



## 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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