Experience from India on reducing gender-based violence

SSC a key to achieving ICPD and SDGs.

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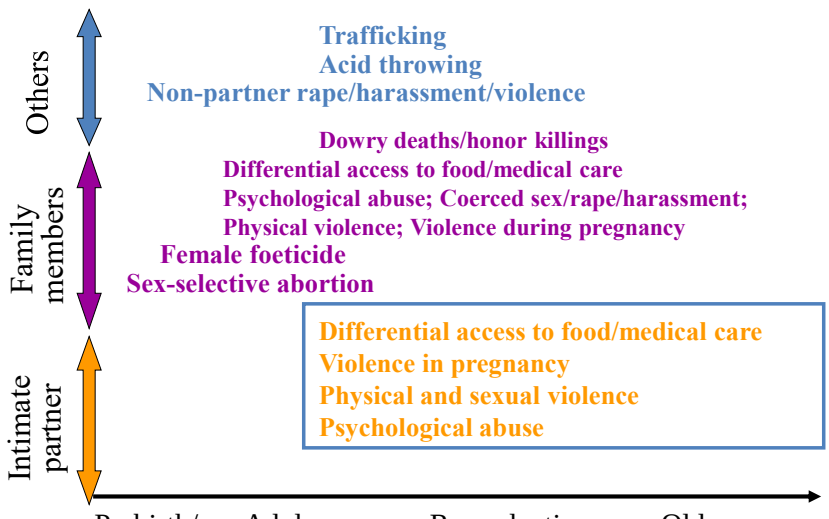
Reflections from Indian Constitution

- Principle of **gender equality** is enriched in Indian Constitution in its preamble, fundamental rights, fundamental duties and directive principles
- Constitution grants equality to women
- Empowers state to **adopt measures against indiscrimination**
- National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001- **empowerment is the enabling process** that must lead to women's economic as well as social transformation

What Perpetuates GBV?

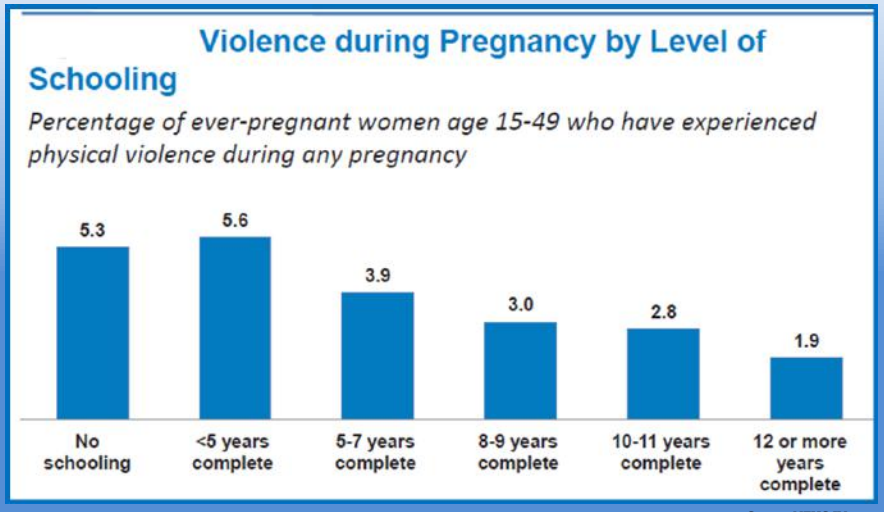
- **Gender norms that**
  - Rigidly define gender roles and what a 'good' woman is
  - Tolerate and accept male aggression and risky sexual behavior as part of being a man
  - Give men the right to discipline and control wives
- **Cultural norms that treat domestic violence as a private matter**
- **Women's lower status in society that results in:**
  - Limited access to and control over resources
  - Less education and skill development
  - Dependency on men, on sons

Gender-Based Violence Over the Life Cycle



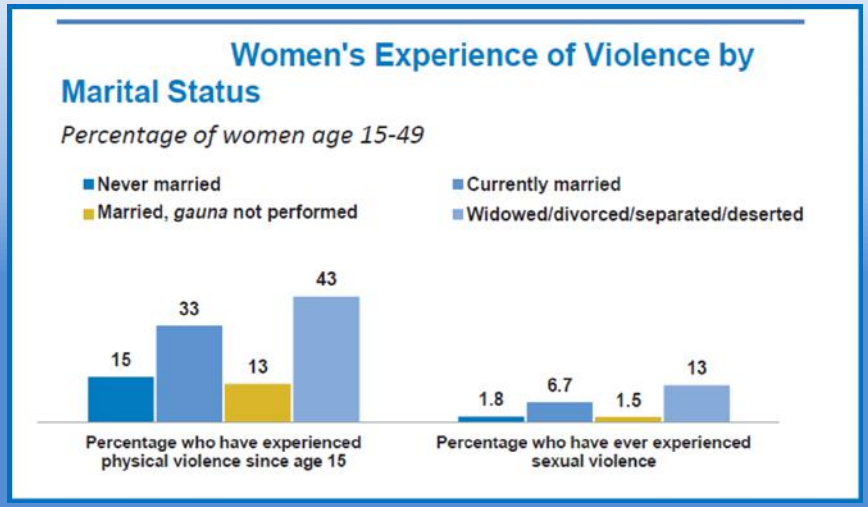
(adapted from Watts and Zimmerman, 2002)

Education decreases the incidence of GBV



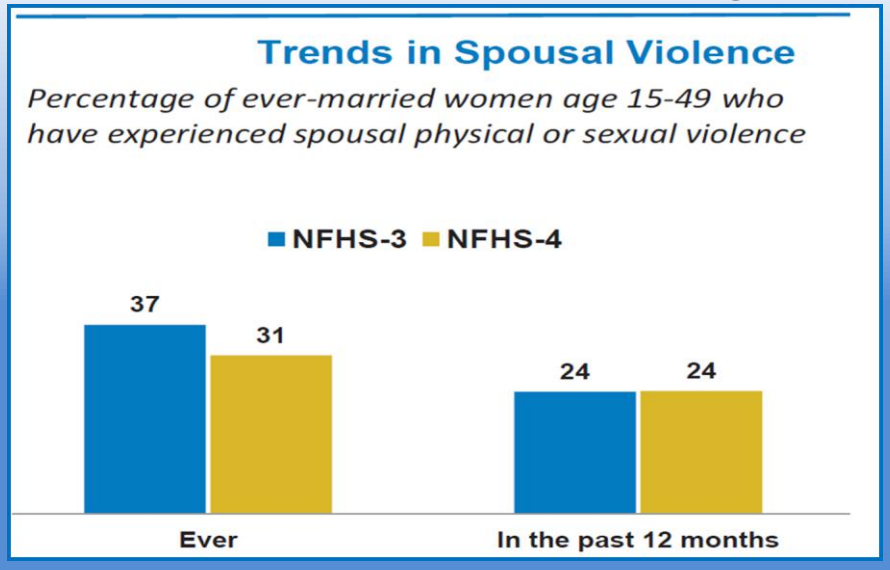
Source: NFHS IV

Marital status have impact on GBV



Source: NFHS IV

Gender based violence shows a declining trend



Source: NFHS IV

Gender Based Violence and SDGs

Eliminating gender-based violence and harmful practices is linked to the achievement of multiple SDGs and targets, including:

- **SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**
  - **3.1** By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
  - **3.2** By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- **SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality of education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**
  - **4.a** Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability, and gender-sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all

Gender Based Violence and SDGs

- **SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**
  - 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere
  - 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
  - 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices such as child, early, and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
  - 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life • 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

India is vigorously working on women empowerment

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Social Empowerment of Women

1) **Health**: Heath is an important survival indicator- increasing access to health services are now being prioritized

Malnutrition is a major health problem in India: Every second women is anaemic

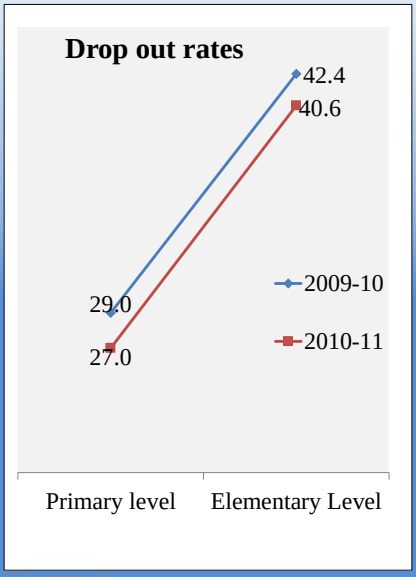
Teenage pregnancies have halved from 16% (NFHS III) to 7.9% (NFHS IV)

Maternal Mortality: India recorded a decline of 37 points, which has been the highest since the last several decades (from 167 per lakh live births in 2011-13 to130 per lakh live births in 2014-16)

2) Education

Gross Enrolment Ratio- 48.63% of total enrolment in 2011-12

Female Literacy has **increased** from 65.38 in 2001 to74.04 in 2011 (Census)



2) Political and Legal Empowerment of Women

- Out of around 2.8 million elected representatives more than 1.0 million are women

Category	Number	% of Women Representatives
Viallage Panchayat	9,84,273	36.75
Block (Intermediate)	58,112	36.78
District	5,763	36.98
Total	1,048,148	36.75

Source: Ministry of Panchayati raj, GoI

Major Interventions

Pradhan mantri Jan Dhan Yojana-	• Facilitate women to open their bank accounts
National Skill Development Program	• 231 modular courses for women to enhance the employability
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	• Ensures that women have equitable and easy access to work
National rural Livelihood Mission	• Uplifting socio economic status of women

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Sexual Harassment of women at workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013	• To provide safe and secure environment at workplace.
Sabla	• Empowering adolescent girls
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abiyan	• Universalize elementary and secondary education
73rd and 74th constitution amendments	• Reservation of women in panchayat and other local bodies. • 15 states- have already passed legislation for reserving at least 50% seats for women

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- **National Commission for Women-**
  - Consider cases of atrocities against women,
  - all aspects of women empowerment, provision of free legal aid to women
  - Investigative Units on crime against women has been set up in 20% districts of each state
- **Chief Minister Help Line‘181’-**
  - To provide support to women in distress
- **‘Crime against women and children’ desk in each police station and Special Women police cells in police station-**
  - To facilitate access to justice
- **As per Bureau of Police Research and Development- 499 all women police stations in country (2012)**

Interventions for Pregnant and Lactating Mothers

- **Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana-**
  socially empower pregnant and lactating women
- **Janani Suraksha Yojana-**
  promoting institutional deliveries
- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram-**
  all (drugs/diagnostics/transport/procedures) services are free for delivery cases

Gaps and Continuing Challenges

- Measurement of
  - men's experience of **violence from women**
  - other types of intimate **partner violence**
- Doing more to minimize **under-reporting**
- Recognize the **limitations** of large scale surveys
  - Doing more in-depth and longitudinal studies to fill in gaps
- Going beyond the measurement of prevalence
  - **Analysis, dissemination, action**

Solutions to GBV

- Expand efforts to target harmful gender norms and educate young people, women, and men through **comprehensive sexuality education**, behavior change initiatives, and community-based programming
- **Engage men and boys** in the prevention of violence and promotion of gender equality
- Ensure and enforce **legal protections** and justice for **survivors** of gender-based violence
- Improve **multi-sectoral services** to support gender-based violence survivors, including those living in humanitarian and fragile settings
- Increase **equitable access to economic assets**
- Invest in **local women's movements and women-led civil society**

The World Bank has estimated that the costs of intimate partner violence for a range of countries run from 1.2% to 3.7% of gross domestic product (GDP), equivalent to what many governments spend on primary education.

Thank You…