



Domestic Violence against Women in Hard to Reach Districts: A Cross-sectional Study

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Background

Globally one in every three women experiences violence in life-time. According to UNODC 2018 report 6 out of 10 women (64%) were killed by their partner or family. Only 36% men were killed worldwide in such circumstances. In Bangladesh, violence stands at sixth position at grade C among ten selected countries. About 55% of married women faced physical or sexual harassment in their lifetime in Bangladesh.

Objective

This study explores perception and practices on Gender Based Violence (GBV) among women in hard to reach districts in Bangladesh.

Methods

A cross sectional study was conducted in three hard-to-reach districts during October to December 2018. Data was collected at randomly selected 1,200 household from women of 15 - 49 years. The data collection was performed through face to face interview at household level. Data analysis was performed descriptively.

Results

About 60% women can't go outside of house premises without permission of household heads. About 58% women can't go to market, 45% can't buy clothes with their choice. About 47% women who had income, depended on decision of husband for expenses. During illness only 15.8% women can decide themselves for receiving treatment. 82% of the respondents had idea about violence and 44.7% respondents faced violence. Among them

91% faced physical abuse and 9% with mental tortures. About 87% faced violence within last three days. The cause of violence included poverty (62.6%), argument with husband (13.3%), and going out without permission (9.1%), ignoring children (8.4%) and others (6.6%).

Conclusion

Women in hard to reach areas faced violence due to economic and social constraints.

Learning Outcomes

Context-based policy on GBV needs to be in place and implemented by government and non-government agencies.

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