



Impact of COVID - 19 on Violence Against Women

HUMSAFAR

**Support Centre for Women, Youth and Queer
Lucknow - Uttar Pradesh**

Acknowledgement

The study captures the effect of Pandemic COVID 19 and subsequent lockdown on lives of women and the ways they have faced, coped with the crisis and their strengths, weaknesses and support systems.

We are grateful to **Rashmi Singh** for designing the study and for report compilation. The data and case studies interviews were conducted by Humsafar team. We are thankful to **Manmeet Kaur Bhatia** for final editing of the report. We are thankful to **Arundhati Dhuru** for conceptualizing and coordinating the study.

We would like to thank all the women survivors for sharing their sensitive and personal experiences.

Humsafar is hopeful that this study will bring to the fore the magnitude of violence against women due to the COVID-19 pandemic, their strengths, their spirit challenging violence and a new direction to include support services dealing with domestic violence against women in contingency services.

HUMSAFAR (Support Centre for Women, Youth and Queer)
Lucknow - Uttar Pradesh 2021

Overview

Humankind faced one of worse crises in form of pandemic onslaught of Corona virus. The nationwide lockdown announced at a barely four hours caught all of us unaware causing much hardship to its people, poor and women.

COVID – 19 and the ensuing lockdown had a global affect. With a staggering number of deaths caused by the pandemic, health, economy, education, infrastructure, and other sectors were badly hit. Compounded with intersecting inequalities, socio economic status, caste, class, gender and the impact of pandemic exacerbated for women especially within the marginalized section of the society.

When the lockdown was suddenly implemented in the country on 22 March 2020, no one had thought that this lockdown would be nothing less than a punishment for the women trapped in the homes. As our office and other support centers closed due to lockdown, we realized the gravity of situation as phones started ringing from survivors. There were many, an old woman suffering from schizophrenia who was completely dependent on food from hotel, survivors who were trapped in violent sexual relationship, domestic workers who were asked not to report to work due to their religion and many more.

As we started our relief work and met women, we realized that were facing multiple discriminations and were trapped in homes. Home which is regarded as safest place for everyone were like jail for many. Women were forced to live in a house with the abuser; all the support services available for them were also completely disabled. Many women kept silent considering it as their fate, but the women who wanted to ask for help were also disappointed. Because of the insensitive attitude of the service providers, the women were left with no option but to endure the violence silently.

Apart from violence, there have been many negative effects on the lives of women. Many women lost their jobs and many women had to sell jewellery to run their homes. There was increased housework, less incomes, courts were closed and maintenance money was not available. We decided to document these experiences to see the impact of

pandemic and subsequent lockdown on women's lives.

Exposed to violence, at the same time, suffering with the increased amount of care work, women and girls have been worse hit by the pandemic especially during the lockdown. To understand the condition of women during the last 11 months since the announcement of lockdown HUMSAFAR, working closely with survivors of domestic violence conducted a small study with 100 women. The report carries key findings from the survey conducted with a number of 100 women survivors and 25 in – depth interviews.

Table of Contents

I.	Preface	5
II.	About HUMSAFAR.....	6-9
III.	Research and Design.....	10-12
	a. Objective and Scope of Study	10
	b. Foregrounding Needs	11
	c. Methodology	11
	d. Process	11
IV.	Demographic Profile and Work Status of the population:	13
	a. Caste.....	13
	b. Work status of women	14
V.	Findings:	17
	a. Domestic Space and Violence	17
	b. Consumption of substance (Alcohol, Tobacco), Gambling	17
	c. Decrease in Household Income and Increase in Household Expenses adding to the stress.....	18
	d. No Personal Space and Burden of Increased Household work	20
	e. Access and availability of support systems	21
	f. Lack of mobile phones and its ownership	23
	g. Mental Well - Being Concerns.....	24
	h. Violence and its effects and Types of violence.....	25
VI.	Analysis.....	28
VII.	Policy Recommendations.....	30
	Annexure 1: Survey Form.....	33
	Annexure 2: Case Stories	40

I. Preface

The unprecedented outbreak of Covid -19 and the ensuing lockdown had a global effect that challenged communities across geographical boundaries. Compounded by intersecting inequalities – socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, caste, gender, sexuality, age, disability, the pandemic affected the livelihoods, health, and well-being of the structurally excluded people living on the periphery of the development to access resources. Across every sphere, from health to the economy, security to special protection, the impacts of Covid 19 are exacerbated for women and girls. Highlighted in several reports, loss of jobs, increased unpaid care work by women, and work from home arrangements has exposed women to increased domestic violence and limited their access to sexual and reproductive health services.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) received over 13,000 complaints of domestic violence during the Covid 19 -induced lockdown (March to September). Of these, 53 per cent cases were from Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Uttar Pradesh women reported the highest number of complaints (5,470) followed by Delhi (1,697). Interestingly, complaints from North-East States are less compared to other States in the country.

The UN, ILO briefing reports stated increased violence against women with less cases being reported. Limited accesses to communication and restriction over mobility have deprived women of a safety – net. Many women staying within a joint family and sharing the space with the abuser, have complained of emotional, psychological, physical well-being violence and having no space to share about their suffering and violence.

II. About HUMSAFAR

HUMSAFAR, a Support Centre for women, youth and queer community in Crisis, was set up in Lucknow in November 2003 and was registered in 2008 to ensure a holistic feminist response to discrimination and violence across the sexual spectrum based on gender, religion, caste, and class. HUMSAFAR, is a collective, managed by a group of Trustees, full-time trained and experienced staff, and a large number of vigilant volunteers in communities, educational establishments, and professionals.

Working with violence survivors

HUMSAFAR has a multi-pronged approach to address gender-based violence. The casework unit, a rigorous curative side, provides a wide variety of support services to women survivors. This includes paralegal, legal, medical, social mediation, counseling, rescue, shelter, and rehabilitation support. During the last ten years, HUMSAFAR has intervened in more than 10000 cases. Over the years, HUMSAFAR's growth trajectory guided by the felt needs of survivors has been to change societal patterns of violence by building supportive networks with different sections of society, raising community responsiveness, and addressing deep-rooted societal attitudes towards women. A survivors' fight to access justice requires community support at various stages. Humsafar works to break the conspiracy of silence around violence, wage a long - legal battle, rehabilitate the survivor and her children emotionally, financially, and reintegrate into society as a conscious citizen aware of her rights, responsibilities and realize the potential as per her choice. To create this supportive social environment for the women who choose to speak out and seek help against violence HUMSAFAR started a dynamic outreach program in communities living in the urban *bastis* (settlements) and among adolescents and youth in educational institutions, stakeholders, and network groups.

Working with youth and queer community

At present, HUMSAFAR is working with women in 25 neighborhoods and with youth in 20 schools and colleges of Lucknow Hardoi, Unnao, and Sitapur- all districts of the Lucknow division. Recognizing the need to rope in the civil society HUMSAFAR has also organized awareness sessions for many professionals such as Police Officers, Lawyers, Doctors, Teachers & Principals on the issue of Gender-

based Violence and Laws related to Gender-based violence like The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005 and The Sexual harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. Similarly, to strengthen the participation of the youth and ensure their ownership on the various interventions developed to challenge violence.

HUMSAFAR has also set up a platform called 'YuvaTarang' which has, proved to be a meeting ground for youth from neighboring communities as well as schools and colleges. Through HUMSAFAR's active youth program emerged the need to address the discrimination and violence faced by the queer community. By creating a safe space for them, HUMSAFAR supports them in addressing challenges, especially connected to violence.

Working on livelihood challenge

HUMSAFAR found that a survivor delays the decision to come out of an abusive relationship because of being ill-equipped to rebuild her life. In many cases, survivors even decide to withdraw their court case and return to face violence due to their precarious financial situation. It is in this context that HUMSAFAR started its Livelihood Programme. It has gone a long way to equip survivors to rebuild their lives and help them reclaim their right, to live with dignity. Until now, 150 survivors have been skilled in non-patriarchal livelihoods. They have been extended support to stand on their own. As part of the non-patriarchal livelihoods program, survivors have trained to drive electric or battery-operated e-rickshaws. These environment friendly rickshaws driven by trained survivors started a green mode of Lucknow city's first women-run public transport system. It further promotes the safe city concept by encouraging more women on the roads. Until now, HUMSAFAR has trained more than 150 women to become drivers in the last two years who are driving cars, three wheelers and autos and scooters and are linked with e commerce and transport services.

Research and Documentation

To effectively promote pro-women policies and programs with stakeholders, HUMSAFAR has undertaken evidence-based researches to help take legal measures to open up spaces for survivors. Towards this HUMSAFAR participated and has done several studies in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

- **Justice Delayed is Justice Denied:** Study on maintenance under Section 125Cr PC enabling or hindering access to entitlement.
- **A Comprehensive Study** on Efficacy of Section 498- A- IPC in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- **Study of survivors of burn injury in Uttar Pradesh:** Study of violence committed upon women through burning in the state of Uttar Pradesh.
- **Impact of COVID 19 on youth from marginalized communities**
- **Facilitating courage with consent** – A study with young boys and girls, their perception, consciousness and recognition of the value of consent in close relationships with focus on human rights of women and queer.
- **A safety audit of Lucknow city**—action research by young girls.

Legal intervention and networking

HUMSAFAR and Vanangana filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL). Research, by Humsafar '**Justice Delayed, is Justice Denied: Study on maintenance under Section 125Cr PC; enabling or hindering access to entitlement**' attached as evidence in the PIL highlighted the implementation and policy issues under Section 125. The subsequent result of the submission was, the Chief Justice of UP in his administrative order, cited the research study and, asked for the strict implementation of Section 125 in all courts. In another jointly filed PIL, Uttar Pradesh High Court questioned the state government for the non - appointment of independent protection officers stipulated under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 (PWDV Act).

HUMSAFAR observed a systematic dilution of the legal provisions and regulations under the domestic violence-related laws. These laws provide women crucial supportive mechanisms to seek justice and to fight against violence inflicted on women, girls and queer communities.

Humsafar organized a **National consultation on Domestic Violence Laws –Implementation and Challenges** to question the dilution of three women centric laws where activist, lawyers and academicians from 18 states across India deliberated and planned a joint strategy and roadmap.

HUMSAFAR holds the state-level secretariat of **AMAN Global Voices for Peace** – an international network established to curb domestic violence in India and to work towards the implementation of the

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA).

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013 HUMSAFAR works towards the effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013. Humsafar has been instrumental in setting up the Internal Committees (IC) in 14 educational institutions and IC member. Additionally, HUMSAFAR is also a member of the Internal Committees (IC) of Sashastra Seema Bal, Uttar Pradesh's Anti-Corruption Bureau, Government Railway Police Force (GRP), and more than 28 government and non-government departments. Humsafar continues to do awareness programs in these institutions regarding the law. HUMSAFAR continues to provide services as a member of the committee constituted by Lucknow police to provide long-term intensive counseling to child sexual abuse survivors.

HUMSAFAR has developed an understanding that a holistic and comprehensive response to discrimination and violence across the sexual spectrum based on gender, religion, caste, and class is possible only when linkages are formed with various rights-based feminists' networks. This approach has paved the way in bringing policy-level changes. The pandemic period and its effect on structurally excluded communities require persistent efforts in addressing the increased gender-based violence.

III. Research and Design

a. Objective and Scope of Study

HUMSAFAR has actively engaged with women on four fronts- spreading awareness about violence against women and gender rights, provide legal, economic, emotional support to women, rebuilding life by providing training and capacity building. Closely working with women survivors, the organization realized that the outbreak of the pandemic had not only exacerbated violence against women within the domestic space but had also at the space of their work - domestic workers, migrant workers, auto rickshaw drivers and others faced several challenges. Many women might have faced intersecting forms of discrimination making them even more vulnerable to violence. Access to informal support groups, including psychosocial support from relatives and friends were also found unavailable during the pandemic. Thus, to understand how and why the pandemic increased violence against women and what steps an organization like, HUMSAFAR can undertake in the future to overcome these effects a small study began in the beginning of 2021. However, the second wave in India and the increased rate of Covid cases had a subsequent effect on the study and derailed the data collection and completion of report.

Scope of Study

- To understand the impact of the pandemic and its increase in violence against women.
- To understand women's access to a help-seeking system (informal/formal)
- To understand the direct impact of the pandemic on the mobility, livelihood, and health conditions of women.
- To evaluate the women survivor's access to different service providers in and around the neighborhood.
- Ways of coping, meeting urgent needs, and ways of meeting important needs which is critical in framing evidence-based policies and programs.
- The data collected will also provide important insights into and inform the development of tailored strategies and interventions that may particularly be effective in preventing VAWG.

b. Foregrounding Needs

It is expected that learning from data collection will help the organization to develop programs to address the needs of women facing violence to mitigate the adverse effect of the pandemic and to prevent VAW during emergencies.

c. Methodology

A three-part study was proposed to capture the economic impact of the pandemic and its implication for violence against women. The study focused on the cases of violence that affected women, especially the issues of domestic violence and different kinds of violence/challenges that women faced during the pandemic.

However, due to the emergence of the second wave, the trained cadre could not perform focus group discussions. Therefore, FGDs were cancelled.

The assessment was implemented in two parts:

- **Survey: quantitative assessment**
- **In-depth interviews**

Survey: The assessment began with a survey of close to 100 women in urban slums. The organization working in those areas was the prime rationale behind opting for these areas for this rapid assessment exercise.

In-depth interviews: 25 in-depth interviews were conducted to substantiate our survey findings. Interviewed women who belonged to different intersections were part of a different social, economic and cultural milieu.

To capture the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by women approximately 100 women formed part of the assessment, of which all formed part of the survey and 25 of them were also personally interviewed.

d. Process

The survey was conducted ensuring COVID protocol, maintaining social distancing and adoption of the safety rules on the mobile phone via Google Form (Annexure1). A pool of cadre trained on the

Google form carried the survey in the field. The survey covered the following themes in the process:

- Restriction on mobility and its effect
- Common triggers of violence (domestic violence, psychological violence, physical violence, emotional – social abuse)
- Effect on livelihood
- Access/ No access to service providers/ call center/ help centers etc.

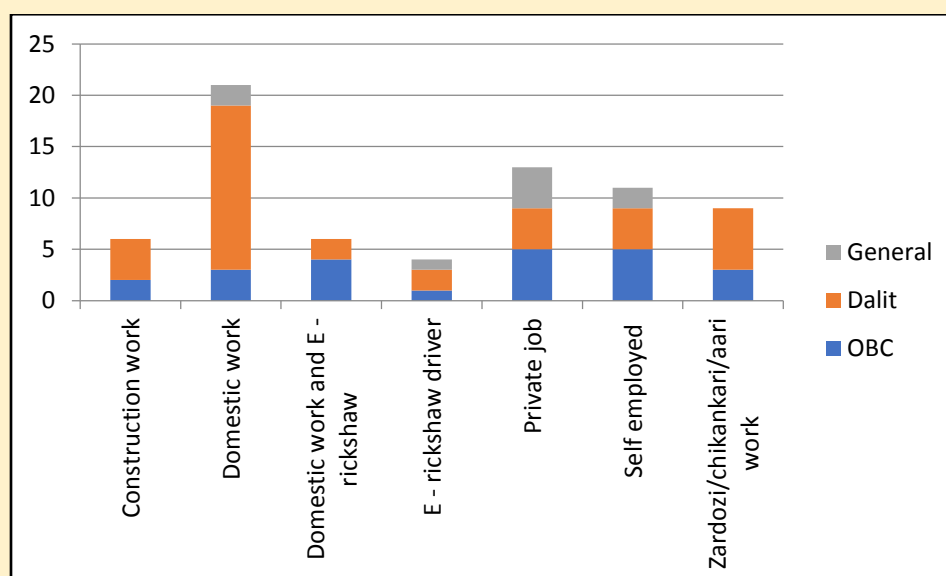
IV. Demographic Profile and Work Status of the population:

a. Caste

Around 49% of women belonging to Muslim and 51% of women from the Hindu community formed part of the survey assessment.

	Muslim			Hindu		
Category	Dalit	OBC	General	Dalit	OBC	General
Single				1%		
Married	8%	22%	6%	25%	3%	6%
Separated		2%	2%	3%	2%	
Divorced		2%	1%			
Widow		2%	1%	2%	1%	
Abandoned	1%	1%		5%	3%	2%
Total	9%	29%	10%	35%	9%	8%

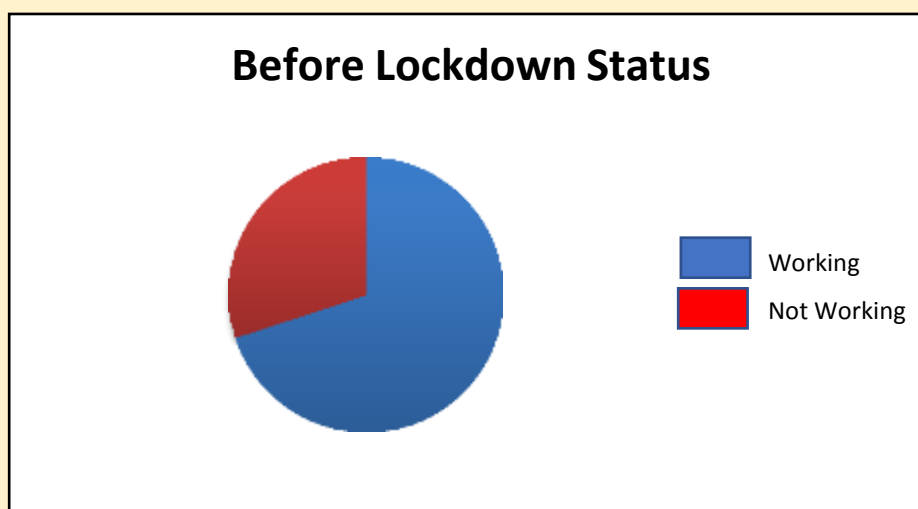
The bar diagram explains that of the 70% of the women working under each category majority of them were **Dalit women workforce**. It is important to understand and bring to attention that Dalit women forming part of the informal economy were the most affected during the lockdown. The ILO report in 2020 reported that over 2 billion workers earn their livelihoods in the informal economy, forming 62 percent of all those working worldwide². Loss of income and loss of work created further bottlenecks in meeting needs within household or to access health services.



b. Work status of women

Women and Work - Pre-Lockdown

Out of 100 women surveyed and interviewed, around 30% of women shared that they did not work and had no regular source of income, while 70% of women shared that they were working before lockdown.



Work and Work - during the lockdown

Of the 70% of women working before lockdown, 21% of them went for work during the lockdown and 79% shared that they did not go to work. Many of them were working as domestic workers and were told to discontinue by employers, there was no transport available, many factories were shut down and casual work was not available. When asked if they wanted to go back to work, around 95% of women shared that they wished to go back to work for following reasons:

- To earn income.
- To be less burdened with household chores as this was cause of tension during lockdown.
- To seek the opportunity to meet their friends, close relatives and parents and to get out of suppressive atmosphere of homes.

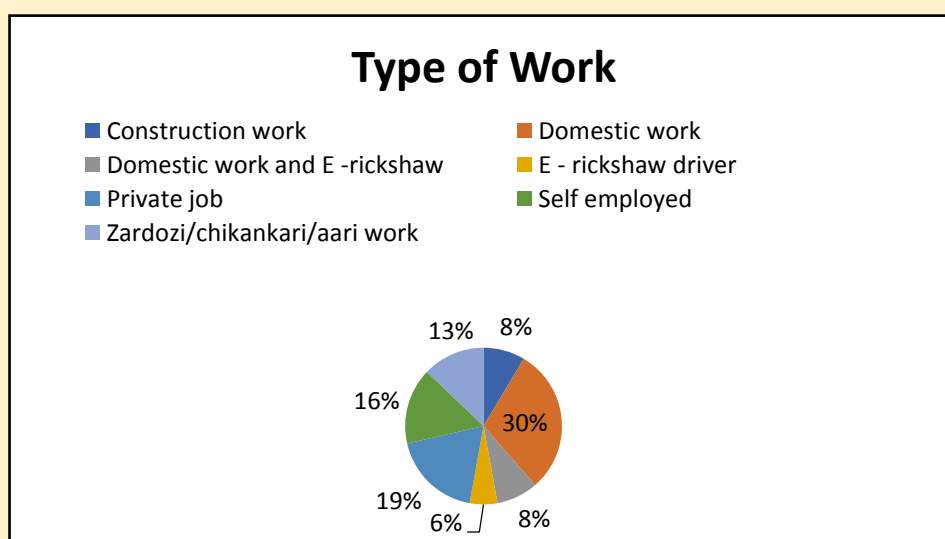
Age and Work Status

Work status	18 -25	26 – 33	34 – 41	42 and above
Don't Work	9	10	6	5
Work	6	24	30	11

Majority of the women are working from age group 26 and above. Since most of the girls are newly married between the age of 18-25 or below, they are not allowed to work immediately after marriage.

Type of Work

Of the total sample 70 % of the women reported that they did different kind of work before lockdown around of which 3 % of the women did Domestic work, while 19% of the women were employed in some private institution like a learning center, had a job at a small Momo-making eatery and other places. Small sector jobs were badly affected during COVID, affecting livelihoods of many. Being part of the informal economy people employed in the sector had no job security, no economic – health benefit.



Many of them reported that they could not go back to work because their workplaces were closed because of lockdown. Women working as domestic workers experienced salary cuts to no payments. 16 % of women were self – employed and ran home business for example – took tuition classes, sold vegetables, stitched bags, worked in the field, ran a small – shop within home. Women self –

employed also did not get much business since no one ordered anything and restriction on transportation further reduced chances of transporting material. Around 13 % of women were engaged into *zardozi*, *chikankari*, *aari* work. 9 % of them worked in the brick-kilns with deplorable condition. For women who were e- rickshaw drivers, lockdown badly affected their livelihoods. Around 8 % of the women once E – rickshaw drivers had started working as domestic workers as they could not pay the rent for the e-rickshaw.

V. Findings:

a. Domestic Space and Violence

‘I feared staying at home especially during the lockdown because my husband used to beat me every day’.

Around 65 % of women felt unsafe within the domestic space. There was a large percentage almost more than 50 % of women echoing this opinion.

A continuous presence of their partners in the house and with no work, the intensity and frequency of violence increased. Physical violence accompanied with verbal abuse.

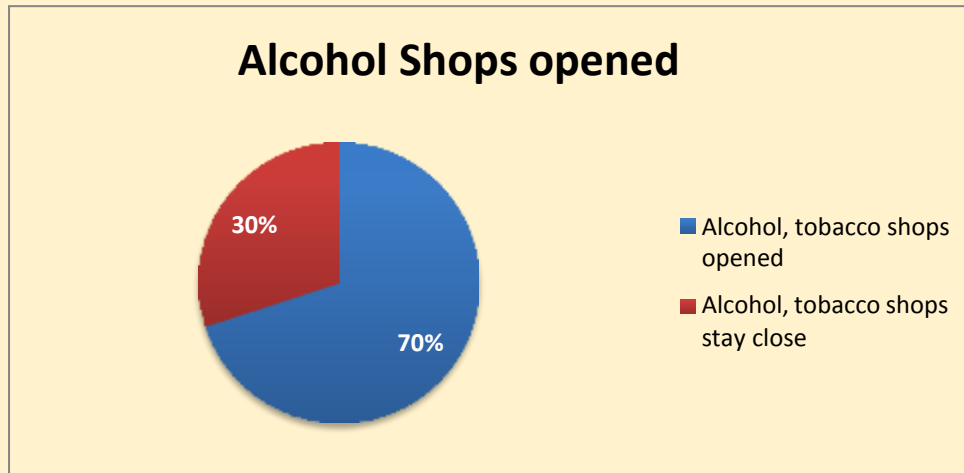
Women separated from their partners and living with their families faced violence too. Few shared having fought with their son, and brothers, the atmosphere at home had turned toxic and violent. With a constant surveillance, women experienced control over their sexuality, mobility and communication. These challenges compounded to the recurring concerns of running the household expenses, the increased care work that made them physically and psychologically exhausted and exploited.

b. Consumption of substance (Alcohol, Tobacco), Gambling

Rama devi (23) is married to her cousin who drinks a lot. Before marriage he promised her that he will quit drinking after marriage. But of course, he did not. The situation got worse especially during COVID lockdown. He used to force and beat Rama to give him money for alcohol but since Rama also could not manage to continue riding the e-rickshaw, it was difficult for her to run the household. After some time, Rama got a job as a domestic worker but her husband came to her workplace and started abusing and beating her in front of everyone. She got fired and lost her work. To be able to buy alcohol, Rama's husband started the sex work business at home and he threw her out from the house. When she got another job as a laborer and got a call from work, her husband broke her phone and blamed her that she is having an affair. She complained to the police many a times but the police also told her that he is her responsibility and she should make efforts to make him stop drinking alcohol.

Around 70 % of women shared that the shops of tobacco and liquor

were opened. The government allowed the liquor shops to open first across the country where there was a need of food and other basic amenities in the Indian households.



- Around 57% of women shared those members within the family consumed alcohol and were also in to gambling.
- Of which majority of them had **husbands/partners who were addicted to smoking and tobacco consumption**. All of them complained that there was increased consumption of tobacco and other narcotics substances during lockdown.
- Of the 57% around 22 women shared that their husbands and sons forced them for money to buy tobacco and also to gamble. In the process of which they complained that they faced psychological, physical violence and verbal altercation, verbal abuse.

Violence under the influence of Alcohol

Women shared that they faced psychological violence, as their husbands shouted and verbally abused them while asking for money. Around 55 women shared that many times alcohol triggered violence within the house and they were physically attacked too. Men verbally abused them and also were violent.

c. Decrease in Household Income and Increase in Household Expenses adding to the stress

100% of women in the survey shared that COVID- 19 and nationwide lockdown caused a severe impact on the income of the family. They faced a lot of challenges. Around 97 women stated that neither they

nor their partners or anyone from family received any wages or salary during the lockdown. There were pay cuts and many also lost their jobs. During in - depth interviews it was learnt that men did not support in household expenses. In many instances women who were married had to ask for support from their parents or brothers. Many of them received food grains support from NGOs like Humsafar. Around 30 % of women who were not working stated that lockdown affected their family income. Few of them share that their partner lost their job during lockdown, few of them shared that there was a salary – cut in the pay. Other family members like son or daughters engaged could no longer continue with tuition classes. Of the 70 % of women who worked before lockdown faced similar issues with the household. Many of them shared that they lost their job, many had their family members fired from work and had no work in hand. Women who were self – employed also faced challenges as they were not getting much business during lockdown.

All of them shared that household expenses increased during lockdown, money was largely spent on food, and other ration items, medicines, additional amount on mobile recharge since children needed smart phones for their online classes.

Around 97 % of women shared the challenges they faced when they visited ration shops. Due to fixed opening times, a constant surveillance by police, women could not frequently visit shops and had to visit at fixed time.

The loss in income and increase in the household expenses has added stress and led to the violence.

Money Borrowed/ Asset Mortgaged/ Sale of asset

Saroj (41) lives with her husband and 3 children (two sons and one girl). She worked at a private hospital as a cleaner and her two sons used to sell noodles in a stall. During COVID, she and her children lost their jobs. Her husband did not work at all and instead used to ask her wife and sons to give him money for tobacco and alcohol. When denied he used to abuse and beat Saroj and her children. Since there was no money for food at home, Saroj had to sell the jewellery of hers and daughter so that they can buy something to eat. From that money as well, Saroj's husband used to steal and buy tobacco and alcohol. Although Saroj twice to complain against her husband, but nothing much changed after that.

Like Saroj, 65 % women stated sale of their jewellery to take care of

the household expenses. In few instances women shared that they sold of their gold rings, earrings, silver anklets (payal) etc. 17 % women shared they sold utensils and other things to support their family financially, while a small percentage sold mobile phones. During in-depth interviews many women complained that their husbands sold their assets to buy alcohol.

Assets owned by women were sold /mortgaged to support family financially. For example - phone owned by them, or their gold jewelry etc. Only few cases were visible where a fraction of men sold their vehicles, but it was a very small percentage.

Purpose of money borrowed

69 % women shared that they spend money on ration and purchase of grocery items and vegetables

51 % shared that they borrowed money for health, medicines

13 % shared they borrowed money to pay school fee,

Majority of them borrowed money from a **relative or neighbor**. Of the respondents few of them were also supported by HUMSAFAR team.

d. No Personal Space and Burden of Increased Household work

Sunita Rawat (27) shared that she got pregnant during the lockdown and her in laws and husband used to force her to do all the household chores during the pregnancy. She said *'My husband used to take shower twice a day and ask me to fill in the bucket and take it to the first floor every time. It was so much difficult to carry the heavy bucket through the stairs and no one used to help me. I was never given rest throughout my pregnancy and therefore it led to the complications during my delivery. Even after the delivery I was not given rest at all and had to do all the domestic chores as well as do stitching work so that I could run the household. This has not only affected my physical health but my mental health also'*

Just like Sunita, around 95% of women shared that there was an increased amount of household work.

Of the sample size, 94% of women shared during lockdown there were increased household chores. Many complained that household work like - cleaning, washing, cooking, and washing clothes took a lot of their time and energy. There was no time that they could spend on themselves, with all family members in the house

increased the workload, with limited to no help from male family members of the house. 67 – 70% of women shared that purchase of vegetables and grocery items was again their task with limited support from anyone. Many times, they couldn't buy things because of the household work and limited opening hours of the shops. The increased care work to ensure milk and medicines for children and elderly people at home were additional things which increased as they complained many times, they did not have enough money to buy ration or gas to heat milk or to buy milk for children.

Most of the women also shared that there was no personal space for them to take rest or make a call to their family or do anything they wish to do. They shared that all the male family members or the elders used to stay in the same room and it was difficult them to stay there or even take some rest. Many of them shared that whenever they used to sit there for a while, they were told to leave the room and do household chores.

Ranking	Household chores	No. of Women
1	Cooking, Cleaning, Washing clothes	95
2	Washing of Utensils	91
3	Purchase of vegetables	71
4	Purchase of grocery	68
5	Care - Children	15
6	Care - Old	2

Around 66% of women shared that they did not receive any support from the house while 34% (34) of women shared of receiving some support within the house.

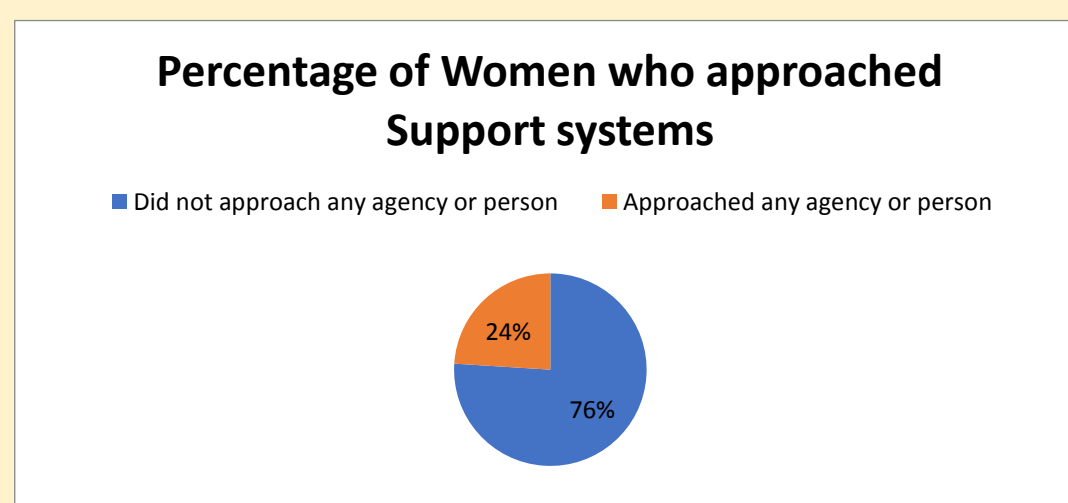
This support came from other women within the house largely their daughters, around 59% of women shared that their daughters helped them in the household chores while the rest of the work was shared by other women of the household like – mother/mother – in law, sister – in law, daughter- in law, etc. Only 9% women shared that they were helped by their husbands in the house.

e. Access and availability of support systems

Kamini (42) used to live with her husband and a child. Her husband never used to work in contract but after lockdown he was totally

unemployed. They used to run their household with the help of Kamini's brother. Her brother used to send her money to buy groceries and for other expenses. But Kamini's husband used to steal the money and buy alcohol with that. Kamini told that her husband used to beat her up with glass bottle and forcefully have intercourse with her. When she got frustrated, she called 112 (emergency helpline number), but that number was not reachable. She also reached out to her brother for help but he was not at the city. Finally, she ran to the nearest police station but they also denied to take her complain and told her that this police station does not come to her area. Next day she went to the other police station with her brother and told the police about the incident. The police told her *'There are no injuries on your face or hands, how can we take your complaint on basis of what you are saying'*. She said that the injuries were visible around the neck. Finally waiting for hours and with support of Humsafar, she could able to get her complaint registered.

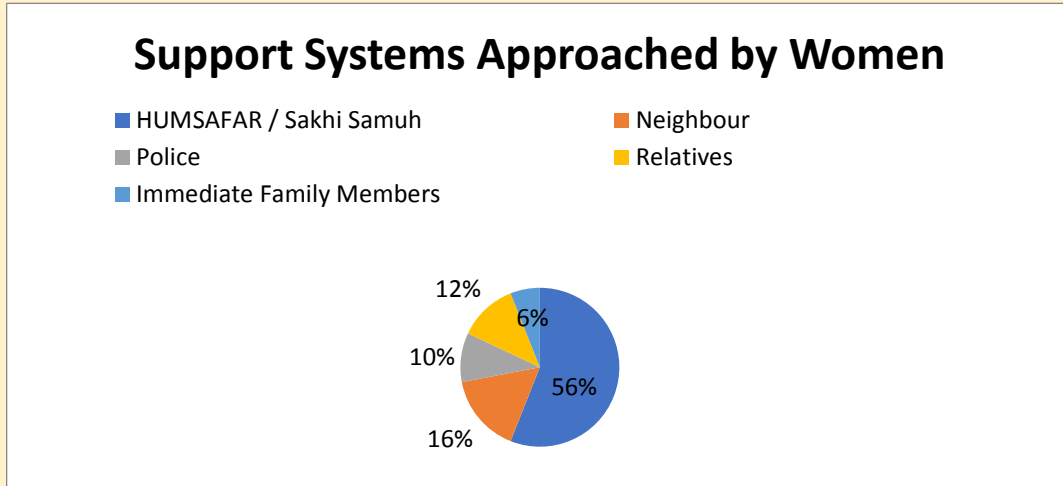
76% women who did not approach any agency or people:



Data gathered states that around 24% women shared they took help of others, out of which

- 56% of them took support of Humsafar team; they approached the *Sakhi samuh*
- 16% of them took help of their neighbor
- 10% approached the police but stated that police were not helpful there was no effect of the same
- 12% of them took help of their relatives
- 6% of them could approach their immediate family members.

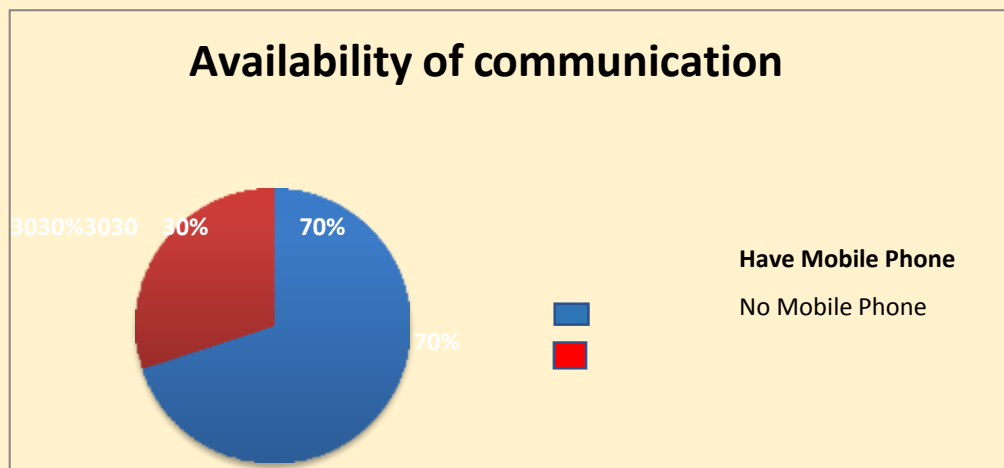
Being an internal matter majority of women did not contact or share with anyone. A few of them shared that they felt, nobody could help them since there was a nationwide lockdown.



Shaheen (25) who lives with her husband and a child also shared her story. During lockdown, her husband used to beat her a lot and have a forceful intercourse with her. She got terrorized and one day called Humsafar for help. Due to lockdown, Humsafar could not visit her physically but gave her counseling and legal advice. As guided by Humsafar she went to Asha Jyoti Kendra, but due to lockdown it was also closed and she could not seek for help. Slowly things got worsened and she reached out Humsafar again and they suggested her to call 112. Over the call, they suggested her to go to the police station. Although she was terrorized from her husband, she sneaked out from her house and went to the police station. The police at the station asked her immediately to go back home and bring the application from home. Even after insisting the police so many times, they denied to take the complaints giving her the reason that there is no paper in the station. Shaheen got disheartened and lost all the hopes to get justice after so many efforts.

f. Lack of mobile phones and its ownership

‘Lockdown made me feel like I was in jail. My husband didn’t even let me talk to my parents and whenever I asked him to get the phone recharged, he used to say that I am here at home, why you need to talk to anyone else’. Tasmeen (30).



Around 70 % women stated of having mobile phones while 30 % did not have one.

Of the 70 % of women having phone:

However, having a mobile phone did not support women as around 65 % of women shared that most of the time, they did not have their mobiles recharged, since they did not have enough money.

Others shared their discomfort of talking to their families in the presence of their partners or relatives. A fraction of them shared the use of mobile phone for the online class.

Of the 30 % of women not having phone:

Of women not having phones 67 % of them stated that they used someone else phone to talk to their relatives, while 10 % shared that talking to anyone would not have changed their circumstances. There was a sense of helplessness identified in their response.

g. Mental Well - Being Concerns

Around 99% of women shared that economic and social challenges affected their mental wellbeing. 94% women shared that because of low **income** there was a constant fear and anxiety.

- 90% women shared that along with income, **increased household expenses** compounded to their challenges.
- 61% women shared that **household expense** and **care work like taking care of children, their education, old people their medicine** also increased their problems.
- 38% women shared other problems were more caused within the domestic space.

During the in-depth interviews, many women complained about the

psychological violence they experienced during the pandemic. Twenty-five, in-depth interviews were conducted in which all shared about the pain, control, restriction they experienced.

h. Violence and its effects and Types of violence

Psychological Violence (verbal abuse) - 95 % women ranked facing psychological violence which involved verbal altercations within the house and a lot of abuses thrown at each other.

‘Married for 25 years, Kamini was 19 when she got married. She has three children, two boys, and a girl. Girl being the eldest (22 years) followed by boys (20 years and 14 years). She could recall the first instance of violence that took place right after few days of her marriage, and the reason being alcohol which triggered the violent behavior. That was the moment too when she came to know about her husband’s habits of smoking and drinking. A rough and violent relationship with her husband where he was suspicious of her, physically and psychologically hurt her, and could not go out to work. It was only a few years later her father bought a house in her name, where she lived with her three children and mother - in law. To support herself financially, she gave two rooms on rent and gave tuitions to children. Lockdown affected her economically; as tuitions stopped her husband stayed in the ancestral house and lived separately. Fulfilling his son’s unnecessary demands, like buying a bike, he spoilt the elder too. Her elder son started consuming alcohol, and this consequently estranged the relationship with the son. One day a brawl took place between Kavita and her husband and elder son. In which both father and son hurt her and her daughter. Physical abuse caused blue wounds on her body, face and her daughter. After which, she decided to take support from the Humsafar team and filed a case under the domestic violence act (2005), and under Hindu Marriage Act, she filed for divorce from her husband. Relatives criticized these steps, but she moved forward with the process. Now she has kept tenants at home again and has started tuition classes. Haunted by extreme helplessness, despair, and desperate need for financial support she suffered from low blood pressure and got admitted to hospital several times and faced trauma that might take her a lifetime to overcome, and that might consequently affect the future of her children too. But her step of moving out the violence relationship was the step towards the right

direction.

Physical Violence - 46 % women ranked that they faced physical violence.

‘Married for 18 years, Muneeza (38) lived with her three kids and a husband who worked as a driver for a living. Her three sons aged, 17years, 15years, and 12 years old, all went to a government school. After a year of marriage and pregnant with her first child, she learned about her husband's affair. When she confronted him he verbally and physically abused her. He gambled and borrowed money from others. Despite her numerous confrontations, he continued to invite strangers to the house for gambling. During the lockdown, as she shared, the condition became challenging. Increased household chores increased her work. She had to do everything from washing to cleaning and cooking for all members of the family. Household income decreased and expenses increased. She had no savings to buy vegetables, for mobile recharge, to refill gas, to pay the electricity bill, buy milk for children. Each day this situation led to a fight which led to physical and verbal abuse. There was continuous sexual abuse, her husband forcing her to have sex with him twice a day without her consent. He forced her to watch obscene videos. Due to this, she had sexual and reproductive health issues like irritation in her genitals, swollen legs causing pain, and sleeping issues.’

Sexual Violence - 40 % women complained sexual violence in the form of forced intercourse with partners, which compounded to their physical and psychological pain.

A 30-year-old Muslim woman, married for 11 years having three daughters, approached Humsafar during lockdown. While narrating she shared the violence with her started in a few months of marriage, where her husband hit her in front of everyone. Similar abuse continued for many months where he came back from work and beat her up. Not having sexual intercourse also led to a lot of violence. She had experienced sexual abuse, physical abuse, and verbal abuse. In many instances, he locked her out of the house for hours. Having three daughters, she was unwilling to have more kids, but her husband wanted to have more kids (especially a boy). He neither used any contraceptive nor did he allow her to adopt any method of contraception. On her refusal, he threatened to marry

someone else. The forced intercourse pushed her to consume a lot of abortion pills, which consequently affected her health. Doctor asked her not to take any of the non – prescriptive pills but, she had no options available hence no choice. During the lockdown, the situation deteriorated further for her. Due to unprotected sex, she conceived twice, and had to consume abortion pills. This affected her mental health and also caused lot of anxiety. In one of the instance where her husband tried to have sex with her, she refused and then on her refusal, he threw a cup at her and started beating her with a broom. He injured himself from the same broken cup and told his elder daughter to lie, if someone came to enquire and share that her mother tried to kill her father with a knife. However, the daughter did not lie. It was then when with the help of her sister she got in touch with Humsafar team.

Economic Violence - 34 % women ranked the grievance caused due to of economic violence (where they were forced by their son/partners for money) in addition to the challenges

‘Anjali (27) married for 7 years was stuck in an unhappy marriage. Her husband's affair, drinking, and continuous abuse had frustrated her. During the lockdown, condition deteriorated and she was unable to make ends meet. To meet economic needs she sold of her *payal* (anklet) to buy ration for home. She has a 7-year-old son who could not do his online classes as she could not provide him with a smartphone. Her economic condition and her husband's drinking habit caused her depression, and a lot of weakness. She felt irritated and could not sleep, causing frequent headaches, followed by redness in the eyes. Thoughts around where she will go? Should she remarry? In case she did, who will accept her child? All these thoughts pulled her back to take any step or seek help.’

VI. Analysis

The study showed the unprecedented pandemic effect on women's economic, social, psychological, and physical well-being. Domestic space often described as a safe space became an unsafe place for women, especially during the lockdown. Deeply embedded social inequalities came to the surface during the time of a nationwide lockdown. Accessibility, availability, and affordability of basic amenities, in addition to the continued sexual and physical abuse, caused challenges for women. Consent and choice were removed from the narrative of women who belonged to diverse groups. In the study, few things surfaced:

- a. **Domestic space, not a Safe Space:** Domestic space was not a safe space for women. Women had to overwork, perform cleaning, washing, cooking, caregiving task of a mother or daughter-in-law, in addition to the unwanted sex demanded by the husband. The incidents of intimate partner violence increased rapidly. The domestic space announced as a safe space for people to save their lives from the virus was a toxic, abusive, and unsafe space for many women who were pushed to the brink of emotional meltdown.
- b. **Financial Crisis and sale of assets:** During the pandemic, many households experienced the loss of jobs, and increased household expenses. Pushing women to sell their jewelry, house utensils, and borrow money from neighbors or parents was a common sight during pandemic.
- c. **Effect on children:** Women belonging to the marginalized section of the society and structurally excluded from several benefits could not afford to pay school fees for their children. Many shared that their children could not afford online education because of the unavailability of a smartphone. This affected their education and also increased dropout during the pandemic.
- d. **Sexual and Reproductive health at stake:** Forced to have sex, women became pregnant and were devoid of sexual and reproductive health services. Unavailable essential sexual health services ignored women and young women SRHR needs.

- e. **Unavailability of support system/Unresponsive public institutions:** Women faced challenges in registering complaints with the police. Police did not prove to be of much help, in fact in several cases they took the husband in and released him in few hours inciting violence at home.

VII. Policy Recommendations

- a. Gender sensitization of service providers:** Platforms- like Police, helplines need to be sensitized to address these issues appropriately, especially with a lot of empathy. When instances of abuse and violence are reported, police need to be sensitive and become proactive. Immediate medical supervision and a counselor need to be introduced to the complainant. Police need to trust the complainant instead of becoming suspicious. Police should be linked to other civil society organizations that work on Gender-based violence. Police need to be sensitized to address these issues which affect women and need to be proactive in proceeding with the violence. Abuse whether physical/ verbal give birth to a lot of traumas and affect psychological well-being. These need to be addressed while ensuring the woman filing complaint come out of the violent situation.
- b. Emergency Shelter Homes and Livelihood support:** To break the cycle of violence is expected to reach a safe, secure, and trustworthy place. The assurance of safe space encourages women to move out of an abusive marriage relationship and also to take a stand for themselves and their children. A backup place act as a support. Safe space is a need as many women in our country continue to stay with their perpetrators because - stay with their caregivers/guardians especially after the marriage has a stigma attached to it. After separation, women should be supported to seek psychological assistance and economic independence. To be able to support themselves and to be economically stable and sustain themselves and their children women need livelihood support.
- c. Strengthening the existing facilities and repurposing the unused/ non-functional buildings:** The Uttar Pradesh Government recently launched an initiative to set up 'pink booths' for women and girls to provide safety to women and girls. Data suggests that most of these facilities are shut. Government should open and strengthen these facilities and should hire more female staff to these centers.

- d. Recognizing role of NGOs, support centers for violence survivors as essential services:** The role of support centers, helpline services are critical components and should be recognized as essential services like hospitals. They can play important role to reach out to violence survivors and provide counseling, rescue and reach out to women to challenge violence and act as bridge between police, hospitals and state machinery to challenge violence.
- e. Training and community awareness:** Issues around violence against women and how it violates human rights are important to be discussed within the community. Frequent advertisements, pamphlets distribution, and raising awareness around the responsibility of being a responsible citizen is important. For a strong collective to emerge, it is important to spread the right information with the right tools. During the in-depth case study many women had complained and shared that they choice and connected consent to their bodies, economic independence, mobility or communication are all affected. Therefore, it could come under recommendation that it is important for HUMSAFAR to incorporate discussions around gender, patriarchy, choice, consent and sexuality. To also discuss about Sexual and Reproductive Health rights and laws connected to them (for example – POCSO Act, MTP Act, PCPNDT Act) various methods of contraception etc. It also builds the leadership among the community and build a larger movement to take actions.
- f. Availability and accessibility of information:** Helpline numbers, shelter home information, emergency contact numbers, contact numbers of civil society organizations need to be advertised and widely shared. To make services accessible, it is important to make information available. This can be done by painting helpline numbers and emergency contact numbers.
- g. Essential services:** In addition to ration, other essential services like gas fill, milk, medicine, school fee, sanitary napkins, and contraceptives are important items that need to be made available to the families. Cash benefit transfer, support for lower-income groups, continuous psychological

support all are essential services. Mental well-being is an additional component that needs to be added especially in situations of the pandemic.

- h. GBV and law:** Women are married early and experience hardships, which surfaced during the study. Early and forced marriage, lack of knowledge of their constitutional rights, lack of emotional or economical support often force women to stay in an abusive relationship. Therefore, it becomes even more important to build their capacity and strengthen their leadership to lead and own their life.
- i. Government Partnerships with NGOs, CSOs and CBOs and Collective Space:** Humsafar Sakhi Samuh is an excellent example of a collective space within the community. A space to reach out in case of crises or unprecedented situations. During in-depth interviews, many women did talk about the Sakhi Samuh's and the link with the civil society organizations. A safe supportive space is the first step to leave an abusive marriage/relation.

Annexure 1: Survey Form

महिलाओं पर कोविड 19 का प्रभाव

राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग (NCW) की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, मार्च, 2020 के बाद से घरेलू हिंसा के मामले दो गुने हो गए हैं। हमसफ़र यह सर्वेक्षण अपने सभी समुदाय की बहनों के साथ कर रहा है, विशेष रूप से जो बहनें घरेलु उत्पीड़न, दैनिक जीवन भौती, स्वास्थ्य सहन के संदर्भों हैं। इस सर्वे के द्वारा हम अपनी - आर्थिक, मनोवैज्ञानिक - सामाजिक, स्वास्थ्य में आने वाली चुनौतियों को समझने की कोशिश करेंगे और बहनों के अनुभव से हम सरकार के सहानुभूतिपूर्ण सुझावों के बारे में चर्चा करेंगे। सर्वेक्षण का मुख्य रूप से - घर में और बाहर होने वाली हिंसा के बारे में आपके साथ चर्चा करेंगे। किसी भी संभाव्य पर यदि आप असहज महसूस करते हैं या सर्वे के दौरान बात नहीं करना चाहते तो आप ऐसा कर सकते हैं। सर्वे में लिया गया डाटा गुप्त रखा जाएगा और इसका उपयोग आपकी सहमति के आधार पर किया जाएगा।

* Required

1. Email address *

2. क्या आप इस सर्वे में हिस्सा लेने के लिए तैयार हैं ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 3
- ☐ नहीं

व्यक्तिगत जानकारी

3. नाम *

4. उम्र *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 18 - 21
- ☐ 22 - 25
- ☐ 26-29
- ☐ 30-33
- ☐ 34-37
- ☐ 38-41
- ☐ 42 and above

5. जाति *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ दलित
- ☐ अद्विजाती
- ☐ सामान्य
- ☐ OBC
- ☐ Other: _____

6. धर्म *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हिन्दू
- ☐ मुस्लिम
- ☐ सिख
- ☐ ईसाई
- ☐ जैन
- ☐ बौद्ध
- ☐ Other: _____

7. वैवाहिक स्थिति *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ अविवाहित
- ☐ विवाहित
- ☐ तलाक़ हो गया
- ☐ अलग हो गई हैं
- ☐ खंड पत्र
- ☐ विधवा
- ☐ शादी के बिना साथ रहते हैं
- ☐ Other: _____

लॉकडाउन और काम

8. लॉकडाउन से पहले आपकी के लिए क्या आप काम करने जा रही थी ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 9
- ☐ मैं काम नहीं करती Skip to question 15

काम

9. आप क्या काम करती थी ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ घरेलू काम (किसी के घर या संस्था में, आप पीछा, खाना, सफाई और सपने भी कर काम करते हैं या काम करती हैं)
- ☐ सरकारी / निजीकर्म / खरीद का काम
- ☐ घरेलू व्यवसाय (किताई आदि)
- ☐ कोई व्यवसाय नहीं
- ☐ ई-रिसेल व्यवसाय
- ☐ कंसल्टेशन केंद्र
- ☐ ईट भंडा
- ☐ Other: _____

10. जब लॉकडाउन शुरू हुआ क्या आप काम पर जा रही थी ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 11
- ☐ नहीं Skip to question 12

काम करने में दिक्कत

11. क्या काम करने में आपको किसी प्रकार की दिक्कत आई ? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ नहीं किसी प्रकार की दिक्कत नहीं आई
☐ काम पर जाने में अनुविधा हुई यातायात की अनुविधा
☐ अपने घर पर काम बढ़ गया
☐ समय से पैसा नहीं मिलता था
☐ बीरोग का डर था
☐ घर से बाहर न निकलने का डर था

Other: ☐ _____

[Skip to question 14](#)

काम पर जाने का मन

12. क्या लॉकडाउन के समय आप को अपने काम पर वापस जाने का मन किया ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ [Skip to question 12](#)
☐ नहीं [Skip to question 14](#)

काम पर जाने का मन - कारण

13. क्यों ? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ बाहर जाते ही घर में पैसा बाएँ
☐ बाहर जाते ही तो घर पर काम इनक नहीं होता था
☐ बाहर जाते ही तो घर की देखभाल नहीं होती थी
☐ बाहर जाते ही तो सड़क/मिडवेयर/माल पिक के घर से मिलती थी

Other: ☐ _____

काम - दबाव

14. जब आप काम पर नहीं जा रही थी क्या काम पर जाने के लिए किसी ने आप पर दबाव डाला ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ नहीं, किसी ने नहीं
☐ पति ने
☐ बेटे ने
☐ काम ने
☐ कहाँ काम करती हूँ कहाँ के नौरो ने
☐ कोई ने
 Other: _____

लॉकडाउन और काम।

15. जो लोग आप के घर में बाहर काम कर रहे थे क्या लॉकडाउन के समय वो बाहर से वापस आई ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ [Skip to question 18](#)
☐ नहीं [Skip to question 18](#)

प्रणाली

16. कौन क्यों ? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ पति
☐ बेटा
☐ भाई
☐ दोस्त
☐ मित्र
☐ समूह
☐ कोई

Other: ☐ _____

17. क्या आने के बाद उन्होंने आमदनी के लिए कोई और काम पकड़ा ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ
☐ नहीं

आमदनी

18. क्या मार्च, 2020 को ऐसा काल से लेकर अभी तक आपके या आपके परिवार की आमदनी को प्रभावित किया है? *

इस तब में आप उनके अनुसार लॉकडाउन से लेकर अब तक के समय के बारे में चुनें:

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ [Skip to question 19](#)
☐ नहीं [Skip to question 21](#)

आमदनी -कारण

19. इस प्रभाव का कारण क्या था? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ कोई लैबरी बंद हो गई
☐ मेरा सेलफर बंद हो गया
☐ दुर्घटना से बंद हो गया
☐ दुर्घटना से बंद हो गई
☐ मेरी लैबरी बंद हो गई
☐ परिवार में किसी और की लैबरी बंद हो गई
☐ परिवार में किसी और का सेलफर बंद हो गया
☐ परिवार में किसी और को काम से बंद हो गया
☐ परिवार में किसी और को लैबरी नहीं मिली
☐ परिवार में किसी और की लैबरी बंद हो गई

Other: ☐ _____

आमदनी -मॉडिक वेंचर

20. लॉकडाउन के समय जब आप अपनी नौकरी पर नहीं जा रहे थे, क्या आपको पूरा मॉडिक वेंचर प्राप्त हुआ ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ पूरा मॉडिक वेंचर प्राप्त
☐ आधा मॉडिक वेंचर प्राप्त
☐ नहीं प्राप्त

घर का काम

21. क्या लॉकडाउन के समय घर का काम बढ़ा ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ [Skip to question 22](#)
☐ नहीं [Skip to question 23](#)

घर का काम - प्रकार

22. किस प्रकार का काम बढ़ा ? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ काम करने का
☐ समर्थ (ग्राहक सेवा)
☐ अपने
☐ किराने की खरीदारी
☐ कच्ची की खरीदारी
☐ खाने पीने का सामान
☐ कुतूहल की देखभाल
☐ बर्बाद की देखभाल

Other: ☐ _____

घर का काम - मदद

23. क्या किसी ने घर का काम करने में आपका हाथ बढ़ाया ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 24
- ☐ नहीं Skip to question 25

घर का काम - मदद ।

24. किस ने हाथ बढ़ाया ? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ बहन
- ☐ बेटा
- ☐ बेटा
- ☐ पति
- ☐ सास
- ☐ ससुर
- ☐ दोस्त-की
- ☐ नन्द
- ☐ कोई

Other:

घर का काम और तनाव

25. क्या मार्च, 2020 कोर्टोरा काल से लेकर अभी तक (पिछले 11 महीने में) आपको किसी प्रकार का न्यायिक तनाव महसूस हुआ ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 26
- ☐ नहीं Skip to question 27

29. किस से ? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ मिथोस
- ☐ घड़ोसा
- ☐ घड़ोस
- ☐ पुलिस
- ☐ हमलावर के साथी
- ☐ महिला हेल्पलाइन
- ☐ सभी समुदाय के सदस्य
- ☐ जहां आप काम करते हैं

Other:

30. क्या मदद से स्थिति में कुछ बदलाव आया ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ बड़ा नहीं
- ☐ स्थिति वैसी की वैसी छोटी-छोटी बदलाव नहीं आया
- ☐ हाँ कम हो गयी

Skip to question 32

हिंसा में मदद न लेने का कारण

31. क्यों नहीं ली ? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ घर की बात घर में रहने दी
- ☐ महिला हेल्पलाइन/ कोई और सेवाओं के बारे में पता नहीं था
- ☐ कोर्टोरा के कारण न कोई जानकारी से न मैं नहीं जा सकती थी
- ☐ महिला हेल्प लाइन कोर्टोरा के कारण पर काम कर रही थी इसके बारे में पता नहीं था
- ☐ सभी समुदाय की महिला नहीं होती थी

Other:

घर का काम और तनाव -कारण

26. किस कारण से तनाव महसूस हुआ ? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ काम-काज के कारण
- ☐ घर के खर्च के कारण
- ☐ घर का काम बढ़ जाने के कारण
- ☐ बुढ़ापी या बच्चे की देखभाल

Other:

घर का काम और तनाव - हिंसा

27. मार्च, 2020 कोर्टोरा काल से लेकर अभी तक (पिछले 11 महीने में) क्या दौरान आपके साथ घर के किसी सदस्य के द्वारा किसी प्रकार की हिंसा हुई है ? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ न्यायिक हिंसा (गरी गरीब, शीकाव विलम्ब)
- ☐ शारीरिक हिंसा (घर में)
- ☐ धीम हिंसा (असह्योगी काम करने, या जवाबदायी करना)
- ☐ न्यायिक हिंसा (किसी को न्याय, न्याय लेना)

Other:

हिंसा में मदद

28. क्या आपने किसी से मदद ली ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 29
- ☐ नहीं Skip to question 31

हिंसा में मदद ।

घर के खर्च

32. क्या लॉकडाउन के दौरान आपके घर के खर्च बढ़े ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 33
- ☐ नहीं Skip to question 34

प्रकार के खर्च

33. किस प्रकार के खर्च बढ़े ? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ खाने पीने / लगान की समुदाय पर
- ☐ दवाखानों पर
- ☐ घर पर / लगातार घर
- ☐ सेवाएँ / बिजली खर्च

Other:

खरीदारी

34. घर की खाने-पीने की समुदाय आप खरीद कर सकती थी ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ
- ☐ नहीं

35. क्या खाने पीने की वस्तुएं मिलने में कोई असुविधा हुई ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 36
- ☐ नहीं Skip to question 37

खरौटाई -असुविधा

36. किस प्रकार की असुविधा हुई ? *

Check all that apply:

- ☐ शान की दुआएं कुछ समय के लिए खुलती थी
- ☐ खर्च ज्यादा था
- ☐ बीजें गड़बड़ी हो गयी थी
- ☐ पैसों के अभाव के कारण मैं खाने पीने की वस्तुएं नहीं खरीद पाती थी
- ☐ मैं घर से बाहर नहीं जा सकती थी
- ☐ शान की दुआएं खुलती नहीं थीं
- ☐ परिवार में कोई नहीं था जो उनके ले आवें

Other:

बैठा/गिराई रखा

37. क्या आपने सं 11 मंजूर में कुछ सामान बैठा या गिरा रखा ? *

Check all that apply:

- ☐ नहीं
- ☐ मछलियाँ
- ☐ बर्तन
- ☐ गाय
- ☐ घर का सामान
- ☐ मोबाइल

Other:

उधार

41. आपने किस से उधार लिया ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ साहूकार
- ☐ रिश्तेदार
- ☐ स्वयं सहायता समूह
- ☐ बैंक
- ☐ NGO
- ☐ Other:

मोबाइल और पट्टेय

42. क्या आपके पास मोबाइल है ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 44
- ☐ नहीं Skip to question 46

43. अगर मोबाइल नहीं था तो आप दूसरों को संघर्ष कैसे करती थी ?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ पड़ोसी के लोग से
- ☐ घर के किसी अन्य सदस्य के मोबाइल से
- ☐ बहन नहीं की
- ☐ प्रसाद नहीं पाई
- ☐ कभी वस्तु की किसी ची के लोग से
- ☐ Other:

मोबाइल रिचार्ज

38. क्या आपने लोक डाउन के समय किसी से पैसों का उधार लिया ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 39
- ☐ नहीं Skip to question 42

उधार - कारण

39. किस चीज के लिए उधार लिया ? *

कृपया उन विकल्पों को तिक करें

Check all that apply:

- ☐ बच्चों की सड़क के लिए
- ☐ खाने पीने की वस्तुओं की खरीदारी के लिए
- ☐ अनाज टाकड़ों के जल
- ☐ दुआएं /समाज/ इतिहासिक पदार्थ पर
- ☐ जुआ खेलने में
- ☐ अन्य

40. अगर ऊपर दिए गए प्रश्न में आपके द्वारा अन्य पर चिह्न लगाया गया है तो उसके बारे में तबतक बताएं ?

उधार

44. मार्च, 2020 कोटेशन काल से लेकर अभी तक (मिछले 11 महीने में) क्या आप मोबाइल को रिचार्ज करवा पायी ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ
- ☐ नहीं

45. अगर नहीं करवा पायी तो क्यों ?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ पैसा नहीं था
- ☐ घर काली ने/बेटी ने घर भर दिया
- ☐ जखन नहीं थी
- ☐ Other:

तम्बाकू,शराब और जुआ

46. क्या लोक डाउन के दौरान आपके आस - पास तम्बाकू या शराब बेचने की दुकान खुली थी ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ
- ☐ नहीं

47. क्या परिवार में किसी सदस्य का तम्बाकू या शराब का सेवन करता है या जुआ खेलते हैं ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 48
- ☐ नहीं Skip to question 52

तम्बाकू,शराब और जुआ - सेवन

48. घर में खौन शेवक करता है ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ अम
☐ बेरा
☐ पति
☐ Other: _____

49. क्या तम्बाकू या शराब का सेवन / जुआ खेलना लोक डाउन के समय बड़ गया ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 50
☐ नहीं Skip to question 52

तम्बाकू, शराब और जुआ - हिंसा

50. क्या तम्बाकू या शराब खरीदने / जुआ खेलने के लिए पैसों का कोई दबाव था ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 51
☐ नहीं Skip to question 52

तम्बाकू, शराब और जुआ - हिंसा

51. क्या पैसों के लिए उन्होंने आप के साथ गलती गलती किया ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ
☐ नहीं

55. किस से ? *

Check all that apply:

- ☐ रिश्तेदार
☐ पड़ोस
☐ सभी समूह
☐ साउथवेब
☐ दोस्त
☐ पुलिस
☐ इलाका से सभी
☐ महिला ग्रुप सदस्य

Other: ☐ _____

घर और सुरक्षा

56. क्या लॉकाउट के दौरान आप को अपने घर में सुरक्षित महसूस हुआ ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 58
☐ नहीं Skip to question 57

क्यों ?

57. क्यों ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हिंसा बढ़ गयी थी
☐ पति की लैकरी छूट गयी थी और हिंसा शुरू हो गयी
☐ घर पर कोई पुरुष नहीं था
☐ पति हिंसक है और वो घर पर रहने हैं
☐ Other: _____

Skip to question 59

नहीं पदार्थ का प्रभाव - हिंसा

52. क्या किसी नशीले पदार्थ (जैसे - शराब) के सेवन / पुप के कारण क्या आपके घर में आपके साथ हिंसा हुई ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 53
☐ नहीं Skip to question 56

नशीले पदार्थ का प्रभाव - हिंसा

53. हिंसा में आपके साथ क्या हुआ ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ घर पीट डूँ
☐ गली गलीच हुआ
☐ घर पीट और गली गलीच दोनों हुआ
☐ Other: _____

54. क्या किसी से मदद ली ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 55
☐ नहीं Skip to question 56

मदद

सुरक्षित

58. सुरक्षित क्यों महसूस किया ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ अपनी रिश्तों में कोई तनाव या हिंसा नहीं थी
☐ घर में पुरुष होने के कारण
☐ घर में किसी भी पुरुष के न होने से
☐ Other: _____

घर में परेशानी

59. घर में आपकी सबसे ज्यादा परेशानी किस सदस्य से होती थी ? *

Check all that apply:

- ☐ मैं
☐ पिता
☐ बस
☐ समूह
☐ पति
☐ बेटा
☐ बेटी
☐ भाई
☐ भाभी
☐ किसी से नहीं

Other: ☐ _____

60. किस प्रकार की परेशानी थी ? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ खास बनाने का
☐ सफाई (उदा. डूबी हुई चीजें)
☐ खरोंचे होने
☐ किराने की खरीदारी
☐ सभा की खरीदारी
☐ बर्तन होने का समय
☐ खुदगुर्त की देखभाल
☐ बच्चों की देखभाल

Other:

बातचीत

61. क्या लोकडाउन के समय आप अपनी सहेली / माता - पिता / बहन / भाई से खुल कर बात कर पायी थी ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 63
☐ नहीं Skip to question 62

कारण

62. क्यों ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ मेरे पास मोबाइल नहीं था
☐ समय नहीं मिला
☐ वह नहीं किया
☐ फ्लैट नहीं पड़ी
☐ घर पर सब लोग थे
☐ Other:

66. क्या आप इसके बारे में किसी को बता पायी ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 67
☐ नहीं Skip to question 69

घीन संबंध और हिंसा II

67. किस से ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ रिश्तेदार
☐ पड़ोस
☐ पुलिस
☐ इनकार के साथी
☐ महिला हेमलाइन
☐ कोई अन्य संस्था
☐ सभी समूह
☐ Other:

68. बताने का क्या परिणाम था ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हिंसा बढ़ गयी
☐ हिंसा कम हो गयी
☐ स्थिति में कोई सुधार नहीं था

महिला सुरक्षा

घीन संबंध और हिंसा

63. इस दौरान आपके पति /साथी के साथ घीन संबंधों पर कोई प्रभाव पड़ा ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा Skip to question 69
☐ और खराब हो गए Skip to question 64
☐ Other:

खराब होने का कारण

64. खराब क्यों होगी ? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ घर पर लोग थे
☐ कंप्यूटरीज (जैसे कंप्यूटर या गर्भ विरोधक गोली) उपलब्ध नहीं थे सेवा नहीं कर पाए
☐ यदि वे मुझ पर दबाव बनाया जिसे के कारण स्थिति घर और तनाव आया
☐ ज्यादा भयानक हुई इवेंट्स मैं नहीं कर पायी

Other:

65. क्या इस प्रभाव के कारण आपको संबंधों पर असर हुआ ? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ कोई बदलाव नहीं आया
☐ और खराब हो गया
☐ घर छोड़ दी
☐ ज्यादा खराब यदि वे पीछे शुरू की (निकाले कारण - आर्थिक एवं मानसिक तनाव बढ़ा)

Other:

घीन संबंध और हिंसा I

69. क्या महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए सेवाओं के बारे में आपको पता है ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 70
☐ नहीं Skip to question 71

महिला सुरक्षा -सेवाओं

70. कौनसी सेवाओं के बारे में है ? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ महिला हेमलाइन
☐ पुलिस
☐ NGO
☐ सभी समूह

Other:

स्वास्थ्य और गर्भनिरोधक

71. क्या आप गर्भनिरोधक का इस्तेमाल करती हैं ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 72
☐ नहीं Skip to question 73

गर्भनिरोधक

72. क्या लोक डाउन के समय आपको गर्भ विरोधक मिल पाते थे ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ
☐ नहीं

गर्भवती

73. क्या लॉक डाउन के दौरान आपको गर्भवती होने का डर लगता था ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ
- ☐ नहीं

74. क्या लॉक डाउन के दौरान आप गर्भवती हुई ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 75
- ☐ नहीं Skip to question 76

गर्भवती ।

75. क्या आप गर्भ रखना चाहती थी ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ
- ☐ नहीं

स्वास्थ्य

76. लॉकडाउन के दौरान क्या आपके साथ कोई स्वास्थ्य सम्बंधी परेशानी हुई ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ
- ☐ नहीं

महिल की स्थिति ।

77. वर्तमान में महिला की स्थिति और हिंसा के खिलाफ क्या आपने कोई कदम उठाया ? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ हाँ Skip to question 78
- ☐ नहीं Skip to question 79

क्या कदम उठाये

78. क्या कदम उठाये *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ सभी समुदाय में बताया
- ☐ पुलिस थाने लेकर गयी
- ☐ हेल्प लाइन नंबर दिया

Other: ☐ _____

महिल की स्थिति ॥

79. कोरोना वैसी स्थिति अगर फिर से आती है तो किस प्रकार की सुविधाएँ महिलाओं के लिए उपलब्ध होनी चाहिए ? *

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Annexure 2: Case Stories

Case Story 1: A 30-year-old Muslim woman, married for 11 years having three daughters, approached Humsafar during lockdown. While narrating she shared the violence with her started in a few months of marriage, where her husband hit her in front of everyone. Similar abuse continued for many months where he came back from work and beat her up. Not having sexual intercourse also led to a lot of violence. She had experienced sexual abuse, physical abuse, and verbal abuse. In many instances, he locked her out of the house for hours. Having three daughters, she was unwilling to have more kids, but her husband wanted to have more kids (especially a boy). He neither used any contraceptive nor did he allow her to adopt any method of contraception. On her refusal, he threatened to marry someone else. The forced intercourse pushed her to consume a lot of abortion pills, which consequently affected her health. Doctor asked her not to take any of the non – prescriptive pills but, she had no options available hence no choice. During the lockdown, the situation deteriorated further for her. Due to unprotected sex, she conceived twice, and had to consume abortion pills. This affected her mental health and also caused lot of anxiety. In one of the instance where her husband tried to have sex with her. On her refusal, he threw a cup at her and started beating her with a broom. He injured himself from the same broken cup and told his elder daughter to lie, if someone came to enquire and share that her mother tried to kill her father with a knife. However, the daughter did not lie. It was then when with the help of her sister she got in touch with Humsafar team.

Case Story 2: ‘Anjali (27) married for 7 years was stuck in an unhappy marriage. Her husband's affair, drinking, and continuous abuse had frustrated her. During the lockdown, condition deteriorated and she was unable to make ends meet. To meet economic needs she sold of her payal (anklet) to buy ration for home. She has a 7-year-old son who could not do his online classes as she could not provide him with a smartphone. Her economic condition and her husband's drinking habit caused her depression, and a lot of weakness. She felt irritated and could not sleep, causing frequent headaches, followed by redness in the eyes. Thoughts around where she will go? Should she remarry? In case she did, who

will accept her child? All these thoughts pulled her back to take any step or seek help.'

Case Story 3: 'Married for 18 years, Muneeza (38) lived with her three kids and a husband who worked as a driver for a living. Her three sons aged, 17years, 15years, and 12 years old, all went to a government school. After a year of marriage and pregnant with her first child, she learned about her husband's affair. When she confronted him he verbally and physically abused her. He gambled and borrowed money from others. Despite her numerous confrontations, he continued to invite strangers to the house for gambling. During the lockdown, as she shared, the condition became challenging. Increased household chores increased her work. She had to do everything from washing to cleaning and cooking for all members of the family. Household income decreased and expenses increased. She had no savings to buy vegetables, for mobile recharge, to refill gas, to pay the electricity bill, buy milk for children. Each day this situation led to a fight which led to physical and verbal abuse. There was continuous sexual abuse, her husband forcing her to have sex with him twice a day without her consent. He forced her to watch obscene videos. Due to this, she had sexual and reproductive health issues like irritation in her genitals, swollen legs causing pain, and sleeping issues.'

Case Story 4: 'Married for 25 years, Kamini was 19 when she got married. She has three children, two boys, and a girl. Girl being the eldest (22 years) followed by boys (20 years and 14 years). She could recall the first instance of violence that took place right after few days of her marriage, and the reason being alcohol which triggered the violent behavior. That was the moment too when she came to know about her husband's habits of smoking and drinking. A rough and violent relationship with her husband where he was suspicious of her, physically and psychologically hurt her, and could not go out to work. It was only a few years later her father bought a house in her name, where she lived with her three children and mother - in law. To support herself financially, she gave two rooms on rent and gave tuitions to children. Lockdown affected her economically, as tuitions stopped her husband stayed in the ancestral house and lived separately. Fulfilling his son's unnecessary demands, like buying a bike, he spoilt the elder too. Her elder son started consuming alcohol, and this consequently estranged the relationship with the

son. One day a brawl took place between Kavita and her husband and elder son. In which both father and son hurt her and her daughter. Physical abuse caused blue wounds on her body, face and her daughter. After which, she decided to take support from the Humsafar team and filed a case under the domestic violence act (2005), and under Hindu Marriage Act, she filed for divorce from her husband. Relatives criticized these steps, but she moved forward with the process. Now she has kept tenants at home again and has started tuition classes. Describing her feelings, haunted by extreme helplessness, despair, and desperate need for financial support. She suffered from low blood pressure and got admitted to hospital several times and faced trauma that might take her a lifetime to overcome, and that might consequently affect the future of her children too. But her step of moving out the violence relationship was the step towards the right direction.

Case Story 5: Rajkumari (45) is married for 33 years and has two sons and two daughters in laws. She told that her husband used to beat her a lot and does not work at all. She said that her sons have learnt this from their father and they also beat their wives. Rajkumari said that if she had a courage to raise the voice against her husband, her daughter in laws did not have to struggle like her. Rajkumari told that due to continuous violence for years, it has affected her mental health and she also started losing her memories.

Case Story 6: Kamini (42) used to live with her husband and a child. Her husband never used to work in contract but after lockdown he was totally unemployed. They used to run their household with the help of Kamini's brother. Her brother used to send her money to buy groceries and for other expenses. But Kamini's husband used to steal the money and buy alcohol with that. Kamini told that her husband used to beat her up with glass bottle and forcefully have intercourse with her. When she got frustrated, she called 112 (emergency helpline number), but that number was not reachable. She also reached out to her brother for help but he was not at the city. Finally, she ran to the nearest police station but they also denied to take her complain and told her that this police station does not come to her area. Next day she went to the other police station with her brother and told the police about the incident. The police told her 'There is no injuries on your face or hands, how can we take you

complain on basis of what you are saying'. She said that the injuries were visible around the neck. Finally waiting for hours and with support of Humsafar, she could able to get her complain registered.

Case Story 7: Tasmeen (30) lives with her husband and 3 daughters. She has been always physically abused by her husband and said *'Lockdown made me feel like I was in jail. My husband didn't even let me talk to my parents and whenever I asked him to get the phone recharged, he used to say that I am here at home, why you need to talk to anyone else'*. Sometimes she said that she did not understand the reason why was he beating her. She said that 'I think beating me used to give him some kind of pleasure and this has frustrated me a lot'. She also told that he forcefully used to have intercourse with her without condoms and thus she had to take contraceptive pills everyday and this had made her physical health very bad. She also told that she had many a times unintended pregnancy and had to take abortion pills instead of doctor suggesting not take it anymore.

Case Story 8: Saroj (41) lives with her husband and 3 children (two sons and one girl). She worked at a private hospital as a cleaner and her two sons used to sell noodles in a stall. During COVID, she and her children lost their jobs. Her husband did not work at all and instead used to ask her wife and sons to give him money for tobacco and alcohol. When denied he used to abuse and beat Saroj and her children. Since there was no money for food at home, Saroj had to sell the jewellery of hers and daughter so that they can buy something to eat. From that money as well, Saroj's husband used to steal and buy tobacco and alcohol. Although Saroj twice to complain against her husband, but nothing much changed after that.

Case Story 9: Sunita Rawat (27) shared that she got pregnant during the lockdown and her in laws and husband used to force her to do all the household chores during the pregnancy. She said 'My husband used to take shower twice a day and ask me to fill in the bucket and take it to the first floor every time. It was so much difficult to carry the heavy bucket through the stairs and no one used to help me. I was never given rest throughout my pregnancy and therefore it led to the complications during my delivery. Even after the delivery I was not given rest at all and had to do all the domestic chores as well as do stitching work so that I could run the household. This has not only affected my physical health but my

mental health also'

Case Story 10: Aasma (25) has been married for 13 years and shared that her husband and in laws always used to fight a lot. But the situation got worsened during lockdown. During the lockdown they started beating her which not only affected her physical health but also her mental well being. Even her laws used to beat her and no one saved her. When things got worsened, she told her brother and he took her back home. She did not go to her husband's house after lockdown and they started threatening her and her family. She told them that she will file a case against them and will divorce her husband.

Case Story 11: Babita (30) has been married for 9 years and recently gave birth to twins. She got pregnant during the lockdown. Her husband always used to drink a lot but during the initial stage of lockdown since all the alcohol shops were closed, he used to get frustrated and beat Babita. The doctors suggested Babita to take good rest during the pregnancy but her husband instead used to beat and ask her to make meals and do household chores all the time. Even he used to forcefully have intercourse with her during her pregnancy and used to tell her that it will help her to give normal delivery. He also never got her medicines during her pregnancy because her husband never let her buy or gave money.

Case Story 12: Indira (56) married for 33 years lives with her husband and 6 children (in their 20s) could never share her story with anyone. Indira told that during lockdown when her husband lost his job forcefully started having intercourse with her. He used to drink a lot and beat her during the intercourse. He also sold household assets to buy alcohol. When he could not sell anything, he borrowed money from neighbors to buy alcohol. Now, Indira has to pay to everyone. She said that they are so old now and she feel so embarrassed to share this with anyone.

Case Story 13: Kehkasha (42) is separated from her husband for 16 years. She started living with her brother along with her kids. But someday or the other there was always disputes between them and they used to throw her out from the house. This happened many a times especially more often during covid since she was not earning at all. One time the brothers also called the police and blamed

Kehkasha that she has been living at their home forcefully and is not leaving. Kehkasha immediately took the help from Humsafar and Humsafar helped in convincing the police and told them about the reality. The police also supported Kehkasha and told her that she can contact the police again if needed.

Case Story 14: Kavita (23) has been married for 11 years. She told that her in laws lied that their son (her husband) does not drink or smoke at all. The first 3 months of marriage were okay but after that he started drinking everyday and slowly slowly he started drinking a lot, day and night. During the lockdown it got worse. Her husband lost his job and started drinking more. He has also been mistrustful. Whenever she used to get call for work (stitching), he used to check her phone and ask for all the call details even if it was from work or from her home. She got pregnant during the lockdown and he forcefully used to have intercourse everyday during her pregnancy. Once her daughter got very sick during the lockdown and so Kavita borrowed some money from the neighbors for the medicine. Her husband asked her where did she got the money and she said that she borrowed it from the neighbors. He immediately snatched the money from her and bought alcohol with that.

Case Story 15: Madhuri (40) shared her husband used to beat her a lot so she got separated and started living with her children. During the separation after years, she met another man and they sometimes started living together. But eventually he also started taking advantage of her. He only used to visit her when he did not have any money. During the lockdown when Madhuri could not afford to take care of her children, he came to her and started living with her. Since, Madhuri was not able to manage his expenses he also started beating her and have forceful intercourse.

Case Story 16: Maneesha (50) has been married for 11 years and is living separately from her husband for last 8 months. This is her second marriage and her husband's first wife also died. She lives with her children now. Even after 11 years of marriage her husband used to force her to get dowry (3 lakhs) from her parents. This started happening when the lockdown started and there was financial crisis. Maneesha told her husband that she won't ask her parents to give money but then he started beating her. So finally she decided to leave him and live separately.

Case Story 17: Sapna (36) was married when she was 14 years old. She lives with her husband and 3 children. She said that her husband always had an abusive behavior. He always abuses her, forcefully have sex with her and never respected her. She told that her husband always denied using contraceptives and she got 16 abortions since her marriage. She wants to get separated and wants to give violence free environment to her kids but she said that she cannot. Humsafar had tried to counsel regarding this and recommended to file for divorce but she denied.

Case Story 18: Seema (42) lives with her husband and 5 children. Her husband drinks a lot and used to abuse her sister a lot (who now is married). He forces her to get physical with her. Even her sister's husband beats her a lot and abuses her. After years and years of happening this again and again, Seema got frustrated and complaint to the police, but nothing happened. One time during the lockdown, her husband was trying to sell the new water cooler to buy alcohol, but when Seema asked him not to do that, he bit her in her hands. Seema called the police again. Although the police came but they refused to take the husband to the police station. This has always been continuing since then. Seema wished that she had complained before but now she feels that it is too late now.

Case Story 19: Sonam (35) lives in a joint family of 14 people. She was married when she was 12 and has 2 children now. Sonam told that during the lockdown she was overburdened with the household chores as everyone was at home and no one did anything. Whenever she used to have fight with her in laws, her husband used to beat her and forcefully have intercourse with her. Ever her father-in-law used to beat her and burn her with hot oil. After years of struggle, Sonam with the help of Humsafar has finally filed an application against the family.

Case Story 20: Reeta (33) used to live with her husband and 3 children. Her husband used to forcefully show her porn movies and used to ask her to do the same. Reeta did not wanted to do that and when she denied, he used to beat her with belt and sticks. It started to happen very often. So, one day, Reeta decided to run away with her children to her mother's home. She did but her husband found her there in Lucknow. He used to call her everyday and give her

threats that one day he will come and he will kill her as she took his children. Reeta's mental health is at stake and she also tried to commit suicide.

Case Story 21: Reena (31) has been married to her husband for 5 years but left her husband after 2 months of marriage. Reena's husband and her brother used to beat their wives a lot and watching this everyday made Reena to decide to leave her husband immediately. With a lot of courage, she has already filed an application for divorce. So, she decided to come back home, but the situation was same back home. Reena's father also used to beat her mother and it was difficult for her to watch this every day.

Case Story 22: Ranjana (25) got married on 1st March 2020 and is now living separately from her husband at her mother's house. Ranjana told that immediately when she got married there was complete lockdown and everyone started living at home. She was overburdened with the work since everyone was living at home and no one helped her with any household chores. She worked a lot and got sick. But no one took her to the hospital. She also got pregnant and due to lot of work, she started bleeding and still no one took her to the hospital. Due to lot of work and no rest, she got a miscarriage. She went back to her home and is living with her mother now.

Case Story 23: Rama devi (23) is married to her cousin who drinks a lot. Before marriage he promised her that he will quit drinking after marriage. But of course, he did not. The situation got worse especially during COVID lockdown. He used to force and beat Rama to give him money for alcohol but since Rama also could not manage to continue riding the e-rickshaw, it was difficult for her to run the household. After some time, Rama got a job as a domestic worker but her husband came to her workplace and started abusing and beating her in front of everyone. She got fired and lost her work. To be able to buy alcohol, Rama's husband started the sex work business at home and he threw her out from the house. When she got another job as a laborer and got a call from work, her husband broke her phone and blamed her that she is having an affair. She complained to the police many a times but the police also told her that he is her responsibility and she should make efforts to make him stop drinking alcohol.

Case Story 24: Nazma (30) lives with her husband and 3 children. Her husband beat her a lot and she had also complained it to the police. But she told that the police does not say anything to him instead they ask her to leave him and live separately with the children. This has happened not only once but many a times.

Case Story 25: Shaeen (25) who lives with her husband and a child also shared her story. During lockdown, her husband used to beat her a lot and have a forceful intercourse with her. She got terrorized and one day called Humsafar for help. Due to lockdown, Humsafar could not visit her physically but gave her counselling and legal advice. As guided by Humsafar she went to Asha Jyoti Kendra, but due to lockdown it was also closed and she could not seek for help. Slowly things got worsened and she reached out Humsafar again and they suggested her to call 112. Over the call, they suggested her to go to the police station. Although she was terrorized from her husband, she sneaked out from her house and went to the police station. The police at the station asked her immediately to go back home and bring the application from home. Even after insisting the police so many times, they denied to take the complaint giving her the reason that there is no paper in the station. Shaheen got disheartened and lost all the hopes to get justice instead of making so much efforts.

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