

# SVRI Learning Event

8 September 2021

A Research on  
**Online Intimate Partner Violence  
Against Teens and Young People in Nepal**

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# ChildSafeNet



ChildSafeNet is a non-governmental organization based in Nepal, dedicated to making the internet safer for children and young people.

# Background and Relevance

- Internet use is growing exponentially in Nepal (92% penetration).
- Teens and young people at a higher risk of online abuse and exploitation.
- Knowledge and awareness on online risks and internet safety is very low.
- Existing research studies on IPV in Nepal focus on the offline dimensions.
- 1 in 4 teens/young people use the internet more than 10 hours every day.
- 1 in 5 girls experience sexual abuse online.
- 1 in 10 boys experience sexual abuse online.
- 14% teens/young people experience livestreaming of sexual exploitation.

## ChildSafeNet conducted studies on

- Online behaviour and risks among children and young people
- Livestreaming of sexual abuse and exploitation of children and young people in Kathmandu
- Impacts of COVID-19 on child sexual abuse online
- Online Intimate Partner Violence against Teens and Young People in Nepal



# Methodology

## Research Design

### Mixed Method

- Literature Review
- Online & Offline Surveys - 5,000
- Focus Group Discussions - 40
- Key Informant Interviews - 100
- Artificial Intelligence tool

## Research Sites

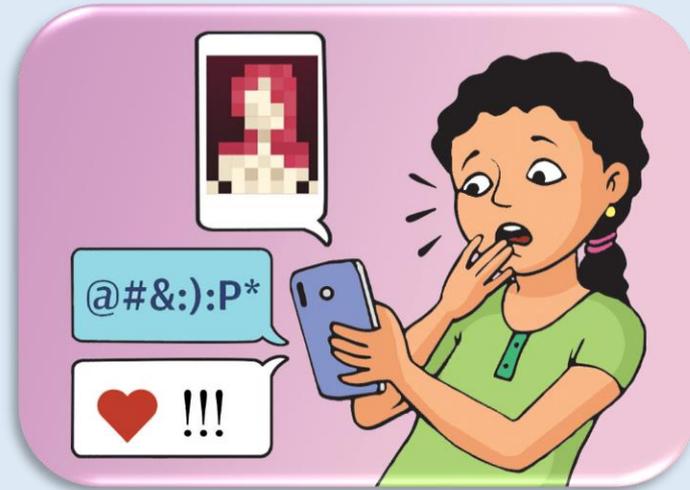
10 selected districts from all seven provinces of Nepal

## Study Population

1. Teenage children aged 16 - 17 years
2. Young people aged 18 - 24 years

# Priorities

- To understand the prevalence, patterns, emerging trends, vulnerabilities and attitude of teens and young people in Nepal on the IPV using the digital technology
- To identify the various risk factors of online IPV and coping mechanisms of teens and young people
- Designing specification and language processing for building the AI model (defining algorithms, data requirements, scope, and limitations)
- To develop a set of policy recommendations addressing online IPV in Nepal



# Barriers/Obstacles

- **Literature:** Lack of relevant literature for the research on online IPV in Nepal.
- **Datasets:** Datasets and approaches for language processing not available for AI language processing.
- **Ethical Clearance:** Nepal Health Research Council is the only entity in Nepal, which can provide ethical clearance. No specialised personnel to review researches related to CSA. Bureaucratic and time consuming.
- **Respondents:** Difficulty in identifying and approaching respondents who experienced CSA, including online IPV.
- **Truthful Responses:** Due to the fear of stigma and shame, respondents might not provide truthful responses and deny experiencing CSA.

# How to overcome barriers?

- **Literature:** Literature review of offline IPV and online CSA
- **Datasets:** Curating dataset available online for AI tool. These provide preliminary samples but are not sufficient.
- **Ethical Clearance:** Established contacts with Nepal Health Research Council and prepared the documents required for submission to the ethics committee.
- **Respondents:** Get help from local field researchers to identify and approach respondents, including those who experienced CSA.
- **Truthful Responses:** Conduct brief sessions on the issue to potential respondents before collecting data. Conduct research in places where the respondents feel comfortable and in absence of other people.

# Key Learnings

1. Involve multi-stakeholder organizations and experts can generate support and knowledgebase for researches on CSA.
2. "Do No Harm", data privacy and consent of respondents are very important. Need to train everyone involved in the research.
3. Research studies need to be linked with actions to develop linkages between knowledge and actions.
4. Research uptake needs to be planned and implemented carefully.
5. AI is still a relatively new field for social researches in Nepal. It has tremendous potential but also comes with risks if not implemented properly.
6. Partnerships and collaborations between organizations within the country and internationally, helps to develop and transfer expertise on research studies related to sensitive issues.

# Thank You



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