

Sexual and Gender Based Violence

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Objectives & aims

- To have an understanding of and the laws related to GBV
- To identify the types of GBV and the ways of presentations
- To develop skills of examination and reporting victims of GBV that the courts directs
- Understand the Doctor's role in management prevention GBV

Aim

To produce a graduate who will be able to examine and describe injury patterns in alleged cases of gender base violence and form opinions in a court of law as well as participate in prevention of GBV



Sexual violence



Gender based violence





Violence

“The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.”

WHO 2002 World report on violence and health



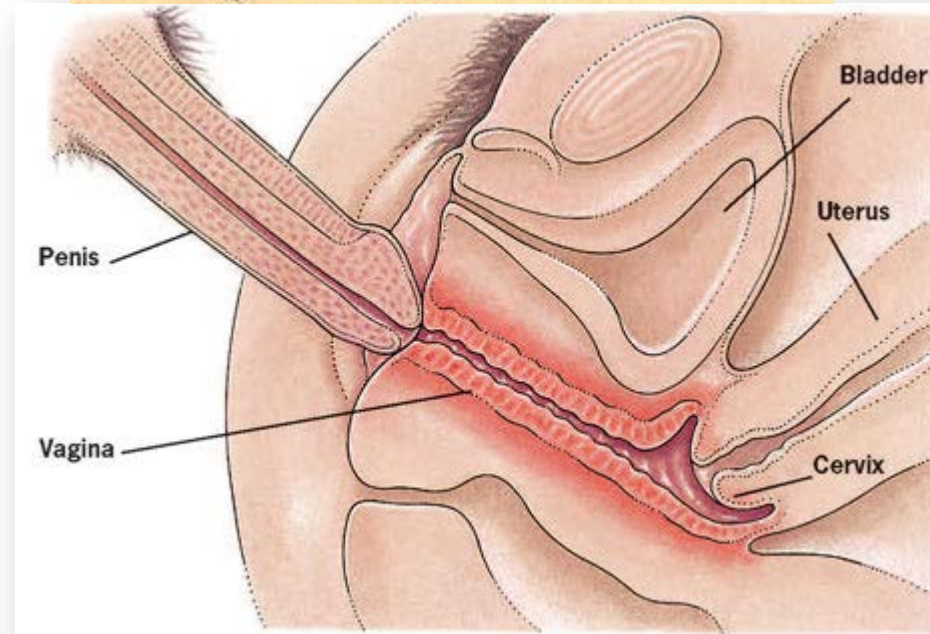
Sex and Gender

- **Sex** means biological sex: determined by the genes with the development
- **Gender** refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviour, activities and attributes, that a particular society considers appropriate for men and women. (WHO <http://www.who.int/topics/gender/en/>)
- **Gender role** is a set of social and behavioural norms, that are generally considered as appropriate for either a man or a woman in a social or interpersonal relationship. (United Nations, International Conference on Population and Development. www.unfpa.org/publications/pid/1973>)



Sexual Violence definition

Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. It includes rape, defined as the physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration of the vulva or anus with a penis, other body part or object.



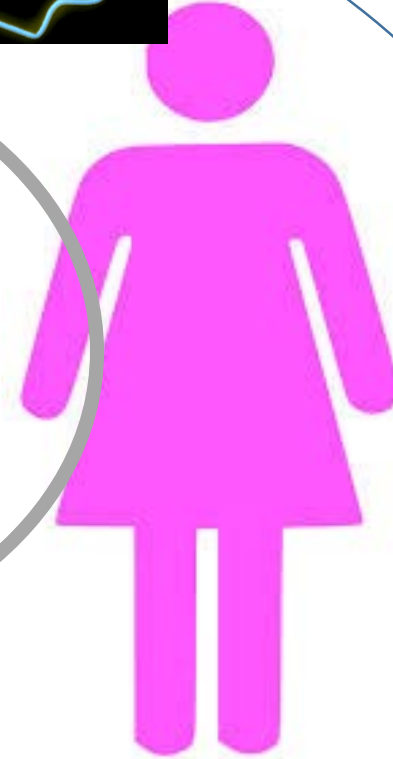
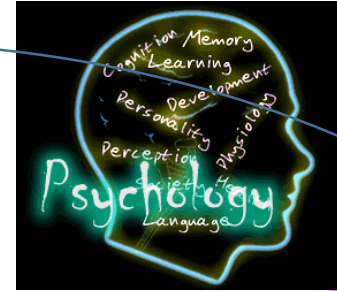
Definition of Gender Based Violence



United Nations
General Assembly
1993

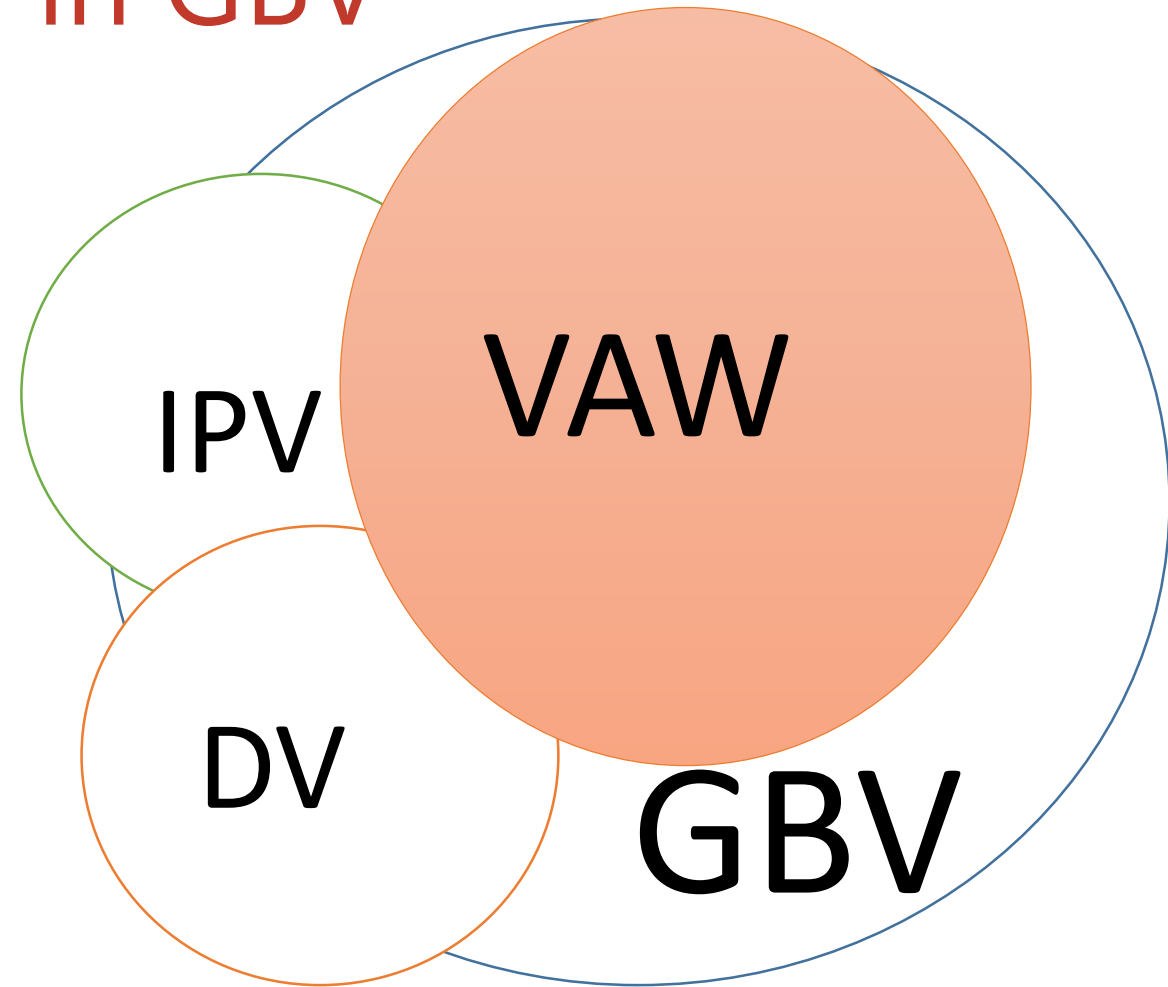
"Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual psychological or economical harm or suffering for women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life"

SEXUAL & GBV



Types of violence seen in GBV

- Gender Based Violence
- Intimate Partner Violence
(Wife abuse/ husband abuse)
- Domestic Violence
- Violence against women





Domestic Violence



Violence between family members and intimate partners usually through not exclusively taking place in home (wife abuse, husband abuse, child abuse, elder abuse)

(WHO)



Intimate partner violence



Behavior by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviors.

(WHO)

Health care seekers

Reported cases of GBV &SV for
medico-legal care

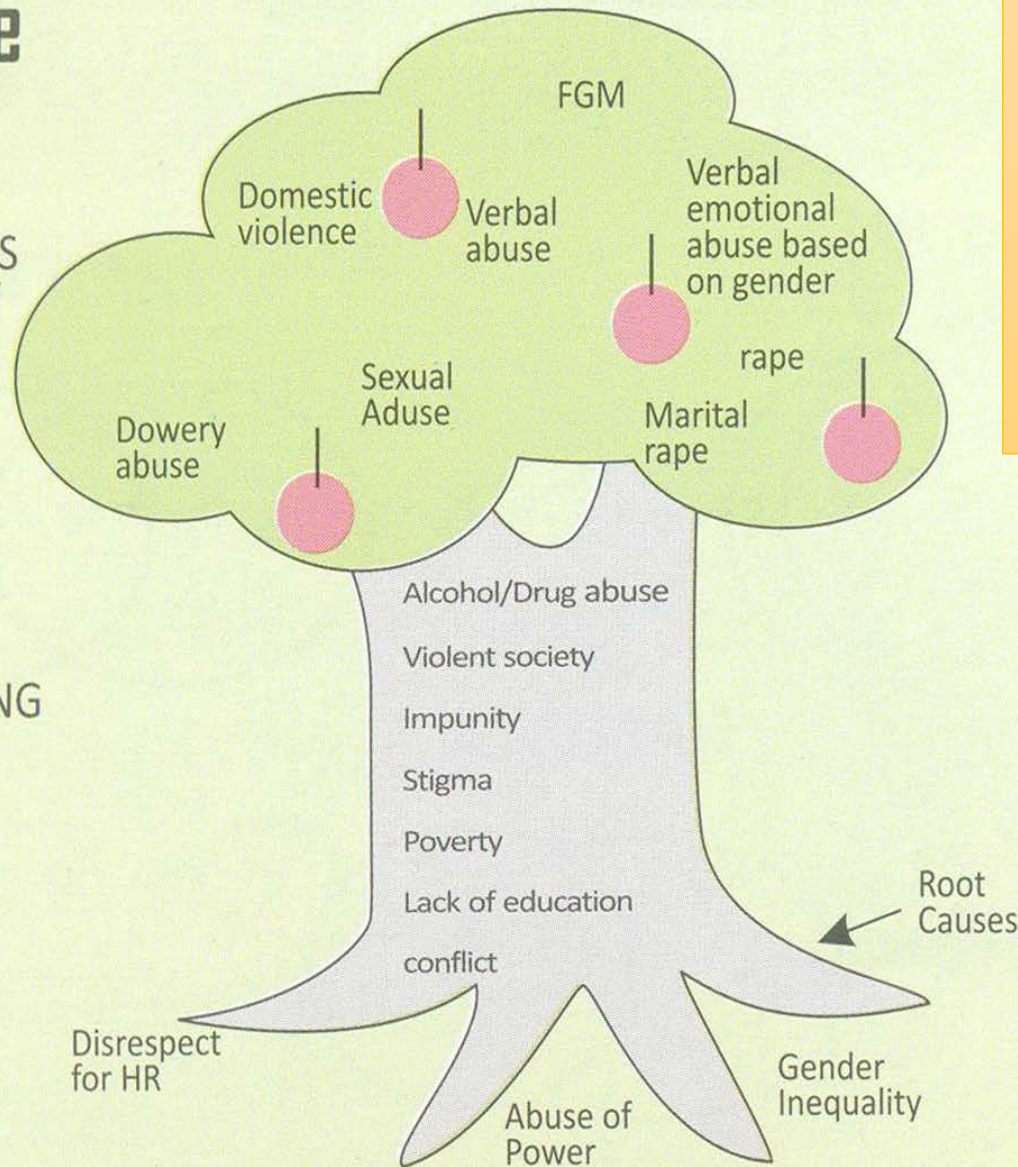
Reported to medical care

Structural
violence

Cultural violence

GBV Tree

EXAPLES
OF GBV

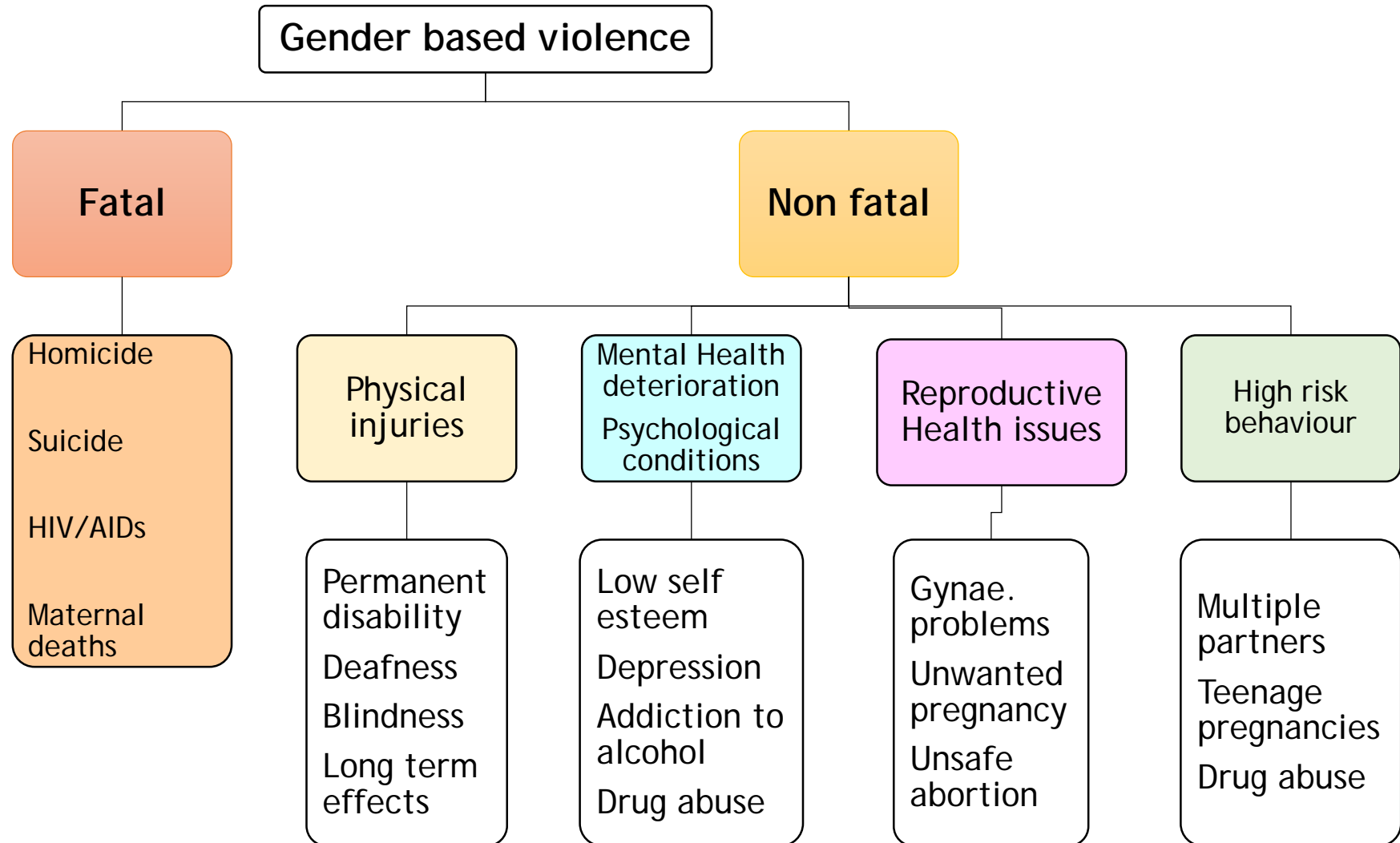


Patriarchal Society treats GBV with impunity thereby, condoning acts of GBV

- Men are more powerful
- Men should control women
- Women should “behave”

Society supports men to use ‘power’ over women when the woman does not conform to the stereotype

Health consequences of GBV



Health impact of GBV

- Major cause of disability and death among women (WHO, 2002)
- GBV could affect an individual through out the life cycle(womb to tomb)
- GBV has many far reaching negative health and non-health outcomes affecting the individual/family/society
- Effects of GBV can be seen trans-generationally
- GBV in pregnancy leads to many negative pregnancy outcomes

Magnitude of the problem in Sri Lanka

The mean prevalence of lifetime partner violence against women is 21% (Studies from 28 countries of developing and developed)

The prevalence of GBV in Sri Lanka 20%- 60%
(Women's Health Committee SLMA 2007)

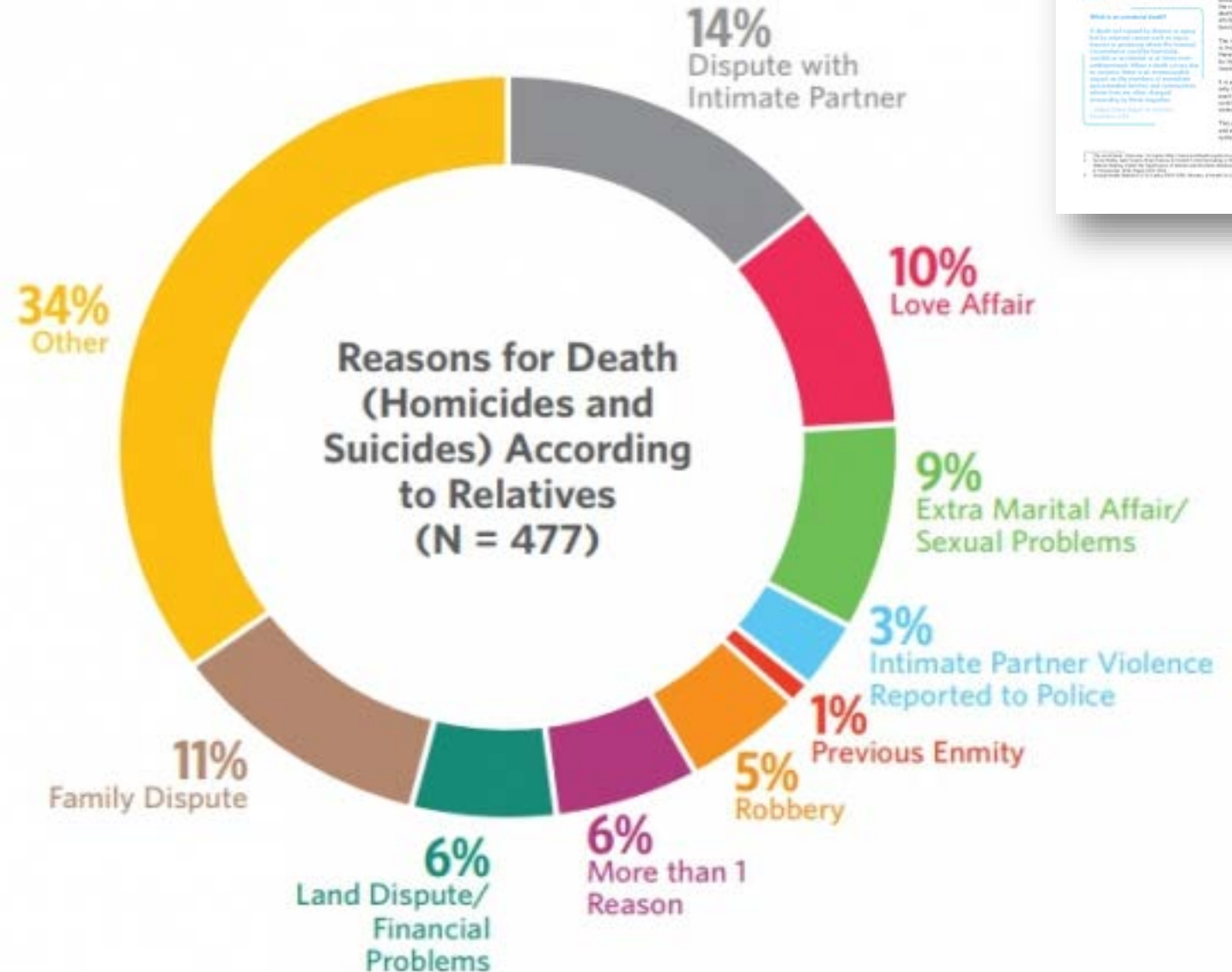
60% of woman subjected to domestic violence during their marriage and 98% had been beaten at least once
(Deraniyagala 1992)

Unnatural female deaths in Sri Lanka 2018

2013-2016

243 female
homicides
National 249

252 female
suicides
National 1097



Sri Lanka Demographic and Health Survey 2016

Figure 13.1 Level of Domestic Violence

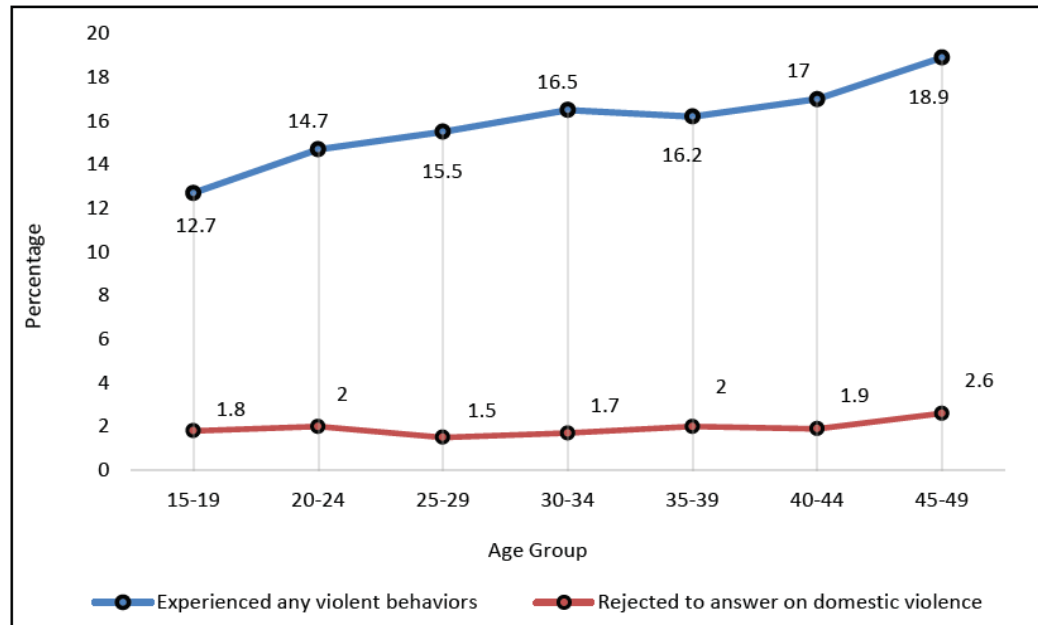
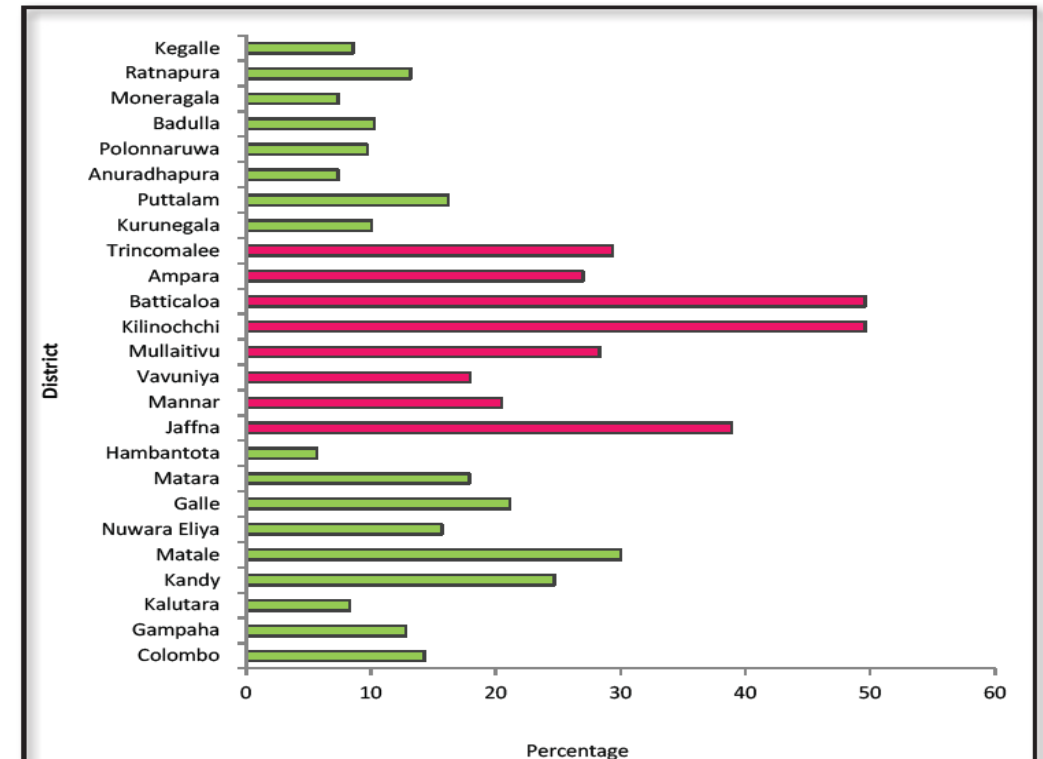


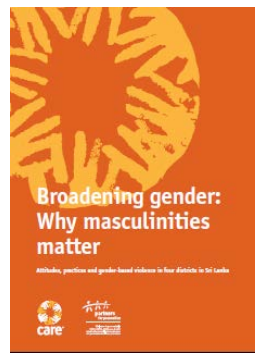
Figure 13.2 Domestic Violence by District

with th



Prevalence of Domestic Violence in Sri Lanka 17 % of ever married woman age 15-49 years have suffered from domestic violence by the intimate partner

2013 Study on SGBV (study mainly from men)



- 36% ever-partnered men reported perpetrating physical and or sexual violence against a female intimate partner.
- 6 % of all men perpetrated sexual violence inclusive of rape against a non-partner woman
- 17 % perpetrated sexual violence inclusive of rape against any women.

Sri Lanka: UN multicounty study on men and violence 2013

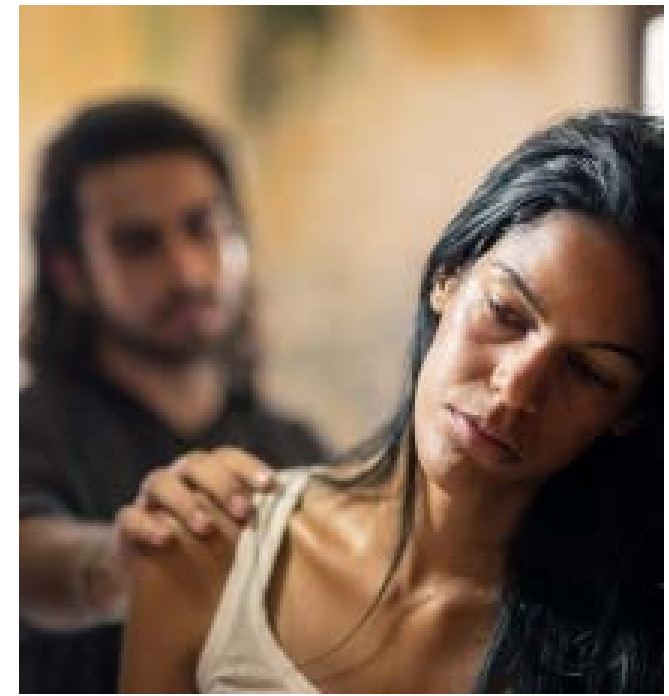
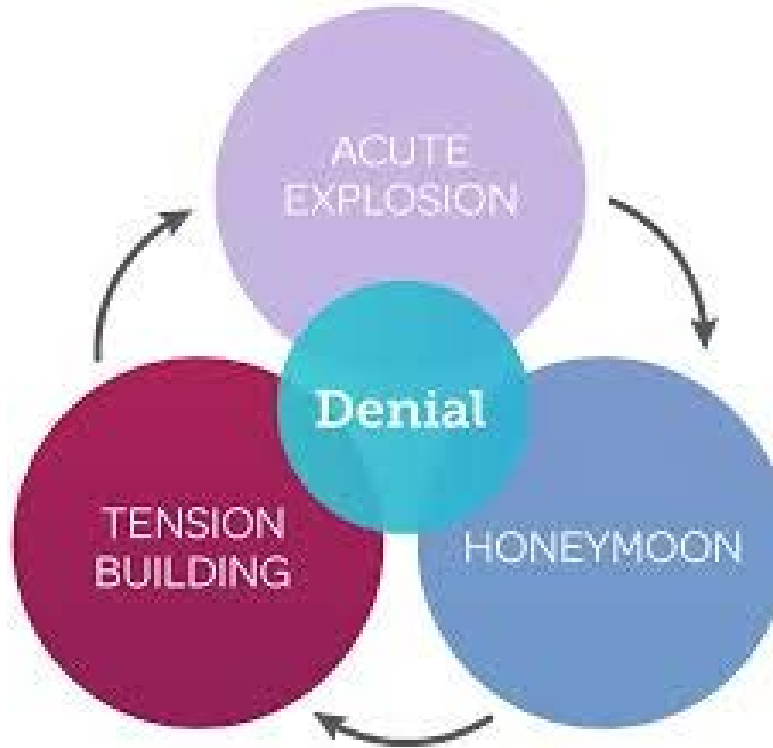
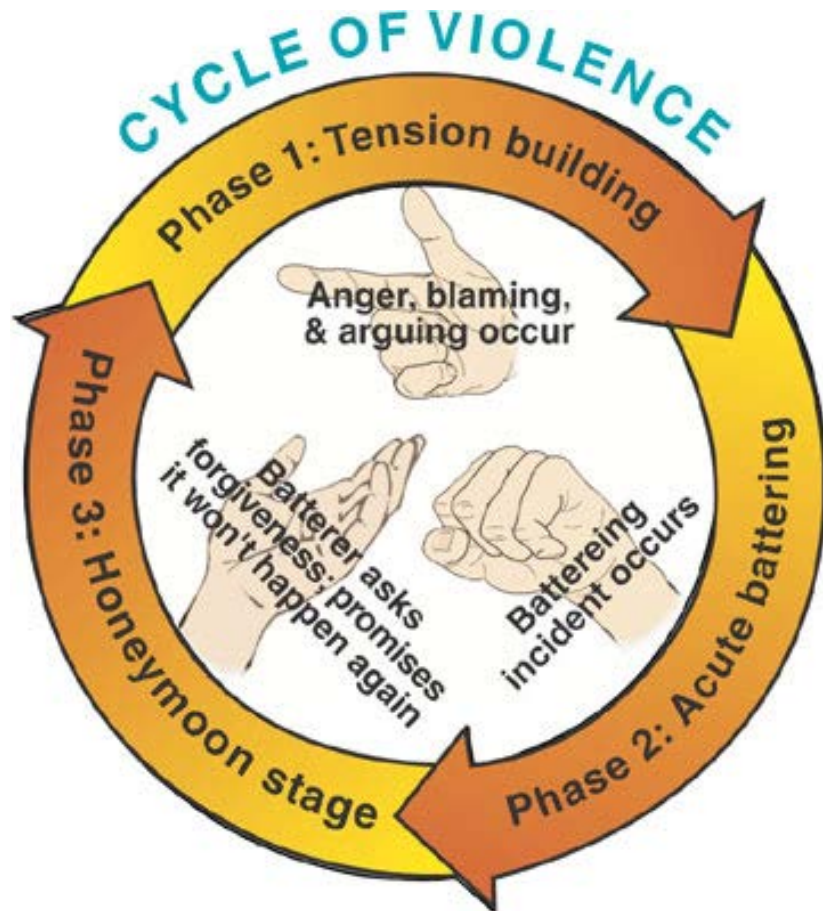
MALE AND FEMALE ATTITUDES TOWARDS CONSIDERED NORMS

Column1 % of men who agree or strongly agree with statement % of women who agree or strongly agree with statement



Women's attitude of gender norms are more towards acceptance of patriarchy and a violence to her own self

Intimate Partner Violence Wife Abuse



Multiple episodes of 'small events' may culminate to major events which can result in death (homicide, suicides)

The Battered Spouse Syndrome

- Defined as the women who has suffered demonstrable and repeated physical injuries at the hands of the man whom she lives or from the father of one of her children.
- ICD 995.81
- Failure of adjustment and adaptation to marital life

Consequences of intimate partner violence

- Regular hospital visits “accidents”
- long-term physical disability- fractures
- multiple and poorly defined complaints
- Long term psychological and psychiatric illness
 - Depression, anxiety, sleeping & eating disorders, suicidal ideation and suicidal behavior, obsessive compulsive disorder, PTSD, alcohol abuse
- Affect of it on the family- eg children’

Examination of a alleged victim of Domestic violence for ML purpose

- MLEF/ Court order
- Consent for examination- Informed written consent
- History- detailed history about the current episodes and previous episodes
- Social Hx, Medical, surgical & gyne Hx
- Examination-
 - General, specific (injury), systemic, genital ex
- Investigations- x-ray, US scan
- Referrals- psychiatry, radiology, dental, Gyne, STD
- Repot writing
- Evidence in Courts

GBV-marital rape

- Still very controversial topic in Sri Lanka
- However, it is an accepted phenomenon –in medical & legal fields
- Asian cultures with patriarchic society the rights of the female is not talked at the society or law
- However, with existent laws there is no legal provision for marital rape
- Examination- includes genital ex too...

Husband abuse

- Very rarely reported

Domestic violence and sudden death

32, year old mother subjected to
IPV for many years collapsed
during an acute violence episode
Cause of death unascertained

Domestic violence and suicide

A wife beaten to death by a drunken husband : daily fights nobody came to prevent the assault

Issues related to IPV/wife abuse

- Injuries body / mental /psychological effects victim
- Effects on children
- Effect on the perpetrator
- Effect on the family/extended family/ neighbors

Outcome of domestic violence in pregnancy

DV in pregnancy: carries a higher risk of

- Maternal death
- Miscarriage and preterm labor
- Low birth weight babies
- Intrauterine death
- Placental separation
- Post partum depression
- Difficulties in breast feeding

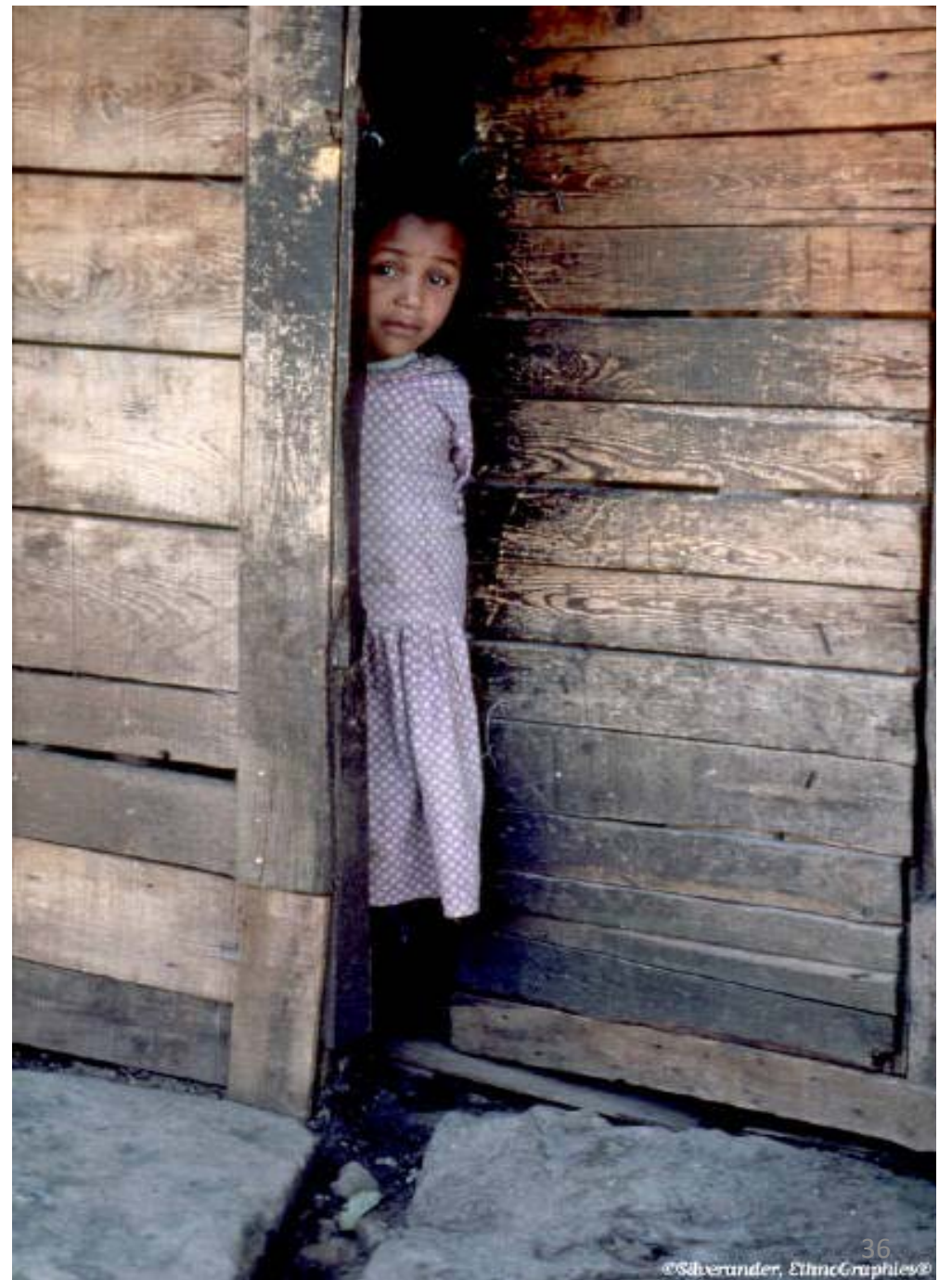
Mental health consequences

- Incessant fear
- Suicidal ideation
- Depression
- Sleep disturbances
- Feelings of guilt
- Loss of hope, self confidence and self esteem
- Panic disorders
- Eating disorders

"The forgotten victim" : the child

- Stuttering, nocturnal enuresis and panic attacks
- Behavioral problems including delinquency and risk taking
- Low self esteem
- Interpersonal difficulties: mistrust others, poor social skills
- Psycho somatic illness
- Cognitive problems- Poor school performance
- Higher probability of becoming a perpetrator as an adult male
- Higher probability of becoming a victim of violence as an adult female
- Normalization of GBV

Children are the
silent victims!



Impact of Domestic Violence include....

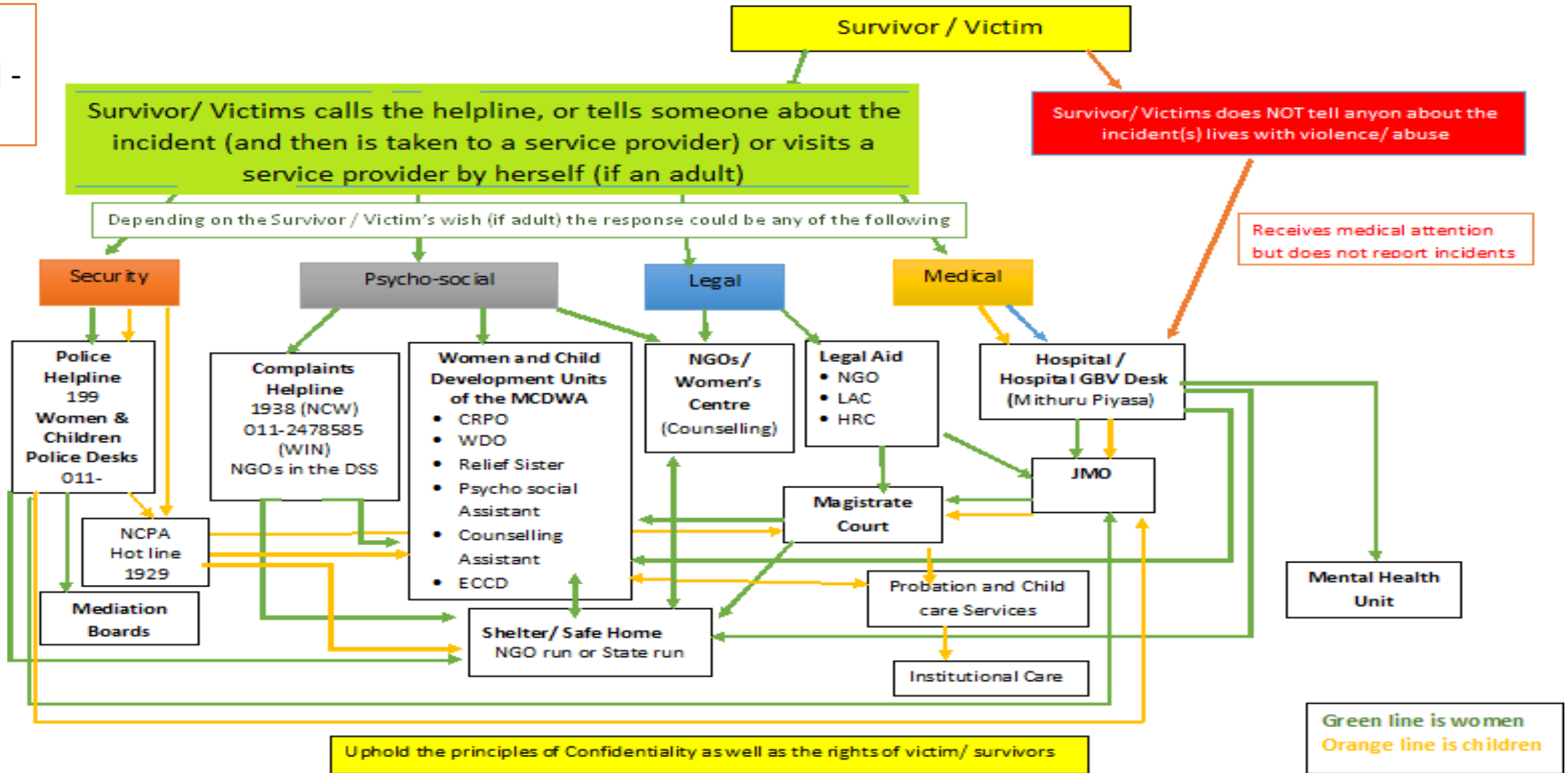


Suffering for three generations

Non – health sector response to GBV

Referral Pathway for Victims/ survivors of Sexual and Gender-based Violence

Proposed
draft model -
2014



GBV care centers in curative institutes

Mithuru Piyasa – Natpu Nilayam GBV care centers

- A friendly space dedicated to survivors of GBV in state hospitals
- Managed by the hospital staff: Medical officers and/or nursing officers
- Offer befriending/ counseling services, provision of emergency contraceptives when relevant, referrals for other services
- Conduct advocacy, sensitization and preventive programmes

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Legal Option

- Survivors of Domestic Violence can seek protection using the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act 2005
- In addition, all laws that are applicable against violent acts against individuals are applicable in domestic violence

Features of Prevention of Domestic Violence Act No 34 of 2005

- Focus is on ensuring the safety of the victim
- Ensure prevention of domestic violence of any form
- Law is Gender neutral
 - survivor and perpetrators can be of the same sex as well
- Applicable to abuse of elderly/children

Sexual harassment

unwelcome, humiliating, disgusting,
revolting and repulsive

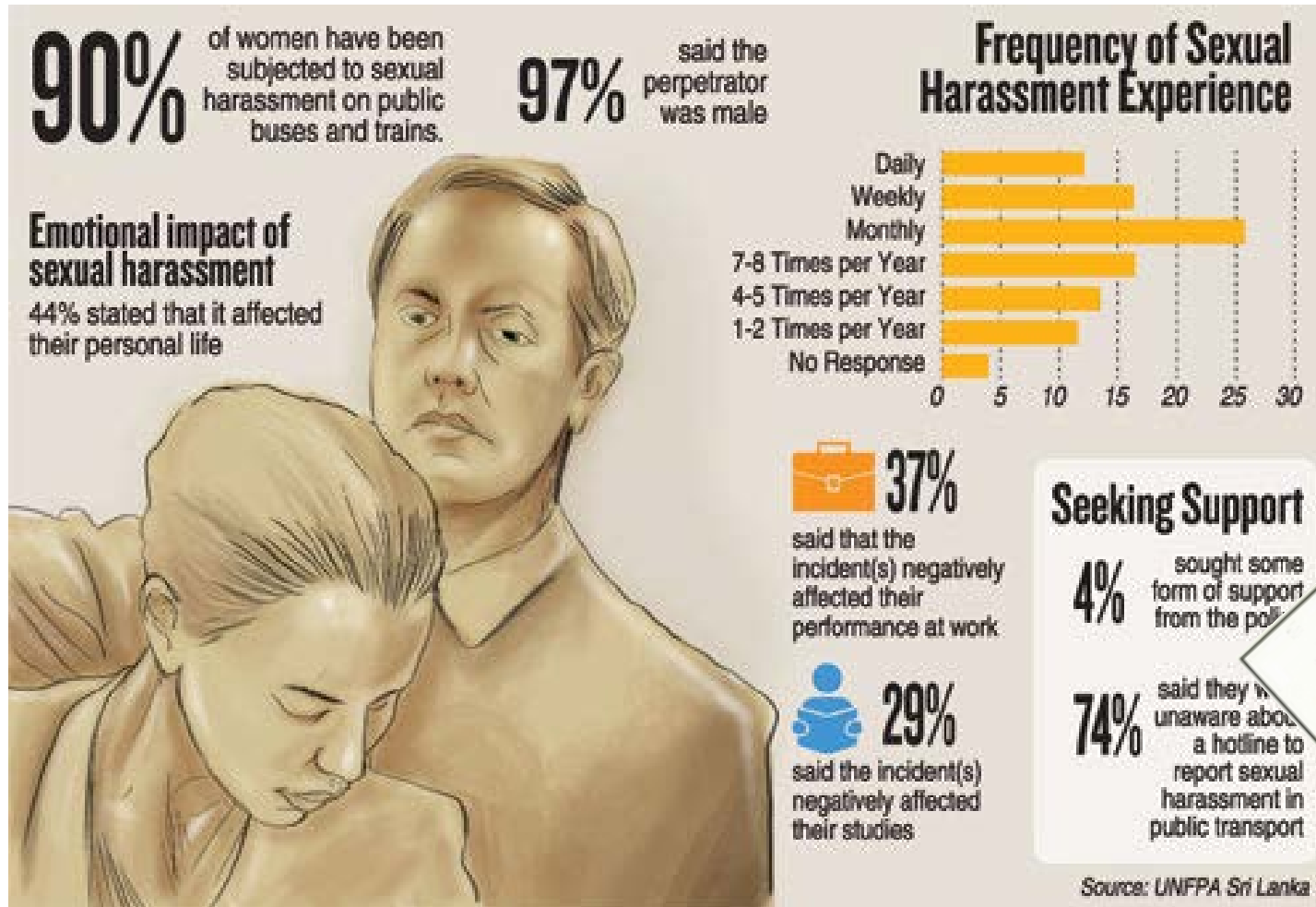
complimentary, harmless, funny, 'normal' and even
flattering



Sexual harassment is an unwelcome act of a sexual nature, using assault, criminal force, or words or actions, which causes annoyance or pain of mind to the person being harassed.

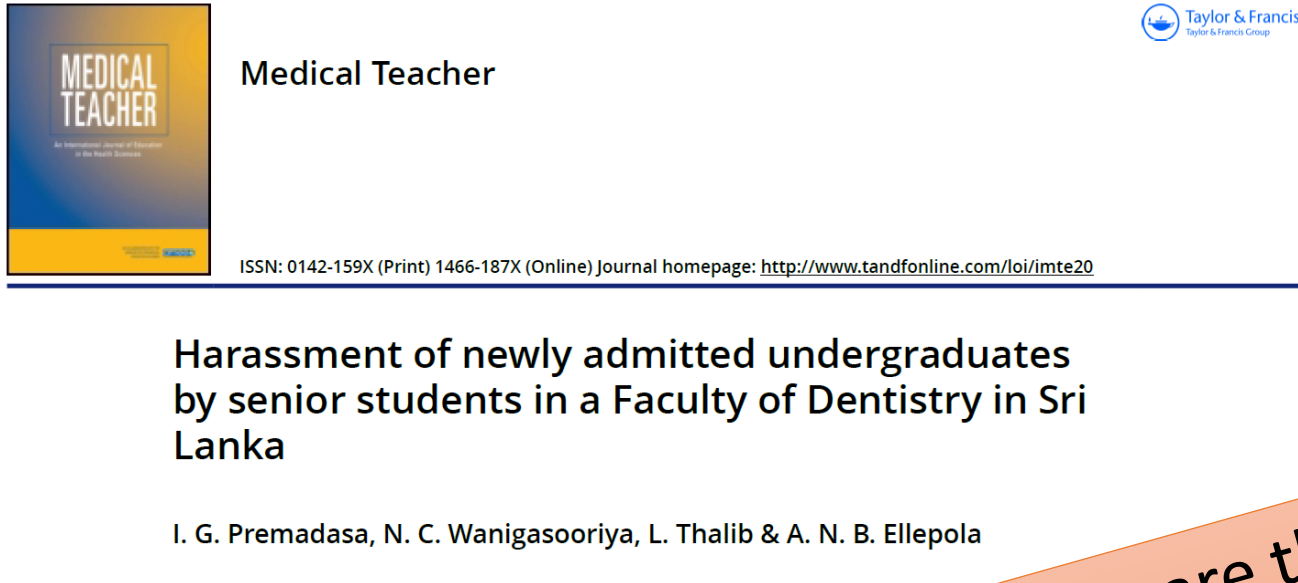


Sexual Harassment in Sri Lanka





Research and publications on ragging



Research/ publications related to ragging from Sri Lanka in index medical journals are limited

Preventing ragging: outcome of an intervention in a faculty in Sri Lanka

SARATH LEKAMWASAM, MAHINDRA N. NAPAGODA, ANOJA ATTANAYAKE, et al.

Verbal and emotional abuse are the predominant forms of abuse
Males are subjected to sexual harassment/abuse more than females

Sexual harassment & GBV- some alarming findings (Perera et al, 2006)

- Research on medical students revealed that 71.8% females and 25.3% male students experienced GBV at least once in their life
- Commonest is the verbal abuse- followed by physical and sexual harassment
- Female students were abused by their current partner, followed by teachers
- Only half of them had related the incident to a friend or family, none to authority

Some alarming finding related to attitudes

(HAJ-Yahia & De Zoyza 2007)

- Majority of both female and male students justified wife beating believed that women benefit from some beatings (>75%)
- 14%-24% of students expressed some level of agreement that woman benefit from beating

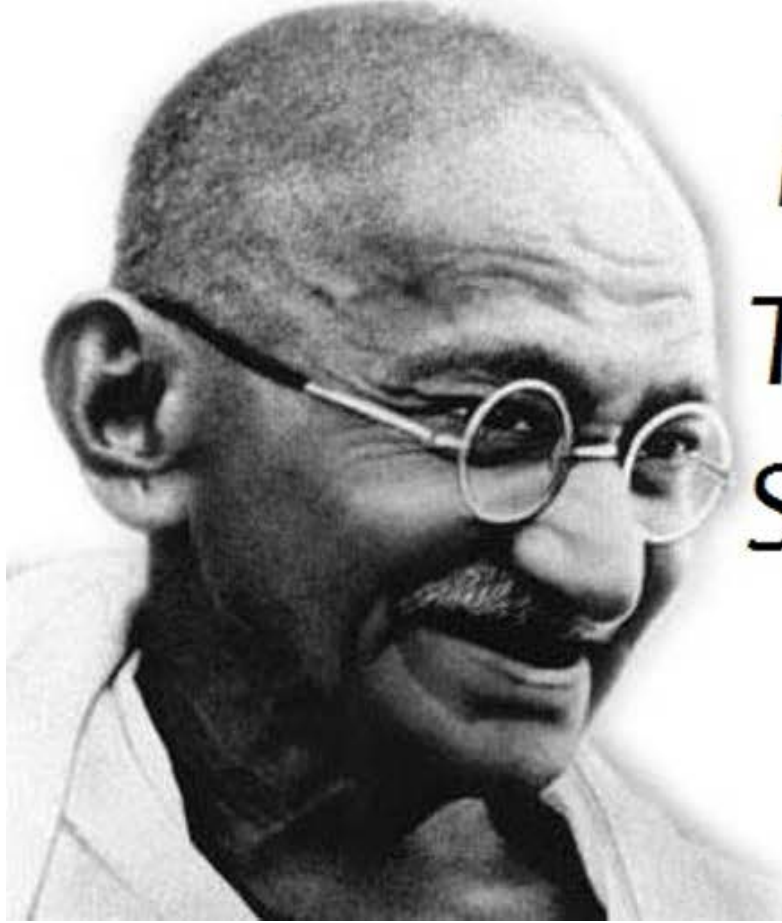
Messages form these studies

- ▶ Attitudes has a relationship to person' s behavior
- ▶ Negative attitudes affects quality of work
- ▶ Medical profession has a duty to detect and manage the issue of GBV.
- ▶ Positive attitude towards GBV will enable to serve justice to some unfortunate people and also preserve your own rights

Summary

- ▶ GBV occur at all the levels of the society
- ▶ The commonest form is in the family
- ▶ Domestic violence is associated with many factors ranging from law socio-economic, alcohol and drug abuse to experience of violent behaviors during childhood
- ▶ DV is not only results physical injuries but also, many psychological problems
- ▶ Research on GBV has found some undesirable attitudes among health professionals (medical students) and needs some change





Be The *Change*
That You Want to
See In The World.





Thank
you