

Challenges Faced by Women and Girls Who Survive Gender-Based Violence

Abstract

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a major social and human rights concern that affects women and girls in many communities. Survivors may experience physical, psychological, social, and economic consequences. This research examines challenges faced by survivors, particularly their access to health services, psychosocial support, legal assistance, protection, and economic opportunities.

Objectives

- Identify the major challenges experienced by survivors.
- Examine barriers to accessing support services.
- Assess the social and economic effects of GBV on survivors.
- Recommend strategies for improving survivor support services.

Key Findings

Survivors may face stigma, discrimination, limited awareness of available services, financial difficulties, and barriers to health and legal services. Fear of social judgment can also discourage survivors from reporting violence or seeking assistance.

Recommendations

- Strengthen survivor-centered protection and support services.
- Improve access to psychosocial and legal assistance.
- Increase community awareness about GBV and survivors' rights.
- Improve referral systems between health, legal, and protection services.
- Provide livelihood and skills-development opportunities for survivors.

Conclusion

Supporting survivors of gender-based violence requires coordinated action from communities, government institutions, civil society organizations, and service providers. A survivor-centered approach that protects dignity, confidentiality, safety, and rights is essential for long-term recovery and empowerment.