

Experience of violence  
and HIV related risks  
and vulnerabilities among  
women in sex work in Karnataka



UNIVERSITY  
OF MANITOBA

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# Experience of violence and HIV related risks and vulnerabilities among women in sex work in Karnataka

Understanding the role of self-empowerment  
and power relations with community

# Contributors

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# Disclaimer

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# Abbreviation and Acronyms

CBO	Community Based Organization
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
FSW	Female Sex Worker
HIV	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
ITPA	Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956
IIPS	International Institute for Population Sciences
KHPT	Karnataka Health Promotion Trust
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UNTF	United Nations Trust Fund
VAW	Violence Against Women
WHO	World Health Organization



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# Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Gender-based violence is perhaps the most widespread and socially tolerated human rights violations stemming from unequal power relations between men and women. Women's exclusion and vulnerability become both cause and consequence of violence against women. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) highlight the need to address gender inequality as a critical foundation for human development (The UN Millennium Goals 2007). Violence against women is an explicit manifestation of gender inequality and is increasingly being recognized as an important risk factor for a range of poor health and economic development outcomes. A substantial body of international research has documented the magnitude and forms of such violence across a range of settings, in low-, middle-, and high-income countries (Gracia-Moreno et al. 2005; Watts and Zimmerman 2002).

Intimate partner violence (IPV)—violence perpetrated by a spouse or intimate partner—is the most common form of gender-based violence. In addition to causing direct injury or loss of life, it increases vulnerability to a range of negative health outcomes, including HIV/ AIDS (Heise and Garcia-Moreno 2002; Campbell 2002; Dunkle et al. 2004). Intimate partner violence (IPV) against women is now a well recognized public health and human rights problem associated with different health, family, social and economic effects (Dalal, Rahman, and Jansson 2009; Koenig et al. 2006). IPV, in all forms, occur every day in all parts of the world cutting across age, religions, societies, ethnicities and geographical borders (Xu et al. 2005), however, there exists a great deal of variation from country to country, and from setting to setting. This indicates that this violence is not inevitable (Gracia-Moreno et al. 2005).

## 1.2 Prevalence of violence against women by intimate partners

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines violence as “the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation (Krug et al. 2002).” It is estimated that 4,400 people die every day because of intentional acts of self-directed, interpersonal, or collective violence, while many more are injured as a result of being victims or witnesses to acts of violence.

At least one out of three women around the world have been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime (Pathfinder International 2009). International research conducted over the past decade has provided increasing evidence of the extent of violence against women, particularly that perpetrated by intimate male partners. Findings show that violence against women is a much more serious and common problem than previously suspected. A review of over 50 population-based studies performed in 35 countries prior to 1999 indicated that between 10 percent and 52 percent of women around the world report that they have been physically abused by an intimate partner at some point in their lives, and between 10 percent and 30 percent that they have experienced sexual violence by an intimate partner. Between 10 percent and 27 percent of women and girls reported having been sexually abused, either as children or as adults (Krug et al. 2002; Heise, Ellsberg, and Gottemoeller 1999).

Another multi-country study conducted by WHO suggests that proportion of ever-partnered women who had ever suffered physical violence by a male intimate partner ranged from a minimum of 13 percent in Japan city to 61 percent in Peru province, with most sites falling between 23 percent and 49 percent. Again, the prevalence of severe physical violence (a woman being hit with a fist, kicked, dragged, choked, burnt on purpose, threatened with a weapon, or having a weapon used against her) ranged from lowest four percent to highest 49 percent in Japan city and Peru province, respectively (Gracia-Moreno et al. 2005). The Japan city along with Serbia and Montenegro cities continued to have lowest prevalence of lifetime experience of sexual violence by an intimate partner (6%) with a highest estimate of 59 percent in Ethiopia province, with most sites falling between 10 percent and 50 percent. While in most settings sexual violence was considerably less frequent than physical violence, sexual violence was more frequent in Bangladesh province, Ethiopia, province and Thailand city. Study also reported that among the 11 countries selected under study, between 20-75% had also experienced one or more forms of emotionally abusive acts such as: being insulted or made to feel bad about oneself; being humiliated in front of others; being intimidated or scared on purpose; or being threatened directly, or through a threat to someone the respondent cares about.

### 1.3 Prevalence of violence against women in India

The third round of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) has collected detailed information on women's experience of different forms of violence within marriage. Within India, recent prevalence estimates of life-time experiences of forced sexual experiences within marriage, range from 10 percent to 32 percent in large-scale nationally representative survey (IIPS and Macro International 2007; IIPS and Population Council 2010). If we include estimate of physical violence also then, at the national level, nearly two in five (37%) married women have experienced physical or sexual violence by their husband (IIPS and Macro International 2007). Another study in India found that 42 percent of all female respondents reported experiencing some type of violence, with 29 percent reporting physical violence and 69 percent reporting psychological abuse (Chandrasekaran et al. 2007).

### 1.4 Correlates of violence

The causes of intimate partner violence are complex. However, two factors seem to be necessary in an epidemiological sense: the unequal position of women in a particular relationship (and in society) and the normative use of violence in conflict (Jewkes 2002). Numerous studies have been conducted in industrialized countries to identify the causes of different forms of violence perpetrated by intimate partner. However, considering diverse culture and social contexts developing countries demand much more context-dependent studies on IPV as its risks and effects are relatively unknown in these countries (WHO 2002; Dalal 2008; Lawoko et al. 2007).

A wide range of causes of IPV have been explained in social science research. These causes included men's drinking behaviour, abnormal personality traits, cultural norms and power relations (Dalal 2008; Koss et al. 1994; O'Neil 1998; Cunningham et al. 1998). Education has been another important factor in explaining the IPV. It has been established a long time ago that education is a protective factor for IPV (Koenig 2006; WHO 2002; Dalal 2008; Lawoko et al.

2007; WHO 2005; Bates et al. 2004). A study conducted by Dalal (in 2011) using a nationally representative household survey re-demonstrated that economic empowerment, along with higher education was an effective protection for IPV as the exposure rates were low enough (2–11%) compared to secondary (5–29%) or lower/no educated women (11–44%). Considering wealth index, the poorest women were most likely to experience domestic violence than the richest women. This finding confirms the WHO findings that poverty disproportionately influences violence against women (WHO 2002).

Some experts also explained violence perpetrated by their husbands or intimate partners against women in economic terms. One group propounds that women employment generates more economic resources for them which results in a decrease in violence; while other groups advocate that violence will increase as husbands/intimate partners attempt to compensate for enhanced women status and independence due to employment (Bailey and Peterson 1995; Hindin and Adair 2002; Riger and Krieglstein 2000; Venis and Horton 2002). Over the course of time the horizon of economic empowerment got broaden and various policy documents included social structure (caste/ ethnicity), location and income in the dimension of empowerment. These policies mostly focused on gender equality ensuring that that all government policies, activities, and processes do not impact adversely on women, take into account women's interests, involve women in planning and implementation of budgets, and ensure adequate resources for ensuring gender-equality goals (Tuladhar et al. 2013).

## 1.5 Linkage between violence and HIV related risks and vulnerabilities from sex work perspective

In 1996, the World Health Assembly declared violence a major public health issue<sup>1</sup>. While negatively impacting on their mental health and emotional wellbeing, violence against women, especially those engaged in high risk sexual behaviour, can heighten their vulnerability to HIV and other sexually transmitted infection (STIs) through multiple mechanisms. According to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, HIV-positive women are nearly three times as likely as HIV-negative women to have experienced a violent episode at the hands of their partner (UNTF 2012). This rate is even higher for young HIV-positive women; they are ten times as likely as their non-infected peers to have experienced intimate partner violence (UN Commission on Human Rights 2005). Are these women HIV-positive because of the violence they experienced, or do they experience violence because of their HIV status? The answer differs from woman to woman, but research suggests that, on the whole, the causality works both ways.

The connection between sexual violence and HIV risk becomes more straightforward to explain in case of rape. When a woman is being raped by an HIV-positive man she faces a heightened risk of contracting the virus. Since women have a greater biological vulnerability to HIV than men do from even consensual heterosexual encounters (UNAIDS 2010); when forced sex leads to genital lacerations and other injuries, disease transmission becomes still more likely to take place. Girls

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/world\\_report/en/introduction.pdf](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/introduction.pdf)

and adolescents are more biologically vulnerable to HIV than adult women due to differences in the reproductive tract that increase the likelihood of genital trauma (Klot and Nguyen 2011).

In addition, and less intuitively, other forms of violence also foster the spread of HIV—for example, when a woman’s ongoing experience of intimate partner violence is sufficiently intimidating to make it difficult or impossible for her to negotiate safer sex with her partner. The ability to negotiate safer sex is critical to women’s ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights and is of crucial importance for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, especially when a woman’s partner has multiple sexual relationships, pays for sex, or has sex with men. Coerced sex is mostly without a condom, and can result in injuries that can increase the transmission of STI and HIV.

Intimidating violence includes physical and sexual violence, but also encompasses economic, social, and psychological or emotional violence, such as verbal abuse, keeping a woman from her children, excluding her from community life, forcing her from her home, or depriving her of economic resources. Both the occurrence of an act of violence (rape being the most obvious one) and the threat of violence (and resulting climate of fear and disempowerment) heighten women’s risk of contracting HIV. Since sex work is regarded as immoral and criminal, women in sex work find it difficult to report sexual and physical violence to the authorities. The fear of violence from intimate partners (husbands/lovers) resulting from inadvertent disclosure of sex work can deter women in sex work from negotiating condom use with these partners and from accessing sexual health services (Beattie et al. 2010).

A review of forty studies on HIV status disclosure (WHO 2003) showed that in both developed and developing countries, the majority of women who reveal their HIV status met with a positive response—kindness, understanding, acceptance, and increased support—from the people in their lives. However, for a large number of women, fear of violence is well-founded: five of the twelve studies that were conducted in the developing world reported violence as an outcome of status disclosure, with a range of 3.5 percent to 23 percent of respondents reporting violence. Researchers noted that “HIV status disclosure to sexual partners has a number of potential risks for the individual, including loss of economic support, blame, abandonment, physical and emotional abuse, discrimination, and disruption of family relationships (ibid).” Women were at particular risk of violence when they were HIV-positive and their partners were not (UNTF 2012).

## 1.6 Rationale of the study

The current estimate (2009-2010) of the total number of women in sex work in Karnataka is 134,691 of which 72,032 are in the rural areas while 62,929 in urban areas. Of the total sex workers in the urban areas 50 percent sex workers are street-based while little more than half of the sex workers (54%) in rural areas are home-based. Street-based sex workers are more likely to encounter police violence while home-based sex workers are more likely to experience domestic violence at the hands of intimate partners. Moreover, sex work in southern Karnataka tends to be street-based, or ‘hidden’ home-based sex work, while home-based sex work in northern Karnataka enjoys cultural sanction of the Devadasi tradition in which young girls from Scheduled Castes are dedicated to the Goddess Yellamma.

Almost all sex workers practicing sex work in urban areas (95%) and about half in the rural areas (51%) are being addressed through HIV-related interventions and little more than one-fourth of these sex workers have experienced any forms of physical or sexual violence. Again the extent of such violence, especially physical violence, is high among young, co-habiting or currently non-married sex workers and those have an intimate partner (Beattie et al. 2010). The perpetrators of these violence include husband (22%); those in the sex work structure, namely, clients (9%), law enforcing agencies, namely, police (30%) and judiciary; and the larger society including the media.

Addressing violence against women in sex work is relevant in the context of violence against women and is an effort towards building an inclusive society. Thus, the Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT) has proposed a project to address the double marginalization of women in sex work due to social stigma and inequitable gender relations that perpetuate violence against them as sex workers and as women in almost all districts (30 districts) of the state. Since programs aimed at the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS cannot succeed without challenging the structures of unequal power relations between women and men, the overall perspective of the project is framed in such a way that it focus on re-addressal of violence through empowering the sex workers and linking those with the services who have experienced any forms of violence in their lifetime. The violence against women, in particular against the women in sex work, is caused by structural factors that perpetuate unequal power relationships through expression of 'power over' and result in their exclusion through practice of stigma and discrimination that is governed and rooted in culture. Hence, the approach aims at empowerment of the victims of violence through recognizing their 'power within' and gaining solidarity by sharing 'power with' other social movements of civil society to challenge and address the 'power over'. During the intervention, this approach will be operationalized through four pronged strategy: empowerment of people to resist/address violence, critical engagement with sex workers' institutions and accountability of State for right to protection against violence and solidarity of civil society to rights struggle.

Before start of the intervention, it is important to understand the current power dynamics among the sex workers in Karnataka and the ways in which violence against women and HIV intersect increase the risk of HIV infection among them. KHPT has conducted a baseline study to assess the current level of understanding about different forms of violence, perpetrators of violence and its consequences among female sex workers (FSWs) in selected districts of Karnataka. The survey also gathered information about experience of different forms of violence perpetrated by intimate partners and/or clients of FSWs and its possible linkages with HIV related risks and vulnerabilities. Findings of this study will be helpful in planning a focused intervention that address the issues of violence against FSWs and reduce the HIV related risks and vulnerabilities among them.

## 1.7 Objectives of the study

The overall aim of this study is to analyze the current level of violence among sex workers and its relationship with sex work characteristics and associated risks and vulnerabilities under the umbrella of community empowerment. However, the specific objectives are:

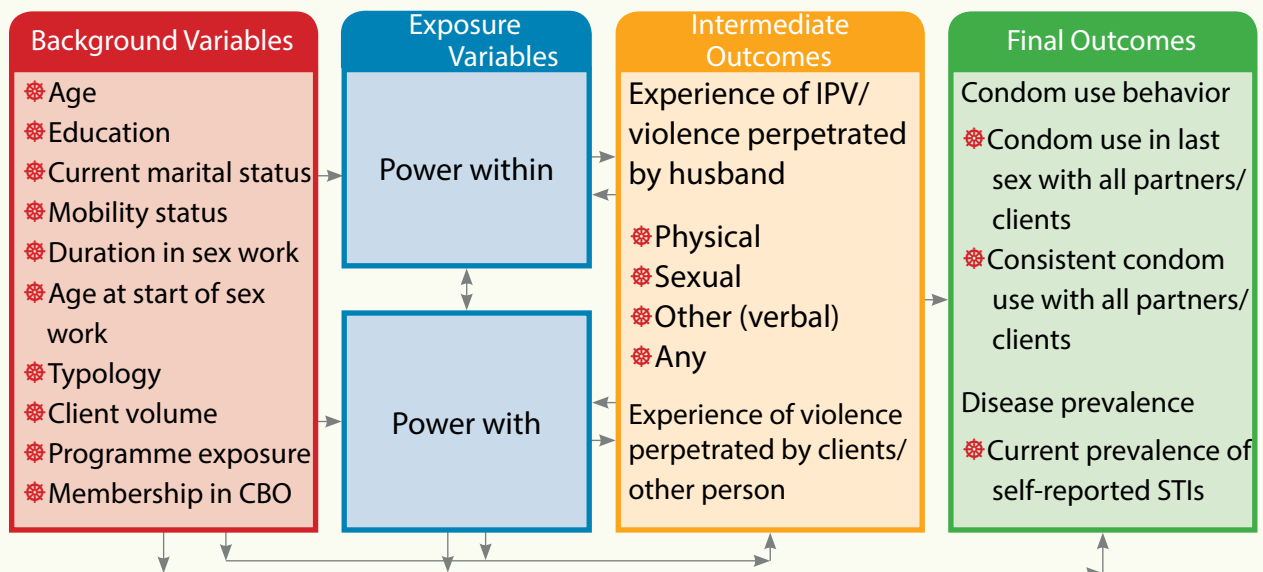
- ✂ To measure the current level of empowerment among FSWs and the factors associated with the high levels of empowerment.
- ✂ To examine the relationships empowerment and the experience of different forms of violence.
- ✂ To examine the relationships between empowerment, violence, and HIV related risks and vulnerabilities.

## 1.8 Conceptual framework

In order to fulfill the above mentioned objectives following analytical framework has been adopted (Figure 1.1).

Empowerment is a multidimensional and a context-specific concept. It is multidimensional because there are varieties of individual, family, and community factors that determine empowerment. It is contextual because the definition and measures of empowerment differ from one society to another. Violence committed by husbands/partners to the sex workers is common around the world. The examination of how violence interacts with the phenomenon of empowerment and determines risks and vulnerabilities is necessary but challenging. The empowerment and gender-based violence literatures has helped in development of this framework to visualize empowerment and its relation to violence and HIV related risks and vulnerabilities in Karnataka.


Figure 1.1 Conceptual framework





Despite growing interest in empowerment and its potential to affect health, the development of indicators to evaluate empowerment processes and outcomes is still at an early stage. As mentioned before that empowerment is a multidimensional process and its concept operates at various levels, the measurement of empowerment is also difficult (Alsop et al., 2006). For this reason different studies have used different indicators and developed models to measure women's empowerment. None of these can be considered as a universal model. This study therefore developed two different composite indices of empowerment that define empowerment as "the process of increasing capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes" (Kim et al. 2007) and that is more realistic in the sex work context in Karnataka. A detail description about the development of indicator is given in the next chapter.

The levels of empowerment can be both a cause and an effect of IPV and other forms of violence, but for the purpose of this study, empowerment has been considered as a cause that may either increase or inhibit the experience of different forms of violence. Similarly, there might be a chance that the two empowerment variables (power within and power with) might have some degree of correlation; however, they have been considered as two independent exposure variables for the current analytical purpose. An array of literature has demonstrated the adverse effects of violence on the HIV related risks and vulnerabilities among FSWs but such a relationship is yet to be examined in the sex work context in Karnataka. Therefore, this study examines the interaction of empowerment and violence with sex work characteristics, measured in terms of condom use with all sexual partners in last one year and the prevalence sexually transmitted infections. All the associations between empowerment, violence, and HIV related risks and vulnerability that this study examines could also be influenced directly or indirectly by other background characteristics of FSWs. Therefore, this study considers these variables in its examination of the relation between empowerment, violence, and outcomes.



# 2 Methods & Materials

## 2.1 Background

Findings of this study are based on the baseline survey conducted from the four districts of Karnataka during 2012. The districts selected under the study were selected purposively and represented different socio-cultural regions of the state. These four districts were Belgaum, Gulbarga, Gadag and Dharwad.

## 2.2 Sample size and data collection procedure

An estimated sample size for each of the district was 385 interviews of FSWs aged 18-49 years. The sample size was estimated to detect at least 15% change in consistent condom use with clients from an expected value of 50% at baseline. With a response rate of 95%, total 1464 FSWs could be interviewed out of targeted interviews of 1540 FSWs. So the report is based on the information collected from 1464 FSWs. District-wise response rates varied between 90-98%.

A probability-based method of sampling was used for data collection. Conventional cluster sample was used for FSWs where the population was stable, i.e. FSWs selling sex at home, or in brothels, lodges and dabhas (roadside eating places) whereas two-stage time-location cluster (TLC) sampling design was used for data collection at public places. At the first stage of TLC sampling method, the required number of TLCs was selected by using Probability Proportionate to Size (PPS) sampling method while respondents were selected randomly (by chits of paper or by the color/type of outfit) in the pre-selected time location clusters at the second stage. The number of clusters needs to be selected was decided in advance and was based on the sample size to cover and the average estimated size of cluster.

Data were collected using interviewer-administered culturally sensitive and context specific questionnaires, adapted from previous surveys and conducted in Kannada (the local language). Interviewees were trained researchers.

## 2.3 Outcome variables

This study used experience of violence perpetrated by intimate partner/ husband in past 12 months and experience of physical violence in past 6 months and forced sex in past 12 months by client/ or other person as outcomes of empowerment, and as mediating factors between empowerment and risk and vulnerability outcomes. The experience of IPV is examined as four different categorical variables:

- ☞ Experienced physical violence
- ☞ Experienced sexual violence
- ☞ Experienced other forms of violence (mostly verbal), and
- ☞ Experienced any form of violence

In the last section of the analyses, this study uses a binary summary measure to capture the experience of violence by a client/other person which included the experience of physical violence in past six month and forced sex in past 12 months by a client or other than regular partner.

The second set of outcome variables relates to HIV related risk and vulnerability outcomes mostly in terms of condom use with partner/ husband and clients and the current prevalence of STI. More specifically, the outcome indicators included in this study are:

- ☞ Use of condom in last sex with every client/partner
- ☞ Consistent use of condom in all sexual activities with every client/partner
- ☞ Current prevalence of self-reported STIs

The baseline survey measured physical violence by asking women whether their husband/ or partner ever, and in the last 12 months, pushed, shook, or threw something at her; slapped; twisted her arm or pulled her hair; punched to hurt her; kicked, dragged, beat her; tried to choke or burn her on purpose; or threatened or attacked her with a knife, gun or any other weapon. Sexual violence was measured by asking women whether the intimate partner/ husband physically forced her to have sex without her consent; or forced her to perform any other sexual acts without her consent. The other forms of violence is measured by combining the responses of variables such as partner/ husband ever, and in the last 12 months, said or did something to humiliate her in front of others; threatened to hurt her or someone close to her; and insulted her repeatedly in front of others. As mentioned before, two forms of violence, i.e., physical violence in past 6 months and forced sex in past 12 months perpetrated by clients were captured during the survey and hence were used in the analysis.

## 2.4 Measurement of exposure variables

For meeting the objectives of this study, development of empowerment indicators was the key. The survey captures a wide-range of information on women empowerment, however, for the purpose of this study only selected information has been extracted for defining the indices of empowerment. These indices reflect two dimensions of women's empowerment: (i) gaining internal skills and overcoming external barrier (power within), and (ii) communal dimensions, such as group solidarity or collective action, which acknowledge that positive change may often be effected through individuals acting together, rather than alone (power with).

Table 1 discuss about the measurement variables included in defining the empowerment indicators. Selection of variables was based upon the literature that indicated or confirmed their possible association with women's autonomy and empowerment. Emphasis was also put on selecting those variables that are directly related to women as individuals (Mayoux 1998; Wallerstein 2006; Mosedale 2005).

Table 2.1: Indicators of empowerment index

Indicators	Survey questions	Hypothesized effect from base-to end-line
Power within <sup>a</sup>	Range: (0-2: Low, 3-6: High)	
Self confidence	2 questions (positive response to 1 or both of the questions) How confident do you feel speaking your opinion in a large group of people? (Very much/ completely) How confident do you feel giving advice to your fellow sex workers, neighbors, friends? (Very much/ completely)	Increase
Individual agency	2 questions (positive response to 1 or both of the questions) When you are tired, how often do you take clients when you do not want to? In the last one month, have you turned away clients when they refused to use a condom during sex? (Sometimes/ usually/ always)	Increase
Self-efficacy for service utilization	2 questions (positive response to 1 or both of the questions) How confident are you that you can go to the government health clinic to get the reproductive health services you need if the health worker there treat you badly? (Very much/ completely) How confident are you that you can go to the government health clinic to get the reproductive health services you need if health worker there know you are a sex worker? (Very much/ completely)	Increase

<sup>a</sup> In an approach to recognizing an interplay between gaining internal skills and overcoming external barriers, we drew upon a conceptual framework that included “power within” (internal qualities, such as self-confidence or critical thinking skills, that contribute to individual agency); and “power with” (communal dimensions, such as group solidarity or collective action, which acknowledge that positive change may often be effected through individuals acting together, rather than alone). (Kim et al. 2007)

Table 2.1: Indicators of empowerment index

Indicators	Survey questions	Hypothesized effect from base- to end-line
Power with <sup>a</sup>	Range: (0-7: Low, 8-9: High)	
Social cohesion	<p>5 questions (positive response to at least 4 questions)</p> <p>You can count on your colleagues if you need to talk about your problems. (Agree/ Strongly agree)</p> <p>You can count on your colleagues if you need advice. (Agree/ Strongly agree)</p> <p>You can count on your colleagues to help deal with a violent or difficult client. (Agree/ Strongly agree)</p> <p>The group of women with whom your work is an integrated group. (Agree/ Strongly agree)</p> <p>You can trust the majority of the people working in your area. (Agree/ Strongly agree)</p>	Increase
Collective efficacy	<p>4 questions (positive response to all the 4 questions)</p> <p>How confident are you that these sex workers in your community can work together to achieve the following goals: (Very much/ completely)</p> <p>A. Keep each other safe from harm</p> <p>B. Increase condom use with clients</p> <p>C. Speak-up for your rights</p> <p>D. Improve your lives</p>	Increase

<sup>a</sup> In an approach to recognizing an interplay between gaining internal skills and overcoming external barriers, we drew upon a conceptual framework that included “power within” (internal qualities, such as self-confidence or critical thinking skills, that contribute to individual agency); and “power with” (communal dimensions, such as group solidarity or collective action, which acknowledge that positive change may often be effected through individuals acting together, rather than alone). (Kim et al. 2007)

## 2.5 Data analysis

Univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analysis were used to meet the study objectives. While univariate analysis was carried out to understand the frequency distribution, bivariate analysis examined the relationship between background and outcomes variables. Chi-square tests were carried out where necessary. Multivariate logistic regression methods were applied to establish significance of the association between empowerment and experience of violence, empowerment and the selected HIV risks related outcomes, and experience of violence and the selected HIV risks related outcomes, while adjusting for the effects of other background variables of the study population. In-order to adjust the district level variations in the non-response rate, sample weights were applied in all analyses. Data analysis has been carried out using STATA 12.0 version of the software.

## 2.6 Ethical considerations

The survey received ethical approval from the Institutional Ethical Review Board at St. John's Medical College and Hospital, Bangalore, India, and the Health Research Ethics Board of University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada.



# Community Empowerment: Power with & Power within



### 3.1 Profile of the surveyed FSWs

The background characteristics of the selected FSWs are presented in Table 3.1. The profile of the sex workers covers three broad domains of their characteristics, i.e, socio-demographic, sex- work related, and characteristics related to FSWs exposure to any HIV related interventions.

Findings suggest that, at the overall level, FSWs selected under study were 32 years old. Most of the FSWs had no education as two-third of them belonged to the non-literate category. About 11 percent of the total FSWs were never married while 41 percent were currently married at the time of survey. At the overall level, less than one-tenth of the total FSWs were non-localite. The characteristics of FSWs across districts were almost same as discussed above except one that while one-third of the FSWs in Dharwad were non-localite, just three percent in Belgaum and less than one percent in Gulbarga and Gadag districts were those who migrated from some other areas to the respective places of interview.

In terms of sex-work characteristics, FSWs in these four districts initiated their work in sex work profession around 24-25 years of age. A large proportion of the sex workers were in this profession for more than two years at the time of survey. While most of the sex workers were soliciting their clients at public places (40% street based FSWs), about one-third of the FSWs (except those in Belgaum) reported their place of solicitation as other places such as Tamasha theatre. Of the remaining 30 percent FSWs, about 16 percent were soliciting their clients through phone and 14 percent at home/ brothel or lodges. On an average, sex workers in these districts had six clients in a week and had sex with seven sexual partners during a week. While sex work profile across districts was largely in the same line as discussed above few differences were also visible. For example, among all the four districts highest proportion of FSWs in Dharwad were new to this profession (11% had duration in sex work of less than two years) while just three percent of those in Belgaum were engaged in sex work since last two years. The differences in sex work profile across district were also visible in terms of typologies. While large proportion of FSWs in Belgaum and Dharwad were soliciting their clients at public places, majority of the FSWs in Gulbarga and Gadag districts were soliciting their clients at other places such as Tamasha theatres followed by public places.

At the overall level, 70 percent FSWs were ever contacted with any HIV intervention programme. About 58 percent of the total FSWs also reported that they were first time contacted by any HIV intervention programme about one year preceding the survey. Among all the four districts selected under study, highest proportion of FSWs in Belgaum followed by those in Dharwad, Gulbarga and Gadag were reached through any HIV related intervention activities. Question was also asked in the survey about the membership of FSWs in any community based organizations (CBOs). Findings suggest that, at the overall level, 69% FSWs were part of any such organization. The extent of membership was highest in Dharwad (79%) followed by Belgaum, Gulbarga and Gadag (73%, 62% and 61%, respectively).

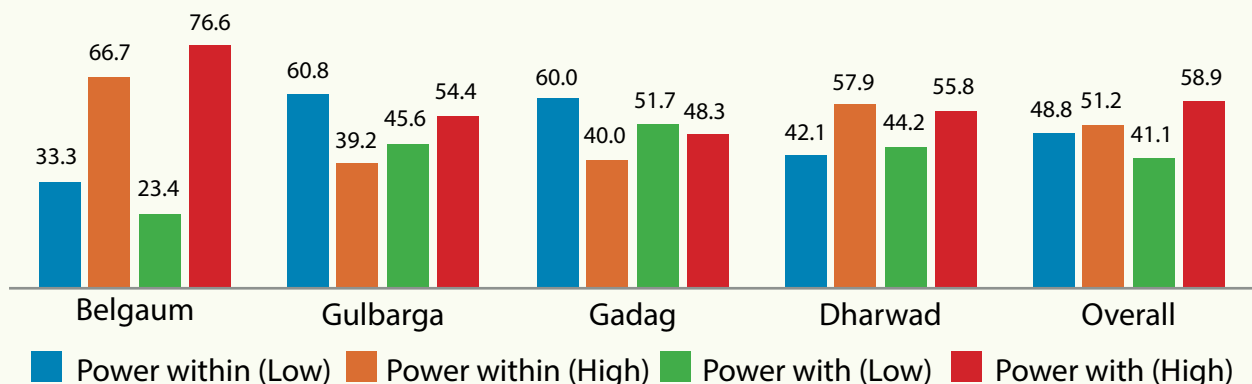
Table 3.1: Profile of the surveyed female sex workers according to district, Baseline Survey

Characteristic		Belgaum	Gulbarga	Gadag	Dharwad	Overall	
A. Socio-demographic characteristic	Mean age	32.0	30.8	31.4	33.6	32.0	
	Non-literate (%)	73.2	69.2	80.6	74.4	74.4	
	Current marital status	Never married	17.8	9.0	13.7	2.9	11.0
		Currently married	35.7	40.9	46.0	42.0	41.2
		Other	46.5	50.1	40.2	55.1	47.9
	Non-localite (%)	3.4	.3	.1	30.4	8.5	
B. Sex work characteristic	Mean age at start of sex work	24.4	25.8	25.7	26.6	25.6	
	Duration in sex work since <2 years	2.5	8.6	6.5	10.7	7.0	
	Sex work typology	Home/Brothel/Lodge based	21.3	14.1	8.1	14.0	13.6
		Street based	57.3	26.7	29.7	52.2	39.7
		Phone based	12.1	23.7	19.6	5.5	15.8
		Other (Tamasha theatre)	9.2	35.5	42.6	28.3	30.9
	Weekly client volume	<5	41.6	29.6	43.0	33.0	37.0
		5-9	49.0	54.3	48.7	54.2	51.5
		10+	9.4	16.1	8.4	12.8	11.6
		Mean number of clients per week	5.9	6.4	5.6	6.0	6.0
	Weekly sexual partners	<5	31.4	20.9	24.3	27.4	26.1
		5-9	53.3	57.7	63.9	55.3	57.5
		10+	15.3	21.5	11.8	17.3	16.4
		Mean number of sexual partners	6.8	7.5	6.6	6.9	6.9
C. Programme exposure characteristic	Ever contacted by programme	94.4	64.1	57.1	71.3	69.6	
	First time contacted by programme a year ago	90.6	51.8	39.9	61.7	58.0	
	Member of CBO	73.2	62.3	61.3	78.9	69.0	
N		380	345	376	363	1464	

### 3.2 Level of empowerment among FSWs

As described in the methodology section, the level of empowerment among FSWs is defined in terms of “Power within” and “Power with”. Figure 3.1 shows the distribution of respondents according to the level of empowerment across districts. At the overall level, 51 percent and 59 percent FSWs were belonging to the high level of empowerment group (power within and power with, respectively). Among the FSWs of all the four districts, highest proportion of them were in the high category of empowerment index in Belgaum (67% power within and 77% power with) followed by Dharwad and Gulbarga. The level of empowerment was lowest in Gadag district with just 40% and 48% of the FSWs were belonging to the high category of power within and power with index.

Figure 3.1: Percent distribution of FSWs by their level of empowerment according to district



### 3.3 Differential in level of empowerment by background characteristics of FSWs

Table 3.2 presents the differential in levels of empowerment by the selected background characteristics of FSWs interviewed during the survey. Findings suggest that FSWs aged 35 and above, those who were literate, other than currently not married, localite, have less than two years of exposure in the sex work and were soliciting their clients at home/ brothel/ lodges or public places were more likely to belong to the high category of the power within index. In addition to that, sex workers having 10 or more weekly clients, and two or more years of exposure to the programme were more likely to report high level of power within. Contrary to the expectation, those belonging to any CBO had less power within themselves. While the characteristics of FSWs who belonged to the high category of power with index were almost similar in the characteristics of those who belonged to the high category of the power within index except that participation of FSWs in community based organizations increases the chances of falling in the high category of power with index.

Although, some level of differential in the extent of empowerment within each variables were evident, it is hard to say that these differentials hold good if we take into account the combination of characteristics together. In order to account the variations in the characteristics

of the study population across districts, two separate multivariate binary logistic regression analysis has been used where in the first model power within (low=0; high=1) and in the second model power with (low=0; high=1) is considered as an outcome variable. These two regressions are adjusted for almost all the background variables shown in Table 3.1 as well as the district from which they participated in the interview.

**Table 3.2:** Percent distribution of FSWs by their level of empowerment according to selected background characteristics, Overall, Baseline Survey

Characteristic		Power within		Power with		N
		Low	High	Low	High	
Age	<25	49.6	50.4	46.6	53.4	157
	25-34	51.3	48.7	39.9	60.1	729
	35 and above	45.4	54.6	41.1	58.9	578
Literacy status	Literate	48.2	51.8	38.5	61.5	1086
	Non-literate	50.6	49.4	41.9	58.1	378
Currentmaritalstatus	Never married	46.8	53.2	37.4	62.6	163
	Currently married	51.5	48.5	44.5	55.5	601
	Divorced/Widowed/Separated	47.0	53.0	38.9	61.1	700
Migration status	Non-localite	57.6	42.4	55.5	44.5	99
	Localite	48.0	52.0	39.7	60.3	1365
Durationinsexwork	<2 years	48.2	51.8	40.1	59.9	1365
	2 or more years	56.8	43.2	54.1	45.9	99
Sex work typology	Home/Brothel/Lodgebased	45.2	54.8	38.0	62.0	336
	Street based	47.0	53.0	37.1	62.9	772
	Phone based	58.1	41.9	53.2	46.8	337
Weeklyclientvolume	<5	50.2	49.8	51.5	48.5	565
	5-9	51.6	48.4	36.6	63.4	729
	10+	32.0	68.0	27.4	72.6	170
Time since first contactedbyprogram	Contactedwithinlast2year	59.7	40.3	61.1	38.9	232
	Contactedbeforelast2years	46.8	53.2	36.7	63.3	1215
Member of a CBO	No	44.4	55.6	43.9	56.1	463
	Yes	50.8	49.2	39.8	60.2	1001

Results of regression analysis are presented in the form of odds ratios in Table 3.3. Findings reveal the fact that once the characteristics of FSWs have taken into account, FSWs who were localite, had more than five clients per week were significantly more likely to have sense of power within them.

**Table 3.3: Results of multivariate logistic regression analysis showing association between selected background characteristics and high empowerment among FSWs, Overall, Baseline Survey**

Co-variates		Adjusted Odds Ratio [95% CI]	
		Power within	Power with
Age	<25 (Ref)		
	25-34	0.96 [0.66-1.39]	1.35 [0.93-1.97]
	35 and above	1.19 [0.80-1.76]	1.35 [0.91-2.01]
Literacy status	Literate (Ref)		
	Non-literate	1.06 [0.82-1.37]	0.82 [0.63-1.07]
Current marital status	Never married (Ref)		
	Currently married	1.03 [0.70-1.50]	1.04 [0.71-1.54]
	Divorced/Widowed/Separated	1.08 [0.75-1.58]	1.15 [0.78-1.69]
Migration status	Non-localite (Ref)		
	Localite	2.67 [1.73-4.13]***	2.45 [1.58-3.79]***
Duration in sex work	<2 years (Ref)		
	2 or more years	0.75 [0.48-1.17]	0.65 [0.42-1.00]
Sex work typology	Home/Brothel/Lodgebased (Ref)		
	Street based	0.98 [0.74-1.32]	1.07 [0.79-1.44]
	Phone based	0.88 [0.62-1.25]	0.62 [0.43-0.87]**
Weekly client volume	<5 (Ref)		
	5-9	1.58 [1.08-2.32]*	2.23 [1.53-3.24]***
	10+	2.94 [1.44-6.04]**	2.85 [1.34-6.05]**
Timesincefirstcontactedby program	Not contacted (Ref)		
	Contactedwithinlast2year	0.53 [0.36-0.80]**	0.83 [0.56-1.23]
	Contactedbeforelast2years	0.75 [0.39-1.45]	1.10 [0.55-2.20]
Member of a CBO	No (Ref)		
	Yes	0.65 [0.51-0.83]**	1.08 [0.85-1.39]
District	Belgaum (Ref)		
	Gulbarga	0.29 [0.21-0.40]***	0.34 [0.24-0.48]***
	Gadag	0.33 [0.24-0.45]***	0.31 [0.22-0.43]***
	Dharwad	0.88 [0.63-1.24]	0.42 [0.29-0.60]***

\* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; Ref: Reference category. Note: Model is adjusted for all the variables shown in the table.

However, FSWs who had lesser duration of contact with the programme (contacted first time with the intervention activities within last two years) and were member of any CBOs were less likely to have high level of power within them measured in terms of internal qualities such as individual agency, self efficacy in service utilization and confidence. Results also suggest that, in comparison to the FSWs interviewed in Belgaum, all those who were from Gulbarga and Gadag were significantly less likely to report high level of power within.

Table 3.3 also shows association between selected characteristics of FSWs and the likelihood of high level of empowerment in terms of “power with” which represent various communal dimensions, such as group solidarity or collective action, which acknowledge that positive change may often be effected through individuals acting together, rather than alone. Results were almost same as described above. Localite FSWs and those with high weekly client volume (more than 5) were significantly more likely than their counter parts to report high levels of collective actions. The extent of such actions was significantly lower among sex workers who were soliciting their clients through phone and those who were selected from other than Belgaum district. Other background variables shown in the table did not reveal any significant effect on any of the power dimensions once their effect is measured after controlling the effect of several confounding variables.

### 3.4 Differential in high level of empowerment by background characteristics of FSWs across districts

The differential in high level of empowerment by background characteristics of the FSWs across districts is presented in Table 3.4. Results suggest that while most of the young FSWs (below 25 years) in Belgaum had shown high level of internal qualities such as self-confidence, individual agency and self-efficacy in service utilizations, relatively higher proportion of older FSWs (aged 35 years and above) in Gulbarga had shown such internal qualities. There were not much age-specific differences in the extent of high level of power within qualities among the FSWs interviewed in Gadag and Dharwad. The result was almost same in case of power with also except the fact that in comparison to young FSWs relatively higher proportion of elder FSWs in Dharwad were belonging to the high category of power with index.

Differences in the level of empowerment by educational attainment across district were quite visible. While higher proportion of literate FSWs in Belgaum and Dharwad reported to have higher internal qualities (power within), the situation was just reversed in Gulbarga and Gadag. Again higher proportion of literate FSWs of Belgaum and Gulbarga reported to have higher power to perform collective actions while the situation was just opposite in Gadag district. Equal proportions of literate and non-literate FSWs in Dharwad were belonging to high category of power with index. Results also show typology-wise differences in the level of empowerment across districts. While large proportion of phone based sex workers in Belgaum and Dharwad had high level of empowerment (both power within and power with), sex workers at fixed palaces in Gulbarga and public places in Gadag were better empowered.

Table 3.4: Percent distribution of FSWs by their level of empowerment according to selected background characteristics and district, Baseline Survey

Characteristic		Belgaum			Gulbarga			Gadag			Dharwad		
		Power within	Power with	N	Power within	Power with	N	Power within	Power with	N	Power within	Power with	N
Age	<25	74.4	80.5	44	31.8	41.0	44	38.6	52.7	37	55.8	36.9	32
	25-34	67.3	78.2	195	32.4	57.0	184	39.4	49.4	194	56.4	54.3	156
	35andabove	63.5	73.1	141	53.2	55.2	117	41.3	45.8	145	59.7	61.2	175
Literacy status	Literate	69.2	86.2	105	30.4	56.6	102	33.5	41.4	68	62.1	55.9	108
	Non-literate	65.8	73.0	275	43.1	53.5	243	41.6	50.0	308	56.4	55.8	260
Current marital status	Nevermarried	65.4	71.6	72	53.2	64.1	29	37.9	55.3	53	(49.9)	(36.5)	9
	Currently married	64.9	75.5	130	37.7	48.7	138	40.4	40.5	168	53.2	61.0	165
	Divorced/ Widowed/ Separated	68.7	79.3	178	37.8	57.4	178	40.4	54.9	155	61.8	52.9	189
Migration status	Non-localite	(68.9)	(64.6)	14	(0.0)	(100.0)	2	(100.0)	(100.0)	1	39.4	41.4	82
	Localite	66.7	77.0	366	39.3	54.3	343	40.0	48.2	375	65.9	62.1	281
Duration in sex work	<2 years	66.7	76.7	371	39.3	54.0	312	40.9	48.7	352	58.6	58.8	330
	2ormoreyears	(66.4)	(72.1)	9	37.2	59.3	33	27.7	43.1	24	51.8	30.8	33
Sexwork typology	Home/Brothel/ Lodgebased	62.1	77.3	94	50.6	62.8	76	46.9	39.3	52	56.2	59.3	114
	Streetbased	64.0	74.8	229	39.7	69.1	144	43.3	55.6	194	57.6	54.3	205
	Phonebased	82.4	84.0	45	31.7	33.0	125	31.5	43.1	123	64.4	60.9	44
Weekly client volume	<5	68.3	68.8	152	32.8	34.6	102	32.2	34.7	163	63.8	52.2	148
	5-9	64.1	80.4	187	36.0	60.1	185	41.1	55.9	180	52.1	57.4	177
	10+	73.8	91.0	41	61.5	72.0	58	74.1	74.1	33	67.3	58.3	38
Time since first contacted by program	Contacted within last 2 year	90.1	73.4	15	19.9	30.7	68	30.3	38.5	107	74.2	39.9	42
	Contacted before last 2 years	65.7	76.7	365	43.8	60.4	274	42.8	52.8	257	55.4	58.6	319
Member of a CBO	No	69.4	72.1	106	52.5	58.5	137	49.3	49.3	152	54.8	43.7	68
	Yes	65.8	78.2	274	31.1	52.0	208	34.2	47.6	224	58.7	59.1	295

Note: Percentages shown in parenthesis are based on small number of un-weighted cases.



# Violence among FSWs:

Awareness and  
Experiences



#### 4.1 Awareness/ perception on perpetrators of violence

Table 4.1 presents district-wise differential in the awareness of different perpetrators of violence. Findings suggest that, at the overall level as well as across districts, FSWs in study area were well aware about different types of violence perpetrators. Majority of the FSWs, irrespective of the districts, reported that most of the violence being perpetrated by clients (64%) or local gundas (54%). More than one third of the FSWs, except those interviewed in Dharwad, mentioned about regular partner/ husband as one of the perpetrators of violence. A large proportion of FSWs in Belgaum and Dharwad also reported that police and general members of the community are the two important perpetrators of violence. Less than ten percent of the FSWs in Gulbarga, Gadag and Dharwad while less than five percent in Belgaum, Gulbarga, and Dharwad were perceived that family members and co-sex workers/ brothel madams, respectively, also perpetuate violence.

**Table 4.1: Percentage of FSWs by their awareness/ perception on perpetrators of violence according to district, Baseline Survey**

Perpetrators of violence	Belgaum	Gulbarga	Gadag	Dharwad	Overall
Clients	69.6	59.0	60.9	65.2	63.8
Regular partner/ husband	34.2	49.8	40.6	22.9	36.7
Co-sexworkers/brothelmadam	0.7	4.6	9.2	3.6	4.5
General community	29.8	4.9	6.3	29.0	17.7
Family members	12.5	3.0	8.1	6.3	7.6
Gundas	61.3	43.6	39.6	70.4	53.8
Police	46.2	13.2	23.8	36.1	30.2
Other*	14.8	24.2	23.2	14.7	19.1
N	380	345	376	363	1464

\*Includes health care provider, government officials, strangers etc.

#### 4.2 Awareness/ perception on reasons for violence

Information was also gathered about awareness/ perception of FSWs on various reasons for violence and results are summarized in Table 4.2. Across all the districts selected under study, about 90 percent FSWs perceived that FSWs experience violence due to their engagement in sex work. Another two-third of the FSWs, at the overall level, perceived that due to financial constraints, FSWs are at the higher risk of experiencing violence. Such perception was relatively higher among FSWs in Belgaum and Dharwad. More than one-third of the FSWs in Belgaum and about one-fourth of the FSWs in Gadag, respectively, felt that due to partner's alcohol use and due to the sub-ordinate position of the FSWs in the society they experience more violence.

**Table 4.2: Percentage of FSWs by their awareness/ perception on reasons for violence according to district, Baseline Survey**

Reasons for violence	Belgaum	Gulbarga	Gadag	Dharwad	Overall
Sex work practice	93.7	93.3	89.3	85.3	90.4
Financial constraints	89.6	51.1	45.2	77.9	66.2
Alcohol use	35.5	16.2	7.5	15.6	18.8
Other*	17.5	17.6	26.0	4.9	16.6
N	380	345	376	363	1464

\* Includes confidentiality, property and caste related reasons

### 4.3 Awareness/ perception on consequences of violence

All the FSWs interviewed across the districts were aware of one or other consequences that may arise as a result of violence. Some of the consequences were at the individual level (i.e. for the FSWs itself) while few were related to the children. Findings on perception of FSWs on various consequence of violence are presented in Table 4.3.

Findings shown in the below table suggest that, at the overall level, 97 percent FSWs reported mental stress as one of the most important consequences of violence. Another important consequence of violence perceived by FSWs was loss of self-esteem and confidence as about 87 percent FSWs at the overall level and 73-97% across districts perceived so. Restricted access to services and isolations from social network was two other consequences which FSWs perceived that arises as a consequence of violence. Almost three-fifth of FSWs also mentioned that as a consequence of violence women start using either harmful substances or it increases the chances of having risky sexual behaviour.

**Table 4.3: Percentage of FSWs by their awareness/ perception on consequences of violence according to district, Baseline Survey**

Consequences of violence	Belgaum	Gulbarga	Gadag	Dharwad	Overall
Mental stress	98.4	99.0	94.6	95.3	96.8
Loss of self-esteem and confidence	97.2	73.3	82.9	93.7	87.0
Effect of family relationship	35.5	16.2	7.5	15.6	18.8
Restricted access to services	86.3	57.2	78.4	75.8	74.8
Isolation from social network	75.5	71.4	72.8	63.6	70.9
Increased risky sexual behaviour	67.6	43.3	63.1	62.3	59.4
Harmful substance use	74.1	54.8	55.7	65.4	62.7
Fear/anxiety/depression among children	95.0	64.1	71.9	90.6	80.7
Low self-esteem among children	92.3	78.8	69.6	92.2	83.2
Poor school performance among children	91.8	65.0	65.2	89.7	78.1
Children become violent	91.5	70.1	63.2	86.4	77.9
N	380	345	376	363	1464

Few consequences reported at the children level includes: low self-esteem among children, fear/ anxiety/ depression among children, their poor school performance or their violent behaviour.

#### 4.4 Experience of violence

This study examined the life-time experience of violence and violence experienced in 12 months period preceding the survey by intimate partner/ husbands and physical and sexual violence (forced sex) by clients and other individuals in six and 12 months preceding the survey respectively. Table 4.4 suggests that, at the overall level, 48 percent of FSWs have experienced any form of violence in their lifetime. Of the total sample, 43 percent experienced physical violence, 14 percent experienced sexual violence and 37 percent experienced other forms of violence such as use of abusive language, threatening, and humiliation in front of others. The district level differences in experiences of lifetime violence suggest that experience of violence (any, physical and sexual) was highest in Gadag followed by Dharwad, Gulbarga and Belgaum. While one-fourth of the FSWs in Gadag experienced sexual violence, the extent of such violence in Dharwad, Belgaum and Gulbarga were 14 percent, 11 percent and three percent, respectively.

**Table 4.4: Percentage of FSWs by their experiences of different forms of violence according to district, Baseline Survey**

Forms of violence			Belgaum	Gulbarga	Gadag	Dharwad	Overall
A. Violence perpetrated by intimate partner/ husband	i. Ever experience of violence	Any	39.9	40.9	56.8	52.8	47.8
		Physical	35.0	39.9	47.4	48.8	42.9
		Sexual	11.2	3.2	24.8	14.4	13.6
		Other*	37.1	18.3	45.3	47.4	37.4
	ii. Experience of violence in last 12 months	Any	23.5	28.1	50.0	35.8	34.6
		Physical	18.7	26.9	41.6	31.8	29.9
		Sexual	5.2	1.1	22.4	8.7	9.6
		Other*	20.9	8.7	39.9	31.1	25.5
B. Violence perpetrated by clients/other individuals	Ever experienced physical violence	38.3	40.1	50.9	61.1	47.6	
	Physical violence in past 6 months	23.4	30.0	38.5	41.9	33.4	
	Forced sex in last 12 months	8.1	18.0	16.4	12.2	13.6	
N		380	345	376	363	1464	

Experience of any form of IPV or physical violence perpetrated by intimate partners/ husband followed similar pattern as described above. At the overall level, 35 percent FSWs experienced any form of violence: 30 percent experienced physical violence, 10 percent sexual violence and 26 percent reported about other forms of violence perpetrated by intimate partner/ husband in the last 12 months preceding the survey. Highest proportion of FSWs in Gadag followed by Dharwad, Gulbarga and Belgaum experienced any form of violence and physical violence by their intimate partners/ husband in 12 months preceding the survey. Prevalence of sexual and other forms of violence were also highly reported in Gadag, whereas, prevalence of sexual and other forms of violence was lowest in Gulbarga district (one and nine percent respectively).

This study also reports some of the violence perpetrated by clients or other individual either in the lifetime of during the 12 months period preceding the survey. Findings show that, at the overall level, 48 percent FSWs ever experienced physical violence perpetuated by clients in their lifetime. Experience of such violence in last six months preceding the survey was 33 percent. Additionally, 14 percent FSWs experienced forced sex with clients/ other individuals in the last 12 months period preceding the survey. Among all the four districts selected under study, the prevalence of physical violence in last six months preceding the survey perpetuated by clients/ other individuals was highest in Dharwad (42%) followed by Gadag (39%), Gulbarga (30%) and Belgaum (23%). However, the experience of forced sex varied between 8% to 18% across these districts.

#### 4.5 Violence by background characteristics of FSWs

Table 4.5 depicts experience of physical, sexual or other forms of IPV and violence perpetrated by clients by selected background characteristics of FSWs. At the overall level, experience of any form of IPV in last 12 months was highest among younger FSWs (FSWs below age 25 years mostly experienced other forms of violence) whereas the extent of physical and sexual violence was higher among older FSWs. Literate FSWs, those who were currently married, Non-localite, and started sex work at younger ages (below 25 years) were at the higher risk of experiencing one or other forms of IPV.

Experience of violence was least among the sex workers soliciting their clients at home/ brothels/ lodges kind of fixed places whereas highest among those using phone as a mode of solicitation for their clients. FSWs with higher weekly client volume (10 or more clients) also experienced higher IPV than those with low weekly client volume (less than 10 clients). Being a member of CBO did not work as a protective factor for violence as the risk of experiencing IPV was higher among FSWs who were member of any CBO. The effect of empowerment on experiencing violence was mixed. While FSWs with high internal qualities (power within) were less likely to experience physical violence perpetuated by intimate partner/ husband, the extent of sexual violence was more among the FSWs belonging to the high power within categories. The effect of social cohesion (power with) on experience of IPV was relatively consistent as FSWs belonging to the high category of power with index were less likely to experience any form of violence perpetuated by intimate partner or their husband in the 12 months period preceding the survey.

Analysis on experience of physical or sexual violence perpetrated by clients by the background characteristics of FSWs also revealed the fact that extent of such violence differs by age, education, migration status, age at start of sex work, sex work typology, weekly client volume, CBO membership and level of empowerment of the FSWs. The direction of effects of these variables remains almost same as described in case of IPV.

**Table 4.5: Percentage of FSWs who experienced different forms of violence by their selected background characteristics, Overall, Baseline Survey**

Characteristic		Violence perpetrated by intimate partner/husband in last 12m				N	Violence by clients/ other individuals		N
		Any	Physical	Sexual	Other		Physical violence in last 6 months	Sexual violence in last 12 months	
Age	<25	37.3	6.7	24.5	39.2	144	43.4	17.7	157
	25-34	32.1	9.7	26.7	37.4	699	35.5	14.1	729
	35 and above	25.0	10.2	24.2	29.6	553	28.0	11.8	578
Literacy status	Literate	36.8	12.4	29.5	42.5	362	38.7	16.0	378
	Non-literate	27.5	8.6	24.2	31.8	1,034	31.6	12.7	1,086
Current marital status	Never married	29.3	13.5	33.0	35.8	95	32.8	13.7	163
	Currently married	37.9	12.0	33.4	43.3	601	37.2	13.0	601
	Divorced/ Widowed/ Separated	23.0	6.9	17.7	26.8	700	30.4	14.0	700
Migration status	Non-localite	32.4	9.9	30.3	36.2	94	45.3	18.3	99
	Localite	29.6	9.5	25.1	34.4	1,302	32.3	13.1	1,365
Age at start of sex work	<25	32.0	9.8	26.3	37.0	544	37.8	16.9	596
	25-34	29.6	9.5	25.1	34.0	723	32.2	12.2	738
	35 and above	21.3	8.6	24.4	25.7	129	18.0	5.2	130

Table 4.5: Percentage of FSWs who experienced different forms of violence by their selected background characteristics, Overall, Baseline Survey

Characteristic		Violence perpetrated by intimate partner/husband in last 12m				N	Violence by clients/other individuals		N
		Any	Physical	Sexual	Other		Physical violence in last 6 months	Sexual violence in last 12 months	
Duration in sex work	<2 years	29.5	9.9	25.6	34.3	1,303	33.4	13.7	1,365
	2 or more years	34.7	5.5	23.9	37.6	93	34.6	11.5	99
Sex work typology	Home/Brothel/Lodge based	17.4	7.4	17.5	21.7	323	23.3	7.7	336
	Street based	27.2	8.2	27.3	31.8	738	29.7	9.0	772
	Phone based	47.6	14.6	27.4	53.0	317	52.6	30.0	337
Weekly client volume	<5	27.7	10.2	22.1	30.9	541	30.5	11.8	565
	5-9	31.2	8.1	26.1	36.4	697	35.0	13.5	729
	10+	31.2	13.9	34.0	38.2	158	36.0	19.6	170
Time since first contacted by program	Not contacted	43.4	24.2	43.4	56.0	16	11.6	7.0	17
	Contacted within last 2 year	53.7	21.3	31.5	59.5	213	56.1	29.6	232
	Contacted before last 2 years	25.2	7.1	24.2	29.5	1,167	29.2	10.5	1,215
Member of a CBO	No	18.6	6.2	19.7	22.4	439	19.9	6.4	463
	Yes	34.9	11.0	28.1	40.0	957	39.5	16.8	1,001
Power within	Low	39.7	36.6	8.3	24.5	658	39.2	16.6	714
	High	29.8	23.6	10.7	26.4	738	28.0	10.7	750
Power with	Low	42.9	38.1	10.9	26.6	535	41.1	20.9	602
	High	28.9	24.3	8.7	24.8	861	28.1	8.5	862

#### 4.6 Results of multivariate analysis on women's experience of violence

Multivariate logistic regression models were carried out to examine the association between women's experience of violence perpetuated by intimate and non-intimate partners their socio-demographic and sex work related characteristics and level of empowerment. Results of this analysis are presented in the form of adjusted odds ratio in Table 4.6.

The important variable of investigation in this analysis was the association between level of empowerment and risk of experiencing violence by different partners. Findings suggest that, when the effects various characteristics of FSWs were adjusted for, the empowerment index retained its effect only for selected outcomes. For example, compared to FSWs with low internal qualities (power within), FSWs with high levels of internal qualities were significantly less likely to experience physical violence perpetuated by intimate and non-intimate partners in 12 months and six months preceding the survey, respectively, while more likely to experience sexual violence perpetuated by intimate partners during the 12 months period prior to the survey.

The effect of high level of power with, measured in terms of social cohesion and collective agency, was significantly and positively associated with experience of violence as women belonging to the high category of power with index were less likely to report experience of any and physical violence perpetuated by intimate partner in last 12 months preceding the survey and were also significantly less likely to experience physical violence and forced sex perpetuated by clients in six months and 12 months period prior to the survey, respectively. Except the duration in sex work, all other variables included in the model had a significant association with sex worker's experience of one or multiple forms of violence. Among these factors, sex work typology, duration since first contacted by the programme, and CBO membership had strong association with experience of physical, sexual or other forms of violence perpetuated by intimate or non-intimate partners.

Table 4.6: Results of multivariate logistic regression analysis showing association between selected background characteristics of FSWs and their experience of intimate partner/ non-intimate partner's violence, Overall, Baseline Survey

Co-variates		Adjusted odds-ratio [95% CI]					
		Experienced violence by intimate partner/ husband in last 12 months				Experience violence by clients/other individual	
		Any	Physical	Sexual	Other	Physical in last 6 months	Forced sex in last 12 months
Age	<25 (Ref)						
	25-34	0.97 [0.62-1.50]	0.78 [0.50-1.22]	1.59 [0.73-3.47]	1.13 [0.71-1.81]	0.71 [0.47-1.08]	0.94 [0.54-1.63]
	35 and above	0.76 [0.46-1.26]	0.61 [0.36-1.02]	1.87 [0.78-4.44]	0.93 [0.54-1.59]	0.61 [0.38-0.99]*	1.25 [0.66-2.38]
Literacy status	Literate (Ref)						
	Non-literate	0.61 [0.46-0.81]**	0.68 [0.51-0.90]**	0.50 [0.32-0.77]**	0.66 [0.49-0.88]**	0.85 [0.64-1.11]	0.87 [0.60-1.26]
Current marital status	Nevermarried (Ref)						
	Currently married	1.04 [0.62-1.75]	1.02 [0.59-1.74]	0.82 [0.38-1.75]	1.01 [0.59-1.72]	1.06 [0.69-1.61]	0.92 [0.51-1.63]
	Divorced/ Widowed/ Separated	0.47 [0.28-0.79]**	0.48 [0.28-0.83]**	0.49 [0.23-1.06]	0.39 [0.23-0.66]**	0.77 [0.51-1.17]	1.10 [0.62-1.93]
Migration status	Non-localite (Ref)						
	Localite	0.96 [0.60-1.53]	0.98 [0.60-1.59]	0.54 [0.25-1.15]	0.97 [0.60-1.57]	0.75 [0.48-1.19]	0.43 [0.23-0.80]**
Age at start of sexwork	<25 (Ref)						
	25-34	0.96 [0.72-1.29]	1.02 [0.76-1.39]	0.87 [0.55-1.38]	1.04 [0.76-1.41]	0.84 [0.63-1.11]	0.66 [0.45-0.98]*
	35 and above	0.95 [0.54-1.65]	0.96 [0.53-1.73]	0.97 [0.41-2.30]	1.33 [0.75-2.36]	0.45 [0.25-0.82]**	0.29 [0.11-0.75]*
Duration in sexwork	<2 years (Ref)						
	2ormoreyears	1.02 [0.63-1.64]	1.09 [0.67-1.76]	0.70 [0.27-1.81]	0.87 [0.51-1.47]	0.97 [0.60-1.56]	0.90 [0.45-1.82]
Sexwork typology	Home/ Brothel/ Lodge based (Ref)						
	Street based	1.40 [0.99-1.97]	1.50 [1.04-2.18]*	0.83 [0.47-1.46]	1.49 [1.03-2.17]*	1.13 [0.81-1.58]	0.91 [0.54-1.54]
	Phone based	3.30 [2.22-4.90]***	3.40 [2.25-5.15]***	1.74 [0.94-3.20]	1.74 [1.13-2.69]*	3.41 [2.32-5.02]***	3.93 [2.30-6.72]***

Contd...



Co-variates		Adjusted odds-ratio [95% CI]					
		Experienced violence by intimate partner/ husband in last 12 months				Experience violence by clients/other individual	
		Any	Physical	Sexual	Other	Physical in last 6 months	Forced sex in last 12 months
Weekly client volume	<5 (Ref)						
	5-9	1.15 [0.77-1.73]	0.95 [0.63-1.44]	1.17 [0.61-2.21]	1.41 [0.90-2.21]	0.89 [0.60-1.33]	1.08 [0.64-1.83]
	10+	0.80 [0.38-1.67]	0.53 [0.25-1.14]	2.29 [0.68-7.73]	1.36 [0.62-2.97]	0.39 [0.19-0.82]*	0.92 [0.36-2.34]
Time since first contacted by program	Not contacted (Ref)						
	Contacted within last 2 year	1.41 [0.90-2.19]	1.51 [0.96-2.37]	0.77 [0.39-1.50]	0.91 [0.56-1.46]	1.49 [0.96-2.29]	1.37 [0.76-2.48]
	Contacted before last 2 years	2.63 [1.31-5.29]**	3.28 [1.61-6.67]**	0.90 [0.28-2.87]	1.79 [0.86-3.75]	4.12 [2.07-8.19]***	3.11 [1.25-7.70]*
Member of a CBO	No (Ref)						
	Yes	2.49 [1.87-3.33]***	2.44 [1.80-3.31]***	2.20 [1.35-3.59]**	1.56 [1.16-2.12]**	2.56 [1.92-3.41]***	2.92 [1.88-4.54]***
Power within	Low (Ref)						
	High	0.82 [0.64-1.06]	0.68 [0.52-0.88]**	1.75 [1.15-2.68]**	1.12 [0.85-1.47]	0.72 [0.56-0.93]*	0.94 [0.65-1.35]
Power with	Low (Ref)						
	High	0.57 [0.44-0.73]***	0.59 [0.46-0.77]***	0.81 [0.53-1.23]	0.87 [0.66-1.14]	0.64 [0.50-0.83]**	0.39 [0.27-0.56]***
District	Belgaum (Ref)						
	Gulbarga	0.86 [0.58-1.28]	1.06 [0.70-1.61]	0.19 [0.06-0.63]**	0.33 [0.20-0.54]***	0.88 [0.60-1.30]	1.31 [0.76-2.24]
	Gadag	2.92 [2.04-4.20]***	2.56 [1.75-3.74]***	6.92 [3.84-12.46]***	2.82 [1.95-4.07]***	1.57 [1.10-2.25]*	1.40 [0.83-2.36]
	Dharwad	1.68 [1.16-2.45]**	1.91 [1.28-2.83]**	1.53 [0.80-2.95]	1.66 [1.14-2.44]**	2.25 [1.56-3.24]***	1.05 [0.59-1.84]

\* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; Ref: Reference category. Model is adjusted for the variables shown in the table.



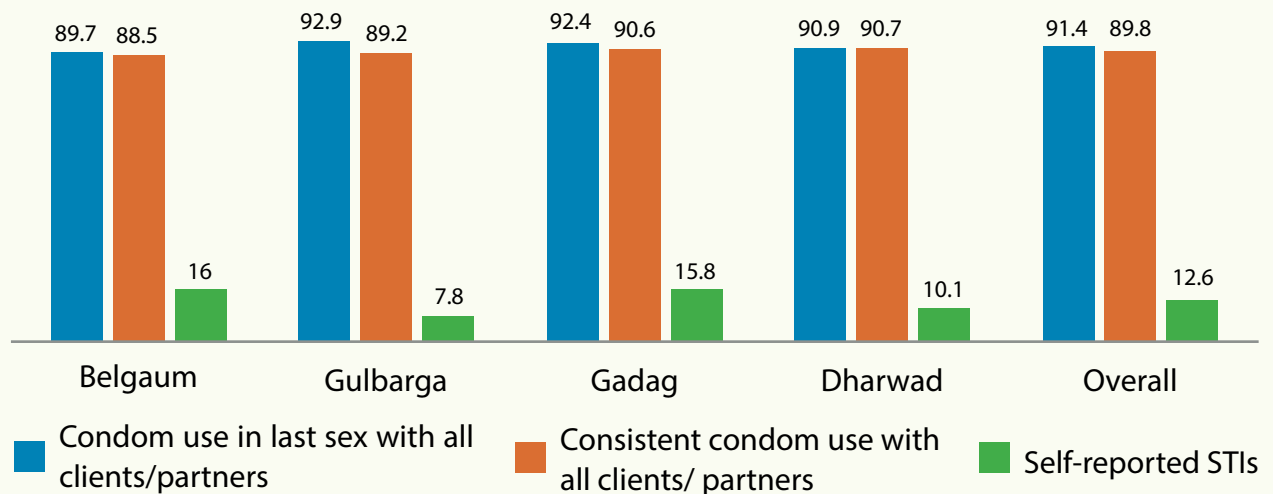
Empowerment,  
violence, HIV  
related risks and  
vulnerabilities,  
and linkage to  
the services

This section presents the findings on the relationship of empowerment and violence with selected HIV related risks and vulnerability indicators. The HIV related risks and vulnerabilities are studied mostly in terms of condom use at last sex with all clients/ partner, consistent condom use at each sex with all clients/ partners and the self-reported prevalence of STIs. Findings of this section are presented in two parts. In the first part, an overall prevalence of condom use and STI are presented while in the second part of the analysis mostly the association between empowerment, violence and selected risk and vulnerability indicators are presented. Additionally, this section also deals with the extent of service utilization among the FSWs who have experienced any form of intimate and non-intimate partner violence.

### 5.1 Condom use behaviour and self-reported STIs among FSWs

Figure 5.1 presents the level of condom use and prevalence of self-reported STIs among FSWs across districts. At the overall, as well as at the district levels, FSWs from the selected districts under study reported high levels of condom use. The level of condom use at last sex with all clients/ partners ranged between 90% to 93% whereas the consistent condom use with all clients/ partners varied from 89% to 91%.

Figure 5.1: Percentage of FSWs by their condom use behaviour and experience of STIs



Overall, just 13% FSWs reported that they were currently suffering from any form of STIs. The level self reported STIs was lowest in Gulbarga district (8%) while highest in Belgaum and Gadag districts (16%).

## 5.2 Condom use behaviour and self-reported STIs by background characteristics of FSWs

As seen in figure 5.1, the overall level of condom use at last sex and consistent condom use with all clients/ partners was considerably high among the FSWs selected under study, a subsequent analysis of condom use behaviour by the selected background characteristics of FSWs are

**Table 5.1: Percentage of FSWs by to condom use behaviour and experience of STIs according to selected background characteristics of FSWs, Overall, Baseline Survey**

Characteristic		Condom used in last sex with all clients/ partner	Consistent condom use with all clients/ partners	Self-reported STI	N
Age	<25	91.1	88.5	15.9	157
	25-34	90.0	87.9	14.1	729
	35 and above	93.3	92.5	9.7	578
Literacy status	Literate	90.2	86.6	14.8	378
	Non-literate	91.9	90.9	11.8	1,086
Current marital status	Never married	96.9	95.9	10.5	163
	Currently married	84.2	80.0	12.5	601
	Divorced/Widowed/ Separated	96.4	96.7	13.1	700
Migration status	Non-localite	86.1	85.4	11.0	99
	Localite	91.9	90.2	12.7	1,365
Duration in sex work	<2 years	91.1	89.6	13.0	1,365
	2 or more years	95.6	92.2	7.7	99
Sex work typology	Home/Brothel/Lodge based	91.1	90.0	10.2	336
	Street based	91.6	90.7	11.9	772
	Phone based	92.0	87.8	15.4	337
Weekly client volume	<5	94.2	92.6	11.3	565
	5-9	90.0	88.4	14.0	729
	10+	88.7	86.8	10.3	170
Times since first contacted by program	Not contacted	88.1	88.1	10.2	17
	Contacted within last 2 year	94.1	88.9	15.1	232
	Contacted before last 2 years	90.9	89.9	12.1	1,215
Member of a CBO	No	93.7	92.7	10.4	463
	Yes	90.4	88.4	13.5	1,001

presented in Table 5.1 which suggests that the extent of condom use was higher among older FSWs, localite, those were in sex work practice for more than two years, and have less client volume (less than 5 clients per week). The level of condom use did not vary considerably according to the other characteristics such as marital status, migration status, and membership in CBO. On the other hand, the prevalence of self-reported STIs found to be higher among young sex workers, those who were literate, localite, new to the sex work (duration in sex work of less than two year), hidden sex worker (those who were using phones as a mode of soliciting their clients), and did not have longer duration of exposure to the programme.

### 5.3 Differential in condom use and self-reported STIs by level of empowerment and experience of violence

Analysis also attempted to assess the differential in condom use and self-reported STIs by level of empowerment and experience of violence. At the overall level, level of empowerment, especially power within, did not adhere any greater impact on condom use behaviour and current prevalence of STIs. However, the consistent condom use with all clients/ partners was higher while current prevalence of STI was lower among FSWs who had high levels of social cohesion and collective efficacy characteristics.

**Table 5.2: Percentage of FSWs by condom use behaviour and experience of stis according to their levels of empowerment, Overall, Baseline Survey**

		Condomusedinlastsex withallclients/partner	Consistentcondomuse withallclients/partners	Self-reported STI	N
Powerwithin	Low	93.0	90.2	12.7	697
	High	89.9	89.3	12.4	767
	Significance	NS	NS	NS	-
Power with	Low	91.9	88.8	13.9	573
	High	91.1	90.4	11.7	891
	Significance	NS	*	*	-

Note: Level of significance is reported as a result of chi-square test at \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; NS: Not Significant

Findings presented in Table 5.3 revealed several associations between experience of violence and condom use behaviour and prevalence of STIs. Results suggest that condom use at last sex and consistent condom use was significantly lower while prevalence of STIs was significantly higher among FSWs who have experienced any forms of violence. Condom use at last sex with all clients/ partners varied between 91% to 95% among FSWs who did not experience violence compared to 81% to 90% among those who experience any form of violence- physical, sexual or other- perpetrated by intimate partners/ husbands during the last 12 months period preceding the survey. Similar was the case with consistent condom use with all clients/ partners where the levels of condom use varied between 79% to 83% among those who experience IPV in last 12 months to 90% to 94% among those who did not experience such violence.

The extent of condom use and prevalence of STIs were also found to be different among FSWs who experienced violence perpetrated by clients than those who did not experience such violence. Findings suggest that the condom use at last sex was 86% vs. 94% and consistent condom use was 82% vs. 94% among FSWs who faced physical violence by clients/ other individuals in past six months period preceding the survey than those who did not come across such violence. The level of condom use at last sex and consistent condom use was also lower among FSWs who were experienced forced sex in last 12 months preceding the survey. Again the prevalence of STIs was higher among FSWs who experienced either physical violence or sexual violence on the hands of clients.

**Table 5.3: Percentage of FSWs by condom use behaviour and experience of STIs according to their experiences of different forms of violence, Overall, Baseline Survey**

			Condom used in last sex with all clients/partner	Consistent condom use with all clients/partners	Self-reported STI	N
A. Violence perpetrated by intimate partner/husband in last 12 months	Any	No	94.7	94.1	8.5	930
		Yes	84.0	80.0	20.1	466
		Significance	**	**	***	-
	Physical	No	94.0	93.4	9.0	988
		Yes	84.0	79.6	20.9	408
		Significance	**	***	***	-
	Sexual	No	91.1	90.0	10.8	1,265
		Yes	90.1	82.7	28.8	131
		Significance	NS	**	***	-
	Other	No	94.2	92.6	10.3	1,054
		Yes	81.7	79.4	19.2	342
		Significance	**	***	**	-
B. Violence perpetrated by clients/other individuals	Physical violence in past 6 months	No	94.4	93.7	8.7	992
		Yes	85.5	81.9	20.2	472
		Significance	*	**	***	-
	Forced sex in last 12 months	No	92.1	91.4	10.7	1,281
		Yes	87.0	79.2	24.6	183
		Significance	NS	***	***	-

Note: Level of significance is reported as a result of chi-square test at \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; NS: Not Significant

## 5.4 Differential in condom use and self-reported STIs by level of empowerment and experience of violence across districts

Differential in condom use behaviour and prevalence of self-reported STIs by level of empowerment and experience of violence across districts are presented in Tables 5.4 and 5.5. Results show a weak relationship between empowerment indices and condom use behaviour and prevalence of STIs across district. The only significant difference that observed across districts were low prevalence of STIs in Gulbarga among FSWs belonging to high category of power within index and those in Gulbarga and Dharwad and belonging to high category of power with index.

Table 5.5 represents percentages of FSWs by condom use behaviour and experience of STIs according to the experience of violence across districts. Results clearly indicated the fact that condom use at last sex with all clients/ partners and consistent condom use with all clients/ partners was significantly lower among the FSWs who experienced any form of violence either by intimate partner/ husband or their clients across the districts, except Gulbarga where condom use at last sex with all clients/ partners was higher among those who experienced violence, however, the differences in condom use with FSWs who did not experience violence was not statistically significant. Within the category of FSWs who experience violence, the level of condom use was highest in Gadag followed by Gulbarga, Dharwad and Belgaum.

Analysis presented in this section again re-iterated the fact that the prevalence of self reported STIs was significantly higher among those who experienced any form of violence, i.e., either by intimate partners/ husband or by their clients. While prevalence of STIs varied between 14% to 28% among those who experience violence from intimate or non-intimate partners, this prevalence ranged between 3-16% among those FSWs who did not experience any form of violence. The only difference in the prevalence of STIs among FSWs who experienced forced sex within past 12 months vs. those who did not experience such violence was not statistically significant.

## 5.5 Results of multivariate logistic regression analysis on empowerment, violence, and condom use behaviour

Multivariate logistic regression models were carried out to assess the extent of relationship between empowerment and experience of violence with condom use behaviour.

### 5.5.1 Empowerment, violence, and condom use at last sex with all clients/ partners

In order to assess the relationship between empowerment, violence and condom use behaviour, five different models were used. Initially, unadjusted odds ratios were obtained through separate regression models of empowerment and violence with outcome variable. However, in these two separate model districts were controlled. In the adjusted models, in the first model violence was excluded to see the effect of empowerment on FSW's odds of using condom at last sex with all clients/ partners, while adjusting the effects of other socio-demographic and sex work characteristics included in Table 5.1. In the next regression model empowerment was excluded to see the effect of violence on FSW's odds of using condom at last sex with all clients/ partners,



Table 5.4: Percentage of FSWs by condom use behaviour and experience of STIs according to their level of empowerment across districts, Baseline Survey

Indicators		Belgaum			Gulbarga			Gadag			Dharwad		
		Low	High	Signifi- cance	Low	High	Signifi- cance	Low	High	Signifi- cance	Low	High	Signifi- cance
A. Power within:	Condomused inlastsexwith all clients/ partner	89.1	90.0	NS	93.1	92.5	NS	94.8	88.7	NS	93.4	89.1	NS
	Consistent condom use withallclients/ partners	87.9	88.8	NS	87.0	92.7	NS	92.8	87.3	NS	92.8	89.1	NS
	Self-reported STI	13.0	17.6	NS	10.4	3.7	*	17.2	13.8	NS	9.0	10.9	NS
	N	126	254	-	207	138	-	215	161	-	149	214	-
B. Power within:	Condomused inlastsexwith all clients/ partner	87.8	90.3	NS	95.4	90.7	NS	93.8	90.9	NS	88.4	92.9	NS
	Consistent condom use withallclients/ partners	87.8	88.7	NS	87.9	90.4	NS	90.3	91.0	NS	88.4	92.4	NS
	Self-reported STI	12.9	17.0	NS	11.8	4.5	*	15.3	16.4	NS	14.8	6.4	**
	N	84	296	-	153	192	-	189	187	-	147	216	-

Note: Level of significance is reported as a result of chi-square test at \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; NS: Not Significant

Table 5.5: Percentage of FSWs by condom use behaviour and experience of STIs according to their experiences of different forms of violence across districts, Baseline Survey

Indicators		Belgaum			Gulbarga			Gadag			Dharwad		
		Not experienced	Experienced	Sig	Not experienced	Experienced	Sig	Not experienced	Experienced	Sig	Not experienced	Experienced	Sig
A. Experienced any form of violence from intimate partner/husband in last 12 months	Condom used in last sex with all clients/partner	92.0	78.4	***	94.8	86.7	**	96.2	87.8	**	96.6	80.3	***
	Consistent condom use with all clients/partners	91.2	75.5	***	93.9	75.6	***	95.7	84.7	**	96.6	79.5	***
	Self-reported STI	13.6	24.9	**	3.1	17.4	***	10.1	22.1	***	6.8	16.3	**
	N <sup>1</sup>	266	82	-	241	90	-	187	172	-	236	122	-
B. Experienced any form of physical violence from client/other person in last 6 months:	Condom used in last sex with all clients/partner	92.8	79.5	***	95.1	87.8	**	95.1	88.0	**	95.2	85.0	**
	Consistent condom use with all clients/partners	92.1	76.9	***	94.1	77.8	***	93.9	85.3	*	95.2	84.4	**
	Self-reported STI	13.3	25.0	**	2.7	19.6	***	10.6	24.3	***	7.3	14.1	**
	N	292	88	-	244	101	-	235	141	-	221	142	-
C. Experienced forced sex from client/other person in last 12 months:	Condom used in last sex with all clients/partner	90.9	76.3	***	92.4	95.1	NS	93.7	85.9	**	91.8	84.7	**
	Consistent condom use with all clients/partners	90.0	71.9	***	91.7	78.0	***	92.7	80.3	**	91.5	84.7	**
	Self-reported STI	15.9	17.9	NS	3.9	25.7	***	14.1	24.5	**	7.7	28.1	***
	N	352	28	-	287	58	-	317	59	-	325	38	-

<sup>1</sup>Excluding never married FSWs without any intimate partner. Sig: Significance

Note: Level of significance is reported as a result of chi-square test at \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; NS: Not Significant

while adjusting the effects of other socio-demographic and sex work characteristics included in Table 5.1. In the final model all the variables were included to see the combined effect. It is important to note that districts were used as an independent variable in all the five models.

Results from these regression models are presented in Table 5.6. Findings suggest that level of empowerment was not associated with condom use at last sex with all sexual partners before adjusting the effect of other confounders. Having more internal qualities did not turn out as a factor that increases the chances of condom use at last sex. However, the association between power within and condom use at last sex became significant when all the factors, except experience of violence, were included in a regression model. But again the adjusted regression model again revealed the same fact that having high level of internal qualities did not increase the chances of condom use at last sex. Although there was a positive association between power with variable and the condom use at last sex, the result was not statistically significant.

In contrast to the women empowerment, experience of IPV in the last 12 months period preceding the survey was significantly associated with the likelihood of condom use at last sex with all clients/ partners before and after adjusting the effect of several confounding variables. In both unadjusted and adjusted models, the odds of using condom at last sex with all sexual partners for FSWs who have experienced any form of violence at the hand of intimate partner/husband in the last 12 months was 63 percent lower, than the odds for women who were not victimized to such violence. Experience of any form of violence perpetuated by client/ other individuals was not significantly associated with higher likelihood of condom use at last sex with all sexual partners.

In the full regression model, when empowerment index and violence along with other variables were combined, both the variable- power within and experience of IPV in last 12 months- retained its significant association with condom use at last sex with all sexual partners. The district level estimates shows that, after adjusting the effect of all the confounding variables, FSWs in Dharwad in reference to those in Belgaum were significantly more likely to use condom at last sex with all the partners despite experiencing any form of violence.

### 5.5.2 Empowerment, violence, and consistent condom use with all clients/ partners

In order to assess the relationship between empowerment and violence with consistent condom use with all clients/ partners similar approach has been adopted as in case of condom use at last sex with all clients/ partners. Results obtained from logistic regression analysis (Table 5.7) provide no evidence of any relationship between empowerment and likelihood of higher consistent condom use. On the other hand, FSWs who experienced any form of intimate or non-intimate partner violence were consistently and significantly less likely to report consistent condom use in all the sexual activities. While in the unadjusted model, the odds of consistent condom use for women who experienced violence by intimate and non-intimate partners were 66 and 45 percent lower, respectively, than the odds for women who did not experience such violence. The corresponding percentages were 64 and 43 percent in the adjusted models.

Table 5.6: Unadjusted and adjusted odds ratio for the effect of empowerment and violence on condom use at last sex with all clients/ partners, Baseline Survey

Co-variates		Odds ratio[95% CI]			
		Unadjusted <sup>1</sup>	Adjusted without violence <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted without empowerment <sup>2</sup>	Full model <sup>2</sup>
Power within	Low (Ref)				
	High	0.71[0.48-1.05]	0.63[0.42-0.94]*		0.60[0.39-0.91]*
Power with	Low (Ref)				
	High	1.02[0.69-1.50]	1.13[0.74-1.70]		0.99[0.65-1.53]
Any violence by intimate partners in last 12 months	No (Ref)				
	Yes	0.37[0.21-.65]***		0.37[0.21-0.67]**	0.37[0.21-0.66]**
Any violence by clients/ other individuals in last 12 months	No (Ref)				
	Yes	0.63[0.36-1.11]		0.62[0.35-1.10]	0.60[0.34-1.06]
District	Belgaum(Ref)				
	Gulbarga		1.33[0.75-2.37]	1.60[0.90-2.85]	1.36[0.74-2.48]
	Gadag		1.17[0.68-2.02]	1.85[1.07-3.21]*	1.66[0.94-2.93]
	Dharwad		1.33[0.76-2.34]	1.88[1.05-3.35]*	1.81[1.01-3.26]*

\* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$

<sup>1</sup> Model also included district as a co-variate; <sup>2</sup> Model also included age, marital status, educational attainment, migration status, client volume, age at initiation of sex work, typology, duration since first time contacted with the programme and CBO membership as co-variables.

**Table 5.7: Unadjusted and adjusted odds ratio for the effect of empowerment and violence on consistent condom use with all clients/ partners, Baseline Survey**

Co-variates		Odds ratio[95% CI]			
		Unadjusted <sup>1</sup>	Adjusted without violence <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted without empowerment <sup>2</sup>	Full model <sup>2</sup>
Power within	Low (Ref)				
	High	0.88[0.62-1.25]	0.76[0.52-1.11]		0.71[0.48-1.06]
Power with	Low (Ref)				
	High	1.28[0.90-1.83]	1.41[0.97-2.07]		1.25[0.84-1.86]
Any violence by intimate partners in last 12 months	No (Ref)				
	Yes	0.34[0.20-0.59]***		0.36[0.21-0.62]***	0.36[0.21-0.63]***
Any violence by clients/ other individuals in last 12 months	No (Ref)				
	Yes	0.55[0.32-0.93]*		0.58[0.33-1.00]*	0.57[0.33-0.98]*
District	Belgaum(Ref)				
	Gulbarga		1.17[0.70-1.97]	1.27[0.75-2.14]	1.21[0.70-2.09]
	Gadag		1.25[0.75-2.09]	1.82[1.08-3.06]*	1.78[1.04-3.03]*
	Dharwad		1.56[0.90-2.71]	2.14[1.21-3.78]**	2.17[1.23-3.85]**

\* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$

<sup>1</sup>Model also included district as a co-variate; <sup>2</sup> Model also included age, marital status, educational attainment, migration status, client volume, age at initiation of sex work, typology, duration since first time contacted with the programme and CBO membership as co-variates.

## 5.6 Results of multivariate logistic regression analysis on empowerment, violence and current experience of STIs

Analysis also attempted to assess the association between empower and violence with current experience of STIs. Again the same approach has been adopted to examine this relationship as in case of condom use behavior. Results obtained from multivariate logistic regression analysis are presented in Table 5.8.

Table 5.8: Unadjusted and adjusted odds ratio for the effect of empowerment and violence on experience of STIs, Baseline Survey

Co-variates		Odds ratio[95% CI]			
		Unadjusted <sup>1</sup>	Adjusted without violence <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted without empowerment <sup>2</sup>	Full model <sup>2</sup>
Power within	Low (Ref)				
	High	0.96[0.69-1.33]	1.01[0.72-1.42]		1.02[0.72-1.46]
Power with	Low (Ref)				
	High	0.77[0.55-1.06]	0.73[0.51-1.02]		0.83[0.58-1.19]
Any violence by intimate partners in last 12 months	No (Ref)				
	Yes	1.81[1.12-2.94]**		1.76[1.07-2.89]*	1.73[1.05-2.85]*
Any violence by clients/ other individuals in last 12 months	No (Ref)				
	Yes	1.80[1.12-2.89]**		1.80[1.10-2.96]*	1.80[1.10-2.95]*
District	Belgaum(Ref)				
	Gulbarga		0.38[0.23-0.64]***	0.36[0.21-0.62]**	0.34[0.20-0.61]***
	Gadag		0.90[0.58-1.38]	0.80[0.52-1.24]	0.77[0.49-1.21]
	Dharwad		0.60[0.37-0.99]*	0.52[0.31-0.86]*	0.50[0.30-0.84]**

\* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .

<sup>1</sup> Model also included district as a co-variate; <sup>2</sup> Model also included age, marital status, educational attainment, migration status, client volume, age at initiation of sex work, typology, duration since first time contacted with the programme and CBO membership as co-variables.

Level of empowerment of FSWs (both power within and power with) did not appear as a significant predictor of reducing the risk of STIs. Although the unadjusted model showed that women belonging to high category of the empowerment index were less likely to report STIs, the results were not statistically significant.

Findings suggest the fact that experience of any forms of violence perpetuated by intimate or non-intimate partner increases the chances of suffering from STIs. As appeared in the unadjusted model, the odds of currently experiencing STIs for women who experience violence in last 12 months period preceding the survey were 80 to 81 percent higher, than those who did not experience violence. Almost similar results were obtained in adjusted models where the risk of STIs was 73 to 80 percent higher among FSWs experienced violence by intimate partner/ husband/ clients/ or any other individual in the 12 months period prior to the survey.

## 5.7 Access to the legal services among FSWs experienced violence

Since one of the aims of the proposed intervention is to provide the support mechanism to deal with the violence through appropriate counseling and legal aid services, it is important to understand that to what extent FSWs who have experienced violence in the recent past had access to these services. Information was gathered during the baseline survey about the action taken by the FSWs who had experienced any forms of violence prior to survey. Information was also obtained on whether sex workers have ever heard of different services available to protect them from violence and whether they have used such services in the six months period prior to the survey. This section of the report shed some light on the extent to which women in sex work who have experienced any form of violence had access to any legal aid/counseling services.

Figure 5.2 Percentages of ever-married FSWs experienced any form violence from intimate partner/ husband and accessed various legal services (N=466)

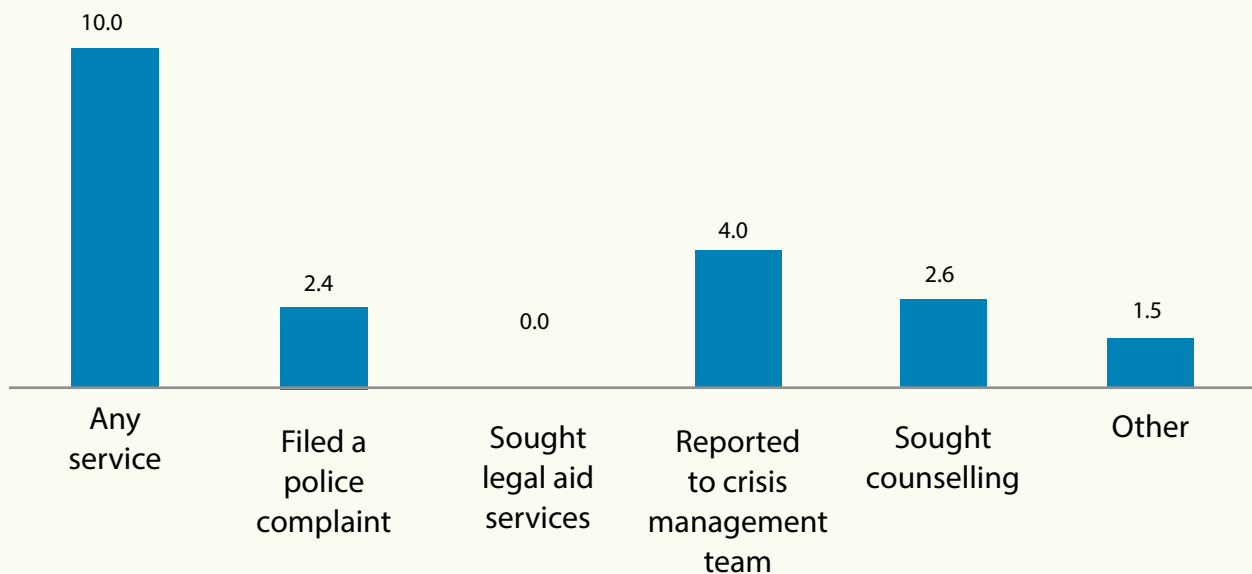
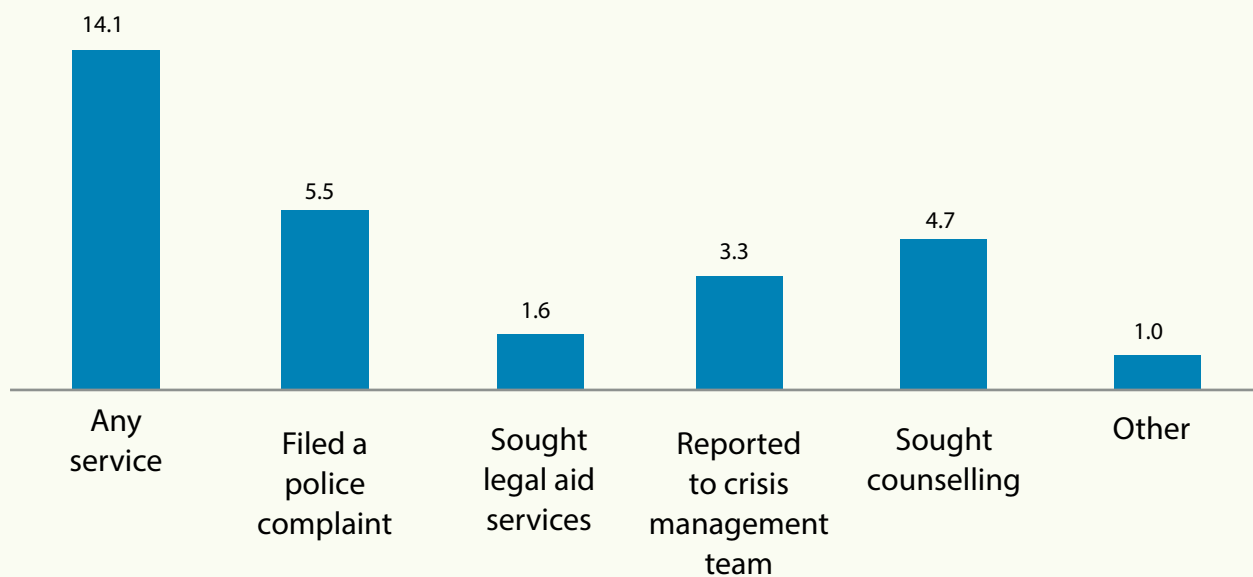


Figure 5.2 presents percentages of ever-married FSWs who have experienced any form of violence from their intimate partners/ husband in 12 months period prior to the survey and had access different legal aid services after the incident of violence. Result indicates a low level of linkage with legal aid services among FSWs experiencing any form of IPV. For example, just 10 percent of the sex workers had accessed any services. About four percent sex workers reported about the intimate partner violence to the crisis management team while less than three percent of violence experiencing sex workers either filed a police complaint or they sought some counseling.

Access to such legal aid services among the FSWs who had ever experienced violence at the hand of clients/ partners are presented in Figure 5.3. Findings suggest that about 15 percent FSWs who ever experience violence by clients had access to any legal aid services. Majority of these sex workers either filed a police complaint (6%) or sought some form of counseling (5%). Just three percent reported about the incident of violence to the crisis management team, while less than two percent accessed any form of legal aid services.

Figure 5.3 Percentages of FSWs ever experienced physical violence from clients/ other individuals and accessed various legal services (N=701)

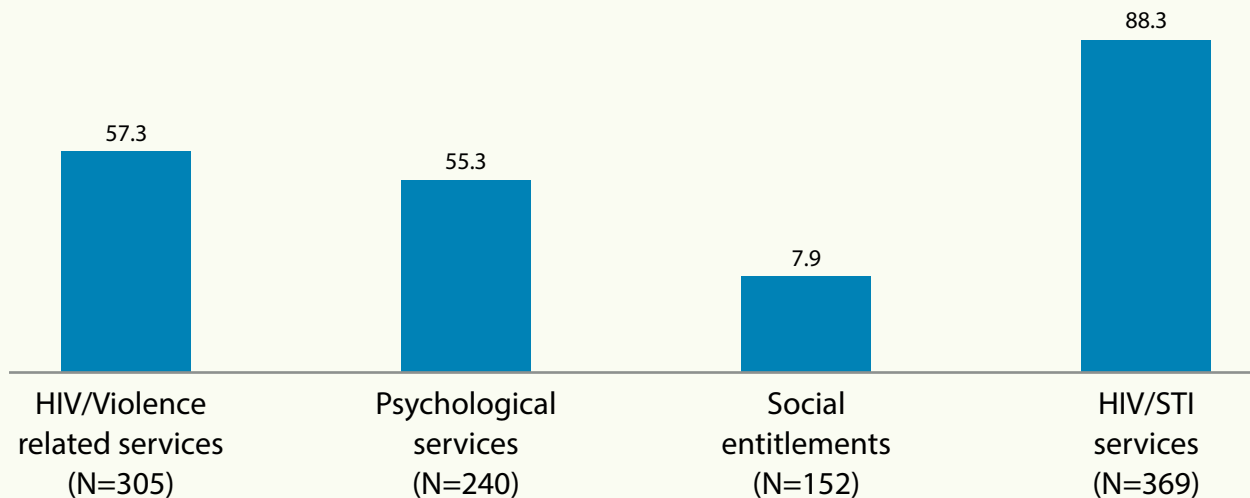


Analysis was also carried out to understand the access to various services in the recent past (6 months period prior to the survey) among the FSWs who have experienced IPV in last 12 month period prior to the survey

(Figure 5.4). Question was first asked to the FSWs that whether they have heard about each service or not? Among those who were aware of these services, a further question was posed whether they have accessed those services in past six months.



Figure 5.4 Percentages of ever-married FSWs experienced any form violence from intimate partner/husband and accessed services in past six months



Results indicate a higher level of services utilization among the FSWs who have experienced any form of IPV in 12 months period preceding the survey. Of those FSWs who have experienced IPV and heard about each services, 88 percent accessed HIV/STI related services, 57 percent accessed services that address violence and HIV and 55 percent psychological services. However, linkages to social entitlements remain very low among the FSWs experienced IPV. Just eight percent FSWs experienced violence from intimate partner/ husband had access to any social entitlements in the six months period preceding the survey.



# Summary and Conclusions

Using the primary baseline data collected from the socio-demographically and geographically representative districts of the Karnataka State, this study had made an attempt to explore the linkages between intimate and non-intimate partner violence and HIV related risks and vulnerabilities from the perspective of sex worker empowerment defined in terms of internal qualities (power within) and social cohesion (power with). A summary and discussion of the study is presented in this section that will be useful from the programme planning perspective.

The present study begins with defining the extent of empowerment among the FSWs in terms of power relations with others (social cohesion) and extent of power within themselves (internal qualities). Although, a wide range of literatures are available that focus on empowerment, its' correlates and relationship with empowerment and health related outcomes, most of them are focused on women in general community and not specific to those engaged in sex work trade. Another issue with these kinds of studies is defining a concrete measure of empowerment which could suite to maximum audiences. Due to its multidimensional nature, measuring empowerment has always been a challenge. For this reason different studies have used different indicators and developed models to measure women's empowerment and none of these can be considered as a universal model.

As mentioned before, for the purpose of this study, the dimensions of empowerment included, (i) gaining internal skills and overcoming external barrier (power within), and (ii) communal dimensions, such as group solidarity or collective action, which acknowledge that positive change may often be effected through individuals acting together, rather than alone (power with). Findings of this study revealed the fact that half of the sex workers in selected districts had high level of empowerment. The extent of empowerment was highest in the northern district of Karnataka (namely Belgaum), followed by Dharwad, Gulbarga and Gadag. Localite sex workers and those with more number of weekly client loads were had higher likelihood of having higher internal qualities whereas those sex workers who were recently covered with any HIV related intervention were significantly less likely to demonstrate their internal qualities.

These findings indicate that in order to enrich the level of demonstration of internal qualities among the sex workers it is important to focus on them as early as possible, may be soon after entering into the sex work trade. Contrary to the expectation, findings suggest an inverse relationship between membership in a community based organization and power within. However, CBO membership and power with indicators were positively associated. To some extent this result is valid because community based organizations are formed by the collective effort of community members who represents high level of social cohesion and collective actions to run such organizations. They often offer a good representation of the community at the ground level and collectively help fellow sex workers to respond to both the HIV risk and vulnerabilities of its members. Therefore, being a part of CBO may certainly enhance the ability of sex workers to demonstrate. However, it is important to orient the CBO members about benefits of having high internal qualities and therefore can adopt appropriate strategies which can enhance their internal and external qualities.

This study showed that, to a large extent, sex workers were aware of the causes, consequences and perpetrators of violence. They also recognized the dual consequence of experiencing violence which not only affects their well being but the well being of their children as well. The prevalence of lifetime experience of intimate partner violence was 48 percent while 35 percent FSWs experienced violence by the intimate partners/ husband in the 12 month period preceding the survey. The prevalence of physical, sexual, and other forms of violence in the last 12 months period preceding the survey were 30, 10, and 26 percent, respectively. Analysis found some degree of association between level of empowerment and experience of violence. For example, FSWs belonging to the higher category of empowerment index (both power within and power with) were significantly less likely to experience physical violence perpetuated by intimate and non-intimate partners even after the characteristics of the FSWs were taken into account. More consistent result was observed in case of "power with" where FSWs with high level of social cohesion and group collective efficacy were less likely to experience forced sex by clients/ or other individuals. District level differences shows that FSWs from Gadag were most vulnerable to violence. At the same time the level of empowerment was also least in Gadag. So, to some extent, high level of violence in Gadag might be linked with the low level of empowerment in the district.

Since in the bi-variate analysis, with increase in the level of empowerment the experience violence decreases. However, when the effect of such factors as educational status, typology, duration of programme exposure, and membership in community based organizations were controlled in the multivariate regression model, empowerment (especially power with) did not remain significantly associated with sexual and other forms of violence. Since in the adjusted models these variables were statistically significant, therefore, if proposed intervention is aiming to empower the women in sex work to reduce the violence it needs to be designed and implemented in such a way that are specific to the community that are illiterate, solicit sex work at public place, higher duration of exposure to the sex work trade and are part of any community based organization. Moreover, while promoting empowerment, it should not be assumed that more empowerment alone results in less violence.

This study also examined the linear and triangular relationships among empowerment, violence and selected HIV related risks and vulnerabilities among sex workers in Karnataka. The HIV related risks and vulnerabilities, in this study, is measured in terms of condom use behaviour (condom use at last sex with all clients/ partners and consistent condom use with all clients/ partners) and prevalence of self-reported STIs. The relationship between violence and condom use behaviour is linked in HIV context because with the ongoing experiences of intimate partner violence it becomes almost impossible for her to negotiate safer sex with her partner. The ability to negotiate safer sex is critical to women's ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights and is of crucial importance for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, especially when a woman's partner has multiple sexual relationships, pays for sex, or has sex with men. Univariate analysis conducted to measure the extent of condom use at last sex and consistent condom use with all sexual partners suggests that most of the sexual activities taken place by among sex workers are protective. More than 90 percent of FSWs reported about condom use

at last sexual activity and consistent condom use at all sexual activities with all clients/ partners. On the other hand, about 13 percent FSWs were currently suffering from any symptoms of STI.

Although, study could not find a significant linear relationship between empowerment and HIV risk and vulnerability related outcomes, it has certainly demonstrated a significant association between with experience of violence. FSWs experienced any form of intimate and non-intimate partner violence were significantly less likely to use condom (both at last sex with all clients/ partners and consistent condom use with all clients/ partners) and were more likely to report STIs. This relationship holds good even after adjusting the regression model with various background characteristics of FSWs including empowerment. Hence, if we visualize the result in light of conceptual framework there exists an indirect (triangular) relationship, i.e., higher the level of empowerment lower is the chances of violence, and with the lower the likelihood of violence lower is the HIV related risks and vulnerabilities.



# Recommendations for Programme Strategies

As findings of this study find a relationship between empowerment, violence and HIV related risks and vulnerabilities; inclusion of some of its results can be helpful in implementing a focused programme aiming to reduce violence, stigma and discrimination among sex workers.

It is important to empower the sex workers in order to mitigate the risk of violence, however, as seen in this study the empowerment approach should be need and context specific. Other important strategy to uplift the gender equity could be frequent community outreach and peer education through appropriate curriculum and the formation of networks at the various levels that promote gender equity and mitigate the violence against women especially among those who belong to sex work trade.

Community mobilization efforts, at the grassroots level, which include campaigns and other awareness activities aiming at women's right to negotiate safer sex, and better access to services can be helpful for overall wellbeing of the women in sex work. As result of this study highlighted low level of service utilization and linkages to social entitlements among the sex workers experienced different forms of violence, the programme strategy can include capacity building of the service providers, community conversations to raise awareness about the link between VAW and HIV, and the establishment of anti-VAW gender committees comprised of representatives from the health and legal sectors. Also sensitization training or advocacy with police, legal aid providers and health professional can bridge the gap between sex workers and service providers which can enhance the extent of service utilization.



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# Appendices

Appendix Table1: Percentage of FSWs by selected background characteristics who experienced different forms of violence, Belgaum, Baseline Survey

Characteristic		Violence perpetrated by intimate partner/husband in last 12 months				Violence by clients/ other individuals		N
		Any	Physical	Sexual	Other	Physical violence in last 6 months	Sexual violence in last 12 months	
Age	<25	24.6	1.2	21.7	25.7	28.9	6.3	41
	25-34	18.2	6.3	22.1	24.1	25.9	10.0	180
	35 and above	17.5	4.9	18.8	21.8	18.2	5.9	127
Literacy status	Literate	24.3	5.8	29.7	33.1	26.5	8.2	99
	Non-literate	16.5	5.0	17.6	19.8	22.3	8.1	249
Current marital status	Never married	16.3	0.0	16.0	20.3	18.2	4.8	40
	Currently married	20.8	8.4	23.0	26.3	22.7	8.8	130
	Divorced/Widowed/ Separated	17.5	3.9	20.3	22.0	26.1	8.9	178
Migration status	Non-localite	(9.9)	(9.9)	(21.4)	(21.4)	(9.1)	(23.2)	12
	Localite	19.0	5.1	20.9	23.5	23.9	7.6	336
Age at start of sex work	<25	18.8	4.3	20.8	23.3	24.6	9.3	155
	25-34	19.7	5.0	21.2	24.1	23.7	7.3	165
	35 and above	10.9	12.8	18.7	20.5	13.1	4.7	28
Duration in sex work	<2 years	18.4	5.3	20.1	22.8	23.4	8.3	340
	2 or more years	(30.4)	(0.0)	(53.4)	(53.4)	(24.9)	(0.0)	8

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Appendix Table 1: Percentage of FSWs by selected background characteristics who experienced different forms of violence, Belgaum, Baseline Survey

Characteristic		Violence perpetrated by intimate partner/husband in last 12 months				Violence by clients/ other individuals		N
		Any	Physical	Sexual	Other	Physical violence in last 6 months	Sexual violence in last 12 months	
Sex work typology	Home/Brothel/Lodge based	14.3	7.0	15.8	17.1	25.4	9.4	85
	Street based	20.3	4.0	23.5	26.2	23.6	7.5	209
	Phone based	20.2	7.1	19.7	24.5	22.3	9.2	43
	Other (Tamasha theatre)	(14.7)	(7.3)	(14.7)	(14.7)	(13.3)	(6.7)	11
Weekly client volume	<5	14.0	6.2	13.6	15.8	18.3	7.0	144
	5-9	22.6	3.1	26.9	29.9	26.9	5.9	171
	10+	20.1	12.1	23.8	25.9	28.5	24.7	33
Time since first contacted by program)	Contacted within last 2 year	(33.7)	(13.9)	(27.3)	(41.2)	(39.3)	(8.9)	13
	Contacted before last 2 years	18.1	4.9	20.6	22.8	22.8	8.1	335
Member of a CBO	No	20.2	10.0	23.2	23.6	19.8	10.5	94
	Yes	18.1	3.5	20.1	23.4	24.8	7.2	254
Power within	Low	23.6	20.3	1.0	21.0	22.4	2.0	126
	High	23.4	17.9	7.3	20.8	24.0	11.2	254
Power with	Low	25.8	18.7	9.9	25.2	19.7	8.8	84
	High	22.8	18.7	3.8	19.6	24.6	7.9	296

Note: Percentages shown in parenthesis are based on small number of un-weighted cases.

Appendix Table2: Percentage of FSWs by selected background characteristics who experienced different forms of violence, Gulbarga, Baseline Survey

Characteristic		Violence perpetrated by intimate partner/husband in last 12 months				Violence by clients/ other individuals		N
		Any	Physical	Sexual	Other	Physical violence in last 6 months	Sexual violence in last 12 months	
Age	<25	39.7	0.0	8.1	39.7	38.1	21.7	44
	25-34	31.9	2.0	9.7	34.1	36.1	21.9	184
	35 and above	14.5	0.0	7.2	14.5	17.0	10.1	117
Literacy status	Literate	35.7	0.0	10.6	37.1	37.4	19.4	102
	Non-literate	23.0	1.5	7.9	24.2	26.8	17.4	243
Current marital status	Never married	14.2	0.0	4.2	14.2	37.6	27.3	29
	Currently married	34.7	1.3	14.9	35.3	34.4	15.0	138
	Divorced/Widowed/Separated	21.7	1.0	3.2	23.5	25.1	18.8	178
Migration status	Non-localite	(100.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(0.0)	2
	Localite	26.7	1.1	8.7	27.9	29.8	18.0	343
Age at start of sex work	<25	31.4	0.7	5.3	31.4	32.8	22.8	137
	25-34	25.6	1.5	11.0	27.9	30.2	16.0	182
	35 and above	11.6	0.0	11.6	11.6	12.4	3.8	26
Duration in sex work	<2 years	26.0	1.2	8.9	27.3	29.8	17.6	312
	2 or more years	36.4	0.0	6.3	36.4	32.5	22.4	33
Sex work typology	Home/Brothel/Lodge based	7.5	1.2	3.3	8.8	8.5	1.2	76
	Street based	15.5	0.7	13.0	16.5	14.6	3.9	144
	Phone based	52.6	1.4	7.1	54.0	60.3	43.8	125
Weekly client volume	<5	25.0	0.9	9.0	25.9	25.3	14.9	102
	5-9	30.3	0.9	7.6	32.0	34.3	22.4	185
	10+	19.1	1.7	11.6	19.1	24.6	8.7	58
Time since first contacted by program)	Not contacted	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	3
	Contacted within last 2 year	62.4	4.3	9.6	65.2	65.4	54.3	68
	Contacted before last 2 years	19.1	0.3	8.6	19.9	22.0	9.6	274
Member of a CBO	No	10.8	0.7	10.2	11.9	11.1	1.2	137
	Yes	37.0	1.3	7.8	38.3	41.5	28.1	208
Power within	Low	38.5	37.6	0.9	8.0	39.8	27.1	207
	High	12.7	11.0	1.4	9.7	14.8	3.9	138
Power with	Low	46.7	44.9	1.8	7.2	49.0	37.1	153
	High	13.3	12.5	0.5	9.9	14.1	2.0	192

Note: Percentages shown in parenthesis are based on small number of un-weighted cases.

Appendix Table3: Percentage of FSWs by selected background characteristics who experienced different forms of violence, Gadag, Baseline Survey

Characteristic		Violence perpetrated by intimate partner/husband in last 12 months				Violence by clients/ other individuals		N
		Any	Physical	Sexual	Other	Physical violence in last 6 months	Sexual violence in last 12 months	
Age	<25	50.7	17.8	42.1	55.2	44.6	22.7	37
	25-34	42.6	21.6	41.8	50.5	38.1	15.3	194
	35 and above	38.3	24.6	36.8	48.3	37.6	16.5	145
Literacy status	Literate	59.9	33.8	50.1	66.0	52.1	20.0	68
	Non-literate	37.4	19.8	37.6	46.3	35.3	15.6	308
Current marital status	Never married	46.2	32.8	56.4	59.2	38.7	14.7	53
	Currently married	44.3	22.8	44.4	53.7	41.3	15.0	168
	Divorced/Widowed/Separated	37.6	19.6	31.1	43.8	35.2	18.7	155
Migration status	Non-localite	(100.0)	(0.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(0.0)	1
	Localite	41.6	22.4	39.9	50.0	38.4	16.5	375
Age at start of sex work	<25	46.4	25.1	45.3	54.5	42.8	20.3	154
	25-34	40.0	21.0	36.9	48.1	37.2	14.8	199
	35 and above	25.3	17.7	33.5	38.5	20.2	4.2	23
Duration in sex work	<2 years	41.7	22.8	40.4	50.4	38.8	17.0	352
	2 or more years	(41.0)	(17.1)	(32.5)	(44.6)	(35.2)	(7.9)	24
Sex work typology	Home/Brothel/Lodge based	26.7	18.4	39.9	39.9	26.4	17.6	52
	Street based	37.2	18.7	34.5	43.6	30.9	8.7	194
	Phone based	54.1	29.8	46.4	63.1	55.7	26.9	123
Weekly client volume	<5	45.9	23.3	37.4	53.1	43.6	17.2	163
	5-9	34.9	17.7	36.5	43.5	33.3	12.0	180
	10+	59.5	44.9	72.8	72.8	43.3	38.6	33
Times since first contacted by program)	Not contacted	(54.0)	(35.8)	(54.0)	(72.6)	(16.8)	(10.1)	12
	Contacted within last 2 year	64.2	42.4	51.1	74.5	59.6	27.5	107
	Contacted before last 2 years	32.3	14.0	35.0	39.6	30.3	11.9	257
Member of a CBO	No	24.7	11.2	26.3	31.7	21.7	9.5	152
	Yes	52.5	29.6	48.7	61.8	49.2	20.8	224
Power within	Low	46.5	41.4	18.4	33.9	42.6	16.8	215
	High	55.0	42.0	28.1	48.5	32.5	15.9	161
Power with	Low	54.9	45.8	21.3	40.5	42.0	18.9	189
	High	45.1	37.5	23.5	39.3	34.8	13.8	187

Note: Percentages shown in parenthesis are based on small number of un-weighted cases.



Appendix Table4: Percentage of FSWs by selected background characteristics who experienced different forms of violence, Dharwad, Baseline Survey

Characteristic		Violence perpetrated by intimate partner/husband in last 12 months				Violence by clients/ other individuals		N
		Any	Physical	Sexual	Other	Physical violence in last 6 months	Sexual violence in last 12 months	
Age	<25	37.3	10.7	30.2	39.9	65.6	21.6	32
	25-34	36.1	7.9	33.4	41.0	44.0	8.1	156
	35 and above	26.7	9.1	29.1	30.2	34.9	13.8	175
Literacy status	Literate	34.1	17.1	34.8	40.9	43.1	17.7	103
	Non-literate	30.9	5.8	29.8	34.0	41.5	10.2	260
Current marital status	Never married	(59.2)	(25.4)	(59.2)	(59.2)	(82.9)	(25.9)	9
	Currently married	49.1	12.9	47.4	54.2	48.0	12.7	165
	Divorced/Widowed/Separated	17.9	5.2	18.0	21.2	35.0	11.0	189
Migration status	Non-localite	34.0	10.1	31.3	36.9	48.7	18.0	82
	Localite	30.8	8.1	31.0	35.3	38.9	9.6	281
Age at start of sex work	<25	33.6	9.5	34.2	41.0	55.7	16.9	124
	25-34	30.8	8.6	29.0	33.4	36.6	10.0	186
	35 and above	30.2	6.9	30.2	30.2	22.5	6.7	53
Duration in sex work	<2 years	31.9	9.3	31.7	36.4	42.3	12.6	330
	2 or more years	30.4	3.9	25.9	30.4	38.2	8.3	33
Sex work typology	Home/Brothel/Lodge based	24.9	6.5	18.6	27.6	34.1	5.2	114
	Street based	32.1	8.2	32.8	36.0	42.4	13.4	205
	Phone based	46.0	18.9	47.1	54.1	56.8	18.0	44
Weekly client volume	<5	23.6	5.8	24.0	25.4	33.7	8.1	148
	5-9	36.1	10.4	32.8	39.6	44.8	13.7	177
	10+	34.2	9.2	41.8	46.3	50.4	15.9	38
Time since first contacted by program)	Not contacted	(50.0)	(0.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	2
	Contacted within last 2 year	26.8	1.5	20.1	26.8	41.0	7.7	42
	Contacted before last 2 years	32.4	9.9	32.7	37.1	42.3	12.9	319
Member of a CBO	No	18.4	1.8	19.3	21.3	31.4	3.6	68
	Yes	35.3	10.5	34.2	39.6	44.7	14.4	295
Power within	Low	44.0	41.1	9.6	35.7	47.1	14.1	149
	High	29.8	25.0	8.1	27.7	38.1	10.8	214
Power with	Low	34.3	32.9	7.9	29.5	44.2	14.4	147
	High	36.9	30.9	9.4	32.3	40.0	10.4	216

Note: Percentages shown in parenthesis are based on small number of un-weighted cases.

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