

Knowledge of Gender-Based Violence among College Students of Kathmandu, Nepal

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Abstract

Gender-based violence is harmful to the personal and professional growth of every victim, so it should be abolished from society. The students can be the change-maker in society so the study assessed the knowledge of college students about gender-based violence. The study was based on a quantitative design. A total of 120 students, aged from 16 to 20 years, were included in the study. The structured survey questionnaire was used to collect the data. The frequency distribution and Chi-square test were used to analyze the data. The findings show that in total 98.3% of youth heard about GBV. All students were aware of physical violence, 96.6% male and 100% female were aware of sexual violence, and 79.3% male and 100% female were aware of psychological violence. There was no significant association between male and female students regarding their knowledge of GBV because the p-value of the Chi-square test was greater than the .05 significant level. In conclusion, more female students were aware of the nature and types of violence than male students. Similarly, more female students used to talk about the violence with their friends than friends. Though, statistically, there were no differences in knowledge of male and female students about gender-based violence. The future researcher can study the experience of gender-based violence among college students.

Keywords: College students, Gender-based violence (GBV), Knowledge

1. Introduction

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a form of discrimination against men and women based on their sex organs. GBV is one of the most critical issues that remain century-long all around the globe. According to the World Health Organization one-third (around 35 percent) of women around the globe have been subjected to physical and sexual violence from their intimate partner or non-partner (World Health Organization, 2021). According to National Women Commission's April 2021 report, 24% of women are suffering from physical violence, 6% women are suffering from sexual violence, 87% suffering from Domestic Violence (DV), and 13% suffering from VAW. Among these 84% are married, 10% are single, 3% are widows, and 2% are divorced women suffering from GBV in Nepal (The National Women Commission, 2078).

The Constitution of Nepal 2015, Article 38(3) guarantees that *“No woman shall be subjected to physical, mental, sexual, psychological or another form of violence or exploitation on grounds of religion, social, cultural, tradition, practice or any other grounds. Such act shall be punishable by law, and the victim shall have the right to obtain compensation by law”* (Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, 2072). Furthermore, the Government of Nepal (GoN) has initiated various plans and policies to address the VAW as committed to international human rights as well as a recommendation from the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (Government of Nepal Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, 2010). Despite having such strong initiatives and effective laws, plans, and policies, a large no. of women is still suffering from various forms of violence, are not reachable to access justice because of their economic, social, and geographical condition, unknown and uninformed about the services providing center, and so on. Most of the cases are neither reported in informal nor in formal sectors.

In partnership with the Centre for Research on Environment, Health and Population Activities (CREHPA), University College London (UCL) undertook a study on “Tracking Cases of Gender-Based Violence in Nepal: Individual, institutional, legal and policy analyses” in 2013. Where it was mentioned that due to a lack of knowledge around their rights, or agency to realize their rights, women often hid their suffering from others for a long time. When they need care, it was often from family and friends rather than through formal support mechanisms (Hawkes, et al., 2013). Therefore, most of the cases became closed and this culture keeps the perpetrators out of legal boundaries as a result repetitive crimes occur.

Across the world, GBV is recognized as a symptom of unequal power relations between men and women. Socially and culturally determined gender norms perpetuate gender hierarchies and are embedded in structures such as the family and the community.

On a personal level, adolescents are thought to be particularly affected by GBV. Their youth and relative lack of dating experience may increase their risk for physical and sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) (Glass, et al., 2003). IPV and other aspects of limited relational power may be experienced by those who date or marry older men, marry young, or any combination of these (Raj, 2010; Akintola, Ngubane, & Makhaba, 2012). Adolescent abuse increases the

risk of later health issues, such as depression, suicidal thoughts, and chronic inflammation, and it can put young women on a path toward further abuse (Bertone-Johnson, Whitcomb, & Missmer, 2012). Teenagers are particularly vulnerable to sexual assault. The first sexual experience of adulthood is frequently marked by violence and coercion.

Gender-based violence results in a wide range of health issues that hamper women's development and productivity, harm families and communities, tax health systems' resources, and prevent governments from attaining their national goals for women's advancement and health. For instance, research demonstrates a connection between women's emotional and physical health and domestic abuse (Watts and Zimmerman, 2002). Physical abuse is associated with acute and lasting mental illness (National Research Council, 2003; Mullen, Romans-Clarkson., VA, & GP, 1998). stress-related physical illness, gynecological problems (Butterworth, 2004), and risk factors for chronic illness. In pregnancy, such violence is associated with poor nutrition (Lemon, W, & EF, 2002), low maternal weight gain, smoking and alcohol use, infections, anemia (Kearney et al, 2003), and maternal mortality (McFarlane, B, & K, 1996).

In Nepal women in comparison to men are the victim of violence according to various research. The reason behind the violence against women is a patriarchal social structure, rigid and harmful cultural practices, unemployment, poverty, lack of education, and many more. A survey by a Kathmandu-based NGO CWIN found a majority of children who run away from home do so because of violence within them (Kumar & Kharel, 2008). Previous studies in Nepal have identified a variety of factors, including legal subordination, economic dependency, cultural obligation, and social position of women, that construct and reinforce male dominance and female subservience so thoroughly that neither the violence nor the failure to complain about it is unusual. Furthermore, women's lack of autonomy, high economic dependency on their husbands, men's perceived entitlement to sex, lack of education and knowledge of sexuality, marriage practices (particularly early marriage), lack of family and legal support for women, and husband's use of alcohol, are all noted to contribute to the risk of violence (Deuba & Rana., 2005). Violence against any person is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. Gender-based violence weakens the health, dignity, security, and autonomy of its victims. So, every people should be aware of gender-based violence. Youth are more vulnerable to violence, basically college students so the study focused on the knowledge of college students.

2. Methods & Materials

The study adopted quantitative methods. Quantitative research involves the use of methodological techniques that represent the human experience in alpha-numerical categories (Sarantakos, 2005). The random sampling technique was used to select the respondent from two different colleges in the Kathmandu District. Therefore, the universe of the study was college students of two different colleges and selected students were the sample unit of this study. A total of 120 students, aged from 16 to 20 years, were included in the study. The researcher reviewed the journal articles, books, and online data sources to support the study.

Similarly, to make the research more authentic and empirical, the primary source of data was collected from the two different colleges located in Kathmandu districts by using the survey questionnaire.

The collected data were cross-checked at different levels to check for possible inconsistencies. The statistical analysis was completed through applied statistics and SPSS, a statistical software package. Percentages and Chi-Square tests were used to analyze the differences of opinion among different groups of respondents.

3. Result & Discussion

Knowledge is the power for the improvement and change of life. People take or gather knowledge from various sources such as family, society, friends, schools, participation in various training, seminar, workshop, etc, or peer discussion (Bratianu & Bolisani, 2018). This study focus on the knowledge, perception, and experience of youth about gender-based violence. Gender-based violence is violence against human rights. The form of GBV is physical and sexual exploitation and abuse, and psychological and emotional torture that directly harms the person's life (UN General Assembly and Human Rights Commission, 2021). Basically in Nepal, women, and girls are suffering from various forms of violence in comparison to men and boys. Because of the rigid cultural and patriarchal social structure, women and girls not only suffer from violence but also less access to justice, education, resources, etc. (Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, 2005).

3.1 Heard about Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence is a violation of human rights and the study was taken among the youth to know about GBV knowledge, perception, and experience. From the study, it was found that the majority of youth knew about GBV risk and its impact on their life. The data presented in Table 1 shows that in total 98.3% of youth heard about GBV.

Table 1: Heard about GBV

| | | Sex | | Total | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | Male | Female | | |
| <i>Heard about GBV</i> | Yes | 100.0% | 96.8% | 98.3% | |
| | No | | 3.2% | 1.7% | |
| Total | | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | |
| Chi-square Test | | | | | |
| | Value | Df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) | Exact Sig. (2-sided) | Exact Sig. (1-sided) |
| Pearson Chi-Square | .951 ^a | 1 | .329 | | |
| Continuity Correction ^b | .000 | 1 | 1.000 | | |
| Likelihood Ratio | 1.337 | 1 | .248 | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|------|---|------|-------|------|
| Fisher's Exact Test | | | | 1.000 | .517 |
| Linear-by-Linear Association | .935 | 1 | .333 | | |
| N of Valid Cases | 60 | | | | |
| a. 2 cells (50.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .48. | | | | | |
| b. . Computed only for a 2x2 table | | | | | |

Source: Field Survey 2020

Both male and female from the Nepal Law Campus and Sagarmatha Multiple Campus has the same ratio regarding knowledge and experience about GBV, however female (96.8%) in comparison to male (100.0%) had less knowledge about GBV. Knowledge about gender-based violence was found slightly higher among the male respondents on both different campuses. Based on observation and experience, male engagement in various forms of GBV campaigns, programs, training, and awareness program that can support abolishing GBV from society. It shows that the new generation no more believes in a patriarchal social structure. The discrimination between males and females was created by a traditional, conservative social structure that allows patriarchy to rule over women and girls. In the context of Nepal, violence against women was perpetuated because of rigid social and cultural structures. Society teaches the new generation to perform their role what society gives them. However, due to the various struggle, campaigns, awareness, and capacity enhancement and knowledge nowadays women are facing less discrimination.

The statistical analysis of Person Chi-Square tested showed that there was no significant association between male and female students on knowledge of GBV because the p-value =.329 which is higher than the .05 significant level. The result indicates that there were similar types of understanding in male and female students about GBV.

As discussed with the findings of Zain's study, it can be concluded that most of the students understand the issue of GBV, and if students are aware of gender-based violence including sexual harassment, rape, incest, domestic violence, violence against women, date rape and violence against disable person, the possibilities of this issue might occur in future is lower. It is because, when they are alert to the issue they can try as can as possible to avoid becoming a victim by taking the necessary steps to save themselves. In addition, for those who understand the issues of gender-based violence, it may indirectly reduce the number of cases (Zain, 2012, p. 139). Knowledge of GBV among AGYW was similar to findings from another study conducted in three regions of Tanzania (Mbeya, Dar-es-Salaam, and Iringa) where participants maintained relatively high awareness (78.4%) of what constitutes GBV and were able to identify a range of violent behaviors including physical aggression, insults, beatings, being threatening with an object and the intended destruction of property (McCleary-Sills, et al., 2013). The study indicates that—despite fairly good knowledge of GBV—the knowledge of

the specific roles and content of GBV health services was limited and accessibility and the use of GBV health services were low (Mtaita, et al., 2021).

3.2 Heard about Physical Violence

Beating, burning, kicking, punching, biting, maiming, killing, or the use of objects or weapons is called physical violence. Physically injuring, pushing, beating, and slapping are also physical violence that victims suffer from it. Here from the study, it was learned that both male-female are equally familiar with physical violence very clearly with 100%.

Table 2: Heard about Physical Violence

| | | Sex | |
|-------------------------------|-----|---------------|---------------|
| | | Male | Female |
| Heard about Physical Violence | Yes | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Total | | 100.0% | 100.0% |

Source: Field Survey 2020

If a person is physically hurt and trauma by another person is called physical violence. Physically abuses, punching, biting, pushing, throwing an object toward them, using weapons, etc. are physical violence too and here during the study, it was grab that once in their life respondents become slapped by their teachers, pushed, and bitten by their friends or throwing objects, etc. Through various GBV programs, seminars, workshops, and campaigns, they heard about the GBV growing cases in Nepal as well as worldwide. Nepal Law Campus students were found more interested and have got chances from campus to participate in GBV debate competition program, national and international workshops, seminars, interaction programs, etc.

As discussed in the previous study, it was reported that both high and poor academic performance and living with single parents and both parents all have significant associations with physical violence. Factors that were consistently associated with physical violence included witnessing parental violence, alcohol use, having boys/girlfriends who drank alcohol, and rurality (Beyene, Chojenta, Shore, & Melka, 2019). Many campaigns and programs in Spain fail because they are not supported by scientific evidence; instead of addressing how boys and girls are socialized to develop an attraction to violent males, they end up blaming the idea that having an ideal type of relationship in mind—i.e., ideal love—is what causes gender-based violence among young people (Racionero-Plaza, Tellado, Aguilera, & Prados, 2021).

3.3 Heard about Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is one serious harmful activity that bitterly affects the physical and mental life of the victim. According to the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) of 2016, 7 percent of women aged 15-49 had experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. Regarding the issue of sexual violence, the study asked the question to college students about their knowledge

of sexual violence. It was found from the data presented in Table 3 that 98.3% of male and female students had heard about Sexual violence.

Table 3: Heard about Sexual Violence

| | | Sex | | Total | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | Male | Female | | |
| Heard about Sexual Violence | Yes | 96.6% | 100.0% | 98.3% | |
| | No | 3.4% | | 1.7% | |
| Total | | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | |
| Chi-Square Tests | | | | | |
| | Value | Df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) | Exact Sig. (2-sided) | Exact Sig. (1-sided) |
| Pearson Chi-Square | 1.087 ^a | 1 | .297 | | |
| Continuity Correction ^b | .001 | 1 | .973 | | |
| Likelihood Ratio | 1.472 | 1 | .225 | | |
| Fisher's Exact Test | | | | .483 | .483 |
| Linear-by-Linear Association | 1.069 | 1 | .301 | | |
| N of Valid Cases | 60 | | | | |
| a. 2 cells (50.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .48. | | | | | |
| b. Computed only for a 2x2 table | | | | | |

Source: Field Survey 2020

However female respondents had slightly higher knowledge than the male one because 96.6% of male respondents had given their responses and on the other hand 100% females had knowledge about sexual violence. Sexual violence occurs throughout the world. In some countries, nearly one in four women may experience sexual violence by an intimate partner and up to one-third of adolescent girls report their first sexual experience as being forced. News about the increasing rape incidents, cybercrime, and forcing to have sex, through TV, radio, social media, online news media, etc, could make them know about this violence.

The statistical analysis of the Person Chi-Square test showed that there was no significant association between male and female students on their knowledge of sexual violence because the p-value =.297 which is higher than the .05 significant level. The result indicates that male and female students both equally perceived sexual violence.

In Malawi, 38% of the females reported unwillingness at sexual debut while 30% gave such report in Ghana. The true prevalence of sexual abuse, however, remains unknown with a smaller number of cases reported in developing countries due to the attendant inhibitions arising from social stigma, the weak legal system, and existential cultural and religious dogma

that further entrench the 'culture of silence associated with sexual abuse (World Health Organization, 2017).

Although several studies have reported sexual abuse in childhood and adolescence, there is still a dearth of information on adolescents' knowledge of sexual abuse. This is a vital gap as it forms the bane of empowerment of these adolescents towards greater self-awareness and ultimately self-protection (Manyike, et al., 2015). Leen and his friends reported in their study that the prevalence of sexual violence among young people in dating relationships varies from 1.2%–32.9% for females, and 1%–19% among boys in North America and Europe (Leen, et al., 2013). According to demographic and health survey data for selected low- and middle-income countries, the percentage of girls aged 15–19 years who have ever experienced forced sexual intercourse ranges from zero among adolescent girls in Kyrgyzstan, to 22% among girls of the same age range in Cameroon. Among girls and women aged 15-49 years, the percentage reporting forced sexual initiation ranges from 1% in Timor Leste to 29% in Nepal (UNICEF, 2014).

3.4 Heard about Emotional/ Psychological Violence

Generally, most people suffered from psychological violence at once in their life. Verbal abuse, insult, harassment, stalking, threatening, humiliation, etc, are emotional or psychological violence. Here in the given Table 4, in total 90.0% of male and female students knew about psychological violence. It was a good indication that they were aware of the source and nature of emotional or psychological violence.

Table 4: Heard about Psychological Violence

| | | Sex | | Total | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | Male | Female | | |
| Heard about Psychological Violence | Yes | 79.3% | 100.0% | 90.0% | |
| | No | 20.7% | | 10.0% | |
| Total | | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | |
| Chi-Square Tests | | | | | |
| | Value | Df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) | Exact Sig. (2-sided) | Exact Sig. (1-sided) |
| Pearson Chi-Square | 7.126 ^a | 1 | .008 | | |
| Continuity Correction ^b | 5.013 | 1 | .025 | | |
| Likelihood Ratio | 9.441 | 1 | .002 | | |
| Fisher's Exact Test | | | | .009 | .009 |
| Linear-by-Linear Association | 7.008 | 1 | .008 | | |

| | | | | |
|---|----|--|--|--|
| N of Valid Cases | 60 | | | |
| a. 2 cells (50.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 2.90. | | | | |
| b. Computed only for a 2x2 table | | | | |

Source: Field Survey 2020

However, females had higher knowledge than the males one because the female had 100% response and males had 79.3% regarding psychological violence. Threatening, humiliating, bullying, teasing, harassing, stalking, abusing, etc, are common things among the youth. Bullying or teasing the lower students by higher students is becoming a culture among youth and in campus surroundings.

The statistical analysis of the Person Chi-Square test showed that there was a significant association between male and female students regarding their knowledge of psychological violence because the p-value =.008 which is less than a .05 significant level. The result indicates that there were different types of understanding of male and female students regarding psychological violence. Comparatively higher numbers of female students had knowledge of psychological violence than the male.

In the United States, 9% to 15% of children experience chronic teasing and bullying (Nansel, et al., 2001; U.S. Department of Education, 1999). Teasing involves verbal and nonverbal peer interactions, which may be humorous and playful on one level but annoying or distressing on another level (Mooney, Creeser, & Baltchford, 1991). Yet despite increased awareness, students who are at risk often remain undetected. Adults fail to understand associated factors and do not recognize patterns of chronic teasing and bullying.

3.5 Conversation about Gender-Based Violence in your Collage

Basically, people hesitate to talk about gender-based violence and share their experiences even within their friends and family due to social and cultural rigid structures and complex legal procedural. Here in the study regarding a general conversation about GBV at college, it was found that 86.4% of youth talked about GBV at their college sometimes only.

Table 5: Conversation about Gender-Based Violence in your Collage

| | | Sex | | Total |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| | | Male | Female | |
| A conversation about Gender Based Violence in your Collage | Rarely | 17.9% | 6.5% | 11.9% |
| | Sometime | 78.6% | 93.5% | 86.4% |
| | Never | 3.6% | | 1.7% |
| Total | | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Chi-Square Tests | | | | |
| | Value | Df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) | |
| Pearson Chi-Square | 3.102 ^a | 2 | .212 | |

| | | | |
|--|-------|---|------|
| Likelihood Ratio | 3.526 | 2 | .172 |
| Linear-by-Linear Association | .709 | 1 | .400 |
| N of Valid Cases | 59 | | |
| a. 4 cells (66.7%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .47. | | | |

Source: Field Survey 2020

However, in the context of male and female respondents (93.5%), female respondents have quite a higher conversation about GBV than male ones (78.6%). Some male respondents never had a conversation about GBV in college followed by 3.6%. For many students, college is a positive and empowering environment that enriches their lives, but for those who experience sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, it can be debilitating and damaging. In Nepali society, discussion on sexual abuse and exploitation hardly takes place due to the cultural, social, economic, and environmental circumstances of the society, even though it is prevalent. Secondly, a majority of campuses are not providing a safe and empowering educational experience and safe environment for all students by proactively taking steps to address GBV inside the college premises. There is no policy was made regarding GBV if any students or teachers became the victim of it. This could be the reason that students hesitate to talk about GBV.

The statistical analysis of the Person Chi-Square test showed that there was no significant association between male and female students regarding their practice of conversation about GBV at college because the p-value =.212 which is higher than the .05 significant level. It indicates that the sharing of knowledge and experience about GBV with college students was similar between the male and female students of the selected college in the Kathmandu district.

A study by Gurung and Tahoma (2015) was conducted at the Paro College of Education which aimed to find out the prevalence of responsible sexual behavior in the college. The study found that though student teachers' perception of the information and knowledge on STIs was very high (95% and 88%), the percentage decreased as it moved toward responsible sexual practices (condom usage-75.3%, worries about getting STIs after sexual activity-59%, and prefer having sex rather than avoiding it due to the unavailability of condom- 32.6%) (Gurung & Tshomo, 2015). Schools and colleges have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children at their school/college. As part of this duty, schools and colleges are required to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. All schools and colleges must regard Keeping children safe in education and Working Together to Safeguard Children. The study was carried out by Longobardi and his friends on single incidences of sexual, physical, and psychological victimization at school remain scant in Italy, and from their study, it was found that the most commonly reported type of victimization is psychological violence (incidence = 77%), followed by physical (incidence = 52%), and sexual victimization (incidence = 24%). These forms of violence are mainly inflicted by peers. The research

confirmed the validity of the tool and its applicability in the Italian context for screening violent behavior at school (Longobardi, Prino, Fabris, & Settanni, 2017).

3.6 Conversation about Gender-Based Violence in your Family

Family is the primary learning school for children. They learn cultural values, social norms, history, etc. from their parents or their elder members of the family. If there is a friendly environment between parents and children, then children can share each type of experience and knowledge with their parents. In Nepalese society, there is still some gap between the parents and children to share very personal experiences like feelings of violence. In this context, the study asked the students about their practice of sharing the experience of gender-based violence with their family members. The data presented in table 6 clarify that 68.3% of respondents had had a conversation about GBV issues with their family sometimes only.

Table 6: Conversation about Gender-Based Violence in your Family

| | | Sex | | Total |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| | | Male | Female | |
| <i>Conversation about gender-Based Violence in your Family</i> | Rarely | 41.4% | 19.4% | 30.0% |
| | Sometime | 58.6% | 77.4% | 68.3% |
| | Never | | 3.2% | 1.7% |
| Total | | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Chi-Square Tests | | | | |
| | Value | Df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) | |
| Pearson Chi-Square | 4.133 ^a | 2 | .127 | |
| Likelihood Ratio | 4.559 | 2 | .102 | |
| Linear-by-Linear Association | 3.974 | 1 | .046 | |
| N of Valid Cases | 60 | | | |
| a. 2 cells (33.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .48. | | | | |

Source: Field Survey 2020

In particular, females had more conversation about it than male one because 77.4% of female respondents had conversations about GVB with their family members and 58.6% male respondents had conversation about it within their family member. In the same way, from the study it was found that 3.2% female respondents never talked or share about GBV issues with their family due to some fears, shyness, or uncomfortable. House is a safe place to be confined for all members of a family. However, for many women and girls in all parts of the globe, gender-based violence (GBV) is linked to inequality in the family. Cultural values such as shyness prevent open discussion and education on sexuality among family members, and friends not even in the classroom by teachers. There is no effort put by the family members that help their children to protect themselves if they become the prey of such violence in their life in future. There are very few educated families who openly talked about violence and teach

their children about its symptoms and what to do if they become prey to it. However, the majority of the family member does not think this is one of the basic education for their children to make them confident, and fearless that they could cope with such violence by themselves.

The statistical analysis of the Person Chi-Square test showed that there was no significant association between male and female students regarding their practice of conversation about GBV with family members because the p -value = .127 which is higher than the .05 significant level. The statistical result indicates that there was a similar practice among male and female students regarding the sharing of knowledge and experience of GBV among the family members.

The finding is supported by the previous study also. Parents are the main person who seriously takes care of their children but in Nepalese society, still, most children feel shy to share about sexual violence and other forms of violence with their parents. A previous study also stated that adolescent and emerging adult women have identified parents as being one of the most influential sources that contribute to their sexual socialization. Adolescents whose parents talk with them about sex engage in fewer sexual risk-taking behaviors, especially when these conversations are open and interactive. Most adolescents and emerging adults report receiving at least some messages related to sexuality from parents, although discussions with parents about sexual topics are often minimal and not interactive (Tosta, Teston, & Marcon, 2021). Similarly, another study in West Ethiopia that measured the practice of communicating sexual and other violence between parents and children exposed that 69.5% of the young people perceived that discussing SRH matters with parents is difficult and these young people were less likely to discuss it with their parent. Fear of parents, an embarrassment to discussing with parents, taboo attached to sex and parents' failure to give time to listen, and parents' lack of interest to discuss. (Parents do not want to discuss reproductive issues with their children because most of the time such issues are culturally considered taboo; moreover, they think that discussing these things is the role of schools. But schools are not doing that. So youths go to their peers to discuss such topics (Tesso, Fantahun, & Enquselassie, 2012).

4. Conclusion & Recommendation

The data shows that both male and female from the Nepal Law Campus and Sagarmatha Multiple Campus has the same ratio regarding knowledge and experience about GBV. Most of the respondents were alert to the issue of gender-based violence. However, males (96.8%) had slightly less knowledge of GBV than female (100.0%) respondents. There was no significant association between male and female students regarding their knowledge of GBV because the p -value of the Chi-square test was greater than the .05 significant level. It indicates that there were similar types of understanding between the male and female students on gender-based violence.

Similarly, from the observation and discussion, respondents were hesitating to share the GBV issues with their friends, family members, and teachers. In Nepali society, discussion on sexual abuse and exploitation hardly takes place due to the cultural, social, economic, and environmental circumstances of the society, even though it is prevalent and widespread. Secondly, a majority of campuses are not providing a safe and empowering educational experience and safe environment for all students by proactively taking steps to address GBV inside the college premises. There was no policy on GBV if any students or teachers became the victim of it. This could be the reason that students hesitate to talk about GBV. The future researcher can study the real experience of violence faced by college students.

5. Contribution of Authors

There are two authors in this study. Dr. Karki and Ms. Rawal jointly worked to select the research problem, prepared the concept, and develop the data collection tools. Ms. Rawal did the data collection and review of the literature. Dr. Karki did the data analysis, report writing, and finalizing of the article in the prescribed format.

6. Acknowledgments

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7. Conflict of Interest

There is no any conflict of interest.

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