

Gender-Based Violence among Women and Girls with Disability in Nepal

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Abstract : Introduction: Gender-based violence (GBV) has been identified as a social and personal security concern for women with disabilities who are at increased risk for various types of abuse. This study aims to determine the prevalence rates of physical, psychological, and sexual violence among women and girls with disability in Nepal. Methods: This cross-sectional study was conducted in 28 municipalities, 14 districts, and 7 provinces representing all three ecological regions of Nepal from January to March 2021. Study respondents were girls and women with disabilities, aged between 15 and 59 years, at the study sites. Face-to-face semi-structured interviews were conducted among 1294 respondents using the KoBo toolbox application on a smartphone or tablet. Results: Among the total study population, 35.3% shared lifetime violence experience. Only 4.8% formally reported violence experienced. Among the violence experienced participants maximum (92.6%) of women and girls identified no change in violence before and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Women who were married had protective odds of 0.71 for violence experienced in their lifetime [aOR-0.71, CI (0.56-0.90)]. Conclusion: More than one-third experienced violence in their lifetime. Intimate partner violence was the most common violence experienced by women and girls with disability in Nepal. Sexual violence was the least type of violence experienced. The most common perpetrator of violence includes the mother or father-in-law. Most of the women and girls never reported violence.

Keywords : gender-based violence, prevalence, girls, women

Conference Title : ICRDV 2023 : International Conference on Reasons of Domestic Violence

Conference Location : Berlin, Germany

Conference Dates : July 17-18, 2023