

Online Intimate Partner Violence Against Teens And Young People In Nepal

NEPAL

Research Institutions:

ChildSafeNet.

Principal Investigator:

Anil Raghuvanshi (PI).

CO-PI:

Neha Gauchan (Co-PI),
Swasti Karmacharya (Co-PI),
Darshana Gauchan (Co-PI),
Ristha Shrestha (Co-PI) and
Aashrika Chaudhary (Co-PI.)

CONTEXT:

Internet use is growing exponentially in Nepal and online forms of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) are becoming more widespread and prominent. There is a very limited knowledge on IPV experienced by teens and young people, particularly through the use of digital technology. Digital technology is used by teens and young people, not only for communicating and initiating new romantic relationships, but also for exerting abuse and control over one's partner as a relationship progresses. A 2017 report published by the Overseas Development Institute found that unmarried adolescent girls were becoming more

vulnerable to IPV as romantic dating relationships became more common in Nepal¹. Additionally, boys and young men in such romantic or dating relationships, were found to be inflicting both physical and emotional violence on their partners, including acts of blackmail and cyber bullying. The same study also suggested that adolescent boys and unmarried men were more likely to sexually coerce, and victimize their girlfriends over the phone and / or through social media.

PROJECT AIM:

The research is designed to assess and understand the prevailing contexts, practices and behaviours of teens and young people exposure to and use of online IPV.

The research will develop a knowledge base on the practices, knowledge and risk factors related

to online IPV among teens and young people of Nepal by closely examining the prevalence rates, patterns, emerging trends, vulnerabilities and attitudes towards online IPV.

The research findings will be used to strengthen existing online safety policy and regulations for

children and young people, as well as generate widespread awareness on online IPV in Nepal. Besides conventional research methods and tools, the research will collect data on online IPV and do research for developing Artificial Intelligence (AI) based tools for real-time automated detection and prevention of IPV.

STUDY CONTRIBUTION:

This study will research and build necessary data infrastructures and tools for using innovative technology based on AI to identify real-time online IPV. It will also study the connections between online and offline IPV as teens and young people are increasingly using online platforms to start romantic relationships.

1. Ghimire, A., Samuels, F. (2017), 'Understanding intimate partner violence in Nepal: Prevalence, drivers and challenges', 11399.pdf (odi.org).