



OPTIMIZING
SCREENING AND
SUPPORT SERVICES
FOR VICTIMS OF
GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE AND
TRAFFICKING IN
PERSONS

NEPAL



The Asia Foundation
Improving Lives, Expanding Opportunities

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CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

This summary is derived from a larger report that resulted from a study conducted in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka aimed at identifying promising practices and challenges in integrating or separating services for victims of human trafficking and gender-based violence with the ultimate goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of screening and service provision to both groups.

The study consisted of an extensive survey of the available literature on trafficking in persons (TIP) and gender-based violence (GBV), including research articles, publications issued by various government and non-government organisations and relevant news reports along with a review of the legal and policy frameworks governing TIP and GBV in Nepal as well as of the standards and protocols developed over the years. Primary research was carried out in Kathmandu as well as three outlying districts, namely, Morang and Sunsari in Province 1 and Banke in Lumbini, all of which lie in proximity with the Indian border, a fact particularly relevant for collection of data on victims of TIP.

1.1 Methodology and Data Collection

A total of 72 key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted with various groups of stakeholders, which included service providers; law enforcement officials (police, border and immigration officials); judges; prosecutors; and other government officials. Two focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted - one with service providers and the other with law enforcement officials.

Due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in the first quarter of 2020, fieldwork plans were completely upended. Subsequently, KIIs and FGDs were done using telephones and other online communication platforms. For victims' interviews, given the sensitivity of the issue and the difficulty of gaining trust during conversations taking place remotely, all the interviews were conducted by individuals associated with the organisations running the shelter homes where the victims were housed. The interviewers assigned from these entities were provided intensive training on the questionnaires by Social Science Baha (SSB) researchers. All the interview questionnaires were translated into Nepali and pilot-tested, following which they were revised for clarity and brevity for use during interviews.

CHAPTER 2 - UNDERSTANDING OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

This section draws on the chapter in the main report that provides an overview of the general situation of TIP and GBV in Nepal. Besides providing facts and figures, it explores the intersection between trafficking, GBV, human smuggling and migration as well as the understanding of these phenomena among different groups of stakeholders. The chapter also encapsulates information on how the screening and identification of TIP and GBV victims are undertaken, and the related challenges faced by actors involved in these two sectors.

Major Findings

2.1 Situational Analysis ¹

An increasing trend of GBV – While GBV covers a wide spectrum of issues, almost all the focus in Nepal is on physical violence against women. This could be due to the high degree of violence they face, particularly in the domestic sphere, a fact also borne out by the larger number of complaints received by the National Women’s Commission, one of the major sources of information on GBV. Data from the Nepal Police also shows that reporting on GBV has increased significantly over the last quarter of a century, with domestic violence accounting for three fourths of the cases reported in recent years. The figures on GBV in Nepal are rife with various shortcomings though, collected as it is by a myriad of agencies, while there is little reliable data on violence faced by men and people of other genders.

Lack of comprehensive information on TIP – TIP is mostly considered as affecting women and girls whereas men and persons of other genders are not considered to be as affected. There is a growing understanding though of TIP for forced labour affecting men, especially those migrating to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Information on TIP, however, is sparse, scattered, and incomplete because of the difficulty in tracking trafficking cases; the victims not having incentives to be truthful when discovered; and contending definitions of trafficking confounding the information collected.

Lack of reporting and holistic data – A sector which has seen a rise in GBV-incidents and internal human trafficking is the entertainment sector, with women going into prostitution or forced into it along with the phenomenon of forced labour. On the other hand, despite the rise in the number of GBV cases reported due to heightened awareness, there still remains the challenge of under-reporting, arising mainly out of fear of both retaliation and stigma. There is also under-reporting of TIP cases due to the worry among victims of being targeted by perpetrators given that the witness protection mechanism is quite feeble. Even when information is available, there is an innate unwillingness to share it with the relevant agencies. Discrepancies are evident as well between the figures made available by the government and by NGOs working in the TIP sector, indicating the possibility of many TIP cases falling under the radar.

2.2 Vulnerabilities Contributing to GBV and TIP ²

Vulnerability factors - Push factors are much more pronounced than the pull factors. Unemployment and poverty are the primary causes of migration for women, which also increases their chances of being trafficked. Nepali women migrant workers experience a continuum of GBV and harassment before, during, and after their migration. Instances of exploitation and abuse of women in countries of destination, particularly those in the GCC, has resulted in the government enforcing restrictions on their movement, thereby forcing them to use irregular channels to migrate, rendering them even more vulnerable. Aspirational migration is a major factor that places individuals at risk of being trafficked while women also fall victim to trafficking due to the absence of knowledge about the foreign employment process.

¹ For details refer to section 2.1 in Chapter 2 of the full Report.

² For details refer to section 2.2 in Chapter 2 of the full Report.

2.3 Intersections of GBV, Trafficking, Migration and Human Smuggling ³

Need for deeper understanding on GBV, TIP and GBV and migration issues -

There is a growing understanding about the need for clarity regarding the mutually reinforcing intersections between migration, trafficking, and smuggling. GBV is a leading cause of TIP in Nepal since GBV makes women more vulnerable to trafficking. The sequence of events that takes a person from being a victim of GBV to a victim of TIP is a common one, with traffickers preying on victims of GBV who come from an unstable environment at home. Human trafficking also takes place in the name of child adoption, foreign employment, education, international marriage, tourism, and cultural programme tours, among others. But the different scales of domestic trafficking and transnational trafficking is not known due to the lack of disaggregated data on either. Human smuggling and irregular migration are often conflated with human trafficking. Whereas earlier the focus was only on women trafficked across the Nepal's borders into India, there is an increased attention to internal trafficking.

2.4 Screening and Identification of Victims ⁴

Collaborative Effort - The government bodies primarily responsible for the identification and screening of TIP victims are the Nepal Police and the Armed Police Force, both deployed at the Nepal-India border. Working alongside immigration officials, the police are supported by NGOs, particularly at checkpoints along the border. NGOs also collaborate with border and immigration officials to help screen and identify both GBV and TIP victims. Women (and men) are also trafficked through Kathmandu's international airport to destinations where they become victims of TIP. To screen victims effectively, law enforcement relies on information gathered from various sources there as well.

Location of Screening – KIIs with law enforcement officials reveal that screening is conducted at the various checkpoints along the Nepal-India border. They target border areas since they are popular gateways to India from where people are trafficked to various parts of the world. They also conduct screening in hotels in the border areas along with bus stands, bus parks and dance bars. Despite the high incidence of internal trafficking in Nepal, the focus of law enforcement officers is found to be mainly on trafficking across borders, resulting in a clear lack of attention to internal trafficking.

Barriers to identifying TIP victims - Authorities lack the human and financial resources as well as training required to systematically track potential victims. Government and NGO checkpoint inspections along Nepal's open border with India focus almost exclusively on female travellers. Anti-trafficking efforts are further hampered by the failure of the law to reflect changes taking place on the ground. Because of the lack of legal guidelines and procedures related to the definition of high-risk groups, victim identification, rescue, legal aid, repatriation and family reunification and rehabilitation, most victims and those facing potential risks depend entirely on the work of NGOs. Likewise, in the absence of implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements dealing with the rescue and repatriation of TIP victims, most such efforts take place outside the state system and hence without the responsible participation of and monitoring by the state.

³ For details refer to section 2.3 in Chapter 2 of the full Report.

⁴ For details refer to sections 2.5 and 2.6 in Chapter 2 of the full Report.

Challenges in Correct Screening/Identification of Victims - As identification of potential victims and their traffickers require coordination with legal and state mechanisms, there exists a range of challenges in identifying victims. Visual and non-procedural approaches to identifying victims are among the major factors that pose difficulties in the screening of TIP victims.

Lack of SOPs/ Protocols - Nepal does not have any kind of standard operating procedure or protocol for the identification of victims of trafficking or GBV. In almost all cases, government officials said they rely on 'hunches' and experience in being able to spot something that is amiss. At the same time, however, interceptions, particularly those done by NGOs, affect travellers—particularly women who are often misjudged as potential victims—hindering their right to free movement.

No identifying indicators/ guidelines for the police - The police do not have any specific set of indicators to identify the victims either. They rely on their experience, training and interrogation skills. The basic indicators are visual cues such as body language and the details in the answers or statements the person provides, such as contradictory answers to questions asked and other discrepancies, along with suspicious behaviour. With regard to GBV victims, a majority of the service providers also reported that they mostly identify victims based on conversations with them and with their families.

Long open border with India - The 1700-km open border between Nepal and India poses a significant challenge in the identification of trafficked victims. In addition, lack of awareness and of candour on the part of victims, complicity on the part of government officials, investigation procedures that are not victim friendly, and scarce financial resources are also some of the barriers to identification of victims. The absence of coordination between different organisations and the lack of expertise to deal with sensitive matters are also major barriers.

Impact of Covid-19 on TIP and GBV - Many of the interviewees were of the view (and several media reports support this view) that the incidence of GBV had increased after the outbreak of Covid-19 and that the rate of reporting of GBV cases had also increased noticeably. In contrast to GBV, the incidence of trafficking had gone down during the pandemic, owing mainly to the closing of international borders and the restrictions imposed on movement. However, given the Covid-19 induced reverse migration of Nepali migrant workers and loss of employment, the impacted population groups have been rendered more vulnerable to TIP.

Major Recommendation

For the Government

- Streamline information to expedite identification and other processes. Document cases properly with higher sensitivity, follow-ups and timely updates.

- Establish an information system whereby foreign employment seekers can learn all the necessary information about the companies they are going to work for. Provide genuine and inexpensive processing services to prospective migrant workers to prevent their being victimised by various layers of brokers.
- Conduct public awareness programmes for uninformed, misinformed and vulnerable groups, especially in the rural areas, to help understand what constitutes TIP and GBV as well as on what the relevant laws are. Such programmes should also inform victims of their rights and procedures for accessing justice. It is important to provide this information at the school level as well, in order to reduce TIP and GBV.
- Provide timely training to government officials to enable them to understand changes on the ground such as what has happened in the TIP sector.
- Raise public awareness to eliminate social stigma and discrimination against GBV and TIP victims.

For Law Enforcement Agencies

- Ensure no infringement on the right to free movement of individuals when screening for potential victims, by following proper protocols and indicators instead of relying only on subjective hunches and visual cues.
- Do not limit screening and identification to official border crossings but also cover other points in the open border with India that allows for easy movement of people.
- Do not limit screening and identification to potential female victims only but also cover potential male victims and victims belonging to gender and sexual minorities.
- Establish a system to report crimes such as 24-hour hotline services for victims to easily access law enforcement agencies. The Khabar Garaun (Let's Report) helpline for GBV victims being operated by the National Women's Commission can provide the template on which a hotline to report both GBV and TIP could be set up.
- Provide intensive GBV- and TIP-specific training to all law enforcement personnel, including courses on effective screening and identification of victims, and dealing with them.

For Shelter Homes and Service Providers

- Ensure effective screening and identification of victims in coordination with law enforcement agencies, by following proper protocols with the aid of indicators as opposed to relying on hunches and visual cues.
- Raise public awareness to eliminate social stigma and discrimination against GBV and TIP victims.

CHAPTER 3 - LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This section covers the chapter in the main report dealing the legal framework governing TIP and GBV. It presents a brief analysis of the existing laws, including a discussion of gaps and challenges in the laws and legal procedures as well as in their implementation. It also discusses government plans and policies pertaining to TIP and GBV.

Major Findings

3.1 Laws and Policies Governing TIP and GBV ⁵

The legal framework - There are a number of laws governing GBV and TIP in Nepal, starting with the Constitution of Nepal (2015), which provide protection to women. They stipulate that women have the right to live with dignity, freedom, equality and privacy, as well as enjoy the rights of victims of crimes, rights against torture, rights against exploitation and rights to health. The Constitution also specifically refers to TIP and slavery under the right against exploitation, while the Article on rights of children prohibits the 'illegal trafficking' of children. The Directive Principles lay down the policies the State shall pursue with regard to labour and employment, making it incumbent on the State to ensure foreign employment is free from exploitation, safe and systematic, and guarantees the employment and other rights of workers.

Legal framework on GBV - The major laws pertaining to GBV are as follows:

- Social Practice Reform Act (1976)
- Act Amending Some Nepal Acts to Maintain Gender Equality (2006)
- Domestic Violence (Crime and Punishment) Act (2009)
- Some Public (Crime and Punishment) Act (1970)
- Sexual Harassment at the Workplace (Elimination) Act (2015)
- Witchcraft Allegation (Offence and Punishment) Act (2016)
- Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Right Act (2018)
- National Penal (Code) Act (2017) (which includes laws on abortion, sexual offences, marital rape, child marriage, dowry, menstrual violence, and cybercrime)

Legal framework on TIP -

- Human Trafficking and Transportation Control Act (HTTCA) (2007)
- Foreign Employment Act (2007)
- Extradition Act (2014)
- Labour Act (2018)
- Immigration Act (1992)
- Mutual Legal Assistance Act (2015)

⁵ For details refer to section 3.1 in Chapter 3 of the full Report.

National Plans to Combat TIP and GBV - Some of the major National Plans in place to combat TIP and GBV include:

- National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons, especially Trafficking in Women and Children (2012-2022)
- National Plan of Action for Year Against Gender-based Violence (2010)
- National Action Plan for Children 2004/5 – 2014-15
- 15th Five-Year Plan (2019/20–2023/24)

3.2 Gaps and Challenges in Laws and Legal Procedures and Their Implementation ⁶

Lack of understanding of laws - With regard to the implementation of laws and legal procedures, there are several gaps and challenges. There is a lack of a common understanding of the different issues that can arise when dealing with TIP and GBV, such as fraudulent labour migration, human smuggling and trafficking, and victims engaged in commercial sex. In addition, certain laws, including those on rape, citizenship and foreign employment, still discriminate against women. Interviews suggest that legal procedures are perceived as 'women-centric', in that they do not foresee the possibility of victims of other genders.

Contradictory legal provisions – While most of the law enforcement officials and government officials seemed to think that the definitions of TIP and GBV were clear in the law, many of the service providers were not so sure and were also concerned about the difficulty for the general public to understand these provisions. There are also many contradictions among existing laws as well as in the provisions of the Civil and Criminal Codes, leaving open the possibility of room for manipulation. The issue of 'consent' in the National Penal Code Act (2017) is also vague and needs clarification. Many stakeholders felt that while the legal definition of TIP was clear, the HTTCA does not differentiate between the many types of TIP. There is no legislation dealing with the smuggling of migrants, with the issue often being conflated with trafficking. In addition, the issue of consent in the context of labour trafficking is not addressed adequately while the HTTCA does not discuss labour exploitation in situations such as forced or bonded labour either.

3.3 Barriers to Legal Redress ⁷

Complexities in implementation of laws - Complex legal procedure act as a barrier for victims seeking legal redress. There are also ambiguities regarding the appropriate body for filing complaints besides a marked gap in the dissemination of information regarding the authority, duties and limitations of each agency in handling the complaint process. Prosecution of cases is hampered by poor investigations, hurried prosecutions, lack of trained investigators and prosecutors, and frequent turnover of personnel. Further, it is very difficult for victims to receive compensation.

Lack of appropriate attitude by police and judges - Gaps are also evident in the manner law enforcement officials handle TIP and GBV situations. Several service providers noted that the attitude and behaviour of the police towards

⁶ For details refer to section 3.7 in Chapter 3 of the full Report.

⁷ For details refer to section 3.8 in Chapter 3 of the full Report.

victims are not always positive. The perception of judges and the interpretation of laws in cases relating to TIP and GBV affect the administration of justice as does corruption, misjudgement by the judges and the availability of evidence.

Capacity of human resources - In terms of the kind of support various stakeholders have received to prepare them for work on TIP and GBV, most reported being equipped better by undergoing training of various sorts, but not all of the service providers interviewed had received formal training. All the police officers interviewed, including those deployed at the border, said they had received training, generally as part of their orientation following entry into service. However, none of the immigration officials said they had received any such training on TIP.

Major Findings

For the Government

- Enforce existing laws to protect people from becoming victims of TIP or GBV, including making arrangements for the protection of victims while the case is ongoing while also supporting victims against powerful perpetrators.
- Amend existing laws to reflect new developments in the respective sectors as well as to meet Nepal's international commitments.
- Implement and monitor standardised protocols for all operations relating to TIP and GBV across all the bodies involved, both government and non-government. Since many of these procedures have already been developed, it is only a matter of ensuring that all stakeholders are made aware of their existence and provided proper guidance on how they can be followed.
- Monitor the functioning of various government and non-government institutions mandated to support GBV and TIP victims in terms of their adherence not only to the law but also various guidelines issued or adopted by the government.
- Specify the functions, roles and duties of the federal, provincial and local governments towards meeting their obligations of effective service provision in the sector of GBV and TIP.

For Law Enforcement Agencies

- Ensure witness protection of victims during all stages of the trial, including before and after, so that victims of GBV and TIP feel empowered to take a stand against the perpetrators.
- Practise victim-centric investigation procedures and victim participative criminal justice processes to encourage reporting of crimes. This approach will enable victims to feel empowered instead of just being passive recipients of justice.
- Use trauma-informed language with the victims while interrogating them. Besides putting victims at ease, it will also allow them to recall and report incidents more clearly.

CHAPTER 4 - SERVICES AND SERVICE DELIVERY

This last section briefly describes the different types of services available to victims and the delivery mechanisms. It also discusses the barriers in accessing these services as well as the challenges faced in providing them along with the available frameworks and guidelines governing these interventions. Finally, it dwells on the issues of whether services should be integrated or separated for TIP and GBV victims.

4.1 Service Delivery Stakeholders ⁸

Government and non-government service providers - The main government agencies providing services in the GBV and TIP sectors are the Human Trafficking Investigation Bureau (HTIB), Women, Children, and Senior Citizen Service Directorate (WCSCSD), and the Cyber Bureau under the Nepal Police; the National Committee for Controlling Human Trafficking, the Human Trafficking, Transportation Control Division, the Gender-Based Violence Prevention Section, and the National Child Rights Council under the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens; the Ministries of Labour, Employment and Social Security, of Federal Affairs and General Administration, of Health and Population; the National Human Rights Commission; and the National Women's Commission. Several NGOs and NGO networks also provide services, such as shelter and rehabilitation, rescue and repatriation, legal aid and psychosocial counselling to victims of both GBV and TIP. In addition, a number of NGOs working in tandem with the government and Nepal-based NGOs provide funds for, and support the programmes and services provided to GBV and TIP victims.

4.2 Frameworks for Delivering Service ⁹

SOPs applicable to TIP and GBV - Various government agencies have drawn up guidelines and SOPs related to TIP and GBV, covering areas as diverse as investigation and prosecution. These include the Procedural Guidelines for Protecting the Privacy of the Parties in the Proceedings of Special Types of Cases (2007), the Standard Operating Procedure on Prosecution and Adjudication in Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Cases (2011), and the Standard Operating Procedure on the Protection of the Right to Confidentiality in Special Cases (2012), Guidelines for the Operation of Rehabilitation Centre (2011), and Standards for Operation and Management of Residential Child Care Homes (2012).

While the list of guidelines and SOPs is an expansive one, it should be noted though that not all of these documents are followed to the letter and, in some cases, they are not even known to the institutions involved in the sector. There is also a dearth of available information on the implementation and the effectiveness of the guidelines and SOPs.

4.3 Services available to GBV and TIP Victims ¹⁰

Types of services for TIP and GBV victims - Victims of TIP and GBV require and are provided with a number of services by various government bodies, and national/international NGOs. These include rescue (including interception); investigation and prosecution; rehabilitation (including shelter home facilities and the provision of essentials such as food and clothing; healthcare services; formal and

⁸ For details refer to section 4.1 in Chapter 4 of the full Report.

⁹ For details refer to section 4.3 in Chapter 4 of the full Report.

¹⁰ For details refer to section 4.4 in Chapter 4 of the full Report.

informal education; legal aid; psychosocial counselling; capacity development and life skills training, such as vocational training; and financial/monetary assistance); and reintegration, repatriation and family reunification.

Of the services provided to the two kinds of victims, there is greater convergence in some aspects than in others. Shelter homes and rehabilitation centres offer protection to victims of both TIP and GBV. The One-stop crisis Management Centre in government hospitals receive both kinds of cases (albeit for TIP cases only when those are recognised as GBV as well), but they only provide limited services to women and instead refer them to shelter homes or to law enforcement agencies. Anti-human trafficking units and repatriation services can deal with either issue depending on the nature of the case. Convergence with human trafficking largely involves NGOs which have a workforce base deployed not only in Nepali shelter homes and border points, but also in India where their regional and local networks are utilised in preventing human trafficking activities.

Shelter home services - With regard to services available to victims at the shelter homes, a majority of the shelter home representatives interviewed asserted that shelter, psychosocial support services, physical health-care services, services related to vocational training and economic security, legal and counselling services, and life skills and education-related services were available in-house to victims. However, most of the service providers pointed out that resource constraints pose significant challenges against effective long-term service provision to victims. Several also reported being subjected to political pressure and threat from offenders.

Victims' perception of services - Most of the victims interviewed claimed that they were generally satisfied with the services they were receiving and grateful to the service providers. Many service providers reported providing services during the Covid-19 pandemic as well.

Lack of services for men and other genders - Notably, gender disparity in access to services is evident. While shelter services are mostly available only to women and female minors and there are no shelter homes dedicated to men and those belonging to other genders, many of the service providers working to provide psychosocial counselling and legal services in particular said that they also provide services to the latter groups.

Location of services - Access to services is also affected by geographical location. A majority of the victims and service providers interviewed stated that services are not easily available in the villages and that they are mostly concentrated in the cities and border regions. Even so, one of the major barriers hindering access to services is the unwillingness on the part of victims to seek services openly.

Rehabilitation of victims - Regarding reintegration of victims into their homes and societies, most TIP victims interviewed said that they would want to be rehabilitated into the community given the choice between staying in the shelter home or being rehabilitated in the future. The preferences of GBV victims were, however, varied. On the positive side, a majority of the shelter homes said they first conduct risk assessments to ensure that there is no risk to the victims from their family and community, before initiating reintegration.

4.4 Integration or Separation of Services ¹¹

Stakeholder's opinions on integration versus separation of services - A majority of both GBV and TIP victims interviewed were of the view that integrating services would be better than providing separate services, owing mainly to the emotional support the two kinds of victims are likely to provide each other when together. Some victims were also of the view that integration of services would ensure parity in the kind of services the two types of victims get, and one would not be prioritised over the other. Service providers, however, were divided in their views on whether services should be integrated for the two types of victims. Of those who seemed to think integration is better, many cited budgetary and resource constraints in providing separate services. Some also emphasised that providing services under the same roof would allow victims to bond and support each other. In contrast, other service providers were of the view that the two types of victims have different needs and that services should be provided separately as much as possible, mainly because of concerns over the possibility of GBV victims being subjected to stigma if placed together with victims of TIP.

Similarly, half of the law enforcement officials interviewed thought integration of services would be better than providing services separately. As for the government officials, all thought that providing separate and specialised services would be better than integrating services for the two types of victims. Among the judges and prosecutors, most said that integration would be better although they also seemed cognisant of the related challenges.

Possibilities of integration - With regard to services that could possibly be integrated, many interviewees noted that medical and health-care, psychosocial counselling, livelihood and capacity development training (including skills trainings), can be provided from the same place.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

For the Government

- Increase the number of shelters across Nepal and near the border areas in order to provide services to victims of TIP.
- Allocate an annual budget to support shelters and service providers providing services to GBV and TIP victims. The funds should go to government institutions as well as the NGO sector.
- Establish long-term shelters at the community level in all 77 districts. Expand the reach of the Mangala Sahana Long-term Shelter Home to provide services to more victims. In the interim, local governments can use their own funds under the Gender-Based Violence Prevention Fund to establish shelters.
- Set up shelters for men alongside other genders and sexual minorities.
- Carry out periodic monitoring of shelters and service providers to assess the quality of the services provided and provide recommendations for improvement.
- Ensure coordination among stakeholders providing services to GBV and TIP victims.
- Raise public awareness regarding services that are available to GBV and TIP victims and places where victims can seek services, particularly in remote areas.

¹¹ For details refer to section 4.5 in Chapter 4 of the full Report.

For Shelter Homes and Service Providers

- Set up shelter homes for men alongside other gender and sexual minorities.
- Avoid clustering of services in cities and in border areas.
- Establish long-term shelter homes at the community level in all 77 districts while trying to ensure that victims can access all the services available at the time.
- Develop effective referral mechanisms that allow victims to access services at the nearest location possible.
- Develop a systematic and uniform feedback mechanism to assess the quality of services provided.
- Ensure that interaction between victims does not impact them negatively when providing integrated services to GBV and TIP victims.
- Raise public awareness regarding services available to GBV and TIP victims and places where victims can seek services, particularly in the remote regions of the country.

Advantages of Integration of Services - Based on the findings of the study, some concluding observations can be made on the advantages of combining services -

- Requires less financial and human resources;
- Provides a common platform for victims of both groups to support and motivate each other;
- Encourages interaction between TIP and GBV victims which can help raise awareness of the various types of violence women face in Nepal.

Advantages of Separation of Services -

- Allows for provision of specialised services to both groups of victims, according to their respective needs;
- Avoids situations whereby one group of victims can humiliate/discriminate the other for slights known and unknown.