

# Violence against women and vulnerability towards HIV/AIDS in 5 Indian districts

## Objectives

- How do men and women perceive differences in risky behaviour?
- How do men and women perceive differences in sexual rights (for example, coercive marital sex)?
- What is the link between the perceptions of risky behaviour and reported behaviour?

## Rationale: Violence against women (VAW)

- Increases risk of HIV infection
- Reduces effectiveness of interventions

## Why is this study important?

- Reduction in violence against women (VAW) identified as key part of strategy to reduce new HIV infections
- Very little known about VAW in India

## Data

**Quantitative:** Individual questionnaire with interviewer in 5 states

Women aged 13–25 years (n=2,371)  
Men aged 15–29 years (n=1,365)

### Qualitative

Key informant interviews (KII) (n=32)  
Focus Group Discussions (FGD) (n=25)  
Interviewing the interviewers (n=24)



## Analyses

[ n.s. = not significant; \* = p<.01; \*\* = p<.005; \*\*\* = p<.001 ]

	How often does your husband/partner have sex with you when you are not willing?
Marital status	***
Education	***

“Even if she is not willing to make relation [have sex] any day, her problems are not considered and her husband will have sex with her after getting drunk”  
Female FGD, Kishanganj

Logistic regression: experience of mistreatment in preceding 12 months	
<b>RELIGION</b>	
-Muslim (R)	
-Hindu	More likely***
-Christian	Less likely***
<b>CASTE</b>	
-Schedule Caste (R)	
-Scheduled Tribe	n.s.
-“Other Backward Class” OBC	n.s.
-General	More likely*
<b>WEALTH</b>	
-Lowest quintile(R)	
-2 <sup>nd</sup> quintile	Less likely***
-3 <sup>rd</sup> quintile	Less likely***
-4 <sup>th</sup> quintile	Less likely***
-Highest quintile	Less likely***
<b>EDUCATION</b>	
-None (R)	
-1-5 years	n.s.
-6-8 years	n.s.
-> 8 years	Less likely*

	How often do you and your partner use a condom?	Did you use a condom the last time you had sex?
Religion	**	***
Caste	***	***
Education	***	***
Wealth	n.s.	**
Marital status	***	***

### Men’s reports of coercive sex

- 24% men report sex with partner when partner unwilling
- When his partner says no to sex...
  - 13% force her to have sex
  - 3% beat her
  - 3% go to another woman for sex

## Conclusions

- Substantial differences in perceptions of sexual and gender-based rights between men and women
- Married women often overlooked in focused interventions but marriage is risky for women:
  - Less likely to report condom use
  - Less likely to report frequent use
  - Less likely to report having used at last sex
  - More likely to report coercive sex
  - More likely to report mistreatment by both men and other women

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