

What is Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Its Situation



Dr Keerthi Bollineni

President, Vasavya Mahila Mandali

vasavyamm@gmail.com

Mobile 9848542521

DEFINITION OF GBV

Violence that is directed at an individual based on his or her biological sex, gender identity, or perceived adherence to socially defined norms of masculinity and femininity.

It includes physical, sexual, and psychological abuse; threats; coercion; arbitrary deprivation of liberty; and economic deprivation, whether occurring in public or private spaces.

Types of GBV

- GBV takes on many forms and can occur throughout the life cycle.
- Types of gender-based violence can include
 - female infanticide;
 - child sexual abuse;
 - sex trafficking
 - forced labor
 - sexual coercion and abuse;
 - neglect;
 - domestic violence;
 - elder abuse;
 - harmful traditional practices such as early and forced marriage, “honor” killings, and female genital mutilation/cutting

Both Women and Men Experience GBV

- Women and girls are the most at risk and most affected by GBV.
- Consequently, the terms “violence against women” and “gender-based violence” are often used interchangeably. But boys and men can also experience GBV, as can sexual and gender minorities.
- Regardless of the target, GBV is rooted in structural inequalities between men and women and is characterized by the use and abuse of physical, emotional, or financial power and control.

Source: 2012. United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally. Washington

Specific Forms of GBV That Impact Workers and the Workplace Include:

- Domestic and IPV
- Gender-based workplace discrimination, stigmatization, and social exclusion
- Sexual harassment and intimidation
- Sexual exploitation and abuse
- Trafficking for forced labor and sex work within and across borders.

GBV PREVALENCE: GLOBAL STATISTICS

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO):
 - 35 percent of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual IPV or non-partner sexual violence (WHO 2013).
 - Violence studies from 86 countries across WHO regions of Africa, the Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, South-East Asia and the Western Pacific, show that up to 68 percent of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime from an intimate partner (ibid., p. 44).
 - The highest prevalence rates were found in central sub-Saharan Africa, with an estimated up to 66 percent of ever-partnered women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner (ibid.).
 - GBV is a major cause of disability and death for women aged 15–44 years (United Nations Women 2011).

GBV PREVALENCE: GLOBAL STATISTICS

- Globally, one out of every five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape over the course of her lifetime (Heise, Ellsberg, and Gottemoeller 1999).
- Between 20,000 and 50,000 women in Bosnia-Herzegovina were raped during the 1992–1995 war (UNIFEM 2002). During the 1994 Rwandan genocide, an estimated 250,000–500,000 women were raped (UN 1996).
- In 2009, men represented 24 percent of trafficking victims detected globally (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2012).
- In 2012, women and girls represented 55 percent of the estimated 20.9 million victims of forced labor worldwide, and 98 percent of the estimated 4.5 million forced into sexual exploitation (ILO 2012).

GBV PREVALENCE: NATIONAL STATISTICS

- The issue of gender-based violence in India has been creeping up the policy agenda over the past couple of years. And with substantial data, it proves one thing: rampant domestic violence against women in India is a reality.
- Every third women, since the age of 15, has faced domestic violence of various forms in the country, reported the National Family Health Survey (NHFS-4) released by the Union health ministry. Thus, incubating a new round of debate about the cultural underpinnings to domestic violence.

Physical Violence

- According to the survey:

27 per cent of women have experienced physical violence since the age 15 in India.

This experience of physical violence among women is more common in rural areas than among women in urban areas.

Domestic violence cases, where women reported physical abuse in rural and urban areas, were at 29 per cent and 23 percent, respectively.

Perpetrators at Home

- Most of the times perpetrators of this violence have been the husbands. 31 per cent of married women have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their spouses. The most common type of spousal violence is physical violence (27%), followed by emotional violence (13%).
- 83% Married women experienced physical violence by their husband
- Not married, the experience of physical violence stems from the most common perpetrators:
 - mothers or step-mothers (56%)
 - fathers or step-fathers (33%)
 - sisters or brothers (27%)
 - teachers (15%)

Consent of Spouse

- “Sexual violence is most often committed by individuals with whom women have an intimate relationship. Physical violence and sexual violence may not occur in isolation; rather, women may experience a combination of different types of violence,” the survey report said.
- Ironically, India is one of the 36 countries where marital rape, the act of sexual intercourse with one's spouse without the spouse's consent, is still not a criminal offence.
- Does education matters????

Addressing GBV related to women's work could help to support women's economic advancement

- Reducing all forms of work-related GBV is vital to healthy workers and productive workplaces:
 - Including gender-based discrimination and stigma,
 - harassment and intimidation,
 - exploitation and abuse,
 - labour and sex trafficking

Increased safety, health, and productivity can drive local and national development, economic growth, and trade.

Costs of Domestic and Workplace-related GBV

- In addition to pain and suffering caused by such violence:
 - Direct financial costs include those resulting from victims' absenteeism and turnover, illness and accidents, disability or even death.
 - Indirect costs include the victims' decreased functionality and performance, quality of work, and timely production.
 - In the case of an organization or company, violence at work can include destruction of property; the impact of violence can also negatively affect motivation and commitment among staff, loyalty to the enterprise, working climate, its public image, and even openness to innovation and knowledge building.

Source: Di Martino, V. 2002. "Violence at the workplace: The global response," Africa Newsletter on Occupational Health and Safety, Issue 12, p. 5, cited in Gender-based violence in the world of work: overview and selected bibliography. ILO. 2011

An ICRW multi-site household survey on Domestic Violence in India

- Found that women lost on average seven workdays after an incident of domestic violence (ICRW and the Center for Development and Population Activities 2000, p. 26).
- The study also found that domestic violence had an impact on a husband's ability to work, with 42 percent of women who reported injury also stated that their husband missed workdays after a domestic violence incident.
- In terms of income loss from waged work, the average cost per domestic violence incident per household was Rs759.30. This represents an estimated nearly 100 percent of a woman worker's average monthly income¹ in day-labor households in rural and urban slum communities

16 Days of Activism

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which happen each year from November 25 to December 10, offer an important opportunity to step back and consider what we can do all year long to put an end to gender-based violence.

6 Ways to Combat GBV

- **Funding women's full participation in civil society.** Women who are active in civil society can be highly effective in influencing global, regional and national treaties, agreements and laws and in exerting pressure to ensure their implementation. More money needs to flow toward supporting women's active participation in civil society.
- **Scaling up prevention efforts that address unequal gender power relations as a root cause of gender-based violence.** [Some programs](#) have effectively structured participatory activities that guide the examination of gender norms and their relationship to power inequities, violence and other harmful behaviors. They work with multiple stakeholders across the socio-ecological spectrum and across multiple sectors. But, we need to do a better job of evaluating these programs so we can move them from limited, small-scale pilots to larger-scale, societal-change programs.

6 Ways to Combat GBV

- **Bringing gender-based violence clinical services to lower-level health facilities.** The provision of gender-based violence clinical services has focused on “one-stop shops” at high-level facilities, such as hospitals, where all services are offered in one place. But, the majority of people who access services at high-level facilities do so too late to receive key interventions, such as emergency contraception and HIV post-exposure prophylaxis. For faster access, we should focus on bringing services closer to the community, particularly in rural areas.
- **Addressing the needs of child survivors, including interventions to disrupt the gender-based violence cycle.** In shelters and services for women, it is common to see children of all ages in waiting rooms or safe houses. But, it is rare to see anyone working with these children, who have experienced a traumatic event. Sometimes they are victims, but most likely they are witnesses to violence against their mothers. We lack trained professionals to work with children who have experienced gender-based violence, especially when the perpetrators are parents or other family members.

6 Ways to Combat GBV

- **Developing guidance for building systems to eliminate gender-based violence.** There is ample global guidance on how to address gender-based violence through certain sectors, such as health, or through discrete actions, such as providing standards for shelters or training for counselors. But, we are missing practical guidance for building the whole system from A to Z — putting laws into practice, raising awareness of services and creating budgets.
- **Developing support programs for professionals experiencing second hand trauma.** After three years of working with a program to address school-related gender-based violence, I had to walk away. Despite my commitment to ending gender-based violence, I simply could not hear another awful story. My experience is not unique. Burnout is a reality, and we lack qualified people to deal with gender-based violence survivors.

What About YOU???

- Have you ever used violence against your partner? (yes/no)
- Has your partner ever used violence against you? (yes/no)

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