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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### TECHNOLOGY FACILITATED DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AMONG THE WOMEN

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#### Abstract

The main objective of the study was to evaluate the impact of technical facilitated on domestic and sexual violence among the Nepali women. The data were collected through the primary survey based on the structured questionnaires distributed through the online using social media. Descriptive and casual comparative research design was adapted and the regression analysis was used as the major tool for the data analysis. The study reveals that technical facilitated has the significant positive impact on domestic and sexual violence among the Nepali women.

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#### Introduction:-

As the role and uptake of digital media, devices and other technologies increases, so has their presence in our lives. Technology has revolutionized the speed, type and extent of communication and contact between individuals and groups, transforming temporal, geographic and personal boundaries. There have undoubtedly been benefits associated with such shifts, but technologies have also exacerbated existing patterns of gendered violence and introduced new forms of intrusion, abuse and surveillance. In order to understand and combat harm and, protect and empower women, criminologists must investigate these practices. Digital technologies have led to many important social and cultural changes worldwide, but they are also implicated in the facilitation of abusive behaviors. Technology-Facilitated violence and abuse (TFVA) is an umbrella term used to describe the use of digital technologies to perpetrate interpersonal harassment, abuse, and violence, such as sexual violence (Powell & Henry, 2017), domestic and family violence (Douglas, Harris, & Dragiewicz, 2019).

The rapid spread of internet and mobile technologies has facilitated growth and development across the world. At the same time, the ubiquity of digital technologies has raised new human rights and safety concerns. Cyberbullying, online harassment and cyberstalking are all too common, but these terms fail to capture the spectrum of violent behaviors that occur in digital spaces and disproportionately affect women, girls and sexual minorities. The use of technology, including smartphones, cameras, Internet-connected devices, computers and platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, etc., is now an essential part of everyday life. Such technology is used to maintain social networks and carry out daily tasks. However, this technology can also be employed to facilitate domestic and family violence. Sexual violence and harassment are widely recognized as globally significant human rights problems (WHO, 2013). The review found that violence against women is a significant public health problem and a violation of human rights that affects more than one third of all women globally. During COVID, as more women use the internet and social media to advocate for their rights in open links and public debates there is a higher risk to be targeted. On the other hand, there has been a renewed interest in using the Internet and social media to connect with local communities, providing great opportunities for bystander support, and continuing to foster social cohesion, when access to public spaces is limited (UN,2020).

Hinson, and all (2018) explain about this issue “Action by one or more people that harms others based on their sexual or gender identity or by enforcing harmful gender norms. This action is carried out using the internet and/or mobile technology and includes stalking, bullying, sex-based harassment, defamation, hate speech, exploitation and gender trolling.” **Technology can be very helpful to survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking**, but is also often misused by abusers to harass, threaten, coerce, monitor, exploit, and violate their victims. The resources listed explore the extent and nature of technology-facilitated abuse.

#### **Emotional Violence:**

It includes the violence such as Social, cyber-bullying, threatening, controlling, intimidation, monitoring, harassment, insulting, criticizing, stalking, financial, outing.” doxing “unsolicited sexual advances

#### **Physical Violence:**

Assault, slapping, hitting, shoving, destruction of property, trafficking, slavery, torture, murder

#### **Sexual Violence:**

Sexual assault, forced sexual touching, sexual exploitation, sexual trafficking, sexually degrading acts, unsolicited sexual advances, image- based sexual exploitation, forced sexual intercourse, forced prostitution, rape, reproductive coercion.

Based on the issues raised, it is essential to investigate how technology has transformed the enactment of such violence against women. Therefore, this study aims to examine the impact of use of technology on domestic and sexual violence among the Nepali women based on the survey conducted on different places of Bagmati province of Nepal.

#### **Review Of Related Literature**

Various studies from different countries focus on the main causes of domestic violence, associated factors to increase domestic violence, and its prevalence among women. Technology also facilitating domestic and sexual violence among women. There are so many factors that are facilitated to increase cases of domestic violence in society. On other hand, dating violence differ based on the time frame evaluated, the severity of violence, and the measure of violence between dating partners found a high prevalence of violence. Technology was used to create a sense of the perpetrator’s omnipresence, and facilitated communication is unscientific and unreliable. Some of the study to identifying multiple dimensions of TFSV. Perpetrators also threatened to share sexualized content online to humiliate victims. Technology was used to create a sense of the perpetrator’s omnipresence, and facilitated communication is unscientific and unreliable. Perpetrators also threatened to share sexualized content online to humiliate victims. Identifying multiple dimensions of TFSV including digital sexual harassment, image-based sexual abuse, sexual aggression and/or coercion, and, gender and/or sexuality-based harassment.

Domestic violence has victimized women to a great extent. Because the male ideology and patriarchy function as the binding principles of the society, In other words, they conclude that there are some factors are associated to increase domestic violence and its prevalence among women. For example, Karki (2013) revealed that the main cause of the violence was the low status of women, illiteracy, economic dependence, patriarchal society, and other cause are inter-caste marriage, husband listening to another family member, sexual dissatisfaction and unemployment, and extramarital relation of husband, suspicious attitude, gambling, and dowry system. For, Alam, and Islam(2015) the notion that the prevalence of domestic violence decreases due to an increase of education level and economic stability and them finds out the domestic violence prevention mechanisms through national law and international human rights obligation. In addition to this, Sapkota, Baral, Bhattarai, et.al(2016), article in BMC Research Note showed that DV is still rampant in our society with several forms of violence occurring together. The disfigurement of women's rights can be the cause of serious public health consequences. Viewed from these prospective, there are some factors, like illiteracy, economic dependence, patriarchal society is significant in the discussion of each of the critics. Though they had applied different methods and to study factors and prevalence of domestic violence.

Technology also facilitating domestic and sexual violence among women. In other words, there are so many factors that are facilitated to increase cases of domestic violence in society. For example, Walklate,. Fitz-Gibbon., Maher, Et. al. (2020), The Emerald Handbook of Feminism, Criminology and Social Change, Violence is the cause of effect to inequalities and social control, which manifests structurally and institutionally, offline and online. Technologies are shaped by those forces, and investigating the creation, governance, and use of technology

provides insight into how violence is enacted, fostered and normalized. On the other hand, Bridget. (2020), revealed that Violence is the cause and effect of inequalities and social control, which manifests structurally and institutionally, offline and online. Technologies are shaped by these forces, and investigating the creation, governance, and use of technologies provides insight into how violence is enacted, fostered, and normalized. In addition to this, Henry, Flynn and, Powell, (2020), investigate the phenomenon of domestic and sexual violence against adult women using digital communications technologies. The article explores terminological and conceptual challenges and describes the empirical research literature in this field to date about digital dating abuse, intimate partner cyberstalking, technology-facilitated sexual assault, image-based sexual abuse, and online sexual harassment. The article also discusses policy and practice responses to this growing problem. Viewed from these prospective terminological and conceptual challenges are significant in the discussion of each of the Crites. Though they had applied different methods and to study technology-Facilitated Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Violence between adolescent dating and Domestic violence are different. In other words, explore that dating and domestic violence and their associated factors. For example, Agumasie, and Bezatu(2015), revealed that Domestic violence against women was relative. DV has a direct relationship with the sociodemographic characteristics of the victim as well as the perpetrator. Therefore, appreciate health promotion information activities needed to tackle associated factors of domestic violence against women or to prevent and control the problem to save women from being the victim. On the other hand, Matud(2007), journal of adolescent health had explored that Violence between adolescent dating partners remains an understudied phenomenon compared with intimate partner violence between adult partners and there are several significant limitations to the research on dating violence. Dating violence differ based on the time frame evaluated, the severity of violence, and the measure of violence between dating partners found a high prevalence of violence. In addition to this Dosil, Jaureguizar, Berparas. Etal(2020), International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, Results showed that sex, age, sexism, and self-esteem predicted teen dating violence and that sex and social problems predicted victimization. Associations between the wide range of variables and types of perpetrations and victimization (verbal-emotional, relational, and physical) were also explored. Viewed from these prospective the Domestic violence against women and dating violence were significant. Though they had applied different method and to study of associated factors of the dating violence and domestic violence.

The prevalence of Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence Victimization among the women. In another word, the study identifying multiple dimensions of TFSV including digital sexual harassment, image-based sexual abuse, sexual aggression and/or coercion, and, gender and/or sexuality-based harassment. For example, Powell, and Henry,(2016), revealed significant differences in lifetime TFSV victimization for younger (18-24) and non-heterosexual identifying adults. The authors conclude that although women and men report experiencing similar overall prevalence of TFSV victimization, the nature and impacts of those experiences differ in particular gendered. On the other hand, Snaychuk. and O'Neill, (2020), indicated that self-identifying victims of TFSV tended to have lower levels of self-esteem and perceived control, and higher levels of depressive symptoms compared to those without TFSV experience. In addition to this, Henry. N, Powell. A,(2016), reviews that indicate that some harms, much like sexual violence more broadly, maybe predominantly gender, sexuality, and age-based, with young women being overrepresented as victims in some categories. Viewed from these prospective there is a significant relationship between technology and domestic and sexual violence. Though they had applied different methods and studies to identifying multiple dimensions of TFSV.

Digital technologies have led to many important social and cultural advances worldwide, they also facilitate the perpetration of violence. In other words, the study identifying multiple perpetrations of violence. For example,Bailey, Henry, and Flyn (2016), digital technologies have led to many important social and cultural advances worldwide, they also facilitate the perpetration of violence, abuse and harassment, known as Technology-Facilitated violence and abuse (TFVA). TFVA includes a spectrum of behaviors perpetrated online, offline, and through a range of technologies, including artificial intelligence, live streaming, GPS tracking, and social media. On the other hand Kimberly, Mitchell, Jones, etal (2010) A Journa of research and treatment reviews that the victims of these crimes are a high-risk subgroup of youth, and the offenders who try to profit from these crimes are particularly concerning from a child welfare perspective.

Technology was used to create a sense of the perpetrator's omnipresence, and facilitated communication is unscientific and unreliable. In other words, the study identifying multiple dimensions of TFSV. Perpetrators also threatened to share sexualized content online to humiliate victims. For example, Woodlock.,(1016), revealed that

Technology was used to create a sense of the perpetrator's omnipresence, and to isolate, punish, and humiliate domestic violence victims. Perpetrators also threatened to share sexualized content online to humiliate victims. On the other hand, Serry.,(2016),(PP. 974-982), article argues that facilitated communication is unscientific and unreliable and that the support for Stubblefield from some disability studies scholars raises serious ethical concerns. In addition to this, Al-Alosi( 2017 ), Academic rigor, journalistic flair revied that telling victims to forsake their online presence effectively drives women offline, marking the internet as yet another male-dominated space. Viewed from these prospective there are the Perpetrators also threatened to share sexualized content online to humiliate victims. Though they had applied different methods and studies to identifying multiple dimensions of TFSV.

Viewed from these all prospective, there are some factors, like illiteracy, economic dependence, patriarchal society is significant in the discussion of each of the critics. Terminological and conceptual challenges are significant in the discussion of each of the Crites. Domestic violence against women and dating violence were significant. There are the Perpetrators who also threatened to share sexualized content online to humiliate victims. Moreover, few of the existing studies about Technology-facilitated stalking needs to be treated as a serious offense, and effective practice, policy, and legal responses must be developed. Uses of technology and ultimately changing misogynist and victim-blaming attitudes. Though they had applied different methods and studies to identifying multiple dimensions of TFSV. Though they had applied different methods and to study of associated factors of dating violence and domestic violence. Telling victims to forsake their online presence effectively drives women offline, marking the internet as yet another male-dominated space.

### Research Methodology:-

The research design used for the study is descriptive and casual comparative research design to deal with the use of technological equipments as termed as technical facilitated on different kinds of domestic and sexual violence such as emotional, physical and sexual. According to the cybercrime bureau of Nepal, the highest complaints are registered by the women of the Bagmati provinces in Nepal. Therefore, this study was conducted among localities of the Bagmati province. All the participants or respondents were 18 plus women only. The study is completely based on primary data. A set of online structured questionnaires were prepared on google form application and distributed through the social media viz: Facebook messenger, e-mail, Viber, and WhatsApp. The questionnaires were distributed around 1,000 plus women however the responses were received only by the 435 respondents only. Hence the total participants/respondents for the study are 435. Descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and the regression analysis were used as the major analysis tools to examine the impact of technical facilitated on domestic and sexual violence. The regression models used for the study is as follows:

$$Y = \beta_1 + \beta'X + \varepsilon \quad \dots (1)$$

Where Y represents the dependent variable i.e., domestic and sexual violence among the Nepali women.  $\beta_1$  is the constant term.  $\beta'$  represents the coefficient of independent variable. X represents the vector of independent variable and  $\varepsilon$  is the stochastic error term assumed to be normally distributed with zero mean and constant variance.

The given model can also be presented in detail as follows:

$$EV = \beta_1 + \beta_2 TF + \varepsilon \quad \dots (1.a)$$

$$PV = \beta_1 + \beta_2 TF + \varepsilon \quad \dots (1.b)$$

$$SV = \beta_1 + \beta_2 TF + \varepsilon \quad \dots (1.c)$$

Where, EV = Emotional Violence, PV = Physical Violence, SV = Sexual Violence, TF = Technology Facilitated.

### Data Analysis

#### Demographic Details

In order to achieve the objectives of the study, the questionnaire was designed to collect personal information of respondents such as age, academic qualification and the occupational status. The details of personal profiles and the demographic characteristics of the respondents are presented in table – 1.

**Table 1:-** Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents.

Demographic Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		

Female	435	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age range</b>		
18 -28	185	42.53
29-38	145	33.33
Above 39	105	24.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Education</b>		
School Level	225	51.72
Bachelor Level	175	40.23
Masters and Above	35	8.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Occupation</b>		
Employed	185	42.53
Unemployed	250	57.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table – 1 exhibits the frequency distribution of the respondents by personal and demographic characteristics. As the research is conducted among the females, all the respondents are female only. Majority (185) are having age group 18 – 28. Similarly, 145 respondents are from age group of 29 – 38 and 105 respondents are above age 39.

When the educational status of the respondents was analyzed, majority (51.72%) of the females were found having school level education. Only around 8% respondents were found having higher level of education. Similarly, 57.47% respondents were found unemployed and completely housewife and 42.53% of the respondents were engaged anywhere for their regular income.

### Correlation Analysis

Pearson Correlation analysis has been conducted to examine the relationship between the technical facilitated and the domestic and sexual violence. Correlation analysis examines the direction of the relationship among the study variables.

**Table 2:-** Correlation Analysis.

<b>Correlation Coefficients</b>				
	Technology Facilitated	Emotional	Physical	Sexual
Technology Facilitated	1			
Emotional	.231**	1		
Physical	.130**	0.055	1	
Sexual	.284**	-0.019	-.119*	1

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).  
 \* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table-2 shows the correlation coefficients or the relationship between the technology facilitated and all the three proxies of violence. The Pearson correlation coefficients show that there is the positive correlation between use of technology and the violence (emotional violence = 0.231, Physical violence = 0.130, and sexual violence = 0.284). The statistics further confirm that the results are statistically significant at 1% level of significant. More clearly, use of technology has the significant positive impact on domestic and sexual violence. It means, higher the technology facilitated, the higher would be the physical and sexual violence.

### Regression Analysis:

The robustness of the results obtained from correlation analysis is confirmed from the regression analysis. The independent variable for the study is technology facilitated or the use of the technology and the emotional, physical, and sexual violence are the dependent variables. Hence, the impact of technology facilitated on emotional, physical, and sexual violence are examined by three different regression models given in table – 3. The reported values are the regression coefficients and other relevant statistics.

**Table 3:-** Regression Analysis.

Models:									
EV = $\beta_1 + \beta_2 TF + \epsilon$									
PV = $\beta_1 + \beta_2 TF + \epsilon$									
SV = $\beta_1 + \beta_2 TF + \epsilon$									
Regression Coefficients									
Models	Unstandardized Coefficients			Standardized Coefficients	t	P value	SEE	F value	Adj R <sup>2</sup>
		B	Std. Error	Beta					
1	Emotional	0.306	0.062	0.231	4.952	0.000	1.000	24.52	0.051
2	Physical	4.855	1.775	0.13	2.736	0.006	1.019	7.483	0.015
3	Sexual	12.846	2.086	0.284	6.159	0.000	0.985	37.93	0.078

Table – 3 shows the regression analysis for the impact of technology facilitated on all the three proxies of domestic and sexual violence such as emotional, physical, and sexual violence on separate models. The results show that regression coefficients of technological facilitated on emotional violence (0.306), physical violence (4.855), and sexual violence (12.846) are positive and statistically significant at 1% level of significance. The significant positive regression coefficients further confirm that technological facilitated has the significant positive impact on all three proxies of violence. More clearly, the higher the technology facilitated, the higher would be the domestic and sexual violence is obtained among the females in Nepali context.

### Conclusion:-

This study was conducted with the aim of to evaluate the effect of technical facilitated on domestic and sexual violence among the Nepali women. The data were collected through the primary survey based on the structured questionnaires distributed from the online using social media. Descriptive and casual comparative research design was adapted and the regression analysis was used as the major tool for the data analysis. The study reveals that technical facilitated has the significant positive impact on domestic and sexual violence among the Nepali women.

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