

When

GBV can happen at any time – As there is often no rhyme or reason to the motives of the perpetrator, there is no specific time where GBV is more likely to happen, regardless of location or time of day.

How does GBV affect survivors?

GBV is connected to injuries, disabilities, chronic health problems, sexual and reproductive health problems and more. Some cases of GBV result in murder or suicide. Unwanted pregnancies and abortion could also occur as a result of sexual assault or rape.

Psychological effects of GBV can be divided into two; direct and indirect. Anxiety, fear, depression, inability of concentration, and PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) are main direct effects of gender-based violence. Psychosomatic illnesses, withdrawal and alcoholic or drug use (and other methods of coping) are categorized into indirect effects [5].

These physical and psychological factors prevent victims/survivors from participating in society, establishing relationships outside of the abusive home, opportunities of employment, education, or other meaningful social activities that form important pillars of a person's sense of self. These factors tend to go on and manifest as financial issues later on in life.

How does GBV affect society?

Although the main impact falls on those closest to the survivor, GBV also has a negative impact on society. GBV does not only affect the perpetrator and victim/survivor, in fact, their families, neighbors, friends, front-liners (hospital staff, police officers, counsellors, social workers etc), lawyers, and communities are also affected by GBV.

It affects the sense of security whether it is physical, social, emotional, or mental. It is also a cost to society in the economic sense. Approximately 4000 investigations of domestic violence are conducted every year. This means that GBV is costing the country in terms of police work, and labour, time and economic cost in the courts, loss of productivity at work as a result of psychological trauma, and welfare benefits.



GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

