

## **A Statistical Analysis of Discrimination and Exploitation based on Ethnicity, Caste, Sex, Religion and Class in Developing Countries: A Graphical Study of Nepalese Societies**

**Santosh Kumar Karna**

Department of Management

Rajarshi Janak University, Janakpurdham, Nepal

[santoshkarna@rju.edu.np](mailto:santoshkarna@rju.edu.np)

**Suresh Kumar Sahani**

Department of Science and Technology

Rajarshi Janak University, Janakpurdham, Nepal

[sureshsahani@rju.edu.np](mailto:sureshsahani@rju.edu.np)

**Abstract:** In this research paper, we have studied the position of discrimination, sex abuse, violence and exploitation against women practicing in developing countries of Asian continent. This study basically focuses on roles and issues of women rehabilitation center (WOREC) Nepal in terms of protection of women rights in Nepalese societies. Murder, social violence, trafficking and rape in the societies are graphically represented through this paper. Age of survivors, education of survivors and violence created by illiterate and literate people in the country have also been depicted. This work is motivated by the works of [1-14].

**Keywords:** women rehabilitation, violence against women, rape, trafficking, sex abuse, empowerment, social mobilization, age profile and etc.

### **Introduction**

#### **Background of WOREC Nepal**

In Nepal, the inequities in the access and ownership of natural productive resources and basic human rights, and the discrimination and exploitation based on ethnicity, caste, age, sex, gender, religion and class have been eroding the human rights of Nepali people. Same factors are also responsible for the forced migration of economically poor and marginalized people into towns and cities to earn their livelihood. The socio-culture and economic injustice and the discriminatory patriarchal socio-political structure has led to increasing unemployment and violence against women and children. Migration of rural youth away from their native village; the depletion of productivity of cropland, forests, and pastures; and socio-economic crimes like traffic in and violence against women and children have thus emerged as intricate socio-economic, cultural, and political phenomena in this Himalayan kingdom. Globalization of open market economic and the exploitation-based model of development, on the other hand, have further aggravated discrimination and social injustice, simultaneously widening the gap between

the “have” and “have-nots”. These phenomena are also elevating the levels of poverty and nutritional insecurity.

To address these issues Women’s Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC), a non-governmental social organization, was established on April 1, 1991. The chairperson of WOREC is Dr. Renu Raj Bhandari. WOREC has been working in partnership with grassroots people and organizations in order to resolve the major socio-economic, cultural and human rights problems prevalent in the communities and for the attainment of social justice and protection of human rights at the community level. It envisages a Nepali society with social justice, equal human rights and opportunities for all. Its central office is at Balkumari, Lalitpur Kathmandu. It has implementing various community-based programmes in various districts of Nepal. Such as it has its branch offices located at Udayapur, Mustang, Siraha, Morang, Sunsari, Dhanusha, Rupandehi District. Its project in Baitadi, Salyan and Nuwakot district have been phased out.

**Mission:**

WOREC mission is to bring about positive changes in the human rights of women, children and marginalized groups; and in the social justice system at the grassroots level. To achieve this mission, WOREC has been working in partnership with the local people and their independent democratic organization.

**Strategy:**

WOREC’s main goal is to prevent the trafficking of persons from human rights perspectives. Accordingly, all of WOREC’s programmers work toti-dimensional and integrated approach will be effective in changing the unequal power relationships and in achieving human rights for all.

WOREC’s programs focus on the following three broad strategic directions:

1. Collective empowerment and social mobilization;
2. Human rights and social justice; and
3. Sustainable livelihood and development.

**Objectives of WOREC Dhanusha Branch:**

The objectives of WOREC Dhanusha branch within framework of its strategic directions (SD) are as follows:

**SD-1. Collective Empowerment and Social Mobilization**

- ❖ To animate, empower, mobilize and strengthen the local community-based organizations and population groups for planning, implementing and monitoring development programmes.
- ❖ To improve and consolidate the organizational structure and leadership qualities of local community-based independent democratic organizations (CI/Dos).
- ❖ To implement the integrated programmers of development education and advocacy on the issues of traffic in and violence against women and children, women’s health, women’s human rights and social justice.

**SD-2. Human Rights and Social Justice**

- ❖ To make grassroots people, particularly women, children and marginalized groups aware of their human rights.
- ❖ To work for preventing traffic in women and children.
- ❖ To launch community-based rehabilitation or reintegration programmers for socially rejected, discriminated and marginalized rural women, including the survivors of trafficking or HIV/SIDS.
- ❖ Strengthen functional networking on women’s and child rights at various levels.

**SD-3. Sustainable Livelihood and Development**

- ❖ To improve the technical skill and competency of the members of local CI/Dos and the staff members of WOREC.
- ❖ To improve the nutritional and livelihood security of rural women, children, and disadvantaged population groups; and make this security sustainable by networking with and mobilizing local women's groups, (CI/Dos), other civil society groups and local governance bodies.
- ❖ To improve the health status of women, children and other members of the communities through its self-help approach and promotion of traditional knowledge about herbal remedies.
- ❖ To bring about substantial changes in the skills, household income generation opportunities through skill training and the promotion of micro-enterprises.

**List of programmes and major partner organizations:**

S.N.	Programmes	Partner organization
1.	Community Dvelopment programmes at Siraha	MISEREOR, Germany
2.	Community Development programme at Udayapur	ICCO, Netherland
3.	Women's health progamme, Udayapur	The Ford Foundation
4.	Animation and Women's Health programme, Mustang	AEI, Luxembourg
5.	Community-based Early child Development, Udayapur	AEI, Luxembourg
6.	Programme for prevention and intervention Against Trafficking and sexual Exploitation of Chidren, Morang-Sunsari	Plan International, Nepal
7.	Integrated Prevention of HIV/AIDS and Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal, Rupandehi, Dhanusha	UNDP, Delhi
8.	Combating Traffic in Women and Children, Dhanusha	TAF
9.	Pilot project on Assisted Return and Integration of Trafficked Women and Children in Nepal, Dhanusha	IOM

**Activities conducted by WOREC:**

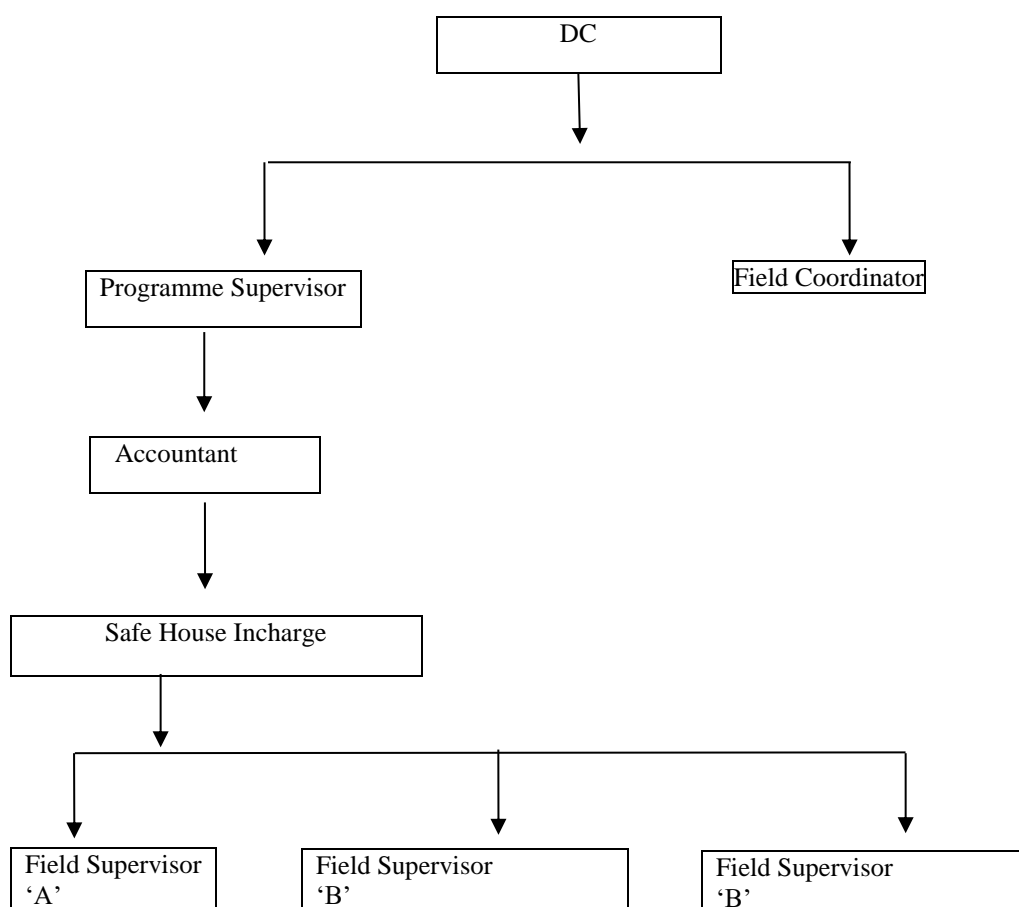
**Regarding protection of Women Rights**

- ❖ Receiving complaints regarding the violation of Women and women rights.

- ❖ Conduct inquiries and investigations into the matters of violation of Women and Women Rights in order to prevent these.
- ❖ Make necessary recommendation for the effective implementation of the provision on safeguards provided by the constitution and other prevailing laws for the enforcement of Women rights.
- ❖ Monitor the nation's Women and women Rights situations; publicize its reports GON for the improvement of Women and Women Rights situations.

**Regarding the promotion of Women Rights:**

- ❖ Publicize and propagate Violence Against Women(VAW)and Women rights education through seminars, conferences, media and publications.
- ❖ Inform and build awareness about the guarantees bestowed by law for the protection of Women and Women Rights.
- ❖ Publicize various study materials for the promotion of Women and Women Rights.
- ❖ Encourage the functioning and efforts of both non-governmental and governmental institutions working for protection of Women from violence and safeguard Women Rights.
- ❖ Review the existing Violence Against Women(VAW) and Women Rights situation in the country.
- ❖ Undertake such activities , as it may deem necessary and appropriate for the enforcement, promotion and protection of Women and Women Rights.
- ❖ Conduct trainings, seminars, workshops, interaction and meetings to raise awareness and advocacy on Violence Against Women(VAW) and Women Rights Promotion.
- ❖ **Organizational Structure of WOREC Dhanusha Branch Office**



In WOREC branch office Dhanusha, DC (District Coordinator), holds the highest position. Programme Supervisor and Field Coordinator work under DC. programme Supervisor directs the Accountant, Safe house In-charge works under Accountant. In this branch office of WOREC, there are only three Field Supervisors. And all these three Field Supervisors work under Safe house In-charge. Lastly, in the organization structure there are office helpers or peons.

### **Objectives of the Study**

- ❖ To know about WOREC Nepal.
- ❖ To know about its functions, objectives, powers.
- ❖ To provide general understanding of the nature and magnitude of Violence Against Women (VAW) in Dhanusha district.
- ❖ To explore areas for further research on the Violence Against Women (VAW) in Dhanusha district.
- ❖ To establish information for awareness building activities.
- ❖ To providing recommendation to the reader and concern parties for further actions for prevention of Violence Against Women (VAW).
- ❖ To map out the scenario of Violence Against Women (VAW) in Dhanusha district and to pressure the government to formulate relevant laws, Policies and action plans towards eliminating VAW.
- ❖ To identify for VAW survivors and advocate for relevant support mechanisms.
- ❖ To identify the key areas that will ensure survivors and access to justice and lobbying the government to effectively address those areas.

### **Limitations of the Study**

The study of Violence Against Women (VAW) is limited in one area that is mostly prepared on complain that the victims file in WOREC Nepal. But not on the basis of programme survey. Due to this a lot of cases were out of touch of this study.

- The office staffs didn't have enough time to interact because they were busy on their own office work.
- Unavailability of sufficient data and information.
- The office staffs were hesitating to provide required information and data in fear of leakage of their secrecy.
- Making project work is too expensive for us students..

### **Fieldwork Procedures**

This Project work is especially meant for the practical fulfillment of BBS course which falls under concentration area. The course I have selected is VAW. Project work report is of 25 marks. The objective of BBS programme is to develop students into competent manager for all sector. Therefore, they are given opportunity to obtain broad knowledge of the concept of reality based skills, reports writing.

We had a special orientation class arranged by the campus in order to facilitate with the requirement for the project work. The allotment of the project work was done in the orientation class. The basic concept of the project work was made clear to us and at the end of the lecture of our teacher well explained the topics we are supposed of write about. It helped us to prepare our questionnaires, which were necessary for data collection process.

After the selection of the topic we submitted our application to the campus which in order to have a request letter for the concerned authorities of the NGO.

So, I received a request letter from campus chief asking to provide necessary help required for the preparation of the report. After receiving the letter I went to the WOREC branch office, Dhanusha to handover the request letter so as to the required data of information. I should like to thanks the staffs of WOREC, Dhanusha who responded generously to my appears and made my task easy. After collecting data from various sources they were analyzed complied into report in order to make it suitable for submission to the management department of our college.

### **Research Methodology**

#### **Nature and sources of data:**

To conduct this study, various data were required. Without those data this project report would have been incomplete. For this study, following data were used:

##### **1. Primary data:**

The data collection for the first time by the investigator him\herself from the field of inquiry is called primary data. Primary data is original character. There are different methods of collecting data.

The method used in preparation of this field work is personal contact and interviewing to staff members. Data and information are collected by personal meetings and direct questionnaire and interviewing with related persons.

##### **2. Secondary data:**

The data presented by highly skilled manpower is called secondary data. These are not original character which can be joined through internally or externally. It may be qualitative or quantitative. For the presentation of project work report I had used both type of data but I was highly influence by the first method i.e. primary data interview observation and discussion with person.

##### **3. Time Period:**

The complaints from 2012 to 2014 were reviewed by the research team. This was judged to be the time and cost effective means for developing some understanding on abuse in Dhanusha district within the resources limits.

#### **Data Presentation and Analysis:**

##### **Introduction of Data Analysis**

Collection of data is the first step in any investigation. Data are collection of any number of related observations. A collection of data is called a data set and a single observation is called a data point.

To conduct this report fairly and effectively, I have used various data which was collected from primary as well as secondary source related to Violence Against Women(VAW).While analyzing various data of Violence Against women(VAW) I have studied that there nearly... cases of Violence Against Women(VAW) since establishment of this WOREC branch office, Dhanusha.

Data were analyzed in excel simple statistical tool for measure of central tendencies were used for quantitative analysis of the available information ranking was used for analyzing subjective information.

##### **Data Analysis**

In order to express the data in structural form to highlights its characteristics to the user and reader of this report, I have used pie-charts, bar-diagram, tabulation and graph of different periods of time.

##### **Meaning of Violence against Women(VAW)**

Violence is a phenomenon that varies in its presence, its character, and its severity. Therefore, the need is to analyze the ideology of violence, try to assess how and why various acts of Violence are repudiated, ignored, denied, praised, or glorified. Physical Violence such as injury, disfigurement, bodily alteration, functional impairment, physical restraint or confinement and even death, infringe on our basic desire for physical survival and preservation of bodily integrity and autonomy. The psychological impacts include fear, anxiety, anguish, shame, or diminished self-esteem. The material outcomes include destruction, confiscation or defacement of property or loss of earnings and the social outcomes comprising of public humiliation, stigmatization, exclusion, imprisonment, banishment, or expulsion which are all highly consequential and sometimes devastating. Violence can have prolonged effect often enduring long after physical injuries have healed.

The United Nations defines Violence Against Women (VAW) as any act of gender-based Violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. There many forms of Violence against women, including sexual, physical, or emotional abuse by an intimate partner; physical or sexual abuse by family members or others; sexual harassment and abuse by authority figures (such as teachers, police officers, or employees) trafficking for forced labor or sex; and such traditional practices as forced or child marriage, dowry-related violence; and “honor” killings, women are murdered to preserve family honor. Systematic sexual abuse in conflict situations is another form of Violence against women.

Besides being one of the rallying points of the women’s movement, VAW has become one of the major concerns within the human rights movement. VAW offers the human rights agenda a universal theme to critique and transform traditional human rights practices from agender perspective. The fundamental flaw of the mainstream human rights framework, according to feminist scholars, was the exclusion of women’s experiences as well as its failure to intervene in the private/public dichotomy that often helped maintain the invisibility of violation of women’s human rights. Human rights are universal principles specifying a standard of basic rights for all the human beings, defining “the subordination of women as a human rights violation” and seeking to advance women’s claims to social, economic, political and cultural development and empowerment across all societies.

### **Types of VAW**

VAW is mainly categorized into three categories. They are explained as below:

#### **1. Direct Violence**

Direct Violence is an event which may include physical, emotional or sexual acts of aggression. It also tends to become institutionalize, repetitive and ritualistic like a Vendetta. Example of Direct Violence Against Women include physical assault and verbal abuse. This is very common and takes place even for trivial reasons such as not preparing food for her husband in time, etc. Physical assault sometimes leads women to severe physical impairment and even drives women to suicide. A women might decide to end her life when she is longer able to endure the situation mentally, emotionally and psychologically and also unable to cope with pressure from the community. In a situation where women’s voices are rarely heard, suicide is sometimes only way to delivering their message. Direct Violence entails an identifiable actor causing intentional harm.

#### **2. Structural Violence**

Structural Violence is a process which includes institutionalized oppression and exploitation. It is confiscation of someone's rights through the use of ideas. Structural Violence does not entail an identifiable actor causing intentional harm. It is built into structures and shows up as unequal power and consequently as unequal life chances. Thus, it both accompanies and is an underlying cause of direct Violence. It is found in most, if not all, structures in society- social, political and economic. It is not an accident, but rather the outcomes of human action which generates these systems in the first instances.

### **3. Cultural Violence**

Cultural Violence is an invariant permanence in which permanent aspect of a culture support, encourage, generate or legitimate either direct or indirect Violence. Cultural Violence is the core and facilitates all types of Violence. Many aspects of culture, such as religion and ideology, language and arts, empirical science a formal science can be used to justify or legitimate direct or structural Violence. Violence may be invisible to people because it has become a part of their life.

### **Gender Based Violence**

Violence Against Women(VAW) cannot be understood without investigating and raising questions about socially and culturally constructed categories of discrimination which interact on multiple and often simultaneous levels, contributing to systematic inequality. Oppression within society, such as that based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion, class, sexual orientation and disability do not act independently, and instead, these forms of oppression mesh in to create a system of oppression that reflects the intersection of multiple forms of inequity in a given society. Thus, in order to completely understand VAW, one must investigate the ways in which various structures, social processes and social representations or ideologies purporting to represent women from a particular group in society are shaped. Devaluing the Women, understanding her autonomy and silencing her protests have been manifestations of the violence. All forms of VAW have a common denominator as they are all 'sexual' Violence-based on women's physical differences and social and economic subordination within families, societies and states. Sexuality becomes an integral component of gendered power relations that reach beyond the economic and political spheres to control women's behavior and maintain their subordination.

The state and patriarchal structure have maintained women's subordination to the hegemonic masculine order by controlling the construction of gendered identities and prescribing rigid gendered roles. The discourage on women's rights in the context of Nepal is important but these rights are meaningless, especially for the poorest and most disenfranchised who have no resources through which to exercise these rights, such as personal security, social and economic justice etc.

### **According to special Rapporteur on VAW has conceptualized Violence Against Women in five spheres:**

Violence within the family (including domestic violence and marital rape); Violence in the community (including sexual assault; sexual harassment in the workplace and in educational institutions and trafficking for purpose of sexual exploitation); violence perpetrated or condoned by the state (including custodial violence, sexual assault during armed conflict and violence against refugee women) and; policies that impact violence against women (including socio-economic policies and economic rights); lastly instances where the state condones violence, that is, does not do anything to amend acts of violence.



Violence gets reproductive over generations; most often without questioning or resistance. Some examples are coerced marriage, maltreatment from one's own family, in-laws or husband, and lack of rights with respect to divorce or child custody. Also, women's property rights are almost never enforced this allows the perpetuation of various forms of domestic violence.

Previous studies revealed find that domestic violence is used to establish and enforce gender roles, especially in the initial years of marriage. Men, frustrated by poverty and social expectations to provide for their families, also react with violent behavior. Thus, there is a need to explore how women's lives are shaped by the experiences of violence against them and how women's lives are shaped and constricted, as well as coping strategies.

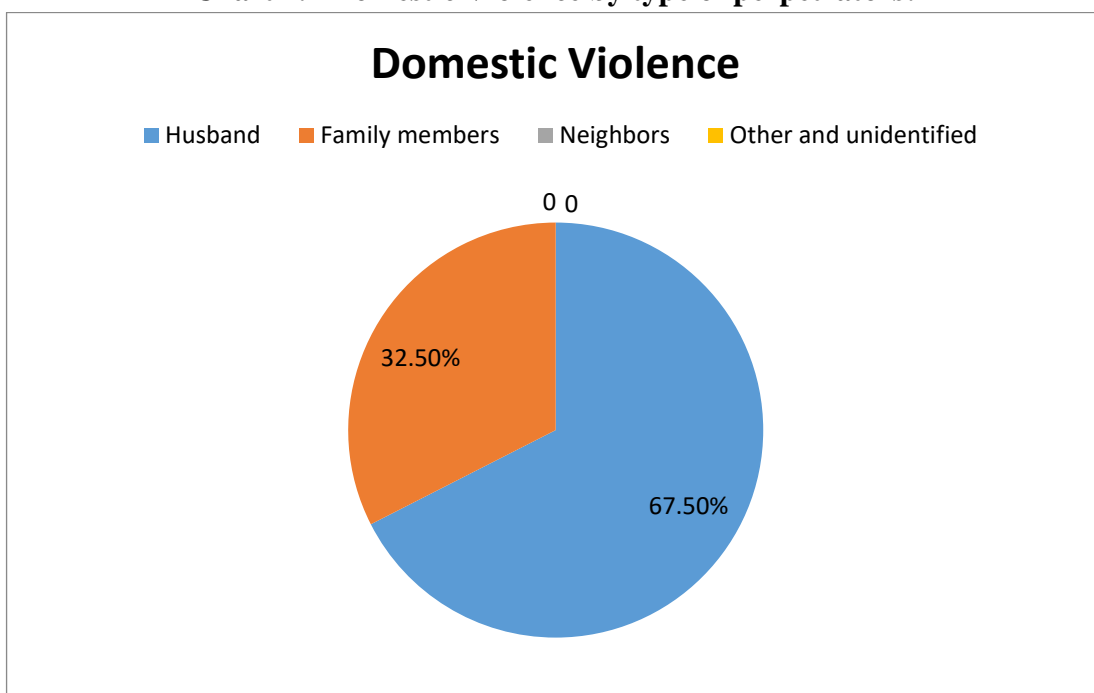
### **VAW by type of Perpetrators**

#### **1. Domestic Violence (DV)**

DV includes violence that takes place in one's own home: battering, polygamy, allegations of witchcraft and torture; character assassination, dowry-related abuses, denial of food and lodging and other forms of discrimination and mental torture. DV is also common in child marriages where women are supposed to assume responsibilities and handle situations for which they are physically and psychologically unfit, in situations where they rarely have any say in when and to whom to marry. When married, they further have none or limited autonomy as they are often much younger than their spouses.

According to various researchers, DV is highly correlated with stressful gender relations in which, males try to maintain their authority. Men often resort to physical violence against weaker female partners to re-enforce the patriarchal power of the household and force the female partner to behave according to their expected gender roles. It is important to note that women suffering from DV come from all groups, classes, ages and geographical areas. Women stay in abusive relationship mostly due to the risk of marital breakdown leading to economic hardships. Other associated factors include concern for their children and ideologies associated with marriage. When women move out of their homes, they are vulnerable to abuse and rape. This fear makes women weigh the cost associated with staying within the abusive household or moving out.

**Chart 1. Domestic Violence by type of perpetrators:**



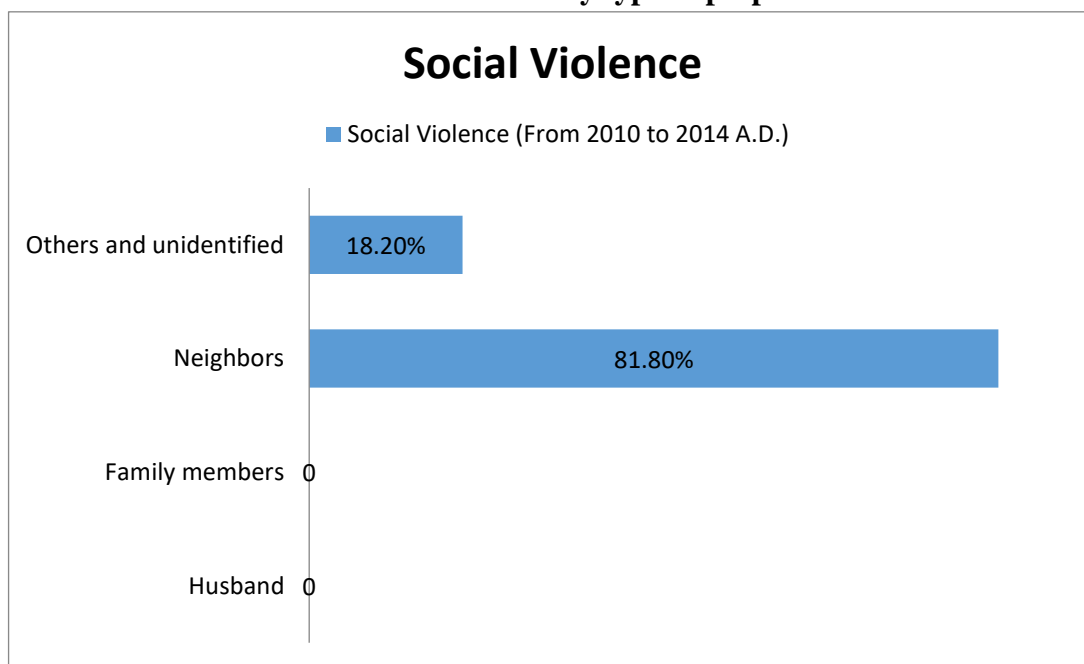
According to above figure, out of total 1594 cases collected by WOREC in Dhanusha district from 2010 to 2014 A.D., DV account for total of 967 cases. This means that domestic violence is the single biggest category of VAW, followed by social violence (21%), rape (9.4%). From chart 2.7.1, husbands (67.50%) and Family (32.50%) account for all perpetrators of domestic violence.

## 2. Social Violence

The second most frequent type of violence is Social Violence. The fact that there is no any reporting of social violence by the husband and family may be the result of the definition of social violence, that is, violence outside the family. Social Violence includes discriminatory practices based on caste, acid spraying, labor, exploitation, allegations of witchcraft, threats, verbal abuse, character assassination and feeding of urine and feces.

It is not surprising that women from marginalize groups are more often the survivors of allegations of witchcraft since they have less power in the social hierarchy. Most have meager economic means and thus lower status in society which in turn leads to survivorization and allegations of witchcraft. These allegations are not an isolated event but usually follow many instances of physical, sexual and/or verbal abuse. Such allegations are mostly linked to gender based factors such as, sense of supremacy, traditional opinions on the role of each family members; issues regarding land ownership etc. Most often these cases involve widows lacking 'protection' from powerful relations.

**Chart 2. Social Violence by type of perpetrators:**



A total of 328 cases or 21% of the total VAW was reported under this category from 2010 to 2014 A.D. in Dhanusha district. From above figure, it is very clear that the biggest abuser of social violence are neighbors who accounts for 81.80% and then other and unidentified which accounts for 18.2%.

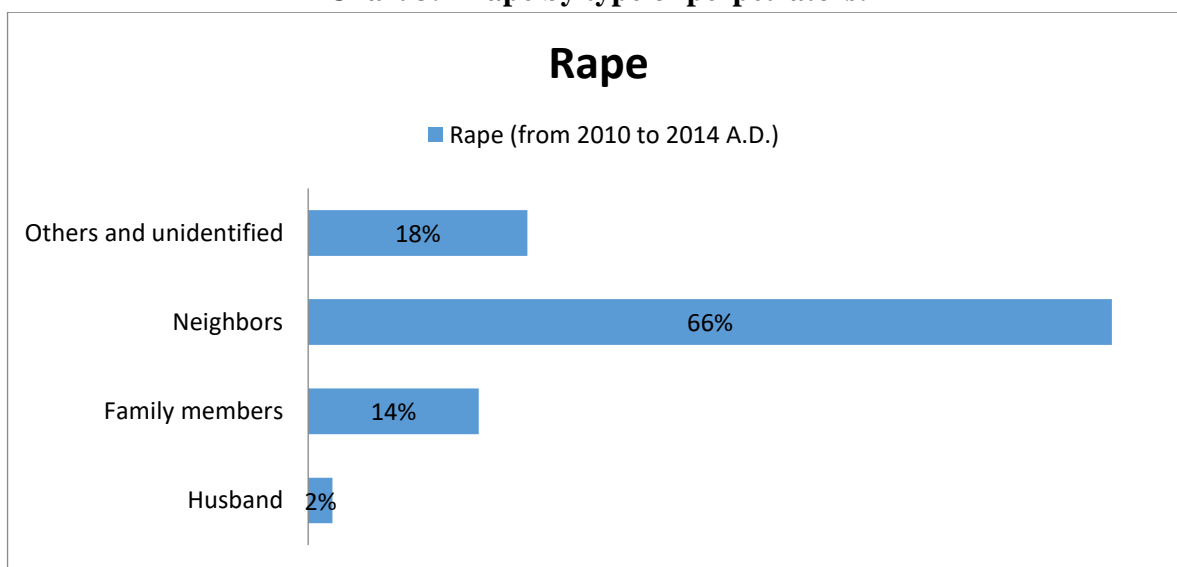
## 3. Rape

Rape accounts for the next highest category of VAW. In understanding the context of rape, it is important to analyze who the perpetrators are. The findings here contradict the still pervasive myth that it is dangerous unknown men (strangers) who are most likely to assault women. In fact, the findings have shown that the greatest risk of rape comes from men they know, often intimately. This is a very disturbing aspect of rape as the rape survivor in such instances may find it very difficult to seek justice as it could mean going against one's own people, sometimes

even close relations. Instead of support the rape survivors may be pressurized to accept what has happened. Similarly there have also been instances when the people who are meant to protect these women may support the perpetrators, usually for a bribe. ‘Survivor blaming’ is common in such situation. Families rarely talk about rape of their young daughters; when the rapist is a father or a brother, the likelihood of reporting is even lower. Mothers often suppress the event, not only because of shame and outrage, but also out of fear of reprisals from their husband, son or other relatives. In instances where a mother is able to lodge a complaint against the rapist, it is hard for her to prove that a father has sexually assaulted his own daughter. Often the revelation can bring further harm to the mother and the daughter.

Case studies have shown that perpetrators of rape especially in the case of Dalit women are often men from privileged background against whom locals are reluctant to bring any case. Fear of public humiliation, beating, and rape keep Dalit women silent. For Dalits, even simple acts like drinking from a public well or walking through an upper-caste neighborhood can evoke violent reactions and sometimes these simple acts can be life-threatening. Their voices and protests are almost invisible. Majority of the crimes against Dalit women (especially rape) do not get reported to the police for the fear of social ostracism and threat to personal safety and security.

**Chart 3. Rape by type of perpetrators:**

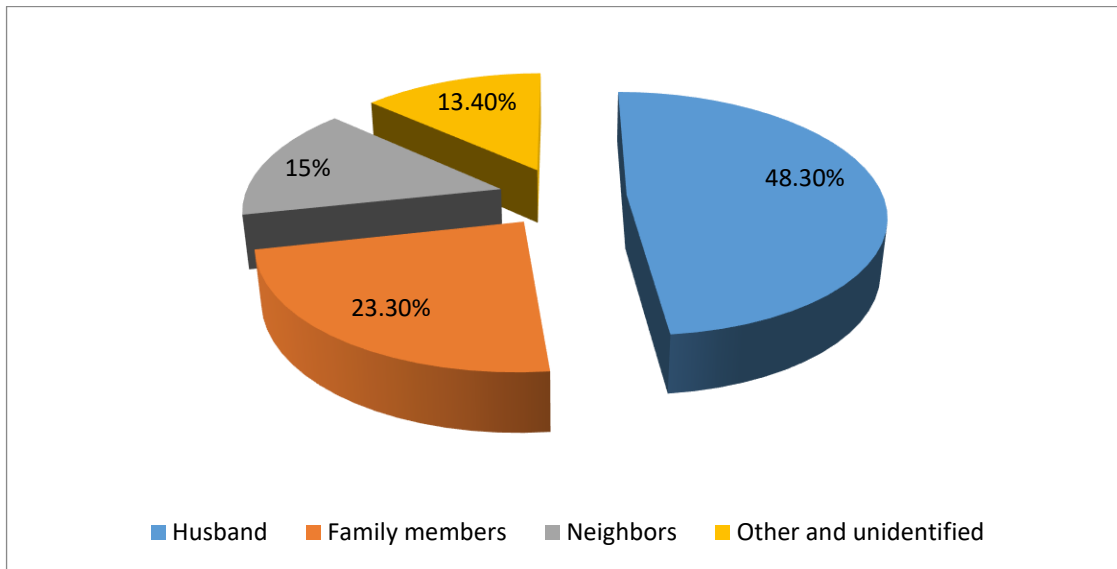


From the above figure, it is very clear that neighbors are most responsible for rape which accounts 66% of the reported cases, others and unidentified 18%, while family members 14% and husbands 2% are responsible for about 16% of reported 150 cases (9.5%) from 2010 to 2014 A.D. in Dhanusha district.

#### **4. Murder**

Since one form of violence leads to the other, murders in most instances may be committed after other type of VAW activities such as physical/mental torture. Dowry has been the commonly cited reason for murder; and in most cases rape has preceded murder. Families weigh the cost and benefit of marrying early vis a vis marrying late, a decision which tends to influence the amount of dowry paid. Thus there is a need for families to understand the negative consequences of early marriage which is likely to increase VAW. In the crime (specifically rape and murder) committed by army and armed forces the details of the cases are not available, due to political and other fact.

**Chart 4. Murder by type of perpetrators:**

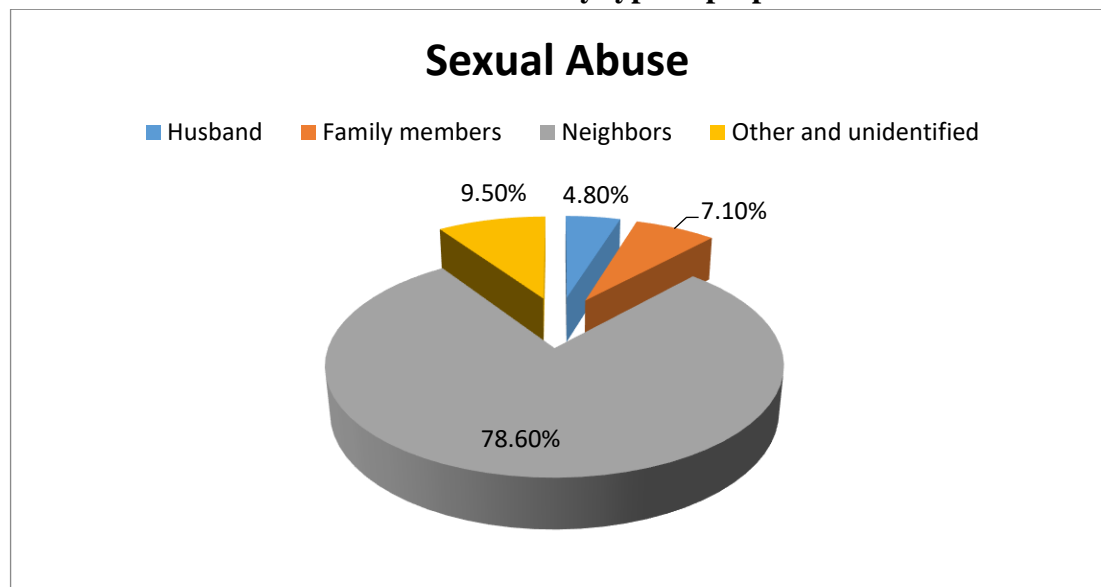


Murder was reported in 60 cases and represented a relatively small proportion (3.7%) of the total VAW cases. Total 60 cases of murder was reported from 2010 to 2014 A.D. in Dhanusha district. From above figure, the most murders are done by husbands which accounts 48.3% (29 of 60 cases) of all reported cases of murders, 23.3% are by family members, 15% by neighbors and 13.4% by others and unidentified.

### 5. Sexual Abuse

Limited educational status, restricted mobility and lack of exposure to the outside world confines women to their home and its periphery. Beyond their immediate families, women come in contact with their neighbors. Although most of the cases of sexual abuse i.e. rape, molestation and incest go unreported, a number of those that are reported are enough to indicate the type of violence present in our society. Families rarely talk about rape of their young daughters; when the rapist is a father or brother, the likelihood of reporting is even lower. Mothers often remain silent, not only because of shame and outrage, but also, as mentioned above, out of fear of reprisal by their husband, son or other relatives.

**Chart 5. Sexual Abuse by type of perpetrators:**



From the above figure, it is clear that Sexual abuse accounts for 42 cases (3%) of the total reported cases of VAW from 2010 to 2014 A.D. in Dhanusha district. 78.6% (33 of 42 cases) of

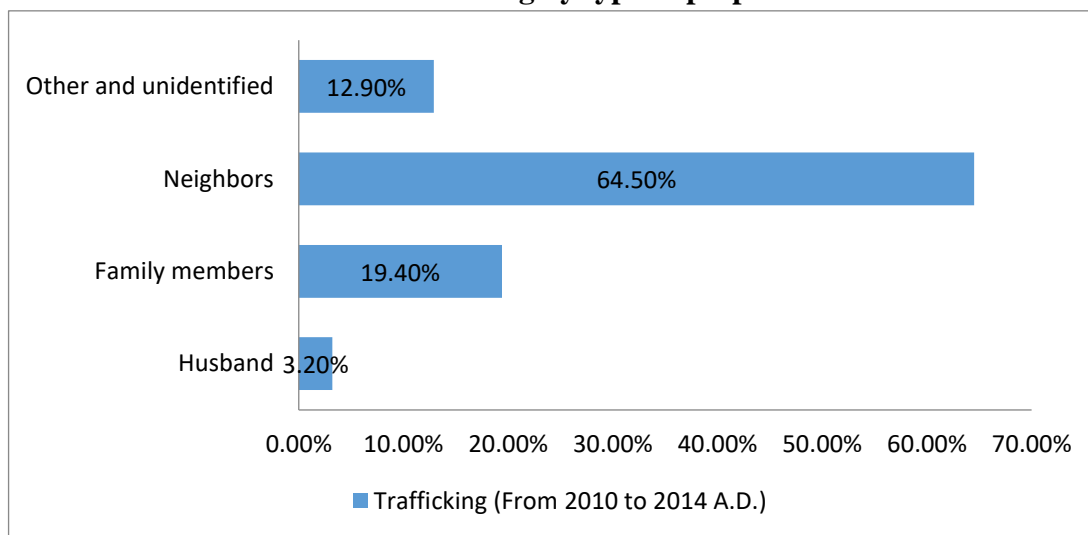
sexual abuse is committed by neighbor which is the highest record. Sexual abuse done by Husbands accounts 4.80%, family members 7.10% and others and unidentified 9.5%.

### 6. Trafficking

Women have moved to different countries in search of employment. Women have moved to cities in search of better livelihood and have joined the entertainment sector of the country. However, they have become vulnerable to sexual abuses while working in these sectors. Some have even fallen prey to traffickers, who promise them secure jobs and “to a women living in an environment of restricted rights and freedom with few employment opportunities, a trafficker offering a chance for economic independence may be seen as the only opportunity to improve her situation” and thus they easily fall prey to the traffickers. Due to male migration, many women live alone or with their in-laws. Women living alone face many challenges and violation of their fundamental rights. In many cases, although their husbands send them money, they get small fraction of his total earnings. Most of the wives being illiterate, do not know how to get money through the financial institutions and when they seek help from relatives, friends or neighbors, they are easily cheated. Other men have taken advantage of them both financially and sexually. When men do not return home for long period of time, women get married to some other men who are helping them. No surprise they are ignored after all the money was used-up, leading to their abandonment, some have even been trafficked.

Women who have migrated to other countries, majority are from economically and socially deprived families who are survivorized by unscrupulous manpower agents and middlemen promising them high paying jobs. Women migrants have faced numerous difficulties when claiming their economic rights abroad, although they have contributed to the national economy through remittances. After returning home the state has not attempted to acknowledge their role which has led to several difficulties, including violence against them.

**Chart 6. Trafficking by type of perpetrators:**



Regarding trafficking of women, the data reveals that the highest number of cases i.e. 64.5% (20 of 31 cases) is carried out by neighbors, family members 19.40%, Husbands 3.2% and other and unidentified 12.9% in Dhanusha district from 2010 to 2014 A.D. This figure reveals that neighbors are the most traffickers of girls and women.

### 7. Table showing Types of Violence

Domestic Violence	Social Violence	Rape	Murder	Trafficking	Social Violence	Others
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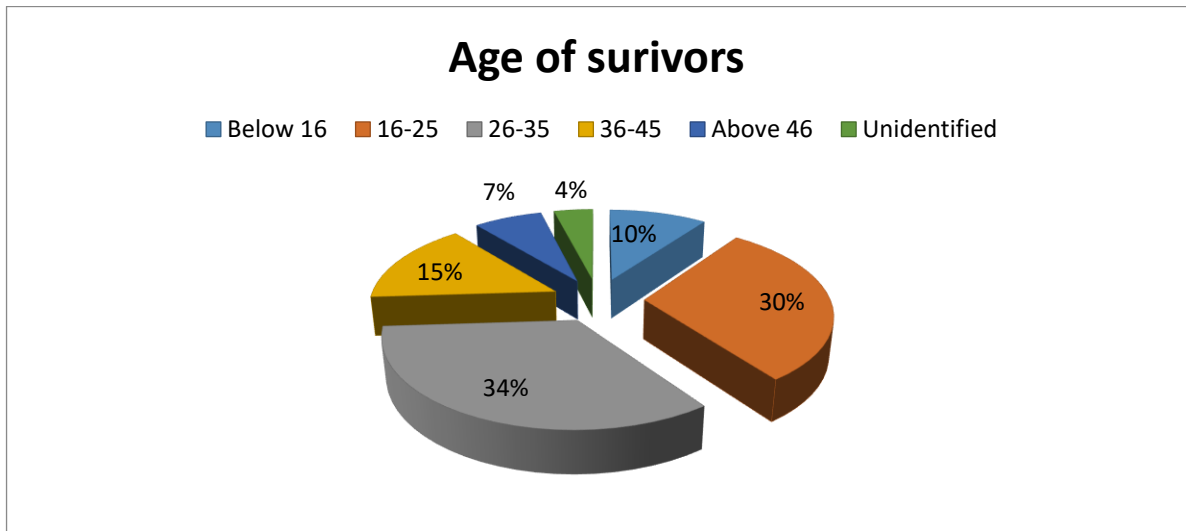
Beating/ Physical torture	Sexual Abuse	Attempte d to rape	Attempte d Murder	Attempte d Trafficki ng	Accusatio n of witchcraft	Kidnap
Mental torture	Sexual Violence	Gang Rape			Mental torture	Caste Discrimi nation
Polygamy	Sexual Exploitati on	Attempte d Gang Rape			Abuse in Character	Lost
Accusation of witchcraft					Beating/p hysical torture	Robbery
Character Assassinati on					Acid Burns	Denial of free to work
					Verbal Abuse	

## Age of Survivors

### 1. Age profile

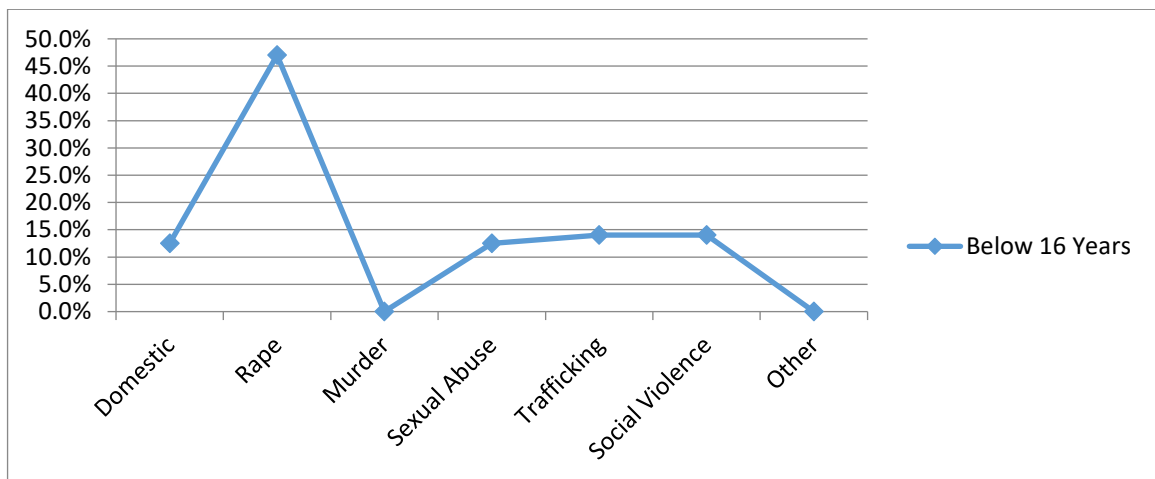
While VAW does not leave any age group untouched, it appears to be concentrated on women below 46 years of age according to the survey. The most affected are in the 26-35 age group followed by the 16-25 age groups. If 75% of the survivors of VAW are below 46 years of age, 60% are below 35 years of age. Almost 40% are below the age of 25 and 10% are below the age of 16. 34% are in the 26-35 age groups, followed by 30% in the 16-25 age group, 15% in the 36-45 age group. 7% are below 46 years of age. These figures underscore the fact that out of every 5 survivors, as many as 3 are below the age of 35.

**Chart 1. Distribution of Age of survivors in Dhanusha district (From 2010 to 2014 A.D.)**



## 2. Below 16 Age Group

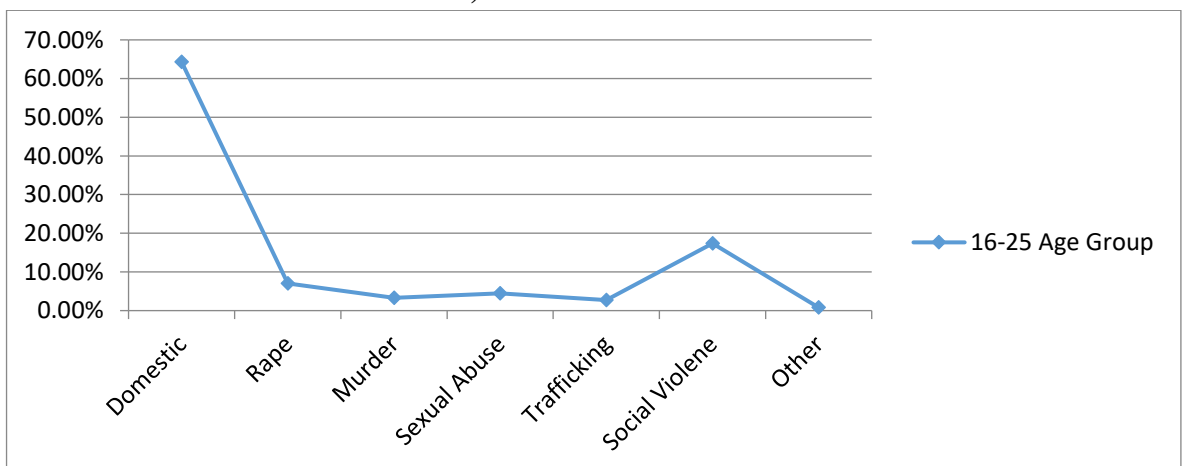
Chart2. Distribution of VAW Survivors below 16 Years (From 2010 to 2014 A.D.) in Dhanusha district.



From the above figure, it is shocking that Rape accounts for almost (47%) of all the VAW in this age group. This is followed by domestic violence (25%), and sexual abuse, while trafficking and social violence almost equally distributed. The age group below 16 years accounts for about 10% of VAW.

## 3. The 16-25 Age Group

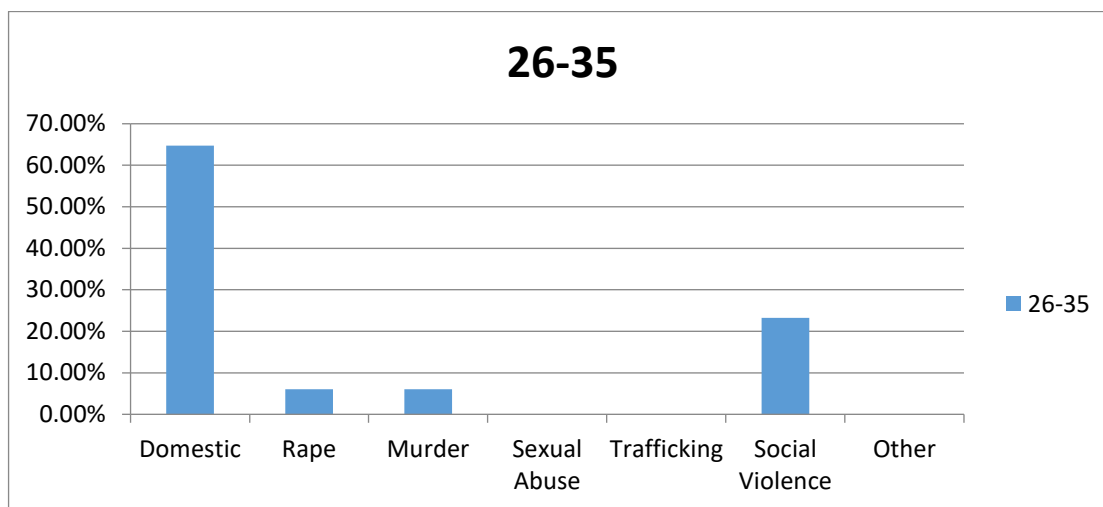
Chart 3. Distribution of VAW Survivors in the 16-25 Age Group (From 2010 to 2014 A.D.) in Dhanusha district.



From the above chart, it shows that Domestic violence was the highest in this age group accounting 64.3%, followed by social violence 17.4%, Sexual abuse 4.5%, and murder 3.3%, followed by trafficking 2.7%.

#### 4. The 26-35 Age Group

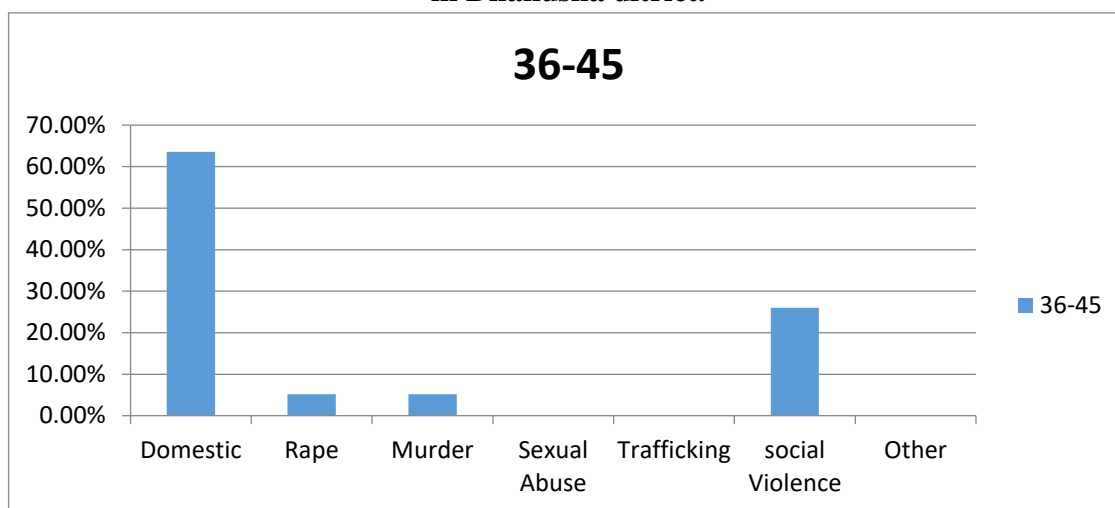
**Chart 4. Distribution of VAW Survivors in the 26-35 Age Group (From 2010 to 2014 A.d.) in Dhanusha district.**



From above chart, we can conclude that domestic violence is the highest accounting 64.7%, followed by social violence 23.2%, with similar percentages for rape and murder. The 26-35 age groups are the single largest group among survivors of VAW.

#### 5. The 36-45 Age Group

**Chart 5. Distribution of VAW Survivors in the 36-45 Age Group (From 2010 to 2014 A.D.) in Dhanusha ditrict.**

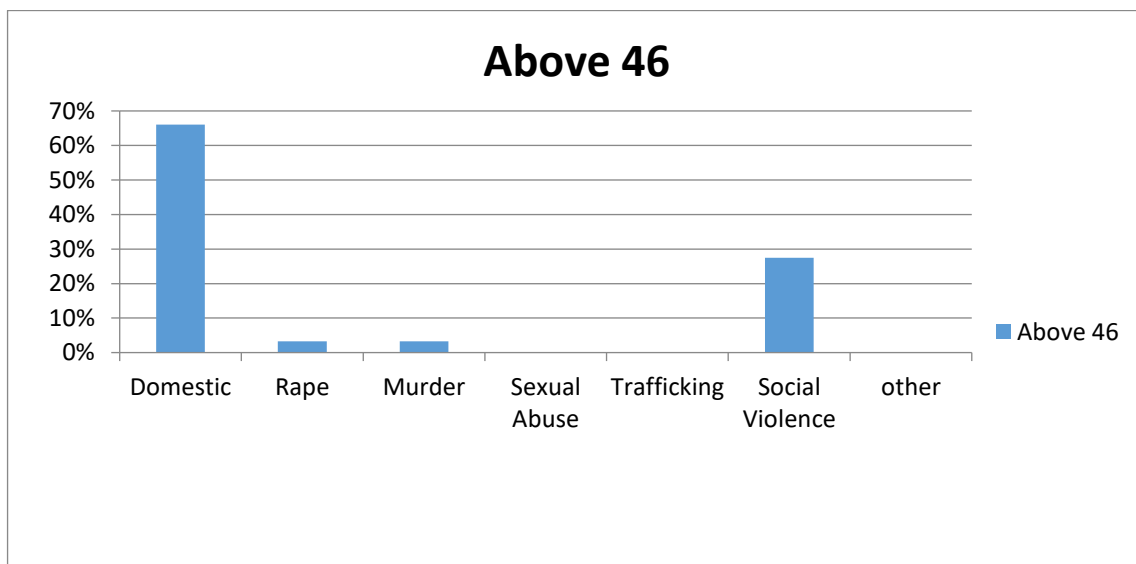


This age group accounted for about 15% of the total survivors. Similarly to the other age group, domestic violence accounted for the largest category i.e. 63.6%, followed by social violence 26%, with similar percentage of rape and murder.

#### 6. The above 45 Years Age group

**Chart 6. Distribution of VAW Survivors above 45 Years**





From the above chart, it is clear that domestic violence constituted the largest category as similar to other age groups i.e. 66%, followed by social violence 27.5% and rape and murder equally. This was about 7% of the total survivors.

### 7. Table showing Grouped type of Violence Group age of Survivors cross tabulation

							Total
	Below 16	16-25	26-35	36-45	Above 46	Unidentified	
Domestic	39	310	354	152	72	40	967
	4%	32.1%	36.6%	15.7%	7.5%	4.1%	100%
Rape	73	34	28	8	3	4	150
	48.7%	22.7%	18.7%	5.3%	2%	2.7%	100%
Murder	5	16	27	7	3	2	60
	8.3%	26.7%	45%	11.7%	5%	3.3%	100%
Sexual Abuse	11	22	5	3	0%	1	42
	26.2%	52.4%	11.9%	7.1%	0%	2.4%	100%
Trafficking	12	13	4	0	0	2	31
	38.7%	41.9%	12.9%	0%	0%	6.5%	100%
Social Violence	11	84	127	64	30	12	328
	3.4%	25.6%	38.7%	19.5%	9.1%	3.7%	100%
Others	5	3	2	5	1	0	16
	31.3%	18.8%	12.5%	31.3%	6.3%	0%	100%
Total	156	482	547	239	109	61	1594

### 8. Table showing Types of violence (relationship with perpetrator)

Grouped type of violence	Grouped victim' relationship with perpetrators				Total

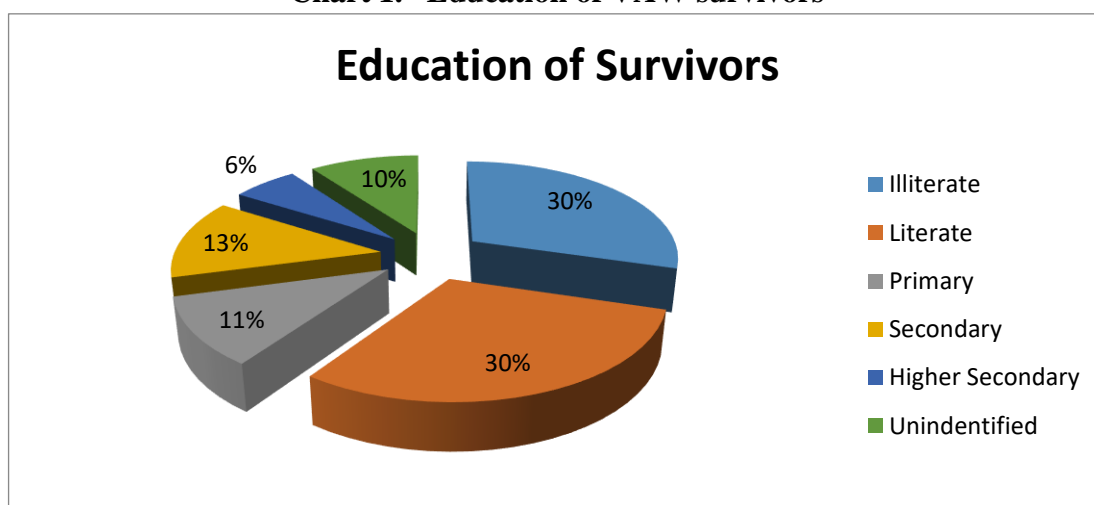
	Husband	Family members	Neighbors	Others	
Domestic	237	114	0	0	351
	67.5%	32.5%	0%	0%	100%
Rape	3	21	99	27	150
	2%	14%	66%	18%	100%
Murder	29	14	9	8	60
	48.3%	23.3%	15%	13.3%	100%
Sexual Abuse	2	3	33	4	42
	4.8%	7.1%	78.6%	9.5%	100%
Trafficking	1	6	20	4	31
	3.2%	19.4%	64.5%	12.9%	100%
Social Violence	0	0	266	62	328
			81.1%	18.9%	100%
Others	1	2	9	4	16
	6.3%	12.5%	56.3%	25%	100%
	273	160	436	109	978
Total	43.2%	22.6%	27.4%	6.8%	100%

## 9. Education and VAW

### 1. Educational Background of the survivors

In Nepal, traditions and beliefs do not encourage girls in their pursuit of education to the same extent as boys. As mentioned earlier, early marriage undermines the importance of educating girls on an equal footing with boys, preferential treatment of the male child, the traditional view of girls as someone else's property all contributes to limited education for girls. Poverty limits families from educating their girl child as it requires substantial commitment of time and resources, as well as sacrifices related to household production as it has been seen that girls contribute at least 50% more labor than boys and this contribution increases with the age. Unless girls receive some level of higher education, various other forms of violence will continue. However, mere literacy unaccompanied by awareness of rights does not preclude experiencing violence, as shown below:

**Chart 1. Education of VAW survivors**

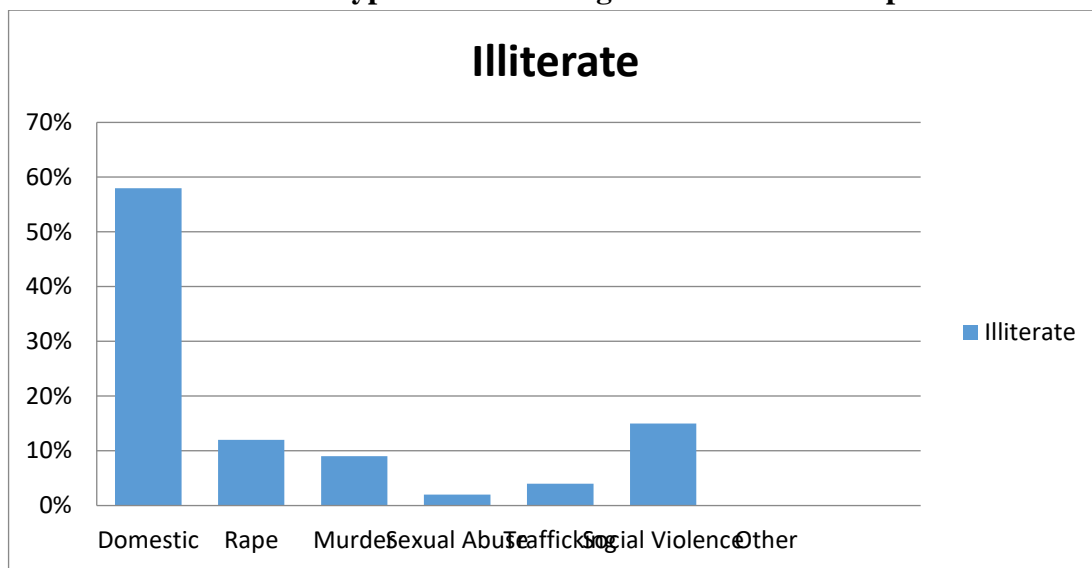


There appears to be an almost even split between literate (30%) and illiterate (30%) out of a total of 1594 cases. However, if we include those who have gone beyond literacy and actually

completed some years of formal schooling, then literate plus those with some years of education comes to 959 cases or 60% of the total cases that literate and women with some education appear to be reporting higher levels of VAW than illiterate women.

## 2. Violence Against Illiterate Groups

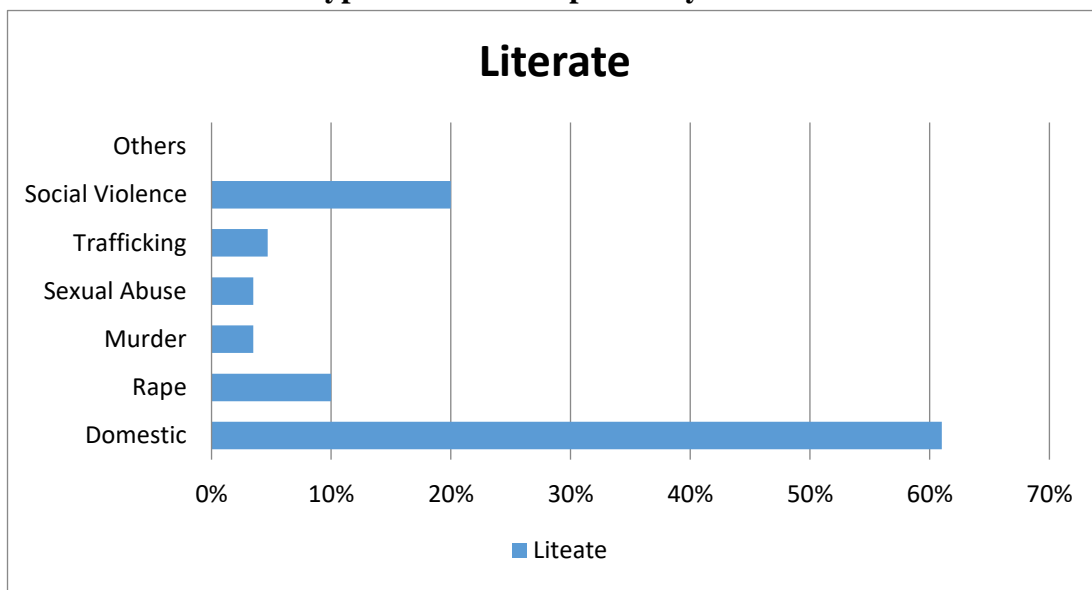
**Chart 2. Types of Violence against Illiterate Groups**



The women in the illiterate groups accounted for about 29% of all the survivors of Violence and DV accounted for almost 58% of all the violent acts. Next importance was social Violence followed by rape and murder.

## 3. Violence reported by literate survivor

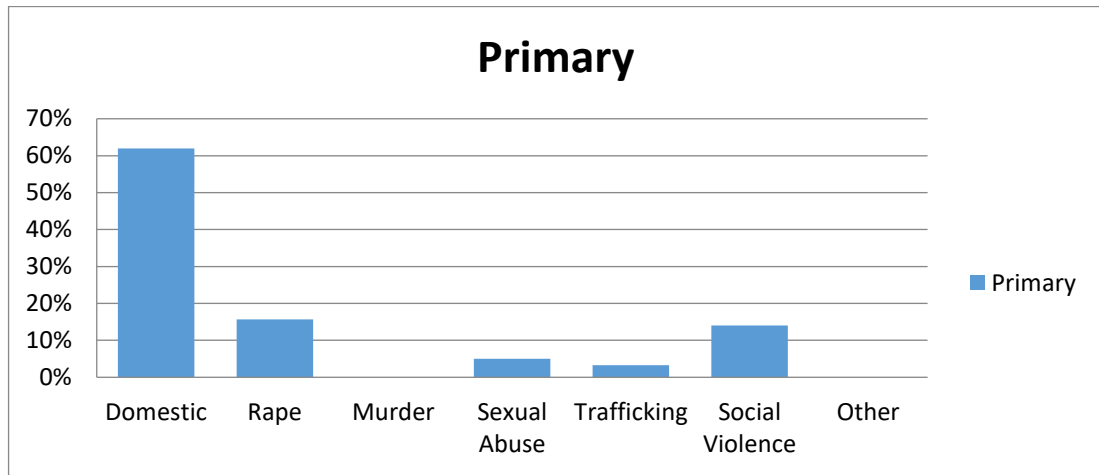
**Chart 3. Type of Violence reported by literate survivors**



From above figure, the most common form of violence experienced by this group was domestic violence 61%, followed by social violence 20%, and rape 10%. These three categories account for over 90% of the reported cases. The majority of all survivors studied were literate.

## 4. Violence reported by Survivors with Primary Education

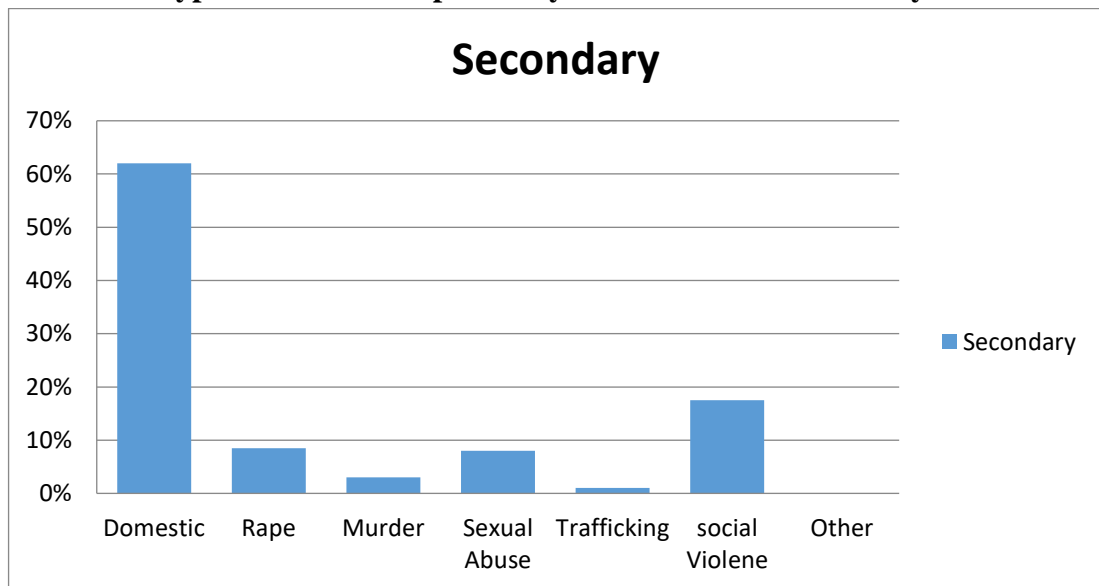
**Chart 4. Type of violence reported by survivors with Primary Education**



VAW survivors with primary education reported domestic violence as the most frequent i.e. 62%, followed by rape 15.7% and social violence 14%.

### 5. Violence reported by survivors with Secondary Education

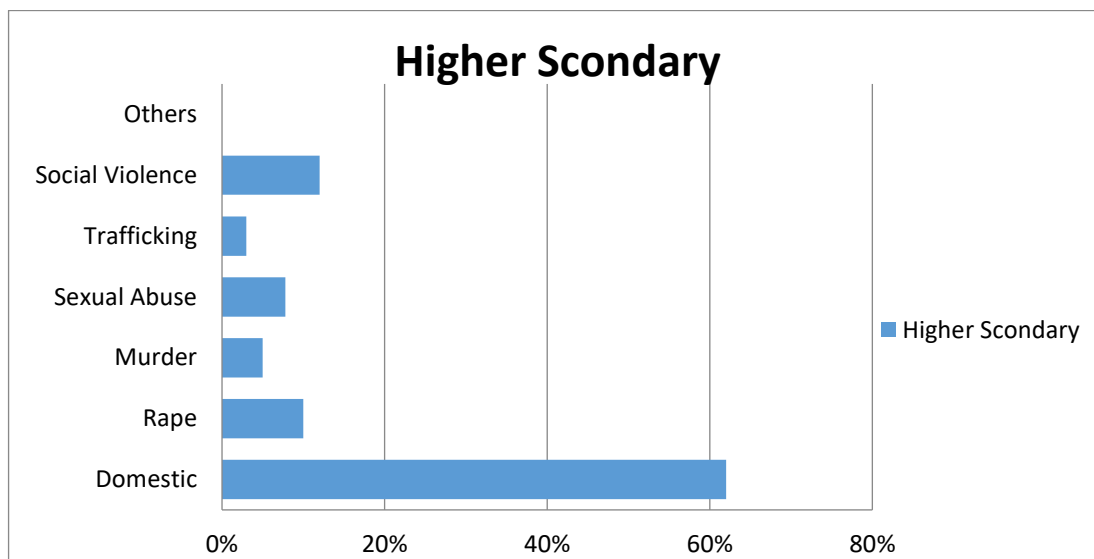
**Chart 5. Types of Violence reported by Survivors with Secondary Education**



Survivors with Secondary education accounted for 13.2% of the total survivors. Regarding different types of violence reported by this group, the most frequently reported was domestic 62%, followed by social violence 17.5%, and rape 8.5%.

### 6. VAW Survivors with Higher Secondary Education

**Chart 6. Violence Reported by VAW Survivors with Higher Secondary education**



Survivors with Higher secondary education accounted for only five percent of the total Survivors. This group also reported domestic violence 62% most frequently followed by social violence 12%, rape 10% and murder 5%.

**7. Table showing Grouped type of Violence  
Grouped education of Survivor crosses Tabulation**

							Total
	Illiterate	Literate	Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary	Unidentified	
Domestic	273	294	111	131	55	103	967
	28.2%	30.4%	11.5%	13.5%	5.7%	10.7%	100%
Rape	30	49	28	18	8	17	150
	20%	32.7%	18.7%	12%	5.3%	11.3%	100%
Murder	21	22	0	5	3	9	60
	35%	36.7%	0%	8.3%	5%	15%	100%
Sexual Abuse	11	11	3	11	5	1	42
	26.2%	26.2%	7.1%	26.2%	11.9%	2.4%	100%
Trafficking	5	5	9	7	1	4	31
	16.1%	16.1%	29%	22.6%	3.2%	12.9%	100%
Social Violence	120	96	25	37	18	32	328
	36.6%	29.3%	7.6%	11.3%	5.5%	9.7%	100%
Others	9	1	2	2	2	0	16
	56.3%	6.3%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	0	100%
Total	469	478	178	211	92	166	1594
	29.4%	30%	11.2%	13.2%	5.8%	10.4%	100%

## 9. VAW and international Scenario

International conferences commonly adopt the title of their host cities. Thus, Beijing is now referred as the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995; and Cairo symbolizes the 1994 International Conference on population and Development. Vienna refers to the 1993 United Nations World Conference on Human rights.

VAW began to be integrated into international instruments only after the 1980s when it started to be recognized as a women's rights issue. Women right issues gained momentum after the drafting of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW is a United Nations treaty which monitors women's rights issues. The convention defines discrimination against women as "...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.) which described discrimination against women in political and civil life, economic, social and cultural life. After CEDAW was adopted by the United Nations in 1979 and after its ratification by member countries, VAW drew international attention. In 1991, after consistent advocacy by women's rights activists, the CEDAW committee formulated recommendation 19 which articulated violence against women as 'gender based discrimination'. It established that VAW was an intentional act directed towards women by those more powerful and thus linked the issue of VAW with unequal power relation.

In the same context, the Vienna Convention in 1993 established that women's rights are human rights and in the same year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. In particular, the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna Convention) stresses the importance on working towards the elimination of violence against women in public and private life, the elimination of all form of sexual harassment, exploitation and trafficking in women, the elimination of gender bias in the administration of justice and the eradication of any conflict which may arise between the rights of women and the harmful effects of certain traditional and customary practices, cultural prejudices and religious extremism...Violation of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict are violations of the fundamentals principles of international human rights and humanitarian law. All violations of this kind, including in particular murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery, and forced pregnancy, require a particularly effective response. This Declaration outlines the international legal instruments that protect a women's right to be free from violence and sets out the responsibilities of individual governments to ensure that these protections were enforced. In 1994, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights started appointing a special Rapporteur on Violence against women to collect data and to recommend measures at the national, regional and international levels to eliminate violence against women.

Likewise, in September 1995, at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing declared that "Violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms..."), elimination of violence against women was the primary and unifying theme among women from countries all over the world. The Beijing Declaration and platform for Action adopted at this conference also recognized violence against women as a violation of human rights and suggested strategies for its elimination. Subsequently, these instruments encouraged government and non-government organizations to eliminate violence and to promote research on the nature and causes of VAW at regional and country level.

## 10. VAW in Dhanusha district

Violence against women is, disturbingly, a growing trend in Nepal. It manifests as a continuum encompassing an array of abuses targeted at women and girls throughout their life-cycle. The main form of Violence experienced by women is within the family which includes physical, sexual and psychological abuse. According to records maintained, there were 65 cases, 47 cases, 79 cases, 67 cases and 93 cases of Violence against women (registered in safe house of WOREC) in Dhanusha district in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 respectively. Such figures all likelihood understates the problem as VAW in many instances is not reported. In many instances there is no follow up for prosecution due to fear of ridicule or retribution and also due to an inefficient criminal justice system which does not guarantee protection or support to survivors and witnesses. The psychological and social consequences of violence can play out in unexpected ways.

### Conclusion:

VAW is not confined to any group or community. It is important to understand what each woman defines peace in their specificity. Peace for women should bring transformation in society to help them get recognition as citizens, exercise their rights and freedom in both the private and public spheres. The highest percentage of all reported cases of violence was found among the married women. Husbands and family members were the major sources of Violence in the domestic setting, while neighbors and unidentified others were the major perpetrators of social violence. The greatest risk of rape comes from men that women know, often intimately. Rape accounts for almost half (47%) of all the VAW in the age group below 16 years. The mental effect on women is highest under all categories of VAW, followed by physical, social and economic impacts. It is important to recognize all forms of violence against women and reject attempts to justify any acts of violence against women as legitimate or defensive. Creating a discouragement on VAW as a major social problem and its recognition as not just a private matter or 'normal' is one of the major achievements of the women's movement (see [15-16]).

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