

Domestic violence against women in Bhutan.

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MBARM 08 (2019-2021)

Enrollment no- 0072

Outline

- ☐ Introduction
- ☐ Methodology
- ☐ Objectives
- ☐ Literature review
- ☐ Finding and discussion
- ☐ Conclusion
- ☐ Recommendations
- ☐ References

Introduction

- Domestic violence against women is described as an act of violence that causes physical, sexual or psychological damage to women (Bervian, et al. 2019).
- The discrimination against women are the main driver towards violence against women (United Nations 2010).
- Violence against women is a huge challenge and an obstacle to development across the world.
- In Bhutan, Domestic violence occur mostly in rural areas compared to urban areas (NHS 2012)

- The significance must be placed on violence against women in rural areas mostly because they are the vulnerable with terrible educational and economic background (Sarkar 2010).
- RENEW is the first and only organization of its kind in Bhutan. We are committed to forging a better understanding of the circumstances causing domestic violence, sexual and gender-based violence and gender inequalities at all levels of society.
- Several forms of domestic violence includes physical abuse, sexual violence, psychological abuse, emotional and economical violence.

Methodology

- It was based on qualitative approach.
- The research is literature based and the information available from published studies and papers.
- Reviewed the existing research, studies and statistics obtained from different organizations/government agencies such as NCWC (National Commission for Women and Children), NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) like RENEW (Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women) and NWAB (National Women Association of Bhutan).

Objectives

1

Explain what DV mean, examine the forms of domestic violence, the prevalence of DV in global and the Bhutanese context.

2

Determine factors affecting domestic violence reported against women.

3

Identify possible solutions to the issue of domestic violence against women and suggest/recommend solutions.

Literature Review

- **Global Context**

- A regulatory framework has been provided by the CEDAW to address issues concerning to women's human rights and make sure equality between men and women.
- Women feel disempowered and hopeless due to discrimination.
- Across 10 countries, data has been collected on IPV from more than 24,000 women from diverse cultural, geographical and urban/rural Women's health was affected by violence



• The Bhutanese Context

- Most women in Bhutan along with their families are less likely to report rape, domestic abuse or any other violence in a "culture of silence."
 - About 3 in 10 women in the year range of 15-49 has experienced at least one form of a specific type of IPV in their lifetime (NCWC 2012).
 - According to the Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey 2010, an alarming rate of 68% of the women in Bhutan accepted violence against them (BBS 2013).
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Results and Discussions

- **Factors affecting the prevalence of DV**

- a. Level of education***

According to Wang (2016), respondents with lower educational attainment tend to accept violence and individuals with higher education do not condone it (Wang 2016).

- b. Cultural factors***

It is believed in our society that men are superior.

c. Addicted to alcohol

Alcohol consumption is another major contributor to the occurrence of IPV. Alcohol and drug abuse encourage violent behaviours.

d. Age

Young women experiences violence against them due to their in experience and unfamiliarity with life skills and ways to cope with family problems.

Conclusion

- Domestic violence against women occurs in all settings and across all socioeconomic, religious and cultural groups.
- Domestic Violence against women has a lot of impact on the lives of the women who are the victims of the violence.
- Studies exhibit that high educational attainment of men and women result in reduced violence against wives/women.
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- WHO report (2009) on women and health, claimed that DV against women has serious public health implications across countries



Recommendations

- Educate community people through programs to provide support services to the women in the family in need of services related to violence-related issues.
 - To maintain authentic resources in the national data system for research and monitoring purposes.
 - Strengthen attention of gender-based violence against women by incorporating the effects of DV on the health of the women and human rights.
 - Setting up of cellular police stations, training the police on gender issues, and initiatives to be taken with the aid of civil society
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