



“Voices from the South” Launch Asia Report

Contributing to the production
of evidence on VAW and VAC

28 OCTOBER 2021
4.30-5.30 PM IST / 7-8 AM EST



HOUSE KEEPING



Launch : **60min**

Session is being recorded

Webinar participants are muted

Please introduce yourself in the chat & put questions in the Q&A box

Wordly translation services are available

Share materials via email and on: www.svri.org



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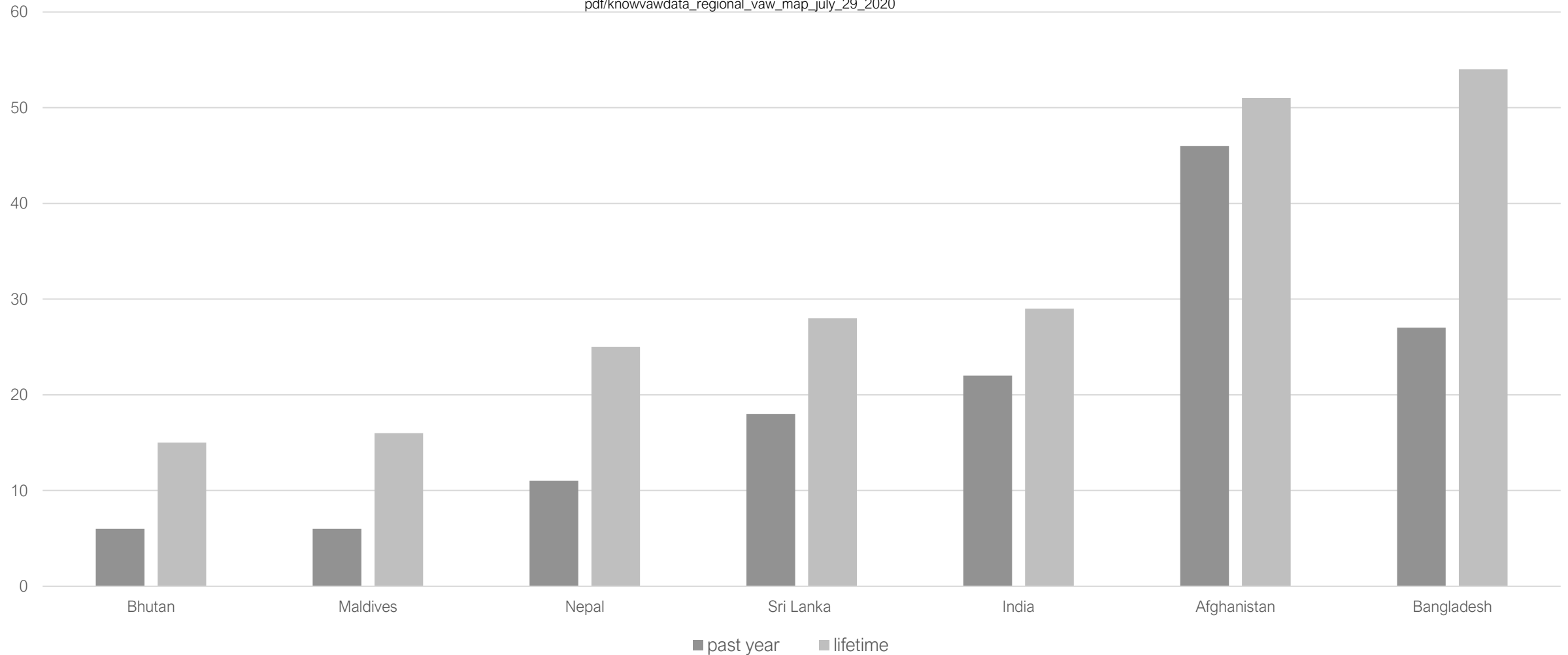
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IPV Prevalence in South Asia Region (SAR)

Figure 1: Intimate partner violence prevalence

Source: UNFPA (2020). Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence, 2000-2020. 2020 Regional Snapshot: https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/knowvawdata_regional_vaw_map_july_29_2020



Evidence of What Works to Prevent And Address GBV in SAR

Relatively abundant evidence on relatively small and well designed interventions and pilots

- Family- and community-level norms change interventions
- School-based interventions
- Self-defense training
- Interventions connected to reproductive and maternal health
- Interventions with men and boys
- Substance abuse and alcohol prevention efforts

Less evidence on the impact of Women's Economic Empowerment Interventions (particularly large scale)

Background on WEE Programming and IPV in SAR

- The World Bank's South Asia Region Gender Innovation Lab is conducting a synthesis of findings from economic empowerment interventions geared at women with direct measures of intimate partner violence (IPV)
- The objective is to identify WEE programs that measure IPV and have been effectively evaluated in South Asia (SAR) to synthesize results and discuss IPV prevention evidence in relation to global evidence (Anaise Williams and Jayati Sethi)

Evidence on WEE and its Effect on Violence in SAR

- Increased access to credit and assets could either decrease or increase women's risk of intimate partner violence, depending on the context in which the women live
- Increased access to assets could reduce a woman's risk of violence by potentially allowing financial autonomy enabling women to leave a violent relationship. It could also increase a woman's value to the household, and increase a woman's bargaining power

WEE and IPV – A Complex Relationship

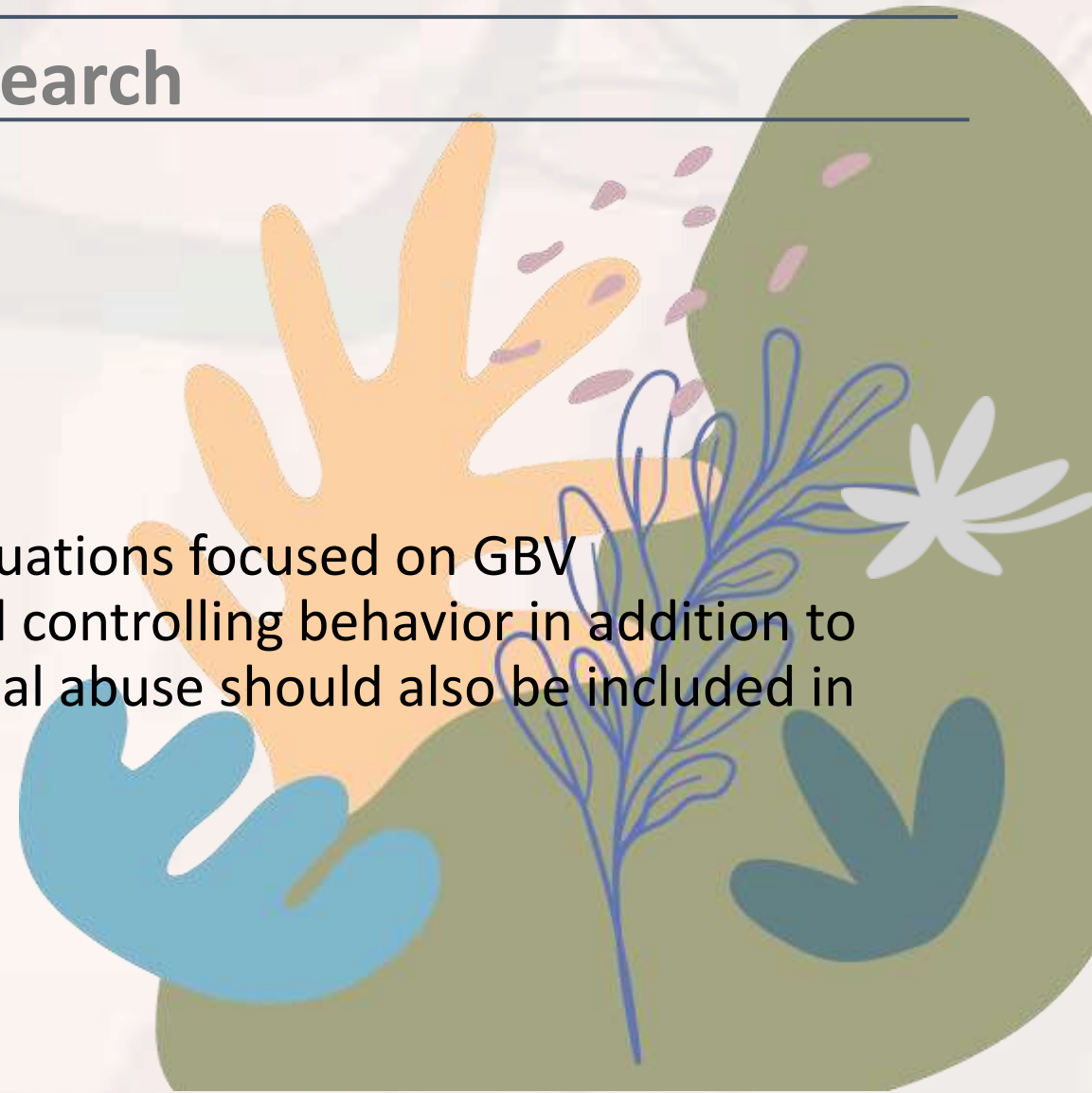
- WEE initiatives (cash transfers, livelihoods, microfinance) **conducted alone** without a training or behavioral component are not necessarily effective for IPV prevention in SAR
- Affecting power dynamics is important to ensure effectiveness of preventing IPV through WEE. However, there is evidence of adverse effects of including men and families in power transformative programming, particularly on measures of increased emotional violence

Child Marriage

- Secondary education completion helps to decrease GBV and increase WEE although child marriage remains a challenge
- In rural Maharashtra in India, a life skills course sought to delay the age of marriage by 1 year for girls 12–18 years who had not yet been married.
- The proportion of marriage in young girls steadily decreased in the intervention villages and median marriage age increased from 16 years to 17 years. No significant changes were noted in the control group

Future Research

- Same evaluations in more countries in SAR
- Longer evaluations
- Scale and cost of interventions
- Selection Bias in WEE
- Marginalized groups
- Community participatory WEE needs more evaluations focused on GBV
- Measures of emotional abuse as well as spousal controlling behavior in addition to physical IPV. WEE programs in particular, financial abuse should also be included in future work.
- Primary prevention /secondary prevention
- Victimization vs. Perpetrator



Our grant-making programme

Research led by local people and institutions:

- helps to identify relevant issues
- promotes democratic participation in the research process
- enables closer engagement with the communities affected.

Our grant programme:

- Started in 2014 and calls for proposals each year
- Supports researchers in and from LMICs
- Up to date, has funded 68 research programs in 36 countries with over \$7 million.
- 15 grants for projects in Asia

TOTAL GRANTS 2014-2020



Regional reports



SVRI in Africa



SVRI in Asia



**SVRI in Latin America
and the Caribbean**

- Showcase selected research projects in each region.
- Summarise scope, results and impact of work.
- Share evidence created in partnerships including researchers in low- and middle-income countries.

Engendering policing: Evaluating reforms to increase women's access to security and justice - India



- In the first-of-its-kind collaboration, researchers worked directly with the state police to evaluate the effectiveness of Women's Help Desks
- Women's Help Desks set up across 12 districts representing a population of 23 million - 300 police training programmes conducted



On the basis of the evaluation, the **Madhya Pradesh state police have announced that the Women's Help Desks will be introduced in another 700 police stations** in all 51 districts of Madhya Pradesh



Diffusion of gender norms change at the community level - Nepal



- Change project effectively diffused into the community and began to promote changes around intimate partner violence norms.
- Factors that promoted spreading ideas around positive gender norms - confidence, social proximity, time, and using radio content.
- Women's networks serve as a driving force in transforming norms.



LESSONS FOR THE FIELD

- Encourage men's involvement
- Reinforce the intervention
- Work with local government authorities
- Target diffusion methods to create change



“Safe Families”- A comprehensive community-led model for violence prevention in Solomon Islands



- Programme has **contributed to social transformation at both personal and community levels**
- Set contextually relevant research standards
- Create research guidelines for those settings
- Build a community of practice researchers in these settings

Trauma-informed community-engaged violence prevention for female sex workers in Thailand



- The project conducted a community engagement process to determine feasibility and to adapt the format and content of the intervention. Female sex workers, outreach workers and representatives from related organisations participated in these intervention development meetings - 655 female sex workers over four months.
- **Female sex workers responded positively to the integration of topics about violence** within ongoing HIV-related outreach. Also favourable response from key stakeholders, including outreach workers and police volunteers in Pattaya, Thailand.

The effects of transfers and behaviour change communication on IPV - Bangladesh

- Women who received cash or food transfers with behaviour change communication experienced a **26% drop in violence six to ten months after the programme ended**, as compared to the control group, which received no cash, food or behaviour change communication
- No impact on intimate partner violence for those receiving transfers only (with no behaviour change communication) six to ten months after the programme ended.



Integrating transfer programmes with complementary activities that improve women's status in their households and their communities, may contribute to sustainable reductions in intimate partner violence.



School Action Groups programmes to prevent VAWG in Papua New Guinea



- The research project aimed to improve the design and activities of the programme through a participatory process that included interviews with students. New set of activities and materials developed
- **Schools became more open to facilitating School Action Groups clubs** because they saw positive changes in the way students engage with one another and become positive peer role models



Q&A

