



COCAP BIWEEKLY: INCIDENTS SURROUNDING COVID-19

NOVEMBER 1 - 15, 2020

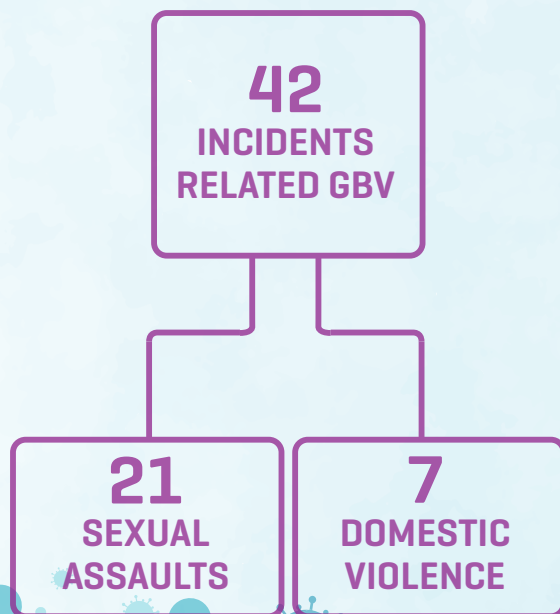


COCAP BIWEEKLY: INCIDENTS SURROUNDING COVID-19 NOVEMBER 1 - 15, 2020

COCAP's "COVID-19 Biweekly" covers the incidents related to gender based violence [GBV] and COVID-19 from November 1 - November 15, 2020.

From November 1 - November 15, 2020 COCAP's Nepal Peace Monitoring Project [PMP] recorded seven incidents related to COVID-19. Majority of incidents were issues related to public health services, labour disputes and law and order violence.

From November 1 - November 15, 2020, 42 cases of violence against women were recorded in which 21 victims of sexual assault were below the age of 26 years. Similarly, seven cases of domestic violence were recorded along with one dowry related dispute and one case of human trafficking.



This bi-weekly report is aimed to inform our readers on the added crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic which has affected everyone's livelihood and made some group of people even more vulnerable. It also aims to make the readers aware about the issues surrounding the violence against women and girls in the Nepali societies.



COVID-19 INFECTIONS ON RISE IN NEPAL

The number of COVID-19 infections in Nepal have been increasing daily affecting the lives and livelihood of everyone. Until November 15, 2020 the total number of positive cases reached 209776 with 1221 deaths.¹ According to the former and current Health Ministry Officials "the Nepali Congress led coalition government seems to be lacking in the incumbent majority governments effort to fight the pandemic".² According to the Health Ministry about Rs. 20 billion has been spent in the past eight months to get thousands of people tested, dozens of laboratories and hospitals have been set up, infrastructures have been built, equipment have been bought and health workers have been

trained and deployed across Nepal.³ Despite all the money spent and efforts the number of new cases and death toll has continued to rise with no sign of flattening the curve.⁴ In an effort to provide free treatment for symptomatic COVID-19 patients, the province 1 government, Biratnagar Metropolitan City and private sector have been working to run a treatment center 100 beds.⁵ The Province 1 government and the Biratnagar metropolis provided Rs. 20 million and Rs. 2.5 million respectively to build the treatment center on the premises of Koshi Hospital Biratnagar.⁶ The incidents related to COVID-19 are explained below:

**NOV
1**

The Central Committee of Nepal Student Union (NSU) staged a demonstration with slogans in Pradarshani Marg, Kathmandu against the government's withdrawal from the treatment for COVID-19 infected patients.⁷

**NOV
2**

The health workers deployed to treat the COVID-19 patients at Bir Hospital staged a sit-in at the hospital for four days demanding risk allowance.⁸

**NOV
4**

On November 4, about 16 doctors of the emergency department of Bir Hospital Resigned accusing the hospital of threatening them to work 96 hours a week. In addition they were not paid for working during dashain festival and were rather paid less than their actual salary.⁹

**NOV
5**

A 48 year old man died of COVID-19 after not receiving proper treatment at Sindhuli Hospital.¹⁰

**NOV
6**

The District Administration Office (DAO) in Rautahat issued a prohibitory order to stop the gathering of people from November 6 to December 2 to prevent the risk of COVID-19.¹¹

**NOV
10**

The Nepal Good Governance Campaign staged a demonstration against the government in Maitighar, Kathmandu urging the government to work efficiently to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the coming days.¹²

**NOV
12**

About a thousand locals in Rautahat district staged a protest at the district headquarters in Gaur demanding the opening of the Nepal India border to shop for Tihar and Chhat festival amidst the fear of COVID-19.¹³

INCIDENTS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN NEPAL

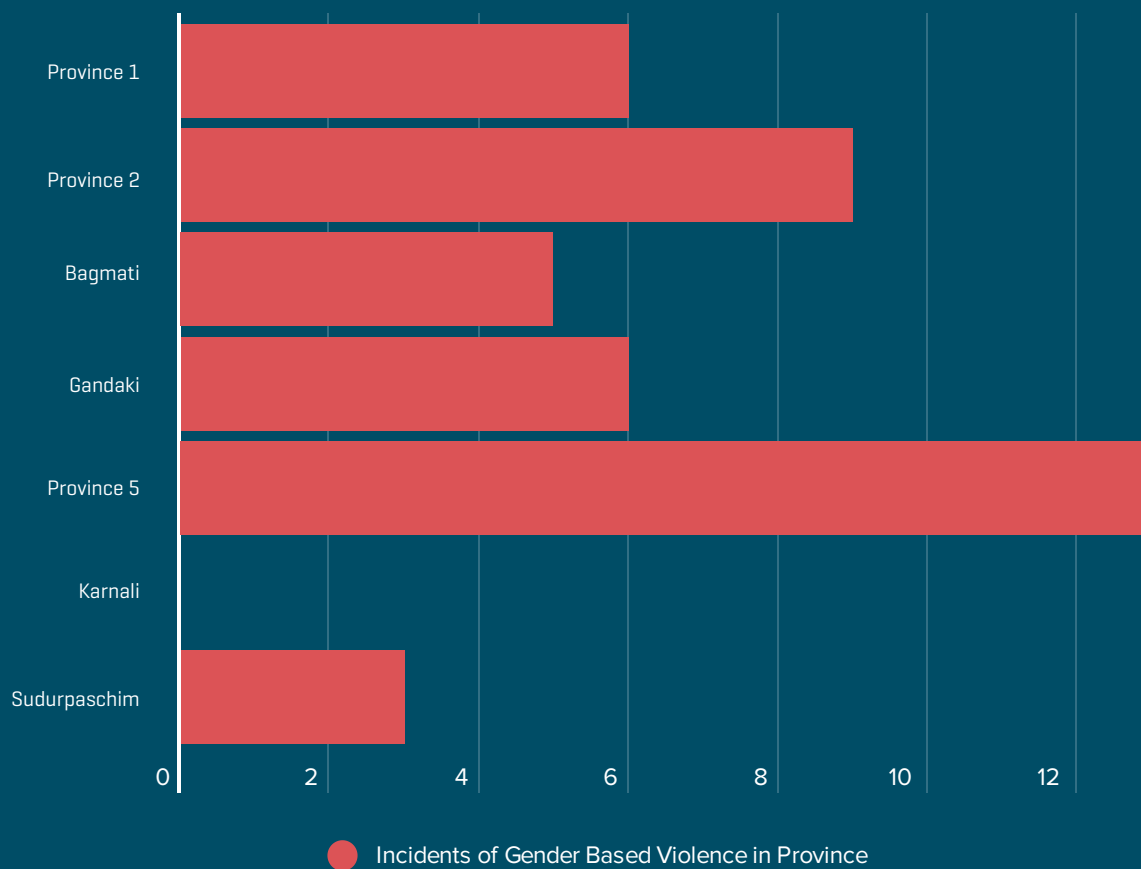
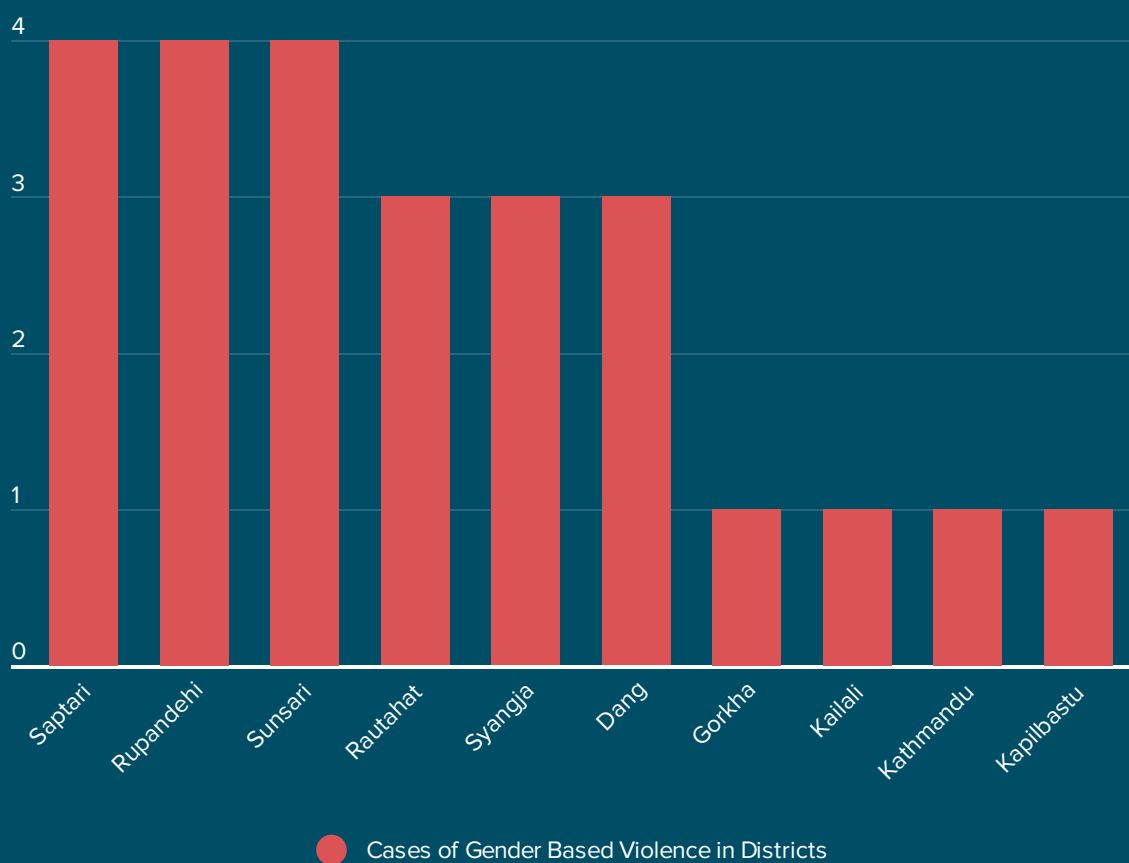
As the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted vulnerable groups, a report on Rapid Gender Assessment released by the Ministry of Women and Children and Senior Citizens, in partnership with the non government organizations such as the United Nations Women have made recommendations to the government to address the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups.¹⁴ In the report it mentions that “the authorities should ensure access to information for all in the community through the use of various information channels and local languages, disseminate simple message to raise awareness about negative impacts of COVID-19 and ensure that women and girls have access to safe and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services”.¹⁵

Violence against women has become one of the major issue in our Nepali society which has forced to question the safety of women and girls at their own homes. In the past 15 days the Peace Monitoring Project [PMP] recorded 42 cases of gender based violence. Sexual assault was the most common form of violence against women with 33 cases which include 25 cases of rape in which 19 victims were women and girls below the age of 26. An instance of this heinous crime was reported on November 14, in which 17 year old Sabnam Khatun was hanged to death after being gang raped by four local men in Mayadevi Rural Municipality in Kapilvastu district.¹⁶



Domestic violence is the second most common form of violence against women with six cases which resulted in the death of four women. In one recorded case of dowry related dispute the in-laws were accused of murdering daughter in law over dowry in Rautahat district.¹⁷ Similarly, in one case of human trafficking, a 50 year old women was arrested from Kohalpur Municipality for trafficking two girls aged 12 and 14 years.¹⁸

Saptari, Rupandehi and Sunsari districts had the highest number of incidents of gender based violence with four cases each followed by Rautahat, Syangja and Dang district with three cases each [See fig 2]. Province 5 had the highest number of incidents of GBV with 13 incidents [See fig 1].

FIG -1 REPORTED INCIDENTS OF GBV BY PROVINCE**FIG -2 REPORTED INCIDENTS OF GBV BY DISTRICT**

REPORTED INCIDENTS OF GBV (GENDER BASED VIOLENCE) NOVEMBER 1-15,2020



ENDNOTES

1. See: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/nepal/>
2. See: Health Ministry Has Spent Rs. 20 Billion On Pandemic But Infections Continue to Surge
3. Ibid
4. Ibid
5. See: Province 1 Govt to provide free treatment to COVID-19 patients
6. Ibid
7. See: NSU Stages Demonstration in Kathmandu Against The Government
8. See: Health Workers At Bir Hospital Agitated Demanding Risk Allowance
9. See: 16 Doctors Resigned From Emergency Department in Bir Hospital
10. See: Obstruction in Corpse Management of Corona Infected in Sindhuli
11. See: Rautahat DAO Issues Prohibitory Order On Activities Including Public Gatherings
12. See: Nepal Good Governance Campaign Stages demonstration Against the Government
13. See: Demonstration to Open The Border of Indian Market in Rautahat
14. See: Report On Ways to Address COVID Impact Submitted
15. Ibid
16. See: Teenage Girl “hanged to death after gang rape” in Kapilvastu
17. See: In-Laws Accused of murdering Daughter-In-Law Over Dowry in Rautahat
18. See: Police Arrests Accused of Human Trafficking From Nepalgunj

The PMP gathered data on violent and latent incidents past 15 days of the lockdown period by compiling reports from all major online news portals, national dailies, local newspapers from 20 districts, and incidents reports directly submitted to us. The goal of the report is to deliver an update and understanding of the incidents surrounding the pandemic of Coronavirus to better respond to the situation and to promote peace. The numbers recorded in this report are based on the reports mapped by Nepalmonitor.org.

