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Prevalence of parental violence upon girls and its associated factors

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Abstract

Any form of harm perpetrated by a person to a person within familial relationship is domestic violence. High prevalence of intimate partner violence in districts of Madhes Province indicates high probability of domestic violence upon children but studies are not focusing it. This paper aims to describe prevalence of parental violence and the association among its associated factors. The study followed cross sectional research design and cluster sampling. Altogether, 435 students participated in the study but data from 385 respondents were submitted for analysis. Tool for data collection was self-administered anonymous questionnaire. Descriptive statistics like percentage, mean and standard deviation were used. Binary logistic regression analysis was used to identify the association among violence committed by parent and its associated factors. This study found that nearly one-third (62.3%) respondents had experience of some type of domestic violence from either mother or father. Relationship of parents, and abusing and beating of mother was highly associated than relationship of parents, and abusing and beating of father. Domestic violence education should be given to parents that focus on relationship of parents.

Keywords: abusing, beating, domestic violence, parental relationship, physical abuse, psychological abuse

Introduction

Domestic violence [Offence and Punishment] Act 2066 stated that "domestic violence means any form of physical, mental, sexual and economic harm perpetrated by person to a person with whom he/she has a family relationship and this word also includes any acts of reprimand or emotional harm" (p. 1). World Health Organization (WHO) defined domestic violence (DV) as a broader concept that includes physical violence and psychological abuse in domestic setting and perpetrators of it are intimate partner, in-laws, parents, children or other family members (World Health Organization, 2012, as cited in Riedl et al., 2019). Physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, and economic abuse including acts of omission as a form of violence against women and girls (United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF], 2000) are the ways of manifesting DV. Physical abuse (beating, slapping, hair pulling, kicking, burning, beating with a stick, or using a knife) and mental torture (threats, verbal abuse, and neglect) committed by husbands or other relatives, and early marriage,

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dowry-related violence, sexual abuse in the household, polygamy, and marital rape are the means of DV (The Asia foundation, 2010). Following this fact, we can say that parental (mother and father) violence is a kind of DV.

Half of the population, below 18 years in the world, has Experience of violence and main perpetrators of violence are family members or people who are close to victims (UNICEF, 2020). More than a half (one billion) of all children of 2 to 17 years in the world have experience of emotional, physical and/or sexual violence and four out of five children of the 2 to 14 years are violated in the name of disciplining them in their homes (SOS Children's Villages International Programme and Strategy, 2017). A study conducted by Cuartas et al. in 2019 found that 55.2% and 48% respondents respectively accepted physical aggression and psychological aggression during parenting in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNICEF, 2020).

Although, law (The Acts Related to Children 2075) prohibits any type of violence and corporal punishment against children, it seems common in Nepal. According to Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (NMICS) 2019, 82% children aged 1 to 17 years disciplined violently in Nepal. It is highest in Province 1 (87.6%) followed by Lumbini (84.2%), Gandaki (83.2%), Bagmati (81%), Madhes Province (80.6%), Karnali (79%) and Sudurpashchim (75.4%). Nearly one-fourth (22.8%) mother/caretakers of Nepal think that child needs to be physically punished. It is highest in Karnali (31.3%) followed by Sudurpashchim (27.5%), Madhes Province (25.6%), Province 1 (24.1%), Lumbini (20.6%), Gandaki (18.7%) and Bagmati (18.2%) (Central Bureau of Statistics [CBS], 2020). The report of Nepal Demographic Health Survey 2016 shows that intimate partner violence (IPV) is highest (37%) in Madhes Province followed by Lumbini Province (29%), Bagmati (26%) and least in Gandaki (16%) (Ministry of Health, New ERA & ICF, 2017) and Nepali women and girls both are more vulnerable to domestic violence (The Asia Foundation, 2010) that indicate the need of study related to DV committed to girls in Nepal, especially in the districts of Madhes Province, where the prevalence of DV is high.

Most of the DV related studies focus on intimate partner violence perpetrated by husband, mother-in-law and father-in-law upon women, and the terms DV and IPV are taken as interchangeably in scholarly literature while IPV is a part of DV (Riedl, 2019) that indicates the lack of literature related to parental violence committed to daughter. To fulfill this gap, this paper aims to describe prevalence of parental violence, and to describe what association among parental violence and its associated factors are.

Method

Study Design and Setting

The study followed cross sectional research design "that produces a 'snapshot' of a population at a particular point in time" (Cohen, Manion & Morrison, 2000, p. 175) that was conducted in the community schools of Saptari. It took 5 days to collect data from each school one by one.

Participants

Altogether, 435 girl students of class 9 and 10 of community schools, who were unmarried and belonged to Madheshi community, were the participants of the study. By following cluster sampling, one resource center was randomly selected from 10 resource

centers of Saptari (Office of the Statistics, 2075) and all eligible girl students of community schools of it, who were present on the day of data collection, were selected for the study.

Variables

For this study, abusing (psychological violence) and beating (physical violence) were the components of abuse committed by parent (mother and father) of respondents. Therefore, abusing and beating were the dependent variables for this study. Age, education and occupation of parent, and relationship between parent, and drinking habit of parent were the demographic variables that were taken as associated factors of parental violence and were the independent variables of this study.

Measurements

To measure socio-demographic variables questions related to having mother and father, age, education and occupation of mother and father, annual income of family, relationship between parent, habit of smoking or drinking of mother and father were asked to respondents. Violence related information were collected by asking 'Does your mother or father abuse or beat you?' with response yes and no, 'Does your mother abuse you?' with response yes and no and 'Does your mother beat you?' with response yes and no. Same questions were asked regarding father.

Data Quality Management

Nepali language questionnaire was used to collect data that was validated and modified by pretesting it among 25 girl students of nearby community school and by following the suggestions of subject teacher. Data was collected separately from the students of class 9 and 10 by shifting them to the separate room in presence of researcher himself with coordination of a schoolteacher. Nearly 20 minutes, researcher himself informed students about the purpose of the study and parental violence, and provided idea about how to fill questionnaire before administrating the questionnaire. Respondents were assured their confidentiality and were appreciated to complete the questionnaire without any hesitation, and requested to ask researcher if there is any confusion. Researcher himself properly checked and collected questionnaires.

Study Size

In the study, all the students participated in the study who were present on the day of data collection. Altogether, 435 students participated in the study, due to degree of incompleteness, 50 questionnaires were rejected and only data from 385 questionnaires were proceeded for analysis.

Data Collection Procedure

The researcher collected data himself using self-administered anonymous questionnaire during 14 October 2019 to 24 October 2019 having 100% respondents' response rate.

Statistical Analyses

For data analysis, statistical package for social science (SPSS) version 20 was applied. To analyze demographic variables like caste, religion and place of resident of respondents, having mother and father, age, education, occupation, relationship and smoking or drinking habit of mother and father, annual income of family frequency and proportion were used. Age of respondents were presented in mean and standard deviation.

For the inferential analysis, binary logistic regression (Pallant, 2007) analysis was applied. For this abusing and beating by mother and father, and smoking or drinking habit of mother and father were categorized into 'yes (1)' and 'no (0)'. Age of mother and father was categorized in 'age up to 40 years (1)' and 'more than 40 years (0)'. Education of mother and father was categorized into 'no formal education (0)' and 'formal education (1)'. Annual income of family was categorized into less than 'Nepali Rupees (NRs) 50000 (1)', '50000 to 99999 (2)', '10000 to 199999 (3)', '200000 to 299999 (4)', '300000 to 499999 (5)', and '500000 and more (6)'. Relationship between parents (mother and father) was categorized into 'good (1)', 'fair (2)', and 'bad (3)'.

Ethical Consideration

Verbal informed consent was taken from the head teachers of selected schools after giving written application to them. Likewise, verbal informed consent was taken from respondents and they were not compelled to participate in the study. They were free to choose whether they participate or not. However, all the respondents participated in the study who were present during data collection. Respondents' proper name, address, class roll number and any code were not mentioned to assure their confidentiality.

Result

Socio-demographic Information of Respondents

[Table 1. *Socio-demographic Information of Respondents* in Annex 1]

Table 1 presents that mean age of respondents was 14.99 (\pm 1.13) year. Six in ten (59.2%) respondents were from Madheshi followed by Madheshi Janjati (20.8%), Madheshi Dalit (11.2%), Muslim (6%) and Madheshi Brahman (2.9%). The great majority of respondents belonged to Hindu religion (94%) and lived in village (94.3%). Respondents having mother and father respectively were 99.7% and 96.9%. Majority of respondents' mother (83.1%) belonged to age group up to 40 years and nearly two-third of respondents' father (61.9%) belonged to age group more than 40 years. More than half of respondents' mother (56.8%) had no formal education while majority of respondents' father (77.2%) had formal education. The highest proportion of respondents' mother (56.5%) had agriculture occupation followed by housework (34.4%), business (5.2%) and others (3.9%). Similarly, the highest proportion of respondents' father (51.2%) had agriculture occupation followed by business (16.4%), daily wages (13.4%), employed (9.7%) and foreign employment (9.4%). The highest proportion (23.9%) of respondents' annual income of family was below NRs 50000 followed by 100000 to 199999 (21.3%), 50000 to 99999 (20%), 500000 and more (13.2%), 300000 to 499999 (10.9%) and 200000 to 299999 (10.6%). The highest proportion of respondents' (62.1%) said that relationship between their mother and father was good, followed by fair (30.9%) and bad (7%). One-third respondents' father (32.4%) and 8.1% mother either smoked or used alcohol.

Prevalence of Parental Violence

Table 2 reveals that nearly one-third (62.3%) respondents had experience of any type of DV from either mother or father. More than half (54.4%) and 38.02% of respondents respectively had experience of mother abusing and beating. Similarly, 26.5% and 17.2% of respondents respectively had experience of father abusing and beating.

Table 2. Prevalence of Parental Violence

	Respondents experiencing DV	
	Yes (frequency/percent)	No (frequency/percent)
Respondents experienced any parental violence	240 (62.3)	145 (37.7)
Mother abusing	209 (54.4)	175 (45.6)
Mother beating	146 (38.02)	238 (61.98)
Father abusing	99 (26.5)	274 (73.5)
Father beating	64 (17.2)	309 (82.8)

Multivariate Analysis

Table 3 shows that education (OR= 1.97, p= .008, 95% CI 1.19 to 3.24), occupation (OR= .849, p= .037, 95% CI .728 to .990), drinking habit (OR= 4.16, p= .008, 95% CI 1.44 to 11.98) of mother, and relationship of parents (OR= 3.95, p= .000, 95% CI 2.571 to 6.08) had significant contribution in mother abusing. Similarly, drinking habit of father (OR= 1.96, p= .008, 95% CI 1.19 to 3.23) and relationship of parents (OR= 1.72, p= .005, 95% CI 1.18 to 2.52) had significant association with father abusing. Relationship of parents (OR= 2.17, p= .000, 95% CI 1.52 to 3.09) significantly associated with mother beating. Drinking habit of father (OR= 1.88, p= .032, 95% CI 1.06 to 3.36) and relationship of parents (OR= 1.76, p= .010, 95% CI 1.15 to 2.71) significantly contributed to father beating.

Table 3. Association of Parental Violence and Its Associated factors

	Sig.	OR	95% CI for OR		Sig.	OR	95% CI for OR	
			Lower	Upper			Lower	Upper
			Mother Abusing				Mother Beating	
Age of Mother	.091	1.736	.915	3.293	.761	.912	.502	1.654
Education of Mother	.008	1.967	1.195	3.238	.228	1.336	.834	2.140
Occupation of Mother	.037	.849	.728	.990	.468	.947	.817	1.097
Smoking or drinking of Mother	.008	4.155	1.441	11.977	.526	1.293	.583	2.867
Income of Family	.299	.931	.814	1.065	.240	.925	.811	1.054
Relationship between Parents	.000	3.954	2.571	6.080	.000	2.168	1.521	3.089
			Father Abusing				Father Beating	
Age of Father	.242	.739	.446	1.226	.456	.798	.442	1.443
Education of Father	.094	1.600	.924	2.771	.168	1.567	.827	2.972
Occupation of Father	.695	.966	.811	1.150	.585	.942	.761	1.166
Smoking or drinking of Father	.008	1.959	1.188	3.228	.032	1.884	1.058	3.355
Income of Family	.706	.965	.805	1.159	.336	.901	.728	1.114
Relationship between Parents	.005	1.721	1.178	2.515	.010	1.762	1.148	2.706

Sig.: Significance, OR: Odds Ratio, CI: Confidence Interval

Discussion

This paper has mainly tried to highlight prevalence of parental violence and association between parental violence and its associated factors. This study found that mean age of respondents were 14.99 ± 1.13 years ranging from 13 to 18 year. More than half of the respondents belonged to Madheshi castes other than Madheshi Brahman, Madheshi Janjati,

Madheshi Dalit and Muslim. The great majority of respondents were from Hindu religion and from village. Two-third and one-third respondents' annual income of family respectively was below two lakh and two lakh and more. All respondents except one and 13 respectively had their mother and their father. The majority of respondents had mother up to 40 years and more than one-third had father up to 40 years. More than half of respondents' mother had no formal education while the majority of respondents' father had formal education. The occupation of more than half of respondents' mother and father was agriculture. Two-third respondents' parents had good relationship while less than one in ten had bad relationship. One-third respondents' father and less than one in ten respondents' mother either smoked or used alcohol.

In this study, it was found that nearly one-third respondents had experience of some parental violence followed by mother abusing, mother beating, father abusing and father beating. A study conducted in Kathmandu shows much higher (88.09%) prevalence of abuse than findings of our study and psychological abuse as most (75.19%) prevalent form of abuse followed by physical abuse (Neupane et al., 2018). A study (Peltonen, Ellonen, Larsen & Helweg-Larsen, 2015) shows that in the Finnish sample, 49% Finnish girl and 58% Danish girl had no experience of parental violence during 12 months that indicates 51% Finnish girl and 42% Danish girl had experience of parental violence that is lower than the findings of our study. However, Moon et al. (2019) found that 13.8% of adolescents of aged 20 to 65 years who visited a public institution within Bucheon City had experience of some types of child abuse that is much lower than the findings of our study. It may be due to parents' practice of corporal punishment (SOS Children's Villages International Programme and Strategy, 2017) and treating daughters as second-class citizens due to patriarchal structure of society (National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders [NAWHRD], 2018) in Nepal. A study from China conducted among students of grade one to three found that prevalence of minor physical abuse and psychological abuse respectively were 63.9% and 84.1% (Lo et al., 2019) that was higher than findings of our study. In our study, it is seen that more than half of the respondents had experience of abusing and more than one-third of the respondents had experience of beating from mother. Similarly, one-fourth and nearly two in five respondents had experience of abusing and beating from father that reveals mother perpetrates more than father does. Supporting to this finding Meinck et al. (2017) mentioned that 11.1% biological mother and 9.8% biological father are the frequent perpetrators of child abuse. The most frequent perpetrator of physical abuse and psychological abuse is mother (Daral, Khokhar & Pradhan, 2016). Females perpetrate more female (Afzal & Munir, 2014) may be the reason behind it.

This study evidences that likelihood of abusing by mother with formal education was 1.97 times higher than by mother with no formal education that is opposite to Malik, who stated significant negative relationship of mother education and child abuse (Malik, 2010). Similarly, Moon et al., who stated that people with low-level child abuse knowledge perpetrate more than who have high level of knowledge (Moon et al., 2019) and there was association between parental education and maltreatment (Leung, Wong, Chen & Tang, 2008) are opposite to this study. In our study, it was found that mother who had occupation other than agriculture 0.849 times less likely abused their daughter than mother who had agriculture occupation however, a study (Daral et al., 2016) shows that house worker mother significantly

commit low physical abuse. Abusing by mother, who smokes or drinks, was 4.16 times more likely than the mother, who does not smoke or drink. Abusing by father, who smokes or drinks, was 1.96 times more likely to occur than the father, who does not smoke or drink. Father, who smokes or drinks, beat 1.88 times more than father, who does not smoke or drink. Neupane et al. (2018), who mentioned that having tobacco user in the family increases likelihood of violence 1.78 times and physical abuse 2 times that support the findings of our study. However, Daral et al. (2016) mentioned that there is contradictory findings about relationship between parental drinking and child abuse.

Abusing and beating respectively were 3.95 times and 2.17 times more likely to commit by mother when relationship with parent falls from good to fair and from fair to bad. Similarly, abusing and beating by father respectively were 1.72 times and 1.76 times more likely to occur when relationship with parent falls from good to fair and from fair to bad. Stressful parental relationship (Widom & Hiller-Sturmhöfel, 2001) and excessive arguments between parents significantly contribute to parental violence (Daral et al., 2016) that is in line with our study. Further a review study (Devaney, 2015) shows that children having fighting parents have three to nine times more probability of being abused than those who do not have such parent. In addition, children from violent family respectively have probability 3 folds and 4.4 folds of experiencing physical violence and neglect from caregiver than those who do not have such family (Radford et al., 2011, as cited in Devaney, 2015) indicates significant effects of relationship between parents towards parental violence.

Our study evidences that age of mother and father, education, occupation and smoking or drinking of mother with beating, education and occupation of father and income of family were not significantly associated with parental violence. A study from Pakistan shows that education of father and socio-economic status are not significant determinants of child abuse (Malik, 2010) that supports our study. However, child abuse was practiced in both higher and lower socio-economic status families, it was more among children with higher socio-economic status than children are with lower socio-economic status (Lo et al., 2019) that contradicts to our study. Leung et al. (2008) reported that there is association among age, parental education, place of residence and types of housing, and physical maltreatment. Similarly, Neupane et al. (2018) stated that older mother and completion of secondary level education of father significantly increase the prevalence of parental violence. However, Daral et al. (2016) stated that no or low education of father increases likelihood of physical abuse that oppose our study.

Only abusing (psychological abuse) and beating (physical abuse) were taken as parental violence. Perpetrators like brother, sister, uncle, aunt, grandfather and grandmother were not included in this study. This study only included female unmarried respondents of Madheshi community from community schools. There might be the probability of over and under estimated responses from respondents as the study applied self-administered questionnaire.

Conclusion

From the study, it is concluded that prevalence of parental violence was high among respondents. Mother perpetrated their daughter more than father did. Smoking or drinking behavior and education of mother were associated with daughter abusing whereas smoking or drinking behavior of father and relationship of parents were associated with both daughter

abusing and daughter beating. Therefore, domestic violence education should be provided to parents of the study area that focus on the relationship and smoking or drinking behavior of parents.

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Annex-1

Table 1. *Socio-demographic Information of Respondents*

Description	Number	Percent	Description	Number	Percent
Age of respondents 14.99 (\pm 1.13) year, Minimum: 13 year, Maximum: 18 year			Education of respondents' mother No formal education	218	56.8
			Formal education	166	43.2
Caste of respondents			Occupation of respondents' mother		
Madhesi Brahman	11	2.9	sHousewife	132	34.4
Madhesi	228	59.2	Agriculture	217	56.5
MadhesiJanajati	80	20.8	Business	20	5.2
Madhesi Dalit	43	11.2	Others	15	3.9
Muslim	23	6	Respondents having father	373	96.9
Religion of respondents			Age of Respondents father		
Hindu	362	94	Up to 40 years	142	38.1
Muslim	23	6	More than 40 years	231	61.9
Place of resident			Education of respondents' father		
Village	363	94.3	No formal education	85	22.8
City	22	5.7	Formal education	287	77.2
Annual income of family			Occupation of respondents' father		
Below NRs 50000	92	23.9	Employed	36	9.7
50000-99999	77	20	Agriculture	191	51.2
100000-199999	82	21.3	Business	61	16.4
200000-299999	41	10.6	Daily wages	50	13.4
300000-499999	42	10.9	Foreign employed	35	9.4
500000 and more	51	13.2	Relationship between mother and father		
Respondents having mother	384	99.7	Good	231	62.1
Age of Respondents' mother			Fair	115	30.9
Up to 40 years	319	83.1	Bad	26	7
More than 40 years	65	16.9	Mother drinking	31	8.1
			Father drinking	121	32.4

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