

Prevalence of Partner Abuse factors Associated to IPV risks and consequences in **Asia** : A Systematic Review



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Introduction



- Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a significant public health issue that has a profound impact on lifelong health, opportunity, and well-being (Collins et al., 2023)
- IPV is abuse or aggression that occurs in a romantic relationship. Intimate partner refers to both current and former spouses, as well as dating partners (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2024).
- IPV can vary in frequency and severity, ranging from one violent episode to chronic and severe episodes over multiple years (CDC, 2024).
- It can include any of the following types of behavior: Stalking, psychological aggression, physical violence, sexual violence, and cutting across HITS (hurt, insult, threaten, and scream) are all examples (Breiding et al., 2015; CDC, 2024; Collins et al., 2023).



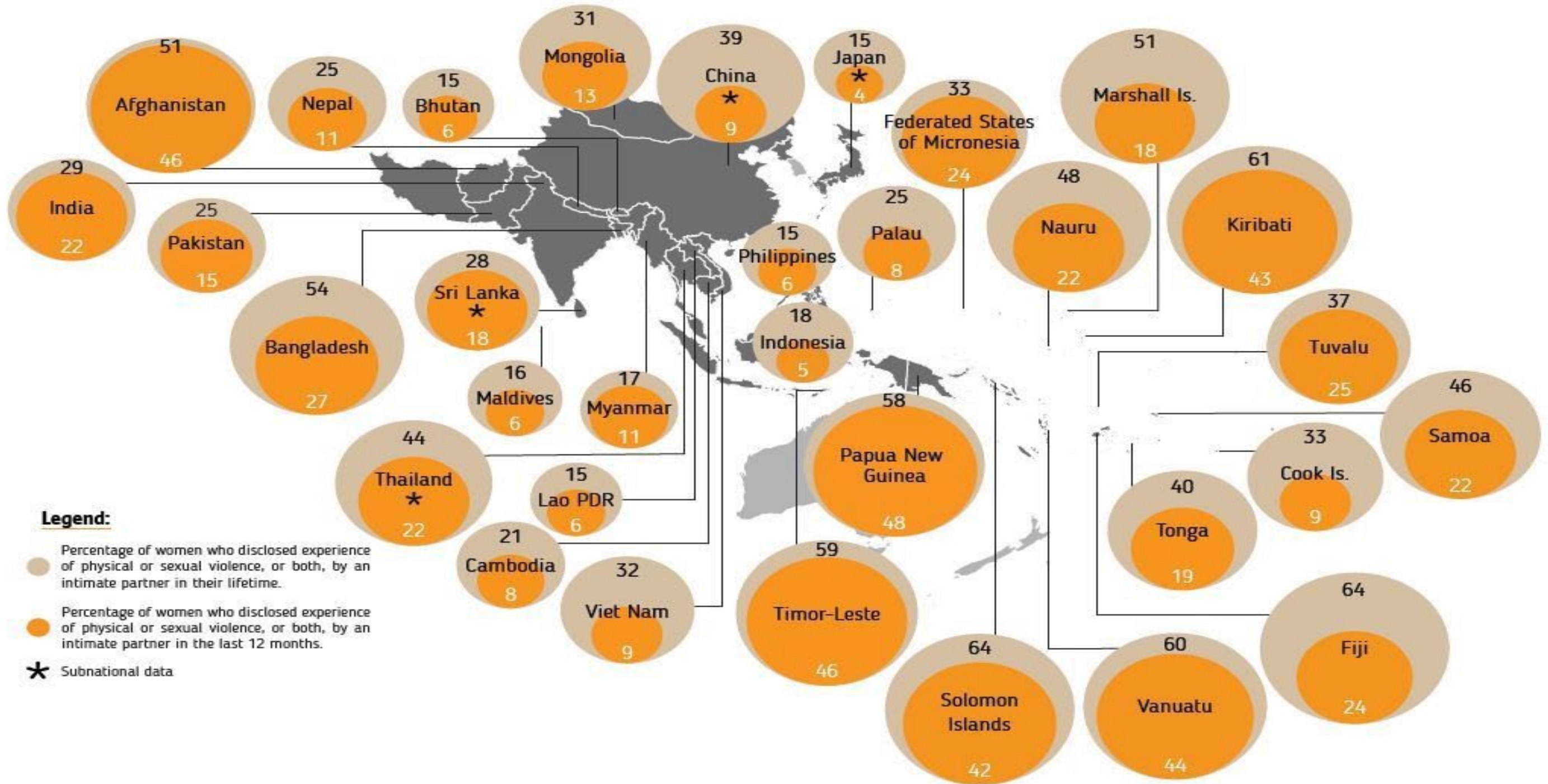
Introduction

- Studies on IPV in Asia are insufficient because this issue has not received enough attention, despite its status as a global health crisis.
- This study examined the prevalence and risk factors of IPV, the types of IPV, and the associated consequences, with some recommendations for curbing this mayhem.
- We used a systematic review method to explore existing studies and identify the factors mentioned across genders in 15 Asian countries.



Intimate Partner Violence in Asia - Pacific, 2000 - 2023

(UN Women, 2024)



Legend:

- Percentage of women who disclosed experience of physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- Percentage of women who disclosed experience of physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner in the last 12 months.
- * Subnational data

Intimate Partner Violence in Asia - Pacific, 2000 - 2023 (UN Women, 2024)

➤ Asia-Pacific Region:

- **South Asia:** Over 37% of women have experienced violence from their partners.
- **Southeast Asia:** Approximately 34% of women have faced IPV.
- **Pacific:** Up to 48% of women in this region have experienced violence at the hands of their partners.

➤ Regional Comparisons:

- **Oceania, Southern Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa** have the highest prevalence rates of IPV among women aged 15–49, ranging from 33% to 51%.
 - **Europe, Central Asia, Eastern Asia, and South-Eastern Asia** have lower rates, ranging from 16% to 23%, 18%, 20%, and 21%, respectively.



Purpose of the study

❖ Purpose

- To characterize intimate partner violence, determine its prevalence, and identify the most common forms of violence directed against women or men, as well as those with higher victim and perpetrator rates
- Ascertain the gender prevalence and impact of IPV on victims.
- Assess the risk factors for IPV.
- Match findings with a literature review.

❖ Focus:

- Examining sequelae and comorbidities associated with intimate partner abuse victims and proposing recommendations for intervention in taming the IPV In the Asian continent

Research Questions

❖ The follow research questions guided this study:

- I. What consequences associated with intimate partner violence are identified across genders?
- II. What are the risks related to partner abuse?
- III. How does the status of women link to intimate partner abuse?
- IV. What are the impacts of physical, psychological, and coercive behaviors on perceived wellness of victims and families?

Methods: Participants and Selection

Criteria

❖ **Participants:** Males and females

❖ **Sample:** 330 Articles

❖ **Selection Criteria:**

- This report is based on a systematic review of literature. Literature accessed included published peer reviewed journal articles, books and book chapters (primary/secondary data)
- Focus on sexual, physical, psychological abuse and control behaviors
- Studies possess higher prevalence in non-English-speaking developed nations in Asia
- It include historically vulnerable populations (e.g., people with disabilities, young women, women in poverty)
- Studies published between November 2012 and November, 2023

Methods: Type of Study, Instruments and Procedure

❖ Type of Study:

- Original article, Review and Systematic review

❖ Instruments:

- PRISMA guidelines
- **Databases:** EBSCOhost, ScienceDirect, DOAJ
- Keywords: "Intimate partner violence", "spousal abuse", "husband violence", and in "Asia" by searching the title, abstract, author keywords plus with the following Boolean formula: "Intimate partner violence" or "Intimate partner abuse" or "spous* violence" or "spous* abuse" and "Asia" and "Bangladesh" or "Cambodia" or "China". Keywords were revised using the Derwent Data Analyzer (DDA) software.

❖ Procedure

▪ Exhaustive Search Procedure:

- **Step 1:** General search in DOAJ, EBSCO, and ScienceDirect
- **Step 2:** Filter documents manually, discard irrelevant ones
- **Step 3:** Country-specific searches, compile references, eliminate duplicates

Methods: Type of Study, Procedure and Data Analysis

❖ Type of Study and Detailed Evaluation:

- We extracted information for systematic review purposes and confirm the consistency of search results.

❖ Inclusion Criteria:

- Articles published in the indexed databases of EBSCO, ScienceDirect, and DOAJ
- Peer-reviewed scientific articles from reputable journals

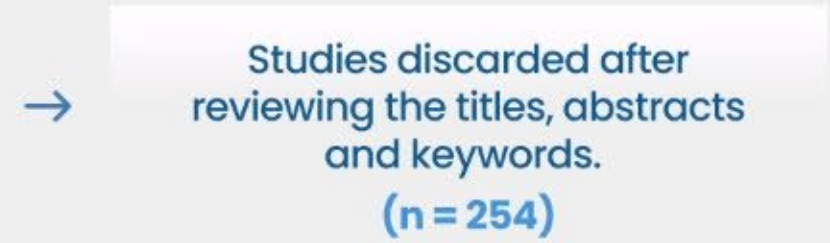
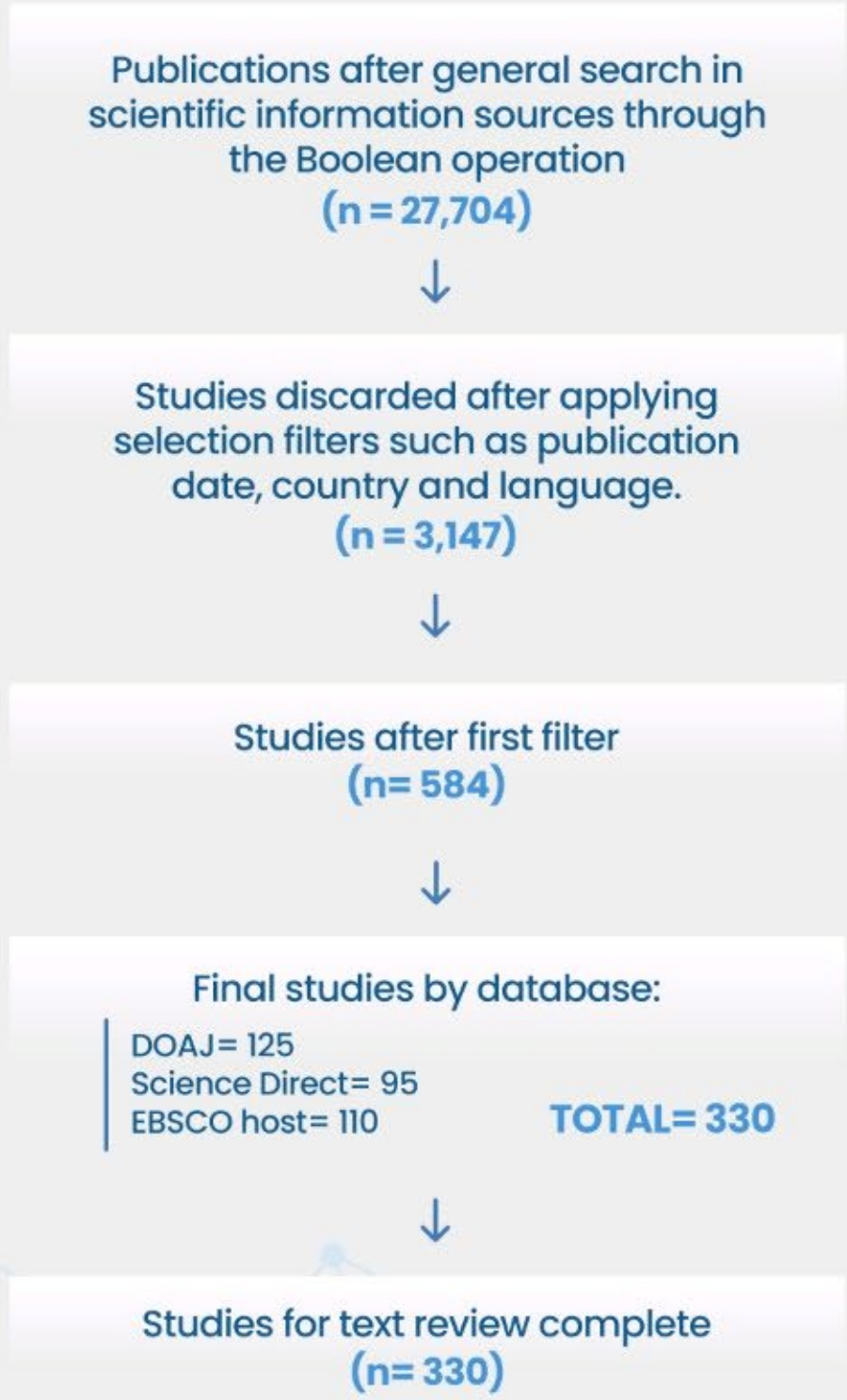
❖ Exclusion Criteria:

- Non-peer-reviewed articles or those with weak arguments or methodologies were excluded.

- ❖ **Ethical Considerations and Approval:** Not required (no ethical risk to participants), and the study aligns with international PRISMA standards.

METHODS:

Data Analysis Flow-Chart



RISK FACTOR	DESCRIPTION
Poverty	Context of poverty is associated with higher likelihood of IPV victimization.
Childhood Trauma & Maltreatment	Exposure to childhood trauma (physical, sexual, emotional) is highly associated with past year or lifetime IPV experience.
Partner Characteristics	Characteristics such as drinking behavior, controlling behavior, unemployment, and fidelity are associated with IPV.
Low Educational Levels	Women with lower education levels are more likely to experience IPV.
Gender Roles	Traditional Gender Roles promote IPV
Witnessing Parental Violence	Witnessing parental violence increases likelihood of IPV victimization.
Tolerance of IPV	Tolerant views toward IPV are associated with higher likelihood of perpetrating and experiencing IPV.
Cultural norms	Cultural norms supporting violence contribute to IPV.
Mental Health	Intersection of IPV and gender inequality impacts women's mental health during pregnancy and postpartum period.
Family Dynamics	Family dysfunction and conflict, especially with in -laws, contribute to IPV.
Economic Factors	Economic factors such as household debt contribute to IPV, especially during pregnancy when expenses increase and earning potential may decline.
Low Social Support	Lower family APGAR score indicates higher risk of domestic violence, highlighting the importance of family dynamics and support -focused interventions.

Results: Prevalence and Risk Factors of IPV

Prevalence

- Lee et al. (2014) found that women are more likely than men to report IPV victimization (verbal 28.2% vs. 24.4%; physical 6.9% vs. 3.4%).
- Studies consistently showed women reported higher IPV than men (26.7% vs. 25.3%); however, more men reported perpetrating physical violence against their wives (5.1% vs. 3.4%) (Lee et al., 2027; UNPF, 2023; UN Women, 2024).

Risk Factors

- The most risk factors of IPV were the direct impact of culture, gender, finance, gender equality attitudes, and age difference (Eisenbruch, 2018; Yang et al., 2021).
- Among men and women, a low perceived level of marital and life satisfaction was the strongest predictors of physical and emotional IPV (UNPF, 2023; Vo et al., 2022). Poverty context, childhood trauma exposure, unemployment, fidelity to traditional gender roles (Jewkes et al., 2017).
- Alcohol intake was associated with IPV perpetration and victimization in both genders (Das et al., 2022; UN Women, 2024).

Consequences

- Both females and males consistently reported that all types of IPV experiences were statistically associated with anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation (Peng et al., 2020; Wu et al., 2022).
- Specifically, we observed a statistically significant association between physical threat and suicidal ideation among females but not among males (Ha et al., 2021; Xu et al., 2022).

Results: Types of IPV and Their Impacts



Physical Abuse

- Physical abuse, such as hitting, biting, and other forms of violence,
- Can result in various physical health consequences, such as head injuries, hearing loss, bruises, broken bones, and spinal injuries, which can sometimes be fatal (WHO, 2021).



Controlling Behavior

- Controlling behaviors that limit a woman's right with family and friends,
- Can increase a victim's susceptibility to additional acts of violence and may even serve as a catalyst for the occurrence of other forms of IPV (Das et al., 2022; UN Women, 2024).

Results: Types of IPV and Their Impacts

Psychological Abuse

- Psychological abuse, including threats, insults, and actions that degrade or disgrace the partner,
- Can lead to severe mental health issues like behavioral problems, sleep and eating disorders, depression, anxiety, PTSD, self-harm, and suicide attempts (Sardinha et al., 2028; WHO, 2021).

Sexual Violence

- Sexual violence, like coercive sexual conduct, attempts to involve in sexual acts with non-consensual touching or penetration,
- Can have serious physical and mental health effects for victims (Ha et al., 2020; UN Women, 2024).

Results: Identifying IPV Across Genders



Women as Victims

- Women are significantly more likely to report experiencing IPV victimization, including verbal, physical, psychological and sexual abuse (Dighe, 2022; Sardinha et al., 2018; WHO, 2021).



Men as Perpetrators

- Men are the main perpetrators of intimate partner and sexual violence against women, and they often kill a significant percentage of female victims (Sardinha et al., 2018; WHO, 2021).



Impacts on Families

- The effects of IPV are not limited to the health of women alone but also extend to their children, who often experience long-term behavioral and emotional disturbances, posing risks to their overall well-being (Ha et al., 2022; WHO, 2021).



Community Impacts

The broader impacts of IPV extend to communities, leading to decreased productivity and increased homelessness (CDC, 2024; Stockl et al., 2013).

Socio - Cultural Factors Influencing IPV

Gender Norms and Attitudes

- Deeply rooted gender inequalities and patriarchal norms in many Asian societies contribute to the normalization and perpetuation of intimate partner violence, particularly against women.

Stigma and Shame

- The social stigma and shame associated with disclosing or reporting intimate partner violence in many Asian cultures can prevent victims from seeking help and support, leaving them trapped in abusive situations.

Economic Dependence

- Financial insecurity and economic dependence on intimate partners can make it difficult for victims, especially women, to leave abusive relationships, further exacerbating the problem of IPV.

Lack of Resources

- Insufficient funding, limited access to support services, and inadequate legal protections for victims of IPV in some Asian countries contribute to the ongoing challenges in addressing this issue effectively.

Addressing the Gaps in IPV Research

1

Limited Research in Asia

Research on intimate partner violence is still inadequate, especially in Asia, where research priorities have traditionally focused on critical issues such as hunger, wars, and atrocities or crimes against the most vulnerable populations.

2

Barriers to Publication

The language barrier and the lack of indexing of journals published in non-English-speaking Asian countries in major databases have contributed to the region's limited scientific literature on IPV.

3

Opportunities for Change

This systematic review has highlighted the wide range of risk factors for IPV on the Asian continent, underscoring the need to develop policies, initiatives, and solutions to tackle this widespread problem and empower survivors.



Interventions and Strategies for Normative Change

1

Awareness and Education

- Stakeholders need to raise more awareness about the prevalence, causes, and consequences of IPV.
- More public education on healthy relationship dynamics is critical to driving social change.

2

Strengthen Support System

- Stakeholders and professionals in IPV need to invest more in comprehensive support services, including shelters, counseling, and legal aid.
- Women's economic empowerment programs can also provide vital assistance to IPV victims and help them break the cycle that keeps exposing them to abuse.

3

Policy and Legislative Reform

- Policymakers and governments should enact and enforce laws that protect victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and promote gender equality.
- The laws can help address the systemic issues of cultural norms and beliefs that contribute to intimate partner violence in Asian societies.

Interventions and Strategies for Normative Change

Combating stigma and shame

- **Public Awareness Campaigns:**
 - Launch public awareness campaigns to reduce stigma and normalize seeking help for IPV.
 - Engaging influential adults and peers in this campaign will aid effectiveness (CDC, 2024)
- **Confidential Counseling Services:**
 - Provide confidential counseling services to ensure victims feel safe and supported when disclosing their experiences.
- **Support Groups :**
 - Establish support groups where victims can share their experiences and receive emotional support from peers.

Interventions and Strategies for Normative Change

Strengthening the Support Systems

- Advocate for increased funding and resources dedicated to IPV services, including shelters, counseling, and legal aid.
- Disrupting the developmental pathways toward IPV and strengthening economic supports for families is effective in mitigating IPV (CDC, 2024)
- Train service providers (social workers and psychologists), including allied healthcare workers and law enforcement, on IPV issues and how to appropriately manage the phenomenon.
- Training them on how to build a safe and healthy relationship skills in family and survivors based on research findings
- Create mobile outreach programs to reach victims in remote, underserved, or underdeveloped areas by providing access to essential services.
- Creating protective environments is essential in these areas

Empowering Survivors and Promoting Resilience



Survivor-Centered Approach

- Empowering survivors of intimate partner violence by centering their needs, experiences, and agency in relationship skills training considering gender and economic empowerment interventions is crucial for promoting long-term healing and resilience in Asia (Jewkes et al., 2017).



Community-Based Support

- Community-based intervention could foster strong community networks and support systems
- This could help survivors access to the resources and social connections they need to rebuild their lives and overcome the trauma they have experienced.



Economic Empowerment

- Stakeholders should provide the survivors with opportunities for economic independence, such as job training, financial literacy programs, and access to employment
- This could help them achieve financial stability and reduce their vulnerability to future abuse.

“IPAP-India’s evaluation found that, compared to control areas, the program was effective in raising awareness of domestic violence, especially among men; contributing to a gendered understanding of the causes of domestic violence versus the use of police and legal mechanisms and higher reporting of domestic violence.”



Platforms	Interventions in IPV and Gender based violence In Asia
Formal systems of local governance	<p data-bbox="1047 225 2248 277">Engaging Men in GBV Prevention via Community Leadership Councils, India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1047 399 1878 442">• Gender and Good Governance Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1093 451 1401 494">> Bangladesh <li data-bbox="1093 503 1278 546">> Nepal <li data-bbox="1093 555 1339 598">> Pakistan <li data-bbox="1047 616 2002 668">• Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh (AVCB)
Informal religious systems of local governance	<p data-bbox="1047 824 2125 876">The Gender Justice Through Musalihat Anjuman Project (GJTMAP), Pakistan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1047 989 1878 1041">• Nagrik-Uddyog (NU)-shalish, Bangladesh <p data-bbox="1047 1050 1986 1102">Programs for which evaluation was not found</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1093 1119 2186 1171">> Madaripur Legal Aid Association (MLAA), Bangladesh <li data-bbox="1093 1180 2402 1232">> Sanayee Development Organization peace shuras, Afghanistan <li data-bbox="1047 1241 2217 1293">• ActionAid and SWARAJ work with caste panchayats, India

“Mahila Samakhya India’s program adopted processes that recognized local values and norms, and women leaders attempted to arrive at judgments that were legally sound but culturally feasible without compromising a woman’s dignity.”



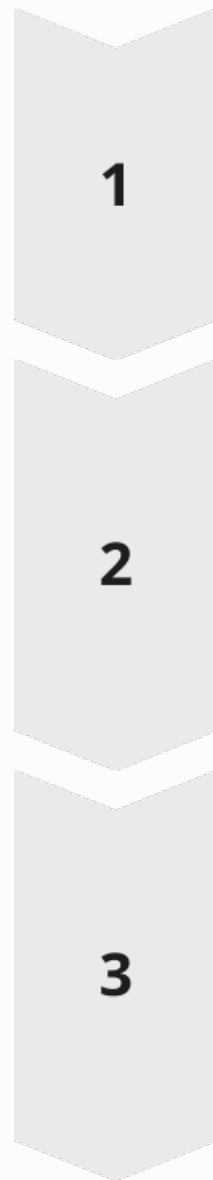
“In Bangladesh’s PROTIRODH program, women demonstrated increased awareness of services for survivors, and of their power to speak up. Program areas saw a decline in reported physical assault of between 29-69 percent.”

“The OCMC program constituted the first multi-sectoral, and hospital-based government initiative to address gender based violence in Nepal.”

Collaborative Efforts for Sustainable Change in normative belief

Stakeholders	Roles and Responsibilities
Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Enact and enforce laws, allocate resources for support services, and promote gender equality.
Non-Profit Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Provide direct support to survivors, advocate for policy changes, and raise public awareness
Academic Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Conduct research, evaluate interventions, and collaborate with other stakeholders
Community Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mobilize local support, challenge harmful social norms, and connect survivors to resources

The Path Forward: Holistic and Sustainable Solutions



Comprehensive Approach

- Addressing intimate partner violence in Asia requires a multifaceted approach that addresses the complex interplay of cultural, social, economic, and political factors that contribute to this widespread issue.

Collaborative Partnerships

- Fostering strong partnerships and coordination among governments, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and community leaders is essential for developing and implementing effective, sustainable solutions to intimate partner violence.

Continuous Improvement

- More empirical monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation of interventions based on emerging research and feedback from survivors and communities will be crucial for ensuring the long-term success and impact of efforts to address intimate partner violence in Asia.

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