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CHANGE NICKERIE!

RESEARCH INTO THE UNDERLYING FACTORS OF DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN NICKERIE

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PREFACE

This research report results from a section of the project *Change Nickerie!* It is a qualitative study conducted on behalf of the Bureau of NGO Services (BFN). It explores the underlying factors and consequences of gender-based violence (such as domestic violence, trafficking of women and children, sexual violence, workplace related violence and harassment) in the Surinamese district of Nickerie.

The overall objective of the *Change Nickerie!* project is to contribute to the improvement of women and children's rights in Suriname. In the longer term, the project should prevent domestic and gender-based violence and better protect women and children who are victims of violence in Suriname.

The *Change Nickerie!* project is a continuation of previously implemented projects in 2019 in the Nickerie district and is a pilot model at the district level for the prevention and assistance services for gender-based violence in Suriname.

The project specifically focuses on defining an integrated prevention and assistance system for women and children's victims of gender-based violence. Joint actions by the government and NGOs are essential to demonstrate zero tolerance and the promotion of strong institutions and policies to reduce gender-based violence and violence against children as a human rights violation.

Herewith we thank everyone for their contribution in conducting this study. A special thanks is extended to the various informants and respondents who provided us with information. Nickerie is a beautiful district consisting of a small community where everyone knows each other. In the end, what matters is that women and men should be able to exercise and experience human rights equally.

Paramaribo, November 21, 2023

INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence is a universal problem and a violation of human rights. Internationally, there is a growing awareness that human rights are violated when women and children are abused. Attention to gender-based violence has often remained under the radar because it was institutionalized in various cultures and traditions and for a long time the subordinate position of women in society ensured that little attention was paid to their problems.

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women defines the concept of gender-based violence, (GBV) as *"...any act of violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women."*¹

Fortunately, over the 20th century, gender-based violence has received increasing attention. Ensuring the safety and well-being of women based on internationally established basic principles is, according to the UN, a fundamental human right.²

In addition, other mandates, agreements, and declarations regarding gender-based violence have been drawn up by the European Union and the UN, among others, and the combating of violence against women is part of Amnesty International's activities. November 25 has been declared the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.³

Suriname as well has ratified international conventions to promote human rights and gender equality. Below is a list of what Suriname is committed to:⁴

- 1993: ratification of the CEDAW Convention: Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- 1993: ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 1994: adoption of the Program of Action of ICPD (International Conference on Population and Planning).
- 1995: the Beijing Plan of Action (BPfA).
- 2002: the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women, also known as the Belem, do Para Convention.
- 2006: the Palermo Protocol, the prevention and punishment of human trafficking especially women and children.
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).
- The optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2011.
- The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2015-2030.

The policy document of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Bureau for Gender Affairs, describes the policy intention regarding gender-based violence as follows: *"In recent years, the main focus has been on highlighting domestic violence and fighting it. Suriname intends not only to combat, but also to prevent all forms of gender-based violence through policy and legislation, increased **education and***

¹ United Nations. (1993) Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, United Nations, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/declaration-elimination-violence-against-women>

² https://libstore.ugent.be/fulltxt/RUG01/002/272/953/RUG01-002272953_2016_0001_AC.pdf

³ https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gendergerelateerd_geweld

⁴ Gendervisie beleidsdocument 2021-2035, ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken

awareness and through cooperation with organizations, institutions and other bodies who aim to prevent and combat gender-based violence."

In this regard, the following laws were approved:

- Revision of Penal Code regarding Trafficking in Women and Minors in 2006 and 2015.
- Revision of Penal Code regarding sex crimes in 2009.
- Combating Domestic Violence Act in 2009.
- Criminalization of Stalking Act in 2012.

Since November 2022, the Violence and (Sexual) Harassment in Labor Act can be added to this list.

Social relevance

The project "*Change Nickerie!*" has the specific objective of improving an integrated prevention and assistance system (law- health- policy) for women and children who are victims of gender-based violence in the district of Nickerie. With this, the project participants want to contribute to the improvement of the rights of women and children in Suriname. In the long term, this project should contribute to the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence and better protect women and children who are victims of violence in Suriname.

Main research question

What are the underlying factors and consequences of all forms of gender-based violence in the district of Nickerie?

Related questions to the main research question

1. What are the underlying factors that lead to gender-based violence in Nickerie?
2. What are the consequences of gender-based violence among victims in Nickerie?
3. What are the effects of gender-based violence in Nickerie?
4. What advice is given by the victims regarding gender-based violence in Nickerie?
5. What advice is given by social workers regarding gender-based violence in Nickerie?
6. What solutions have been given to help address gender-based violence in Nickerie?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The social theory of the sustainable, collaborative learning society

Humans are social beings willing to help each other. Through effective cooperation, humans have become the most successful species on earth (successful in the sense of survival and development, not necessarily in the successful management of scarce resources). Helping is in our blood, partly because helping gives meaning to existence, which has a positive effect on a person's mental state and emotions. But helping also has a reciprocal, calculating element in the sense that giving implies getting and vice versa.

People can sometimes use help to then find their way back up on their own. But getting help implies that people need to be connected in some way to people and institutions in society. Connection is a key concept here (Kurt Leeuwin).⁵

In addition to social theory, the associated attitude and skills are the foundation for training the care provider. Through a process of critical (self) reflection, the boundaries, and assumptions of everyone's view of the problem are explored together. Next, each other's input is reflected upon, i.e. reflection on reflection (= meta-reflection) and possible solutions are examined that might fit within the given operational framework.

The joint reflection process leads from awareness in each other's role- the possibilities, but also the impossibilities that a role entails- via trust to eventual connection. Those last two steps are a matter of the long run. It takes time to gain trust and establish a lasting connection. This cannot be done with words alone but will have to be demonstrated by deeds. The joint implementation of initiatives, movements and projects provides the breeding ground for this.

Definitions

Gender⁶

Gender in a social context refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male or female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys as well as the relationships among women and those among men. The attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and learned through parenting processes. They are contextual and temporal and changeable.

Gender determines what is expected, allowed, and valued of a woman or a man in each context. In many societies, there are differences and inequalities between women and men in assigned responsibilities, undertaking activities, access to and management of resources, as well as decision-making capabilities. Gender is part of the broader sociocultural framework with the segments of class, race, poverty, ethnicity, and age.

⁵ https://projectenportfolio.nl/wiki/index.php/PR_00193

⁶ Gendervisie beleidsdocument 2021-2035

Gender equality

Gender equality implies that women and men have the same conditions to fully realize their human rights and to contribute to benefit from economic, social, cultural, and political developments.

Gender equality is thus society's equal appreciation of similarities and differences between men and women and the roles they perform. It is based on women and men being full partners in their families, neighborhoods, and society. Gender equality begins with equal appreciation of girls and boys.

Gender inequality

Characteristics associated with women and femininity are generally valued lower within societies. This makes girls and women have a lower social status and less power than boys and men.⁷

Gender inequality stems from differences in social gender roles and relates to inequalities that can manifest in numerous ways in everyday life.

Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence defines violence as the violent treatment of people who do not conform to the common, traditional behaviors associated with femininity and masculinity.

Gender-based violence is violence that affects someone because of his or her sex or gender. Although the term itself is gender neutral and there are various forms of gender-based violence against men and boys as well, in practice the term is usually synonymous with violence against women and takes various forms including domestic violence, sexual violence, genital mutilation, human trafficking, child marriage and economic and psychological violence.

Forms and manifestations of gender-based violence⁸

- Domestic violence: any form of physical, sexual, psychological, or financial violence committed by a person against a partner, child, parent, member of the family or person in need, regardless of where the violence occurs.
- Stalking: the systematic harassment of a person, by pursuing, constantly contacting, and sometimes threatening that person in an inconvenient manner.
- Physical violence: any intentional act or refusal that results in physical suffering or injury, as well as an attempt to do so.
- Mental violence: (also called emotional or psychological violence) a pattern of behavior of any kind intended to harm a person's emotional or mental well-being. This includes:
 1. persistent harassment using violent, threatening or demeaning language.
 2. persistently chasing the victim from place to place.
 3. restraining the victim from using the victim's property at the victim's own discretion.
 4. damaging the victim's property.
 5. stalking the victim or blocking her/his way no matter where she/he is.
 6. isolating or forcibly restricting the victim's freedom of movement.
 7. persistently calling the victim.
 8. making unwanted and repeated or intimidating contact with, among others, a member of the victim's family, a relative or a person from the victim's employment.
- Financial violence: any conduct which has the intent to control, exploit, restrict or deprive a person of access to financial resources to ensure their financial dependence, which includes:
 1. preventing the victim from using her/his property at her/his own discretion.

⁷ <https://www.planinternational.nl/projecten/genderongelijkheid>

⁸ <https://www.planinternational.nl/projecten/genderongelijkheid>

2. damaging the victim's property.
 3. withholding available funds for household or personal maintenance.
 4. withholding court-ordered alimony.
 5. prohibiting the victim from gainful employment.
- Sexual violence: any sexually aggravated behavior or multiple behaviors of a sexual nature against the will of the victim, as well as an attempt to do so.
 - Harassment: behavior related to a person's sex that has the purpose or effect of violating the person's dignity and creating an intimidating, hostile, humiliating, or offensive environment.
 - (Sexual) harassment means unsolicited or unwelcome sexual acts and conduct or the situation in which a person makes an unsolicited or unwelcome sexual approach to another person or unwanted application for sexual favors or otherwise sexually approaches the other person and:
 - a. that person has reasonable grounds to believe that if the approach or request is rejected or disapproved of, he or she will be adversely affected with respect to his or her employment or future employment; or
 - b. that person will be disadvantaged with respect to his or her employment following a rejection of the approach or request or disapproval of the approach.⁹

Victims

Women are the largest group of victims. However, men, children and the elderly are also victims. Domestic violence occurs within all classes and groups of the population.

Assistant Counselors

BFN and other organizations have provided training in Nickerie for persons who, because of their work, encounter victims of domestic and gender-based violence. A specific group of individuals working with BFN's network partners in the '*Change Nickerie!*' Project attended the Assistant Counselor (AC) training with multiple upgrading sessions in collaboration with the Stop Violence Against Women Foundation.

ACs can recognize the signs of domestic violence, can provide first counseling/care of victims, and refer them to the police and other social service organizations.

Confidential Advisors

In the *Change Nickerie!* project, BFN provided an eight-day Confidential Persons training in collaboration with the Ilse Henar-Hewitt Legal Assistance for Women Foundation. The Confidential Advisor can provide help and guidance to victims of violence and sexual harassment in the workplace.

⁹ Wet Geweld en (seksuele) intimidatie Arbeid

METHODOLOGY

The execution of this project was from December 12, 2022, to February 12, 2023. It is a qualitative study conducted in the Nickerie district.

Purpose of the research

Although the underlying causes of gender-based violence are known worldwide and are virtually identical, the purpose of this research would be to:

- Investigate which specific social, economic, and infrastructural (e.g., specific neighborhoods) factors play a major role for domestic violence in Nickerie and to what extent and in which ways.
- Investigate the impact of domestic violence in Nickerie and obtain reliable data.
- Examine the impact on victims and their environment (children, family, work, neighbors, etc.). This impact may include, but need not be limited to, physical and psychological disorders.

Research design

Based on a list prepared with BFN's network partners and other identified individuals and actors that encounter victims of gender-based violence, interviews were initiated through a survey form (Appendix 1). With the intervention of these individuals, interviews were also conducted with victims.

Data Collection

Data was primarily collected through literature research into gender-based violence and other identical topics.

Qualitative research

Qualitative research was chosen for this study. This is a form of sociological research in which social reality as experienced by the research objects is presented through self-observation and interpretation by the researcher.¹⁰ Methods were used by which the best answer to the research

¹⁰ Grondbeginselen der sociologie – Dr. H. De Jager/ Dr. A.L. Mok.

question could be given within the allotted time. To this end, survey forms were developed in which respondents provided information that made it possible to make statements through the insights obtained.

Respondents

A respondent is a person who provides his or her cooperation in a survey. For this study, the following target groups were considered:

1. (Assistant workers of) government organizations:
 - National Council on Domestic Violence (NRHG) - Installed by the Ministry of Justice and Police. The National Council aims to comprehensively address domestic violence by providing information, training, and assistance to both victims and perpetrators. Creating and/or strengthening needed structures. Research and data collection and monitoring and evaluation of policies formulated.
 - Ministry of Internal Affairs: Gender Affairs Office - This office is the working arm of the Ministry of Interior and aims to coordinate, guide, and monitor national gender policies. Victims of gender-based violence step in voluntarily or are referred by other cooperation partners or citizens. An Assistant Counselor and a Confidential Advisor are available at this office. Depending on the case, the office can take it in hand or make the referral to the appropriate agency.
 - Ministry of Justice and Police:
Police. The police are notified first in an incident of gender-based violence. After investigation the police can act independently and/or refer depending on the case.
 - Ministry of Regional Development: The District Commissioner of Nickerie.
 - Ministry of Education, Science and Culture: teachers and care coordinators especially in primary education.
2. **Mungra Medical Center** – Unit Patient Counseling - When patients are admitted to the hospital and it is suspected that the injury is due to domestic violence, this unit is notified. Contact is then made with the patient without notifying the perpetrator. Many times, these victims want to talk and have the support in the hospital. Yet, when they are discharged, they do not return. Other than that, people visit the Unit for information and victim support. Assistance is also provided where documents for admission or other matters for medical care are missing.
3. **Doctors/Regional Health Services** - In a situation of physical domestic violence, the doctor is called in by the police. The doctor is available to anyone with a particular illness, as well as for a regular consultation (contraception, blood pressure reading). A visit to the doctor is the most innocent point of contact for the victim. If the victim visits the doctor, it will not be as noticeable to others in the community, the victim's family, or partner. This gives the victim a chance to discuss her situation or ask for advice.
4. (Assistant Counselors from) NGOs
 - SARI Foundation
 - The Mother's Heart FoundationThese two organizations encounter victims of domestic and gender-based violence through the activities they organize for their target group, and they can offer initial shelter/counseling.

- Open Gate Foundation (Olga Clarck) children's home - is more than a children's home. It offers a home to children with a variety of problems. Children who live there are obliged to visit school/study and enter independent life from there. In addition, this children's home also provides shelter to women who are victims.

5. **Key informants:** cab drivers, sex workers, café owners, others identified during the study.

6. **Victims** of different ethnic, cultural, social and economic backgrounds.

7. And any other group that the researcher deems relevant to the purpose of this study.

Validity and reliability

The reliability of the interviews was ensured because during the interviews the researcher was alone with the respondents, reducing the risk that only socially desirable answers were given.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Based on the main question, "What are the underlying factors and consequences of all forms of gender-based violence in the Nickerie district?" and some supporting questions, a survey form was produced. The survey form was used to facilitate the interviews with the identified respondents.

Research findings from victims

'I don't know what gender-based violence is, but I know what domestic violence is and that many women are victims. I have experienced domestic violence myself many times.'

Reasons for the incidents of domestic violence:

- Being financially dependent/having no income of their own.
- Partner's drinking problem.
- Bossy, macho & aggressive behavior of the partner.
- Another woman.
- Parents were also addicted to drugs and alcohol.

'The motive was that he doesn't want me anymore and he may also have another woman. I asked him for forgiveness, but he doesn't want me anymore. He also abused the woman he had before me, and he is not allowed to see his child with that woman.'

Half of the respondents felt that the violence could have been avoided while the other half felt that it could not or that they did not know how to avoid the situation. Those who felt it could be avoided, gave the following arguments:

- By talking to each other.
- Not asking anything when he is tired.
- By not drinking any more of the man's drinks.
- That the man should be less aggressive and stop using alcohol and drugs.
- By talking to each other, but the men are not open to that.
- By going to work and therefore having their own income as a woman.
- By looking for work so that they can take care of themselves and possibly leave the husband.
- By filing a report with the police.
- That it should be possible to offer shelter to women and provide employment.
- That men are made aware that regardless of their drinking problem, they need to know how to deal with women and take care of their children (money, food, shelter).

'The last time I experienced it, it was just macho behavior from my husband. He hit me hard, and I was screaming. In the past year it hasn't happened, he stopped hitting three years ago. It could have been avoided because ever since I got a job and now have my disposition of a parcel, he has changed.'

Impact on the victim, the family, and the children:

- They were scared and ran out of food.
- Not getting ahead and the children become neglected.

- Annoying because every time they are told he doesn't want her anymore, but she has nowhere to go.
- Child keeps asking about the father.

'My husband keeps having a different extramarital wife, drinks a lot of alcohol and uses drugs. I must put up with it. If I say anything about it, he hits me and he tells me I can leave. It has happened several times in the past year. The trigger was that he has another extramarital wife and I said something about it and got slapped. This could have been avoided by saying nothing.'

Third-party advice to victims:

- To get to work so that one is not dependent, can save and take care of oneself.
- To leave the man.
- To talk or let husband talk to social workers. The fear of doing this is huge: victims fear they will be kicked out of their homes as they have nowhere to go.

'What has to change is that you yourself must want to change. You must go to the police and other institutions (people) for help.'

According to the victims, they are also responsible for making the violence in Nickerie stop. In addition, they indicate that the violence in Nickerie can stop, if:

- Men stop using alcohol & drugs.
- More is done for women (work, shelter, etc.).
- There are more interventions to shelter women in need.
- Women fight back.
- Women seek information, talk to social workers.
- Men are being held accountable.

'The last time I experienced this was in the past year, I woke up because he hit me with a pickaxe. With the help of the police, I moved out. I could not have prevented this. We were scared, we had no food. But I will not be in such a situation again.'

Research findings from care workers/partner organizations

The forms of gender-based violence most common in Nickerie:

- Sexual violence.
- Emotional violence.
- Mental violence.
- Domestic violence.
- Physical violence.
- Financial violence.

'This form of violence can stop in Nickerie by giving the woman a job so that she is secured of her own future. The government can provide this, but you yourself can also seek help from the institutions to talk to. They provide good advice.'

Who/what is to blame for this:

- Small community: Because of the small community, there is a lot of stigmatizing, making fun of, gossiping.
- Economic situation. Partly because of the country's poor economic situation, victims are dependent on their partners who are the breadwinners.
- Communication: No or poor communication between partners.
- Alcohol and drug use.
- Adultery in the relationship.
- Culture. The perpetrators of domestic violence have enjoyed an upbringing in which the norms and values for dealing with women are culture specific. The role of the husband or wife is accepted by the individual, often through shame.

'I am being abused by my husband. My husband is dominant, and my mother-in-law does not react. He abuses me more and more and I always must go with him on the motorbike. I have also started drinking, sometimes we drink together. I don't know what to do either. The last time he was drunk, hit me again and pulled my hair hard. In the past year this has happened at least 7 times. It could not be prevented; it is humiliating, and it is not going well. And my mother-in-law does nothing.'

Underlying factors that maintain violence:

- Little communication.
- Uneducated women.
- Excessive use of alcohol, (online) gambling, poor socioeconomic situation within the family, etc.
- Unequal balance of rights between partners.
- Role division in parenting within certain cultures.
- Stigmatizing.
- Dominant place of the man in the family.
- Financial dependency on the husband.
- Shame.
- Having nowhere to go to talk.

'My doctor talked to me, he didn't believe I was telling the truth about my injuries from falling and slipping, the persistent headaches and elevated blood pressure. Once, I started crying because I was afraid to tell the truth. The advice was, they wanted to talk to my husband, but I don't want to, because I am afraid, he will get even angrier with me and put me out of the house.'

Impact of gender-based violence in Nickerie:

- Unhealthy relationships, broken families, divorce, breakup of relationships.
- Neglected children and/or poor school performance.
- Depression and suicide (attempts).
- Committing criminal offenses as a cry for help
- Unhappy women in their relationships who yet choose to stay because of their dependency.
- Diminished human development by fear and stigmatization.

The effect of domestic violence on women's functioning as individuals:

- Insecurity and fear.
- Adultery.

- Suicide (attempts).
- Discrimination.
- The woman remains dependent on the man.
- Demotivation for the woman.
- Getting into drinking, gambling, and drug use.
- Reduced growth/development opportunities.

CONCLUSION

The objective for this research states as follows: *"Change Nickerie! wants to contribute to improving the rights of women and children in Suriname. In the long term, this project aims to prevent domestic and gender-based violence and better protect women and children who are victims of violence in Suriname."*

This research has shown that:

- Several underlying factors, which are the cause of gender-based violence in the Nickerie district, have been put forward by the respondents.
- Several consequences have been listed of gender-based violence in Nickerie.

Among the victims, for example, the factors *no own housing* and *no own income* result in the *dependent position of women*. Respondents see alcohol and drugs as the cause of relationship violence and indicate that there is little communication between the partners.

'We will continue to work together to correct gender-based violence in Nickerie. I now consider my own relationship with other eyes. I am happy with the areas of improvement I am making in my relationship through the insights.'

This is what an Assistant Counselor concluded by attending the training workshops of the Assistant Counselors in the *Change Nickerie!* project. Accordingly, it was this person who strongly recommended to include perpetrators on the path to eliminating gender-based violence.

With this qualitative research we tried to answer the question *"What are the underlying factors and consequences of all forms of gender-based violence in the Nickerie district?"* Many underlying factors were identified and consequences of gender-based violence. These findings can certainly contribute to an outlined policy on gender-based violence and thus contribute to the improvement of the rights of women and children in Suriname.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On domestic violence:

- Deploy counselors, Assistant Counselors, and coaches.
- Promote awareness of the role of Assistant Counselors and coaches.
- Create opportunities to apply for loans, applications for available parcels.
- Increase employment opportunities for women.
- Increase education and information in different languages to the community.
- Promote awareness of hotlines, organizations victims can call for shelter and counseling, as well as for any help they can provide.
- Promote awareness that victims should continue to seek help.
- Make counseling affordable for victims.

On sexual harassment in the workplace:

- Deploy Confidential Counselors.
- Promote awareness of the role of Confidential Advisors.
- Respect each other, equal treatment.
- Adapt rules and laws.
- A code of conduct that applies to everyone at work.
- Educate about inappropriate behavior.
- Give women the opportunity to educate themselves so that they can become independent and not remain dependent on their husband or partner.
- Also give women the opportunity, that they also have a chance to earn more, hold higher positions, etc.

In any follow-up activities in Nickerie or else, include perpetrators in addition to victims.

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APPENDIX 1. SURVEY FORM

CHANGE! NICKERIE

SURVEY FORM

Date: Time:

GENERAL

1. Name:
2. Gender: Male/Female
3. Age:
4. Ethnicity:
5. Marital status: Married/ Unmarried/ Single/ Concubine
6. Function:
7. Highest Education: VOJ /VOS /MBO /HBO /University /Other,
8. How many children:
9. Who is the breadwinner in the family:
1. Under what living conditions are you: Own home /Renting home /Living with parents or relatives /Other, ...
2. What neighborhood do you live in:
3. What neighborhood did you grow up in:
4. Who are you: Victim (Continue to Section A) / Assistant counselor or other care giver (Continue to Section B).

SECTION A – VICTIM

1. In your opinion, what is gender-based violence?
2. Are you familiar with gender-related violence?
3. What forms of gender-related violence are you familiar with?
Domestic violence/ Femicide/ Trafficking of women and children/ Sexual violence/ Violence, (sexual) harassment in the workplace/ Other,
4. Which of these forms have you experienced/experienced yourself?
5. In your opinion, who are victims of gender-related violence?

6. Do you encounter forms of gender-related violence in your work or daily life?
7. What form of gender-related violence do you primarily encounter in your workplace or in your daily life?
8. How often has it occurred in the past year? And what form?
9. How did this make you feel?
10. Can you tell me what exactly happened the last time you experienced it?
11. Which of the following forms of gender-related violence do you think it belonged to?
12. How often has this happened to you in the past year?
13. What do you think triggered what happened to you?
14. Do you think it could have been avoided?
15. How do you think it could have been avoided? How?
16. What impact has this event had on you, your children, and your family?
17. Have you had to involve others Why? Who?
18. What was the advice of the people you approached?
19. Who did you approach afterwards about it?
20. How do you think you could have prevented the situation?
21. How would you act or do differently next time (should you be faced with such a situation again)?
22. Do you think this form of violence can cease to exist in Nickerie?
23. How do you think that will happen? Can you give me any advice? For whom would that advice be?
24. Who do you think can ensure that gender-related violence stops in Nickerie?
25. What would have to change/be different for gender related violence to stop?

SECTION B ASSISTANT COUNSELOR /CARE WORKER

1. Authority you belong to:
Police/ Doctor/ Foundation ... / Organization ... /Other,
2. What is your institution's role in this?

Gender is the set of social, cultural, behavioral and identity aspects of men and women, as distinct from physical and biological aspects. These aspects may vary from culture to culture.

Gender inequality: traits associated with women and femininity are generally valued lower within societies. This makes girls and women have lower social status and power than boys and men.

3. What is your opinion on what is stated above about gender inequality?
4. In your opinion, what is gender-based violence?
5. In your opinion, who are victims of gender-based violence?
6. What forms of gender-based violence do you meet at work or in your daily life?
7. What form of gender-based violence are you more likely to encounter in your workplace?
8. How often has this occurred in the past year?
9. Can you tell what it is generally like when a client comes to you?
10. Have there been occasions when you have involved third parties? Why?
11. When was the last time you dealt with a case of gender-based violence?
12. Under what form of gender-based would you place it?
13. Can you indicate exactly how you dealt with the last case?
14. Who other did you involve resolving this case? Why did you have to do that?
15. What was your advice to the victim?
16. Do you have any recommendations and or suggestions to specifically counter or stop gender-based violence in Nickerie?
17. Who or what do you point to as the reason for this problem in Nickerie?
18. How do you think gender-based violence may affect women's functioning as individuals within society?
19. What underlying factors can you identify that perpetuate gender-based violence?
20. What do you think may be the consequences mainly of gender-based violence in a relationship?

APPENDIX 2. LIST OF CONTACT PERSONS

Organization	Contact person + position	Contact details ¹¹
District Commissioner Nickerie	S. Gobardhan	comnickerie@hotmail.com
	J. Ho Asjoe, assistant	
	S. Lachman	
National Domestic Violence Council	G. Nanden-Harpal, Secretary of the Executive Office	geetaharpal@yahoo.com
Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Gender Bureau	L. Kartowidjojo	bgasur@gmail.com/
	E. Pawirodimedjo	bganickerie@gmail.com / 211135
Ministry of Justice and Police	S. Lakhisaran, Director	secdir.juspol@gov.sr
	G. Rostam	
	T. Kamta	
Victim Support	N. Huisraad	
Police Domestic Violence Unit	Regional Police Commander	kabinetregiowest@gmail.com / 0231530
	D. Shaamkaransingh	
	W. Ramadhin	
	O. Thomas–Bunwaree	
	R. Raghoenandan	
Regional Health Services	S. Gopal, interim Director	sec.directeurrgd@gmail.com
	Dr. R. Ramjatan, Coordinator	rayoncoordinator8@gmail.com
	Drs. A. Matai	
	Drs. A. Balgobin	
	Drs. G. Hemradj	
Ministry of Education and Culture	C. Lamsberg	
Mungra Medical Center	S. Abdul, Director	directiemmc@szn.sr
	A. Moespar, Patients Unit	
Foundation Stop Violence Against Women	M. Bean, Director	beanmargo@gmail.com
Sari Foundation	K. Bajnath, President	stichtingsari@hotmail.com
	M. Bipat, member of the Board	
Mother's Heart Foundation	N. Kapoerchan-Dinai, Director	stg.moederhart@yahoo.com
Open Gate Foundation	R. Eli, Director	gillianoeli@gmail.com

¹¹ De persoonlijke contactgegevens zijn hierbij niet vermeld.

APPENDIX 3. LIST OF INTERVIEWEES

#	NAME	POSITION	VICTIM/CARE WORKER	Gender
1	Anonymous	Anonymous	Victim	Female
2	Anonymous	Anonymous	Victim	Female
3	Anonymous	Anonymous	Victim	Female
4	Anonymous	Anonymous	Victim	Female
5	Anonymous	Anonymous	Victim	Female
6	Anonymous	Anonymous	Victim	Female
7	Anonymous	Anonymous	Victim	Female
8	Anonymous	Anonymous	Victim	Female
9	Anonymous	Anonymous	Victim	Female
10	Anonymous	Anonymous	Victim	Female
11	Matai A.	Regional Health Services	Medical doctor	Male
12	Hemradj G.	Regional Health Services	Medical doctor	Male
13	Balgobin A.	Regional Health Services	Medical doctor	Male
14	Kartowidjojo L.	Gender Bureau	AC	Female
15	Moreen W.	Penitentiary State	AC	Female
16	Moespar A.	Mungra Medical Center	AC	Female
17	Doorga S.	Unit Domestic Violence	Police officer	Male
18	Raghoenandan R.	Unit Domestic Violence	Police officer	Male
19	Ramadhin W.	Unit Domestic Violence	Police officer	Male
20	Eli R.	Foundation Open Gate	AC	Female
21	Bajnath K.	Foundation Sari	AC	Female
22	Thomas R.	Regional Health Services	AC	Female
23	Elisabeth	Teacher	AC	Female
24	Ramjatan R.	Mungra Medical Center	AC	Female

AC = Assistant Counselor

APPENDIX 4. - CHARTS

Overview obtained from some institutions regarding data gender-based violence.

Year	Organization	Ethnicity Victim	Gender	Age	Form of violence
2021	Mungra Medical Center	Mixed	Female	44	Sexual abuse
2021	Gender Bureau	Hindu	Female	55	Mental abuse
2022	Mungra Medical Center	Hindu	Female	53	Mental abuse
2022	Mungra Medical Center	Hindu	Female	32	Mental abuse
2022	Mungra Medical Center	Hindu	Female	27	Mental abuse
2022	Mungra Medical Center	Hindu	Female	4	Sexual abuse
2022	Gender Bureau	Hindu	Female	31	Mental abuse
2022	Gender Bureau	Javanese	Female	59	Mental/Financial
2022	Gender Bureau	Javanese	Female	29	Mental abuse
2022	Open Poort	Creole	Female	12	Sexual abuse
2022	Open Poort	Mixed	Female	10	Sexual abuse
2023	Open Poort	Creole	Female	10	Physical abuse
2023	Open Poort	Creole	Female	8	Physical abuse

Domestic Violence Unit Police			Form of violence
Year	Male	Female	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of any crime against life • Abuse against spouse/ life companion/child/brother/ mother/father • Severe abuse contra spouse/ life companion/mother
2021	6	60	
2022	6	34	

Domestic Violence Unit Police	2021	2022
Sexual abuse of children/teenagers aged 0-20 years	15	16
Domestic violence children/teenagers aged 0-20 years	10	7



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