

Experience of Sexual Violence among College Students: A Case Study of Kathmandu District

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Abstract

Sexual violence is a severe act of violence against human rights. There are multiple effects of sexual violence so it should be controlled everywhere. The study was conducted with the objective to explore the experience of sexual violence among college students of the Kathmandu district. The study was conducted among one public and one private college. A total of 60 students were selected for the study. It was based on the quantitative design. The study found that there was a significant difference between the boy and girl students regarding their experience of sexual violence because more boys felt forced to have sex than girls.

Keywords: College, Experience, Sexual, Students, Violence

1. Introduction

Gender-based violence is a serious public health concern. Because men and women hold different levels of authority, one individual may assault another. Gender-based violence refers to any act of verbal or physical force, coercion, or life-threatening deprivation that is directed at a specific woman or girl and results in physical or psychological harm, humiliation, or the arbitrary deprivation of liberty while maintaining female subordination (Krug, Mercy, Dahlberg, & Zwi, 2002). Gender-Based Violence is a widespread problem all over the world. Traditional cultural practices promoted gender-based violence in society. The United Nations explains it as physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivations of liberty occurring in public or private life (Mosavel, Ahmed, & and Simon, 2011). In the context of marriage, cohabitation, or any other

type of relationship, this violence includes physically hurtful, sexually damaging, and psychologically destructive behaviors. It also includes emotional and economic abuse and dominating behaviors (Krug, Mercy, Dahlberg, & Zwi, 2002). Violence can take many various forms, including sexual, mental, and physical. The study has tried to explain the experience of the youth of sexual violence.

Sexual violence is defined by the World Health Organization as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances acts to traffic, or other actions directed against a person's sexuality using coercion (Krug, 2002). Non-partner sexual violence refers to sexual assault committed by individuals such as complete strangers, new acquaintances, friends, colleagues, peers, teachers, neighbors, and family members (Pazzani, 2007; Temple, Weston, Rodriguez, & Marshall, 2007). Sexual abuse and rape by an intimate partner are not considered a crime in most countries, and women in many societies do not consider forced sex as rape if they are married to or cohabiting with, the perpetrator. The assumption is that once a woman enters into a contract of marriage, the husband has the right to unlimited sexual access to his wife. Surveys in many countries reveal that approximately 10 to 15 percent of women report being forced to have sex with their intimate partner (UNICEF , 2000). The Nepal Police in 2021 reported that up to seven women and girls are raped every day in the country, most of them by neighbors, relatives and acquaintances.

Any sexual act carried out on another person without their consent is considered sexual assault. It might involve using threats or physical force. a four-year period saw the author investigate cases of sexual assault victims in the forensic medicine departments of the Institute of Medicine in Maharajgunj and the Gandaki Medical College Teaching Hospital in Pokhara, Nepal (2012 to 2016). A total of 55 incidents were looked at as sexual assault cases throughout the course of the four years. The majority were found to be between the ages of 13 and 15 (46%) with 20 years (11%) and 10 to 12 years (7%) following. In terms of the victim's connection to the alleged attacker, 87% of the incidents (48 out of 55) involved acquaintances, while 13% included strangers. Surprisingly, 2.6% of the 48 cases involved 2.6% of the victims' biological dads (Hirachan & Limbu, 2016).

In Nepalese schools, where mobile phones provided value to produce harassment digitally, verbal harassment was prevalent and both girls and boys were the victims, according to a study by Poudel (2017). Bullying and corporal punishment affected both boys and girls. The majority of SGBV incidences had a strong correlation to the socioeconomic status of the households. Students from lower socioeconomic class families, including both boys and girls, were more likely to experience various types of SGBV (Poudel, 2017; Neupane, 2014).

Based on the above literature, the researcher became interested to explore the experience of sexual violence among the college students of the Kathmandu district. The main objective of this study is to analyze the experience of sexual violence among college students.

2. Materials & Methods

The study was based on the descriptive research design. It was a cross-sectional study conducted among 60 students from one public and one private college. The study adopted a simple random sampling design to select the respondents from the campus. The lottery system was adopted to select the student and only selected students were allowed to participate in the study. Primary data was collected by developing a structured questionnaire. Quantitative data was used to analyze the experience of college students on SGBV. The study did the test of the instrument to ensure its quality. A reliability test was carried out by using a clarity test. The discussion was held among the expert, supervisors, and target populations. Necessary adjustment to the questionnaires was made afterward if required.

3. Result & Discussion

Violence has been an unpalatable but unaccepted part of human life. Violence has many faces. It is mostly women and children who are the victims. Women and girls become the target of violence in the form of sexual harassment in public places solely because of their sex.

1. Youth experienced touched into the private parts

Rape, touching of private parts, harassment, etc. is the sexual violence and from the given study it was found that both male and female respondents did not experience sexual violence such as touching in the private parts by 100.0% and 80.6% respectively.

Table 1: Youth experienced touched into the private parts

		Sex		Pearson Chi-Square
		Male	Female	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
touched into the private parts	Never	100.0%	80.6%	P = .044
	Rarely		9.7%	
	Frequently		9.7%	
Total		100.0%	100.0%	

Source: Field Survey 2020

There were male respondents who never experienced touching into their private parts against their will followed by 100.0%, however, 9.7% of female respondents frequently experienced touching into their private parts. The research on sexual harassment by Nabin Kandagwa also mentioned that 17.65% women and girls experienced touched by strangers or their own family members against their will. Mr. Kandagwa said in his research majority of respondents i.e 23.53% knew the most common type of sexual harassment as whistling followed by touching and feeling i.e 17.65%, teasing i.e 20.59%, blinking eyes 10.29%, ragging i.e 13.23%, rape i.e 8.82% and the least was showing genital organs which is 5.88% (Kandagwa, 2011, p. 61).

The statistical analysis of Person Chi-Square test showed that there was a significant association between males and females regarding their experience of sexual violence such as touching the private parts because $p=.044$ which is less than a .05 significant level.

2. Youth experienced Kissed against the wish

To know the experienced of sexual violence on respondents the question was asked youth and the result was the majority of male and female respondents were never trapped in sexual violence such as kissing against their wish followed by 85.0%.

Table 2: Youth experienced Kissed against the wish

		Sex		Pearson Chi-Square
		Male	Female	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Kissed against wish	Never	75.9%	93.5%	P = .007
	Rarely		6.5%	
	Frequently	24.1%		
Total		100.0%	100.0%	

Source: Field Survey 2020

In particular, there were 75.9% of males and 93.5% of females never experienced a kiss against their wish. On the other hand, there were 6.5% of female respondents rarely experienced kissing against their wish and 24.1% of male respondents frequently experienced kissing against their wish.

The statistical analysis of Person Chi-Square test showed that there was a significant association between males and females regarding their experience of sexual violence such as kissing against their wish because $p=.007$ which is less than a .05 significant level. The result indicates that a comparatively higher number of boy students experienced kissing against their wish than the girl students.

3. Youth experienced forced to watch sexually explicit materials

The present study shows that majority of males and females were never forced to watch sexually explicit materials followed by 86.7%.

Table 3: Youth experienced forced to watch sexually explicit materials

		Sex		Pearson Chi-Square
		Male	Female	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
<i>Youths experienced being forced to watch sexually explicit materials</i>	Never	72.4%	100.0%	P = .002
	Rarely	27.6%		
Total		100.0%	100.0%	

Source: Field Survey 2020

In the above data, it was found that there were 72.4% of male and 100.0% of female respondents were never forced to watch sexually explicit materials respectively. On the other hand, there were 27.6% of male respondents were forced to watch sexually explicit materials. Nabin Kandagwa in his study mentioned that 5.88% female agreed that they were boys through digital media or personally showing genital organs (Kandagwa, 2011, p. 61).

The statistical analysis of Person Chi-Square taste showed that there was a significant association between males and females regarding their experience of sexual violence such as being forced to watch sexually explicit materials because $p=.002$ is less than a .05 significant level. The result indicates that the experience of being forced to watch sexually explicit materials was higher among boys than girls.

4. Youth experienced attempted forced sex

In the context of attempting forced sex, the present study shows that there were both males and females had not experienced it followed by 88.3%.

Table 4: Youth experienced attempted forced sex

		Sex		Pearson Chi-Square
		Male	Female	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
The youth experienced attempted forced sex	Never	75.9%	100.0%	P = .004
	Rarely	24.1%		
Total		100.0%	100.0%	

Source: Field Survey 2020

In the given table it was said that there were still 24.1% of male respondents who agreed that they rarely experienced attempting forced to have sex. A study was done by Kripa Organization on Reproductive Health Research POLICY BRIEF in 2008. The paper found out that 65% women were forced to have sex without their consent and desire (Kripa, 2008).

The statistical analysis of Person Chi-Square taste showed that there was a significant association between males and females regarding their experience of sexual violence such as

attempted forced sex because $p=.004$ which is less than a .05 significant level. As a result of this study, more number of boy students experienced the attempt of forced sex by their friends and intimate partners. Girl students did not share any experience of the forceful attempt of sex by their opposite-sex partners. The prevalence of forceful attempts at sex was higher among the boys. The result became interesting based on the previous studies. Most of the previous studies show a higher prevalence of sexual violence among women and girls but this study shows a different result than the previous literature

According to Nepal Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) (2016), 7% of women have ever experienced sexual violence; 3% have experienced sexual violence in the past year. Divorced/separated/widowed women are most at risk (20%), compared to never-married women (2%). The most common perpetrator of sexual violence among ever-married women is a current husband (80%). The findings of this study vary with the result of NDHS so; it has given new insight to future researchers (Ministry of Health, Nepal; New ERA; ICF., 2017).

5. Youth experienced forced to have sex

Regarding being forced to have sex; both males and females never had such types of experience in their life followed by 88.3%.

Table 5: Youth experienced regarding forced to have sex

		Sex		Pearson Chi-Square Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
		Male	Female	
Forced to have sex	Never	75.9%	100.0%	P = .004
	Frequently	24.1%		
Total		100.0%	100.0%	

Source: Field Survey 2020

However, there were still 24.1% of males who experience sexual violence such as being forced to have sex. A previous study shows that approximately three-quarters (74%) of the young women mentioned 'sex against one's wishes' as sexual violence within marriage (SVWM). Sixty-two percent of respondents described 'forced sex during illness' and 'forced sex after consumption of alcohol' as SVWM. About half of young women (48.7%) who participated in the free-listing exercise reported having experienced SVWM (Puri, Tamang, & Shah, 2011). The statistical analysis of Person Chi-Square test showed that there was a significant association between males and females regarding their experience of sexual violence such as being forced to have sex because $p=.004$ which is less than a .05 significant level.

4. Conclusion & Recommendation

Regarding the experience of sexual violence, the comparatively high prevalence of touching in the private parts was experienced by girls whereas kissing against the wish was higher among boys than girls. Similarly, watching sexually explicit materials was experienced by boys more

than girls. More boy students shared their experiences of being forced to have sex by their intimate partners. Statistically, there was a significant difference between boys and girls regarding their experience of sexual violence. It was interesting result found that more college boys experienced sexual violence than girls. So, future research can be done among the larger population of college students to know the prevalence of sexual violence among boys and girls.

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