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**GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND ITS EFFECT ON CHILDREN:  
KENYA & INDIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

Gender-based violence (GBV) affects about 35% of women and children globally, and it is a major public concern. GBV is defined as any harmful act perpetrated against an individual based on their sex. This literature review delves into the various forms of GBV, specifically physical abuse, and examines the effects of GBV on children in the regional areas of South Asia (India), and Africa (Kenya).

Physical abuse is one of the most common forms of GBV and is experienced by seven out of ten victims. This type of abuse involves intentional physical harm to an individual without legal justification, and it is commonly observed in intimate partner relationships due to a lack of proper communication skills. Culture and upbringing play a significant role in how couples communicate with each other during conflicts, which may lead to physical violence. Substance abuse and inability to control emotions can also instigate physical abuse. In South Asia, about one in every three women experience GBV through physical abuse. According to research, the number of GBV cases across various states in India has significantly risen by 87% between 2011 and 2021, and the number of reports of GBV in states such as West Bengal has increased by about 12% in the last decade. Physical violence has a significant impact on children and education in India, with every three out of five children being victims of physical violence, according to research conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2021.

Physical abuse can have both short-term and long-term effects on children's lives, including mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic disorders. Depression is common

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among victims of GBV, as they often feel neglected and demotivated due to the trauma they have experienced. Anxiety is also prevalent among GBV victims, with fear and apprehension being common symptoms. Children who are victims of GBV may develop a fear of going back to school or being around the same individuals who had previously abused them. Additionally, physical abuse in intimate partner relationships can lead to social isolation and the victim's subsequent withdrawal from social life.

In conclusion, GBV is a serious public concern that affects women and children globally. Physical abuse is one of the most common forms of GBV, and it has significant short-term and long-term effects on the lives of children. Culture, upbringing, substance abuse, and the inability to control emotions are all factors that can instigate physical abuse. Therefore, it is crucial to address GBV and its effects to ensure the dignity and equality of human rights are upheld globally.

## **INTRODUCTION TO GBV AND ITS EFFECTS ON CHILDREN**

Over several years Gender Base Violence (GBV) has been a critical issue when it comes marital related conflicts and issues. The fact that family is considered a basic unit of the society makes it very important for the human race to come up with contingent measures when it comes to handling family related affairs. Generally, Gender Base Violence can be described as the violence against any person based on the gender. Usually, Gender Based Violence is rooted on barbaric cultural and societal beliefs. Gender Base Violence is usually based on the perception that one gender is more dominant than the other gender. GBV being a major issue of concern in the world significantly affects a greater percentage of the world population and is usually indiscriminately widespread irrespective of demographic factors such as gender, age groups, and cultural backgrounds. Based on several research on, GBV can be experienced in different forms, this form includes economic abuse based on gender, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and psychological abuse. One of the main reasons that makes it very necessary to address GBV in its fullest form of existence is its consequences on the immediate victims, since the consequences might be far-fetched or immediate. Usually, the negative implications of GBV are often far reaching and affects those around the victims like the children. Majority of the children who have witnessed any form of

GBV usually tend to have or develop symptoms related to poor psychological standing, emotional life, mental problems, behavioral problems, and even trauma in some chronic scenarios. Additionally, children who become immediate victims of GBV at a tender age tend to have poor social skills, develop aggressive nature, and attitude, as well as poor academic progress. Some of the social problems children who under suffer the impacts of GBV go through include depression, tendency to engage in criminal activities, unethical behaviors, and substance abuse.

In this research paper, I aim to critically and in depth examine the effects of GBV on children, both the short term and the long-term effects. This study will mainly be based on specific regions of interest in Asia, and Africa (South Asia, and Africa). Additionally, the paper will also greatly explore the various potential means of intervention and diverse supports systems put in place both at the international level, as well as country level to help fight GBV, and also to assist the victims of GBV. This research paper will aim at creating awareness of GBV as major concern based on its impacts on children and define the need for effective and efficient system to address matters of GBV.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

GBV has several negative effects on both the children and the immediate victims. This effect can usually be classified in two, that is the long-term effects, and the short-term effects. GBV can be described as any harm that has been perpetrated to any individual based on their gender. This paper examines various extents and nature of GBV against different age groups in South Asia (India), and Africa (Kenya), and the general problems GBV has caused to its victims, as well as the welfare of the society as whole.

In South Asia (India), GBV is mainly common and wide spread in some state such as Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar, Manipur, Telangana, Assam, West Bangal, Tripura, and Ladakh. The most common reported forms of GBV in the South Asia include the physical violence, sexual harassment, early marriage, and forced labor. The most susceptible group to the GBV in South Asia includes the children, and the intimate partner violence. Majority of the children who faces GBV in India mainly experiences them in form of forced labor, physical assault,

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enslavement, and sexual assault. This form of violence greatly impacts the growth of victims and deprive them of the fundamental rights. Some of the adverse effects of GBV in this region includes poor mental health, increased suicides rate, poor developmental and physical health.

In Latin, the study critically shows that major cases of GBV in this region usually goes unreported and are eventually goes unsolved in the long run, which basically encourages the offenders to continue violating the susceptible groups. Just like in South Asia, GBV in Latin America is experienced in the form of physical violence, sexual harassment, exploitation, stalking, and psychological violence. GBV in this area are mainly experienced by couples, both married and unmarried, as well as children. Ladies are usually prone to unethical sexual harassment, while children in this region are prone to physical violation and exploitation. Generally, the impact of GBV in the Latin America is very severe and has consequentially led to factors such as increased poverty, school dropout, as well as long term psychological damage on both the adult and children. In Africa as continent, GBV is one of the main concerns that is a threat to gender equality, and human rights. GBV is wide spread in Africa specifically because of its diverse cultures and societal beliefs when it comes to the matters of gender. One of the countries the study has greatly assessed is Kenya. Particularly in Kenya, girls are the most victims when it comes to the issues of GBV. This mainly because of the country being a male dominated country with very little space and profile to be occupied by women in the society. Girls in this region are susceptible to barbaric treatments such as sexual abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM), and early marriage. On the other hand, boys are also subjected to other forms of GBV such as forced labor, physical violence, exploitation, and forced labor. Generally, the stated forms of GBV in Kenya has had very hefty impacts on children as well as the society as a whole. Some of the effects include death in cases of FGM, increased rates school dropout, increased poverty levels, as well as long term psychological damage of the victims.

In conclusion, GBV against children is a serious and widespread problem in South Asia, East Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The impacts of GBV on children are far-reaching and long-lasting, affecting their physical and mental health, educational opportunities, and overall wellbeing. To

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address this issue, there is a need for increased awareness, stronger laws and policies, and better access to support and services for survivors of GBV.

## **BACKGROUND AND LITERATURE REVIEW**

Generally, GBV is major public concern that greatly affects about 35 percent of women and children around the world. In its simplest form, GBV can be described as any harmful act that is perpetrated to any individual based on their sex. This form of violence usually includes physical violence, economic exploitation, sexual assault, and emotional abuse. This literature review mainly aims at exploring in depth the definition of GBV, the various forms of GBV, and greatly examine the effects GBV in children in the regional areas of interest, that is South Asia (India,), Latin America, Africa (Kenya).

Physical abuse is one of the famous forms GBV in the world, and usually 7 out of 10 victims of GBV experience GBV in the form of physical abuse. Physical abuse can be critically be described as the physical harm that an individual cause to the other intentionally and without any legal justification. Usually, the physical abuse is very common between intimate partners who often resort to violence in case of disagreements. Some of the most common forms of physical abuse experienced by intimate partners include slaps, kicking, and punching. Usually, GBV among intimate partners is usually because of lack of proper communication skills among the partners. Communication is a key factor in a relationship, and it is crucial when it comes to conflict resolution and discussing contemptuous issues in the family. Generally, different communities have various beliefs of how male and female should be communicating to each other, either during a normal conversation, or during conflict resolution (Coast et al., 2012). This communication patterns and styles are usually def9ned by the community and culture in order to create a distinction between the two genders, and to ensure respect and dignity prevails. An example of a traditional communication style where women are supposed to kneel down while talking to men at any point is widely depicted in the Maasai culture. Maasai community are groups of Nilotes that practice nomadic pastoralism and mainly occupy the northern, central and southern part of Kenya (Patel et al., 2021). According to the Maasai culture, it's a requirement for the women to kneel down while talking to men. This act is usually a sign of respect and appreciation to men who are considered as

the protectors and the providers to the female. Usually, failing to follow such kind of customs and tradition, which are in other words regarded as the proper communication patterns and styles, may result to conflicts and abuse since the men may feel disrespected. Additionally, the lack of proper communication that might cause conflicts among the intimate partners are as a result of poor upbringing and education where both the couples may lack knowledge of how to communicate with each other during arguments or conflict resolution. In such cases, the individuals may resort to physical violence with an aim of showing their superiority and expressing their emotion in the quest of solving conflicts. Another factor that might lead to instigation of physical abuse among partners is the substance abuse and inability to control emotion. Upon abusing drugs, partners may intentionally or unconsciously physically abuse each other in case of small arguments or talks. Again, during arguments, some individuals may be overcome by emotions which may spiral to anger leading physical abuse. In South Asia (India). About one in every three of women experience GBV through physical abuse. According to the research conducted by Observe Research Foundation (ORF), the number of GBV across various states in India has significantly risen by 87% from the year 2011 and 2021 (ORF, 2021). This clearly has critically been witnessed by the increased number of reports of GBV in states like West Bengal which has shown a significant increase with about 12 percent within the last 10 years. Physical violence as a key issue under GBV has greatly impacted children and education at large in India. Physical abuse can have short- and long-term effects on children's life as they grow. Majority of the cases of physical abuse that are mostly used by abusers in India against children include hitting, punching, burning, slapping, and kicking. According to the Ministry of Women and Children Development research conducted in 2021, every 3 children in 5 are victims of physical violence, and this makes GBV a critical issue to discuss if the dignity and equality of human rights are to be upheld in India, and all over the world. One of the greatest problems faced by around 53% of children who are victims of GBV in India are mental health problems such as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic disorders (Ministry of Women & Child Development., 2021). Depression can be described as any mental health situation that is mainly characterized by sadness, mood swings and lack of major interest in social activities in life. Children who are victims of GBV are usually demotivated in life and most often feel

neglected by people around them. Depression is very common among victims of GBV either in their late or immediate life because of the feeling of sadness, trauma, and despair the victims go through which are as a result of violation (Gupta, 2022). Additionally, children who are currently going through physical abuse, or are victims of previous instances of abuses tend to have tend to have feeling of loneliness and isolation which usually catalyze their depressive state. Anxiety which is also another social implication of GBV on children is usually characterized by fear, worry, and apprehension, which can either be short term or even long term if not properly taken care off at an early stage of development of such symptoms. Fear and the anxiety of children who are victims of GBV are usually instigated by the past experiences which comes in form of trauma and bad memories of what they went through. For example, a child who might have been physically abused by his fellow in school may develop fear and stress of going back to school and being around the same students who had abused him. Additionally, a physical abused intimate partner may be cut of her social life to interact with people in their neighborhood when they get physically assaulted by their partners in public. Physical abuse in children is considered to be the number one cause of social withdrawal, difficulties in school, as well as increased school drop outs. All this social effect of GBV in children usually lead to one road in life, that is Post traumatic disorder (PTSD). PTSD can be scientifically be described as a very severe mental health condition that usually come when one gets exposed to severe traumatic conditions or activist at any point of their life. About 96 percent of children who experience physical assault as a form of GBV undergoes PTSD in the course of their lives as result of the implications such violation might have had on their physical body, or even state of mind at any given time (Gupta, 2022). PTS is usually characterized by unsocial behaviors such as poor integration among peers, and avoidance behaviors. Children who are victims of GBV are also likely to have nightmares, flashbacks, and intrusive thoughts, which are usually signs of a decrementing mental health. Children who are victims of GBV and experience PTDS usually end up having very poor social life later in their life since most of them usually end have having trust issues and low self-esteem. This usually affect their relationship in cases of marriages as GBV victims have the fear of communicating and expressing themselves due to the fear of being rejected, ridiculed, or even judged by other people

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who might not seem to understand their story or situations better. PTSD victims might also have problems with emotional regulation and may sometimes be offended by trifling matters, making them very unpredictable and emotionally unstable people.

Another form of GBV that is widely witnessed in both the countries of interest is sexual harassment and assaults. Sexual harassments can be described as any form of sexual behavior towards anybody that may make them feel uncomfortable, scared, or even injured. This sexual misconduct is usually aimed at either intimidating the victim or hurting the victims. According to the United Nations Human Rights Associations, most of the victims of sexual harassments and intimidation are women between the age of 42-40 (OHCHR, 2021). Majority of the cases of sexual harassments are a result of barbaric cultures and gender inequities in the community. Apart from being viewed as servants in the households, people in some communities in such as the Kalenjin community in Kenya believe that women and the children have the same rights and should be treated as equal individuals in the society. This factor goes on to even their way of punishment where women are equally punished like the kids by either canning or other forms of punitive actions in case they shown any form of submissiveness to their husbands. Sexual harassment as a form of GBV is widely spread in the India, with young girls and boys being one of the most affected people in school, public areas and even homes. The Young children are usually the target of GBV since are viewed as the weak and defenseless and hence becoming the most desired and vulnerable targets (Day, 2019). According to the Times of India publications in 2020, around 26 million school going boys and girls in India are victims of sexual violence such as rape, sexual slavery, coerced sexual contacts and negative remarks. Based on this research, around 75 % of the children's who are victim of is sexual harassments end up dropping out of the school either due to fear, discrimination, or depression (Sharma, 2020). Additionally, according to the Ncbi PMC report in suicide in India among Indian youths, the suicidal thoughts and cases was high between the ages of 15-29 by around 38%, and the main reason for this was either because of sexual harassment and abuse from school, home, work place, or public areas (NCBI, 2021). A round 43 percent of success cases of suicides among the school going children in India was also as a result of sexual abuse and violation. The most common forms of sexual violation widely witnessed in India as country include rape,



sexual harassments, stalking, and even sexual assault. Based on the data collected by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in 2020, out of all reposted cases of GBV, 32, 033 were constituted of rape in India, which can be mathematically be interpreted as 88 victims of rape par day. The data collected was as based only on the reported cases, leaving out the unreported cases, and this significantly suggest that the number might even be higher than the data collected or hypothesized in the records of NCRB (Crime in India,2020). Despite the Indian Government having very stringent measure to deal with sexual harassment, there has always been an increase in the number of GBV based on sexual harassment. One of the key amendments in the Indian constitution that resulted in to slight reduction in cases of sexual harassment in the country was as in 2013 when the government of India through the legislature enacted Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, which significantly brought various amendments to the Indian Penal Code, as well as the Criminal Procedure to strengthen and make the laws addressing sexual violence in the country more vocal. Generally, the cause of sexual violation in India is more or less the same as the ones observed in the segment of study in Africa, Kenya. In India, some of the most common causes of sexual violence include various factors such cultural factors, social factors, and even economic factors. Most of the communities in India, specifically from the East India and in specific areas like West Bengal are widely dominated by the patriarchal theory where men are considered to be more privileged and dominant over women, which has gradually and in some case lead to the reinstitution of gender hierarchies which is catalyst to gender inequality and an instigator to GBV. Sexual violence in India has women and children of tender age as the biggest targets due to their vulnerability and weak nature. According to the study and data collected by Centre of Equity and Inclusion (CEQUIN) in the year 2019, 98% of the victims of sexual violence in India are women and children who are under the age of 18. Majority of the victims of sexual violence are considered to be from marginalized communities and groups in India, such as the Dalits, Muslims, and the Adivasis (Eldis. (2021). Additionally, according to the CEQUIN study, around 97% of the cases of sexual violence against people with disability were unreported to the responsible authorities. Studies have also shown that school going girls between the ages of 5-14 are also some of the targeted age groups when it comes to matters of sexual harassment. This vulnerability is mostly

implied by their ability not to be able to make very informed decisions which lands them on the hands of violators. Sexual violence has a very big effect on the social life women and children who are the major victims. Some of this effect of sexual violence may be instantly be witnessed on the victims while other effects might be witnessed in course of life as a result of the victim's social behaviors and skills. One of the most common implications of sexual harassment on children include education set back in life. Children who are victims of sexual violence tend to depict very poor performance in school and any other social activities they may decide to take part in either outside or inside the school (Garg, 2021). This educational set backs are usually as a result of fear, anxiety and disruptions in the learning process. When children go through the violation at home, they may develop fear of association with their teacher or even their mates, this may significantly reduce their work rate and ability to learn since they fear confronting anybody to get better explanation of what they do not understand in school. Additionally, anxiety which is a result of sexual violence may lead to poor memory, avoidance behavior, negative self-talks, and poor concentration which significantly contribute to the high cases of academic setbacks and failure among the children who go through sexual violation. According to the International Journal of Educational Development study conducted in Kenya in 2017, it was realized that children both male and females who were victims of sexual violence are likely to practice truancy and gradually drop out of school as a result of fear, anxiety and depression (International Journal of Educational Development, 2017). Another study conducted by the Ministry of Education in Kenya in 2018, around 31% of school going children in Kenya experience sexual violence and end up dropping out of school before reaching the 10th grade, with the male being less vulnerable compared to the female. Additionally, an empirical study conducted by Kenya National Bureau of Statistics in Kenya in the year 2012 critically shows that children who are victims of sexual violence have relatively high failure rate in class than the other counter parts who are free from sexual violence, as sexually violated children are fond of fear, anxiety, and have both emotional and psychological issues (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2015).

## **SUMMARY AND FINDING**

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a problem that affects 35% of women and kids worldwide. Any harmful act committed against a person based on their sex, including physical violence, economic exploitation, sexual assault, and mental abuse, is referred to as gender-based violence (GBV). Children's exposure to GBV is a serious concern, especially in South Asia (India) and Africa (Kenya). One of the most prevalent types of GBV is physical abuse, which affects seven out of ten victims. Due to inadequate communication skills and cultural ideas that generate gender distinctions, this type of GBV is frequently observed in intimate partner interactions. Physical abuse between couples may also be influenced by substance abuse and emotional instability. One in three Indian women encounter GBV as a result of physical violence. Physically abusing children can have negative short- and long-term impacts, including mental health issues like sadness, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. GBV can result in emotions like dread, stress, loneliness, and isolation, all of which can have a long-lasting impact on a child's development. Children's negative effects from physical abuse may be lessened by teaching kids and families' effective communication and conflict-resolution techniques.

**EMPIRICAL DATA****CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN (IPC+SLL) - 2018-2020**

S L	State/ U T	2018	2019	2020	Actual Children Population (in Lakhs) (2011)	Rate of Total Crime against Children (2020)	Chargesheeting Rate (2020)
[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

**STATES:**

1	Andhra Pradesh	2672	2524	2648	151.1	17.5	86.1
2	Arunachal Pradesh	166	153	113	5.9	19.2	62.3

3	Assam	5447	6608	4622	120.8	38.3	61.5
4	Bihar	7340	9320	6591	475.0	13.9	76.0
5	Chhattisgarh	6924	5665	5056	97.5	51.9	75.8
6	Goa	182	167	125	3.8	32.7	71.1
7	Gujarat	4929	4685	4075	209.2	19.5	79.5
8	Haryana	4869	5119	4338	91.2	47.6	49.3
9	Himachal Pradesh	772	748	636	21.5	29.5	56.5
10	Jharkhand	1479	1674	1795	138.4	13.0	80.3
11	Karnataka	6131	6305	5471	193.5	28.3	62.9
12	Kerala	4253	4754	3941	94.1	41.9	95.1
13	Madhya Pradesh	18992	19028	17008	287.6	59.1	65.5
14	Maharashtra	18892	19592	14371	361.1	39.8	53.3
15	Manipur	128	148	125	10.3	12.1	83.0
16	Meghalaya	385	379	415	13.8	30.1	73.6
17	Mizoram	198	125	142	4.2	33.6	98.4
18	Nagaland	70	59	31	8.2	3.8	78.8
19	Odisha	5217	7012	6330	144.1	43.9	45.9
20	Punjab	2308	2625	2121	87.4	24.3	72.6
21	Rajasthan	5150	7385	6580	281.4	23.4	58.1
22	Sikkim	221	163	147	2.1	71.4	79.2
23	Tamil Nadu	4155	4139	4338	206.6	21.0	90.6
24	Telangana	3747	4212	4200	113.8	36.9	75.4
25	Tripura	271	311	260	12.3	21.2	83.1
26	Uttar Pradesh	19936	18943	15271	853.3	17.9	74.0
27	Uttarakhand	1306	1214	1066	38.0	28.1	68.0
28	West Bengal	6286	6191	10248	300.0	34.2	67.4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>132426</b>	<b>139248</b>	<b>122064</b>	<b>4326.1</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>67.1</b>
<b>STATE(S)</b>							

<b>UNION</b>						
<b>TERRITORIES:</b>	162	153	141	1.1	125.5	97.4
29 A&N Islands						
30 Chandigarh	288	264	209	3.2	64.5	47.1
31 D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	72	96	67	1.9	34.9	76.7
32 Delhi	8246	7783	5362	55.4	96.8	36.5
33 Jammu & Kashmir	473	470	606	49.1	12.3	62.0
34 Ladakh	-	-	2	0.8	2.4	-
35 Lakshadweep	8	26	9	0.2	45.2	100.0
36 Puducherry	89	50	71	3.6	19.8	100.0
<b>TOTAL UT(S)</b>	<b>9338</b>	<b>8842</b>	<b>6467</b>	<b>115.4</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>40.9</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL INDIA</b>	<b>141764</b>	<b>148090</b>	<b>128531</b>	<b>4441.5</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>65.6</b>

1. Actual Population of Children as per the Population Census 2011 (RGI). TABLE 4A.1 Page 1 of 1
2. As per data provided by States/UTs, States/UTs may not be compared purely on the basis of crime figures.
3. Crime Rate is calculated as per one lakh of population

Combined data of erstwhile D&N Haveli UT and Daman & Diu UT '\*' Data of erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir State including Ladakh

'@' Data of newly created Union Territory

According to the data above which was sourced from National Crime Records Bureau of India, the data shows a significant reduction in the crime against children between the year 2018, 2019, and 2020 within all the 28 states of India. The data is also analyzed based on the population of children which is in Lakh as per the records of the 2011 census records. The data is based on the

empirical comparison of Population Census 2011 and the total rates of crime against children and charge sheeting rate of the year 2020. Based on the data, crime against children significantly from 141,764 in 2018 to 148,090 in 2019 and further decrease to 128,531 in 2020. However, the data shows a significant and worrying increase in the number of crimes against children to 115. Per lakh population, indicating a high rate of crime and a high possibility of increment in the future. The highest rate of crime against children and physical violation was reported in 2020 in Arunachal Pradesh with a significant number of 19.2 per lakh population. The next state was Chhattisgarh which has a rate of 51.19 per lakh population. Based on the report, the lowest crime rate on children reported from India was from Nagaland state with 3.8 lakh pollution.

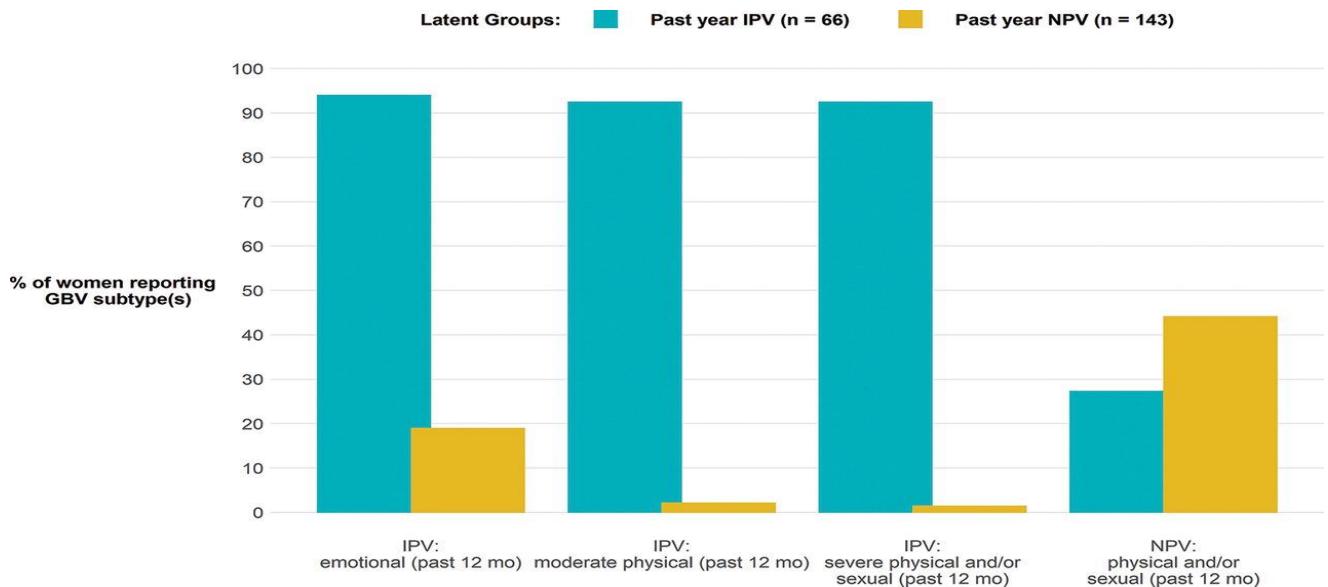
It is crucial to take into consideration that the data and the figures provided in the report was not only compared on figures as the crime rates against children greatly varied depending on states and union territories. It is therefore important to acknowledge the mathematical concept of in the analysis that the crime rates were calculated as per one lakh of the population to get a clear picture of the various situations of crime against children in each state or union territory.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN KENYA STUDY**

The data given below was collected by the Kenyan Demographic and Health Survey in 2014, to critically examine the instance of gender-based violence in the form domestic violence from their partners. The data includes percentages of women age 15-49 who are victims of physical violence since the age of 15, as well as those women who experienced physical violence from their partners 12 months preceding the survey. The data is categorically divided and characterized by demographic facts such as age, education level, marital status, employment status, religion, and residence of the subjects (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2015).

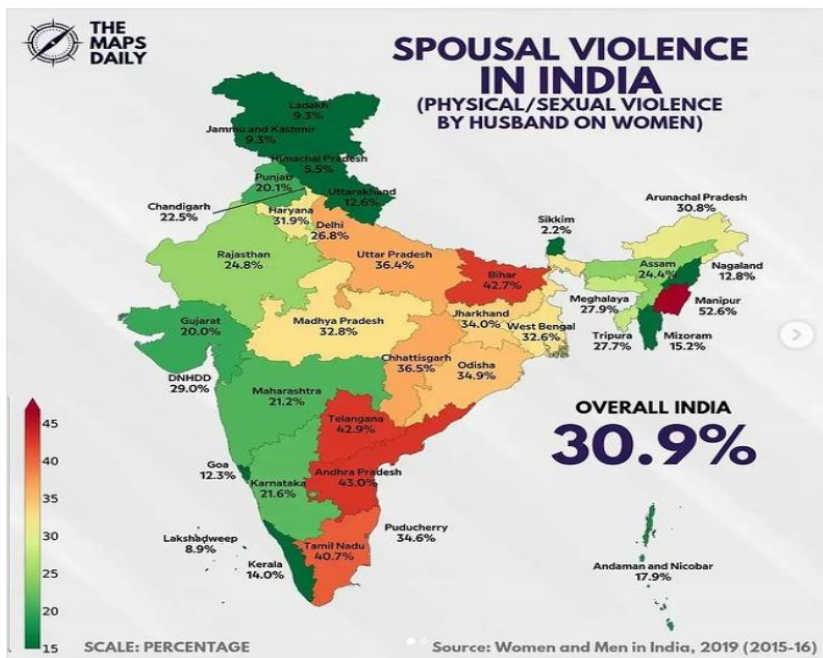
In overall, the data critically shows that a larger proportion of Kenyan women have either been victims, or are victims of physical violence in their lives with around 39% of the women in the study admitting to be victims of GBV since the age of 15. Based on the data, around 14% of the subjects were victims to GBV 12 months preceding the study. A critical analysis of the data suggests disparities when it comes to the individuals who are most susceptible to GBV. A clear

example is illustrated when a women aged between 15-24 and less educated are at a higher risk of experiencing physical violence than older who have higher education level (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2015). Additionally, the survey also outlines that women living in the rural areas are likely to experience physical violence than those living in the urban areas. Conclusively, the data implies that GBV is a significant issue in Kenya that needs to be addressed and a lot of emphasis, as well as strategies employed to curb GBV.



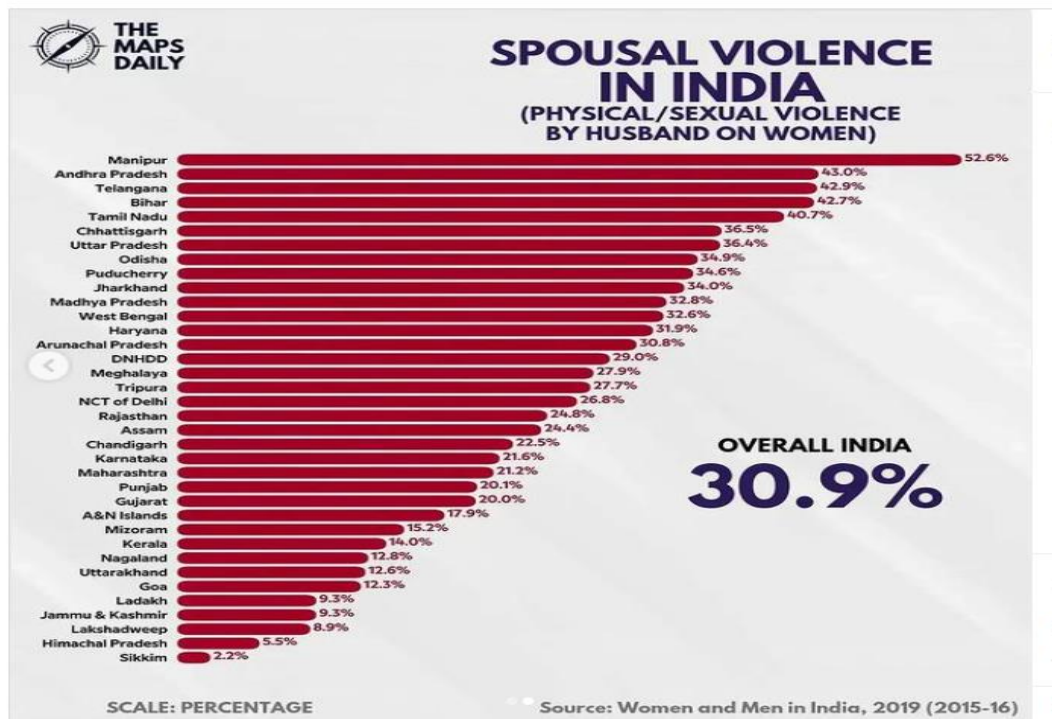
Retrieved from: Kenya Bureau of Statistics. (2014). Domestic Violence in Kenya Study in Kenya  
<https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/africa/kenya>

Map of India showing distribution of GBV in various states



Retrieved from: *Crime in*

*India 2020* / National Crime Records Bureau. (n.d.).<https://ncrb.gov.in/en/Crime-in-India-2020>





Retrieved from: *Crime in India 2020 / National Crime Records Bureau. (n.d.).*  
<https://ncrb.gov.in/en/Crime-in-India-2020>

## **COMPARISON GBV DATA IN INDIA AND KENYA INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT SOUTION IN BOTH COUNTIES**

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a global issue affecting about 35 percent of women and children worldwide. GBV includes various forms of violence, such as physical violence, economic exploitation, sexual assault, and emotional abuse. This essay will compare and analyze GBV in India and Kenya. Physical abuse is a common form of GBV, with 7 out of 10 victims experiencing it. Poor communication, lack of conflict resolution skills, substance abuse, and inability to control emotions are factors that lead to physical abuse among intimate partners. In India, one in every three women experiences GBV through physical abuse, and the number of GBV cases has significantly increased over the past decade. The impact of physical abuse on children in India is also significant, with every three out of five children being victims of physical violence, which has short and long-term effects on their mental health. In Kenya, the Maasai community is an example of traditional communication patterns and styles where women are required to kneel down while talking to men. Failing to follow such customs and traditions may lead to conflicts and abuse since men may feel disrespected. GBV affects children's education and well-being in Kenya, with girls being more vulnerable to GBV than boys.

GBV in India is a significant public concern that has increased by 87% between 2011 and 2021. The number of GBV cases in India's various states has significantly increased, with West Bengal showing a 12% increase in the past ten years. Physical abuse is a key issue under GBV, impacting children and education at large. Physical abuse has short and long-term effects on children's lives, including mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic disorders. GBV affects the dignity and equality of human rights, making it a critical issue to discuss in India and globally. The Ministry of Women and Children Development's research shows that every three out

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of five children are victims of physical violence, making GBV a significant issue to address in India.

Physical abuse affects children's mental health in India, with around 53% of children who are victims of GBV facing mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Depression is a mental health condition characterized by sadness, mood swings, and lack of interest in social activities. Victims of GBV are demotivated in life and often feel neglected by people around them, leading to feelings of loneliness and isolation that may catalyze their depressive state. Anxiety is another social implication of GBV on children and is characterized by fear, worry, and apprehension. Fear and anxiety in children who are victims of GBV are usually instigated by past experiences that come in the form of trauma and bad memories of what they went through. Therefore, addressing GBV in India should involve addressing the mental health of children who are victims of GBV.

In Kenya, the Maasai community is an example of traditional communication patterns and styles where women are required to kneel down while talking to men. Failure to follow such customs and traditions may lead to conflicts and abuse since men may feel disrespected. GBV affects children's education and well-being in Kenya, with girls being more vulnerable to GBV than boys. In Kenya, girls face GBV in various forms, such as early marriages, female genital mutilation (FGM), and sexual violence, affecting their education and health. Early marriages may lead to school dropout, lack of education, and limited opportunities for girls. FGM is a harmful cultural practice that affects the health and well-being of girls, leading to physical, emotional, and psychological harm. Sexual violence is another form of GBV that affects girls' education and well-being, leading to unwanted pregnancies, school dropout, and mental health problems.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a serious global issue that affects both India and Kenya. Despite their cultural differences, both countries face similar challenges in addressing GBV. In India, physical abuse is a common form of GBV that affects women and children. The Ministry of Women and Children Development has reported that every three out of five children in India are

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victims of physical violence. Similarly, in Kenya, girls are more vulnerable to GBV than boys, and they face various forms of violence such as early marriages, female genital mutilation (FGM), and sexual violence. These forms of violence have a significant impact on their education and well-being, which limits their opportunities in life.

The Indian government has taken several measures to address GBV. For instance, the Ministry of Women and Children Development has established a national helpline number (181) that provides emergency assistance to victims of GBV. Additionally, the Indian government has passed several laws such as the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005), which provides legal protection to women who are victims of domestic violence. These measures have helped to raise awareness about GBV and provide support to victims.

In Kenya, the government has also taken measures to address GBV. For example, the government has passed laws such as the Sexual Offences Act (2006), which criminalizes various forms of sexual violence. Additionally, the government has established the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) to promote gender equality and prevent GBV. The NGEC works with various stakeholders to raise awareness about GBV and provide support to victims.

Despite these efforts, both India and Kenya still face challenges in addressing GBV. In India, cultural norms and attitudes towards women contribute to GBV. For example, women are expected to be subservient to men, and this often leads to physical and emotional abuse. Similarly, in Kenya, harmful cultural practices such as FGM and early marriages perpetuate GBV. These practices are deeply entrenched in the culture, and it is challenging to change them.

In conclusion, GBV is a global issue that affects both India and Kenya. The two countries have taken various measures to address GBV, such as passing laws and establishing support systems for victims. However, cultural attitudes and practices continue to perpetuate GBV, making it a complex issue to address. Both countries need to work towards changing cultural norms and attitudes towards women and girls to eliminate GBV. Additionally, addressing the mental health of victims is crucial in mitigating the long-term effects of GBV.

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## **HUMANANITARIAN ACTIONS TOWARDS GBV**

Humanitarians' organizations play a critical role when it comes to addressing matters relating Gender- Based violence, and providing supports to the victims of GBV in various manners. Humanitarian organizations work to eliminate GBV by raising awareness on the impacts of GBV in the society, and the toll it may have on women, as well as children both in the short and long run. The humanitarian organizations also provide crucial services such as health care, therapy services and housing to the victims and survivors of GBV in the society. The United Nation through the UNODA has greatly addressed GBV as a critical issue in the world that needs governmental heads, as well as individuals all over the world to closely work together in order to eradicate and create a safe environment for women and children. As outlined in the SDG 5 which is: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. GBV is one of the key issues that the UN has significantly addressed and considers to be a limiting factor in the quest of attaining a world free of violence and crime towards women. According to the United Nations data on BV in the world, research conducted in 2019 shows that at least 1 out of 3 women in the world are victims of the most common forms of GBV that is physical violence and sexual violence. Another data collected prior to the 2019 research, that is the year 2017 shows a record of a total of 137 women killed daily as a result of GBV which usually occurs in the form of intimate partner disagreements. Additionally, a study conducted by the UNODA, shows an alarming trend in the increase of GBV during the COVID-19 period with at least 2 out of 5 women having gone through the various forms of GBV during the lockdown periods. The United Nations has adopted various measures since its establishment to curtail GBV and its impact in the society. One of the landmark treaty adopted by UN to aid in the international fight against GBV include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The enacted policies by the UN have provided the member states with a legal and international framework to promote and uphold the rule of gender equality and address all the matters relating to violation of women rights. The United Nation has also established the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, which is mainly aimed at providing financial and humanitarian assistance towards

organizations which aim at fighting and ending GBV. Additionally, the UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiatives has been established by the UN to curtail and prevent any form of sexual violence and harassments in public spaces (UN Women, 2021). Additionally, the UN has greatly contributed towards fighting GBV by creating and providing various platforms for addressing GBV such as the International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women, 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Conclusively, humanitarian organizations have greatly contributed towards fighting GBV all over the world. This efforts includes creating awareness on the implications of GBV, providing assistance and various means of supports to the victims of GBV, as well as partnering with different governments to fight GBV all over the world. UN has greatly contributed towards the fighting GBV in its fullest form through various avenues, ranging from pacts, agreements, policies, financial supports, and various partnerships all over the world, in the quest of making the world a safe environment for women.



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## CONCLUSION

Gender-based violence is a great concern that significantly affects both public health and human rights worldwide, with sexual violence and physical abuse being some of the most common forms of GBV prevalent in the world. Lack of proper communication skills and understanding between intimate partners, substance abuse, barbaric cultural beliefs and practices are some of the leading causes of GBV among intimate partners. According to studies and reports conducted by UN, GBV is a critical issue that needs to be properly addressed in Kenya and India, as they are some of the top leading factors that hinder attainment of a world free of human rights violation and equity. Physical violence as a form of GBV has significant long term and short-term effects on children including. Some of the mental health problem that children both in India and Kenya undergo as a result of physical violence include PTDS, anxiety, depression, and fear. In some extreme cases, the worsening cases of mental health may create feeling isolation and being neglected by their peers and people around them, leading to suicide or generation of suicidal thoughts. Sexual violence is another common form of GBV that is widely experienced in both India and Kenya. Sexual violence mainly targets vulnerable ages which are usually naive and may not have the ability to defend themselves either by not knowing their rights, or being physical weak like the cases of the disabled people. Just like physical violence, sexual violence has very hefty impacts on its victims. Some of the impacts of sexual violence include PTSD, night mare, anxiety, fear, anti-social behaviors, and even drug addictions. In order to address GBV and completely curb its effect in the world, governments and NGOs with big interest in GBV and Human Rights should collaboratively work to educate the public on communication and conflict resolution mechanisms to avoid and reduce the case of intimate partner violence. Governments should also challenge and greatly antagonize the cultural beliefs and that aim at perpetuating violence and harm to some targeted individuals who are considered vulnerable in the society. The government should also play a leading role to create laws that prohibits any form of harm targeted towards any gender, and as well as provide therapy and recovery services to the victims of GBV in order to protect the women and children who are usually the main victims. Additionally, the media can also help create

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awareness of GBV and its impact on the society and its victims in order to educate the people and reduce the cases of GBV in the society.

GBV is a very critical issues that requires great soberness and multi-faceted approach while addressing. Despite the governmental and humanitarian actions that have been used to address GBV and its consequences, a lot of work and efforts are still needed to ensure that the world becomes a safe environment free from violence for the women and children to live freely and equally without any form of fear. It is crucial for individuals, governments, and communities to work together to ensure GBV free world.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the conclusion, it is evident that gender-based violence is a significant concern that affects public health and human rights globally, with sexual violence and physical abuse being some of the most common forms of GBV prevalent in the world. The lack of proper communication skills and understanding between intimate partners, substance abuse, barbaric cultural beliefs, and practices are some of the leading causes of GBV among intimate partners.

To address GBV, governments and NGOs should work together to educate the public on communication and conflict resolution mechanisms to avoid and reduce cases of intimate partner violence. Governments should also challenge cultural beliefs that perpetuate violence and harm to vulnerable individuals in society. Laws should be created to prohibit any form of harm targeted towards any gender, and therapy and recovery services should be provided to GBV victims, mainly women and children. It is also essential for the media to help create awareness of GBV and its impact on society and its victims to educate people and reduce cases of GBV. Therefore, it is necessary for individuals, governments, and communities to work together to ensure a GBV-free world.

In light of these recommendations, it is crucial that governments and NGOs prioritize the education and sensitization of their citizens on the impact of GBV, as well as the need for communication

and conflict resolution mechanisms. This should be accompanied by the provision of therapy and recovery services to GBV victims and the enactment of laws that protect all genders from any form of harm. In addition, cultural beliefs and practices that perpetuate GBV should be challenged and eradicated through collaborative efforts.

Finally, the media should be actively involved in creating awareness of GBV and its impact on society and its victims. By doing so, we can create a safer world where women and children can live freely and equally without any form of fear.

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