

Internal Migration and Severity of Domestic Violence in Nepal

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Abstract

Domestic violence is a grave violation of human rights. The incidences and severity of domestic violence have not reduced at an expected level despite having legal and policy provisions in Nepal. The main objective of this paper is to assess the effects of internal migration on physical, sexual, and emotional violence against women in Nepal. This study applied the data set of Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2022 which encompassed 3,172 women aged 15-49 years. The univariate, bivariate, and logistic regression in multivariate analysis was employed for rigorous data analysis. Despite increasing the volume of internal and external migration, the level and severity of domestic violence have not been reduced as expected. The analysis of this study revealed that the impact of migration is significant for reducing physical, sexual, and emotional violence. The findings of the study demonstrate that domestic violence against women has increased with the increment of the duration of stay whereas the incidences of domestic violence are observed to decrease in the migration stream from rural-to-rural migration. The likelihood ratio of experiencing domestic violence by women is observed increasing with the increment of duration of migration means a shorter duration of stay is significantly associated with a lower likelihood of experiencing domestic violence whereas the likelihood ratio of domestic violence is observed decreasing with increasing the age of women.

Keywords: Internal migration, domestic violence, significant, odd ratio, effects, DHS

Introduction

Domestic violence is a heinous crime and a grave violation of fundamental human rights. It is a punishable act that refers to any form of physical, mental, sexual, and economic harm perpetrated by a person to a person with whom he/she

has a family relationship (Government of Nepal [GoN], 2009). Domestic violence includes three major forms of violence physical, sexual, and emotional violence. It is prevalent in every nook and cranny of the globe and occurs at any stage of a woman's lifecycle (Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers [OPMCM], 2012). Despite the legal and policy provisions related to domestic violence (GoN, 2015 & 2017), the range as well as intensity of violence has not been reduced at an expected level in Nepal (Nepal Demographic and Health Survey [NDHS], 2006; 2011; 2016 & 2022). Violence against women is common among young married women in rural Nepal (Lamichhane et al., 2011). Women migrants are highly susceptible to either kind of violence and abuse if the migration is not managed well (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], 2024). It is also found that migrant women who faced domestic violence also suffer from a multitude of risks as well as difficulties in the process of integration into host areas (Vlad & Bonea, 2024). Domestic violence ranges from immediate to long-term physical, sexual and mental health consequences for women and girls in some cases leading to death. It negatively affects women's general well-being and prevents women from fully participating in society and it has adverse effects on families, society and the nation at large (Rai, 2021). Nepal Demographic Health Survey (2011) revealed the fact that domestic violence has negative health consequences for victims particularly on the physical, emotional and mental health of their child (NDHS, 2011). The violence against women in Nepal is exasperate even today as about 22% in 2016 and 22.5% in 2022 women age 15-49 experienced physical violence since age 15 whereas 7% in 2016 and 7.5% in 2022 women age 15-49 have ever experienced sexual violence (NDHS, 2016 & 2022).

The Article 38 of Constitution of Nepal has the fundamental right against any forms of physical, mental, sexual or emotional or any other kinds of violence against women, or any kind of oppression (GoN, 2015). However, the incidences of violence have also increased along with the increment in the volume of labour migration (Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security [MoLESS], 2022). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognize the importance of addressing violence against women to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women in its goal 5. The Target 5.2 of SDGs focuses to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation (National Planning Commission [NPC], 2017). On the one hand, migration can increase economic opportunities promoting empowerment whereas on the other hand, it leverages access to support services, and increases social networks including educational opportunities. So, in this lens migration could play a positive role in reducing the severity of domestic violence whereas there is scanty study about the effect of migration on domestic violence in Nepal. Increased access to education as a result of migration can play a crucial

role in empowering women which ultimately helps to balance the power relation in society. The main objective of this study is to analyze the effect of internal migration to reduce the severity of domestic violence in Nepal. The specific objective is to examine the effect of internal migration on reducing physical, sexual, and emotional violence in Nepal.

Methods and Materials

This study applied data from the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), 2022, a nationally representative survey conducted by the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This is a cross-sectional survey conducted every five years with the inclusion of a population aged 15-49 years of age. The DHS includes information related to fertility, marriage, fertility preference, awareness and use of family planning methods, infant; child; adult, and maternal mortality, maternal and child health, nutrition, and knowledge of HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and women's empowerment and domestic violence.

This survey employed multi-stage sampling which included 14 sampling strata from rural and urban areas representing seven provinces. There were 476 primary sampling units (PSUs) in which 248 were from urban areas and 228 were from rural areas. A total of 14,280 households were selected and of them, 13,786 households were interviewed for the survey. With a 97.4 percent response rate, 14,845 women aged 15-49 were interviewed.

Dependent Variables

Physical, sexual, and emotional violence are the major forms of domestic violence. So, this study included three major dependent variables the first variable is physical violence, the second dependent variable is related to sexual violence and the third variable is concerned with emotional violence. Each dependent variable is coded as a binary variable as to whether the partner performed the physical sexual or emotional misconduct or not.

Independent Variables

Internal migration is the main independent variable. The stream of migration and duration of migration are regarded as the primary independent variables. The stream of migration is grouped as urban-urban, urban-rural, rural-urban, and rural-rural whereas the duration of migration is categorized into 0-4 years, 5-9 years, 10-14 years, and >15 years. Similarly, the background variables of respondents are also included as independent variables. The women's age, caste/ethnicity, religion,

geographical region, place of residence, wealth quintile, and province are the background independent variables.

Method of Analysis

The analysis of this study was confined to those who were aged 15-49 years migrant women (n=3,172). The data used in this paper were weighted by applying the weighting factors provided by NDHS. The univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analyses were applied to analyze the data. Primarily, univariate and bivariate analyses were employed to describe the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. The multivariate analysis especially in the form of logistic regression was applied to analyze the effects of internal migration on reducing the degree of physical, sexual, and emotional violence in Nepal.

Result and Discussion

Background Characteristics of Respondents

The background characteristics of women aged 15-49 years of age are presented in Table 1. Of the total respondents, about two-thirds were from the age group 20-39 years whereas about one-fifth were from the age 15-19 years. In terms of caste/ethnicity, about one-third of respondents were from the ethnic group (33.96%) which is followed by Brahmin/Chhetri (29.52%), Tarai castes (15.89%) and Dalit (15.64%). Similarly, the majority of respondents followed Hindu religion (83.05%), followed by Buddhist (6.55%) and Muslim (4.95%).

Similarly, one in three women belongs to the uneducated category whereas about one-third of women received a secondary level of education. The majority of respondents were from the Tarai and Hill regions i.e., 50.14 percent and 43.79 percent respectively. More than two-thirds of respondents were from urban areas whereas the proportion of respondents is observed lowest from the poorest wealth quintile (13.47%). The proportion of respondents is found highest in Madhesh province (22.13%) whereas the lowest is observed in Karnali province (4.44%).

Table 1

Background Characteristics of Women Aged 15-49 Years

Background Characteristics	Percent	Frequency
Age Group		
15-19	9.80	311
20-24	15.99	507
25-29	18.81	597
30-34	16.09	510

Background Characteristics	Percent	Frequency
35-39	15.47	491
40-44	13.12	416
45-49	10.74	341
Caste/Ethnicity		
Brahmin/Chhetri	29.52	936
Ethnic groups	33.96	1077
Dalit	15.64	496
Muslim	4.87	154
Other Tarai caste	15.89	504
Other	0.13	4
Religion		
Hindu	83.05	2,634
Buddhist	6.55	208
Muslim	4.95	157
Kirat	2.61	83
Christian	2.77	88
Other	0.07	2
Level of Education		
No education	29.12	924
Basic Education	31.33	994
Secondary Education	35.50	1126
Higher Education	4.06	129
Ecological Zone		
Mountain	4.64	147
Hill	36.91	1171
Tarai	58.46	1855
Place of Residence		
Urban	72.36	2,295
Rural	27.65	877
Wealth Quintile		
Poorest	13.47	427
Poorer	17.39	552
Middle	19.93	632
Richer	25.57	811
Richest	23.66	750
Province		
Koshi province	16.41	521
Madhesh province	22.13	702
Bagmati province	21.45	680
Gandaki province	9.43	299
Lumbini province	18.80	596
Karnali province	4.44	141
Far-Western province	7.35	233
Total	100.00	3172

Source. Nepal demographic & Health Survey 2022

Background Characteristics of Women Aged 15-49 by Duration of Stay

The duration of stay at the present place of residence determines the level as well as the gravity of domestic violence. Table 2 reveals the fact that there is a close relationship between the duration of stay with other independent variables. Of the total respondents, about one-fourth stayed for 0-4 years whereas one-third stayed for more than 15 years. More than two-thirds of respondents aged 15-19 years stayed for 0-4 years whereas about half of respondents aged 20-24 years of age were stayed for the same duration. Similarly, about 83 percent of respondents from the age group 40-44 and 78 percent of respondents from the age group 45-49 years stayed for more than 15 years. About one-fourth of respondents from Brahmin, Dalit, ethnic group, and other castes stayed for 0-4 years whereas one-third of Brahmin respondents stayed for more than 15 years. About one-third of respondents from Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Kirat, and Christian religions stayed for more than 15 years.

In terms of level of education, about two-thirds of respondents who did not have education stayed for more than 15 years followed by basic (34.6%) and secondary education (16.2%). The majority of respondents from all seven provinces stayed for more than 15 years and the same pattern is also observed in ecological belts. About two-thirds of respondents from the poorest, middle, and richest wealth quintiles are observed stayed for more than 15 years (Table 2).

Table 2

Background Characteristics of Women Aged 15-49 Years by Duration of Stay

Characteristics	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	>15 years	P Value
Age Group					
15-19	69.2	15.7	11.4	3.6	<0.001
20-24	54.7	34.4	6.1	4.8	
25-29	27.8	41.2	26.9	4.1	
30-34	15.9	16.9	33.5	33.7	
35-39	9.0	16.2	15.6	59.3	
40-44	2.8	5.6	8.2	83.4	
45-49	3.9	9.6	8.7	77.8	
Caste/Ethnicity					
Brahmin	25.9	22.4	18.2	33.4	<0.001
Other Tarai caste	20.0	18.2	17.1	44.6	
Dalit	26.1	21.1	18.4	34.4	
Ethnic groups	27.9	23.7	15.2	33.2	
Muslim	21.5	18.7	17.2	42.6	
Other	27.2	8.8	0.0	64.0	
Religion					
Hindu	25.3	21.9	17.0	35.8	<0.001
Buddhist	21.8	27.4	18.8	32.0	
Muslim	22.8	18.4	16.1	42.7	
Kirat	31.6	20.3	15.6	32.5	
Christian	38.2	13.5	13.4	35.0	

Other	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Level of Education				
No education	9.7	11.1	15.8	63.4
Basic	24.2	23.6	17.7	34.6
Secondary education	37.7	29.1	17.0	16.2
Higher	41.3	20.7	19.5	18.6
Province				
Koshi	25.7	20.9	19.3	34.0
Madhesh	20.4	18.3	15.7	45.6
Bagmati	29.6	25.4	15.0	30.0
Gandaki	27.0	21.6	19.3	32.1
Lumbini	25.3	25.0	17.9	31.8
Karnali	27.4	21.7	17.1	33.9
Far-Western	25.3	15.6	15.8	43.3
Ecological Belt				
Mountain	23.6	20.5	12.6	43.3
Hill	27.6	23.7	16.6	32.1
Tarai	24.3	20.7	17.5	37.5
Wealth Quintile				
Poorest	20.9	22.6	16.8	39.6
Poorer	18.2	18.4	18.2	45.2
Middle	26.1	20.6	14.2	39.1
Richer	31.3	23.7	17.0	28.0
Richest	26.6	22.7	18.4	32.3
Total	25.5	21.8	17.0	35.8
N	808	691	538	1135

Source. NDHS 2022

Background Characteristics of Women by Stream of Migration

The types of domestic violence are intricately associated with the stream of migration. Broadly, the level of education has an inverse relationship with the severity of domestic violence. Table 3 illustrates the stream of migration where a significant proportion of respondents (52.7%) is observed migrated from rural areas to urban areas which is followed by rural-to-rural migration (23.1%), and urban-to-urban migration (19.7%). About two-thirds of respondents from the age group 15-19 years migrated from rural to urban areas. About one-fifth of respondents from the age group 20-24 years, 25-29 years, 30-34 years, 35-39 years, and 45-49 years of age migrated from rural-to-rural area. The same pattern is also observed in the case of caste/ethnicity, religion, level of education, province, ecological belts, and wealth quintile. The stream of migration from urban to rural areas is observed lowest in age group 45-49 (2.8%), other castes (0), no education (3.5%), Bagmati province (3.9%), Tarai belt (3.9%), and richest wealth quintile (1.2%).

Similarly, the stream of migration from urban-to-urban areas is observed highest from respondents of other caste/ethnicities (81%), followed by higher level of education (58.2%) and richest wealth quintile (40.3%). The respondents who migrated from rural-to-rural areas are observed highest in the poorest wealth

quintile (47.2%), followed by the Mountain belt (41.5%) and Karnali province (43.8%) (Table 3).

Table 3

Background Characteristics of Women Aged 15-49 Years by Migration Stream

Characteristics	Urban-Urban	Urban-Rural	Rural-Urban	Rural-Rural	p-value
Age Groups					
15-19	18.0	5.1	64.5	12.4	<0.001
20-24	23.0	6.2	46.9	23.8	
25-29	23.0	3.8	50.5	22.7	
30-34	18.8	3.4	54.4	23.4	
35-39	19.6	5.0	51.8	23.7	
40-44	13.5	5.7	51.6	29.2	
45-49	19.5	2.8	54.1	23.6	
Caste/Ethnicity					
Brahmin	25.0	4.2	52.0	18.9	<0.001
Other Tarai caste	11.5	4.9	59.2	24.5	
Dalit	15.0	7.3	50.4	27.4	
Ethnic groups	22.4	3.8	49.9	23.9	
Muslim	9.0	3.1	63.1	24.8	
Other	81.0	0.0	0.0	19.0	
Religion					
Hindu	19.9	4.5	52.9	22.7	<0.001
Buddhist	26.5	4.7	50.7	18.1	
Muslim	10.2	3.0	62.0	24.9	
Kirat	11.2	5.4	48.1	35.3	
Christian	22.9	8.5	37.8	30.7	
Other	0.0	0.0	70.5	29.5	
Level of Education					
No education	9.2	3.5	56.9	30.4	<0.001
Basic	16.1	4.9	51.9	27.1	
Secondary	27.1	5.2	52.4	15.3	
Higher	58.2	3.8	30.0	8.0	
Province					
Koshi	12.9	4.3	57.3	25.5	<0.001
Madhesh	13.9	4.4	58.8	22.9	
Bagmati	32.1	3.9	50.8	13.2	
Gandaki	32.1	5.1	47.2	15.5	
Lumbini	18.1	5.5	44.4	32.1	
Karnali	12.4	4.0	48.8	34.8	
Far-Western	8.4	5.2	59.9	26.5	
Ecological Belt					
Mountain	7.9	9.9	40.7	41.5	<0.001
Hill	26.7	5.0	44.9	23.4	
Tarai	16.2	3.9	58.5	21.4	

Wealth Quintile					
Poorest	6.1	7.5	39.3	47.2	<0.001
Poorer	11.9	6.5	51.1	30.5	
Middle	11.7	4.9	51.5	31.9	
Richer	19.3	4.6	60.3	15.8	
Richest	40.3	1.2	54.2	4.3	
Total	19.7	4.6	52.7	23.1	
N	624	145	1671	732	

Source. NDHS 2022

Regression Analysis of Effects of Migration on Domestic Violence in Nepal

The ontological standpoint with a descriptive approach is applied to examine the effect of internal migration on the severity of domestic violence. For assessing the effect, two logistic regression models have been applied. The first model deals with the effects of migration on physical, sexual, and emotional violence whereas the second model examines the effect of migration on composite domestic violence.

Effects of Internal Migration on Physical, Sexual, and Emotional Violence in Nepal

Table 4 reveals the fact that the likelihood ratio of experiencing physical, sexual and emotional violence is lower in all types of migration streams compared to the reference group. The likelihood ratio of experiencing physical, sexual, and emotional violence is lower who migrated from rural-to-rural areas (Odds Ratio [OR]=0.87, Confidence Interval [CI]:0.74-1.03, OR=0.84, CI:0.72-0.98 and OR=0.83, CI:0.71-0.97 respectively). The likelihood ratio of experiencing physical violence is observed higher who migrated for more than 15 years (OR=1.46, CI:1.22-1.74). A similar pattern of the likelihood ratio is also observed in sexual and emotional violence (OR=1.41, CI:1.19-1.68 and OR=1.40, CI:1.18-1.67 respectively). The result also reveals that women aged 30-34 years experienced three times lower likelihood of experiencing physical violence whereas the likelihood ratio of experiencing sexual and emotional violence in the same age group is observed four times lower than the reference group (OR=0.27, CI:0.21-0.34 and OR=0.29, CI:0.23-0.37 respectively).

Similarly, the likelihood ratio of experiencing physical violence by Muslim women is observed four times higher (OR=3.67, CI:0.82-16.48) compared to a reference group. Similarly, the likelihood ratio of experiencing sexual and emotional violence by Muslim women is also observed two times higher compared to Brahmin/Chhetri. In terms of religion, women who followed the Christian religion experienced higher physical, sexual, and emotional violence compared to women

who followed the Hindu religion (OR=1.13, CI:0.84-1.52, OR=1.02, CI:0.77-1.35 and OR=1.10, CI:0.82-1.46 respectively). The increasing level of domestic violence also increases the health vulnerability making them more fragile status (Park et al., 2021). The respondents from Lumbini province experienced higher physical violence compared to the reference group whereas the likelihood ratio of experiencing sexual and emotional violence is observed lower in all provinces compared to the reference group. The respondents from poorer and richer wealth quintiles experienced higher physical violence against the reference group whereas the likelihood ratio of experiencing sexual and emotional violence is found higher with women from the richest wealth quintile (OR=1.17, CI:0.96-1.43 and OR=1.16, CI:0.94-1.42 respectively).

All three types of violence are observed higher with women from the Tarai zone compared to Mountain (OR=1.60, CI:1.25-2.04, OR=1.33, CI:1.04-1.68 and OR=1.30, CI:1.02-1.65 respectively). Furthermore, results revealed the fact that the education of migrated women is also crucial for determining domestic violence. The likelihood ratio of experiencing sexual and emotional violence is observed higher with women having higher education compared to the reference group whereas women having a higher level of education experience lower physical violence compared to the reference group. The likelihood ratio of experiencing sexual violence is found about four times higher with women who had higher education compared to the reference group (Table 4).

Table 4:
Effect of Internal Migration on Physical, Sexual and Emotional Violence

Characteristics	Physical Violence			Sexual Violence			Emotional Violence		
	OR	P Value	95% CI	OR	P Value	95% CI	OR	P Value	95% CI
Migration Stream									
Urban-Urban	1			1			1		
Urban-Rural	0.95	0.69	0.75-1.21	0.87	0.23	0.70-1.09	0.85	0.15	0.68-1.06
Rural-Urban	0.93	0.34	0.80-1.08	0.90	0.16	0.78-1.04	0.87	0.06	0.75-1.01
Rural-Rural	0.87	0.10	0.74-1.03	0.84	0.03	0.72-0.98	0.83	0.02	0.71-0.97

Characteristics	Physical Violence			Sexual Violence			Emotional Violence		
	OR	P Value	95% CI	OR	P Value	95% CI	OR	P Value	95% CI
Duration of Migration									
0-4 years	1			1			1		
5-9 years	1.05	0.50	0.91-1.22	1.05	0.49	0.91-1.22	1.07	0.40	0.92-1.23
10-14 years	1.16	0.10	0.97-1.38	1.06	0.46	0.90-1.26	1.08	0.37	0.91-1.28
>15 years	1.46	0.00	1.22-1.74	1.41	0.00	1.19-1.68	1.40	0.00	1.18-1.67
Age Group									
15-19	1			1			1		
20-24	0.51	0.00	0.40-0.64	0.48	0.00	0.38-0.60	0.50	0.00	0.40-0.64
25-29	0.37	0.00	0.29-0.47	0.32	0.00	0.25-0.41	0.33	0.00	0.26-0.42
30-34	0.32	0.00	0.25-0.41	0.27	0.00	0.21-0.34	0.29	0.00	0.23-0.37
35-39	0.35	0.00	0.27-0.45	0.30	0.00	0.24-0.39	0.31	0.00	0.24-0.41
40-44	0.37	0.00	0.28-0.50	0.33	0.00	0.25-0.43	0.34	0.00	0.26-0.45
45-49	0.37	0.00	0.27-0.50	0.31	0.00	0.23-0.41	0.32	0.00	0.24-0.43
Caste/Ethnicity									
Brahmin/Chhetri	1			1			1		
Ethnic groups	0.98	0.75	0.85-1.12	1.00	0.96	0.87-1.14	0.95	0.45	0.83-1.09
Dalit	1.24	0.01	1.06-1.46	1.14	0.09	0.98-1.33	1.12	0.14	0.96-1.31
Muslim	3.67	0.09	0.82-16.48	1.64	0.47	0.43-6.19	1.67	0.47	0.42-6.60
Other Tarai caste	1.40	0.00	1.13-1.72	1.13	0.21	0.93-1.36	1.20	0.07	0.98-1.46
Other	1.18	0.85	0.23-5.97	0.74	0.69	0.17-3.321	0.66	0.58	0.15-2.85
Religion									
Hindu	1			1			1		
Buddhist	0.93	0.56	0.75-1.17	0.95	0.62	0.76-1.18	1.00	0.97	0.80-1.24
Muslim	0.44	0.27	0.10-1.92	0.76	0.68	0.20-2.83	0.76	0.69	0.19-2.96

Characteristics	Physical Violence			Sexual Violence			Emotional Violence		
	OR	P Value	95% CI	OR	P Value	95% CI	OR	P Value	95% CI
Kirat	1.13	0.48	0.80-1.60	0.97	0.85	0.69-1.35	0.93	0.68	0.67-1.30
Christian	1.13	0.43	0.84-1.52	1.02	0.91	0.77-1.35	1.10	0.52	0.82-1.46
Other	0.46	0.44	0.06-3.32	0.61	0.62	0.09-4.36	0.59	0.60	0.08-4.24
Province									
Koshi province	1			1			1		
Madhesh province	1.12	0.26	0.92-1.37	0.93	0.46	0.78-1.12	1.10	0.34	0.91-1.33
Bagmati province	1.24	0.05	1.00-1.53	1.05	0.61	0.86-1.29	1.11	0.34	0.90-1.36
Gandaki province	1.10	0.40	0.88-1.37	0.95	0.63	0.77-1.17	1.01	0.96	0.81-1.24
Lumbini province	1.29	0.01	1.07-1.54	1.08	0.38	0.91-1.28	1.18	0.06	0.99-1.40
Karnali province	1.14	0.26	0.91-1.43	1.12	0.31	0.90-1.40	1.08	0.50	0.86-1.35
Far -Western province	1.13	0.24	0.92-1.37	1.09	0.37	0.90-1.32	1.12	0.25	0.92-1.36
Wealth Quintile									
Poorest	1			1			1		
Poorer	1.06	0.51	0.89-1.25	1.06	0.48	0.90-1.24	1.07	0.43	0.91-1.25
Middle	1.01	0.93	0.84-1.20	1.10	0.28	0.93-1.29	1.13	0.16	0.95-1.34
Richer	1.06	0.53	0.88-1.28	1.13	0.16	0.95-1.35	1.14	0.14	0.96-1.37
Richest	1.05	0.66	0.85-1.29	1.17	0.12	0.96-1.43	1.16	0.16	0.94-1.42
Ecological Zones									
Mountain	1			1			1		
Hill	1.30	0.01	1.06-1.59	1.23	0.05	1.00-1.50	1.20	0.08	0.98-1.47
Terai	1.60	0.00	1.25-2.04	1.33	0.02	1.04-1.68	1.30	0.04	1.02-1.65
Level of Education									
No Education	1			1			1		

Characteristics	Physical Violence			Sexual Violence			Emotional Violence		
	OR	P Value	95% CI	OR	P Value	95% CI	OR	P Value	95% CI
Basic	0.81	0.00	0.71-0.93	0.89	0.10	0.79-1.02	0.84	0.01	0.74-0.96
Secondary	0.83	0.03	0.70-0.98	0.96	0.58	0.82-1.12	0.92	0.33	0.79-1.08
Higher	0.92	0.56	0.68-1.24	3.97	0.00	2.74-5.75	1.05	7.66	0.78-1.40

Effects of Internal Migration on Domestic Violence in Nepal

The impact of migration on domestic violence is assessed and examined using logistic regression to observe whether there is an intricate relationship between the duration and stream of migration and violence or not. Table 5 reveals the fact that the decreasing likelihood ratio of experiencing domestic violence among women who migrated from urban to rural, rural to urban, and rural to rural in comparison to the reference group. The likelihood ratio of experiencing domestic violence by women who migrated from rural-to-rural areas is observed lower compared to women who migrated from urban to urban (OR=0.84, CI:0.71-1.00). A study carried out in Peru revealed the fact that a higher prevalence of intimate partner violence against women was recorded among migrant women who migrated from rural to urban areas (Terrazas & Blitchtein, 2022). However, intimate partner violence is the most widespread form of violence against women which mostly occurs with migrated women in their initial phase (Ayubi & Satyen, 2024). Similarly, the likelihood ratio of experiencing domestic violence by women is observed to increase with the increment of duration of stay. Women who migrated for more than 15 years experienced higher domestic violence (OR=1.47, CI:1.23-1.77).

The likelihood ratio of domestic violence is observed to decrease with increasing age of women whereas the likelihood ratio of experiencing domestic violence by Muslim women is observed two times higher than the reference group. In terms of religion, women who follow the Kirat religion experienced higher domestic violence (OR=1.13, CI:0.80-1.60) whereas the least is observed in other religions (OR=0.41, CI:0.06-2.99). Similarly, the likelihood ratio of domestic violence is observed higher in Lumbini province (OR=1.30, CI:1.08-1.56) whereas women from the Tarai zone experienced higher domestic violence (OR=1.57, CI:1.22-2.02). Furthermore, women having basic and secondary levels of education experienced lower domestic violence compared to the reference group (Table 5).

Table 5*Effect of Internal Migration on Domestic Violence*

Characteristics	OR	P Value	95% CI
Migration Stream			
Urban-Urban	1		
Urban-Rural	0.93	0.54	0.73-1.18
Rural-Urban	0.90	0.17	0.77-1.05
Rural-Rural	0.84	0.05	0.71-1.00
Duration of Migration			
0-4 years	1		
5-9 years	1.07	0.40	0.92-1.24
10-14 years	1.17	0.08	0.98-1.40
>15 years	1.47	0.00	1.23-1.77
Age Group			
15-19	1		
20-24	0.51	0.00	0.40-0.65
25-29	0.37	0.00	0.29-0.47
30-34	0.32	0.00	0.25-0.41
35-39	0.34	0.00	0.26-0.44
40-44	0.36	0.00	0.27-0.48
45-49	0.35	0.00	0.26-0.47
Caste/Ethnicity			
Brahmin/Chhetri	1		
Ethnic groups	0.97	0.68	0.84-1.12
Dalit	1.25	0.01	1.06-1.47
Muslim	2.28	0.30	0.48-10.80
Other Tarai caste	1.47	0.00	1.18-1.82
Other	1.12	0.89	0.22-5.70
Religion			
Hindu	1		
Buddhist	0.97	0.82	0.77-1.23
Muslim	0.77	0.74	0.17-3.61
Kirat	1.13	0.49	0.80-1.60
Christian	1.07	0.67	0.79-1.44
Other	0.41	0.38	0.06-2.99
Province			
Koshi Province	1		
Madhesh province	1.17	0.13	0.95-1.44
Bagmati province	1.26	0.03	1.02-1.56
Gandaki province	1.13	0.29	0.90-1.41
Lumbini province	1.30	0.01	1.08-1.56

Karnali province	1.21	0.11	0.96-1.52
Far-Western province	1.12	0.28	0.91-1.37
Wealth Quintile			
Poorest	1		
Poorer	1.06	0.53	0.89-1.25
Middle	1.00	0.98	0.84-1.20
Richer	1.03	0.79	0.85-1.24
Richest	1.01	0.94	0.81-1.25
Ecological Zones			
Mountain	1		
Hill	1.27	0.02	1.03-1.57
Terai	1.57	0.00	1.22-2.02
Level of Education			
No Education	1		
Basic	0.79	0.00	0.69-0.92
Secondary	0.79	0.01	0.66-0.93
Higher	0.84	0.25	0.62-1.13

Source. NDHS 2022

Discussion

The main focus of this study is to examine the effects of internal migration on physical, sexual, and emotional violence in Nepal. The study applied logistic regression analysis to observe the effect of internal migration on the severity of domestic violence. The analysis of this study is based on the data set of NDHS 2022, which is a longitudinal and nationally representative survey. The study shows that domestic violence varies with the demographic, socio-economic, and migration status of women in Nepal. It reveals the fact that the stream of migration has a significant association with domestic violence in Nepal. It is observed that migration from rural to rural area has a positive relationship with domestic violence. The respondents who migrated from rural to rural areas had a lower likelihood ratio compared to other types of migration streams. The migrated women from rural-to-rural areas have a better understanding of the context and status of the newly arrived area which could be beneficial and assist them to empower themselves reducing either type of domestic violence. However, a study carried out in Peru is contrary to this finding. The study conducted in Peru revealed that a higher prevalence of intimate partner violence against women was recorded among migrant women who migrated from rural to urban areas (Terrazas & Blitchtein, 2022). The mobility of women is also closely linked to various risks and difficulties in the process of integrating into new communities and societies. It is also revealed that forced migrants were more likely to beat wives and to experience controlling behaviors by

their husbands (Gulesci, 2017). Factors such as limited social networks in unfamiliar environments, inadequate material, and administrative support, and difficulty in finding new jobs due to lack of skill and education in urban areas significantly heighten the risk of violence against women.

The study shows a significant link between the duration of migration and the prevalence of domestic violence in Nepal, revealing that women who migrate for a longer duration of time face a higher risk of such violence. The heightened vulnerability is often associated with factors like low economic status, limited education, and restricted decision-making power. Supporting these findings, Atteraya et al. (2015) drew similar results, reinforcing the link between prolonged migration and increased risk of domestic violence (Atteraya et. al., 2015). Furthermore, Ayubi and Satyen (2024) emphasize that intimate partner violence is the most prevalent form of violence against women, particularly during the initial phase of migration. These insights call for targeted measures to address the challenges faced by migrant women and mitigate their risk of violence (Ayubi & Satyen, 2024).

The change in residence of women from one geographic and administrative unit to another, not only has economic and demographic implications but also changes in women's roles, responsibilities, and decision-making power that can directly influence domestic violence against women (Terrazas & Blitchtein, 2022). There is a significant association between the level of education of migrant women and domestic violence. The likelihood ratio of experiencing physical violence is lower with migrant women having higher level of education whereas sexual and emotional violence is found higher with migrant women having a higher level of education. The pertinent reason for the low level of physical violence among women with higher education could be that they have knowledge and access to information and most of them tend to be involved in better jobs in comparison to uneducated women. However, the reason for high sexual and emotional violence with high education of migrant women could be due to the difficulty of integrating into new society, culture, and economic environment. This finding is similar with the findings drawn by Erten and Reskin and Dhungel et. al. (Erten, B., & Keskin, P. 2018 & Dhungel et. al., 2017).

Similarly, the incidence of domestic violence is decreasing with the increasing age of migrant women. The increasing age of women also increases both the networks as well as knowledge and confidence level which enhance their capacity to resist activities and behavior related to domestic violence in Nepal. However, migrant women at either stage of life are more vulnerable to the risk of becoming victims of either type of domestic violence if financial hardships and societal barriers occur and if the partner consumes excessive alcohol (Rosca

& Bonea, 2024). The migration of spouses could have a positive impact on the education of daughters, enhance the capacity to cope with violent behavior, and ultimately reduce domestic violence against women (Srivastava, n.d.). The study revealed that women from the Tarai zone experienced two times higher domestic violence compared to other zones. The cultural as well as ritual practices and male-dominated patriarchal societal practices could play a significant role in increasing domestic violence against women in the Tarai zone of Nepal. Furthermore, the proportion of women who never attended school is very high (6.8%) compared to other zones in Nepal (National Statistics Office [NSO], 2024). A similar finding is also observed in the study of Atteraya et. al. in which women are at high risk of intimate partner violence those living in the Tarai region (Atteraya et. al., 2015).

A study conducted in China revealed the fact that the negative impact of migration is harmful to migrant women that compound violence so requires special packages for reducing triple oppression of institutional discrimination, socioeconomic stratification, and regionality marginalization (Li & Wang, 2023). As like in this study, the stream of migration in Nepal is essential to regulate by three layers of government to maximize the benefits of migration and minimize the incidences of domestic violence.

Conclusion

Migration is an unavoidable event and has multiple importance on human beings. Push and pull factors are the main drivers of migration which have both positive and negative effects on both in origin and destination countries. Human migration brings more positive effects on migrants and their families which contributes to increased human prosperity that ultimately promotes human rights and dignity. Despite increasing the volume of internal and external migration, the level and severity of domestic violence have not been reduced as targeted. The analysis of this study revealed that the impact of migration is significant for reducing physical, sexual, and emotional violence. It is observed that there is an inverse nexus between the duration of migration and violence against women in Nepal. Women with shorter duration of stay have been significantly associated with a lower likelihood ratio of experiencing domestic violence and vice versa whereas the women who migrated from rural-to-rural areas experienced lower domestic violence. These facts are the major aspects to be included in migration-related policy formulation and plan development purposes for grabbing the benefits of internal migration for reducing either kind of domestic violence.

Acknowledgment

The author thanks the Demographic Health Survey program for providing access to the data. The author would also like to thank Naba Raj Thapa, DHS fellow of 2018, for his encouragement and valuable suggestions for developing this paper.

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