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Measuring Gender-based violence: Results of the Violence Against Women (VAW) Survey in Bangladesh



Presented by

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Bangladesh at a Glance



- ▶ Bangladesh emerged as an independent and sovereign country in 1971 following a nine-month war of liberation
- ▶ The country is covered with a network of rivers and canals forming a maze of interconnecting channels
- ▶ Bangladesh has an agrarian economy, although the share of agriculture has been decreasing over the last few years



Bangladesh at a Glance ... (cont.)



Area	: 1,47,570 Sq. km.
Total Population	: 149.7 Million (Male 50.6%, Female 49.94%)
Density	: 1015 Per Sq. km.
Sex Ratio	: 100.3 Male per 100 Female
Pop. Growth Rate	: 1.37 %
Literacy Rate	: 57.91
GDP Growth Rate	: 6.12 % (2013-14 FY)
Per Capita Income	: USD 1,190
Capital	: Dhaka
State Language	: Bangla
Major Religion	: Muslim (88.8%)
State Currency	: Taka divided into 100 Paisa



Background



- Violence against women is associated with the gender disparity status of the society and state
- The Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees equal rights for both men and women in all spheres of state and public life
- Some of the articles in the Constitution are firmly patronizing towards women rights:
 - The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth- Article 28 (1)
 - Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making special provision in favour of women or children or for the advancement of any backward section of citizens- Article 28 (4)
 - Steps shall be taken in ensure participation of women in all spheres of national life as a fundamental principle of state policy- Article 10

- ▶ Bangladesh has also signed its commitments to the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1984
- ▶ Bangladesh Endorsed Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) in 1995
- ▶ Bangladesh Government has been actively engaged in adoption of preemptive policies, legislations, strategies and taking national affirmative action plans and programmes
- ▶ Notable actions have been taken by the government to protect women's legal rights and improve their social status:
 - ▶ The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980 which forbids anyone from giving or receiving dowry
 - ▶ The Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain, 2000 (Law on the Suppression of Violence against Women and Children, 2000) expanding the definition of rape and sexual assaults
 - ▶ Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2000 and Acid control Act, 2000 as a primitive measure to protect from the acid violence
 - ▶ Family Violence Prevention and Protection Act, 2010 and National Women policy, 2011 was adopted for the empowerment of women

- The contribution of women in employment is encouraging as about 16.8 million of females are engaged in different economic sectors
- The women share in full time worker in Permanent Economic establishment estimated about 48% while female workers are more than 40% of total person engaged in all permanent economic establishments
- The Head Count Ratio (HCR) of incidence of poverty observed significantly less (26.6%) for female-headed households than that of male-headed households (32.1%)
- The adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education for girls are 87.8 percent and dropout rate at primary school cycle (Grade I-V) is 12.2%
- Gender parity index in primary level enrolment is 1.02. Special emphasis has been given to girl child's education
- Government intervention for stipend for girls, free education up to primary level have resulted in increased enrolment of girls and decreasing dropout rates

- ▶ Women are holding an increasing share in public life and decision making also:
 - ▶ 20% of seats held by women in current national parliament
 - ▶ Women's share of government ministerial positions 8.16% among 49 ministers
 - ▶ The position of prime minister and leader of opposition in the parliament is hold by women during the last two decades
 - ▶ The speaker of the parliament is a woman in the current parliament underway from the last parliament
 - ▶ Under the Local Government Act, 1997 three seats have been reserved for direct election of women
 - ▶ The Representation of People's Order, 2008 provided for two elected Vice-Chairman for Upazila Parishad (Sub-district Council), one of which must be a woman
 - ▶ About 19% of managerial positions in the public service are hold by women
- ▶ All these statistics reveals that Bangladesh is marching ahead with the appropriate mindset and progress on all socioeconomic fronts including women's empowerment is palpable



Violence Against Women (VAW)

- ▶ Violence Against Women (VAW) is a global phenomenon
- ▶ Widespread in terms of **Physical, psychological, sexual and economic** aspects
- ▶ Certain types of violence, associated to traditional or customary practices
- ▶ Majority of abused women never seek help from the law enforcing agencies- formal sources underestimate the magnitude (UNECE, 2010)
- ▶ Detail data needed to understand the phenomenon and policy measures (U.S. Department of Justice, 2000)
- ▶ UNSD requested the UN member countries to establish system for data collection and analysis by 2015
- ▶ Bangladesh has become one of the pioneers by conducting VAW 2011



Definitions of Violence used in VAW 2011



- ▶ **Physical:** Violence including slapping, fisting, boxing, throwing something to hurt, pushing, shoving, pulling hair, shaking with hot things, throwing acid or hot water, intentionally suffocating, shocking, burning, threatening with gun, knife or any sharp weapon, beating etc.
- ▶ **Psychological:** Violence including controlling behavior like hindering to contact with the friends and relatives, behavior like suspicion, hindering to see the physician, forcing to wear hijab, obstructing in study or work, forbidding to go out for recreation, using attacking word against parents, forcing or forbidding regarding contraceptive use, misbehave for giving birth of daughter etc. and abusing like insulting, belittling or humiliation, intimidation, threatening for marriage again or divorce etc.

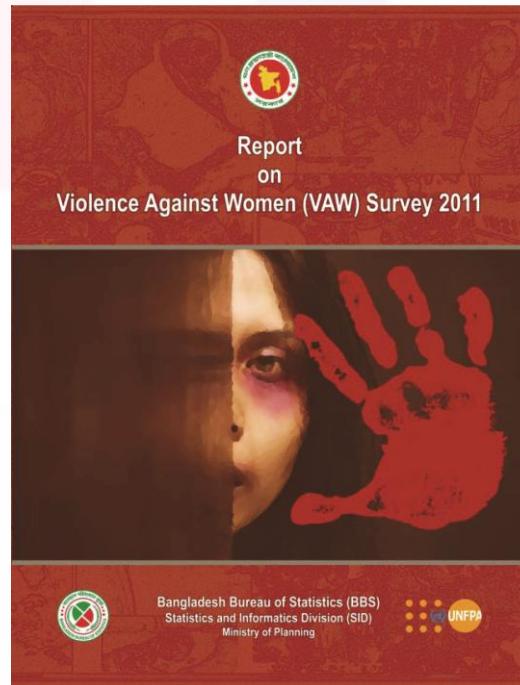
- ▶ **Sexual:** Violence by husband including hurting or forcing to have sex against her will, having intercourse against her will, degrading or humiliating behavior while intercourse or any other sexual violence; and violence by non-partner including forcing to have sex or proposed to have sex or any sexual act against her will which she found humiliating or disregarding. It also include childhood abuse physically, mentally and teasing.
- ▶ **Economic:** Violence including refuse to give enough money for household expense, pocket money, taking dowry (money/property) as condition of marriage, pressurizing to get money from wife's parents house.



Objective of the paper



- To analyze the result of the VAW Survey 2011
- To assess Indicators produced, disseminated & used and rationale linked to those
- To assess the challenges and lessons learnt by BBS in collecting data on VAW survey 2011
- To assess the role of BBS and other national stakeholders involved in the survey
- To identify the Challenges faced in analyzing the data



BANGLADESH VAW SURVEY 2011



Goal of the Survey



- To generate official national statistics on the prevalence of violence against women and to observe the overall situation including the forms of violence along with their magnitude in Bangladesh



Sample design



- ▶ A two-stage stratified cluster sampling was followed in the survey. The whole country was divided into 7 divisions: each division treated as stratum and each stratum again divided into two sub-strata: urban & rural areas
- ▶ At the 1st stage, 420 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) were selected as Enumeration Area (EA) from the then 1000 IMPS* taking 210 PSU equally from rural and urban
- ▶ At the 2nd stage, 30 HHs were selected from each of the selected EA
- ▶ A total of 12,600 eligible women over 15 years of age were selected for interview (One woman randomly selected per household)

*IMPS: Integrated Multipurpose Sample.



Methodology of the survey



- ▶ A long questionnaire was used for direct interview
- ▶ The questionnaire was designed as per UNSD guidelines
- ▶ Series of consultation meetings to finalize the questionnaire
- ▶ The questionnaire consisted of two parts:
 - ▶ *Household part*: comprised of the household and individual modules; and
 - ▶ *Woman part*: comprised of the current husband, previous husband and non-partner modules



Data collection and response rate



Data collection period	19-28 December, 2011
Number of eligible women found in the sample	19,534
Number of women randomly selected for interview	12,600
Number of women actually interviewed	12,530
Response rate for interview	99.44%

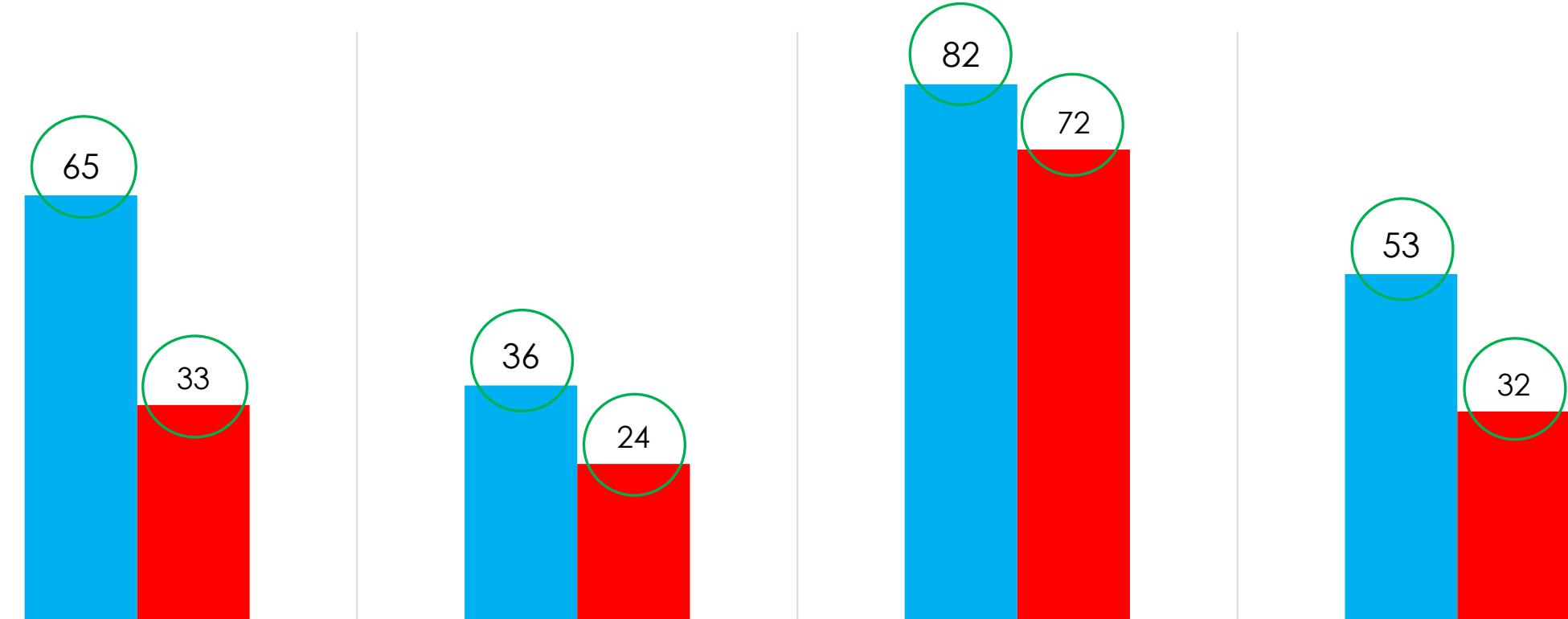


Result of VAW Survey 2011



VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY CURRENT HUSBAND (%)

■ Ever ■ Last 12 Months



PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

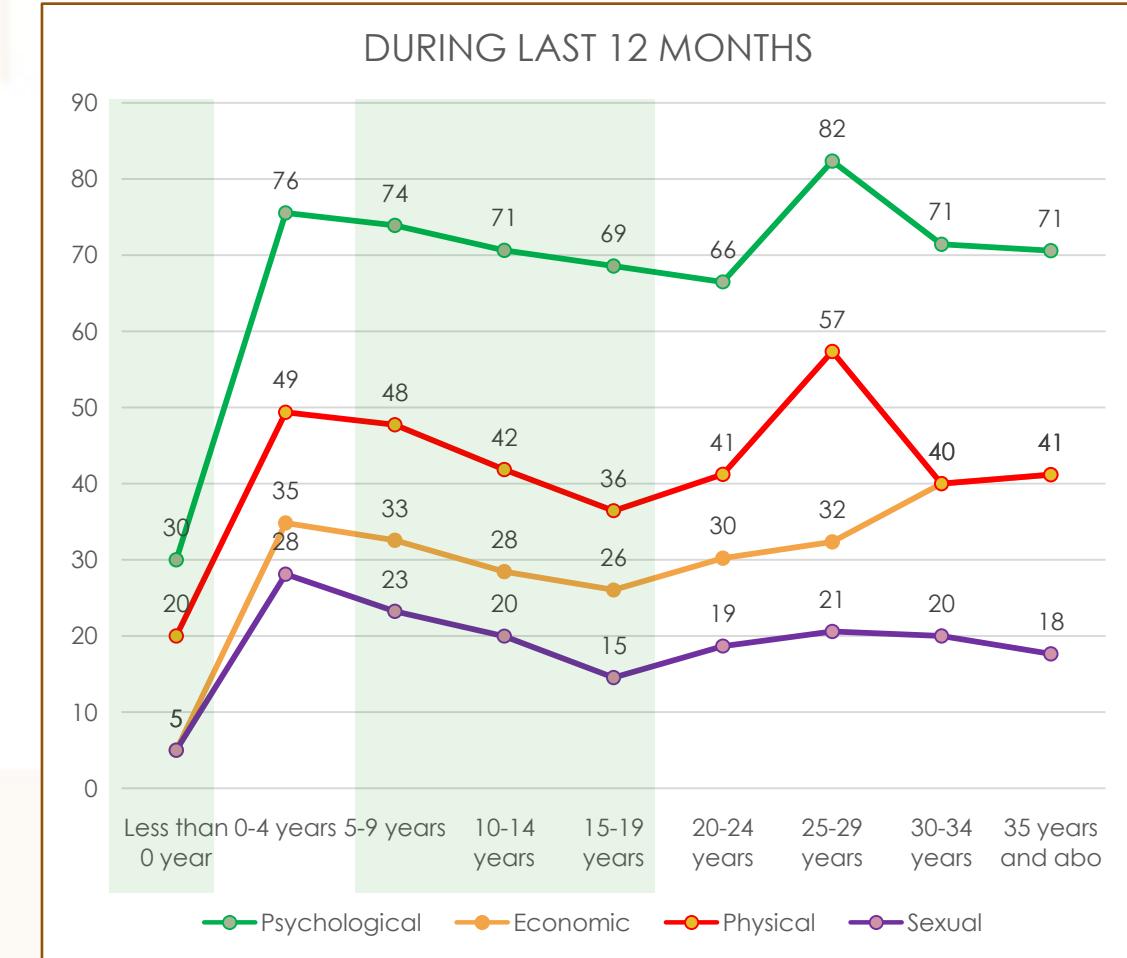
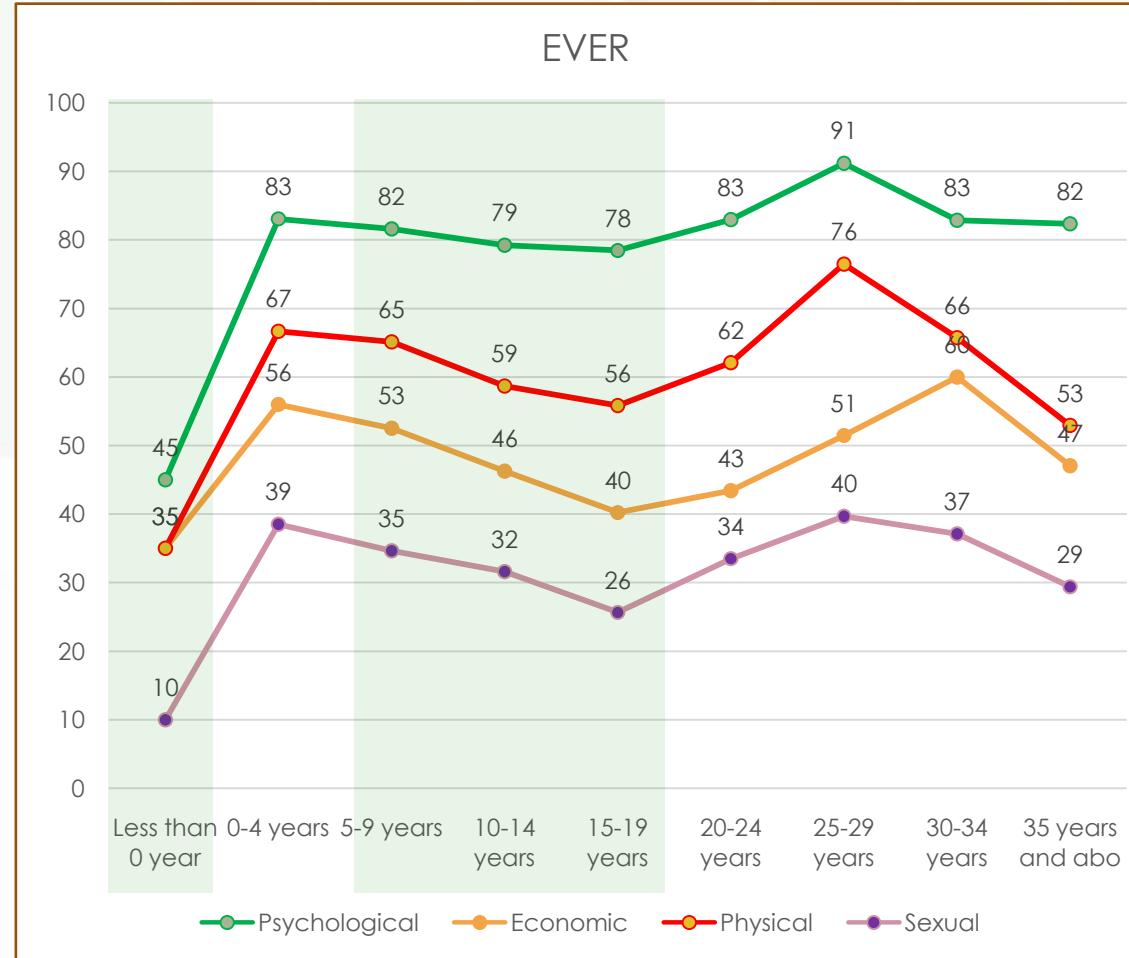
SEXUAL VIOLENCE

PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE

ECONOMIC VIOLENCE

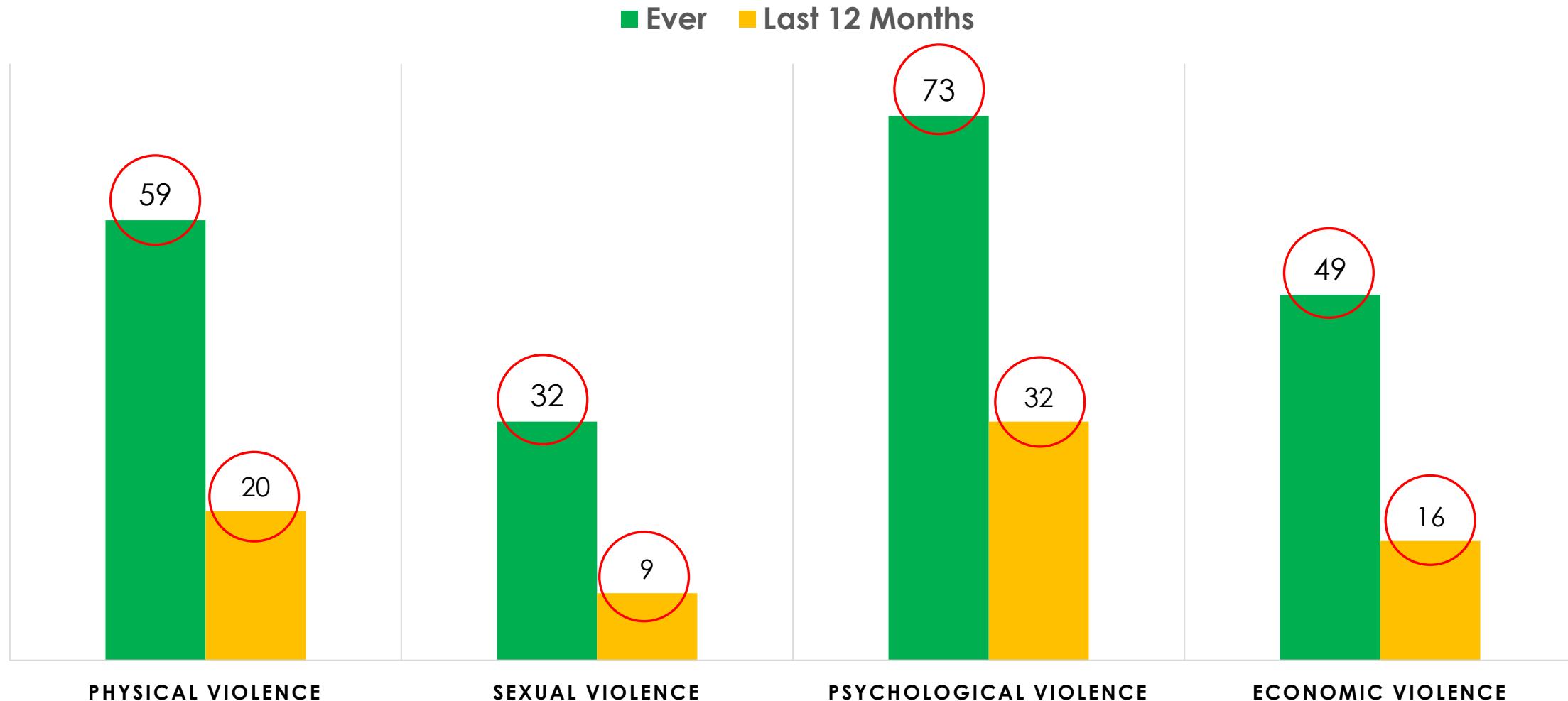


Violence perpetrated by current husband (%) by age difference



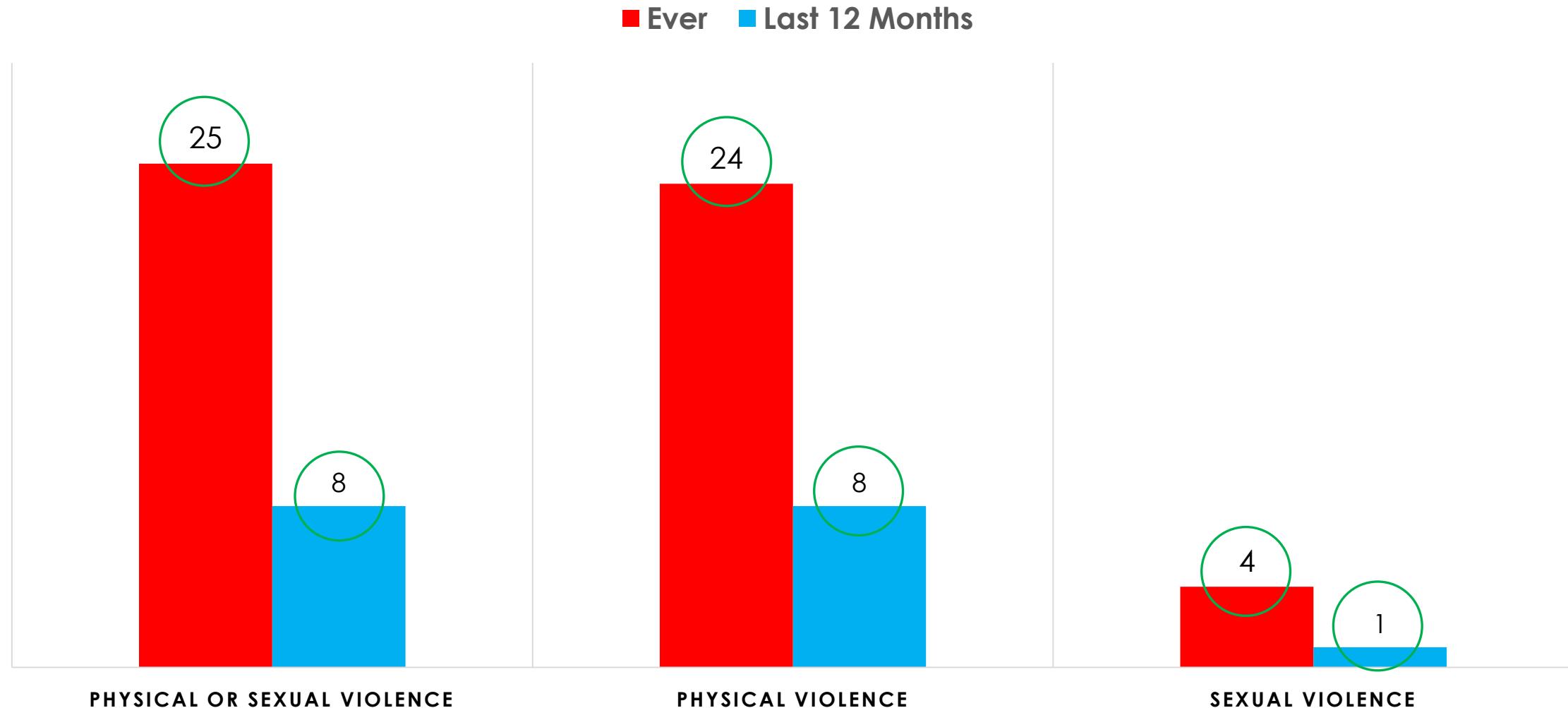


Violence perpetrated by Previous husband (%)





Violence perpetrated by Non-Partner (%)



Non partner: Anybody other than husband.



Violence by non-partner: First Forced Sex

At age of	Percentage
05-09	1.7
10-14	41.8
15-19	34.3
20-24	9.9
25-29	4.9
30-34	4.1
35-39	2.3
40+	0.9



Getting treatment due to violence

Reasons for not taking treatment due to violence	Current husband (%)	Previous husband (%)
Treatment received for violence	51.8	51.3
Afraid of husband	17.3	22.6
Husband didn't allow	15.2	8.9
Not necessary	51.6	41.0
Afraid of other family member	3.4	2.9
Afraid of social prestige	8.6	6.0
Other	4.0	18.6



Economic violence: Dowry status

Dowry Status	Current husband (ever) %	Previous husband (ever) %
Condition for giving money or property during marriage	33.7	24.0
Pressurize to bring money or things from parent's house (after marriage)	12.6	17.7



Physical & mental impact due to violence

Type of Impact	Violence by	
	Current Husband (%)	Previous Husband (%)
Mental sickness	42.2	42.9
Attempted to suicide	7.1	12.9
Non-sleep	17.1	5.4
Other	0.2	1.8
No appetite	18.4	7.6
Abortion	1.1	1.4
Non-response	13.9	28.0



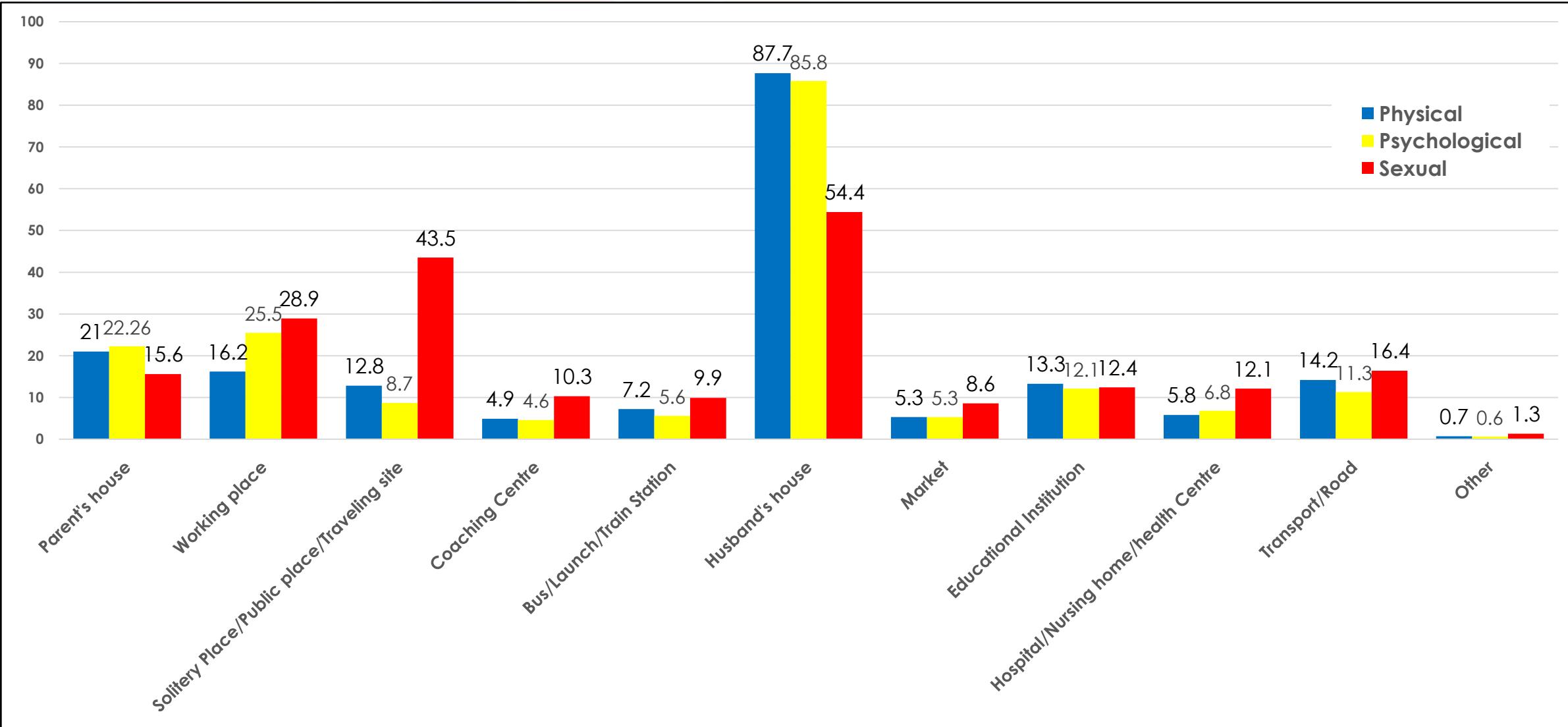
Reason of not taking legal action due to violence



Why legal action wasn't taken	Current husband (%)	Previous husband (%)
In fear of husband	8.1	14.5
Husband has right to torture	6.7	6.4
Husband didn't allow	2.7	1.6
Wasn't necessary	40.1	27.7
In fear of members of the household	2.8	2.9
Thinking future of the children	20.9	12.1
Thinking of family or own defame	16.5	12.2
Others	2.2	1.3
Not reported	-	21.3



Perception about violence by place of occurrence



Challenges faced by BBS in Questionnaire Development and Data Collection

- ▶ Customization of UNSD standard questionnaire to fit with the socioeconomic context of Bangladesh
- ▶ Incorporating the stakeholders' demands from different points of views
- ▶ Recruitment of gender sensitized interviewers with required qualifications
- ▶ Gender sensitization of the field force involved in the survey
- ▶ Rapport building with the respondent.
- ▶ Getting the respondents alone for the interview
- ▶ Unwanted presence of family members while interviewing
- ▶ Ensuring confidentiality of the personal information



Lessons Learnt By BBS in VAW 2011



- ▶ Conducting such a sensitive survey without having enough relevant experience
- ▶ Handling and coordinating with the stakeholders involved
- ▶ Introducing ICR technology in a standalone survey



Role of BBS and Other National Stakeholders



- ▶ A convergence approach steered by BBS starting from survey tools development to data dissemination
- ▶ Stakeholders like UN agencies, Other government agencies, civil society and INGO/NGOs working for VAW issue
- ▶ Stakeholders were also directly involved at the field level training



Challenges faced in analyzing the data

- ▶ Introduction of ICR technology to save time and avoid redundancy and inaccuracies
- ▶ Manual edit of the questionnaire with proper care of ICR guidelines
- ▶ Substantial misread information was found in the scanned results
- ▶ Pre-scanning, editing and cleaning for untidiness and overcoming inconsistencies
- ▶ Shortage of time, ICR equipment and skilled manpower were the major challenges to complete the data analysis

Conclusion

- ▶ Violence Against Women Survey 2011 was the first nationally representative survey in Bangladesh
- ▶ The statistics concludes that combating the violence from the society, immediate action plan should be taken to make the society safe for the women by prioritizing the contextual factors
- ▶ Bangladesh government has signed many international treaties and conventions, and enacted different national laws and policies- Domestic Violence Act in 2010
- ▶ Ensuring the involvement of men and youth is essential
- ▶ Report of VAW survey can be a guideline to set priority for combating the violence against women



Recommendations



- ▶ Customization of the questionnaire to avoid biasness
- ▶ Customization of the questionnaire by sensitizing with gender issues
- ▶ Separate result with the contextual variables side by side with all variables
- ▶ Generating composite index for each type of violence
- ▶ Categorizing the violence by severity in the questionnaire
- ▶ Conducting follow up VAW survey regularly to get the substantial changes against different approaches and efforts
- ▶ Expanding the consultation with stakeholders with special care for future episodes
- ▶ Sharing and adapting the global experience for future episode of VAW



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Thank You

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