

## "Violence in Public Spaces Against Women and Girls: Narratives from India" □

South Asian Journal of Law, Policy, and Social Research, Vol. 1, No. 2, 2022

SRISHTY ANAND, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)

Email: [anand.srishty77@gmail.com](mailto:anand.srishty77@gmail.com)

SHARMISHTHA NANDA, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)

Email: [snanda@icrw.org](mailto:snanda@icrw.org)

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Against Women (SGBVAW) in India can be traced to structural inequity between women and men based on gender stereotypes and discriminatory norms. Within this context, the spaces that women and girls can safely occupy are limited from childhood through adulthood. These restrictions on mobility adversely affect both education and employment opportunities for females. This paper focuses on the continuous threat of daily harassment and violence, including lewd comments, obscene gestures, groping, and stalking, that influence the decisions and opportunities of women and girls (and their families). The cause of these limitations is layered, but a common link emerges as the generic “fear of safety” articulated by families and other community members. The paper also focuses on the strategies women use to maximize their safety in public spaces.

The research is based on an analysis of two separate qualitative data sets from two different studies: “Learning Review of What Works for Adolescent Empowerment” and “Vikalp: An Exploratory Study on Non-Traditional Livelihoods.” For the first study data was collected across eight states in India and the second study was conducted in Delhi NCR. The results show the routine and continuous nature of SGBVAW on public transportation, in public spaces, in schools, and in the workplace limits the mobility of girls for education and training as well as limiting women’s employment opportunities. Furthermore, sharing and reporting of violence is limited by social norms that shame the victims of sexual harassment or assault. Redressing this society-wide problem requires a change in stereotypical gender roles, destigmatized sexuality, and the creation of more safe public spaces for women and girls. Ultimately a solution to SGBVAW requires balanced power relations between the genders.

## "Combatting Gender Based Violence in Pakistan Through Feminist Edutainment Television" □

South Asian Journal of Law, Policy, and Social Research, Vol. 1, No. 2, 2022

AISHA MALIK, The University of Sydney

Email: [aishapmalik@gmail.com](mailto:aishapmalik@gmail.com)

The Urdu serial drama first appeared on Pakistani state-controlled broadcast television in 1960. Over the years, the serial drama format and content has undergone significant changes, but one thing has remained constant: its popularity with female audiences. This article examines how institutional changes have altered the thematic content of these texts to include topics such as domestic violence, sexual abuse, and rape. Using the case study of the drama serial *Dar Si Jaati Hai Sila* (2017), I explore how these serials dramas can loosely be considered Feminist Edutainment (FE), a neologism that intentionally recalls the form of Entertainment Education (EE) associated with Miguel Sabido’s work on Mexican television with an educational remit. I draw on my ethnographic research to argue that contemporary serial dramas persist in engaging women in the domestic reception space and in doing so

provide Pakistani women with useful tools to combat direct acts of violence such as sexual assault and rape. By creating points of identification, these serial dramas help women negotiate various identities and by implicitly questioning patriarchal structures, including the culture of honour and gender roles, these serial dramas further help women deconstruct and resist underlying notions of cultural violence.

["Facilitators and Barriers to Addressing Domestic Violence Among South Asian Women in the U.S." □](#)

[South Asian Journal of Law, Policy, and Social Research, Vol. 1, No. 2, 2022](#)

[SHREYA BHANDARI](#), Wright State University, Dept. of Social Work  
Email: [shreya.bhandari@wright.edu](mailto:shreya.bhandari@wright.edu)

The rates of domestic violence among South Asians in the United States are as high as 40% (Mahapatra, 2012; Raj & Silverman, 2002). In spite of the South Asian image as a “model minority” in the United States due to rapid financial and social success, the community struggles with issues, including domestic violence. South Asians generally do not acknowledge domestic violence as an issue within their community and mainstream U.S. citizens often believe that this community is free of problems. In-depth telephone interviews were conducted with a convenience sample of 20 South Asian women in the United States who were seeking or had sought help for abuse from their intimate partners. We analyzed the interviews using thematic analysis. The current study reports the following barriers and facilitators that the South Asian women experienced when responding to abuse. The barriers are: (1) immigration issues, (2) a culture emphasizing endurance, the stigmatization of divorce, and belief in maintaining two-parent home, (3) hope of improvement in the partner. The facilitators include: (1) South Asian women’s organizations, (2) help from natal family, and (3) support from friends and family in the United States. We close with a discussion of the clinical implications.

["Violence Against Women and Girls in Humanitarian Crisis: Learning from the 2015 Nepal Earthquake" □](#)

[South Asian Journal of Law, Policy, and Social Research, Vol. 1, No. 2, 2022](#)

[SAPANA BASNET](#), Liverpool John Moores University  
Email: [s.bista@2014.ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:s.bista@2014.ljmu.ac.uk)

[KAY STANDING](#), Liverpool John Moores University  
Email: [k.e.standing@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:k.e.standing@ljmu.ac.uk)

[SARA PARKER](#), Liverpool John Moores University  
Email: [s.l.parker@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:s.l.parker@ljmu.ac.uk)

[SHAURABH SHARMA](#), *affiliation not provided to SSRN*

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) often increases after disasters and humanitarian crises. This article presents evidence from Nepal, a country where notable progress has been made on gender equality, but where VAWG continues to be an endemic. The 2015 April earthquake in Nepal led to an increase in reporting of VAWG, and women and girls in camps and temporary shelters reported fear and insecurity instilled by risk of violence and lack of privacy. Grassroots responses to the earthquake showed how humanitarian aid, emergency health care, and local disaster responses can challenge VAWG while offering safe spaces for women and girls. Research since the earthquakes with activists and non-government organisations (NGOs) indicates how disaster response efforts face continuous challenges

posed by VAWG. This article draws on interviews with grassroots activists and NGO staff in Nepal, and shares experiences and lessons learnt that can help in addressing, challenging, and minimising VAWG in emergency situations and humanitarian crisis.

This article is informed by thematic analysis of qualitative data from three separate studies, collected by employing semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and social media interaction with women and girls affected by the earthquake, women activists, and NGO staff.

Our research highlights a number of barriers to addressing VAWG, such as preexisting vulnerabilities in low-income contexts, the breakdown of social/family networks, and lack of pre-crisis protection mechanisms. Further, our findings indicate that the cultural and socio-economic context influences women and girls' experiences of violence during humanitarian crises. Our findings emphasise the importance of taking an intersectional and inclusive approach to ensure that all women, including the most vulnerable women and girls (those with disabilities, Dalits, older women, and single women) are included in prevention mechanisms, with a special focus on gender-based violence (GBV) risk assessment and protection interventions.

Based on our research in Nepal, we make recommendations to practitioners and policy makers for interventions which address VAWG in humanitarian crises