

# The Ubiquity of Violence in the Lives of Women with Disabilities in Odisha

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# Introduction

- Violence against women (VAW): a public health issue; a human rights issue
- Double discrimination against women with disabilities (WWD)

Aim of the study: violence experienced by WWD in daily lives

# Methods

- Ethical approval obtained
- Odisha in India
- In-depth face to face interviews with 27 cisgender women
- Benchmark locomotor disability
- Rural (19); Urban (8)

# Results

- Verbal and emotional violence

*“Whenever I meet male colleagues outside office I pretend as if I do not know them because if my father comes to know of it he will use words that a father should never use for his daughter”*

- Jogita (23), Cerebral Palsy

# Results

- Sexual violence

*“The boys would wait on my way to school. When I fell down they would rush to help me so that they could touch me with wrong intentions”*

- Bina (31), Post polio residual paralysis

Iravati: molested as a child by her caretaker, by ambulance driver

# Results

- Neglect

*“my father refused to pay for surgery which would have helped my gait in the hope that I will die sooner or later. He did not pay for my education either”*

- Jogita (23), Cerebral Palsy

Bina (31, PPRP) married against her will to a drunkard who beats her after drinking

# Results

- Neglect

Iravati: short hair

Mona: photo displayed without consent

Tini: depression when the doctor declared her unfit for medical and engineering courses

# Conclusion

- Lived experiences with violence: intentional and unintentional
- Within family, community and healthcare system
- Inherent structural violence against gender and non-”normal” body
- Financial empowerment is not enough
- Attitudinal barriers: sensitization programmes



# Limitations

- Intersectional causality of the violence
- Transgender women and women with other sexualities have not been included

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Questions?