



# Forms of intimate partner violence and associated HIV risk and vulnerability among women in sex work in Karnataka, India

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SAMVEDANA PLUS | Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Against Female Sex Workers



# Context



- Project is implemented in Bagalkot district, Karnataka, South India
- District Population > 1.7 million
- FSW > 4000, 80% are from the rural areas, belong to SC/ST and have been dedicated to sex work as *Devadasis*.
- HIV prevalence among FSW is 34.3 %, higher than the state average of 5.5 per cent[
- 60% of sex workers in Bagalkot have at least one intimate partner, 75% of IPs are married
- 80% of the intimate partnerships had started off as commercial sex partnerships
- Though sexual activity in the relationships is high condom use is low and violence is high
- Current targeted interventions with FSWs do not address low condom use or intimate violence in these relationships



# Background



- Project Samvedana Plus trial addresses violence and condom use within intimate partner (IP) relationships among female sex workers (FSWs) in Bagalkot district, Karnataka, India
- **Trial:** Cluster Randomized Trial
- **Data:** Baseline data collected in 2014
- **Sample coverage:** 620 FSWs in intimate relationship.

# Aim of the study



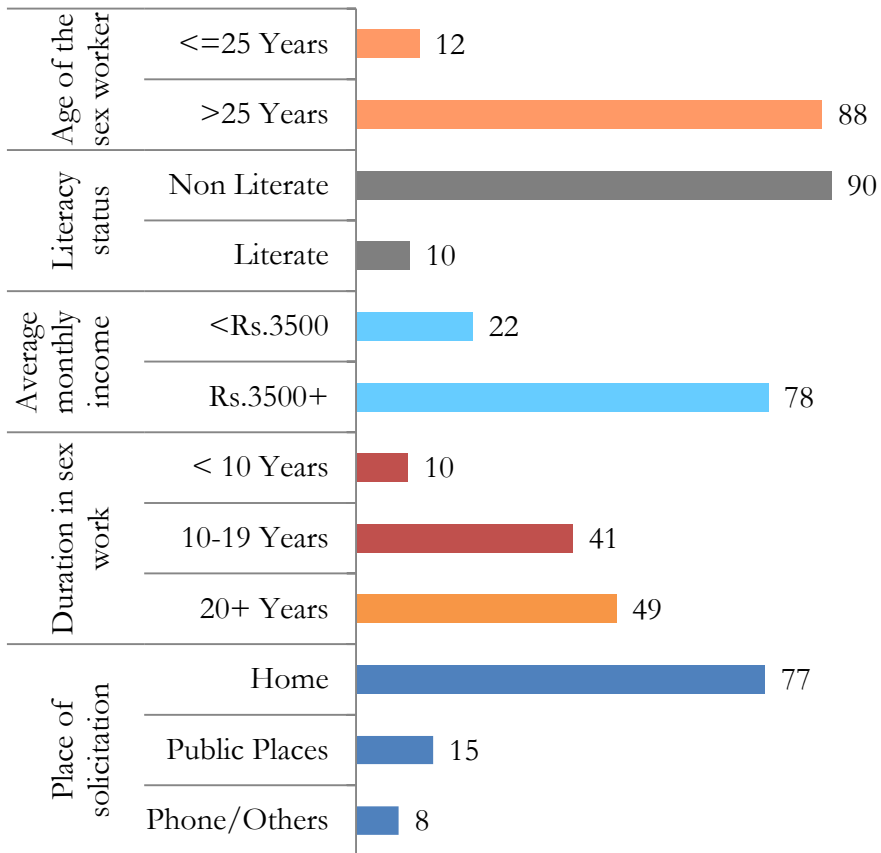
- To understand various forms of intimate partner violence (IPV) that FSWs experience
- To understand the condom use behavior within intimate partner relationship
- To explore the relationship between forms of violence and condom use with IPs

- Two specific outcomes analysed using bivariate and multivariate approaches
- **Outcome 1: Forms of violence experienced from the IPs in past 6 months.**
  - **Emotional** – such as intimidation, constant belittling and humiliating.
  - **Physical** – such as pushing, slapping, hitting, kicking and beating
  - **Sexual** – such as forced intercourse and other forms of sexual coercion
- **Outcome 2: Condom use with intimate partner**
  - **At last sex** – Reported use of condom (male or female) at last sex with the current IPs
  - **Consistent** – Reported using condoms (male or female) every time with the current IPs and does not have any instance of not using condoms with her IPs in the last 30 days.

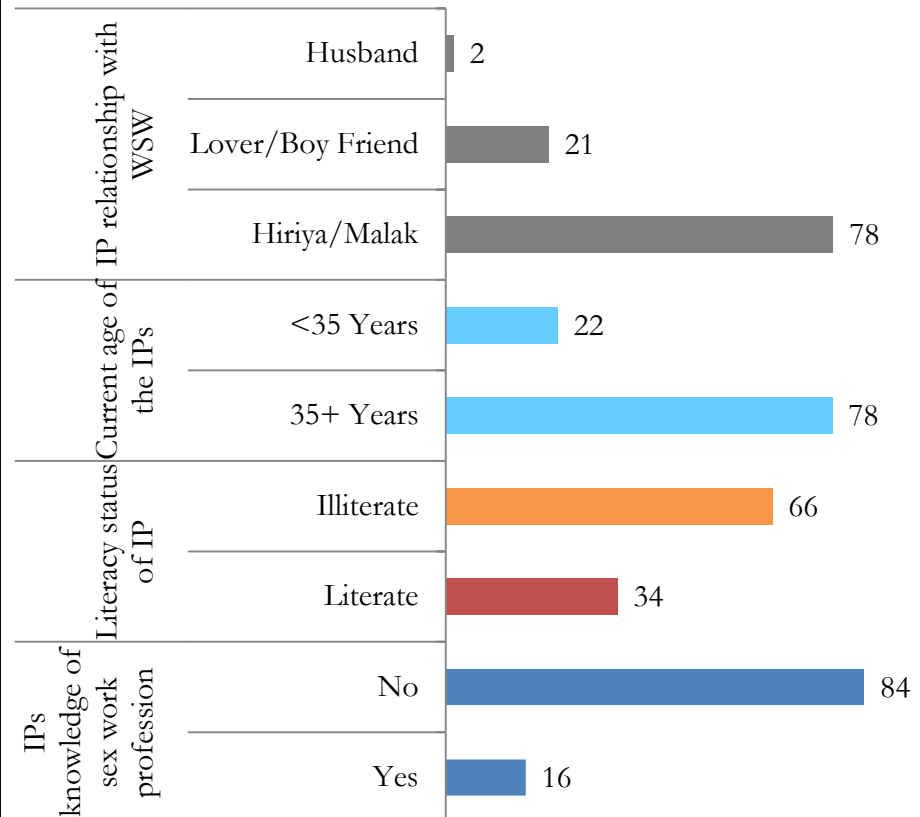
# Profile of FSWs and their IPs



## Profile of FSWs



## Profile of IPs



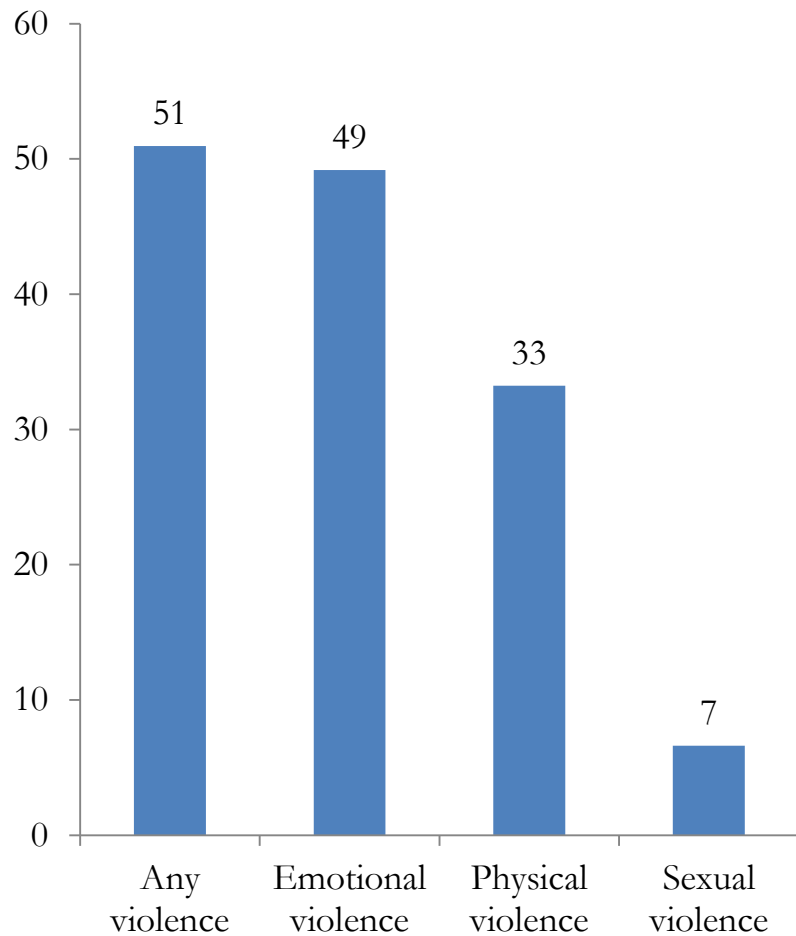
- Mean age : 35 years,
- Mean monthly income:Rs.4800 (\$72).
- Mean duration of the sex work :19 years
- Mean clients per week: 3 clients.

- Mean age of the IPs: 40 years
- Mean duration of relationship: 12 years.

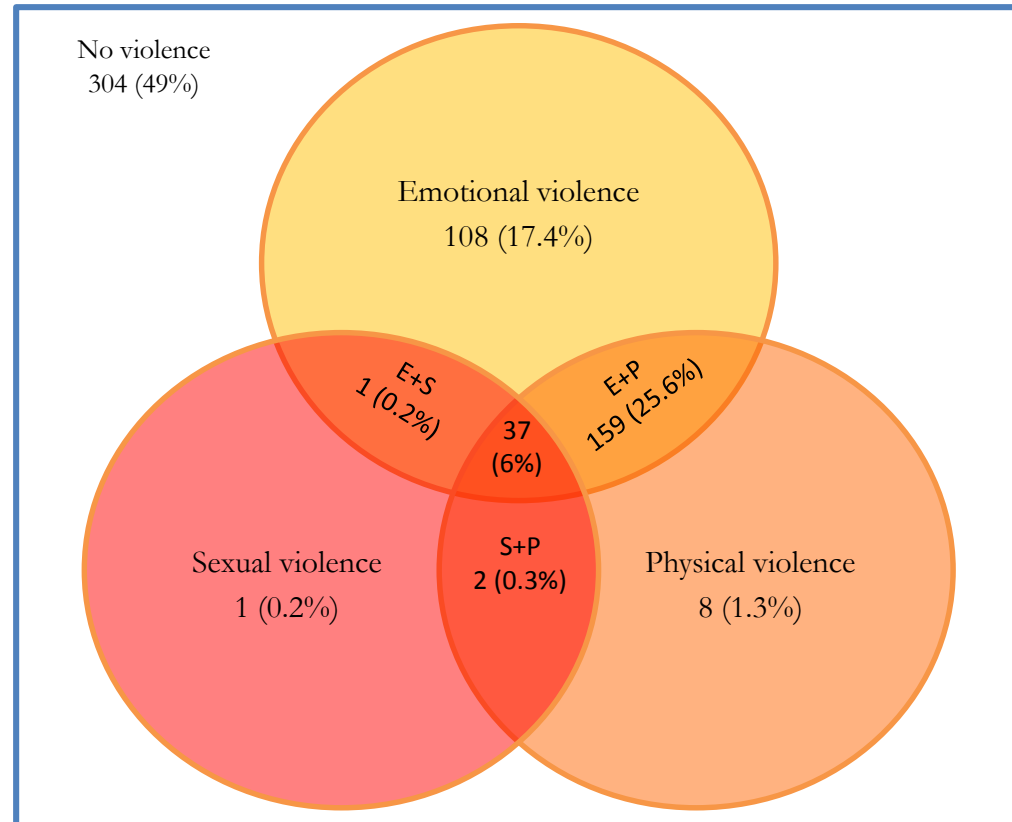
# Violence from IPs in last 6 months



Type of violence



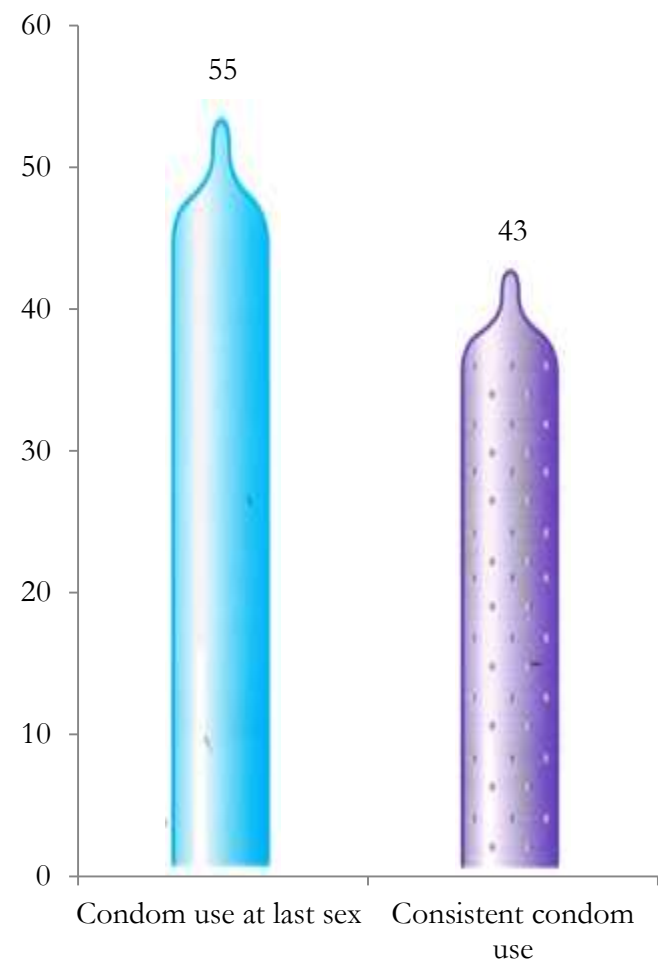
Overlapping between the different forms of violence (N=620)



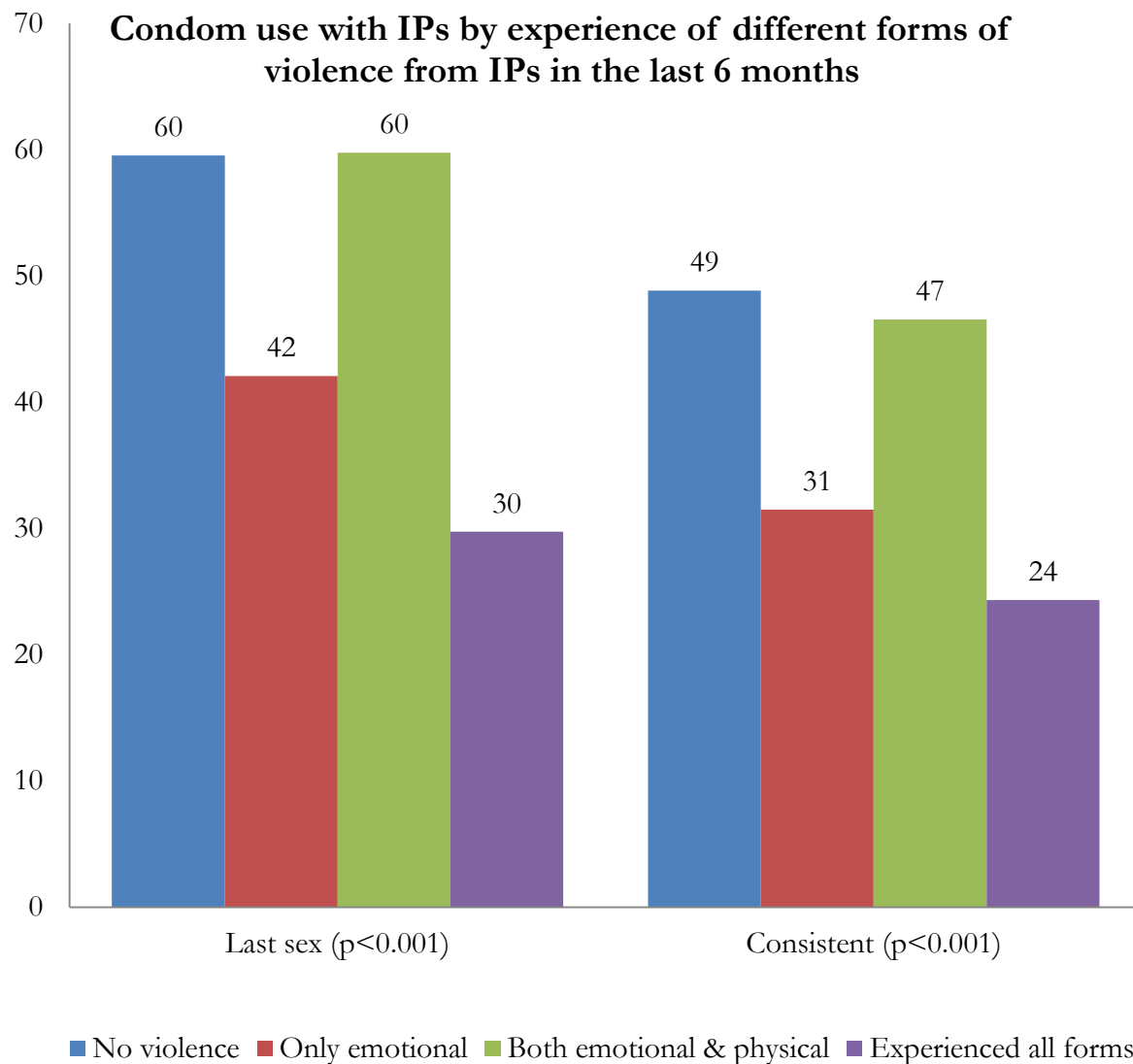
# Condom use in intimate relationship



### Condom use with IPs



### Condom use with IPs by experience of different forms of violence from IPs in the last 6 months



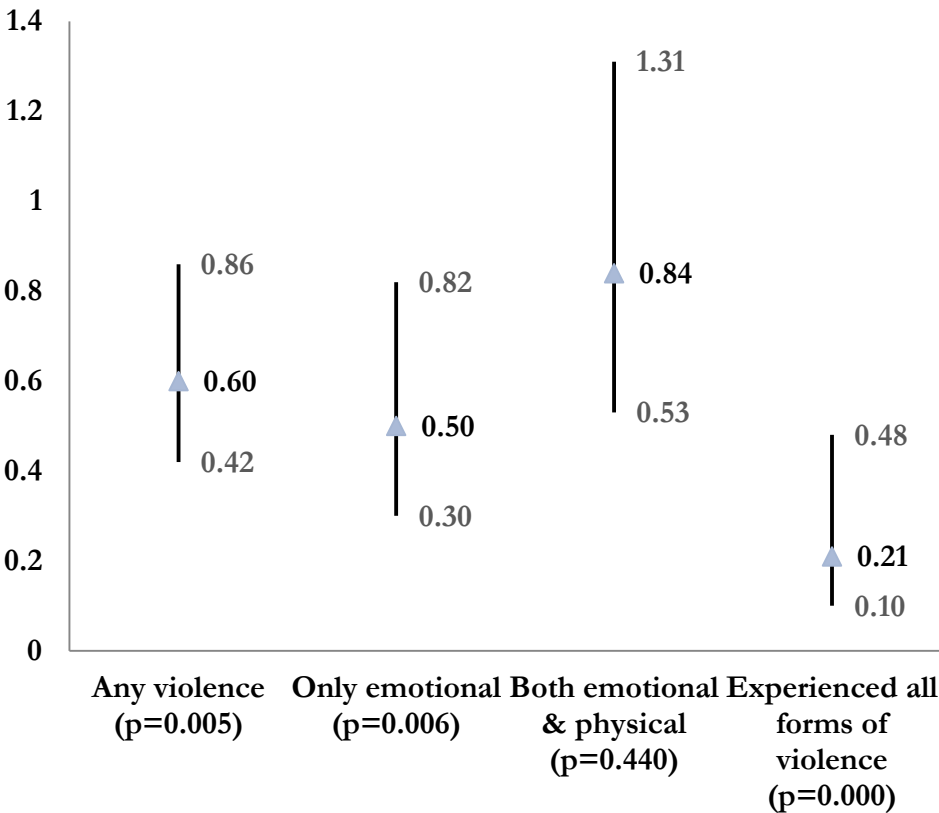


# Relationship between difference forms of violence from IPs and condom use with IPs

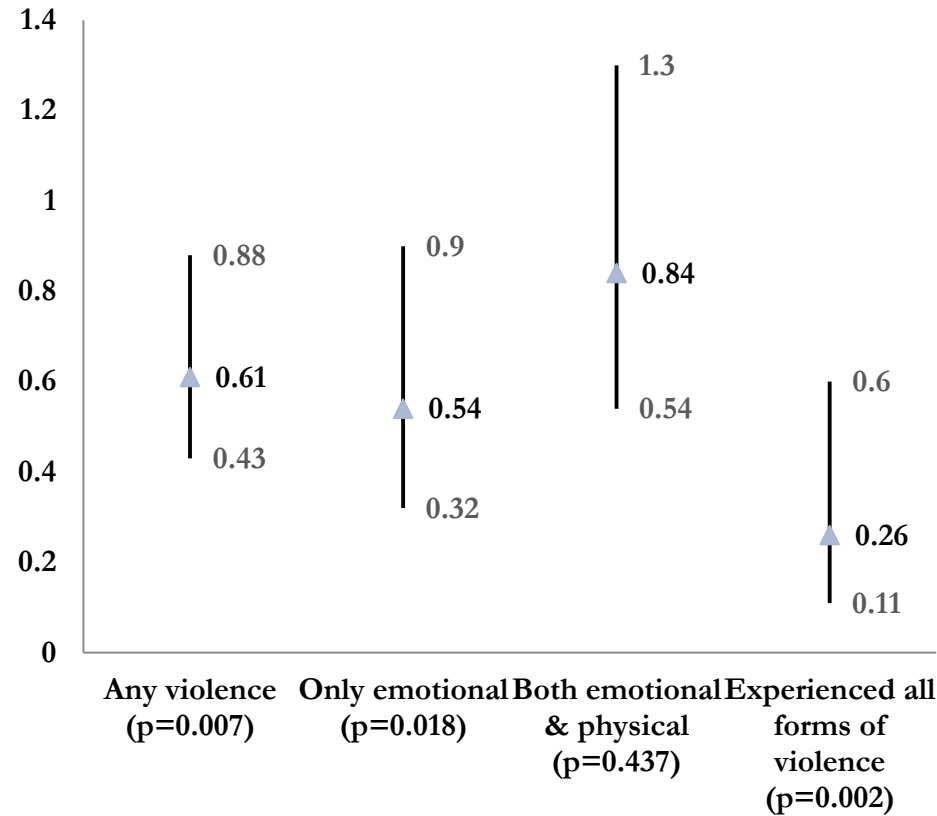


(Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR) and 95% CI)

Condom use at last sex with IPs (CU)



Consistent condom use with IPs (CCU)



Multivariate models were adjusted for the following variables: Age of the FSW, average monthly income, place of solicitation, current age of IP, Duration of relationship with IP and IPs knowledge of sex work profession. Odds ratios are in relation to experienced violence vs. not experienced violence

# Conclusions



- ✓ The study confirms that, women in sex work experience emotional, physical and sexual violence from their IPs.
- ✓ Both emotional and sexual violence from IPs lower the condom use within their relationship, whereas physical violence from IP also lower condom use with their clients.
- ✓ It is important to also address intimate partner violence in the HIV prevention programs in order to mitigate the risk of HIV transmission.

# Acknowledgement



**The sex workers in Bagalkot district and the intervention and research team of Samvedana Plus**

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# THANK YOU



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