

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Violence against women with disabilities is a serious international human rights issue that persists despite the growing body of research discussing it.

PREVALENCE

- Women with disabilities experience more violence than any other adult population¹⁻⁵
- Severity of disability is associated with amount of violence experienced²

RISKS & BARRIERS TO SUPPORT^{2,3}

- Stigma
- Lack of awareness of violence
- Limited support networks and resources
- Dependence on caregivers
- Communication challenges
- Access ≠ Accessibility

FORMS OF VIOLENCE³

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical, e.g., sterilisation • Physical, e.g., slapping • Emotional/Psychological, e.g., bullying • Financial, e.g., control on spending • Sexual, e.g., rape | <p>Family members,
Medical professionals,
Carers,
Intimate partners,
Community and Strangers</p> |
|---|--|

IMPACT^{2,3}



PREVENTIONS & INTERVENTIONS

Strategies for **empowerment**⁴:

- Role-play, in-situ scenarios, behavioural skills training, group face-to-face lessons and family programs
- Improves: safety skills & knowledge, self-efficacy, decision-making skills, violence awareness and social support

Strategies for **protection**²:

- Deliberate outreach, including home visits
- Adapt existing programmes to address accessibility barriers
- Use of practical and theory-based sessions to increase knowledge¹

POLICY & FUTURE STEPS

- Conduct empirical research with specific populations and measure outcomes⁵
 - For example, testing improvements in safety knowledge of women with intellectual disabilities following an intervention
- Policy should be competent and responsive to the unmet needs of women with disabilities facing violence⁶
- Involve rehabilitation and service providers to increase early detection of abuse^{2,3}
- Include women with disabilities for insights from their lived experience²

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