

VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
PRIMARY DATABASE



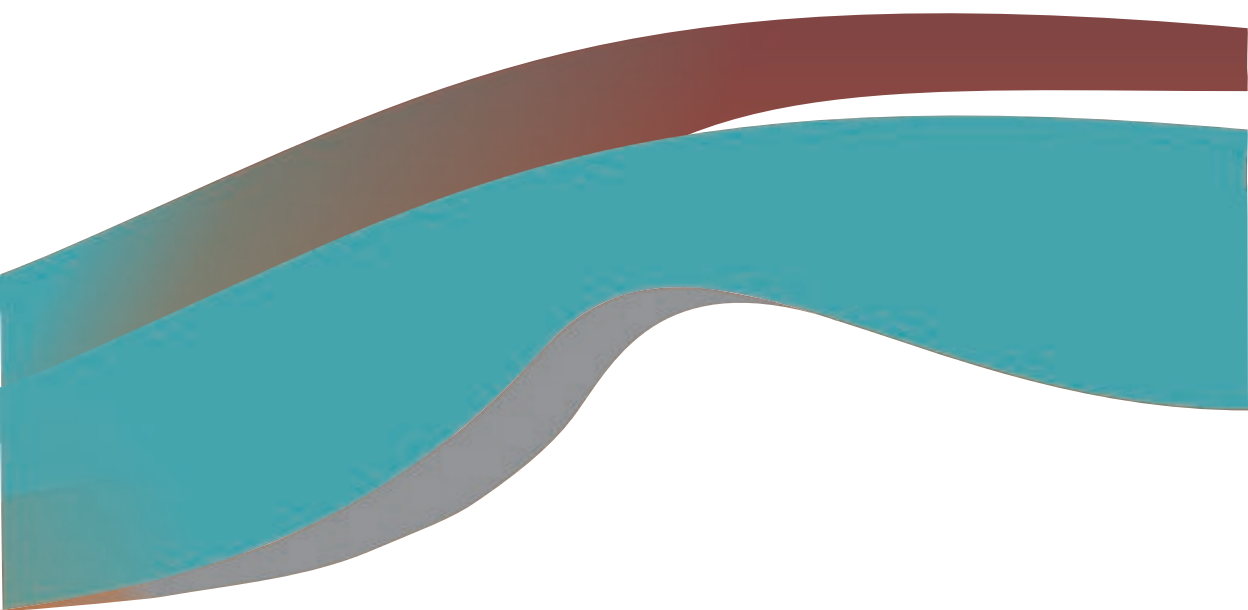


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1. INTRODUCTION

Violence against women (VAW) is an issue affecting women around the world indiscriminate of their age, social strata, education level or religious affiliation. The situation in Afghanistan may be more distressing as the majority of citizens are not aware of their rights. War contributes towards entrenchment of violence in the society which affects the way women and girls are treated. Economic problems in both conflict and post conflict times further exacerbate the way women are used as barter to survive financially or resolve conflicts. Over the last five years, these findings were gathered from anecdotal evidence; however, policies, legislation and programs aimed at addressing these issues remain scarce and inefficient.

Against this background, the VAW primary database was developed as a tool to provide quantitative support to the various anecdotes illustrating violence affecting Afghan women. Furthermore, the gathered information provides a clear understanding of the nature of incidents and profiles of alleged victims and their perpetrators. Gradually, this information will be mainstreamed into the legislation and policies reflecting an intolerance towards violence against women and girls in Afghanistan. After a certain period of time, the database will also be able to monitor the extent and features of VAW cases to identify the impact of programs resulting from informed policies and legislation.

The report provides details of information gathered from the primary database. The focus is on the nature of incidents and their consequences; an overview of provinces that collected the data; types of organizations that women approach to report incidents of alleged violence; and profiles of the complainant and the perpetrator.

Furthermore, the report provides a qualitative analysis of the nature/types of violence against women. The analysis is based on case studies recorded by UNAMA that were integrated within the primary VAW database. The qualitative analysis will allow the reader to contextualize the quantitative data provided through the primary VAW database.

Media plays an important role in reporting cases of VAW and creating awareness on the issue. The report provides information on the nature and extent of cases covered by the press over a period of ten months (February – November 2007).

The sources of information in this report are not comprehensive on their own; however, combined they substantiate the overall findings. The joint analysis of information provided by the primary VAW database, the case studies and media reports establishes a credible map of VAW in Afghanistan. Furthermore, the report provides a number of recommendations that could support the existing efforts of government and non-government agencies in eliminating violence against women.

1. DEVELOPMENT OF A DATABASE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW)

1.1 From secondary to primary data collection

UNIFEM Afghanistan conducted a research on VAW in Afghanistan based on the secondary data report published in May 2006. This unique research serves as a baseline to approach the issue of VAW in Afghanistan and the following points were highlighted:

- Violence affects women of all ages regardless of their marital status, education or employment;
- VAW is committed by persons within the family, community and the state;
- VAW begins at an early stage;
- Abuse perpetrated by a member of the woman's family or someone known to her is widespread;
- VAW perpetrated by an intimate partner is common;
- Perpetrators of VAW are largely men; however, in the study, women account for 10.4 percent of total perpetrators;
- Anecdotal evidence about the widespread and inherent nature of violence in the family can be further substantiated by the high rate of domestic violence revealed in this study;
- Acts of violence against women are taking place with impunity; as the government, communities and families are not making enough effort to prosecute incidents of VAW and prevention from them;
- Women need better access to services, particularly where violence is perpetrated by the family which is almost the exclusive traditional support structure for women in Afghanistan.

In March 2006, parallel to the secondary research, UNIFEM in cooperation with MOWA launched a primary database on violence against women to develop a comprehensive database of cases. The format was piloted in three provinces and the feedback led to a review of the original format. In the last four months, the use of the primary database has expanded from 6 to 21 provinces. Currently, the contributions from provinces vary; however, the information will become consistent with the involvement of all provinces from the beginning of the new solar year.

The organizations involved in this project include; Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA), Ministry of Interior (MoI), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the courts, women shuras, Provincial Council, Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, Referral Center, Save the Children, legal aid providers and UNAMA. Some partners are providing technical and logistical support while others are recording the reported incidents through the database form.

From May 2006 to October 2007, 1011 cases of VAW cases were recorded by the participating agencies. The information was gathered on a "VAW Database Form" (annex 1) consisting of four sections; general information, data of the complainant, data of the perpetrator, and account of the incident along with referral or actions taken. The information has been collected and documented through an electronic database which also helped in putting together this report.

1.2 Understanding the figures

A total number of 1011 cases were registered within the database; however, each case entails several violations. Therefore, the overall statistics may be higher than the 1011 cases depending on individual characteristics.

The database has been compiled by agencies for the first time; therefore, it still contains gaps in the information gathering process which are being referred to as "*unknown*". Nevertheless, the collected information has captured the basic issues of violence against women in Afghanistan and can be utilized as information to form policies, laws and programs aimed at eliminating violence against women.

2. INFORMATION GENERATED BY THE PRIMARY DATABASE

This section of the report deals with information distilled from the primary VAW database and provides insights on the nature of reported incidents, the profile of the complainant and of the offender. It also gives us a glance at the referral mechanisms.

2.1 Contribution from provinces/stakeholders to the primary database

Chart 1: Cases per province

Twenty-one provinces contributed to the primary VAW database; however, some of these provinces joined the data collection process recently. The graph hereunder indicates provinces that shared the maximum data and Herat stands out with 22% of the reported cases. This not only reflects a greater commitment of the involved agencies to register the cases but it also shows that women are coming forward to report incidents of violence. However, it is important to note that the higher level of reporting in Herat does not indicate that the province has the highest rate of violators.

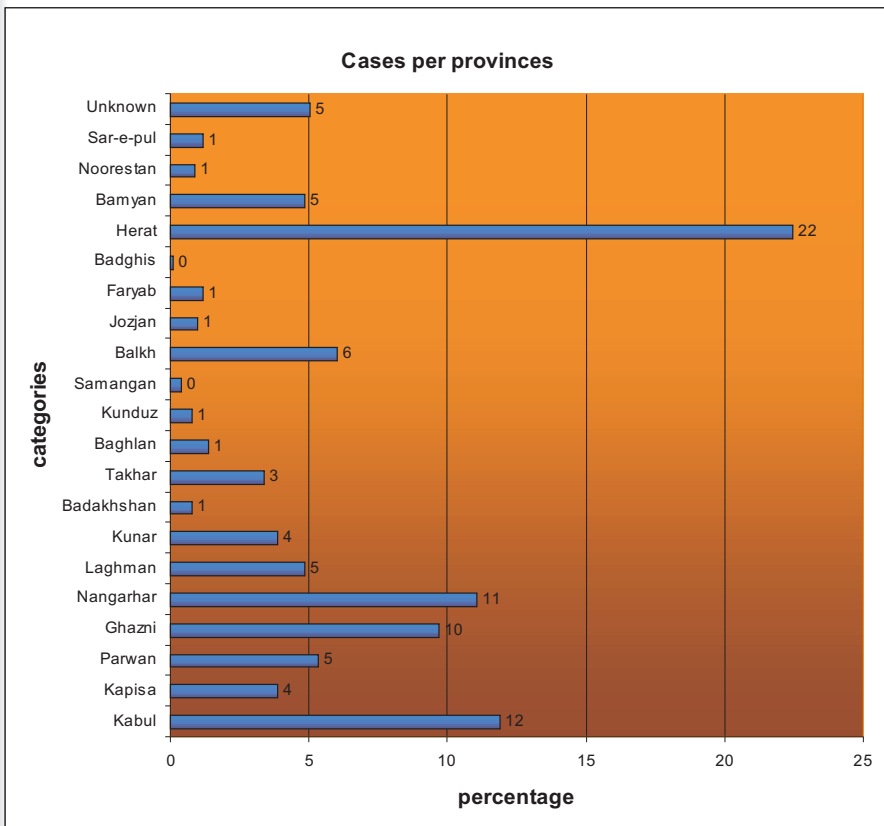
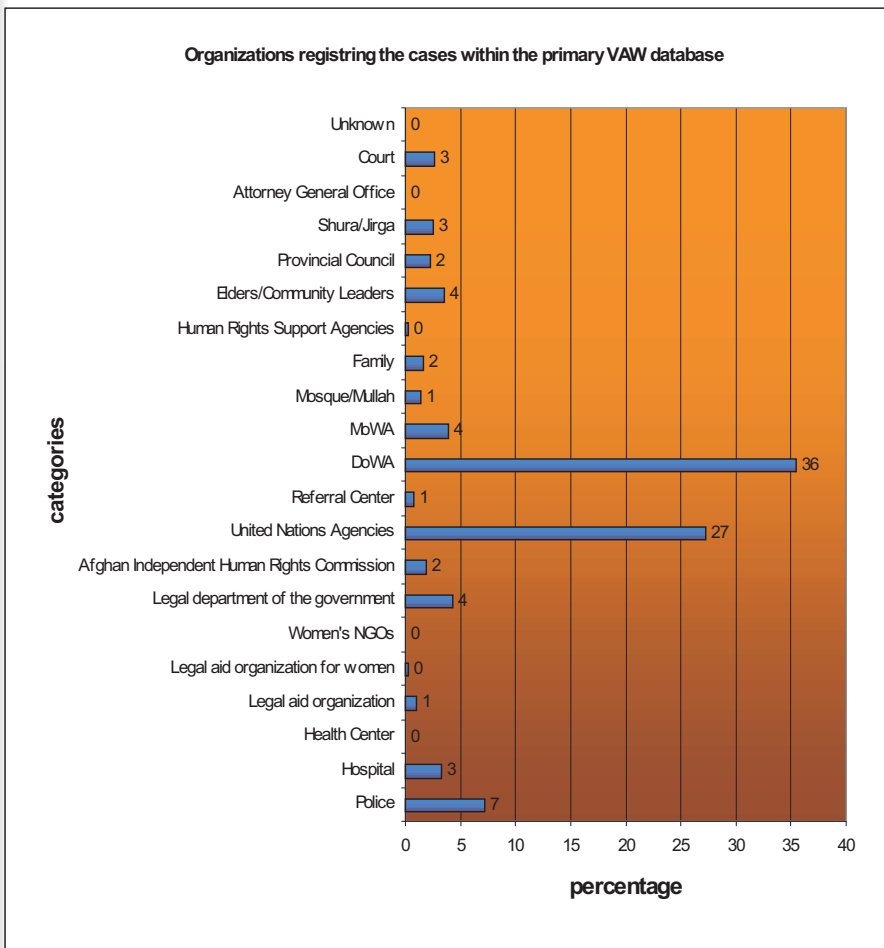


Chart 2: Cases recorded per organization

The Department of Women Affairs and the UN agencies account for 63% of the recorded cases as they work on women and human rights' issues. However, other agencies such as the police, hospitals, provincial councils and women *Shuras* are also registering cases of violence against women. Comparatively, the referral center² with its 1% may be interpreted as a possible ideal center for a first point of entry for victims of violence. Being only based in one province and only operational for 3 months it already registered 1% of the registered cases. However, we have data that indicates that women often visit many different agencies before having their cases registered with the above mentioned organizations.



² The referral center is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Interior. The centre is led by professional women who provide information to women on legal issues, educational, economic and health programs/courses. They network with professionals as per need to ensure specialized 24-hour support to women in distress.

2.2 Nature of incidents and their outcome

Chart 3: Nature of incidents

As mentioned previously, one case may involve several incidents e.g. physical attacks may result from forced engagements/marriages. The third graph indicates that the most common incidents of violence are physical attack (22%) followed by forced marriage (16%). 10% of the cases were without any reference to incidents as they were not compatible with the provided categories in the database. In 9% of the cases, women filed complaints of abuse in terms of basic support to sustain their livelihood. Verbal abuse, forced engagement and threat of a violent action represent 21% of all reported cases; while forced marriage and engagement viewed together depict 23% of the cases. Section three of this report highlights that violence against women mostly emanates from forced marriages.

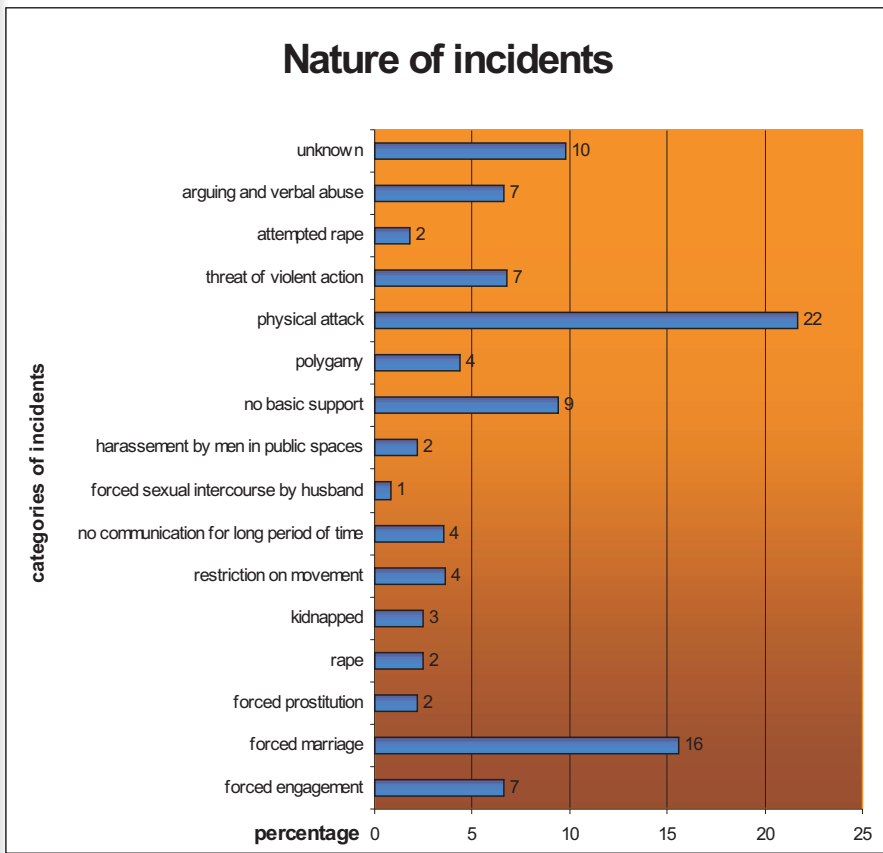


Chart 4: Types of injuries incurred as a result of violent actions.

The graphs indicate that women and girls can become victims of brutal violence through the use of knives, guns and fire (21% of the reported cases). Broken bones as a result of physical violence account for 7% of the reported cases. In the case of murder, the data did not include the cause of death. Therefore, the percentage of each category that could lead to death would in reality be higher.

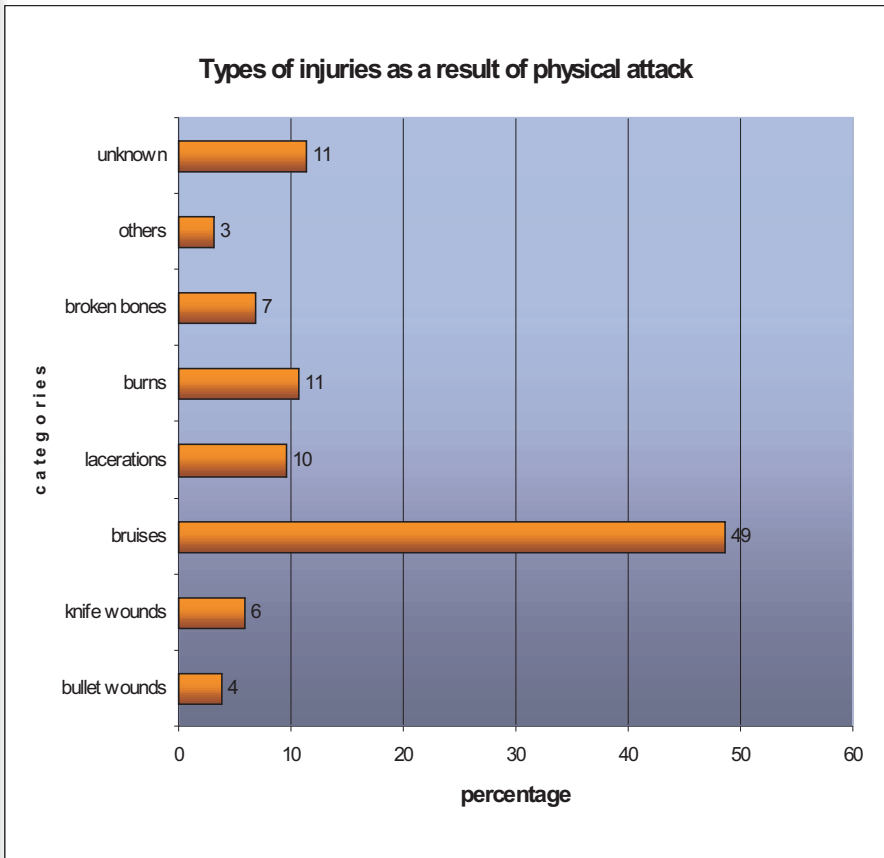


Chart 5: Outcome of the violence

Although it is difficult to reach a conclusive analysis based on the high percentage of 'unknown' outcomes, the available 8% of reported cases leading to death cannot be overlooked. The graph below substantiates that violence committed against women/girls can lead to very serious consequences and compels them to elope from their homes to escape these acts. The case studies indicate that elopement generally takes place as a result of ongoing violence becoming unbearable. However, many girls/women eloping from their homes get imprisoned which multiplies the injustice already committed against them.

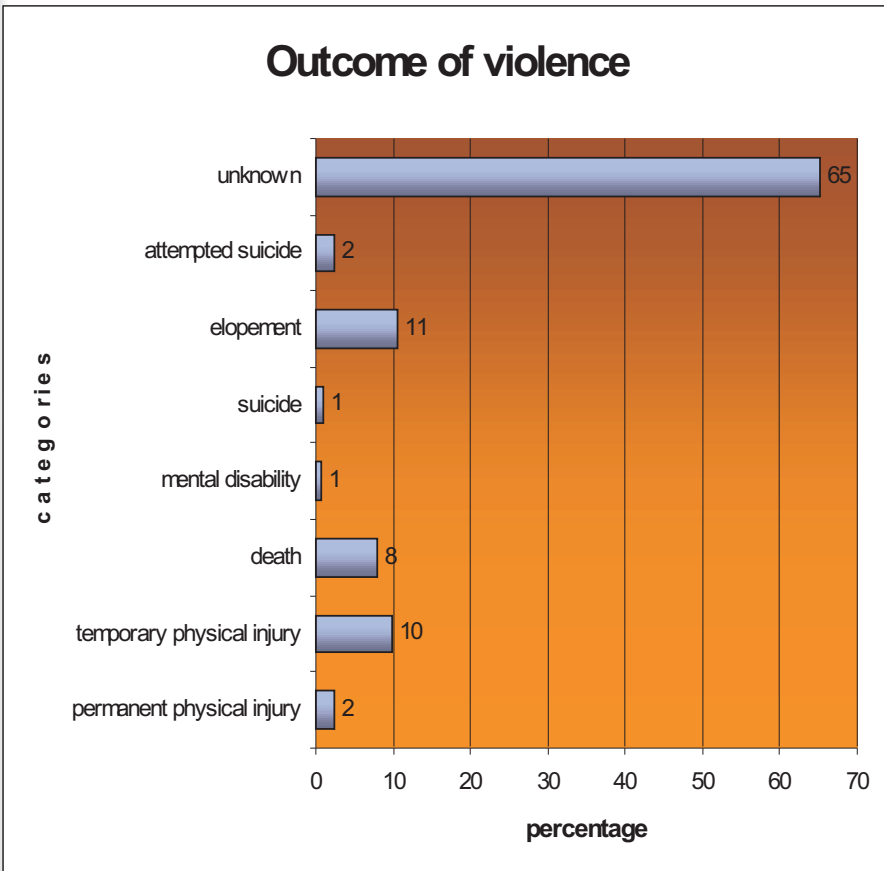


Chart 6: Relationship to the complainant.

It is disturbing to note that women and girls are mostly abused by people close to them; i.e. family members (father, mother, brother(s), sister(s), life partners (husband, fiancée, ex-husband and/or boyfriend), step family members, in-laws and other relatives. This group amounts to 92% of the reported cases of abuse. When the women or girls seek recourse from the government they are further molested by the government representatives.

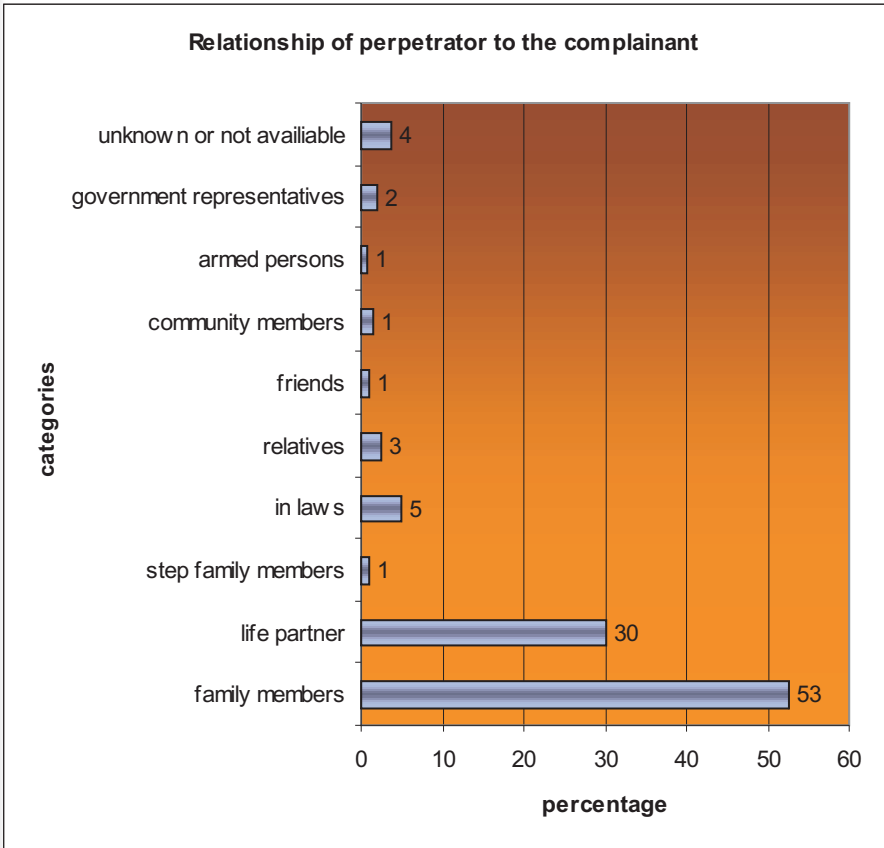


Chart 7: Number of perpetrators per reported case

In most reported cases, the complainant alleged abuse by one person. However, the gathered information does not indicate the lack of proactive interference by other members to stop the violence.

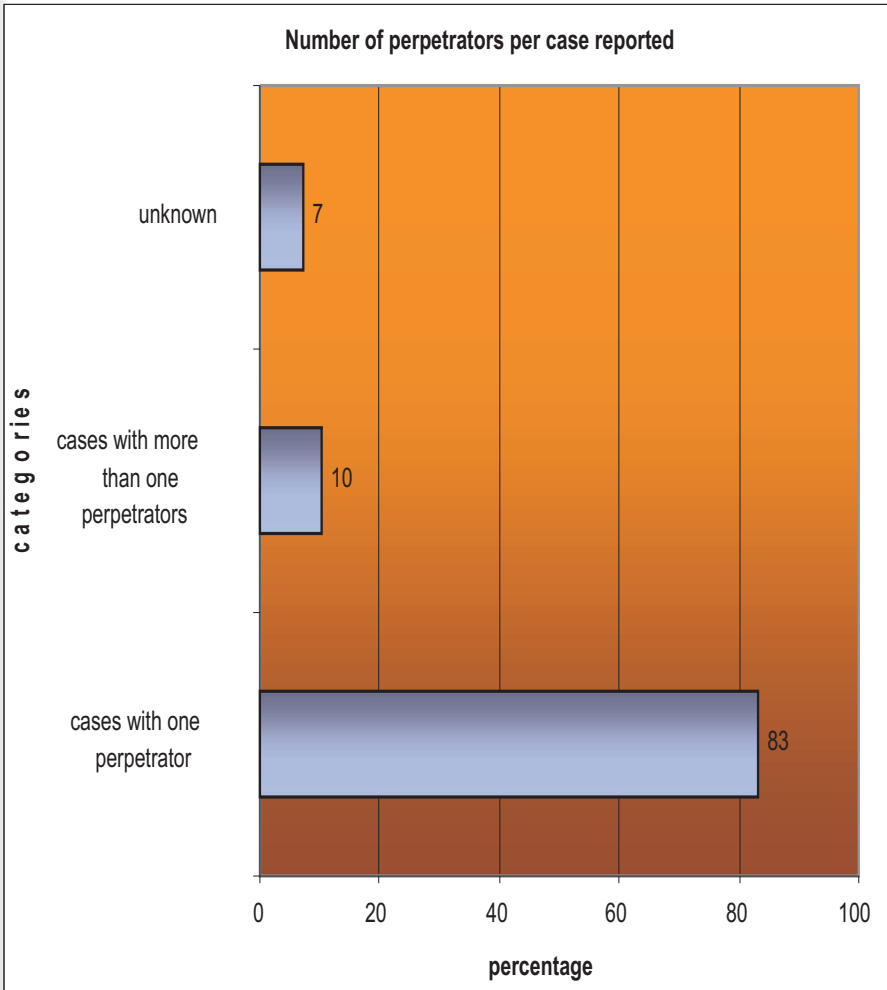
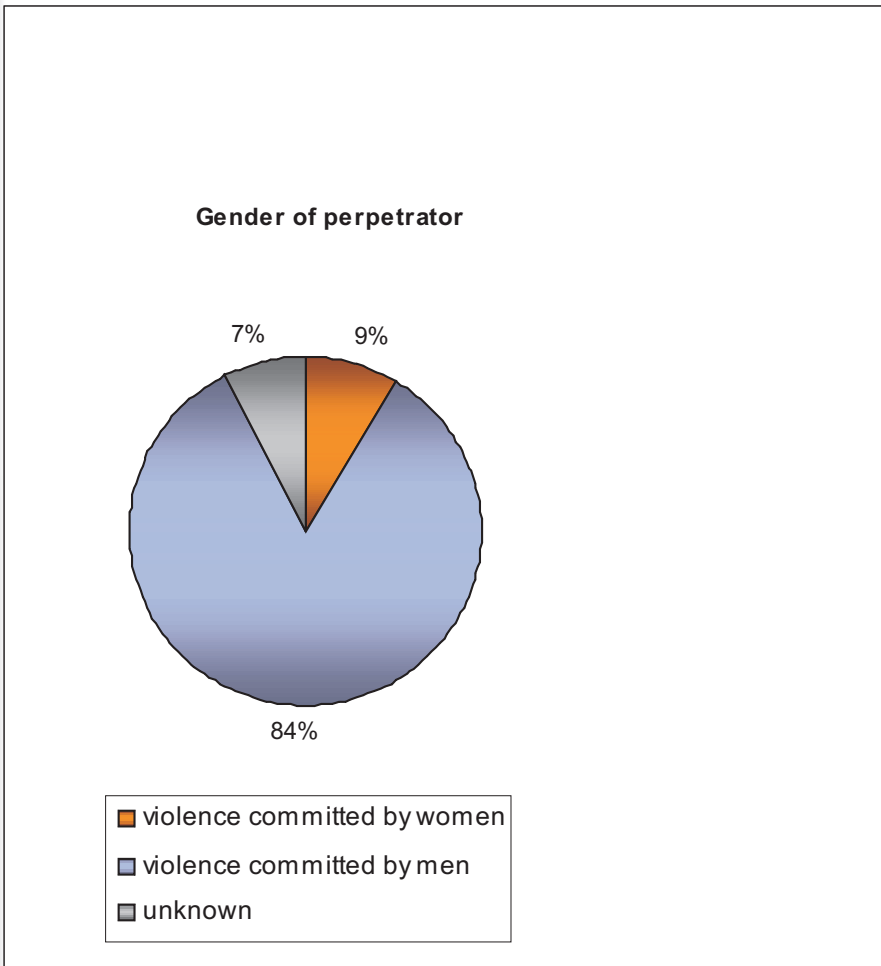


Chart 8: Percentage of women perpetrators

A woman violating other women/girls is not an unusual phenomenon and constitutes a limited number of the recorded cases. The number refers to mothers/sisters-in-law and cases of mothers involved in arranging forced engagement/marriage for their daughters among other types of violence.



2.3 Profile of complainant

Chart 9: Age of complainant

20% of recorded cases lack the information regarding the age of complainants. The trend indicates that the highest number of victims are below the age of 26 (54%) followed by 9% referring to girls below the age of 16. The figure correlates with the marital status of the alleged victims as most of the cases reported for the group aged between 7-15 years are related to child marriages.

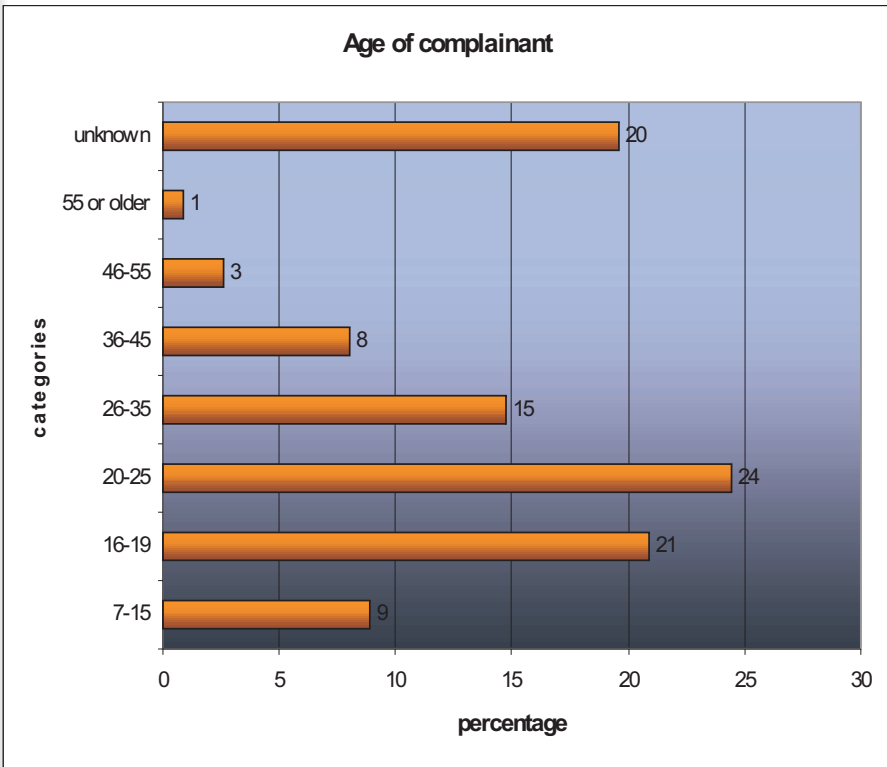
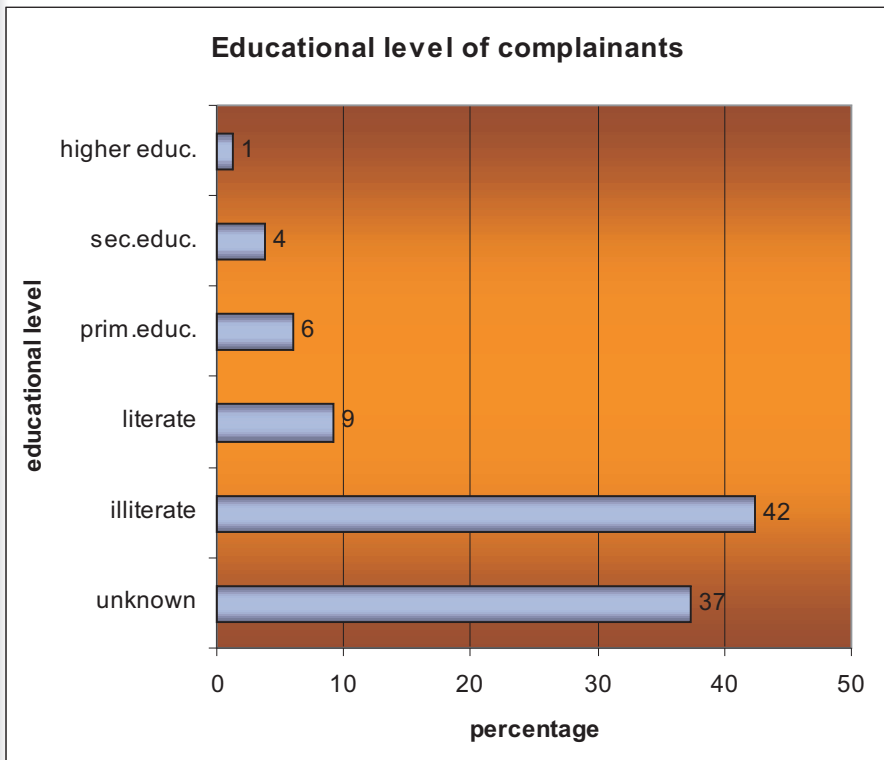


Chart 10: Educational level of complainant

The chart shows that women and girls from every educational background can become victims of violence. The distribution as per different educational level corresponds with the national statistics regarding the educational level of girls and women in Afghanistan. Therefore, education does not necessarily prevent a woman from becoming a victim of violence.



3 The national statistics on education: for men - 43% primary education, 25 % secondary education and 2% higher education. For women we have 29% with primary education, 5% for secondary education, and 0% at higher education. The overall literacy levels are 43% for men and 14% for women. (Women and Men in Afghanistan: A Handbook on Baseline Statistics on Gender, Ministry of Women Affairs, Kabul, Afghanistan, March 2007)

Chart 11: Employment status of complainant

This information is incomplete as 39% of the reported cases do not refer to the employment status of the complainant. Nevertheless, similar to the information regarding the educational status of complainant, there are both employed and unemployed women and girls reporting incidents of violence. The group of home workers is prominent at 37%.

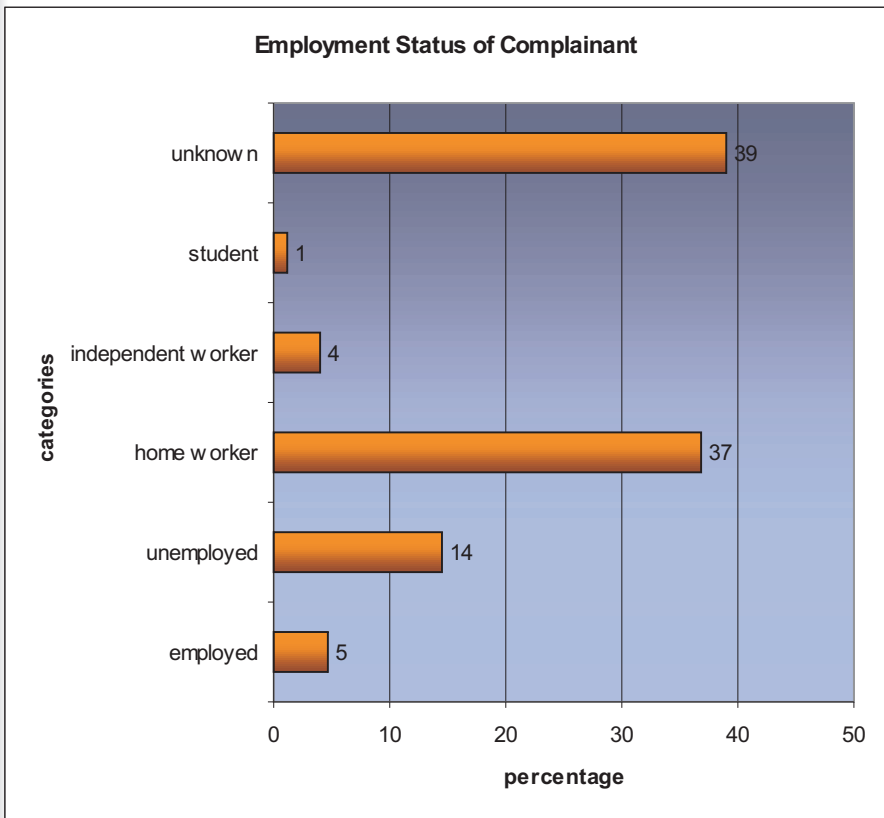
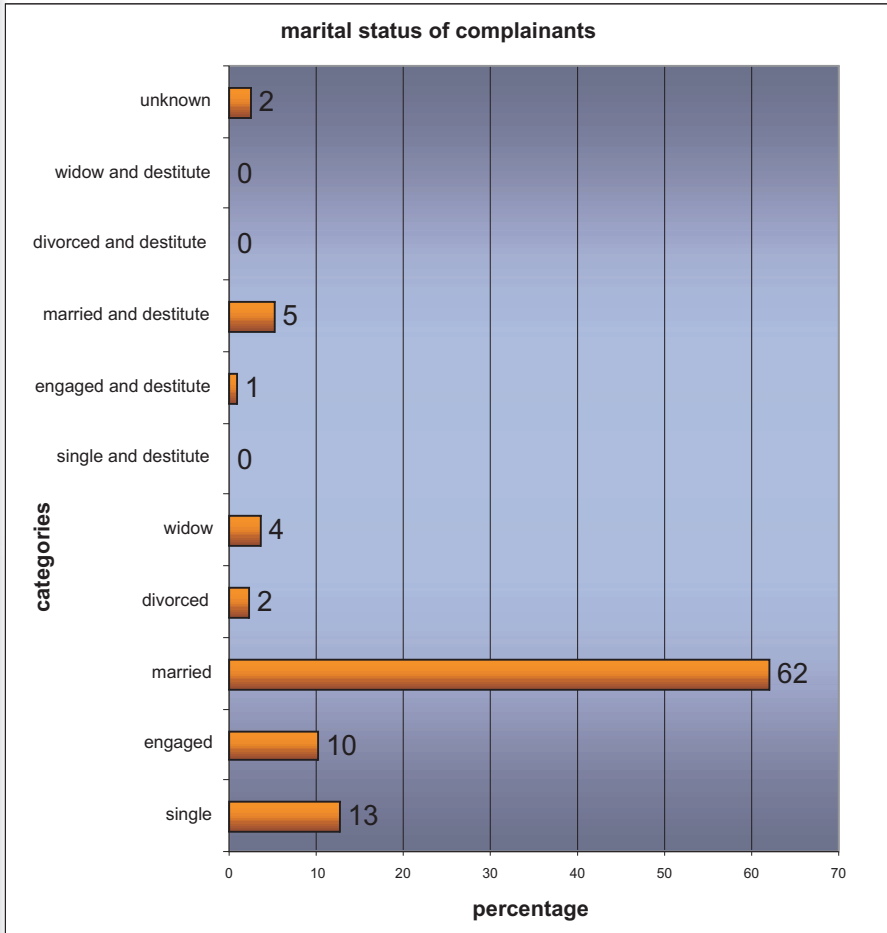


Chart 12: Marital status of complainant

In 85% of the recorded cases, the complainant was related in some way to a future, existing or deceased partner. The complainant in most of the cases reports on violence inflicted to her by her partner or partner to be.



2.4 Profile of perpetrator

The data collected on the perpetrator's profile is less comprehensive than that of the complainant. This imbalance also addresses the usual attention given to the alleged victim. Gradually, this problem shall be resolved when participating agencies understand the importance of such information. With an improved profile of the alleged perpetrator, in place, the policies, legislations and programs aimed at eliminating violence against women can also be addressed in a better way.

Chart 13: Age of perpetrator

The age of the complainant differs from that of the offender who in general belongs to an older age group i.e. 42% of offenders are above 20 years of age. The information is not completely reliable due to the missing elements in the database. The database did not include information on perpetrators aged between 36-45 years, moreover, many complainants were not aware of the age of the offender and referred to them as older persons. The age of the alleged perpetrator might be accurate as many complaints are related to violence committed by partners. As per the case studies provided by UNAMA, several references were made to young girls being married to men much older than them.

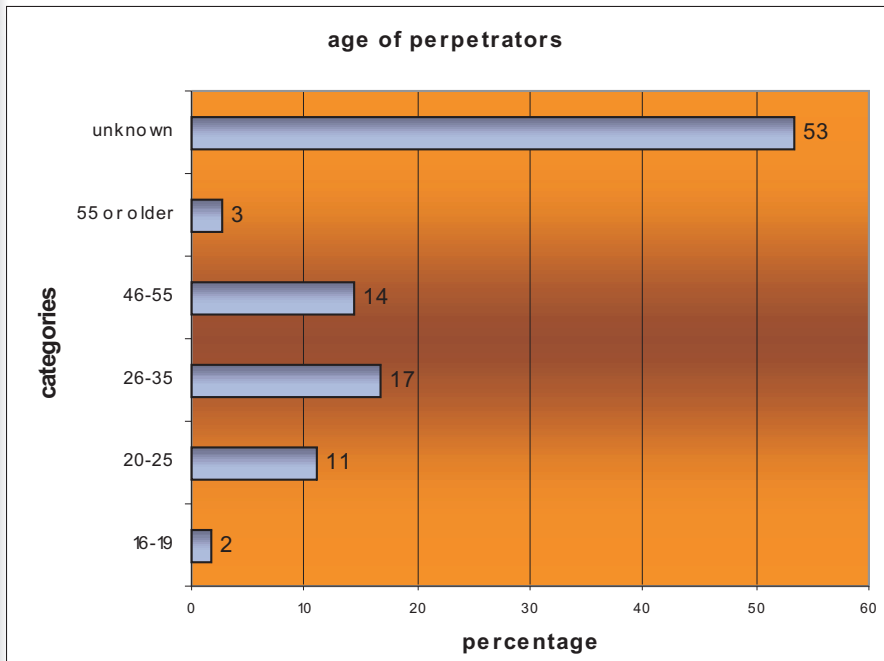


Chart 14: Educational level of perpetrator

The information gathered from the complainants indicates that the alleged perpetrators come from similar educational backgrounds. While comparing information with the national data regarding educational level of male perpetrators (91% of the cases), there are more illiterate people involved in committing violence. Most girls and women report abuse from their life partner, therefore, it can be deduced⁸ that their husbands are uneducated. However, it is difficult to draw any conclusion based on the gaps in information.

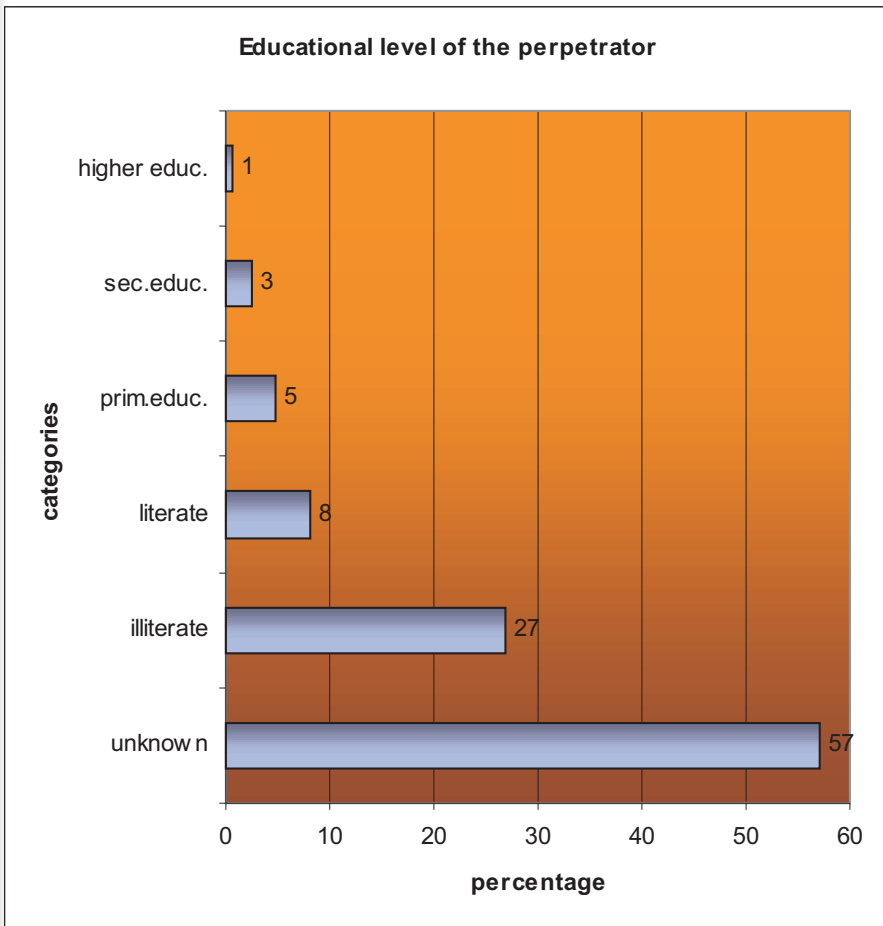


Chart 15: Employment of perpetrator

The high percentage of missing information prevents a conclusive analysis. Furthermore the data lacked details in the category of independent work which should also include subsistence farmers.

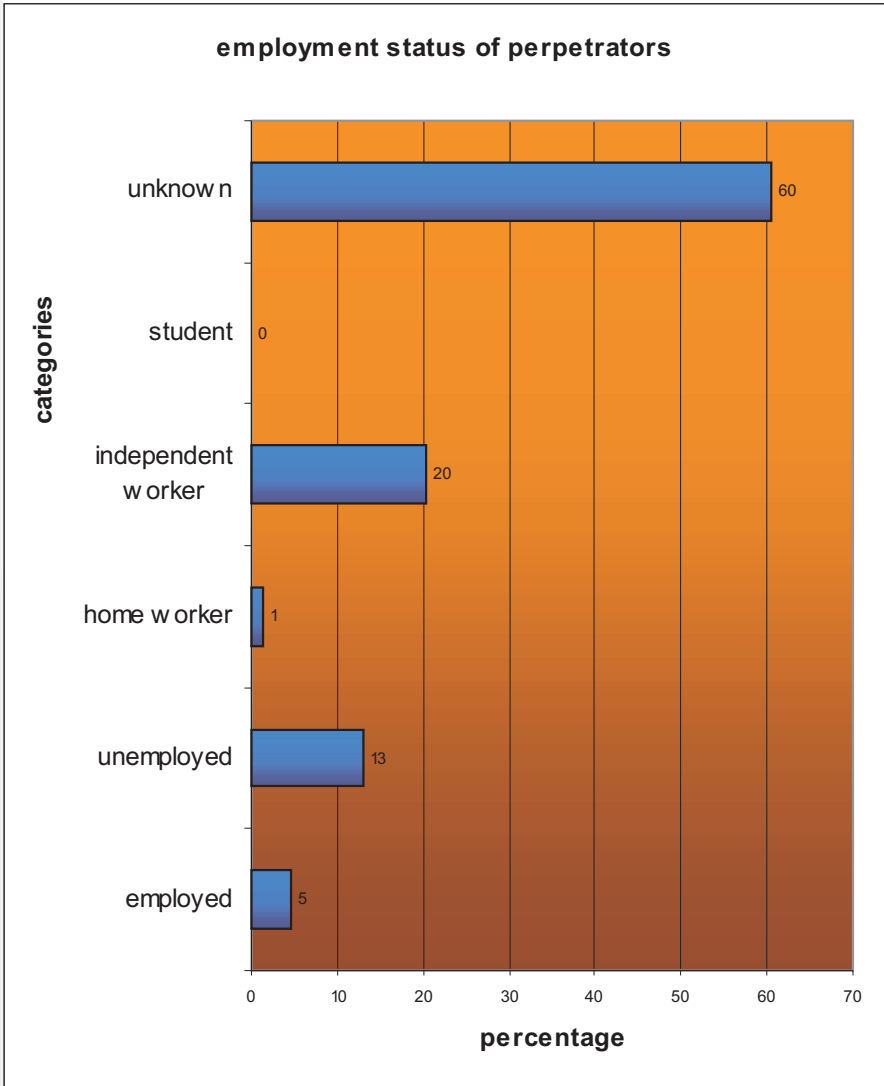
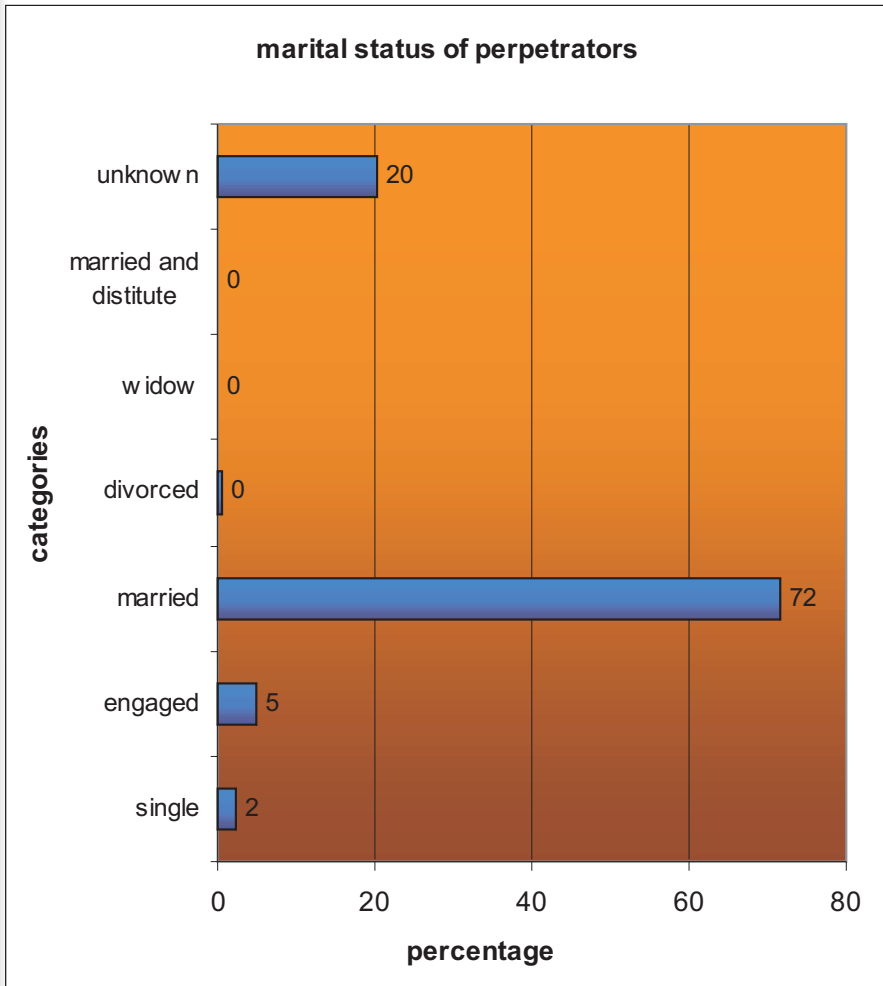


Chart 16: Marital status of perpetrator

The trend as shown in the chart reinforces the information compiled from the complainant which confirms that majority of the abuse is being committed by a life partner.



2.5 Comparative statistics

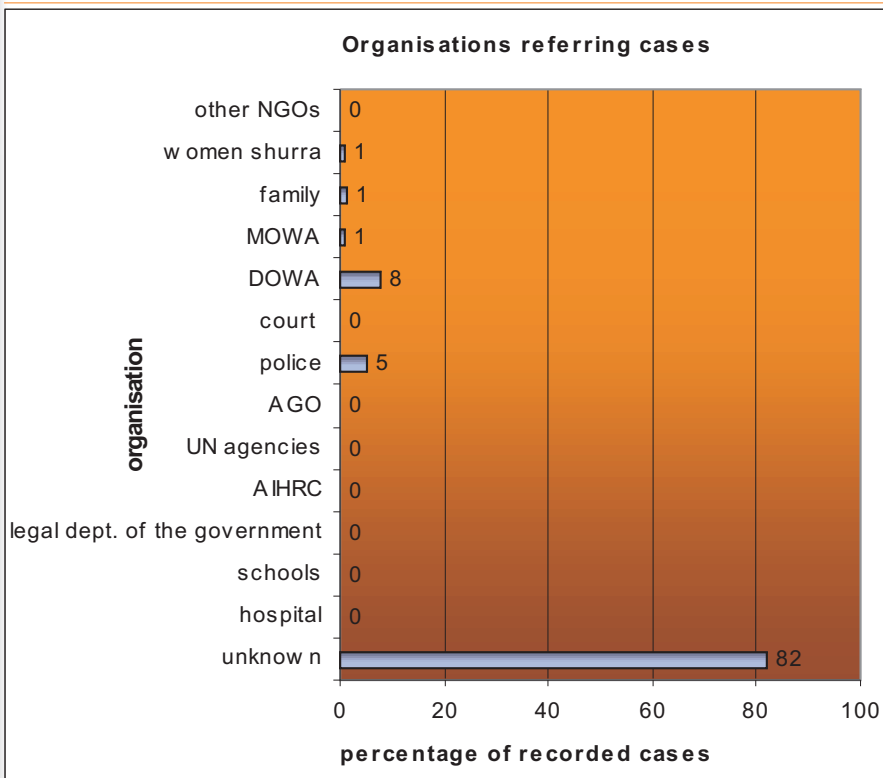
Comparative charts could not be developed due to the missing data in the category for perpetrator. However, the collected information indicates that generally the complainant is younger than the perpetrator; the educational level of both the complainant and perpetrator tends to be the same; and most of the reported cases of abuse are committed by a life partner.

2.6 The referral dynamic

There is limited information on the referral system for cases on violence against women. According to the secondary database on VAW, organizations were neither entering the data systematically nor recording the referral procedure for follow-up. Therefore, the information below can only be considered as indicative. 3

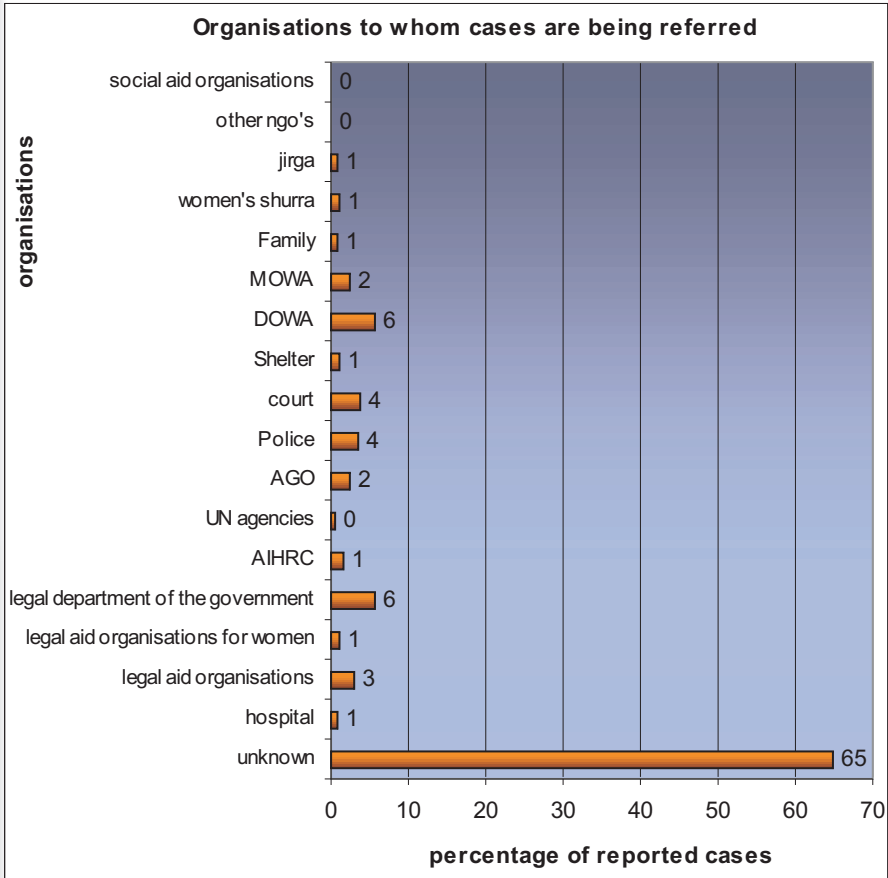
2.6.1 Referring organizations

DoWA and the police are the main agencies referring cases for further follow-up. In general, a major concern is the lack of follow-up in the referral process which prevents the case to be resolved and/or the perpetrator prosecuted. The MoI and MoWA are jointly operating the referral center in Jalalabad to pilot a more effective model of providing support to the women. Most of the time women who report incidents of violence to the police end up in prison themselves. The initial feedback on the referral centre has been positive as women are now being referred to it which prevents them from arbitrary detention. Upon receiving the case, the referral center assesses them for further action.



2.6.2 Organizations being referred to

The referral is made to both informal and formal agencies but majority of the cases are referred to the formal agencies (24%) which includes hospitals. 4% of the cases are referred to non-governmental legal aid organizations.



3. UNAMA's CASE STUDIES AND ANALYSIS

3.1 Geographical coverage

More than 450 cases of VAW were documented by UNAMA's Human Rights Officers between January 2006 and September 2007 in six regions of Afghanistan; North, North East, West, Central Highlands, Central, and East. Although UNAMA has Human Rights offices in South and South East, they have not been able to document any cases of violence against women.

“The reason we do not have any documented cases of violence against women in the South East is because we do not see any women. Women are unable, generally, to leave their homes so they do not have access to our offices or any other institutions.

I have probably seen about 2-3 women in my time in this region and when I do meet women they all complain about violence against women.

They do not report specific cases or talk about themselves. So we cannot document any cases, but they do complain that violence against women is a problem in their communities”

UNAMA Human Rights Officer, South Eastern Region

3.2 Broad trends

A disturbingly large proportion of the cases involve very young women or girl children. In particular, forced engagement/marriage cases later on become domestic violence issues as well. The cases documented by UNAMA fall into several broad categories of perpetrators:

- The largest group of cases is of violence perpetrated against women by close family members (most often husband, father or brother).
 - A smaller group of cases include violence committed by non-family members who are known to the victim.
 - Another group of cases document direct violence against women by the State, generally by the police.
 - In many of the documented cases, there are multiple perpetrators as the initial violence is compounded by further violations of the victim as she approaches or comes into contact with different institutions of the State or community.
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3.2.1 Forced and early engagement/marriage

One of the most common VAW cases reported are related to forced and early engagement and marriage. Some cases are clear-cut complaints about forced and early marriage or engagement. Whereas in other cases, the initial forced engagement or marriage escalates into other forms of violence against the girl/woman.

Case study: In May 2007, UNAMA received a case of forced marriage and severe beating of a 28 year old woman. The woman had been forced to marry her cousin six years prior to the crime. The marriage portion or “bride price” had been 4,000,000 Afghanis. She was subjected to severe violence from her husband and mother-in-law, moreover, her husband did not provide sufficient food and clothes for her or their children. When she was interviewed by UNAMA, there were visible signs of beatings on her body. She was afraid to return to her husband's house and frightened to go to her parent's house where she believed she would be punished again or possibly killed by her father and brother. This case was “resolved” informally by DoWA's consultative board with the “agreement” of all parties and the woman returned to her parent's house.

These forced and early marriages often take the form of transactions, either in financial terms, whereby a family is able to repay its debt or resolve immediate economic hardship by contracting an engagement for their daughter. In some cases, the marriage itself is postponed until the girl reaches puberty. Other transactions are not financial in nature but rather compensatory to make amends for either a failed marriage transaction between the families where the initial marriage portion cannot be repaid or for a crime committed by a member of the girl/woman's family, also known as *Baad*.

This arrangement can create problems in many different ways; in some cases the husband or his family decide to marry the girl before she has reached maturity, whereas, sometimes the girl reaches maturity and does not want to be married (the objection can be to the marriage per se, to the proposed husband or there may be a preferred candidate of her choice).

Case study: A young girl was “sold” at the age of 7 years for \$400 to a 30 year old man. The girl is 14 years old now and does not want to marry him (he is allegedly an opium addict) but her family cannot afford to repay the \$400 to the man.

3.2.2 Elopement as an outcome of forced marriage

In some cases the threat of a forced marriage leads girls and young women to run away from home. In such situations, different types of additional violence may be experienced by the victims i.e. these girls are sexually exploited.

Case study: In mid-July 2006, a Department of Women's Affairs reported a case to UNAMA Human Rights Unit (HRU) where a 14 year old girl had run away from her father's home due to domestic violence. She was arrested and detained over night in the provincial jail and during the night she was allegedly raped by the police officers. There was no legal action as the prosecutor claimed the lack of witnesses and evidence to support the allegations.

In other instances, the victims were prosecuted, sentenced and imprisoned by the State even though; they had not committed a crime under the Penal Code. It is often commented that the detention is allegedly for the protection of the girl or woman; however, in that case, the custody should be under the protective detention provisions of the law rather than as a result of conviction for a non-existent crime. On the other hand, it is encouraging to note that in some cases these convictions are being overturned on appeal.

Case study: Conviction of a girl for running away overturned on appeal.

One of the most common outcomes of all these cases of VAW is an informal resolution brokered by the Police Family Response Unit, the Department of Women's Affairs or a traditional community council of elders. These informal settlements generally result in the girl or woman returning to her husband or parent's home with a written assurance from the perpetrator to abstain from beating, abusing, neglecting or exploiting the victim.

Case study: In February 2007, UNAMA HRU documented a case in which a 25 year old woman had been attacked by her husband with an axe and a knife. She reported that her husband made her sleep outside the house with the animals and that he was also beating their one year old daughter. The tribal elders together with the head of the Department of Women's Affairs resolved this case through a jirga which concluded that the victim would be returned to her husband on the condition that he and his ensure that she will no longer be beaten and be provided with food and the basics of life. The agreement has a clause that if he fails to fulfill these conditions he will be fined 100,000 Afghanis and the case will be referred to the police.

3.2.3 The process of re-victimization

In the cases where the girl or woman is returned to the home of the perpetrator, whether it was her husband, father or brother; there are documented examples where she was subjected to further violence (forced marriages despite assurance) and in extreme scenarios, some of these girls and women have been murdered.

Case study: In August 2007, two women were shot while they were asleep. UNAMA HRU's records show that one of the murdered women had run away from her home on a number of occasions to escape domestic violence. In 2005, UNAMA registered the case of this woman who was charged and detained in the provincial prison and then eventually returned to her home. The circumstances in the case strongly indicate "honor killing" and the local justice authorities did not apprehend the suspects. After pressure from UNAMA, the Afghan National Police arrested five men suspected for the murder.

Similarly, in cases where women asked for a divorce through formal or informal justice mechanisms but was refused and instead returned to her marital home, she may be subjected to further violence.

Case study: In January 2007, Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) received a complaint in the case of a 16 year old girl who was subjected to escalating domestic violence. She was sold at the age of seven years to her husband and from the outset was beaten by him. In late 2006, she approached her father-in-law for his help and due to the enormous family shame attached to this issue her brother-in-law shot her in the leg and warned her not to mention it again. During Eid in 2006, she returned to her father's home and asked for a divorce. A jirga was convened and took the decision to send her back to her husband's family against her will. One week after her return she was severely beaten up by her father-in-law, who cut off her left nostril, shaved her head, tied her up with a rope and threw her outside. Her mother-in-law was also involved in this crime. In January 2007, AIHRC assisted the victim and her father to make an official complaint to the police. In February, with insistent follow-up from AIHRC and UNAMA, the husband and father-in-law were arrested. On 14 May the case was finalized, her husband was sentenced to three years imprisonment and she was granted a divorce.

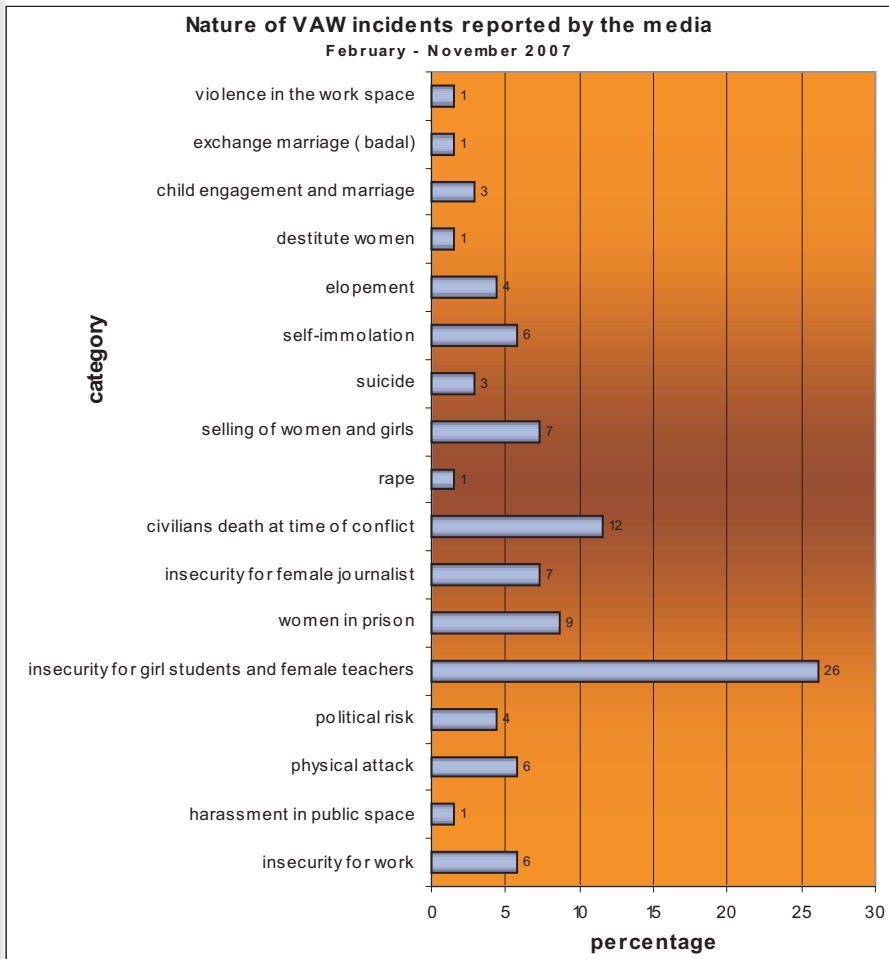
These cases give a general idea of the high risk that women face if they dare to complain against the violence they are subjected to in their homes. Their situation becomes even more precarious when the relevant officials or elders fail to take sufficient steps to protect the girls and women from further violence by returning them to the same situation.

4. MEDIA COVERAGE ON ISSUES OF VAW

Media coverage on incidents of VAW was collected from February to November 2007. The reports appeared in one or several of media sources; Khaleej Times, Hewaad, Pajhwok, Cheragh, Payam-e Mujahed, Islah, BBC, Radio Free Europe, IRIN, Associated Press, Independent Journalist, Eqtedar-e Milli, Rah-e Nejaat, Amin, Arman-e Milli and UNAMA Press Office.

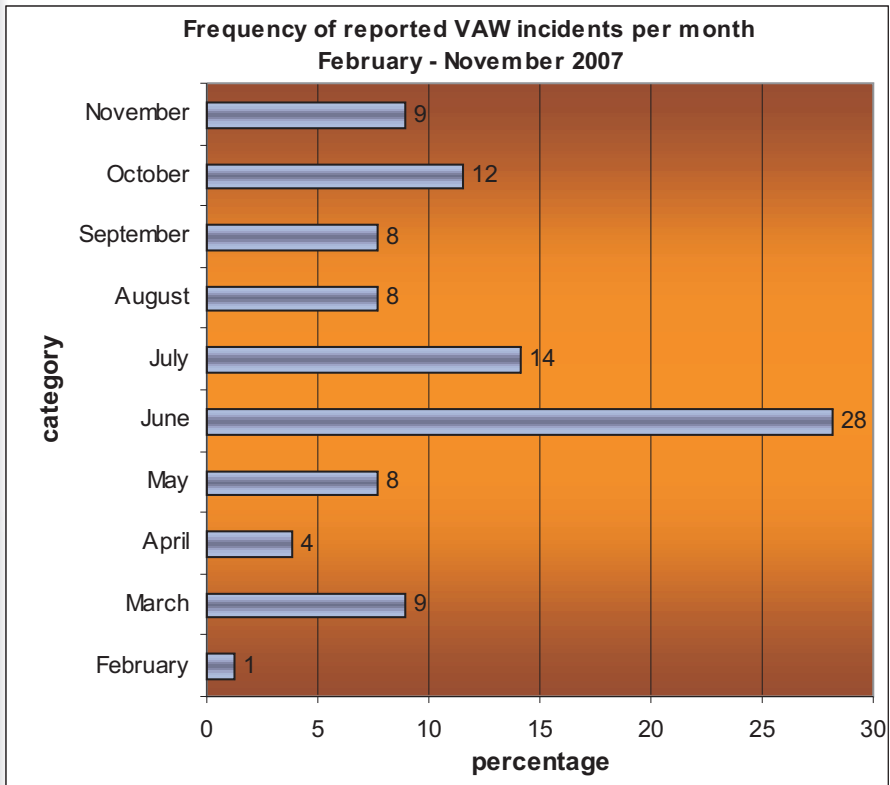
4.1 Nature of reported incidents

The media mostly reports incidents which are covered by the primary VAW database and the qualitative report provided by UNAMA. However, there are some specific references which are not covered in these two reports i.e. women civilians that die as a result of ongoing fights between the government and anti-government entities; threat to children and teachers attending girls' schools; and political intimidation and insecurity at the workplace. In addition, trafficking of girls and women has not been specified as a particular offence but instead come under the category of forced marriage in the primary VAW database. The lack of proper support to children accompanying their mother to prison is another category which is not reflected in the primary VAW database. Even though, the percentage of women in prison is low in comparison with male prisoners, the prison situation is always seen as a reflection of the way society deals with its citizens and in this case, with its women citizens.



4.2 Frequency of reported incidents

On average, there usually are two to three incidents of VAW reported per week. The month of June however, was an exception with highly visible cases covering incidents of attacks on girl schools and prominent journalists. The main gap lies in reporting on the follow-up of these cases of VAW. A stronger message on intolerance towards VAW can be conveyed with increased investigative reporting.



5. OVERALL ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Analysis

The assertion provided by the quantitative data that women are mostly being victimized by close family members is confirmed by the statistics provided through the primary and secondary VAW database. The statistics indicate a figure of 92% that encompasses family members, life partners, in-laws, step-family and relatives.

Both the qualitative and quantitative data support information about forced and early marriage or engagement as a prominent element of violence against women. The data emerges in two ways; reporting of the forced status as a violation and reporting of violence emanating of a situation created by a forced and early marriage or engagement.

UNAMA's analysis and the statistics generated by the primary VAW database highlight the young age of the victims and reinforce the initial findings of the secondary database. 30% of the recorded cases concern victims who are younger than 20 years of age. 9% of the cases relate to girls aged 15 years or younger. In many cases, the victims rely on a male family member to report the incident. Considering the fact that 84% of the cases are committed by men and 92% by family or close relatives, the probability of reporting remains remote especially for young victims.

Considering the profile of the alleged perpetrator, there is a need to be more cautious about returning victims of violence to the family or home where this violence originates. As UNAMA's report highlights that girls and women returning to their homes are subjected to further violence. In certain situations, this has led to the death of the complainant. The primary VAW database reports that 8% of deaths result from violence against women and another 8% of the reported cases result in death.

It is disturbing to note in the information provided by UNAMA that victims seeking support from government agencies are further subjected to violence by government officials. Reporting on these incidents would be even more difficult so the estimated figure at 2% emanating from the primary VAW database can be considered as extremely conservative.

Recommendations

The issue of referral addresses two processes; being able to refer a particular case to a competent agency and the follow-up capacity on the referral to ensure that the cases are processed as required. 82% of the cases recorded in the primary VAW database do not provide information on the referral process. UNAMA on the other hand reported about re-victimization of the affected women/girls, incompetence of responding officials and poor quality of relevant action.

The statistics do not record cases of self-immolation as cases of VAW deal with acts perpetrated upon women/girls by another person. Nevertheless, the statistics reveal figures about burn wounds (11%) and attempted suicide, suicide and death (11% together). In some incidents, self-immolation masks the real case of violence committed by another person. There is lack of proper investigation of these cases and follow-up for prosecution of the perpetrators..

Reports on VAW in the media cover more visible incidents such as attacks on girls' schools and prominent women (e.g. journalist, radio announcer, members of parliament). These media reports can increase awareness on the issue of VAW, however, they can also generate negative responses. As one of the DOWA members reported, incidents of self-immolation were unknown in her province, yet with increased media coverage on the matter, they have received several reports of self-immolation. On the other hand, as the UNAMA report states, reporting on VAW helps stakeholders to take up cases which would have been ignored.

5.2 Recommendations

- ❖ The penal code needs to be revised to include un-consensual engagements and marriages for girls and young women younger than 18 years of age.
 - ❖ All new marriages and engagements arranged before the legal age and without the consent of both parties should be considered as illegal. In case both the future bride and groom consent to the marriage the family will be advised to defer the ceremony until both bride and groom have attained the legal age for marriage. .
 - ❖ Government officials involved in VAW should be prosecuted and removed from their office.
 - ❖ The primary VAW database should be updated to provide an improved profile of all incidents occurring in the family and public space.
 - ❖ Develop standard operational procedures together with the police and the prosecutor's office, in order to ensure access to justice for women, proper investigation and legal action in cases of VAW.
 - ❖ Provide inputs in the training modules of all government stakeholders to ensure that victims of violence are advised and assisted in a professional way which ensures safety, prosecution and a positive conclusion.
 - ❖ Reward government officials who have taken up cases of VAW in a manner that induces intolerance towards the issue.
 - ❖ Provide changes within the law to allow pro-active interventions by law enforcement agencies in cases of VAW.
 - ❖ Develop viable alternatives for women and girls who can not return to the violent situation.
 - ❖ Expand the use of the primary VAW database to all the provinces of Afghanistan.
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