

ONLINE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST TEENS AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEPAL

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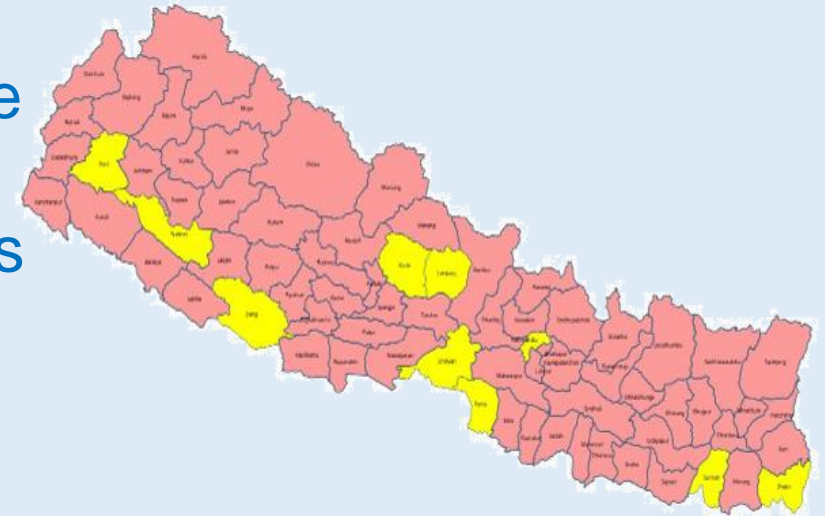
Research Overview

Project: Online Intimate Partner Violence against Teens and Young People in Nepal

Target Group: 16-24 years old teens and young people

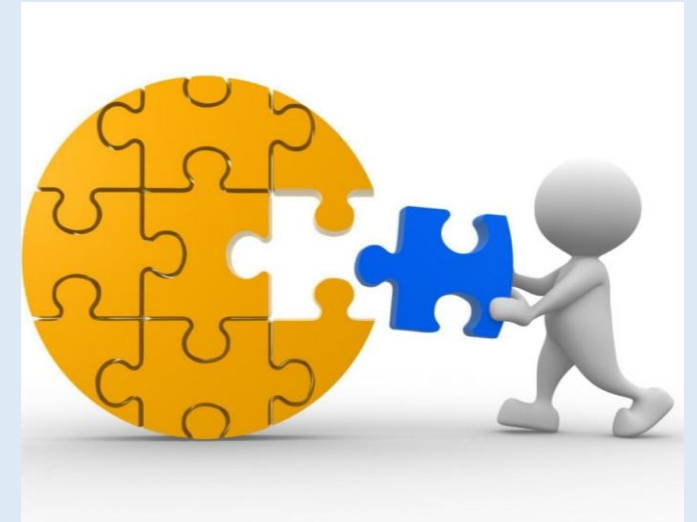
Geographical Location: 10 districts across 7 provinces of Nepal

Funded by: The SVRI Research Grant (2022-2024)



What is Innovative about this Research?

- **First of its kind in Nepal** to explore **technology-facilitated IPV**, against teenagers and young couples
- **Intimate Partners** – dating partners, live-in-relationships, married or even ex-partners – both offline and online relationships
- **Online IPV** - emotional abuse, controlling behaviours and threats, coerced or non-consensual sexual abuse, or even online initiated-offline violence



Research Objectives



Understand

Understand the emerging trends, patterns, attitude, perception, and vulnerabilities towards online IPV

Identify

Identify the various drivers of online IPV, the help-seeking behaviours and coping mechanisms of survivors

Develop

Develop a set of actionable recommendations addressing online IPV in Nepal

Methodology



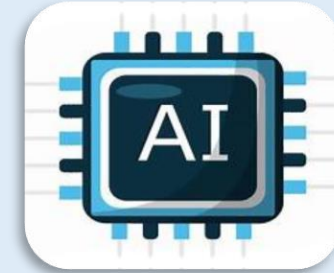
Cross Sectional Survey

- Computer-Assisted Self-Interview (CASI) with **4,352 participants** aged 16-24 years



Qualitative Method

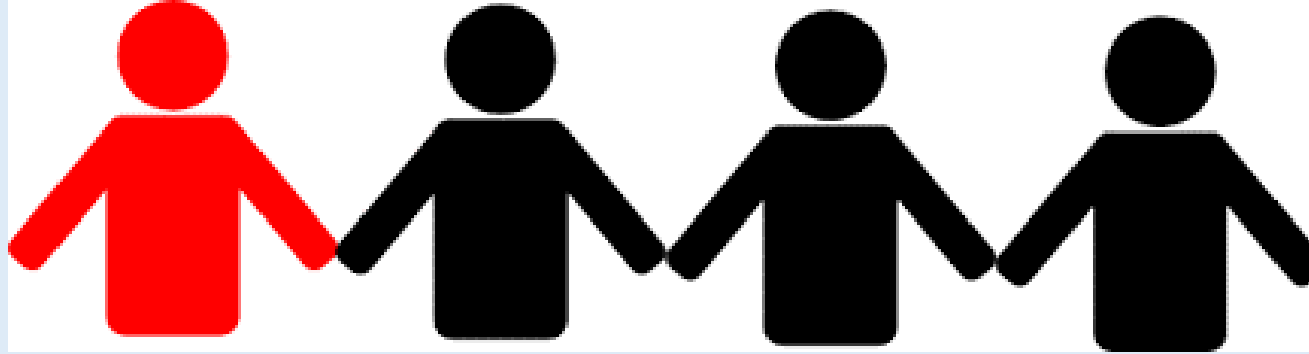
- 17 FGDs with teens and young people
- 10 KIIs with service-providers: police, child-helpline, ISPs, policy makers, attorneys, counsellors etc.
- 11 IDIs with survivors of online IPV



Development of an AI Tool

- Developed and used an AI tool for real-time detection of publicly available online abusive texts in Nepali (Devanagari) language

Key Findings



- **1 in 4 participants** in relationships experienced online IPV (n=1,762)
- **27% of males** and **21% of females** faced online IPV
- **16-17-years-olds were more vulnerable** than 18-24-years-olds
- **Ex-partners** were more likely to inflict online IPV

Most Common Forms of Online IPV



(n = 1,762, participants who were ever in an intimate relationship: Multiple choice option)

Lived Experiences of Online-Offline Abuse

"He groomed me to send him my nudes in different poses over six years, and I cooperated."- 13-to-18-year-old non-binary survivor, Kathmandu district

"I became friends with a stranger on Facebook. He threatened to commit suicide and forced me to elope with him for marriage. Later, I realised he was going to traffic me to India. The police rescued me; however, my family did not accept me back."

- 17-year-old-female-survivor, Makawanpur district

"My male partner coerced me to give him access to my social media passwords and restricted my communication with others."

– 22-year-old survivor, homosexual man, Kathmandu district

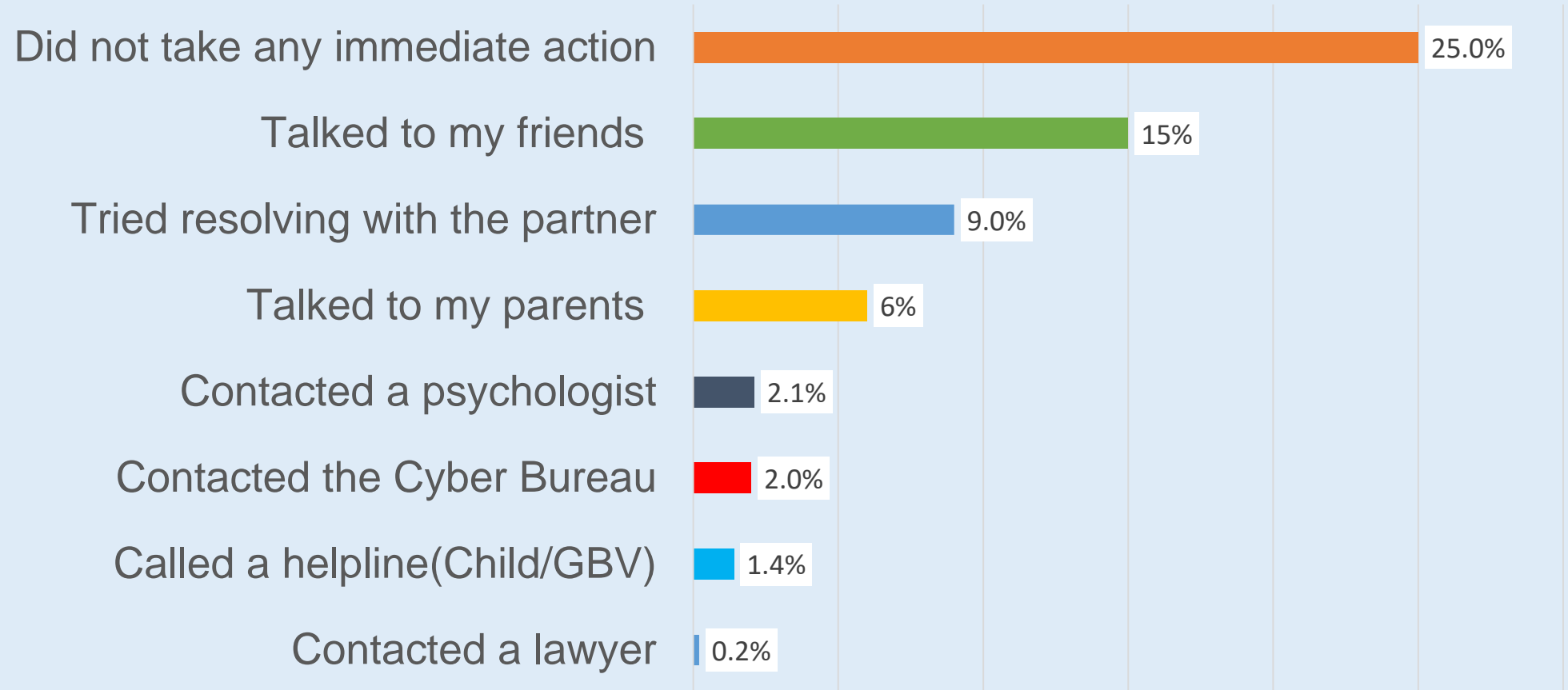


Attitudes and Perceptions towards Online IPV



- Online IPV is **not** considered a **serious issue**
- **Acceptance of IPV** among dating relationships
- Social media **password sharing** as a sign of commitment
- Most partners **did not seek consent for sex**
- **Short-term relationships** had higher prevalence of online IPV
- Online platforms used for **hook-up relationships** and **sex education**

Help-seeking Behaviour among Survivors



(n = 415, Participants who faced online IPV: Multiple choice option)

Drivers of Online IPV - Emerging themes from Qualitative discussions



- **Lack of awareness of online IPV and support mechanisms**



- **Patriarchy in the online world as well**



- **Traditional parenting style**



- **Early and unguided access to devices**



- **Inadequate legal protection**

Recommendations

Government and Policy Makers

- **Redefine IPV** and **online IPV** in national cybercrime policies
- **Allocate adequate resources** for online IPV prevention and response

Service Providers

- **Build capacities** of service providers (psychosocial, legal, medical, technological, crisis management, etc.)
- Establish **24/7 crisis support units**

Tech Companies/ Internet Service Providers

- Implement **safety by design**, ensuring compliance with child safety protocols, including content filters, parental tools and removal of CSAM
- **Invest** in online safety

Recommendations

Civil Society Organisations

- Conduct **tailored online safety trainings and workshops**, including teaching technical aspects to children, youths, and caregivers
- **Work with multi-stakeholders and beneficiaries** (children, young people and marginalised populations)

Educational Institutions

- Integrate online safety in **school curricula** with practical lessons for behaviour change
- Establish counselling and violence reporting mechanisms in schools and colleges

Caregivers/ Children and Young People

- Engage in healthy relationships, including **talking about sexual consent, password seeking**, and creating boundaries
- Promote **reporting of incidents** and access to the support services



Training Workshop

Research on Online Intimate Partner Violence

10-13 April 2022

ChildSafeNet

SVRI



Research Team

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