics
CDO-	Chief District Officer
CEDAW -	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
DAO-	District Administration Office
DEVAW-	Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women
DV –	Domestic Violence
DWC -	Department of Women and Children
FGD -	Focused Group Discussion
FY -	Fiscal Year
GBV -	Gender Based Violence
GoN -	Government of Nepal
GOs -	Government Organizations
HDI-	Human Development Index.
HPI-	Human Poverty Index
HRO -	Human Right Organization
ICCPR-	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR-	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

INSEC -	Informal Sector Service Center
KII -	Key Informant Interview
MoWCSW -	Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare
NDHR-	Nepal Demographic Health Report
NLSS-	Nepal Living Standard Survey
NGOs -	Non-Governmental Organizations
NWC-	National Women Commission
OCMC-	One Stop Crisis Management Centre
OPMCM-	Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
VAW -	Violence Against Women
VDC -	Village Development Committee
WCO –	Women and Children Office.

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Domestic violence, also referred to as domestic abuse or family violence, involves a recurring pattern of behavior where one person inflicts violence or other forms of abuse on another within household, such as marriage or living together. This type of violence is often referred to as intimate partner violence when it occurs between spouses or partners in an intimate relationship, and can happen in both heterosexual and same-sex relationships, or between former spouses or partners (Basilio et al., 2021). Domestic violence can also affect children, parents, or the elderly, and it manifests in various forms including physical, verbal, emotional, economic, religious, reproductive, and sexual abuse. The spectrum of abuse ranges from subtle, coercive acts to severe physical violence like choking, beating, female genital mutilation, and acid attacks leading to disfigurement or death. Extreme cases of domestic murder include stoning, bride burning, honor killings, and dowry deaths (Phiri, 2021).

Nepal is known for its high prevalence of domestic violence, yet only a small fraction of cases are reported through formal justice systems. According to a study conducted by the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM) in selected rural districts in 2012, approximately 48% of all women have experienced violence in their lifetime (OPMCM, 2012). Many women do not seek legal or formal justice due to a lack of trust in the system, with only about 1500 cases related to women and children being reported nationwide in fiscal year 2068/69 (INSEC, 2013).

Domestic violence has a long history, particularly affecting women who suffer from physical abuse, mental torture, economic, and sexual violence. Factors such as legal subordination, economic dependency, cultural obligations, and social positioning reinforce male dominance and female subservience, making both the occurrence of violence and the failure to report it commonplace. Women's dependency is further entrenched by laws, religion, and cultural norms (WOREC, 2016). Additionally, cultural obligations to preserve

family honor, extreme poverty, and lack of job opportunities create environments where violence is more likely to occur (OPMCM, 2012).

Despite its long history, legal provisions addressing domestic violence in Nepal are relatively recent. The Muluki Ain of 2020 B.S. (1963 AD) included chapters on Husband and Wife, partition, women's property, hurt/battery, sexual intention, rape, and incest, indirectly addressing various forms of violence against women. The section on "Kutpit (Battery)" forbade inflicting harm or serious injury by any means and included provisions for compensation. While polygamy was limited, it remained permissible under specific circumstances. Despite these regulations, significant flaws persisted, failing to adequately address violence against women and, in some cases, perpetuating domestic violence due to prejudiced legal measures (Khatiwada, 2021).

The 1990 Constitution of Nepal and the Interim Constitution of 2006 also failed to comprehensively address domestic violence. Although numerous laws and policies were formulated by the Government of Nepal up to 2009, none sufficiently tackled the issue. Despite Nepal's commitment to implementing the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) since the 1995 Beijing Conference, alongside the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other gender equality instruments, a consolidated analysis of the overall status of women was missing (UNWomen, 2015). Persistent pressure from non-governmental organizations, community-based groups, and social and human rights activists eventually led to the enactment of the Domestic Violence (Offense and Punishment) Act in 2009.

In 2009, sub-clause no. 1 of article 83 of the Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007, the Government of Nepal introduced the Domestic Violence (Offense and Punishment) Act. This Act characterizes domestic violence as any kind of physical, psychological, sexual, or economic abuse inflicted by one individual on another within a family relationship.

Over a decade since the enactment of the Domestic Violence Act, the law has been implemented through various government departments and divisions. The Act (2009) permits any person with knowledge of an act of domestic violence, whether committed,

ongoing, or likely to be committed, to file a written or oral complaint with the Police Office, National Women Commission, or local body within 90 days of the crime. If the complaint is filed with the Police Office or local body, the concerned authority must produce the perpetrator within 24 hours, excluding travel time, and make an arrest if the perpetrator refuses to appear for a statement. The Act ensures medical treatment and provision of maintenance costs to the victim and imposes penalties on the perpetrator, including a fine ranging from 3000-25000 Rupees, imprisonment for 6 months, or both (Domestic Violence (Offense and Punishment) Act, 2009).

With the enactment of the Act, the statistics also shows the severe condition of domestic violence in Nepal. Twenty-two percent of women in Nepal age 15-49 have experienced physical violence since age 15, and 7 percent have ever experienced sexual violence. Twenty-six percent of ever-married women have ever experienced spousal physical, sexual, or emotional violence and forty six percent of divorced/separated/widowed women have experienced such violence. The most common type of spousal violence is physical violence (23%), followed by emotional violence (12%). Seven percent of women who have ever been married have faced sexual violence from their spouse. (Nepal Demographic Health Survey 2016) The Nepal Police Report shows 12% increase in case reporting of domestic violence in FY 2072/73 than that of previous year. Similarly, the cases increased to 19% in FY 2073/74. The three-year data of Nepal police showed that the trend of reporting cases of domestic violence is increasing in recent years.

This can be analyzed in two ways; first; the incidences of domestic violence is increasing which results to the increase in number of cases reported. But in other way round, it is also possible that the people are getting aware that the cases should be reported. Previously such cases remained unreported or compromised at community level only without giving any notice to law enforcers but now the incidences are being exposed and getting reported. In this context, this research tries to articulate the implementation status of law related to domestic violence throughout the country.

This research was study the level of knowledge of general public about the law, its implementation status and their level of satisfaction about the law itself and the service

provided by the service providers. The research uses methodology such as literature reviews on the sociology of law and individual questionnaire survey, Focused Group discussion and analysis of case stories for measuring the implementation status of domestic violence. Due to the resource and other constraints, only one district of Nepal could be covered as a sample district for research. Therefore, Kapilbastu district is taken as a sample district.

### **1.2 Research problem:**

The government of Nepal has already endorsed the Act related to domestic violence called "Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act 2009, and providing services to the survivors through various mechanisms, however, the trust and confidence of the survivors of the domestic violence is still in question. The problems might be in the attitude and behavior of the service providers, support from the service providers and communities and capacities and confidence in the survivors themselves and other support mechanisms established. Lack of knowledge about the law and the difficult process of government system can also be the reason for less access to the justice mechanism. Therefore, this research tries to explore the implementation status of law related to domestic violence and the perception of the service seekers about the status of service delivery by service providers.

### **1.3 Research questions:**

- What is the knowledge level of the community members about the law related to domestic violence in Nepal?
- What is the perception of community members about the service delivery status by service providers on domestic violence issues?
- How do community members perceive the current provisions in law and the service provided by the service providers on domestic violence issues?

### **1.4 Research objective:**

The specific objective of the research is as follows:

- To explore about the knowledge of law related to domestic violence by community members.

- To examine the perception of service seekers about the service delivery by service providers.
- To describe satisfaction level on the services received on domestic violence issues.

### **1.5 Importance of study:**

Nepal is a country with high prevalence of domestic violence. The data from NDHS also showed 22 percent of women facing physical violence since age of 15. The cultural, traditional and social norms of people of different caste, religion and location of the people from different types of violence against women. The societies in Nepalese context have been accepting domestic violence as a part of traditional norms for long time. The violence to women in Nepal took different forms as "Sati Pratha" which was abolished during the end of Rana regime. Still violence against women in the periphery of their home continues as severely with the existence of several forms of violence such as physical, mental, sexual, economic, etc. The reasons for such domestic violence are dowry, Chhaupadi, alcohol abuse, son preference, polygamy, child marriage, etc. For a long time, the law makers of Nepal did not consider this violence as a serious matter as the violence inside the home was always considered "private matter" between husband and wife. Due to lack of proper law, women of Nepal had suffered a lot, as they have no place to complain and no means to get justice. The legal provisions were also not supportive to eliminate domestic violence. Rather, they made women more vulnerable to domestic violence, as the laws were biased against women. After much effort from international arena and pressure from different non-government organization and community based organizations and to comply with different international commitments, government of Nepal formulated Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act in year 2009, which provided a ground for those suffering from domestic violence to bring it to the range of law.

The law ensures that all forms of violence that occurs in the periphery of home and conducted by member of family is domestic violence is considered as a criminal offence with provision of punishment and penalty to perpetrators and provision of compensation to victims. The law came into enforcement immediately after the formulation of Act. But still, the victims are not getting adequate access to justice and the community still doesn't want to take these issues to the justice mechanism, rather, they want victims to keep quiet

and compromise within the family or community to preserve family prestige. The victims are not aware that they are suffering from domestic violence and there is a law which can provide them justice against the violence. Along with this, the perpetrators are also not aware that they are committing crime and should bear legal implications for the crime if they are reported. Moreover, the victims do not trust the justice mechanism and are not sure that they will get proper and adequate justice even if they seek legal support for their issues. They fear losing their prestige, home, support from family and community and even lose their way of survival after filing case against her family members. Therefore, this study finds out if the community members have proper information about law related to domestic violence, its provisions and if they are satisfied with the implementation status of the law and the response of law implementers.

#### **1.6 Limitation of this study:**

- This study is based on sampling method where the samples from Kapilbastu district of the country are taken.
- The study is limited to 50 samples.
- The study takes the information from community people and service seekers and the law implementers but do not consider the policy makers and do not suggest any amendment in law itself.
- The financial and time factors are the main constraints of this study.

#### **1.7 Organization of the Study**

This research paper is structured into six chapters as outlined below:

**The first chapter:** Introduction: It covers the introductory part, gives background of the topic and research problem, research questions, research objectives, importance and limitations of the study.

**The second chapter:** Literature Review: The second chapter provides the review of the literature. The theoretical, historical and empirical review are presented in this section along with the research gap.

**The third chapter:** Research Methodology: The chapter covers the philosophical position of the research, study area and rational, population and the sample size, research tool and data analysis and interpretation

**The fourth chapter:** Domestic Violence: This chapter covers the theoretical definition of the violence, its types, major drivers for domestic violence and service providers for domestic violence.

**The fifth chapter:** Knowledge and Perception of People on Domestic Violence: This chapter covers the demographic details of the respondents, the findings of the survey on the knowledge and perception of the community members, level of satisfaction and people's perception on service providers along with the status of service providers in the research area.

**The sixth chapter:** Summary and Conclusion: This chapter covers the summary of the research and the final conclusion of the research.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This chapter has been divided into three sections; Historical review, Theoretical review and Empirical review.

#### **2.1 Theoretical Review**

Over time, numerous theories have been proposed to understand the pervasive and often uncontrollable violence within human societies. Among the prominent theories explaining the general causes of domestic violence are the Culture of Violence theory, Evolutionary Theory, Ecological Theory, and Feminist Theory. On a more individual and couple level, theories integrating psychological, sociological, and biological perspectives include the Biopsychosocial Perspective, Exchange Theory, Investment Theory, Resource Theory, Social Learning Theory, Marital Power Theory, and Traumatic Bonding Theory (Loue, 2001). This study is based on the culture of violence theory, however, the other theories are also considered.

This theory primarily focus on male dominance over women, attributing domestic violence to cultural, religious, and patriarchal values. Graham and Bond argued that domestic violence stems from the subordinate role assigned to women in both private and public spheres. This perspective highlights a belief, prevalent in many cultures, that men are superior and women are possessions to be controlled by men. In Nepal, such beliefs are reflected in religious doctrines, historical traditions, and current societal laws and customs (Graham & Bond, 1998).

Women and girls in Nepal face significant discrimination and various forms of exploitation (Thapa, n.d.). Gender-based discrimination originates within the home and has become institutionalized within the culture (Sangraula, n.d.). The dominance of males in all aspects of life in Nepal is evident, with factors such as alcohol, poverty, gambling, and unemployment significantly contributing to the high incidence of domestic violence (Graham & Bond, 1998).

Across Asia, gender-based violence is recognized as a manifestation of patriarchy, subordination, and the low social status of women. Various stages of the women's movement in different countries have highlighted these issues. The United Nations Decade for Women (1975-1985), the World Conference on Women in Nairobi, the International Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing all reaffirmed that women's subordination at home and in society cannot be effectively addressed through development programs that fail to challenge the cultural, religious, legal, economic, and political structures underpinning female subordination (Pradhanang, n.d.; Thapa, n.d.).

In the journal article "Legalizing State Patriarchy in Nepal," Sierra Tamang also discusses patriarchy and male dominance as primary causes of violence against women. She critiques the concepts of "The Nepali Family" and "The Nepali Culture," which are predominantly patriarchal, restricting women's rights while empowering men through legal provisions. Her research traces the historical transition of women's rights and values in law and practice, showing how these have been shaped by patriarchal legal systems. Tamang concludes that debates on property rights and "Nepali culture" often obscure the evolving nature of traditional statutes and the diverse family experiences in Nepal. She suggests that cultural justifications for gender inequality can be challenged with positive examples from various communities in Nepal, though these must still address existing patriarchal structures (Tamang, 2000).

Hinduism's dominance has significantly influenced Nepal's lawmaking process, promoting patriarchy and male dominance. Discriminatory state laws, heavily influenced by Hinduism, have historically treated women as second-class citizens (Pradhan, 2013).

However, some researchers present views that go beyond patriarchy and male dominance as the sole causes of violence. Dr. Steven R. Tracy, a Professor of Theology and Ethics, argues that while patriarchy contributes to much domestic violence, the causes of domestic violence are too complex to be attributed to a single factor. He critiques the perspective that patriarchy is the ultimate cause of all abuse against women, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of domestic violence (Tracy, 2007).

## **2.2 Historical review:**

"Domestic violence has been visible throughout history. However, the laws related to Domestic Violence did not come into existence for long time. It was considered right to batter wives in the interest of maintaining family discipline. In 1910, the U. S. Supreme Court bought domestic violence as offence for the first time, the laws were moderately enforced until the feminist movement of the 1960's started bringing the problems of domestic abuse to the attention of the media. It was not until 1977, the California Penal Code stated that wives charging husbands with criminal assault and battery must suffer more injuries than commonly needed for charges of battery. By the 1980's most states had adopted legislation regarding domestic violence (Davis n.d.).

In context of Nepal, Nepal has started the discussion of women rights since 19th century, however, the laws and policies and its implementation status does not seem very effective. The adaptation of international tools and frameworks such as Beijing Platform for Action (BpfA) and Convention for Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNHCR) 1325 and 1820 supported in stabilizing the women's right in Nepal, supported by the establishment of Women and Children Service directorate in 1996, establishment of National Women Commission in 2002, Gender units at OPMCM and other sectoral ministries and at police and army (UNWomen, 2015) , however, less concern was shown in the issues of domestic and intimate partner violence.

The legal development and progress towards the laws related to domestic violence can be summarized as:

Muluki Ain 2020 (1963 AD): The government of Nepal has formulated the constitution of Nepal named Maliki Ain in 2020 BS, in which the rights and obligations for women which could affect domestic violence in the existing context were mentioned in its provisions chapters Marriage, Husband and Wife, partition, women property, hurt/battery, Intention of Sex, rape and incest address. In the Chapter Marriage, the remarriage of husband or wife when the former spouse is still alive is prohibited. But husband is allowed to remarry if wife is critically ill, physically disabled, cannot bear child, or get lunatic are sufficient that the women suffer double jeopardy due to such legal provisions. In the chapter husband and

wife, the provision to secure women against divorce and polygamy is mentioned. The section on "Kutpit (Battery)" forbade inflicting harm or serious injury by any means and included provisions for compensation. In the chapter Anshabanda, the portion of property to women from husband's property is secured (Bhatta, 2001). Even though the act addressed some of the issues, it has major provisions that do not contribute to elimination of violence to women. Rather, it emphasizes or encourages domestic violence legally.

Constitution of Nepal 2047 (1990 AD): After Muluki Ain 2020, Nepal formulated next constitution in year 2047 after country replaced autocracy to democracy. The constitution was more progressive towards the women's right. This constitution ensure that all citizens are equal irrespective of caste, gender, religion, class, etc. But this constitution hinders the right of women the name of father or husband is mandatory for getting citizenship to women and children born by them. This ensures the male superiority and women thus supports domestic violence.

Interim constitution of Nepal 2063 (2007 AD): The constitution took further step to secure the rights of women and added women's right as one of its article (article no. 20) which ensures the women's right on reproduction and reproductive health and prohibits any kind of physical, mental, or any other form of violence against women. The article also ensures the equal right of both son and daughter in ancestral property.

The Constitution of Nepal 2072 (2015 AD): The constitution guarantees the right to equality and non-discrimination, while also criminalizing violence against women and ensuring protection against torture, exploitation, human trafficking, and slavery.

Amendments to Certain Nepali Acts for Gender Equality, 2063 (2006 AD):

Key elements of these amendments include:

- Marital Rape Recognized as a Crime: The act officially designates marital rape as a crime against women.
- Elimination of Discriminatory Divorce Clause: The law removed the provision that allowed a husband to divorce his wife if a government-recognized medical board determined that the couple had no children within ten years due to the wife's condition.

- Definition of 'Intention to Sexual Intercourse': This is defined to include any non-consensual touching or attempts to touch a woman's sensitive areas, attempts to undress her, taking her to secluded locations, asking her to touch or hold sexual organs, using vulgar language or gestures, or any behavior that amounts to teasing, harassment, or threats with the intent of sexual intercourse. These actions are classified as sexual harassment, punishable by up to one year in prison and a fine of up to ten thousand rupees, with compensation provided to the victim by the offender.
- Enhanced Penalties for Rape: The act imposes stricter punishments for rape, including an additional year of imprisonment for rapists who are aware they are HIV positive.
- Compensation for Minor Victims: Provisions are made for compensating minors in cases where the rape victim dies.
- Stricter Penalties for Officials: Harsher punishments are established for rape committed by government officials, public office holders, prison or detention center staff, medical service providers, guardians or caretakers, and employers or officials of any organization.

Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2006 (2009 AD): This Act criminalizes domestic violence and provides protection to victims, emphasizing the importance of respecting human rights and ensuring everyone can live a secure and dignified life. Domestic violence is defined in the Act as any form of physical, mental, economic, or sexual abuse perpetrated by someone with whom the victim has a domestic relationship.

The Act specifies the following types of violence:

- **Physical Violence:** Any act causing bodily harm or injury, illegal detention, infliction of physical pain, or related acts, excluding the breaking or losing of limbs.
- **Psychological Violence:** Acts of threatening physical torture, causing emotional harm through terror, false accusations, forced eviction from the home, or discrimination based on religion, culture, customs, or traditions.
- **Sexual Violence:** Any conduct of a sexual nature that abuses, humiliates, degrades, or violates a person's dignity or hampers safe sexual relations.

- **Economic Violence:** Deprivation of property rights, access to employment opportunities, economic resources, or means to which the aggrieved person is legally entitled.

The Act allows anyone aware of domestic violence to file a complaint with the police, the National Women Commission, or a local body. It guarantees interim protection for victims, provides for in-camera hearings upon the victim's request, and includes provisions from the Summary (Court) Procedures Act of 1971 for expedited court procedures to ensure swift justice. Measures are outlined for treating victims with physical injuries or mental trauma, ensuring their security and that of their dependents during preliminary investigations. Compensation provisions depend on the nature and severity of the domestic violence and the victim's pain. Service centers are established to provide immediate protection and a separate stay during treatment for the victim. Offenders may be fined between three thousand and twenty-five thousand rupees or imprisoned for up to six months, or both.

Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Regulation, 2067 (2010 AD): The Regulation makes provision of prompt health checkup of the victim and protection of the victim of domestic violence. The victim should get protection while filing the case and during the proceeding of the case. According to the Regulation, Government shall establish or support the Service Center with minimum standard. Such service centers are inspected and monitored by the government. Women and Children Officer, as per the Regulation, has the responsibility to work as a focal point in the district level to control domestic violence, to coordinate between complaint mechanism and service centers, to provide legal aid to the victim, to provide psychological and psycho-social counseling to the perpetrator and the victim as well and to update the data of domestic violence.

### **2.3 Empirical Review**

Nepal has undergone significant transformation from a highly hierarchical social structure, where gender disparities were reinforced by religious rituals, legal provisions, political economy, and state bureaucracy, to a society increasingly advocating for gender equality and social inclusion. Gender-based violence, especially against women and marginalized groups, is no longer hidden but is increasingly reported, discussed by gender rights

activists, and covered in popular media. Additionally, perceived gender-based discrimination, particularly regarding women's citizenship and property inheritance rights, is frequently reported, researched, and debated in public forums (Adhikari & Sharma, 2022).

Despite increased awareness and education about gender-based violence, this knowledge alone has not been sufficient to reduce violence against women. A 2016 study in the urban area of Kathmandu Valley revealed that domestic violence persists even among populations with a high level of knowledge about the issue. The study found that women with higher education levels, those who were married, employed, and those adhering to Hindu beliefs reported higher levels of knowledge about domestic violence. However, the study concluded that there was no statistically significant association between knowledge and the experience of domestic violence. The descriptive analysis suggested that increased knowledge did not significantly reduce the incidence of domestic violence among women (Paudel et al., 2016).

The study "A Situational Analysis of Violence Against Women and Girls in Nepal" conducted by Saathi in collaboration with the Asia Foundation in 1997 found that violence against women and girls (VAW&G) affected individuals across all classes, castes, ages, and ethnicities. It revealed that 95% of respondents were aware of frequent incidents of VAW&G; in 77% of the cases family members were the perpetrators. The study shows majority of the incidents occurred at night, and 48% of sexual harassment cases took place in public areas. The leading causes of violence against women and girls as per the report are economic problems and alcohol abuse (Saathi & TAF, 1997).

The Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights conducted a study on domestic violence, drawing on evidence from NGOs, the criminal justice system, and the medical community. The study identified shortcomings in criminal and civil laws, including those related to property, divorce, and maintenance. The report recommended eliminating VAW, legal reforms, public education, awareness for medical professionals, data system maintenance, and coordination between the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare and other key ministries (Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, 1998).

Saathi's 2001 study titled "Psychosocial Impact of Violence Against Women and Girls with Special Focus on Rape, Incest, and Polygamy" revealed that the majority of rape victims came from low-class and Dalit backgrounds, while polygamy was prevalent among middle and lower-middle-class families. Incest cases were more common in financially stable families. The study emphasized the importance of family support for rape victims but noted that the criminal justice system was sluggish in addressing sexual violence cases, and assistance from government and NGOs was limited (Saathi, 2001).

The study by ActionAid Nepal reported a lifetime prevalence of violence at 91% and a current prevalence (within six months) of 24%. Common forms of violence are emotional, physical, and sexual prevailed at a rate of 47%, 45% and 8% respectively. The main perpetrators of the violence includes relatives, friends, and boyfriends, with discrimination and exploitation at home, including heavy workloads, restricted mobility, and forced early marriage (ActionAid Nepal, 2008).

The "Annual Factsheet on Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls 2022" by WOREC indicated that 65% of women experienced domestic violence, with 29% facing physical violence and 16% sexual violence. Dowry-related violence was high (53%), with husbands being the perpetrators in 77% of cases. Lower educational status of both victims and perpetrators increased the rate of domestic violence (WOREC, 2022).

A 2011 study by Saathi, supported by the Foundation of Open Society Institute, examined the implementation of the Domestic Violence (Offense and Punishment) Act 2009. It found that while government personnel were knowledgeable about the Act, VDC level service providers and community members had limited awareness. Victims often hesitated to report cases due to fear of repercussions, lack of shelter, economic dependence, and high tolerance for abuse. Additionally, VDC staff were not always supportive, and domestic violence was not consistently treated as a serious crime, leading to mediation rather than legal action (Saathi & Institute, 2011). Despite an increase in services for victims, access to shelters remains limited, particularly outside large cities (UN, 2009).

A study by the Nepal Center for Creative Research (NCCR) found that 55% of the primary victims of GBV during conflict and transitional periods were women. The most affected

groups were the poor, Madheshi, and Dalit communities. Major causes included lack of education and poverty. Community justice providers were the primary recourse for complaints, followed by government agencies such as the police and courts. The formal legal system was often seen as inaccessible due to expense, lengthy processes, impunity, and lack of gender sensitivity. There was also limited awareness of the Women and Children Service Directorate. Para-legal committees provided legal rights awareness and dispute mediation, but further measures were needed, including social security for victims, witness protection, and safe homes (NCCR, 2011).

In the study "Domestic Violence Against Women in Nepal: A Systematic Review of Risk Factors," researchers examined 24 studies on domestic violence. The studies, sourced from various journals, focused on female participants aged 15 to 49 who experienced physical, sexual, or emotional/psychological violence perpetrated by husbands, partners, ex-partners, in-laws, or family members. The quality of these studies was assessed using the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT), which evaluates quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method studies. The analysis revealed that the risk factors for violence against women are influenced by multiple factors at different levels of the ecological framework. Interventions at one level could potentially impact and reduce outcomes at other levels. Although violence occurs due to factors at all four levels of the ecological framework, the review highlighted that the most common factors are at the individual and relationship levels, with husband-related factors being more strongly associated with violence than those related to women (Sapkota et al., 2024).

## **2.4 Research Gap**

The literature review shows the discussion and debate on violence has been in debate at international level for long period. The gradual evolvement of the definition, understanding and sensitization on domestic violence has changed its dimensions in many aspects. On one hand, the understanding of the violence has increased over time, whereas the forms and intensity of the violence keeps on deviating. Patriarchy, religion, etc, which the researcher debates as primary drivers of violence has deep-rooted in the society, that hinder elimination of violence from society. In some instances, state also, through it policies and laws, is driving the community into induced patriarchy and religious submission.

However, the dynamics of the domestic violence is even broader and cover wider spectrum than patriarchal and religious dimensions. The international conventions such as CEDAW, BPFA advocated for national policies and actions for violence against women since long period, however, the law against domestic violence came into effect much later. The National Survey report and reports of many of the researches shows that despite of the progressive law in violence against women and domestic violence in Nepal, VAW and domestic violence still prevails in the country. Victims and survivors hesitate to take legal services due to various socio-cultural norms and beliefs. The state system is also not very strong to provide the effective service to the domestic violence survivor. One of the research among the women in Kathmandu Valley also indicates that though the knowledge about domestic violence is high among the educated and employed women, knowledge and experience of domestic violence is not statistically significant. However, given the distinct socio-economic feature of Terai belt and the existing change in the legal provisions on domestic violence, the research concentrating on the Terai area on understanding and perception of domestic violence has not been conducted so far. Therefore, this research will validate the findings of previous researches and bring up any new findings.

## CHAPTER III

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### **3.1 Philosophical Position:**

Understanding community perception on domestic violence requires an epistemological approach that values both qualitative and quantitative data. Quantitative research can provide crucial statistical insights into the knowledge, understanding and perception of domestic violence. However, qualitative research is essential for capturing the lived experiences of service seekers, behavior and understanding the nuanced dynamics of community behavior and socio-cultural barriers. Combining these approaches allows for a more comprehensive and empathetic understanding of the phenomenon. This study uses both primary and secondary data. The secondary data are collected from various published books, research articles, journals and reports of government and non, government organization. For secondary data, field survey was conducted at Kapilbastu district. This section discusses about the sources of data, data collection procedure, their presentation, research design, data analysis as well as other appropriate tools used to analyze the information in accordance to the objective of the study.

#### **3.2 Study area and rationale for selection:**

The survey was conducted in the Kapilbastu district of the country. The district is one of the districts with high prevalence of domestic violence, polygamy, child marriage, alcohol consumption, dowry, suicide, homicide, etc. The district also ranked low in Human Development Index and Human Poverty Index. The literacy rate of the district is also low to 55% whereas the female literacy rate is even low to 45%. According to Nepal Human Development report, the human development index of the district is 0.383 and the human poverty index is comparatively high to 38.26. The district has significant percentage of prevalent of domestic violence, gender discrimination and child marriage. According to the UNDAF District profile of Nepal 2013, around 12% of boys and 26% of girls get married before the age of 15 and around 50% male and 60% female get married between the age of 15 to 19. 81% of women do not have any property in their own name. Most of the cases of domestic violence go unreported because of the family and social prestige, pressure and

cultural traditions and norms. There is a high rate of suicide or homicides due to the torture for dowry or bearing son. Mostly divorce or physical and mental torture for dowry and polygamy also prevails in the district. Restriction in mobility, economic independence and rigid dress codes are other types of violence the women of this district are facing. The district is also suffering violence due to alcohol and is vulnerable to HIV and AIDS due to easy access across the Indian border for seasonal employments. The district has the lowest rate of family planning contraceptives use. The research is conducted in the Kapilbastu Municipality Ward number 2 of Kapilbastu district with the population of 6626 (3286 male and 3340 female) in 1159 household (CBS 2011). A single community was selected to maintain the consistency of the research, as the diverse place, context and population may not give the exact picture of the community perception due to difference in context, understanding and available services.

### **3.3 Population and the sample size:**

The survey was focused in ward no 2 of Kapilbastu Municipality of Kapilbastu district. Since the research is qualitative in nature, a non-probability sampling method was used. The household were selected in the interval of 25 household. 46 household were selected through this method. Then to maintain the balance in other variables such as caste, age, educational status, etc, four additional houses were selected purposively. The sample was selected on the basis of maximum variation sampling to cover the dimension of the varieties such as age group, educational status, caste, ethnicity, occupation, etc within the sample. To maintain the gender balance, the survey tried to take the equal number of male and female participants, however, the number fluctuated to some extent due to unavailability of the expected respondents

### **3.4 Research Tools:**

Various tools were employed to gather data and information on the implementation status of laws related to domestic violence. These tools included:

Survey Questionnaire: A survey questionnaire was designed to assess knowledge and perceptions regarding the implementation status of domestic violence laws. Households were selected using a scientific method to avoid bias, resulting in a sample of 50 respondents, equally divided between men and women from Kapilbastu district.

Respondents completed a pre-designed questionnaire containing both open and closed-ended questions, which addressed their knowledge of domestic violence laws, their efficiency and relevance, and perceptions of the implementation status and quality of service delivery by service providers. This tool contains the questions that can be useful for the collection of both qualitative and quantitative data.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs): Two FGDs were conducted in the district. One group consisted of domestic violence victims, while the other included members of community-based organizations (CBOs) and women activists. Each group had 8-12 participants who discussed their knowledge of domestic violence laws, vulnerable groups, awareness levels, personal experiences, and knowledge about service providers. They also discussed the effectiveness of the laws within the community and the quality of service delivery. This process primarily collected qualitative data.

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs): A list of key informants, who are stakeholders involved in the implementation or monitoring of domestic violence laws, was prepared before the survey. Three key informants were interviewed: a representative from the Nepal Police, a ward office representative from Ward No. 2 of Kapilbastu Municipality, and a representative from the NGO-operated shelter home "Saathi." They were asked about the implementation status of domestic violence laws, their effectiveness at the community level, challenges in implementation, community perception and support, and the relationship between service providers and seekers.

Case Stories: Two case stories were collected to illustrate the implementation status of domestic violence laws by service providers. One case was sourced from reputable media news, while the second was gathered from the field through direct access and interviews with real victims.

### **3.5 Data Analysis and Interpretation:**

The research utilized thematic analysis to address the issues and draw conclusions. Initially, data were collected from secondary sources and classified according to descriptive theory based on their nature, characteristics, and research objectives. Primary

and secondary data were then tabulated and organized scientifically to facilitate logical conclusions. A narrative description approach was used to identify problems and convey messages for data analysis.

For quantitative data analysis, the SPSS tool was employed. Data were entered, analyzed, and cross-analyzed using SPSS. Notes from the FGDs and KIIs were reviewed and structured appropriately after data collection. The collected data were then interpreted to ensure alignment with the study's themes, and the themes were reviewed to ensure they matched the study topic. Finally, the data were summarized to provide reliable results.

## CHAPTER IV

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

#### 4.1 Perception

While violence can occur among same-sex individuals, from women to men, against older adults, and from parents to children (Gadd et al., 2002), women remain particularly vulnerable. Approximately 35% (1 in 3) of women experience violence during their lifetime (WHO, 2018), and 38% of women murdered globally are killed by their male partners (WHO, 2021) (Sapkota et al., 2024). The "Annual Factsheet on Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls" for FY 2021/22 by WOREC (2022) indicated that 65% of women have faced domestic violence, with 90% of the perpetrators being men, of which 77% were husbands.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPFA) defines violence against women as an obstacle to achieving equality, development, and peace (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/declaration-elimination-violence-against-women>). The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW), adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, states that violence against women infringes upon and undermines their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The BDPFA further elaborates that domestic violence encompasses physical, sexual, and psychological violence within the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation, non-spousal violence, and exploitation-related violence (<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>).

According to the US Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another. This encompasses actions or threats that are physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological, or technological in nature, which impact an individual in an intimate relationship. It also includes behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or

wound someone. Domestic abuse typically manifests as a pattern of abusive behavior toward an intimate partner in a dating or family relationship, but it can also involve a child, relative, or household member (<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/domestic-violence>).

According to Article 3 of the Istanbul Convention, domestic violence is defined as acts of physical, sexual, psychological, or economic violence occurring within the family or domestic unit, or between former or current spouses or partners, regardless of whether the perpetrator and victim currently share or previously shared the same residence (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention>).

CEDAW General Recommendation No. 19 (1992) identifies family violence as one of the most pervasive forms of violence against women, occurring in all societies. Women of all ages experience various types of violence, such as battering, rape, sexual assault, and psychological abuse, often driven by traditional attitudes. Economic dependence forces many women to remain in violent relationships, and the abrogation of family responsibilities by men can also constitute violence and coercion. These forms of violence endanger women's health and hinder their ability to participate equally in family and public life (<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/recommendations/recomm.htm>).

Neglect, physical and sexual abuse, and rape of girls and women by family or household members often go unreported and are difficult to detect. Even when reported, victims frequently lack protection and perpetrators escape punishment (BDPFA, para. 117). Violence against women is exacerbated by social pressures, such as the shame of reporting certain acts, lack of access to legal information and protection, inadequate laws, insufficient public awareness, and the absence of educational initiatives to address the causes and consequences of violence (BDPFA, para 118).

Research indicates that while most people understand the concept of domestic violence, it is generally perceived as physical battery by a husband against a wife. About 70% of individuals assessed through a household survey had knowledge of domestic violence, and participants in FGDs also showed a strong awareness and understanding of the issue.

However, there remains a significant portion of the community (30%) that lacks a basic understanding of domestic violence, including the relevant legal provisions.

#### **4.2 Types of Domestic Violence**

**Physical Violence:** According to Article 35 of the Istanbul Convention, physical violence is defined as bodily harm resulting from the immediate and unlawful use of physical force. This includes slapping, beating, arm-twisting, stabbing, strangling, burning, choking, kicking, threats with a weapon, murder, and traditional harmful practices like female genital mutilation and widowhood abuse. Physical violence is the most commonly understood form of domestic violence. In the study, 70% of respondents who understood domestic violence recognized it as physical violence. Survivors who participated in FGDs also primarily identified domestic violence as physical violence, and this understanding was supported by participants in other FGDs and KIIs.

**Sexual Violence:** Article 36 of the Istanbul Convention defines sexual violence as any sexual act or act with sexual connotations carried out without the consent of the other person. This includes coerced sex through threats, intimidation, or physical force, forced prostitution, and any unwanted sexual act. Sexual abuse in a relationship involves any form of non-consensual sexual activity, inflicting pain during sex, assaulting the genitals, coerced sex without protection against pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases, or using sexually degrading insults. Sexual violence is well-known among participants, with 70% indicating awareness. However, FGD participants noted that cases of sexual violence often remain hidden and are frequently disguised as physical violence.

**Psychological or Mental Violence:** Article 33 of the Istanbul Convention describes psychological violence as any intentional conduct that seriously impairs another person's psychological integrity through coercion or threats. This includes intimidating and threatening behavior, persecution, abandonment, confinement, surveillance, verbal abuse, and mental torture. The research shows that mental violence is also well understood by participants, second only to physical violence. However, participants noted difficulties in

measuring and investigating mental violence, resulting in fewer reports. About 66% of respondents were knowledgeable about mental violence.

**Economic Violence:** The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) defines economic violence as any act or behavior causing economic harm to an individual. This can include property damage, restricting access to financial resources, education, or the labor market, or failing to comply with economic responsibilities such as alimony. Awareness of economic violence was noted by 64% of participants. However, many did not initially consider it as serious violence and only acknowledged it after probing by the researcher.

**Social Violence:** The Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development defines social violence as any type of violence committed by individuals or the community that has a social impact. This covers situations such as armed conflicts, gang violence, physical aggression from parent to child (including corporal punishment), terrorism, forced displacement, and segregation. Although distinct from domestic violence, social violence was incorporated due to its direct linkage with domestic violence issues. Notably, only 56% of respondents acknowledged social violence, highlighting a lower awareness compared to domestic violence. During the Focus Group Discussions (FGD), participants did not extensively delve into social violence, indicating its perceived separation from the survey's primary focus on domestic violence dynamics.

### **4.3 Major Drivers of Domestic Violence**

**Dowry:** In the Nepalese context, dowry remains a significant cause of domestic violence, particularly prevalent in the Terai region but impacting all parts of the country. Demands for dowry before and after marriage jeopardize the lives and safety of many women, subjecting them to constant threats and violence, and in extreme cases, leading to murder or suicide.

**Son Preference:** Within patriarchal societies, the preference for sons compels women to undergo multiple and unwanted pregnancies, endangering their health and lives. Women are often pressured to continue bearing children until they produce a son, facing the risk of female feticide and multiple abortions. Societal stigma labels women without sons as "bad

luck" or "impure," leading to humiliation, torture, and physical and mental violence by family members.

**Neglect of Basic Needs:** Women's essential needs are frequently disregarded within Nepalese families. Cultural norms dictate that women eat only after all family members have been fed, resulting in inadequate and delayed nutrition. Basic health care for women, including treatment for STDs and uterine prolapse, is commonly neglected. This neglect contributes to conditions such as malnutrition, low BMI, anemia, and other reproductive health issues, exacerbating discrimination and violence against women.

**Confinement and Mobility Restrictions:** Many women in Nepal face confinement within the household and severe restrictions on their mobility and freedom. Economic dependence on husbands often prevents women from participating in economic activities outside the home or making decisions about household finances. Restrictions extend to women's attire, social interactions, and daily activities, perpetuating stereotypes that confine women to traditional roles such as cooking, cleaning, and childcare. These restrictions violate women's rights to freedom, economic independence, and dignity, increasing their vulnerability to violence.

**Treating Women as Property:** The perception of women as their husband's property perpetuates their vulnerability to violence. Cultural beliefs and sayings that enforce control over women, such as "women should be controlled by beating," normalize violence against them. Men who support their wives may face ridicule and derogatory remarks, reinforcing societal norms that diminish women's autonomy and contribute to ongoing violence within households.

These drivers highlight the complex societal, cultural, and economic factors that perpetuate domestic violence in Nepal. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive strategies that challenge traditional norms, empower women economically and socially, and ensure robust legal protections to safeguard women's rights and well-being.

### **Marital Rape:**

Sexual violence is one of the severe issue in the family law, which is less surfaced than the actual status. Women prefer to tolerate than to expose the cases of sexual violence, majorly due to shame, family prestige, lack of security and place to go, and lack of trust in justice system. The society has created a sex as a taboo which cannot be discussed publicly.

The society presumes right of husband to have sexual relationship with wife and assumes that the wife should always be ready to fulfil husband's wish and demand. In the earlier times, the concept of sexual violence among the intimate partner was not even recognized by the lawmakers, let alone be the possibility of the marital rape. However, the gradual advocacy by the feminist activists on women rights, sexual violence and marital rape helped to draw attention of the lawmakers and decision makers, significantly drafting law on domestic violence and landmark decisions relating to sexual violence and marital rape.

#### 4.4 Service providers for Domestic violence survivors in Nepal

**Nepal Police:** Nepal police is one of the popular places that comes into mind of majority of individuals for reporting any crime. The police takes the first information report and starts its investigation for any complaint receive. The case can be reported both verbally or in written form.

The Domestic violence (Offence and Punishment) Act 2009, Article 4 also identifies police office as one of the place to report the cases of domestic violence. The Act defines a Police Office as the one nearest to the victim's or perpetrator's residence, or the crime scene. This term also encompasses the Children or Women Cell, Police Post, or Police Sub-post under the District Police Office. Thus, the definition allows the reporter to report cases in any of the nearest station, post or sub-post. Nepal Police has it's headquarter in Kathmandu, having nationwide presence in form of provincial police office, district police office, area police office, ward police office. Besides,

Nepal police also compromise various departments, and directorates, Women, Children and Senior Citizen service directorate being one of the major wings to provide services to address GBV ([nepalpolice.gov.np](http://nepalpolice.gov.np)). The Women, Children and Senior Citizen Service Center (WCSCSC), originally known as the Women Cell, was established within the Nepal

Police in 1996 as a pilot project in four districts (Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Kaski, and Morang), as well as at the central level in the Police Headquarters as the governing body. This initiative marked the first effort by the Nepal Police to align with various UN conventions, guidelines, resolutions, national policies, and acts, alongside the recommendations of the Police Reform Commission. It reflects one of the organization's key priorities of a stringent approach to combating all forms of inhumane acts against women, children, and senior citizens. The Nepal Police Women, Children, and Senior Citizens Service Centers operate under the direct oversight of the Women, Children, and Senior Citizen Service Directorate (WCSCSD) across all 77 districts. This includes three Ranges, nine Circles, and three Sectors under the Metropolitan Police Office in Kathmandu Valley, along with 122 Area Police Offices, seven Provincial offices, and Federal Police offices, amounting to a total of 233 units nationwide (<https://cid.nepalpolice.gov.np/cid-wings/women-children-and-senior-citizen-service-directorate/>). The survey also identified police has been the first place of reporting for the communities and is well known by the communities, and service seekers. However, the stigma towards the police for seeking service still prevails in communities. The response and behavior of police, delays in services, and lack of trust and relationship are hindering the communities to seek service from police. The majority of the respondents also responded for improved behavior, services and response from police.

**Court:** According to Article 126(1) of The Constitution of Nepal, judicial power is exercised by courts and judicial authorities in accordance with the Constitution, laws, and principles of justice. The Supreme Court, High Court, and District Court are established under Article 127, with provisions for additional judicial bodies at the local level for alternative dispute resolution (Source: [supremecourt.gov.np](http://supremecourt.gov.np)). The Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act 2009 defines "Court" as a government-appointed entity notified in the Nepal Gazette. Article 5 of the Act mandates courts to process domestic violence cases upon receiving complaints. Typically, cases commence in district courts and may be escalated to higher courts if parties are dissatisfied with lower court rulings.

The survey indicates that approximately half of the population recognizes courts as venues for filing complaints. However, limited knowledge of court processes, accessibility issues,

and lengthy procedures discourage people from seeking judicial services and result in dissatisfaction with received services.

**National Women Commission (NWC):** Established on March 7, 2002, and constitutionally recognized post-2015, the National Women Commission (NWC) operates under the National Women Commission Act (2017) and Regulations (2021). It aims to empower women by protecting and promoting their rights and interests, ensuring gender justice across Nepal by eliminating discrimination. The Commission runs the toll-free "Let's report to 1145" helpline, operational 24/7 for reporting gender-based violence (GBV). It accepts complaints through various mediums, including online, phone, SMS, or physical visits, as per Article 4 of the Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act 2009. Despite these efforts, the survey indicates low public awareness of the NWC's role in reporting domestic violence cases.

**Local Level:** The local level is a government administrative body established under the 2072 Constitution of Nepal, encompassing metropolises, sub-metropolises, municipalities, and rural municipalities, each with its executive bodies. Local bodies possess the authority to develop their acts and policies under the current constitution, forming committees like judicial committees for quasi-judicial functions. As per Clause 47(1) and (2) of the Local Government Operations Act (LGOA), judicial committees operate under district court supervision, settling certain disputes and referring others to formal mechanisms like police, courts, or community mediation centers. Previously, Women Children Offices (WCOs) at district levels transitioned to local levels post-federalization, responsible for addressing women's and children's issues and referring them to suitable mechanisms. Article 4 of the Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act 2009 identifies local bodies as venues for reporting domestic violence cases.

While 58% of respondents are aware of WCOs and local bodies for domestic violence complaints, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) reveal community expectations for more proactive roles from local levels in preventing violence, implementing laws, and responding to incidents, despite perceived reluctance.

## CHAPTER V

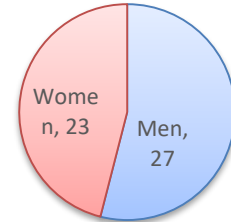
### KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTION OF PEOPLE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

#### 5.1 Demographic profile of respondents:

##### 5.1.1 Gender of the respondents

Gender of the respondents The survey included 27 men and 23 women in the survey as primary respondents. 54% of the respondents were men and 46% were women

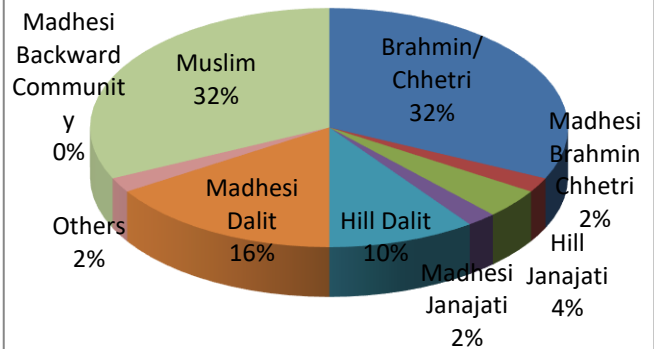
**Figure 1:**  
*Gender of respondents*



##### 5.1.2 Ethnicity of Respondents:

The survey tried to include the variety of ethnicity in the survey so that the response from different caste groups can be obtained. 32% of the total respondents were Hill Brahmin/Chhetris, 32% Muslim, 16% Madhesi Dalit, 10% Hill Dalit, 4% Hill Janajati, 2% Madhesi Janajati, 2% Madhesi Brahmin/Chhetri and 2% others.

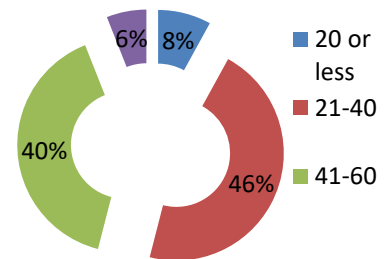
**Figure 2:**  
*Ethnicity of respondents*



##### 5.1.3 Age Group:

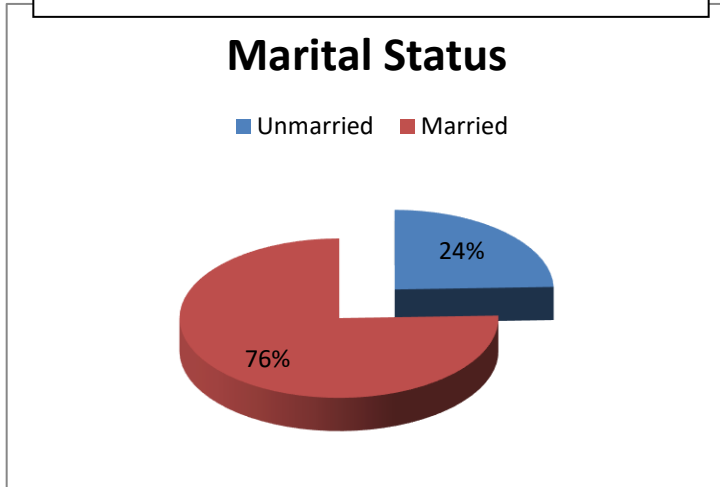
This survey included respondents from various age groups. The age group was divided into the interval of 20 years. About half of the respondents (46%) falls under the age group 20-40, 40% were of the age group 41-50. Very few, (only 6%) were less than 20 years and 8% were above 60 years. Among the total respondents, 93% of the respondents possess citizenship.

**Figure 3:**  
*Age group of respondents*

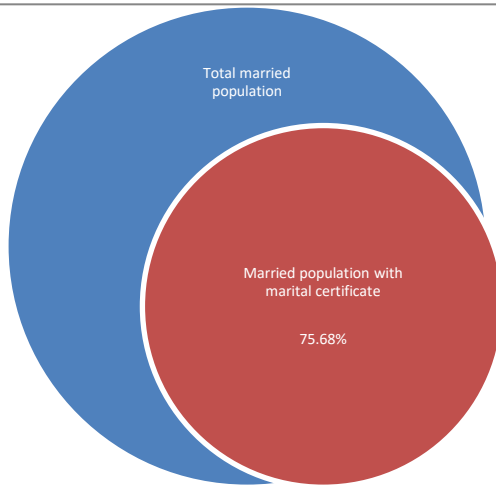


#### 5.1.4 Marital Status:

**Figure 4:**  
*Marital status of respondents*



**Figure 5:**  
*Percentage of married population with marriage registration certificate*



Most of the respondents of the survey were married. 76% of the selected respondents were married whereas 24% were unmarried.

As lack of marriage registration certificate is also one of the reason for women facing domestic violence, the survey also tried to explore whether the married population have obtained marital certificate. Among the married population only 75.68% had obtained marriage registration certificate.

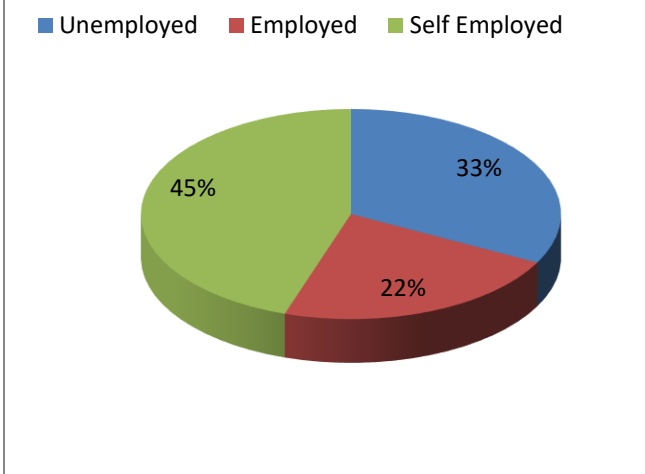
**5.1.5 Occupation Status:**

73% of the respondents were self-employed while 11% were employed and 16% respondents were unemployed. Mostly, farmer and business person are self-employed whereas others are either employed or unemployed.

It is seen that 8 respondents out of 50 were engaged in salaried job as an occupation, 7 were engaged in business, 6 in farming. Besides that, other occupations of the respondents were daily wage labor and other occupation.

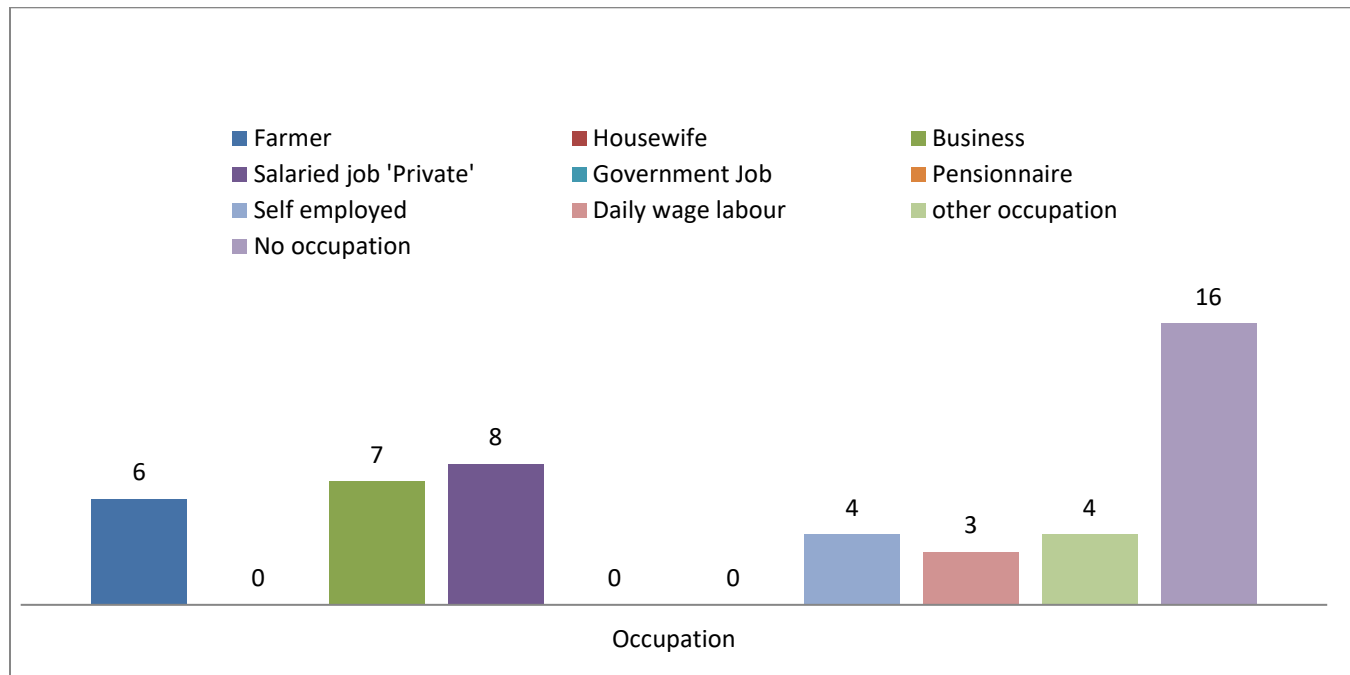
Some of the respondents were self employed and very few have no occupation at all.

**Figure 6:**  
*Employment status of respondents*



**Figure 7:**

*Occupation of respondents*

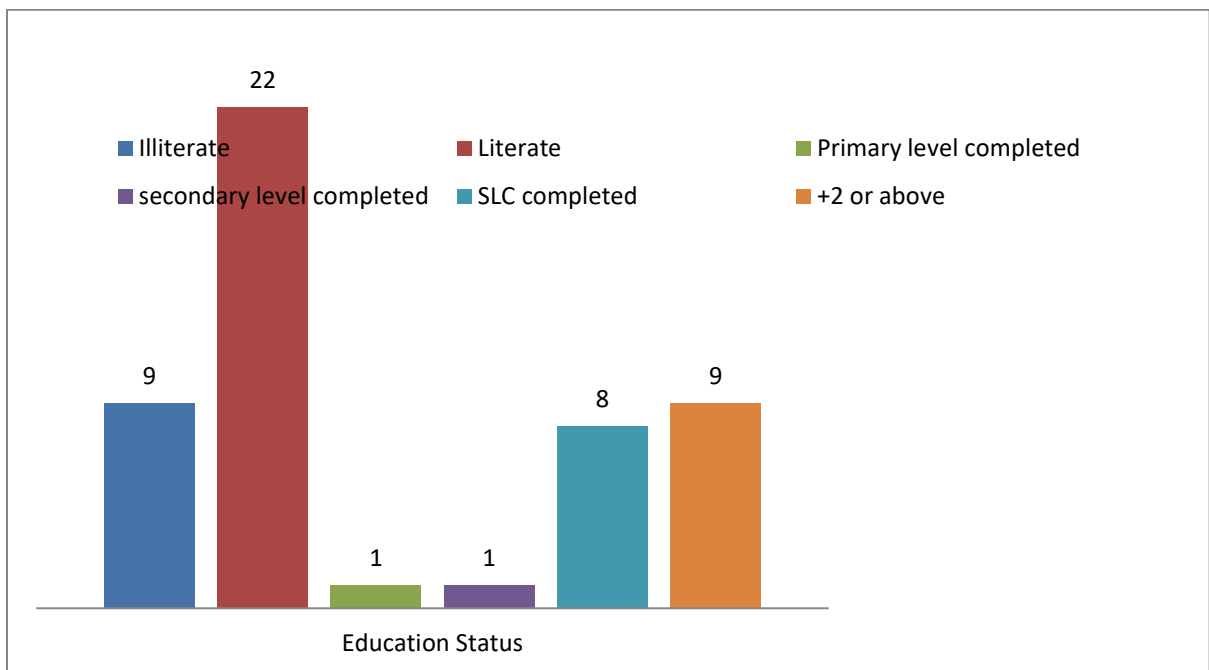


**5.1.6 Educational Status:**

The educational status of the respondents varied widely. The respondents range from illiterate to highly educated. The education level is categorized into 6 categories ranging from illiterate to literate, primary level completed, secondary level completed, SLC completed and +2 or above. The variance of the level of education level is not very different. Around 18% of the respondents are illiterate, 44% are literate, 16% have completed SLC and 18% have completed +2 level.

**Figure 8:**

*Educational status of respondents*



**5.2 Community Knowledge:**

**5.2.1 Knowledge about Domestic Violence and its law**

**Table 1:**

*Distribution of respondents having knowledge about Domestic Violence and Law related to domestic violence*

Characteristics	Total	Knowledge about Violence		Knowledge on DV Law	
		No.	%	No.	%

<b>Total Population</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>56%</b>
Gender	Men	27	17	63%	12	44%
	Women	23	18	78%	16	70%
Education	Illiterate	9	3	33%	3	33%
	Primary Level	23	14	61%	7	30%
	Secondary level	9	9	100%	9	100%
	Higher Secondary level	9	9	100%	9	100%
Occupation	Farmer	6	1	17%	1	17%
	Business	7	5	71%	4	57%
	Private Job	8	8	100%	8	100%
	Self Employed	4	1	25%	1	25%
	Daily wage	3	2	67%	1	33%
	Other Occupation	5	4	80%	3	60%
	Unemployed	17	14	82%	10	58%
Ethnicity	Brahmin/Chhetri	17	16	94%	15	88%
	Dalit	13	8	62%	5	38%
	Janajati/OBC	4	4	100%	4	100%
	Muslim	16	7	44%	4	25%
Age	Upto 20	4	1	25%	1	25%
	21-40	23	17	74%	15	65%
	41-60	20	14	70%	9	45%
	60 and above	3	3	100%	3	100%
Marital Status	Married	38	28	74%	21	55%
	Unmarried	12	7	58%	7	58%

### Knowledge about domestic violence and its law:

The table 1 shows the knowledge about the domestic violence and Law related to domestic violence according to the selected socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The survey shows overall knowledge about domestic violence is 70% whereas only 56% have knowledge about the law related to domestic violence. Knowledge about domestic violence and its law on the basis of gender: The study shows men has lower knowledge of violence as compared to women. Only 63% of men have the knowledge on violence while 78% women know about the violence. Similarly, about the knowledge on law related to domestic violence, only 44% of men were aware about the law whereas 70% women were aware about the law.

**Knowledge about domestic violence and its law on the basis of education:**

The respondents with secondary and higher level of education have more knowledge on domestic violence whereas the illiterate of people with primary level of education have very least knowledge. The study shows vast difference in the knowledge with 100% respondents with secondary or higher education having the knowledge whereas only 61% with primary education and 33% illiterate population having knowledge on Domestic violence. Similarly, 100% of the population with secondary or higher education have knowledge on law related to domestic violence and only 30% of the population with primary education and 33% illiterate population have knowledge on law related to domestic violence.

**Knowledge about domestic violence and its law on the basis of occupation:**

Analyzing the various occupations of the population, it shows that the people with occupations such as farmer, daily wage labor and self-employed population have least knowledge both about domestic violence and law related to domestic violence, whereas for the unemployed population, they have the knowledge about the domestic violence (82%) but much less population (58%) only have knowledge in the law. The private job holder have good knowledge both on domestic violence and its law (100%).

**Knowledge about domestic violence and its law on the basis of ethnicity:** Analyzing the ethnicity, the study shows the Brahmin/Chhetri (94%) and Janajati (100%) have higher knowledge about domestic violence compared to Dalit (62%) and Muslim (44%). Similar with the knowledge on law related to domestic violence with Brahmin/Chhetri (88%) and Janajati (100%) have higher knowledge whereas Dalit (38%) and Muslim (25%) have very

less knowledge on Law related to domestic violence. **Knowledge about domestic violence and its law on the basis of age group:**

The Age factor does not have much implication on the knowledge except of the age group below 20 who have comparatively less knowledge on domestic violence and its law.

**Knowledge about domestic violence and its law on the basis of marital status:**

Analyzing the marital status of the respondents, the interesting fact shows that 74% of the married population knows about the domestic violence but only 55% have knowledge on the law related to domestic violence. But for the unmarried population, 58% have knowledge both on domestic violence and its law.

**Table 2: Distribution of Knowledge about different types of violence**

Types of violence (multiple)	Physical	Mental	Economic	Sexual	Social
Number	34	32	31	33	27

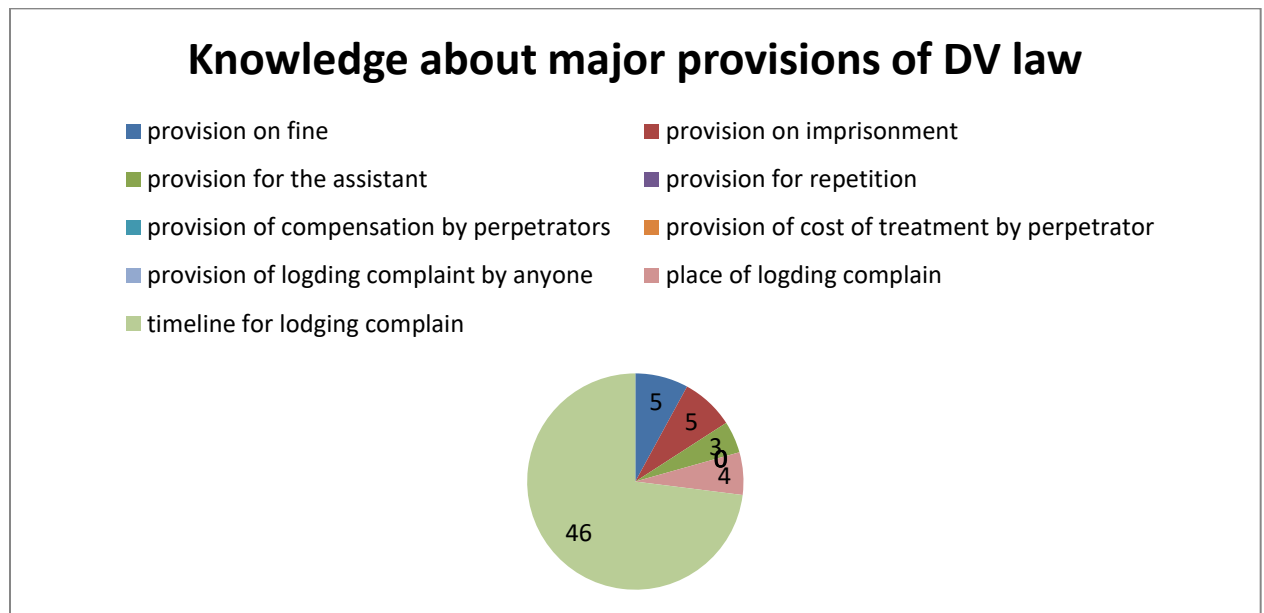
it is seen that the community members have knowledge about the different forms of domestic violence. Most of the community members were aware that law related to domestic violence prevails which recognizes domestic violence as a criminal offence and there is provision of punishment for the culprits and perpetrators. The respondents of the survey and FGD were well aware about the physical, mental, sexual and economic violence that occurs in domestic setting. 70% of the respondents were aware about violence and almost same population were aware about different types of violence. Most of the participants considered any form of violence to anyone within domestic setting as domestic violence, but they generally considered violence between husband and wife as specifically domestic violence. Participants responded on various types of violence that is most common and recurring in the district. In the Terai belt, violence due to dowry and child marriage is seen to be most common.

Many women are beaten, physically and verbally assaulted, given mental torture, ousted from home, divorced, murdered and bound to commit suicide for reasons related to dowry. Similarly, child marriage is also a major cause of domestic violence. Various consequences of domestic violence such as lack of education and employment opportunities, polygamy, sexual violence, early age pregnancy and reproductive diseases, are caused due to child marriage. Similarly, the respondents also prioritized sexual violence as prominent domestic

violence which remains mostly unreported due to family prestige and traditional, cultural, social and religious norms. The major types of sexual and reproductive violence is marital rape, forced sexual intercourse during menstruation and childbirth, pressurizing women for bearing son, multiple pregnancy and abortion because of son preference which results in mental and physical torture, sexual and reproductive diseases, uterus prolapse, etc.

**Figure 9:**

*Knowledge about Major Provisions of law related to Domestic Violence*



Most of the participants and respondents were aware about the provision of the timeline of filing complaint of domestic violence. But it is seen that most of the respondents are not aware of the other provisions of DV law. Very few of the respondents were aware about provisions of fine, imprisonment and place of lodging complaint. But none were aware of any other provisions of DV law. But if we compare the overall result, the knowledge about DV law in community members are not sufficient. 44% of the respondents were aware about the definition of domestic violence but they were less aware about the major provisions of the law. 10% were aware of the monetary penalty, 10% were aware of imprisonment, 8% about the place to file complain but 92% could respond about the timeline of filing complain.

**Table 3:**

*Distribution of respondents having knowledge about the service mechanism*

Characteristics		Total	Knowledge on place of complain		Local level as place of complain		Police as place of complain		NWC as place of Complain		Court as place of complain		
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
<b>Total Population</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>50%</b>	
Gender	Men	27	19	70%	6	22%	19	70%	2	7%	12	44%	
	Women	23	22	96%	8	35%	20	87%	4	17%	13	57%	
Education	Illiterate	9	5	55%	0	0%	4	44%	0	0%	0	0%	
	Primary Level	23	18	78%	3	13%	18	78%	1	4%	7	30%	
	Secondary level	9	9	100%	6	67%	8	89%	3	33%	9	100%	
	Higher Secondary level	9	9	100%	5	56%	9	100%	2	22%	9	100%	
Occupation	Farmer	6	3	50%	0	0%	3	50%	0	0%	0	0%	
	Business	7	6	86%	1	14%	6	86%	1	14%	4	57%	
	Private Job	8	8	100%	7	87%	7	88%	4	50%	8	100%	
	Self Employed	4	2	50%	1	25%	2	50%	0	0%	1	25%	
	Daily wage	3	3	100%	0	0%	2	67%	0	0%	0	0%	
	Other Occupation	5	5	100%	2	40%	5	100%	0	0%	3	60%	
Ethnicity	Brahmin/Chhetri	17	16	94%	12	70%	16	95%	6	35%	16	94%	
	Janajati/OBC	4	4	100%	0	0%	4	100%	0	0%	3	75%	
	Dalit	13	8	62%	2	15%	8	62%	0	0%	4	31%	
	Muslim	16	12	75%	0	0%	11	69%	0	0%	2	13%	
	Age	Upto 20	4	2	50%	0	0%	2	50%	0	0%	1	25%
		21-40	23	20	87%	6	26%	16	83%	2	9%	13	56%

	41-60	20	16	80%	7	35%	15	75%	3	15%	8	40%
	60 and above	3	3	100%	1	33%	3	100%	1	33%	3	100%
Marital Status	Married	38	32	84%	12	32%	30	79%	5	13%	18	47%
	Unmarried	12	9	75%	2	17%	9	75%	1	8%	7	58%

**Knowledge on place of filing complaint:**

The table 3 shows the knowledge of place of filing cases of domestic violence. Most of the respondents included in the survey were found to have general information on the service delivery mechanism related to domestic and gender-based violence. Majority of them responded that they know police and local level (VDC/Municipality/Rural Municipality/Ward office) as primary agencies for cases of domestic violence 78% of the respondents said that they go to police in the case of violence while 50% said they also have knowledge the cases can also be filed in court. 28% said they can seek help from local bodies. The number of respondents aware about the National women commission was found to be very low with only 12 % percent respondents aware about it. Some were even found to be lacking information on the role and responsibilities of the police regarding cases of domestic violence.

**Gender-based Knowledge about place of filing complaint:**

The study also analyzing the knowledge of place of complaint according to the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The study shows men (70%) has lower knowledge on place of filing complaint of violence as compared to women (96%). The case is similar with the exact place of filing complain, men have less information about the local level, police, NWC or court as place of filing complaint.

**Knowledge about place of filing complaint on the basis of education level:**

Analysing by the education level, low education is directly related to less knowledge of filing complaint. Only 55% of the illiterate population know the place of filing complaint, while they only know police as the place and don't know about the other places. 78% of the respondent with primary level education know about the place of filing complaint, while they also know more about police and have very less knowledge on other places. 100% of the respondents with secondary and higher secondary education are aware of the

place of complaint, while majority of them were aware about local level, police and court as place of complaint, very few of them also know NWC as place of complaint.

**Knowledge about place of filing complaint on the basis of occupation:**

Analyzing the occupation of the respondents, except of farmer and self-employed respondents, 100% of all others have knowledge on place of filing complaint. 50% of farmers and self-employed have knowledge on place to file complaint. Similar with the trend of exact place of filing complaint, all of them have higher knowledge about the police, comparatively knowledge on local level and court whereas significantly less knowledge about NWC.

**Knowledge about place of filing complaint on the basis of ethnicity:**

Analyzing the ethnicity, the study shows the Brahmin/Chhetri (94%) and Janajati (100%) have higher knowledge on place to complaint to Dalit (62%) and Muslim (75%). Only 35% of Brahmin/Chhetri know about NWC as place of complaint. Dalit(31%) and Muslim(13%) also have significantly low knowledge about court as place of complaint. The Age factor does not have much implication on the knowledge except of the age group below 20 who have comparatively less knowledge on place of filing complaint.

**Knowledge about place of filing complaint on the basis of marital status:**

Analyzing the marital status of the respondents, 84% of the married population and 75% of unmarried population knows about place of filing complaint.

**Table 4:** *Distribution of Source of information*

Source	Radio/TV	NGO	Police	Family	Friends	NWC	WCO	Watch groups	Neighbors/Community
<b>Number</b>	39	21	21	16	22	11	16	16	24
<b>Percent</b>	78%	42%	42%	32%	44%	22%	32%	32%	48%

Radio/television is the best medium for the community members to get information about the place to file complaints. They also got information through neighbors, NGOs, police, friends, watch groups, WCO and NWC. 78% of respondents were informed through

Radio/television, 48% through neighbors or community members, 44% through friends, 42% through NGO and police, 32% through WCO and watch group and 22% through NWC.

### 5.3 Community Satisfaction:

#### 5.3.1 Satisfaction on Effectiveness of the delivery Mechanism

The respondents included in the survey under various tools were found to be satisfied over the effectiveness of the service delivery mechanism. Lack of government offices at the local level has hampered the access of the DV survivors from low economic background. Safe house is being operated by NGO named Saathi for catering the needs of the domestic violence survivors and to provide them shelter. But the district does not have integrated service delivery mechanism for domestic violence survivors.

Police coming under political pressure has hampered the effective service delivery to the victims of domestic and gender based violence.

#### 5.3.2 Satisfaction of respondents for case handled by service mechanism

**Table 5:**

*Background of the population who filed the case of domestic violence*

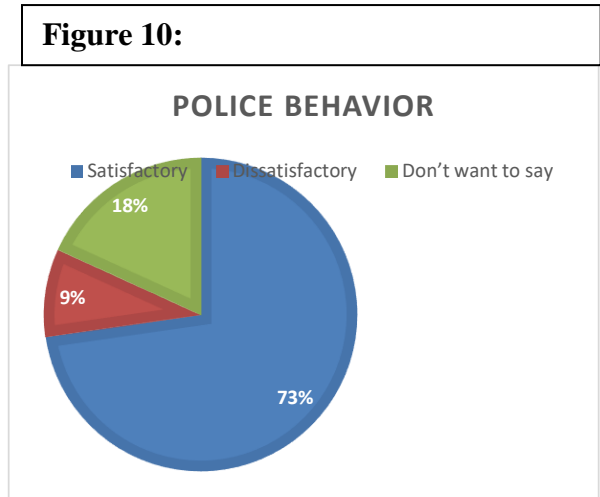
Characteristics		Total Case filed	
		No.	%
<b>Total Population</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>
Gender	Men	4	36%
	Women	7	64%
Education	Illiterate	2	18%
	Primary Level	4	36%
	Secondary level	4	36%
	Higher Secondary level	1	9%
Occupation	Farmer	0	0%
	Business	2	18%
	Private Job	2	18%
	Self Employed	2	18%

	Daily wage	1	9%
	Other Occupation	1	9%
	Unemployed	3	27%
Ethnicity	Brahmin/Chhetri	6	54%
	Janajati/OBC	1	9%
	Dalit	2	18%
	Muslim	2	18%
Age	Upto 20	0	0%
	21-40	4	36%
	41-60	5	45%
	60 and above	2	18%
Marital Status	Married	10	91%
	Unmarried	1	9%
Case filed for	Themselves	3	27%
	Others	8	73%

22% respondents were found filing cases of domestic violence. The survey had a separate set of questionnaire for them to analyze their level of satisfaction on the service received. The disaggregated data shows that 64% of the total case reporters were women and 36% were men. Similarly, the data shows high number of cases filed by respondents with primary (36%) or secondary education level (36%), unemployed respondents (27%) , Brahmin/Chhetri caste group (54%), respondents between 41-60 age group (45%) and married respondents (91%). 27% respondents filed cases for themselves while 73% reported for others (neighbors). Among the total respondents 54% of them filed case at police, 54% of the cases were reported in local level and 54% were reported in court. None of the cases were reported in NWC. Among the reported cases, 45% of the cases were filed at least at two places and one case was filed at 3 places including local level, police and court.

Satisfaction on behavior of police while filing case:

73% of them who filed cases in police said that the behavior of police was supportive and provided immediate response and they were satisfied with the service of police. But still 18% complained about the delayed response from police and they were not satisfied with the response of police. They even perceived that process of getting justice is not satisfactory.



**Table 6:**

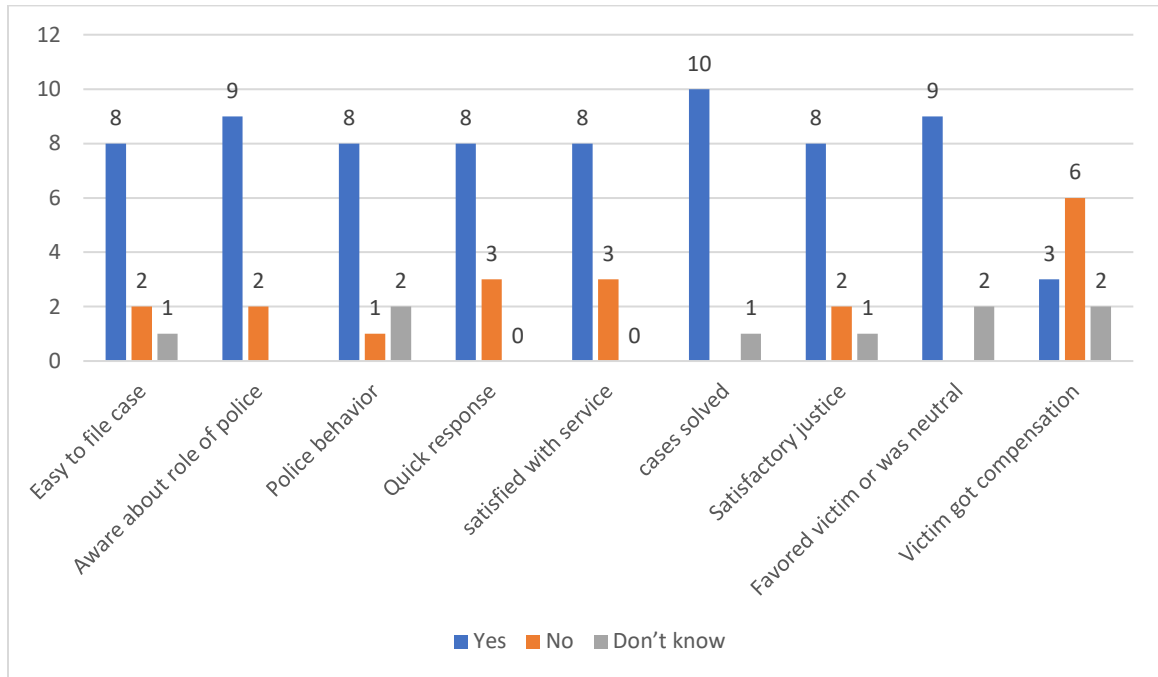
*Improvement needed in police behavior*

<b>Perceived improvements</b>	Improved behave towards victim	Respond without delay	Improve service delivery mechanism	Support system for survivors
<b>Percent</b>	24%	38%	33%	13%

A total of 24 % of the respondents said that the police behavior toward the victims needs improvement. 38% of the respondents said that the police need to respond to the call of DV victims without delay. Similarly, 33 % respondents said that the police need to improve service delivery mechanism. 13 % of respondents underscored the need for improving the support system of survivors.

**Figure 11:**

*Service from police for cases related to Domestic violence*



Out of 11 respondents who reported the case of domestic violence to police, 73% of respondents felt easy to file cases and 82% of them were aware about the role of police in DV cases. 73% found the behavior of police while filing DV cases satisfactory and got quick response from the police. 91% of the cases were solved. 73% were satisfied with the process of getting justice while rest said that it is not satisfactory. 55% of the respondents who filed cases found that the police were on the victim's side, 27% said they were neutral and rest were unable to answer. Only 27% responded that the victims got compensation, 55% were unaware about it.

All of the respondents who said that the victim got compensation responded that the compensation was adequate and received the compensation. But all of them responded that the receiving compensation was difficult and they received it after a long struggle. 27% responded that the victim bore the medical expenses of any physical and mental harm during violence, 18% responded that it was borne by the perpetrator while others did not get any treatment. 27% responded that victims did not get any immediate compensation as relief after violence while rest didn't know about it. None of them said that the victim immediately got any compensation after relief. 64% of the respondents suggested that the

behavior of the police needs to be reformed while few suggested on reformation of response by police and service delivery.

Majority of domestic violence affected women consulted for this study were not found too starkly dissatisfied over service delivery mechanism as a whole. However, participants of focused group discussions pointed out on the need of police personnel’s behavior change while dealing with domestic violence victims. The police and locally influential people tend to press the victims to come to terms with the perpetrator and in many cases forced reconciliation is seen to be the hindrance for effective service delivery according to the participants of the FGDs. Lack of follow up mechanism after the reconciliation of domestic violence cases further pushes the victims to the edge.

### 5.3.3 Distribution of Satisfaction on Quality of service provided to the target population

**Table 7:**

*Distribution of respondents having knowledge about the roles and responsibilities of service provider and level of satisfaction of such services rendered*

<b>knowledge about roles and responsibilities of service provider</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>satisfaction with their roles and responsibilities</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>%</b>
Police	41	82%	Police	9	18%
Local level	8	16%	Local level	3	6%
National women's commission	9	18%	National women's commission	1	2%
Women Children office	29	58%	Women Children office	25	50%

Security, social stigma, legal hurdle, stereotyping are the key issues the domestic violence survivors face. In this context they need safe homes, protection from further victimization and access to justice and support for alternative livelihood options. Various service providers such as police, local level (VDC, Municipality, Rural Municipality, Ward Office), at local level, district police, court, Women Children Office at district level and police, National Women Commission at national level is working for eliminating and

providing justice for domestic violence survivors. They render different types of services to the general public regarding domestic violence. But it is seen that most of the respondents were not aware of these service providers and their roles and responsibilities.

Majority of the respondents answered that they possess the knowledge regarding the roles and responsibilities of the police in regard to cases of domestic violence with 82 % percent saying yes. However, 18 % respondents also found unaware about the roles and responsibilities of the police in dealing with cases of domestic violence. Only 16% were aware of the roles and responsibilities of the local level whereas only 6% are satisfied with it.

Similarly 18% are aware of roles and responsibilities of national women's commission whereas only 2% are satisfied with it. Likewise, 58% are aware of roles and responsibilities of women and children office and 50% are satisfied with it. Most of the participants suggested that their roles and responsibilities should focus on implementation of law related to domestic violence and awareness raising at community level

#### ***5.3.4 Satisfaction on Capacity and skill of the service delivery providers***

The majority of the respondents were of the opinion that the service providers do not possess the needed capacity and skills for effective service delivery. According to survivors involved in FGDs, police lack the capacity to withstand the political pressure while other service providers working in the local sector struggle for resources.

The participants of the FGDs also informed that there is lack of shelters to provide secure refuge for the survivors of gender based violence. Even the shelters in existence lack appropriate human resource and experts like doctors, legal experts as well as counselors for the victims in the shelters. Majority of FGD participants wanted reformation and further improvement in the capacity and skill area of the service providers working against domestic violence at the community level.

### 5.3.5 Major reasons for not filing complaints and delays in reporting of DV case

**Table 8:**

*Distribution for major cause for not filing complaints and delays in reporting of DV cases*

Major reasons of not filing or delays of DV cases.	No of respondents	%
Family prestige	41	82%
due to fear and pressure	29	58%
not seeing worthiness in complaining	16	32%
Lack of money	36	72%
compromised at local level	12	24%
Survivors have no option to return to the same house and they become more vulnerable	33	66%
place of filing complain is too far(Remoteness)	13	26%
Hectic and Lengthy and confusing legal procedure	20	40%
lack of support	19	38%
Other reason	26	52%

Family prestige is taken as major cause of low or delayed reporting of DV cases. 82% of the responded believed that family prestige is the major cause for not reporting DV cases whereas 72% thinks it is due to lack of money. Similarly, 66 % of the respondents believe that victims chose to stay silent because they had to return to the same house and hence become more vulnerable. 58% believed that they do not complain due to fear and pressure of society and family members, 40% thinks they do not complain due to hectic, lengthy and confusing legal process, 38% believe it is due to lack of support, 32% thinks that they do not complain because they don't see worthiness in complaining, 26% believed it is difficult to report due to remoteness of the service providing agency and 24% believed it is forced compromised at local level instead of filing cases.

services providers. Relatively little knowledge of the law related to domestic violence were found among the survivors.

Most of the respondents were found lacking knowledge about the role and responsibility of national women commission, women and children office as well as of local bodies in addressing the issue of domestic violence. The respondents did not comment on the amendment of policy but underscored the need for effective implementation of the existing legislation to fully address issues of domestic violence. 66 % respondents believe that political parties exert pressure on survivors to come to terms with the perpetrator or seek reconciliation while 60 percent of the respondents said that relatives of the perpetrators get involved in pressing the survivors for reconciliation. Over 58 percent respondents also mentioned that social activists are also involved in forceful reconciliation of domestic violence cases while 57 percent also included police as pressuring for reconciliation. Moreover, 56 percent respondents said that community group leader's involvement in settlement of domestic violence cases out of legal mechanism while 43 percent respondents also mentioned the role of community based organization in such practice.

#### ***5.4.1 Knowledge on duty and responsibility of police:***

Majority of the respondents answered that they possess the knowledge regarding the roles and responsibilities of the police in regard to cases of domestic violence with 82 % percent saying yes. However, 18 % respondents also found unaware about the roles and responsibilities of the police in dealing with cases of domestic violence.

#### ***5.4.2 Knowledge on duty and responsibility of Local level***

It is surprising that just 16% of the respondents are aware of the duties and responsibilities of local bodies. A large portion of population responded that they are not aware of their roles and responsibilities in addressing cases of domestic violence. 84% respondents were unaware of their roles and responsibilities.

#### ***5.4.3 Knowledge on duty and responsibility of National women commission (NWC)***

Majority of the respondents are found lacking knowledge on the roles and responsibilities of the National Women Commission. Only 18 % of the total respondents said that they are

aware about the role and responsibilities of the women commission in implementing the law related to domestic violence and addressing domestic violence.

#### ***5.4.4 Knowledge on duty and responsibility of Women Children Office.***

It is seen that the community members are comparatively aware of the roles and responsibilities of the Women and Children office at the district. 58% of the respondents said that they are aware about the role and responsibilities of the women children office in implementing the law related to domestic violence and addressing domestic violence.

#### ***5.4.5 Respondents perception of police behavior***

**Table 9:**

*Distribution of respondents who ever visited Police Office for filing a complaint by their perception of Police behavior*

Behavior and response of police	No of respondents
Supportive behavior	8
Non-supportive behavior	1
Don't want to say	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>
Immediate response	8
Not supportive	1
Misbehave	0
Delayed response	2
Total	11

Out of 11 respondents who assisted or filed cases for themselves in police, 8 found that the behavior of police was satisfactory and they provided immediate response to address the case. One of them found that the behavior of police was not supportive and 2 of them responded that the response from police was delayed. 2 of them do not want to say anything about the behavior of police while lodging complaint.

In the focus group discussions (FGDs) with community members, it was revealed that opinions about police behaviour are mixed. Participants expressed a general lack of trust

in the police administration, citing issues of corruption and political influence. They noted that only individuals with strong social standing tend to report domestic violence cases to the police, while those who are less socially powerful often refrain from reporting.

#### ***5.4.6 Respondents' perception of local bodies and NWC***

Many of the respondents were found unaware about the roles and responsibilities of the local bodies and National Women Commission in dealing with cases of domestic violence. Even if some were aware about their roles most are not satisfied with it. Out of 8 respondent respondents who were aware of the roles and responsibilities of local level, only 3 were satisfied with it. Similarly, out of 9 respondents who were aware of the roles and responsibilities of NWC, only 1 is satisfied with it. In comparison, majority are aware of the roles and responsibilities of WCO and are satisfied with their roles and responsibilities. Out of 29 respondents who are aware of roles and responsibilities of WCO in implementation of law related to domestic violence, 25 were satisfied with it.

#### ***5.4.7 Expected roles and responsibilities of service providers from survivors.***

Out of the total respondents, 17 % underscored the need of reformation in the police justice delivery process and the behavior aspect 24 % want the police to be prompt in responding the call for help from domestic violence survivors while 41 % respondents suggested improvement in service delivery mechanism of the police and 37% people suggested improvement of the behavior while dealing with Domestic violence survivors. Most of the respondents want local bodies to focus on law implementation (51%). The respondents also suggested local bodies to make extra effort in awareness raising (8%). Similarly, 6% respondents expected National Women Commission to involve in awareness raising and law implementation. While 21% wants it to focus on capacity building. Likewise 22 % respondents expected Women and Children Office to focus on awareness raising while 6% want them to involve in lobbying with government for implementing law related to domestic violence.

### **5.5 Status of service providing institution of the district**

There are various service providers that are providing service to the victims of the domestic violence in the district. These institutions provide different range of services such as filing cases, investigation, providing justice, punishment and penalizing the perpetrators and

criminals, safety, security, justice and compensation to the victims, etc. basically, these institutions are established and operating to establish law and justice to the people and to implement the law enforced by the national. The survey tried to study the status of the service providing institutions of the district to see how well it is functioning so that it can provide justice to the domestic violence victims quickly, effectively and efficiently. Nepal police, district court and local level offices (ward and municipalities) are currently responsible for implementing the DV law in the district through government whereas, the civil society organization is operating a shelter service to support Domestic Violence victims to access to justice. The survey interviewed three representatives from the three different service providers to understand the status of service providing institution of the district. Interviews were taken to the representative of Nepal Police, the representative of ward office-ward no 2-Kapilbastu Municipality and the representative of the shelter home for domestic violence survivors being operated by an NGO named "Saathi". The status of the service providing agencies are not adequate. Most of the service providers lack capacitated human resources, and adequate infrastructure and resources. The available human resources are provided with multiple responsibilities which directly affects the implementation status of law related to domestic violence. There is also less opportunities of capacity building of the available human resources for domestic violence and its implementation procedure. The frequent transfer of human resources is also the major challenge which prevents the service providers to develop close relation with the community members and gain their trust.

There is no provision of female staff to deal with the victims, counsel, encourage and make them feel secured to minimize their grief in police station and in ward office. There is no separate department to deal with the case of domestic violence. Even in district court, there is no provision of Fast Track Court to deal with the cases of domestic violence. There are very few numbers of shelter houses to provide safe shelter to victims with limited capacity. There is only one shelter in the district being operated by an NGO to provide shelter support to the victims with limited facilities for limited time period only. The shelter home is also operating with very low fund without any guarantee of sustainability.

## CHAPTER VI

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

#### 6.1 Summary

Nepal has been one of the countries with high prevalence of domestic violence. However, very small cases are surfaced to the outer world and most cases are dominated in the communities and within the families. The patriarchal mindset, the culture, religion and the social norms of the country and the communities within the country are biased in favor of men, thus more women are suffering from the violence, abuse and injustice. However, domestic violence was considered "private affair" even by the law for long time. Even after a long time of ratifying the international commitments such as UDHR, ICCPR, ICESCR, CDEAW, BPFA, Nepal has not taken any steps to bring domestic violence under the provisions of law. After much efforts from various activists, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders, Nepal implemented "Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment Act), 2009 to criminalize the offence of domestic violence and to bring the issue into the public concern. Even after being legally punishable by law, domestic violence is rampant in communities, which is evident by various reports from police and other human rights and development organizations.

Thus, this thesis tries to explore the implementation status of law related to domestic violence and the perception of the service seekers about the status of service delivery by service providers. To explore the implementation status, the study explored the knowledge and perception of the community members on the concept of domestic violence and related law and the perception of service seekers about the service delivery by service providers. The study also tries to find of the satisfaction level of the communities on the service delivery mechanism and the actors on issues of domestic violence.

To explore the subject matter, respondents were selected through non-probability sampling method. In order to select the respondent, the district with low indicators of development, low HDI and high prevalence of domestic violence was selected. Kapilbastu district was selected based on the indicators from CBS, and other reports from UN. Household survey was conducted with 50 participants with disaggregated socio-demographic characteristics.

Similarly, two Focused Group Discussions were conducted with domestic violence victims and with the members of CBOs and women activities. Three Key informant Interview was also conducted with police official, ward official and shelter home staff.

Though the respondents are aware about the violence, they have less knowledge regarding the legal provisions. Most of them possess only partial knowledge. The study shows police as the popular place for complaining the domestic violence cases by public, however, a significant population is dissatisfied with the service due to various reasons such as delay in response, behavior, delay in justice process, etc. The overall study shows the good percentage of the population is satisfied with the services, however, they wished for improved service, especially in the areas of behavior, system, process, to increase efficiency and to provide sense of security, safety and justice to the victims. The need of increasing knowledge about the provisions of law among the communities, and improving the delivery system to build trust and confidence among the service seekers seems important for efficient implementation of law related to domestic violence. It is also seen that societal norms and belief is also hindering effective implementation of the law.

## **6.2 Conclusion**

This study was focused on understanding the level of knowledge the community people have about the domestic violence, their perspective on the service delivery mechanism and the quality of service rendered to the domestic violence survivors as well as their perception on how capacitated the service providers are in meeting the survivor's needs. The overall objective of the study was however, to assess the overall implementation status of law related to domestic violence and its impact. Based on the research objective, the conclusion of the study can be described as:

### **A. Knowledge of law related to domestic violence by communities:**

The study found out that majority of the population is aware of the domestic violence and its law. The report shows 70% of the respondents were aware of the violence and 56% of them were aware of the law related to domestic violence. However, an alarming percentage (30%) of population are still unaware of domestic violence and 44% are unaware of the law, which shows not very satisfactory implementation of law at ground level. The study

also shows that women has more knowledge and information on domestic violence and its law as compared to men. Similarly, the level of education also affects the level of knowledge, that means, higher the education, increased the level of knowledge on violence and its law. As for the occupation, the private job holders have much knowledge as compared to farmers, daily wage labors and self-employed persons. On the basis of caste ethnicity, Dalit and Muslim has least knowledge on domestic violence and its law whereas Brahmin/Chhetri and Janajati has good knowledge.

Physical violence is most popular form of violence known to the respondents, but they were also aware of mental, economic and sexual violence. Though respondents say that they know the law on domestic violence, they are mostly aware of the timeline of filing complaint and not much on other provisions.

Majority of the population also knows about the place of filing complaint. 82% of the respondents know where to file complaint, however, still 18% lacks information on where to lodge complaint on domestic violence. Police is the most popular place for lodge complaint for domestic violence, known to 78% of the respondents. Court is also known by 50% of respondents. However, very few respondents know that they can report at local level or at National Women Commission. Only 28% recognized local level and 18% recognized NWC as place for filing complaint. Similar to the knowledge of violence and its law, the survey shows the similar trend of knowledge of place of filing complaint, where women has more knowledge over men, educated respondents, respondents in private jobs and Brahmin/Chhetri and Janajati have higher knowledge as compared to others in the respective category. The report shows radio/TV as most popular source of information for knowledge. Besides, some community members were also informed by friends, neighbors, NGO, police and women watch groups.

#### **B. Perception of service seekers about the service delivery by service providers:**

While observing the perception of community towards service providers, majority of the respondents said they had access to police station and they expressed satisfaction on the work of the police, but regarding the satisfaction level of NWC, local bodies and WCO, they were not really aware about the service provided by them and were not satisfied by

their existing service delivery mechanism. When the respondents who sought service from police responded the satisfactory behavior from police with immediate response and favored towards victim, the respondents however indicated the need of improvement in the service delivery. The reformation of justice delivery process, prompt response, improvement in service delivery mechanism and behavior of police was underpinned by the respondents for improving the service delivery and building trust amongst communities. Similarly, they suggested for more information and awareness dissemination roles for local levels and NWC on knowledge and provisions of law and strengthening its implementation.

### **C. Satisfaction level on the services received on domestic violence issues:**

A total of 22% respondents were involved either directly or assisted in registering the cases. Among them 50% cases were registered with the police. 73% found the behavior of police while filing DV cases satisfactory and got quick response from the police. 73% were satisfied with the process of getting justice while rest said that it is not satisfactory. Even though some of the victims got compensation for such violence, the process of getting compensation was not easy for them. 64% of the respondents suggested that the behavior of the police needs to be reformed while few suggested on reformation of response by police and service delivery. The service delivery mechanism needs to be further strengthened. 52% respondents said that survivors easily got the stated compensation and support but 32% of the respondents said that victims did not get any immediate compensation as relief after violence had occurred while 16% of the respondents were unaware in this regard. Majority of domestic violence affected women consulted for this study were not found too starkly dissatisfied over service delivery mechanism as a whole. However, participants of focused group discussions pointed out on the need of police personnel's behavior change while dealing with domestic violence victims. The participants shared that police and other service providers sometimes tend to overlook cases of domestic violence terming it a private affair between husband and wife. Some also shared that police and other stakeholders in the domestic violence control mechanism sometimes come under influence of money and political power of the perpetrators. Family prestige was considered as one of the main reason for low and late reporting of domestic

violence cases while fear and pressure from family and society was another major cause. Similarly, respondents also believed that reporting is not worthwhile as most survivors had to return to the same house as the perpetrator and they become more vulnerable. Lack of resources and long distance for filing cases are other reasons for low or delayed reporting of Domestic Violence cases. Practice of force reconciliation is also seen as one of the major reasons for not reporting. Community members and even service providers are also encouraging reconciliation rather than filing cases. Long, confusing and bureaucratic process involved in the case resolution has also been considered as one of the reason for low reporting of domestic violence cases. Moreover, some respondents think that the police create undue influence on victims to compromise on DV cases while the other major groups that create undue influence are political parties, relatives of perpetrators and local social activists. The respondents believe that the police are the first and biggest supporters to the victims while community leaders and local social activists are listed as other two actors supportive to the victims.

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## **Annex1**

### **Findings from FGD**

#### **1. FGD with DV victims (women)**

A FGD was held with the victims of domestic violence. They were found with general concept that domestic violence is violence between husband and wife. They mostly referred physical battery by husband to wife as domestic violence. Apart from that, not letting women out of house for employment, rape, verbal abuse, doubting on character, objections, not providing proper food and shelter, etc are the types of violence women are facing in domestic setting. According to them, violence such as battery, forceful sexual intercourse, not letting go outside for employment and education are repeated in district. The situation of violence related to sexual and reproductive health is very critical in the district. In the process of sexual torture by husband and family members, women are sexually torture. There are some extreme cases within district where women are sexually tortured by piercing their vagina by wooden stick and pouring chili powder in their vagina. Child marriage is prevailing in district due to which women had to suffer domestic violence. They lack education and employment opportunities. Dowry system is also one of the major causes of domestic violence. Women are tortured for more dowries. Women are also tortured if they could not perform household chores properly and please all family members. Traditional social and cultural belief, values, rituals, social practices are the some of the factors that is promoting gender based violence. Women are behaved like person of second category during menstruation. In some communities women have to cover their head and face in veil which is hindering their advancement and progress. Women and girls are not only vulnerable within house but they can be exposed to violence at any place such as public place, road, temple, buspark, school, bridge, river, etc. They are not safe at their own house and workplace. Girls feel unsafe with their teachers and their male peers. Specially, adolescent girls are more vulnerable to violence. They are the target group for rape, trafficking, child marriage. Apart from them, women from so called low caste, women of poor economic condition and disabled women are even more vulnerable to violence. The participants of FGD were aware that they should report to nearest police station of call emergency number 100 in case of such violence to themselves or to anyone

else. They also know the legal provision regarding domestic violence that the complaint can be made both verbally or in written form. They were also informed that perpetrators are liable to the fine and imprisonment if found guilty; and the person who assist will also get such punishment. The participants of FGD have reported their cases of domestic violence to police and their cases were referred to court. At that time it was very difficult to work with police. Their behavior is not gender sensitive and their role is not satisfactory as they make hurry to settle the case at community level only without filing complaint. This tendency is making the victims more vulnerable and leaves them in double jeopardy. In some of the cases law enforcers are also not aware properly about the law and its provisions. It is difficult for them to distinguish between the cases that could be mediated within the community and the cases that need legal actions. The services provided by the law enforcers could not be effective if they are not proficient in local language and provisions in law. Due to the lack of government interest, there is no provision of integrated service for the victims in the district. Therefore police should play vital role in responding and addressing cases of domestic violence. Therefore, police should try to file complaint as soon as possible and open doors to access to justice. In the current context, the behavior of police is getting better as they are showing quick response and providing better service to victims. In the current situation, the victims are themselves aware and can access to justice, therefore, it is easy to access to justice. Most of the complaints are being filed these days. Police should focus more on providing justice as soon as possible and support victims in accessing justice quickly. The participants perceived that the role of local level in the cases of domestic violence is to mediate the cases and bring them to compromisation. But local level is not playing any role in the issue of domestic violence. There is no presence of National Women's Commission in the district. but Women and Children office in the district has played a vital role in the capacity development of women. They provide various types of trainings to women, provide economic assistance to economically backward women and provide references and recommendations as well. To establish a violence free society, there should be a focus on activities such as raising awareness in community, stopping alcohol, cards in the community. the laws and provisions regarding domestic violence in the country according to the participants, are sufficient; but the implementation could not be much effective.

## **2. FGD with women activists:**

The FGD participants understood domestic violence as any type of violence inside house. But general understanding about domestic violence is violence by husband. According to them, there are also some people in community who do not consider violence by husband as violence or they consider it normal and right. They are aware of physical, mental, social, sexual, emotional and political violence. Battery, dowry, violence as a consequence of foreign employment, not providing citizenship and other vital documents are the violence that occurs mostly and repeatedly in the district.

The district has high prevalence of child marriage due to which girls suffer from uterus prolapse at young age. They could not share this problem to their family members and due to their illness, husbands get second marriage. Their husbands even do not provide them with proper treatment and medicine. There is also concept among men that wives are their property and they can use them sexually whenever they want to.

Women are facing violence due to gender roles and marital relationship. In most of the cases, dowry is the main reason for women being victim of domestic violence by family members. The orthodox traditional beliefs, cultures, rituals and the social practices are the factors that are promoting domestic violence. For example, women in Muslim community have to wear "Burkha", restriction of mobility of women during menstruation, fasting for the long age of husband and son, are some examples where women are suffering discrimination and violence in different communities.

Gender based violence can occur in any place such as office, schools, temples, public places, bus parks, etc. Violence can occur to women due to non availability of toilets at home and they have to go far from house at fields, forest or lonely places for defecation. Mostly, adolescent girls, poor, marginalized community, disabled, people working as daily wage labor in brick kilns, are more vulnerable.

In case of violence, the participants said that they will inform police in phone number 100. It is being easy for them to work in these days than previous days. The participants said that they are supporting victims to access to justice by assisting them to reach concerned

agencies. These activists are working as a bridge between victims and government officials.

They know the legal provisions of domestic violence. They are aware of the provisions such as imprisonment, monetary penalty, place and timeline of filing cases of domestic violence. They have been supporting domestic violence victims to report cases to police and take it to court as well. But they found that most of the cases are negotiated and compromised at police station only. The participants of FGD are not very much satisfied with the system as they have seen that generally perpetrators are stronger and live inside house and victims have to remain homeless. Most of the cases of violence are forcefully compromised at local level after political pressures and financial benefits. They suggested that even if the cases are compromised at local level, the case should be followed for at least five times.

The service provider lacks the capacity to address cases of domestic violence. Even if the district has desk for addressing Gender Based Violence, it has not yet been implemented. Serious problems related to domestic violence such as lack of safe house in district, lack of proper knowledge to Focal Person at District Administration Office about own roles and responsibilities prevails in the district. The district lacks integrated service to address and provide service to victims. The activists are demanding for One-stop Crisis Management Center (OCMC) at district but the government is not giving proper attention to the demand.

The behavior of police is satisfactory and cooperative. Even if justice is not yet provided to victims fully, partial justice is provided to victims who reach police for justice. The environment is created in the district where the victims do not have to search for women activists and can access directly to police for justice. There has been improvement in police behavior such as making inquiries, registering cases, creating supportive environment, case follow up and facilitating discussions and mediations to facilitate victims. but police should continue such follow ups. They need to increase their human resource for effective service and should implement the prevailing laws. There is a necessity of monitoring of their work and such implementations by Chief District Officer. Along with that, there should be increment in awareness activities.

The local level should do lots of things for implementation of law related to domestic violence. The judicial committee at local level should be formed and functioned properly soon. There are lots of things that government can and must do for proper implementation of law related to domestic violence.

The participants do not have proper knowledge about the roles and responsibilities of NWC. They had only heard about it and not much aware about it. But they had sound knowledge about WCO at district and local level. They are aware that the office provides legal service to GBV victims, provide recommendations of GBV victims to DAO, provides support to medical and travel expenses, recommend or manage free legal aid or lawyers for court cases, support to elderly and disabled persons.

For minimizing domestic violence, there should be equal participation of men and they should also be made aware about the law and its legal implications to the perpetrators. The law should be made strong and properly implemented, conducting GBV reduction programs in participation of male and sensitizing newly elected representatives should be done for reducing gender based and domestic violence.

The law implementers should not engage themselves in getting personal benefits and elongating cases. They should work fairly and neutrally and also, law should be drafted very carefully and with sensitivity. There should not be any undue interference in the investigation and works of police and no political pressure should be created. There should be an environment where everyone can exercise and follow law without any force and coercion.

## **Annex 2**

### **Case story 1: Locally elected official pressurize woman to compromise on the case of Domestic violence**

Sita Kumari(name changed), 23, of ward no 4, Bijayanagar Rural Municipality, Kapilbastu was badly beaten by husband Sishir Pun Magar on 16 April 2018. Her husband tortured her physically by bare hands and even using weapons. She was later rescued by the members of her parental house after they were being informed. She was brutally tortured with all the marks around her face, eyes, hands, ears, backbone.

Her husband, who returned from same day after being into foreign employment at Qatar for a year beat his wife to death. She then filed case to the local police station with the support from her parental family members. Police filed the case and tried to arrest her husband for interrogation. But the ward president, Tilak Kandel interrupted the process showing the intension of protecting the perpetrator. After investigation by the social activists in the district, it was found that the ward president also pressurized the police not to file the complaint. He along with some other persons even pressurized victim and her relatives to come to compromise accusing her to be guilty for the incident. They even threatened her to draw back her complaint from police station.

In the new federal system, a judicial committee comprising of elected officials is formed at local level with limited authority for mediating cases or referring it to police or other formal mechanism. But due to the lack of proper information and knowledge, the ward official is interfering in the process of justice mechanism and trying to negotiate and compromise the case at local level only without providing proper justice to the victims. (source: Butwal Today, Published on 18 April, 2018)

### **Case story 2: Sabitri gets justice after prompt action of law implementers**

Panmati and Shreeram Harijan belong to a poor Dalit family of Rupandehi district. Therefore, they married their daughter Sabitri, age 19, to a man of age 35. Sabitri was bound to marry a man almost double to her age as her parents could not give her in-laws any dowry. Therefore marriage was conducted without any transaction of dowry. After

marriage, Sabtri continuously became pregnant and gave birth to 6 daughters continuously within few years.

Her husband and in-laws started torturing her mentally and physically for giving birth to daughters only and not bearing son. She was being beaten brutally by them due to which her uterus prolapsed and her life was also in high risk. Then with the help of her parents and other organizations working nearby, she reported the case to the police. Police arrested her husband and put him in prison. The community members arranged some donation from the community for her medical treatment. Her health improved after treatment.

She also complained about her husband to Women Children office. The office helped her get justice and ensured that her husband gets adequate penalty and punishment.

### Annex 3

#### Survey Questionnaire

Date: .....

Form No: .....District Code: .....HH Code: .....

#### Survey Form

#### Domestic Violence Law Implementation Status in Nepal , 2074

##### A. Introduction

##### 1. Personal Information

Respondent's Name:	Caset:
Age:	Citizenship: Yes No
Marital Status:	Marriage registration: Yes No
Occupation:	Gender: M F TG
District:	Ward No:
Rural Municipality/Municipality:	Tole:

##### 2. Respondent's educational status: (Tick the correct one)

Illeterate	
Literate	
Primary level completed	
Secondary level completed	
SLC Pass kf;	
10+2 pass and above	

##### 3. Respondent's employment status: (Tick the correct one)

Unemployed	
Employed	
Self Employed	

##### B. Subjective Questions

##### 4. Do you have any knowledge about the violence against women and children? (Tick the correct one)

Yes		
No		If no go to Q. No. 6

##### 5. If yes, what types of violence do you know about ? (Multiple Choice)

Physical	
Mental	
Economic	
Sexual	
Social	
Others	

**6. Do you have knowledge on the laws of domestic violence? (Tick the correct one)**

Yes		
No		If No, go to Q. No. 8

**7. What do u understand by the term Domestic Violence? Which of the following is correct? (Tick the correct one)**

1. "physical, mental, economic or sexual torture by a person with household relationship"	
2. "physical mental, economic or sexual torture by any other person"	
3. "torture by husband to wife"	
4. "don't know"	

**8. Do you have any knowledge about major legal provisions of law related to domestic violence? (Any three)**

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

**9. Do you have knowledge about where to file complaint? (Tick the correct one)**

Yes		
No		If no go to Q. No. 30

**10. Where will you file the complaint of domestic violence? (Multiple choice)**

- Local level	
- Police Station	
- National Women Commission	
- Court	
- Others	

**11. How do you know about the place to file complain of domestic violence? (Multiple Choice)**

Radio/TV	
NGO	

Police	
Family members	
Friends	
National Women Commission	
Women and Children Office	
Women Watch Group	
Neighbor or community members	
Others.....	

**12. Have you ever filed case of domestic violence? (Tick the correct one)**

Yes		
No		If no go to Q. No. 30

**13. If yes, where did you file your complaint? (Tick the correct one)**

- Local level	
- Police	
- National Women Commission	
- Court	
- Others if any.....	-

**14. If you have filed case of domestic violence, for whom you have filed such case ( Tick the correct one)**

Self	
Family Members	
Relatives	
Neighbors	
Others (Please specify).....	

**15. Was is easy to file case of DV of your complaint was not filed easily? (tick the correct one)**

Complaint was filed easily	
Not easy to file complaint	
If            difficult,            what            was            were            the            difficulties	
.....	
.....	

**16. Do you have knowledge about the roles and responsibilities of police on domestic violence cases? (Tick the correct one)**

Yes	
No	

**17. How was the behavior of police while filing domestic violence case? (tick the correct one)**

Supportive	
Not Supportive	
Don't want to say	

**18. How was the response of police while filing domestic violence case (Tick the correct one)**

Satisfied		Immediate Response	
Not Satisfied		Not supportive	
Need to Reform		Misbehave	
		Delayed response	
		No Response	

**19. Are you satisfied with the service provided by the police on the issues of domestic violence case? (tick the correct one)**

**20. Is your problem solved? (tick the correct one)**

Yes	
No	

**21. Was the process of getting justice satisfactory? (Tick the correct one)**

Satisfactory	
Not satisfactory	
Don't Know	

**22. in your opinion, which party did police favor? (Tick the correct one)**

Victim	
Perpetrator	
Neutral	
Don't Know	

**23. Did victim get adequate compensation? (Tick the correct one)**

Yes		
No		If no, go to Q. No. 27
Don't know		If don't know, go to Q. No. 27

**24. Was the compensation to victim sufficient? (tick the correct one)**

Yes	
No	
Don't know	

**25. Did the victim received committed compensation? (Tick the correct one)**

Received		
Not received		If no, go to Q. No. 27
Don't Know		If don't know, go to Q. No. 27

**26. How difficult was it to receive compensation? (tick the correct one)**

Easy	
Difficult	
Received after long struggle	
Don't know	

**27. Who bore the medical expenses for the any physical and mental harm during violence? (Tick the correct one)**

Perpetrator	
Victim	
Relative of Perpetrator	
Relative of victim	
Government agency	
Others	
Not treated	

**28. Did victim get immediate compensation as relief after violence?**

Yes	
No	
Don't know	

**29. Give any 3 suggestions for reforms if you are not satisfied with service provided by police on issues of domestic violence/**

.....  
 .....  
 .....

**30. Are you aware of role of local level for implementing law related to domestic violence? (Tick the correct one)**

Yes		
No		If no, go to Q. No. 32

**31. Are you satisfied with the role of local level for effective implementation of law related to domestic violence?**

Satisfied		
Not satisfied		

**32. Suggest, what should be the role of local level for efficient implementation of law related to domestic violence**

.....  
 .....  
 .....

**33. Are you aware of role of national women's commission for implementing law related to domestic violence?**

Yes		
No		If no, go to Q. No. 35

**34. Are you satisfied with the role of national women's commission for effective implementation of law related to domestic violence?**

Satisfied	
Not satisfied	

**35. Suggest, what should be the role of national women's commission for efficient implementation of law related to domestic violence**

.....  
 .....  
 .....

**36. Are you aware of role of Women and children office for implementing law related to domestic violence? (Tick the correct one)**

Yes		
No		If no, go to Q. No. 38

**37. Are you satisfied with the role of Women and children office for effective implementation of law related to domestic violence?**

Satisfied		
Not satisfied		

**38. Suggest, what should be the role of Women and children office for efficient implementation of law related to domestic violence**

.....  
 .....  
 .....

**39. what is the reason for not filing complaints for domestic violence cases or complaining it very late? (Multiple Choice)**

Family prestige	
Fear and pressure	
Not seeing worthiness in complaining	
Lack of money	
Compromised at local level	
Victim had to return to same house and they become more vulnerable	
Distance of agencies filing complaints	
No information about complaining mechanism	
Hectic and confusing legal processes	
Lack of support	
Others	

**40. Which group creates pressure or undue influence to victim to come to compromise on domestic violence cases? (Multiple choice)**

Police	
Local social activist	
Political parties	
Relatives of victims	
Relatives of perpetrators	
Perpetrator	
Community groups, leaders and other community members	
NGOs	
Others (Specify)	

**41. Which group supports victim to access to justice on domestic violence cases? (Multiple choice)**

Police	
Local social activist	
Political parties	
Relatives of victims	
Relatives of perpetrators	
Community groups, leaders and other community members	
Neighbors	
NGOs	
Others (Specify)	

## Annex 4

### FGD Questionnaire

#### **Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Format to Study Domestic Violence Law Implementaiton Status in Nepal**

Items	Descriptions
Activities	Focus Group Discussion (FGDs)
FGDs Themes	Understanding of Domestic Violence Vulnerable place and Group Awareness and experience Services and satisfactions Suggestions and Recommendation
Locations	Kapilbastu District
Target groups	Domestic Violence Survivors
Type of Community	Women, rights activists in host community
Target group criteria(10 people per respondent category)	Women: Domestic violence survivors women ( Approx. 10) Rights activists working in the area of DV (Approx. 10)
Introduction	Thank you all for coming today. My name is _____ and I work for ..... as a ..... Today, I would like to have a discussion on how effectively law related to domestic violence in Nepal is being implemented. We will start with our level of understanding of the issue and will dwell on the how satisfactory / unsatisfactory we are when it comes to implementation of existing law related to domestic violence which was enforced

in 2007. We will have an in-depth discussion on existing legal provision regarding DV and related provision from the victim's perspective.

Your inputs on this research are really valuable. Your open and honest discussion will provide us useful feedback so that necessary course of action or changes in the law can be suggested for the greater good of the DV victims .Please be as honest as you can be, we are interested in your opinions and there are no right or wrong answers to any of our questions.

The discussion will take around .....hr. First we need to know that you freely consent to be part of this discussion. You do not have to speak of anything which upsets you or makes you feel uncomfortable and participation is entirely voluntary. If you wish to leave or stop at any point please let us know.

We would also like to audio record this conversation. This is just so that we can go back to the recording and ensure any information that we use for our work is true and accurate to what you say here today. Our conversation is completely confidential. The recording will not have any information that names or identifies you and it will not share with anyone else or played on the radio, Internet or elsewhere.

We would also like to use some of your comments in our reports. These reports may be shared internally with our staff and other stakeholders. Would it be ok for us to include your comments in our reporting? All comments will be anonymized; your identity will always be kept confidential.

Confirmation of consent

Do you freely consent to participate in this discussion?

**ENSURE VERBAL CONFIRMATION OF CONSENT IS RECORDED**

Do you agree to us recording today's discussion?

**ENSURE VERBAL CONFIRMATION OF CONSENT IS RECORDED**

	<p>Do you agree that we can use your comments in our reports?</p> <p>ENSURE VERBAL CONFIRMATION OF CONSENT IS RECORDED – KEEP NOTE OF ANY REFUSAL<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Do you have any questions you want to ask us before we can start our conversation?</p> <p>ENSURE ALL QUESTIONS ADDRESSED BEFORE DISCUSSION BEGINS</p>
Warm Up	<p>Warm up [5mins]</p> <p>Let's start with each one of us introducing with our names, where we live and what we do.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Thank you all for the introduction. Now we would like to enter into the main areas of our discussion and start with your understanding of Domestic violence. What do you mean by domestic violence?</p>
Themes	Questions
Understanding of Domestic Violence	<p>What is your gender understanding of the Domestic violence?</p> <p>Answer:</p>

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<sup>1</sup>The discussion can proceed if participant(s) do not give permission for their comments to be used in reports, however, direct quotes from this discussion should not be used in reporting.

	<p>What Kinds of domestic violence you have experienced?</p> <p>Answer:</p>
	<p>Generally ,what forms of domestic violence takes place recurrently</p> <p>Answer:</p>
	<p>What is condition and frequency of domestic violence related to sex and reproductive health?</p> <p>Answer:</p>
	<p>5. How often the women in your community faced with the domestic violence related to marriage and gender based perception?</p> <p>Answer:</p>
	<p>6. What is your opinion on domestic violence promoted by traditional cultural belief as well as custom and reinforced by social practice?</p> <p>Answer:</p>

Vulnerable place and Group	<p>What is the place where you think that the incident of gender based violence is likely to occur most. ( at home, work place, schools, public place, public transportation, or any other place?)</p> <p>Answer:</p> <hr/> <p>Which group is most susceptible to Domestic violence and gender based violence? (age factor, indigenous people, economically backward women ,or women in certain geography? )</p> <p>Answer:</p>
Awareness and experience	<p>How do you communicate with government authorities if you are faced with DV?Are they easily accessible for you? If not then why?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <hr/> <p>What do you think are the reasons of domestic violence? What are the repercussion of the DV in the life of victims</p> <p>Answer:</p>

	<p>What do you know about the legal provision related to gender based and domestic violence? If you know , what are the major legal provisions?</p> <p>Answer:</p>
	<p>Has any one of you registered any cases related to DV in any authority? Could you please share the process involved in it and your experience in this regard?</p> <p>Answer:</p>
	<p>What are agencies and offices in your district that basically deal with the cases of gender based and domestic violence?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>As a DV survivors, are you satisfied by the service provided by the related service providers? How would rate the quality of the services rendered by them?</p> <p>Answer:</p>

Service Providers	<p>Are the service providers have due capacity to deal with the DV cases and survivors needs effectively?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Is integrated service available with the service providers to cater the needs of DV victims?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Are you aware about the duties and responsibilities of the police in relation to the cases of domestic and gender based violence?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Does follow up mechanism exist to ensure the delivery of full justice to the DV &amp; GBV Survivors?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>How do you find the behaviors of police?</p> <p>Answer:</p>
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Suggestions and Recommendation	<p>Answer:</p> <p>Do you have any suggestion to police to improve the quality of service for the victims?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>What is your suggestions on preventing DV and GBV ?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Do you have any tangible suggestion for the effective implementation of DV law in Nepal? Do you suggest any amendment in it ?</p>
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**Thank you all for taking the time to join this discussion, it has been very interesting.**

**Do you have any questions or final comments?**

*[Moderator: answer any questions the participants might have]*

**CLOSE DISCUSSION**