

Avahan Project Baseline Study report

Summary of the Study

- Quantitative Survey with 1055 randomly selected women respondents followed up with additional study with 455 DV survivors identified through the survey.
- 70% of respondents are between 20-40 years of age and every two out of three have been to school; only half of the respondents are members of SHG groups; 57% of the respondents follow Hindu religion with 19% of them being Muslims and 16% being Christians; over 75% are nuclear families
- Over half of the respondents do have some independent source of income as they work and earn outside of their homes; Of these, the Bengali Hindu respondents at 74.5% are the highest percentage of women who work and earn outside their home; followed closely by Koch Rajbongshi. Bengali Muslim women at 30% are the lowest numbers who do not earn outside their homes.
- 31.6% of the HHs surveyed depend on daily wage labour for the economic sustenance. Of this, both the Bodo and Bengali Muslim community at over 42% households each depend on daily wage labour for survival.
- 86.7% women across all age groups, irrespective of whether they are SHG members or not, perceive wife-beating to be a problem in their village in their village. More Bengali Hindu respondents (34%) say that DV is not a problem in their village whereas Bengali Muslims and also Nepalis (over 90%) say that it is a problem in their villages. Even among Bodo respondents, almost 90% say that DV is a problem.
- the less educated respondents say that DV is a problem in their village even if they do not suffer from it personally. 59% of Illiterate women respondents say they suffer from wife-beating compared to 15% of those with a degree.
- Similarly, when asked to say how many men out of 10 beat their wives, only 3.2% respondents claim they do not know. Most respondents (83.7%) say 1-5 men out of 10 beat their wives. Almost 41% of Koch Rajbongshis say 6-10 men i.e. over 60% men beat their wives.
- 49% of women say that they have experienced violence sometime or the other in their lives whereas on probing further, 56% of women say they have got beaten in the past one year. SHG membership shows that economic empowerment has not led to social empowerment of women
- Muslim women report the highest incidence of wife-beating (67.7%) within the past one year followed by the “others” category i.e. largely Rabhas & Biharis
- Women respondents still get beaten whether they are married a person of their own choice or not. Hence, knowing your partner beforehand does not seem to matter when it comes to domestic violence.

a. Background to the Study & Methodology

This study is part of the ant's *Project Avahan*, an initiative supported by the *Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives*, Bangalore to reduce domestic violence (DV) in villages of Chirang District in Assam. The first phase of the project started in May 2017 hoped to aimed with 250 SHGs in around 100 village hamlets to reduce DV in three years. This is to be done by supporting the DV survivors, by sensitizing key stakeholders – both men & women – in the communities to act at stopping DV cases and also to make the State more responsive towards DV survivors.

We wanted to conduct a study at the beginning of the project to get a baseline of DV attitudes and incidents in the community. Hence, this study was conducted between August–October 2017 once the project team had been recruited and trained. There was a debate if the survey at the beginning was the best way to get data on such a sensitive issue but the team after much deliberation decided to go ahead – this was also a way to reach out to the community and let the survivors know that there were people who were there to support and help them if they needed. The team knew it to be a risk that some survivors may not open up about their abuse to the team members. We were also concerned that we should not put the already abused woman at risk through the survey. The team understanding this took all the precautions possible to keep the safety of the women respondents i.e. having only women interviewers, avoiding when the family members seemed hostile, talking to the women when alone in the home, giving the DV survivors their contact numbers if ever they felt threatened etc.

Methodology in Brief

- Survey was done with 1055 women using a carefully constructed, pilot-tested questionnaire in English and then translated into both Bodo and Assamese languages (depending on the preferred language of the respondent). We did a week-long training for the survey team to first sensitize them on the issues of gender inequalities, gender based violence and domestic domestic violence. Only then did we train them on the survey tool and send them out to the field for data collection. New team members first shadowed senior members experienced in working with women and then only were they allowed to carry out the survey.
- Systematic random sampling was done – villages and households to be surveyed within that village were randomly selected from a list of villages procured from district officials.
- A second follow-up interview using a new questionnaire with both quantitative and qualitative questions was further administrated to the DV survivors after a period of a few weeks. This gave an in-depth understanding about the nature of violence experienced by the DV survivors.

Strengths of the Study

- Reached out to a large number of women and could give the message of support especially to DV survivors.
- The community came to know of the project and opened up spaces of further dialogue with them.

Limitations of the Study

- As expected, some DV survivors did not report their abuse to the surveyors though the surveyors themselves or the neighbors or SHG members etc. knew they were being beaten by their spouses. Hence, the actual incidents of DV might not have got captured.

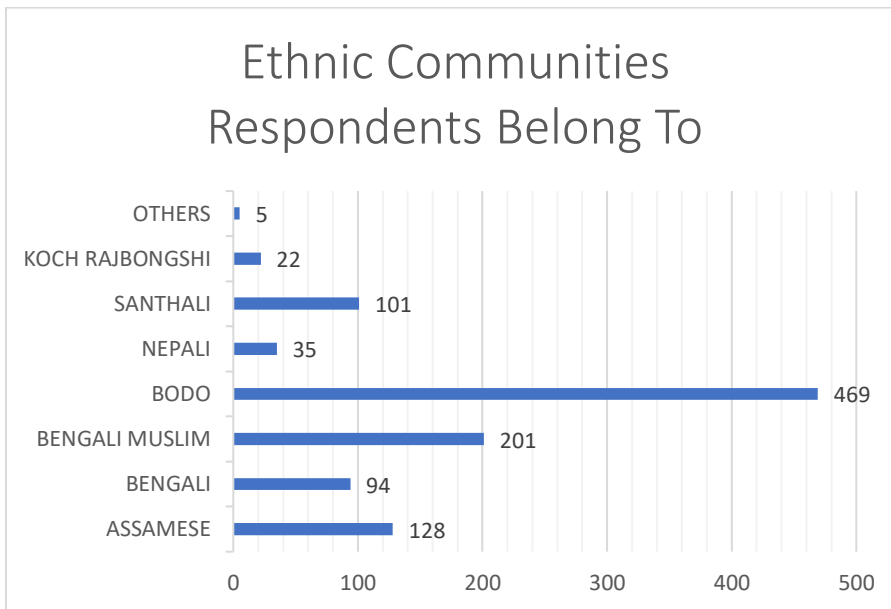
b. Study Findings

I. Profile of Respondents

1.1. Brief Profile of Respondents & HH's Surveyed

Total Respondents Surveyed	1055
Total Number belonging to SHG	566 (54%)
Marital Status of Respondents	1044 (99%) married; 0.1 % widowed

1.2 Communities Respondents Belong To



- Out of 1055 respondents interviewed, 469 respondents i.e. 44.5% were Bodos; they were the largest group interviewed, followed by Bengali Muslims at 19% and Assamese at 12%.

1.3 Community wise Educational Status of Respondents

COMMUNITYWISE DISTRIBUTION OF REPOSNDENTS ACCORDING TO EDUCATION QUALIFICATION

	EDUCATION QUALIFICATION						Total
	PRIMARY	HIGH SCHOOL	HIGHER SECONDARY	BACHELORS DEGREE	MASTER'S DEGREE	ILLITERATE	
ASSAMESE	38 29.7%	17 13.3%	17 13.3%	2 1.6%	0 .0%	54 42.2%	128 100.0%
BENGALI	36 38.3%	16 17.0%	16 17.0%	0 .0%	1 1.1%	25 26.6%	94 100.0%
BENGALI MUSLIM	43 21.4%	31 15.4%	8 4.0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	119 59.2%	201 100.0%
BODO	120 25.6%	123 26.2%	40 8.5%	7 1.5%	3 .6%	176 37.5%	469 100.0%
NEPALI	14 40.0%	5 14.3%	2 5.7%	3 8.6%	0 .0%	11 31.4%	35 100.0%
SANTHALI	23 22.8%	5 5.0%	1 1.0%	1 1.0%	0 .0%	71 70.3%	101 100.0%
KOCH RAJBONGSHI	11 50.0%	1 4.5%	1 4.5%	0 .0%	0 .0%	9 40.9%	22 100.0%
OTHERS	1 20.0%	1 20.0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	3 60.0%	5 100.0%
Total	286 27.1%	199 18.9%	85 8.1%	13 1.2%	4 .4%	468 44.4%	1055 100.0%

- 44.4% of women respondents are illiterate with the highest % of illiterates being among the Adivasis respondents where 2 out of 3 women are illiterate
- 1 out of 5 women have completed their matriculation
- Less than 10% of respondents have studied high school

1.4 Communitywise Distribution of Religion of Respondents

COMMUNITYwise Distribution of RELIGION of Respondents

	RELIGION					Total
	BATHOU	CHRISTIAN	HINDU	MUSLIM	OTHERS	
ASSAMESE	0 .0%	1 .8%	127 99.2%	0 .0%	0 .0%	128 100.0%
BENGALI	0 .0%	0 .0%	94 100.0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	94 100.0%
BENGALI MUSLIM	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 .5%	200 99.5%	0 .0%	201 100.0%
BODO	71 15.1%	152 32.4%	246 52.5%	0 .0%	0 .0%	469 100.0%
NEPALI	0 .0%	0 .0%	32 91.4%	0 .0%	3 8.6%	35 100.0%
SANTHALI	2 2.0%	13 12.9%	74 73.3%	0 .0%	12 11.9%	101 100.0%
KOCH RAJBONGSHI	0 .0%	0 .0%	22 100.0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	22 100.0%
OTHERS	0 .0%	1 20.0%	2 40.0%	0 .0%	2 40.0%	5 100.0%
Total	73 6.9%	167 15.8%	598 56.7%	200 19.0%	17 1.6%	1055 100.0%

- Almost 57% of the respondents are Hindus followed by 19% of Muslims; the Bodos are the most diverse of the all communities in terms of religion
- The category of “other” communities include a few families of Rabhas and Biharis

1.5 Family Type according to Communities

COMMUNITYWISE DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILY TYPE AMONG RESPONDENTS

	TYPE OF FAMILY			Total
	NUCLEAR FAMILY	JOINT FAMILY	EXTENDED FAMILY	
ASSAMESE	96 75.0%	26 20.3%	6 4.7%	128 100.0%
BENGALI	62 66.0%	31 33.0%	1 1.1%	94 100.0%
BENGALI MUSLIM	165 82.1%	27 13.4%	9 4.5%	201 100.0%
BODO	341 72.7%	96 20.5%	32 6.8%	469 100.0%
NEPALI	27 77.1%	4 11.4%	4 11.4%	35 100.0%
SANTHALI	83 82.2%	9 8.9%	9 8.9%	101 100.0%
KOCH RAJBONGSHI	5 22.7%	16 72.7%	1 4.5%	22 100.0%
OTHERS	4 80.0%	1 20.0%	0 .0%	5 100.0%
Total	783 74.2%	210 19.9%	62 5.9%	1055 100.0%

- Nuclear families dominates in almost all communities, except in Koch Rajbongshis where 2 out of 3 families live jointly.
- Bengali Muslims are the highest numbers in terms of nuclear families (82%)
- Bodos also prefer nuclear families with 20% living in joint families

1.6 Communitywise Distribution of Respondents according to Earning outside of home

Community Respondent Belongs To		Whether earning out of Home		Total
		Yes	NO	YES
ASSAMESE		78	50	128
		60.9%	39.1%	100.0%
BENGALI		70	24	94
		74.5%	25.5%	100.0%
BENGALI MUSLIM		61	139	200
		30.5%	69.5%	100.0%
BODO		188	281	469
		40.1%	59.9%	100.0%
NEPALI		16	19	35
		45.7%	54.3%	100.0%
SANTHALI		49	52	101
		48.5%	51.5%	100.0%
KOCH RAJBONGSHI		15	7	22
		68.2%	31.8%	100.0%
OTHERS		2	3	5
		40.0%	60.0%	100.0%
Total		479	575	1054
		45.4%	54.6%	100.0%

- Independent income source at times is an important determinant of the vulnerability of women to abuse. Hence, it is important to note that 45.4% of the respondents say that they contribute monetarily to the house.

- Of these, the Bengali Hindu respondents at 74.5% are the highest percentage of women who work and earn outside their home; followed closely by Koch Rajbongshi

- Bengali Muslim women at 30% are the lowest numbers who do not earn outside their homes. This could be due to their relatively poor educational status and also social strictures.

1.7 CrossTabulation Between Educational Qualification of Respondents and Paid Work they are Engaged in

	CURRENTLY AT WHICH WORK THEY ARE ENGAGED IN						Total
	AGRICULTURE	BUSINESS	DAILY WAGE	GOVT JOB	NON GOVT JOB	NO	AGRICULTURE
PRIMARY	65	8	76	3	2	132	286
	22.7%	2.8%	26.6%	1.0%	.7%	46.2%	100.0%
HIGH SCHOOL	26	5	27	10	4	127	199
	13.1%	2.5%	13.6%	5.0%	2.0%	63.8%	100.0%
HIGHER SECONDARY	25	2	8	8	3	39	85
	29.4%	2.4%	9.4%	9.4%	3.5%	45.9%	100.0%
BACHELORS	1	2	0	2	1	7	13
	7.7%	15.4%	.0%	15.4%	7.7%	53.8%	100.0%
MA	2	0	0	1	0	1	4
	50.0%	.0%	.0%	25.0%	.0%	25.0%	100.0%
ILLITERATE	67	13	129	2	2	255	468
	14.3%	2.8%	27.6%	.4%	.4%	54.5%	100.0%
Total	186	30	240	26	12	561	1055
	17.6%	2.8%	22.7%	2.5%	1.1%	53.2%	100.0%

- Women who are illiterate or only studied till primary school seems to be largely into daily wage labour or agriculture

1.8 Crosstabulation of MAIN SOURCE of HOUSEHOLD INCOME X COMMUNITY

Crosstabulation of MAIN SOURCE of HOUSEHOLD INCOME X COMMUNITY

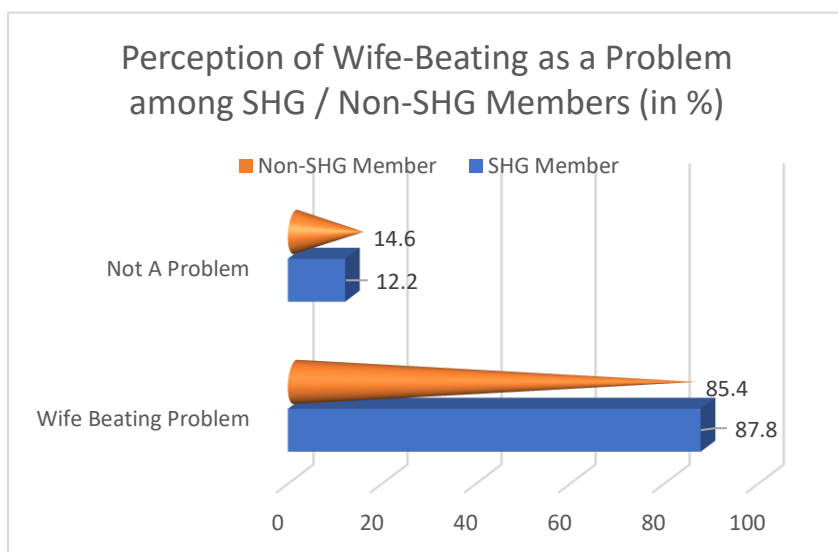
	COMMUNITY								Total
	ASSAMESE	BENGALI	BENGALI MUSLIM	BODO	NEPALI	SANTHALI	KOCH RAJBONGSHI	OTHERS	
AGRICULTURE	11 8.6%	6 6.4%	17 8.5%	68 14.5%	0 .0%	11 10.9%	0 .0%	1 20.0%	114 10.8%
AGRICULTURE, BUSINESS	5 3.9%	7 7.4%	5 2.5%	4 .9%	1 2.9%	0 .0%	1 4.5%	0 .0%	23 2.2%
AGRICULTURE, DAILY WAGE	13 10.2%	10 10.6%	11 5.5%	27 5.8%	4 11.4%	20 19.8%	4 18.2%	1 20.0%	90 8.5%
AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK	25 19.5%	28 29.8%	21 10.4%	36 7.7%	3 8.6%	9 8.9%	6 27.3%	1 20.0%	129 12.2%
BUSINESS	5 3.9%	4 4.3%	25 12.4%	43 9.2%	6 17.1%	2 2.0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	85 8.1%
BUSINESS, DAILY WAGE	3 2.3%	0 .0%	1 .5%	2 .4%	0 .0%	1 1.0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	7 .7%
BUSINESS, LIVESTOCK	3 2.3%	3 3.2%	7 3.5%	8 1.7%	6 17.1%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	27 2.6%
DAILY WAGE	18 14.1%	4 4.3%	86 42.8%	200 42.6%	4 11.4%	21 20.8%	0 .0%	0 .0%	333 31.6%
GOVT JOB	1 .8%	1 1.1%	3 1.5%	21 4.5%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	26 2.5%
GOVT JOB, LIVESTOCK	3 2.3%	3 3.2%	3 1.5%	1 .2%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	10 .9%
GOVT JOB, AGRICULTURE	1 .8%	1 1.1%	1 .5%	3 .6%	0 .0%	1 1.0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	7 .7%
LIVESTOCK	3 2.3%	0 .0%	0 .0%	3 .6%	1 2.9%	3 3.0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	10 .9%
LIVESTOCK, DAILY WAGE	31 24.2%	12 12.8%	19 9.5%	38 8.1%	10 28.6%	33 32.7%	9 40.9%	2 40.0%	154 14.6%
NON GOVT JOB	1 .8%	4 4.3%	0 .0%	9 1.9%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	14 1.3%
NON GOVT JOB, BUSINESS	0 .0%	2 2.1%	1 .5%	2 .4%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	5 .5%
NON GOVT JOB, AGRICULTURE	1 .8%	4 4.3%	0 .0%	3 .6%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	8 .8%
NON GOVT JOB, DAILY WAGE	2 1.6%	1 1.1%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 4.5%	0 .0%	4 .4%
NON GOVT JOB, LIVESTOCK	2 1.6%	4 4.3%	1 .5%	1 .2%	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 4.5%	0 .0%	9 .9%
Total	128 100.0%	94 100.0%	201 100.0%	469 100.0%	35 100.0%	101 100.0%	22 100.0%	5 100.0%	1055 100.0%

- 31.6% of the HHs surveyed depend on daily wage labour for the economic sustenance. Of this, both the Bodo and Bengali Muslim community at over 42% households each depend on daily wage labour for survival.
- Only 10.8% of HHs depend solely on agriculture for the sustenance; but agriculture is usually supplemented by other income generating work like livestock and small business or daily wage labour
- Non-tribals (Nepalis, Bengalis) tend to depend more on small businesses and livestock keeping for their livelihood.

ii. Perception of Domestic Violence

In the AVAHAN project where we are trying to involve a range of stakeholders in changing the culture of violence against women, it is not just the act of violence that is important but also the perception of violence of key stakeholders. We feel that recognizing and acknowledging the problem might be the first step towards getting key stakeholders to take action. Hence, in this section, we try and see how respondents view DV before we go to the actual incidents of DV.

2.1 Perception of Wife-Beating as a Problem among SHG / Non-SHG Members (in %)



- Irrespective of whether they are SHG members or not, majority of the women respondents (86.7%) say that wife-beating is a problem in their village

2.2 Crosstabulation of Age of Respondent & Respondent Views of Wife Beating as a Problem in Village

	IS WIFE BEATING A PROBLEM IN VILLAGE		Total
	YES	NO	
15-19 years	20	5	25
	80.0%	20.0%	100.0%
20-24 years	122	30	152
	80.3%	19.7%	100.0%
25-29 years	192	27	219
	87.7%	12.3%	100.0%
30-39 years	302	45	347
	87.0%	13.0%	100.0%
40-49 years	228	26	254
	89.8%	10.2%	100.0%
50 years & ABOVE	49	7	56
	87.5%	12.5%	100.0%
Total	913	140	1053
	86.7%	13.3%	100.0%

- Women across all age groups perceive wife-beating to be a problem in their village
- The number of younger women between 15-19 years saying it is not a problem is higher (20%). This could be because older women would have either seen or experienced more violence than the younger women for whom either they have not yet seen or experienced DV as yet.

2.3 Crosstabulation of Community Respondent Belongs and the Respondent's Views regarding DV

	IS WIFE BEATING A PROBLEM IN VILLAGE		Total
	YES	NO	YES
ASSAMESE	104 81.3%	24 18.8%	128 100.0%
BENGALI	62 66.0%	32 34.0%	94 100.0%
BENGALI MUSLIM	183 92.0%	16 8.0%	199 100.0%
BODO	420 89.6%	49 10.4%	469 100.0%
NEPALI	32 91.4%	3 8.6%	35 100.0%
SANTHALI	89 88.1%	12 11.9%	101 100.0%
KOCH RAJBONGSHI	18 81.8%	4 18.2%	22 100.0%
OTHERS	5 100.0%	0 .0%	5 100.0%
Total	913 86.7%	140 13.3%	1053 100.0%

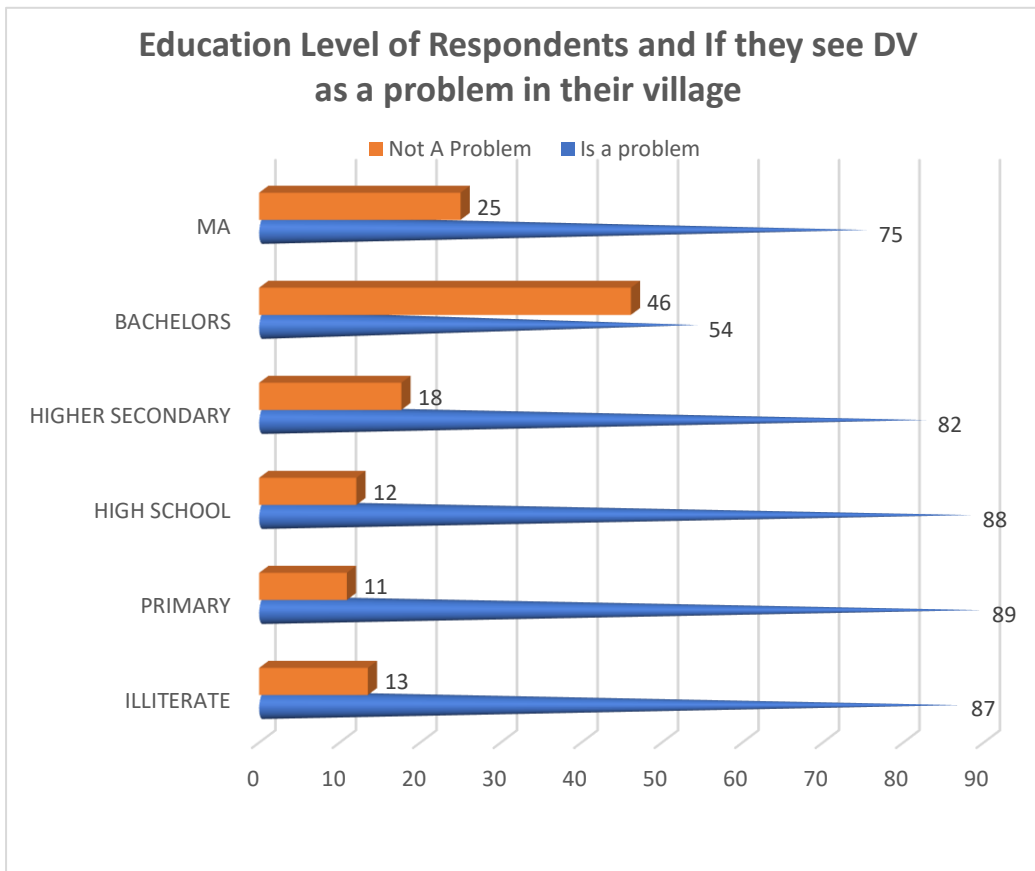
- The highest number of Bengali Hindu respondents (34%) say that DV is not a problem in their village whereas the highest number of Bengali Muslims and also Nepalis (over 90%) say that it is a problem in their villages
- Even among Bodo respondents, almost 90% say that DV is a problem

2.4 Crosstabulation of Community Respondent Belongs and their perceptions about the extent of DV

Community Respondent Belongs To	Out of 10 men, how many beat their wives?			Total
	1-5 men	6-10 men	NOT AWARE	
ASSAMESE	103 83.1%	13 10.5%	8 6.5%	124 100.0%
BENGALI	65 72.2%	17 18.9%	8 8.9%	90 100.0%
BENGALI MUSLIM	178 89.0%	15 7.5%	7 3.5%	200 100.0%
BODO	391 83.5%	67 14.3%	10 2.1%	468 100.0%
NEPALI	33 94.3%	2 5.7%	0 .0%	35 100.0%
SANTHALI	88 87.1%	13 12.9%	0 .0%	101 100.0%
KOCH RAJBONGSHI	13 59.1%	9 40.9%	0 .0%	22 100.0%
OTHERS	4 80.0%	1 20.0%	0 .0%	5 100.0%
Total	875 83.7%	137 13.1%	33 3.2%	1045 100.0%

- A similar question as the above was asked to see the respondent perceptions regarding the extent of DV in their villages.
- Respondents acknowledge wife-beating to be a problem in their villages
- Only 3.2% of respondents say they are unable to say how many men beat their wives. Most respondents (83.7%) say 1 to 5 men out of 10 men beat their wives.
- Almost 41% of Koch Rajbongshis say 6-10 men i.e. over 60% men beat their wives.

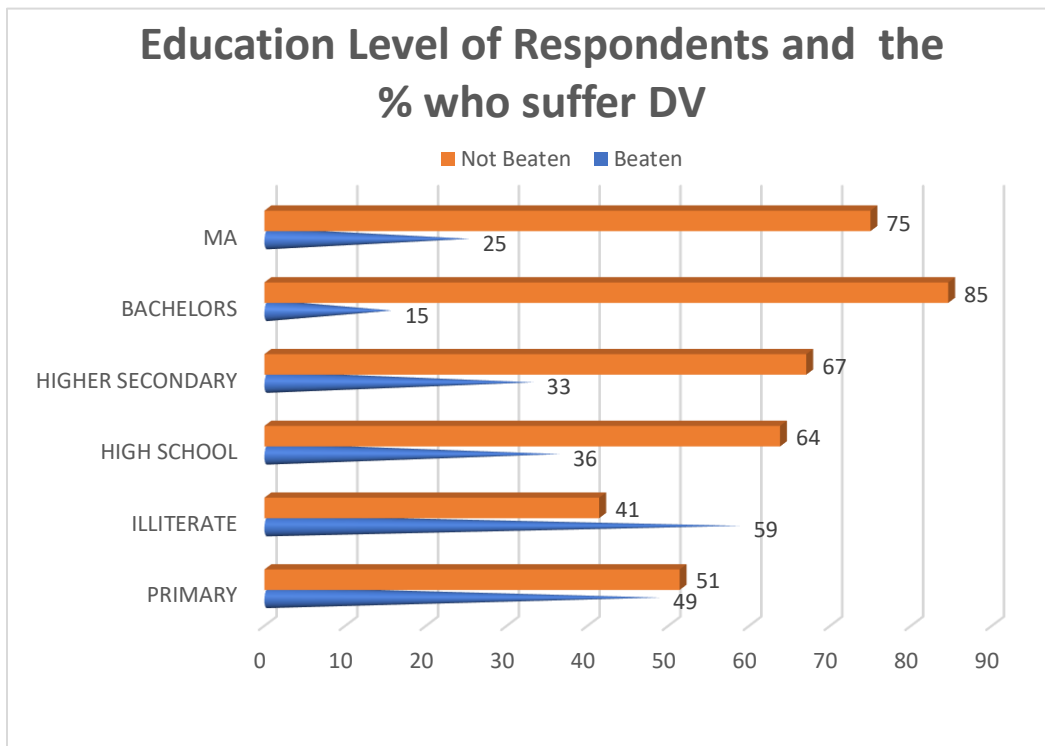
2.5 Education Level of Respondents and % who see DV as a problem in their village



Irrespective of the levels of education, women say DV is a problem in their village.

But those who have done their degree (bachelors) seem to think of it less as a problem than the less educated. Since there is only one respondent who has done her M.A, her views might skew the data completely.

2.6 Education Level of Respondents and If they suffer personally from DV (in %)

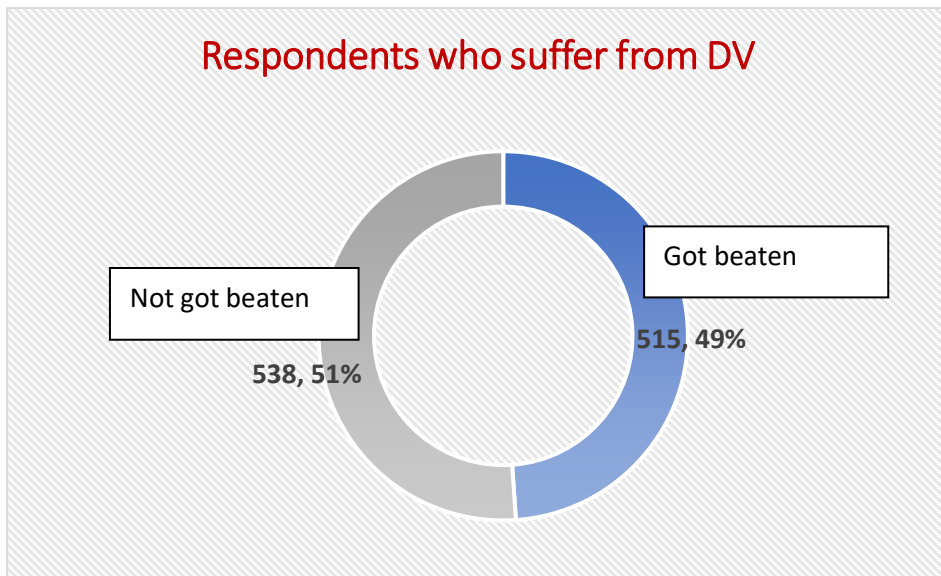


Seen in conjunction with the figure above, it is interesting that the less educated respondents say that DV is a problem in their village even if they do not suffer from it personally.

59% of Illiterate women respondents say they suffer from wife-beating compared to 15% of those with a degree.

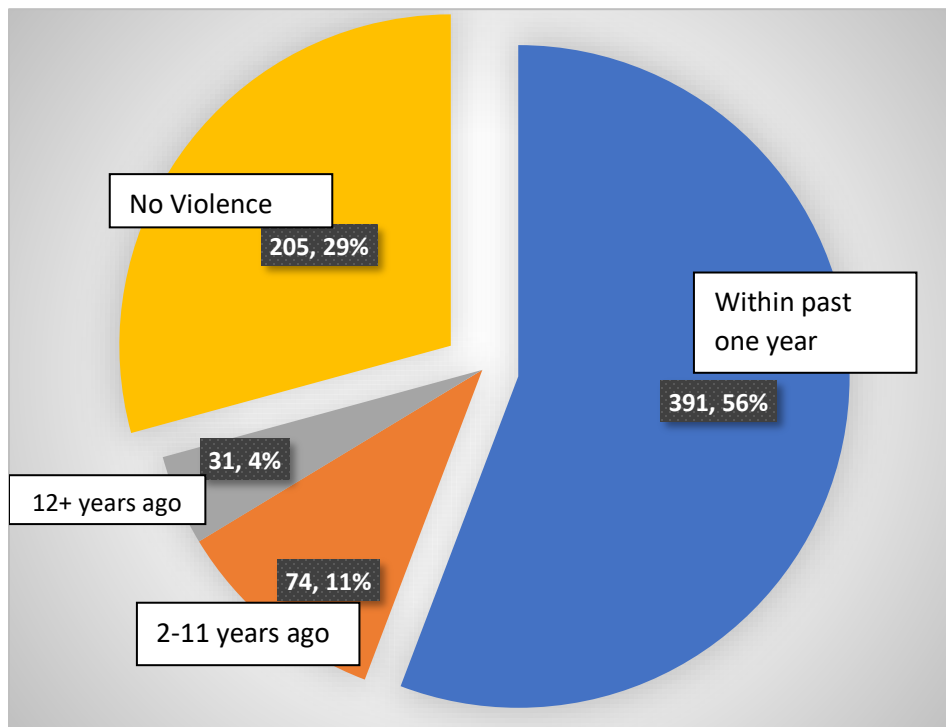
iii. Incidents of Domestic Violence

3.1 Incidence of DV among Respondents



- 49% of women say that they have experienced violence sometime or the other in their lives
- Women hesitate in talking about their experience with violence. This is evident when we ask the next question and analyze the responses of the women.

3.2 When Respondents Report having Last Gotten Beaten



- In the figure above, 51% of women say they have never experienced DV in their lives. But when we probe further and ask about the most recent episode of violence, we see that 56% of women say they have got beaten in the past 1 year
- Only 29% of respondents now say that they have never experienced violence, that is down from the 51% in the earlier question

3.3 Community wise Distribution of Respondents according to Last Incident of DV reported by the Respondents Surveyed

Community Respondent Belongs To	When was the last incident of DV Experienced by Respondent				Total
	BETWEEN 0-1 YEAR	2-11 YEARS AGO	12-21 YEARS AGO	NO VIOLENCE	
ASSAMESE	67.3%	17.3%	15.4%		100.0%
BENGALI	93.6%	2.1%	4.3%		100.0%
BENGALI MUSLIM	67.9%	11.6%	2.1%	18.4%	100.0%
BODO	35.9%	6.7%	3.5%	54.0%	100.0%
NEPALI	38.5%	46.2%	15.4%		100.0%
SANTHALI	71.7%	21.7%	6.7%		100.0%
KOCH RAJBONGSHI	100.0%				100.0%
OTHERS	60.0%	40.0%			100.0%
Total	55.8%	10.6%	4.4%	29.2%	100.0%

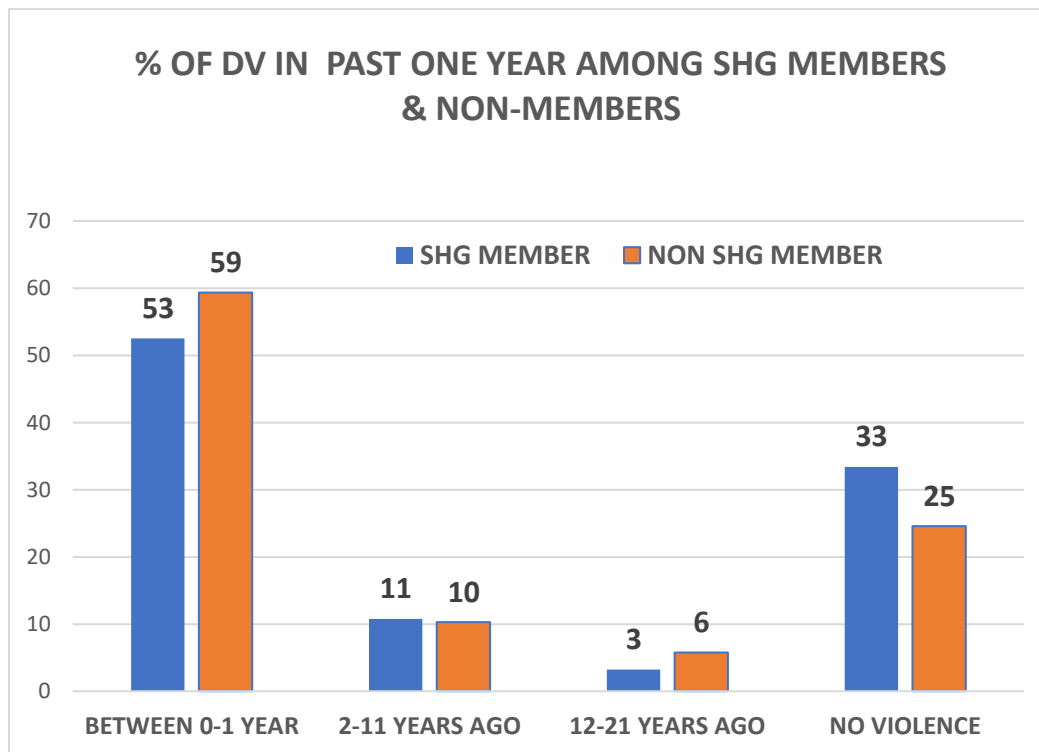
- 93.6% Bengali Hindu women respondents have experienced violence within the past one year; Santhals are next at almost 72%.
- Largest number of Bodos (54%) say they have not experienced violence in the past 20 years

3.4 Religion wise Distribution of Respondents according to last Incident of DV reported by the Respondents

	Last Incidence of DV				Total
	BETWEEN 0-1 YEAR	2-11 YEARS AGO	12-21 YEARS AGO	NO VIOLENCE	
BATHOU	18	0	0	23	41
	43.9%	.0%	.0%	56.1%	100.0%
CHRISTIAN	33	4	5	50	92
	35.9%	4.3%	5.4%	54.3%	100.0%
HINDU	204	44	21	97	366
	55.7%	12.0%	5.7%	26.5%	100.0%
MUSLIM	128	22	4	35	189
	67.7%	11.6%	2.1%	18.5%	100.0%
OTHERS	8	4	1	0	13
	61.5%	30.8%	7.7%	.0%	100.0%
Total	391	74	31	205	701
	55.8%	10.6%	4.4%	29.2%	100.0%

- Muslim women report the highest incidence of wife-beating (67.7%) within the past one year; this is followed by others i.e. largely Rabhas & Biharis
- The Bathou Bodos and the Christian (largely Bodos) report lesser incidents of DV in the past year; in fact respondents of both these religions report over 50% saying they do not experience any DV

3.5 Percentage of DV incidents in the past one year among SHG members & Non-members



- SHG members are facing DV in their homes as much as non-SHG members (53% versus 59%); this shows that economic empowerment has not led to social empowerment of women

3.6 Crosstabulation showing the types of family & DV incidents in the past one year

TYPE OF FAMILY	LAST INCIDENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE				Total
	BETWEEN 0-1 YEAR	2-11 YEARS AGO	12-21 YEARS AGO	NO VIOLENCE	BETWEEN 0-1 YEAR
NUCLEAR FAMILY	289	66	25	157	537
	53.8%	12.3%	4.7%	29.2%	100.0%
JOINT FAMILY	78	5	6	35	124
	62.9%	4.0%	4.8%	28.2%	100.0%
EXTENDED FAMILY	24	3	0	13	40
	60.0%	7.5%	.0%	32.5%	100.0%
Total	391	74	31	205	701
	55.8%	10.6%	4.4%	29.2%	100.0%

- Marginally more respondents belonging to joint and extended families reported a greater incident of DV

3.7 Crosstabulation showing the types of family X Percentage of DV incidents in the past one year

		LAST INCIDENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE				Total
		BETWEEN 0-1 YEAR	2-11 YEARS AGO	12-21 YEARS AGO	NO VIOLENCE	BETWEEN 0-1 YEAR
	Married person of Choice	214	42	19	95	370
		57.8%	11.4%	5.1%	25.7%	100.0%
	Not married person of own choice	177	32	12	110	331
		53.5%	9.7%	3.6%	33.2%	100.0%
Total		391	74	31	205	701
		55.8%	10.6%	4.4%	29.2%	100.0%

Women respondents still get beaten whether they are married a person of their own choice or not. Hence, knowing your partner beforehand does not seem to matter when it comes to domestic violence.