

Study Report On  
Sexual Violence Among Girls  
in Plan Working Districts in Nepal

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**Submitted To**

Plan Nepal Country Office  
Lalitpur, Nepal

**Submitted By**

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## **ABBREVIATION**

CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CWISH	Children & Women in Social Welfare & Human Rights
DAO	District Administration Office
DCWB	District Child Welfare Board
DDC	District Development Committee
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GoN	Government of Nepal
ICT	Information Communication Technology
KII	Key Informants Interview
MoHP	Ministry of Health & Population
MoWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children & Social welfare
NDHS	National Demographic Health Survey
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RoLHR	Rule of Law & Human Rights
SV	Sexual Violence
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nation International Children Fund
VAW	Violence against Women
VDC	Village Development Committee
WCDO	Women and Child Development Office
WHO	World Health Organization
WHRD	Women Human Rights Defenders

## Executive Summary

Over the past four decades, violence against women and girls has been recognised as serious violation of human rights and as an important concern for social policy making. This study report explains the situation of *Sexual Violence among girls in Nepal*, especially in the 10 districts where Plan Nepal has been working. The study was carried out in Banke, Jumla, Makwanpur, Rautahat, Kapilbastu, Kailali, Acham, Dhankuta, Myagdi and Sunsari. Nepal is a country with the population of 28 million and shares 44 percent of girl child in our country (CBS 2011).

This study report provides an analysis of the estimation of scale of sexual violence, causes and effect on the victims and family, made efforts to identify vulnerable groups, challenges and realities of access to justice and perspectives for future intervention and collaboration on addressing sexual violence against girls in the study area. This study has highlighted the challenges of child survivors of sexual violence and reviewed the related laws, policies and their implementation and gaps, status of access to justice situation and endowed with recommendations.

The study was an explorative research that explains an existing phenomenon of sexual violence and access to justice among girls, vulnerable groups, offenders, rationale behind and possible interventions for promoting safer environment for girls. In general, entire study was vested upon the focused group discussions, district consultation and an interview with key informants of the respective places.

The study had the session with 190 participants in focused group discussion from all the ten study districts, likewise, 144 participants' during district consultation and 43 in key informant interview. The findings of the study are extracted in a point basis and enlisted below:

### **Understanding of Sexual Violence:**

The foremost finding is that the definition of sexual violence is varied amongst the civil society actors, key informants and girls and boys. Key informants' interview understanding is very confined within the domain of existing domestic legal definition and limited understanding of sexual violence and its determinants.

### **Acceptance of sexual violence in the community:**

The conventional beauty concept and masculine socialization of sex has enabled wider social acceptance of cases of teasing, early child marriage, touching forms of sexual abuse and unsafe touches. Community people, girls and their families are being seen as playing an ignorant role in the non-touching form of sexual violence. Even child marriages are taken as the traditional practices and cultural norms. The ways of accepting the victims does vary between the adolescents and youth; adolescents are taken as a subject of sympathy whereas adolescents are directly poked on her character and her previous behaviour.

### **Prevalence of Sexual Violence:**

In the nature of prevalence of sexual violence, the study team have come up with that most of the reported cases are of rape and attempt to rape. Also few of the cases are emerging as a new ways such as cyber crimes including sexual violence through the use of ICT. Basically, the nature of cases like sexual harassment, teasing, molestation non-touching sexual violence, and sexual violence conducted by largely powerful and influential people go underreported or are mostly inclined towards the hostility.

### **Risk Places:**

The study have identified both the private and public places as a risk places for the sexual violence, also the case stories supports the phrase. With leaving the ground of highlighting the importance of safety audit, safety measures and safety practices should be ensured to live a safe mobility and enjoyment of places through security measures.

### **Impact of the Sexual Violence:**

Study team have found out an immediate consequence of sexual violence incidences that participants shared during are physical injuries, psychosocial trauma, early pregnancy, drop out, displacement and self harm and negative perception of the society towards victim and family as an seen and heard impact of sexual violence. Based on the case studies and information from the participants, study has identified; political, social and economic impact of sexual violence in the community as well. Details of the study on these can be found further more elaborative in the report.

### **Perceived causes of Sexual Violence:**

The control and power of an offender over the vulnerable/victim population sustain ability to conduct sexual violence is a core cause of sexual violence as identified by the study team. Here the word 'power' depicts trust, relationship, economic opportunities, social status and control over the facilities. Other grounds of sexual violence as discovered by the study team in these 10 study districts are; victim related reasons, offender related reasons, socio-cultural reasons and economic reasons.

### **Access to justice:**

The study has come across with the status of access to justice broadly in three areas: availability of services to victim and family, supporting factors on formal justice procedure and hindering factors on formal justice. The study attempted to explore positive practices and experiences of children, civil society and key stakeholders on accessing justice and relief, empowering support for the victim and victim's family in case of sexual violence against girls. The process explored key state authorities, key non-state actors, positive experiences/effects of their services and Negative experiences and effects along with suggested improvement on the practice.

### **Hindrances factor on Access to justice:**

The study identified various hindering factors on accessing justice as explored through case studies and shared by the participants during study. Broadly the hindering factors are been categorized as social, cultural barriers, economic factors and structural obstacles.

Above listed are the glimpses of findings that are intervene during the study in 10 different study districts and the details can be found further in the report ahead.

The *conclusion and recommendations* are vaguely on the grounds of **dynamics of sexual violence**: the study explored the major victim and vulnerable group, the offenders, the risk places, the contributing factors in the dynamics of sexual violence against girls in sample district. The study explored the **phenomena of access to justice** when there is an enabling environment with facilitation from adults and duty bearer agencies. The friendliness, trust and positive environment at various service providing agencies contribute for strengthening access to justice for victims. The study explored the context and factors that enable the environment for **phenomena of denial of justice** to the victims of sexual violence. The negative experiences and perception developed with the past failure incidences result in loosing trust on the justice system. In addition to that factors related to family prestige and neighbourhood relation also results in denial of justice.

This report has suggested a recommendations consisting enhancement of the awareness and level of understanding; promote self defence and prevention strategies; break silence and increasing reporting; improvement of justice procedure; strengthen NGOs' activities; addressing socio-cultural and economic barriers.