

# Title: Sexual violence among married women in rural central India



## INTRODUCTION

### What is Violence against Women?

- Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in private or public life.

### As defined by United Nations

Significance of Violence against Women

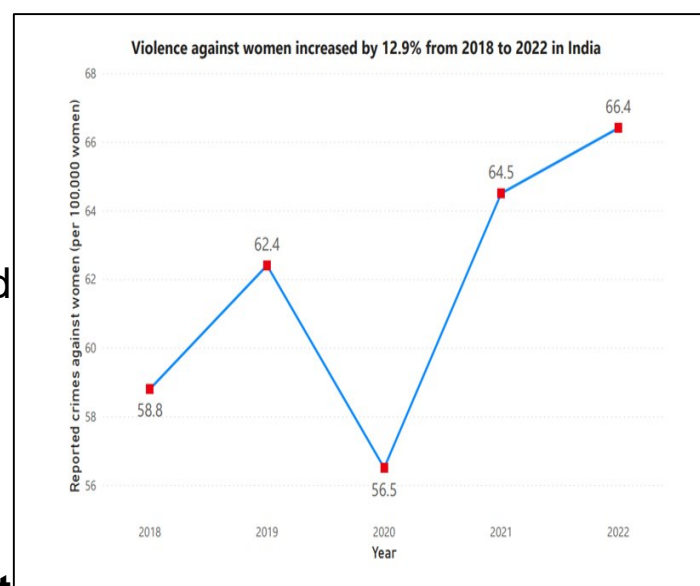
- Unequal status of women in society
- Serious violation of human rights
- Leads to range of health problems (Often in silence)
- Pressure on medical care resources

### Situation of violence against women in India

- Gender discrimination, including physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence, son preference, unequal resource distribution and unequal decision-making power (in both private and public spaces)
- Caste discrimination, especially (but not restricted to) women from specific castes
- Communal violence against women
- Neo-economic policies impacting women's lives in diverse ways (specific kinds of jobs for women, market impacting men leading to increasing violence against women)

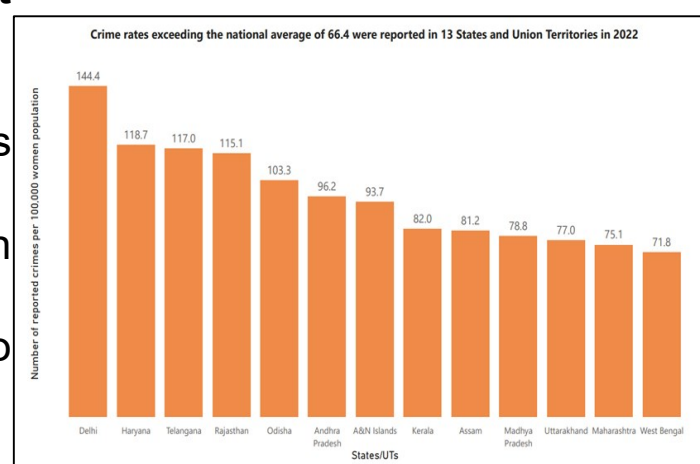
### Various forms of Violence against Women

- Rape/Sexual Violence in Refugee camps
- Forced sexual initiation or abuse
- Sex-selective abortion
- Acid throwing/honor killing (dowry related deaths)
- Undue virginity examination
- Forced caesarian section deliveries
- Trafficking in women and Girls



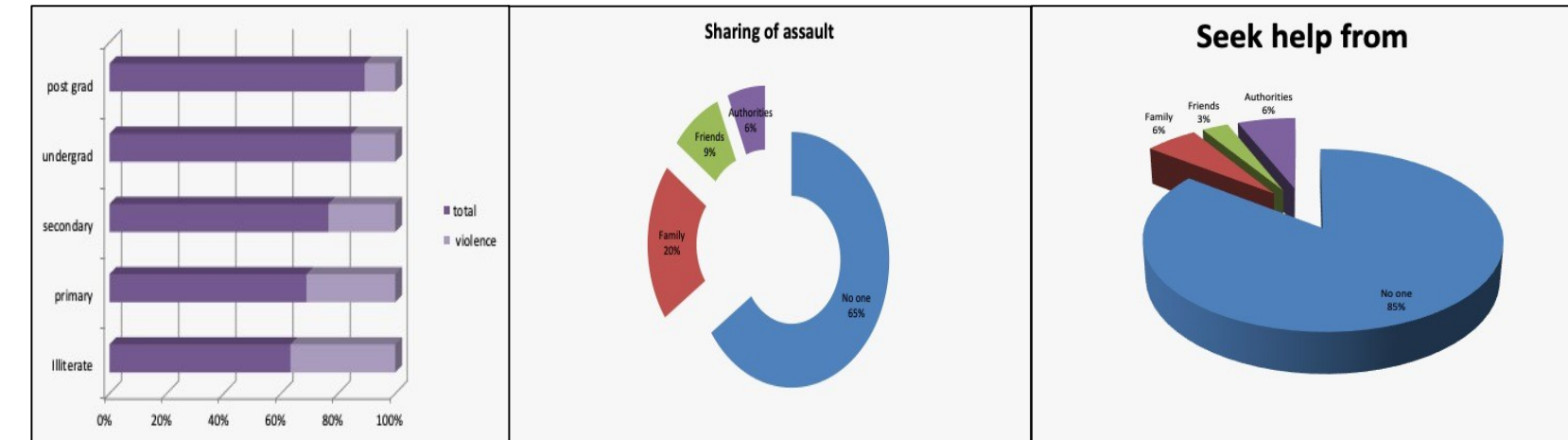
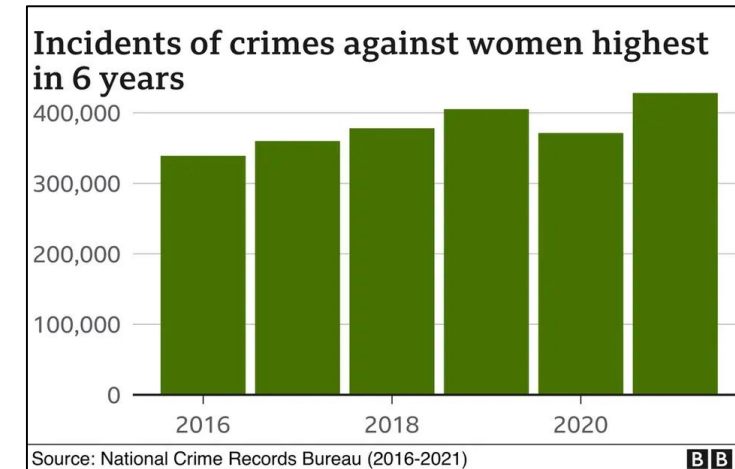
### Factors contributing to Violence against Women

- Strictly enforced Gender roles
- Association of masculinity with toughness and dominance
- Punishment of women and children as an accepted value
- Violence accepted as a standard way to resolve conflicts
- Stress associated with poverty



### Causes for Violent Behavior

- Social learning models that shape men's ideas of masculinity.
- Mental disorders
- Substance abuse
- Exposure to violence or trauma
- Hormonal influx or an imbalance of serotonin
- Most researchers believe it is the interaction of biological, developmental, and environmental factors.



## CONCLUSION

### Currently the barriers in the health sector are still numerous.

- First, the majority of health professionals have not been trained on gender violence and are not aware about how it has effect on health. They also do not know how to ask or do not consider it their responsibility.
- Second, there are institutional constraints such as lack of time, and resources
- Health workers are typically reluctant to ask women about experiences of violence, for fear of offending them; others would blame women for the violence
- Even if they would ask, they often do not have effective interventions to offer
- Usually there is no coordination between different health departments that a woman may use for her problems associated with the violence (mental health services, programs for drugs and alcohol)
- Finally there is lack of coordination between health services and other sectors that deal with gender violence such as the justice, welfare, NGOs etc.

**Women's safety and autonomy must be protected through a holistic approach.**

## REFERENCES

- Khan ME, Townsend J, Sinha R., et al. Sexual violence within marriage. Seminar 1996;447:32-35
- <http://whv.org.au/what-we-do/violence-against-women>
- Jewkes R, Sen P, Garcia – Moreno C. Sexual violence In: World Report on Violence and Health Geneva WHO 2002.

## OBJECTIVES

Study was aimed to look into magnitude of sexual violence (SV) among married women in low resource setting

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

- A cross sectional study conducted in rural institution of Central India.
- Study subjects - married women, who had reported to gynaecological outpatient for some ailments or as friends or relatives of patients, mostly from villages, representing cross section of communities around.
- Sample 1000 women

They were interviewed with help of pre-designed questionnaire in local language by social worker . Answers given by women to questions asked by social worker were recorded and analysed

## RESULTS

- Suffered sexual violence-352
- No violence - 648

