

**Triple Jeopardy:
Gender based
violence, disability
and human rights
violations and their
impact on Cambodian
women's mental
health**

**Jill Astbury
Monash University**

**Fareen Walji
CBM Australia & Nossal
Institute for Global Health,
University of Melbourne**

**Triple
Jeopardy
Research**



Why we did it:

- **Women with disabilities (WWDs) face multiple disadvantages as a result of the interplay of gender, disability and developing world status.**
- **Limited research showing up to 100% of WWD experience violence in developing countries – mostly qual and anecdotal.**
- **Challenges such as poverty, GBV, and barriers to sexual and reproductive health care experienced in conjunction with disability are magnified for women with disabilities.**
- **In Cambodia high rates of gender inequity . Cambodia ranks 99/145 countries on Gender Inequality Index. No change in high maternal mortality rate since 2000 (540/100,000 live births)**

What we wanted to find out:

- 1. Current state of legislation, policies, projects, stakeholders in anti-violence and support services for WWD experiencing GBV.**
- 2. Prevalence rates and experiences GBV amongst Cambodian WWDs & how these differ from non-disabled women**
- 3. Barriers and facilitators to accessing anti-violence support, programs and services**
- 4. Effectiveness of low-cost methodologies and tools for increasing access.**

Due to time constraints, we are presenting primarily quant results, but other information available.

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How we went about it:

- **Participatory analysis of networks, stakeholders etc.**
- **Intensive training on gender, disability, GBV and research methods with both Cambodian partners and research team.**
- **Used WHO Multi-Country Survey Tool + Washington City Group Questions on Disability + SRQ20.**



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Study Sample

Mixed methods - survey, in depth interviews (30), focus groups (8 x 10), key informant interviews (20).

Survey conducted in 2 urban and 3 rural sites.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Sample | 354 women (Half WWDs and half without) |
| Mean age | 31.7 years (sd=8.3) |
| Schooling | 76.3% ever attended |
| Ever married/partnered | 61.6% |
| Earning money | 76.0% |
| Most common work | 48.7% seasonal work |



Sociodemographic differences between WWDs and without

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| | WWDs | Without | p |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| | 177 | 177 | |
| Age Years | 32.1 | 31.4 | ns |
| No school | 28.2% | 19.2% | 0.046 |
| Never married | 57.6% | 19.2% | 0.000 |
| Unmarried now | 75.1% | 28.8% | 0.000 |
| Lives with birth family | 75.1% | 44.6% | 0.000 |
| Earns money | 70.6% | 81.4% | 0.018 |
| Mean financial autonomy | 3.2 (2.5) | 5.2 (2.4) | 0.000 |

Results: Women with disabilities

| Washington Q. | Yes a lot of difficulty | Cannot do at all | Total |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|-------|
| Difficulty seeing | 8.3% | 2.3% | 10.6% |
| Difficulty hearing | 3.4% | 0% | 3.4% |
| Difficulty walking | 17.6% | 5.7% | 23.3% |
| Difficulty remembering / concentrating | 15.1% | 0.3% | 15.4% |
| Difficulty with self-care / washing | 6% | 1.1% | 7.1% |
| Difficulty communicating | 7.1% | 0.3% | 7.4% |

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Results: Violence by partner in lifetime

| | WWDs | Without | Both |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Emotional Violence | 48.9% | 41.8% | 43.5% (ns) |
| Physical Violence | 26.6% | 23.4% | 24.3% (ns) |
| Sexual Violence | 24.4% | 16.8% | 18.6% (ns) |
| Any PV | 60% | 46.2% | |
| Childhood Sexual Abuse (before 15 years) | | | 13.1% |

No significant difference between WWDs and those without re: ANY kind of partner violence EVER (physical, sexual or emotional).

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Results: Family violence/ / coercive control

| Controlling behaviour in household (excluding partner) | WWDs | Without | OR | 95%CI |
|---|-------|---------|-----|------------|
| Insists on knowing where you are at all times | 48% | 37.5% | 1.5 | 1.0-2.3* |
| Ignores or treats you differently | 27.1% | 17% | 1.8 | 1.1-3.0** |
| Gets angry if you speak with a man | 23.7% | 15.9% | | NS |
| Expects you to ask permission before seeking health care for yourself | 58.5% | 34.7% | 1.8 | 1.1-2.7*** |

*p=0.05, **p=0.02, ***p=0.008

Results: Family Violence

| Family violence in lifetime | WWDs | Without | Both | OR | 95% CI |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------|-------|-----|------------|
| Emotional Violence | 52.5% | 35.2% | 43.9% | 2.0 | 1.4-4.7*** |
| Physical Violence | 25.4% | 11.4% | 18.4% | 2.6 | 1.5-4.7*** |
| Sexual Violence | 6.6% | 1.7% | 4.2% | 4.2 | 1.2-15.1** |

p=0.02, *p=0.08

Psychological distress

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SRQ=20 item measure of common mental disorders (minimum score=0,maximum=20). SRQ used in WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence. Scores in Triple Jeopardy project higher than any country in the WHO study

Triple jeopardy study

Partnered women (n=177)

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----------|
| Mean score for total sample | 12.3 | sd=5.0 |
| Neither disability or PV | 10.4 | sd=5.2** |
| Partner violence only | 12.9 | sd=4.4** |
| Disability only | 13.3 | sd=5.5** |
| Both | 15.0 | sd=3.4*** |

Household violence (n = 353)

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----------|
| Mean score for total sample | 12.8 | sd=4.6 |
| Neither disability or HV | 11.3 | sd=4.9** |
| Household violence only | 13.1 | sd=3.8*** |
| Disability only | 12.9 | sd=5.2*** |
| Both | 14.4 | sd=3.8*** |

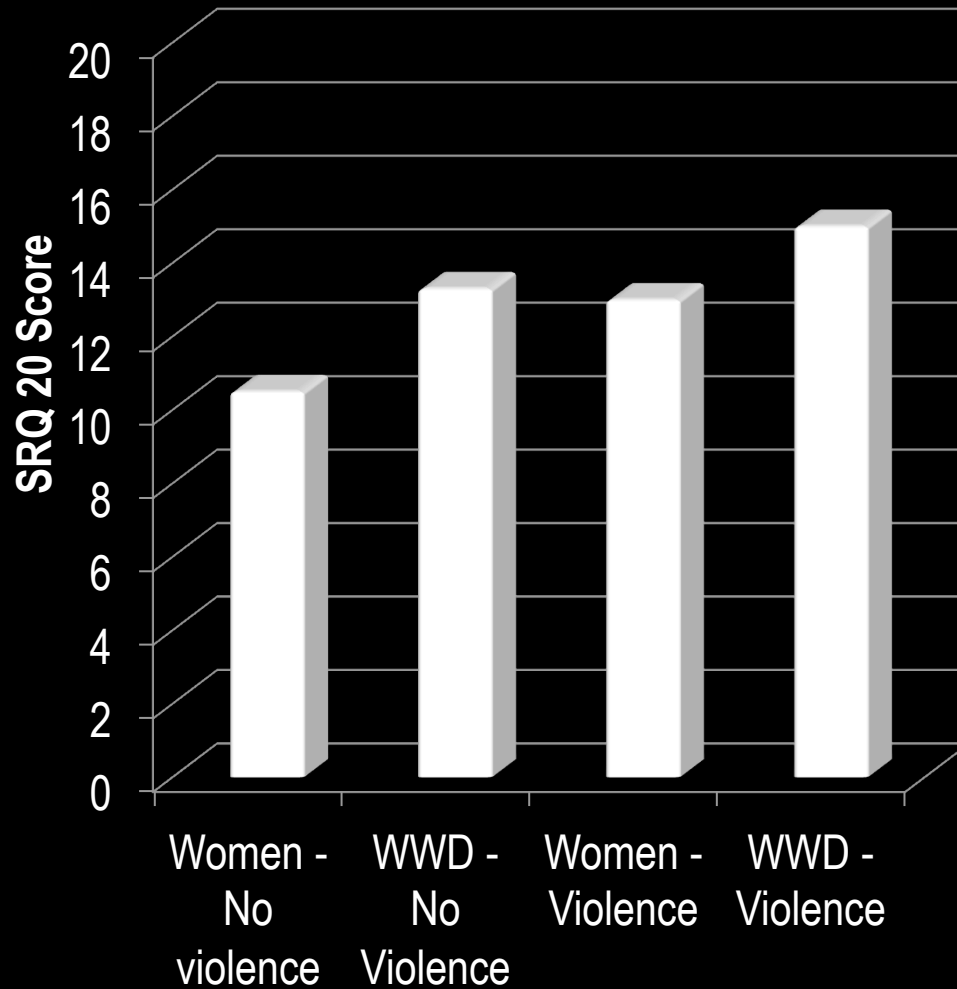
p=0.01, *p <=0.005

Astbury J. (in press) Violating the right to health: how partner violence and disability undermine women's mental health in Cambodia. Journal of Disability and International Development

Results:

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SRQ Scores by disability and violence status



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Results: Disclosure of violence

| | Partner Violence | | Family Violence | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | WWD | Without | WWD | Without |
| Nobody | 68% | 43.8% | 55% | 61.3% (ns) |
| Parents | 28% | 22% (ns) | 23.3% | 22.6% (ns) |
| Siblings | 44% | 25% (ns) | 20% | 16% (ns) |
| Neighbours | 32% | 12.5% (trend) | 20% | 22.6% (ns) |
| NGO / Women's Group | 1.8% | 1.8% | 0% | 0% |



92% of WWD (vs. 66% non-disabled) said household violence had affected their mental / physical health

49% of perpetrators of household violence were parents

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Results: Seeking help for violence

| | Partner Violence | | Family Violence | |
|------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | WWD | Without | WWD | Without |
| Police | 15% | 6.7% | 2.3% | 0% (ns) |
| Local Leaders | 30% | 23.3% (ns) | 5.6% | 5.7% (ns) |
| Shelter | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2.2% (ns) |
| NGO/ Women's org | 0% | 6.7% (ns) | 2.3% | 0% (ns) |

Ethics considerations

- Ensuring informed consent (literacy and photos)
- Lack of services for referral
- Providing support to women who have disclosed violence
- Working with women who are deaf / have intellectual disabilities
- Compensating women for their time



Limitations

- Not random
- Under-representation of deaf women / women with intellectual disability
- Some results maybe NS b/c of smaller numbers
- Motivation for violence on part of perpetrators not sufficiently explored



Summary and Recommendations

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Urgent need for violence programs to focus on household not just IPV because compared with women without disabilities, WWDs:

- Experience much higher levels of emotional, physical and sexual violence by household members**
- Report significantly higher levels of psychological distress on SRQ**
- Experience same or higher levels of partner violence**
- Are less likely to disclose or seek help following violence**
- Have much lower levels of financial autonomy**
- More likely to report that violence has affected their health**

Next Steps:

- **Develop and pilot of tools, training and guidelines on inclusion of WWD in violence services.**
- **Work with partners and government to develop inclusive programs**
- **Raise awareness in communities / with local authorities on rights of women with disabilities**
- **Support donors to fund disability inclusive programs**
- **Disseminate results at Cambodian and International Conferences**
- **Develop research methods for gathering data from deaf women / women with intellectual disabilities**
- **Explore partner / family violence for men with disabilities.**

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More information email: fwalji@cbm.org.au



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