
The Prevalence, Determinants, and Health Risks of Domestic Violence in Gedeo and West Gujji Zones, Southern Ethiopia: An Evidence-based Study

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Abstract: *This study was aimed at looking in to women's experiences of violence in the home in selected woreda's of Gedeo and West Gujji Zones. Mixed research approach was employed to collect the required data from victims of domestic violence, police officers, and officials and experts in concerned government offices. The quantitative data collected was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21 and thematic analysis method was employed for qualitative data. The result revealed those women's accounts of abuse is a complex phenomenon because it includes various forms, ranging from humiliation, threats and social isolation to forced sex and battering. Violence against women runs along a range, often escalating from milder forms to more serious acts. The finding indicated that men who are physically abusive are also psychologically, economically and sexually abusive. In this study, Economic dependence, and transgressions of gender role were found to be the main causes of domestic violence. Alcoholism, jealousy and masculinity linked to dominance were also mentioned as factors of violence. Domestic violence has profound consequences on women's overall well-being. The experience of domestic violence puts women at greater risk of physical, social, mental and health problems. With regard to response to domestic violence, the study shows that some abused women are not passive victims but rather adopt active strategies to maximize their and their children safety. As economic dependence was found to be the prominent cause for domestic violence the researchers suggest the integrated interventions of stakeholders to economic empowerment of women to scale up the capabilities of women in household decision making thereby reducing the likelihood of violence in the home. Furthermore, enforcing the existing legal frameworks related to domestic violence and enacting additional responsive regulations on domestic violence is imperative to protect the victims of domestic violence.*

Keywords: Domestic violence, Consequence of violence, West Gujji zone, Gedeo zone, causes of domestic violence.

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (UN, DEVAW, 1993) defines violence against women as: ‘any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life’ (UN, DEVAW, 1993: article 1 cited in Megersa, 2014).

International studies estimate that approximately 35 per cent of women across the world have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their lives, largely in the form of domestic violence (García-Moreno *et al.*, 2013).

Domestic violence is now widely recognized as serious human rights abuse and increasingly as an important public health problem with substantial consequences for women’s physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health. The health system often are not adequately addressing the problem of violence and contributing to comprehensive multi-sectorial response (WHO, 2010). Domestic violence against women is universal phenomenon that persists in all countries of the world and a major contributor of ill health of women. The perpetrators are often well known to their victims. The health social, sexual, reproductive health and wellbeing of millions of individuals and families is adversely affected by violence in the world (Agumasie and Bezatu, 2015).

Worldwide, 40–70 % of female murder by their intimate partner. No country in the world is women safe from violence. According WHO multicounty study, domestic violence ranged from 15 % in Japan to 71 % in rural Ethiopia. Domestic violence has gained prominence around the world as grave violation of human and legal rights. Women are usually the victim of domestic violence that derives from unequal power relationships between men and women (Agumasie and Bezatu, 2015). It is also associated with persistent forms of gender inequality and adverse health and economic outcomes among victims, including poor physical and mental health, higher risks of the human immune deficiency virus (HIV) and other sexually transmitted diseases, restricted livelihood options and choices, lower human capital and lower productivity (García-Moreno *et al.*, 2005, 2013; Moosa, 2012 cited in UKaid, 2016).

Recognition of the links between domestic violence and a range of adverse reproductive health outcomes including non-use of contraception and unintended pregnancy, poor outcomes of pregnancy and birth, gynecological morbidity and sexually transmitted diseases and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is also growing (WHO, 2003).

The acts of violence against members of the household, whether wife or child, were perceived as discipline, and essential for maintaining the rule of authority within the family. In the last two

decades, the Indian women's movement has contributed to a growing public awareness about violence against women. Tejashri, *et.al.* (2013).

Violence against women and girls is a major health and human rights issue. While rates of women exposed to violence vary from one region to the other, violence against women is a universal phenomenon. In all societies, to a greater or lesser degree, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture (Christiana, 2012).

A recent systematic review has reported that at least one in seven homicides and over one third of all female homicides worldwide are perpetrated by an intimate partner (Stocklet *al.*, 2013). Physical and sexual violence are not the only types of domestic violence perpetrated against women: emotionally abusive acts and controlling behavior are experienced by up to 75 per cent of women worldwide (García-Moreno et al., 2005 cited in MoWCYA, 2013).

In South Africa, a woman is killed every 6 hours by an intimate partner; In Guatemala, two women are murdered, on average, each day; Between 40 and 50 percent of women in European Union countries experience unwanted sexual advancements, physical contact or other forms of sexual harassment at their workplace; More than 60 million girls worldwide are child brides, married before the age of 18, primarily in South Asia (31.1 million) and sub-Saharan Africa (14.1 million) (UNIFEM). Violence causes more death and disability worldwide amongst women aged 15-44 than war, cancer, malaria and traffic accidents (World Bank Study World Development Report: Investing in Health, New York, Oxford University Press, 1993).

Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women. Violence against women continues to be global epidemic that kills, tortures and maims physically, psychological, sexually and emotionally (Christiana, 2012).

It is one of the most pervasive of human rights violation that denies women of their security, equality, dignity, self-worth and right to enjoy fundamental freedom. Violence against women is present in most countries in the world, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age (UN declaration on the elimination of violence Against Women and General Assembly Resolution1993 cited in Christiana, 2012).

Domestic violence is common in Ethiopia both urban and rural families. About 88 % of rural and 69 % of urban women believe that their husbands have the right to beat them. Approximately, one out of ten women do victim of abduction, early forced marriage, rape and marital rape.

Marital rape is still not recognized under the criminal code 2005. Ethiopia government revises family law in 2000 and criminal law in 2005 to protect women right. The criminal code and constitution article 35(4) condemn harmful traditional practices. Ethiopia ratified the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in 1981. However, there is a paucity of country wide evidence about domestic violence against women and associated factors in Ethiopia (Agumasie and Bezatu 2015).

Statement of the problem

Violence is defined by the world health organization (WHO) as intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, 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 (As cited in Agumasie and Bezatu 2015).

According to a report by WHO (2010) Domestic violence is understood to be an abuse of power perpetrated primarily, but not only, by men against women, both in the context of a relationship, as well as after the relationship may have ended. It occurs when one partner and in some cases, both partners – attempt physical, psychological, emotional, financial or social control over the other. Whilst domestic violence takes several forms, the most commonly recognised, and officially recorded, forms include physical and sexual violence, threats of violence and intimidation, emotional and social abuse, and economic deprivation.

Intimate partner violence is defined as the intentional use of physical force or power threatened or actual against a woman or man within a relationship which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, psychological harm, and death (WHO, 2013).

It is one of the most common forms of violence against women and major public health human rights issues that causes physical, sexual, and psychological harm including the act of physical aggression, sexual coercion, and psychological abuse by current or former intimate partners (Devries et.al 2013).

According to a report by WHO (2010) Domestic violence is understood to be an abuse of power perpetrated primarily, but not only, by men against women, may both in the context of a relationship, as well as after the relationship have ended. It occurs when one partner – and in some cases, both partners – attempt physical, psychological, emotional, financial or social control over the other. Whilst domestic violence takes several forms, the most commonly recognised, and officially recorded, forms include physical and sexual violence, threats of violence and intimidation, emotional and social abuse, and economic deprivation.

Worldwide, 35% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner or nonintimate partner violence; 30% of these women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner in their lifetime (WHO, 2014).

Attempts were made to reveal Violence against Women in Ethiopia. Shelters for Women and Girls who are survivors of violence in Ethiopia reported by UN Women Ethiopia (2016) Conducted with the aim of assessing the availability, accessibility, quality, and demand of rehabilitation and reintegration services for women and girl survivors of sexual violence.

Therefore, protecting of the basic rights of women in multicultural areas like Gedeo zones and West Gujji zones is of utmost importance, including serious intervention on eradicating violence that against their right. The stereotyping attitude and belief of the people towards women should be changed in order to create gender equality and bring about socioeconomic development. And it is the current researchers' belief that the overall commitment level of the government as well as its stakeholders in terms of the domestic violence in Gedeo and Gujji zones should be in focus of current research priorities of the sector. There is scarce disaggregated data regarding gender and domestic violence in these zones and also weak implementation of gender approach policies in different areas of the region. Violence limits the socioeconomic and political participation of women. Therefore this endangers the development of the country. Accordingly, to achieve sustainable and equitable development, empowerment of women is key and it needs scientifically investigated intervention strategies. An inquiry by (Sileshi et.al, 2012) solely stressed on attitudes of the women and their response. The social and cultural factors that contributed for Intimate partner violence was totally ignored.

Although many researches have been conducted in Ethiopia regarding domestic violence most of these studies conducted in West and South West Ethiopia; this creates a gap in the academic literature.

To fill the obvious gaps in the academic literature, therefore, this research was conducted in selected woreda's in Gedeo and west Gujji zones. Furthermore, some of the previous studies only relied on the qualitative approach of collecting data and without indicating gender approach and empowerment policy; this study triangulated the quantitative and qualitative approaches based on the views of liberal and socialist feminists.

Objective of the Study

The general objective of the study is to assess the prevalence, causes and health risks of home-based domestic violence against women in Gedeo and West Gujji zones.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design and approach

This study employed both qualitative and quantitative approaches. In relation to this idea Creswell & Clark (2007) explained that “mixed methods research provides a more complete understanding of the research problem than either quantitative or qualitative alone. In relation to this idea Malina, Nørreklit & Selto (2010) mentioned that a mixed methods design is useful to capture the best of both quantitative and qualitative approaches. There are a number of designs or strategies under mixed method approach to be used by researchers based on the objectives of their research. To undertake this study, cross-sectional survey design was employed.

Study population, Sample size, and Sampling Techniques

The researchers employed both probability and non-probability sampling methods for this study. From non-probability sampling Purposive sampling was employed. Gedeo and west Gujji zones were purposively selected based on the evidences and cases of different justice and other institutions on the issue. Simple random sampling technique was used to select woredes and kebeles for sampling as well as HHDS will be selected by systematical sampling design for survey questionnaire and purposive for qualitative part. The Sampling frame (List of respondents) was obtained from respective Wereda bureaus in the study area.

The target population of this research were all women at the age category of 15-49 in selected weredas in Gedeo and West Gujji zones. A complete list of cases in a population is called sampling frame (William, 2006). The Sampling frame (List of respondents) was obtained from respective Weredas in the study area. Sample size was determined after obtaining real data from concerned regional, zone and woreda respective offices. On the other hand, the sample size of the qualitative part was determined based on data saturation theory.

The researchers randomly selected 150 Married women from 1759 households (*Gedeo and West Gujji Zones*). Of the total 150 respondents, 83 of them were selected from Weredas in West Gujji and the rest 67 of them were from weredas in Gedeo Zone. The sample size was determined by the sample size calculator (<http://www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm>) with 95 % confidence interval and 5 % degree of freedom. In doing so, the list of farming households (sampling frame) was obtained from the concerned Government bureaus in two Zones.

Sources of data

The necessary data was collected using primary and secondary sources. Here, a combination of both quantitative (survey) and qualitative (key informant interviews, in depth interview and FGD and personal observation) were used to collect first-hand information from selected women and justice institutions in the study area. Primary sources of data for the study were women, police, persecutors, gender experts and other who have information and experience on the area. The advantage of collecting primary data is reliability. Since the data are collected by the concerned and reliable party. The secondary sources of data for this study were books, journals and reports connected with the issue.

Data collection methods and Survey instruments

Survey Questionnaire

A self-administered structured questionnaire was used to gather data related to the issue under study from the sample respondents with two enumerators. The survey questionnaire includes both close and open-ended questions to obtain detailed information.

For the purpose of collecting qualitative data, among a number of qualitative methods, the researchers employed key-informant interview, in-depth interview and FGD and personal observation for this study.

Key informant interview and in-depth interview

Key informant interviews were conducted with those who are expected to have a deeper knowledge and understanding of Domestic violence in the study area. In addition, in depth interviews were conducted with Women who experienced domestic violence in the study area. Sampling was continued until saturation of data reached. The results of the key informant interviews and in-depth interviews were analyzed and used to supplement '(or refute) responses that was gathered from the survey.

Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

Focus group discussions were conducted with purposively selected victims of domestic violence in the study area. FGD members who took part in the Focus group discussions were selected purposively on the basis of their willingness. Since group member homogeneity is important to the quality of groups output FGD members comprises female members. In addition, all FGD members were categorized under the age group of 12-49.

Each FGD groups were composed of 7 participants. A focus group discussion guide containing a list of discussion points that are thought to explore the topic under study was prepared and used for this purpose. During discussions, the researchers played the role of moderator. As it is the case with the results of the in-depth interviews and key informant interviews the outcomes from the FGDs were triangulated with data from the survey.

Personal Observation

Personal observation, with the help of guiding checklist, was used to get information that may not be addressed through survey questionnaire, interviews and FGDs, as well as to further substantiate the information obtained through these methods. Observation of the study areas, population and their socio-economic conditions, and other related aspects would also help generate first-hand information.

Method of Data Analysis

The quantitative data that were collected using the survey instrument (questionnaire) was analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentages and mean distribution). In addition, the statistical analysis tool SPSS (Version 20) was utilized for advanced inferential analysis. Furthermore, the qualitative data that were obtained through key informant interviews, in depth interview and FGD and personal observation was analyzed thematically.

Ethical Considerations

In the course of conducting this study, the researchers considered the following ethical issues; Firstly, the researchers made clear the research objectives to participants and authorities in the study area. This helped the researchers to get permission from authorities and other concerned bodies as no one will be harmed by the study process. So, informed consent was obtained from the study participants. Secondly, the respondents were informed about their right to quit responding to the interviews, focus group discussion questions and Questionnaires without any reason and at any time.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Out of 150 women participants, 150 participants were completed questionnaires with a response rate of 100%. The result reveals that the majority of the participants are at the age of 36-45(41.3%), and the next highest participants are at the age range of 26—35(31.3%).The finding shows that the family history among participants included in this study; 129 (86.0%) of parents were married and living together, 15(10.0 %) are single and the rest 6(4.0%) are divorced . Majority of students 292 (85.13%) had close relation with their parents (Table 1).The result shows that majority of the participants 59 (39.3%) are Read and write,41(27.3%), 23 (15.3%) are Read only, and the remaining 9 (6.0%) are attended higher education . Education is one of the factors that can matter domestic violence of women. If the woman is educated, she is more likely to know her rights and duties. She will be assertive and free from harmful myths and will defend her rights through all means. It has been shown in the demographic survey that educated women are less likely to agree a man is justified in abusing his wife for any reason compared to uneducated women

Table 3:1-Socio-Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Age of the respondents	Frequency	Percent
15-25	20	13.3
26--35	47	31.3
36-45	62	41.3
46 and above	21	100.0
Total	150	
Marital Status		
Married	129	86.0
Single	15	10.0
Divorced	6	4.0
Total	150	100.0
Number of family members		
1-5	10	72.7
6-10	30	20.0
11-15	11	7.3
Total	150	100.0
Level of education		
Illiterate	41	27.3
Read only	23	15.3
Can Read and write	59	39.3
Attended grade 1-4	8	5.3
Attended higher education	9	6.0
Total	150	100.0

Source researchers data, 2023

Socio-Economic characteristics of the respondents

The finding shows that majority of the respondents are unemployed and below 500-1000 monthly income.

Table 3:2- Socio-Economic characteristics of the respondents

Employment status of respondents?	Frequency	Percent
Employed	29	19.3
Unemployed	121	80.7
Total	150	100.0
If 'Employed', what is your profession?		
Skilled worker	10	6.7
Unskilled worker	9	6.0

Undefined	10	12.7
Total	20	
Indicate your average monthly income in birr from all sources		
below 500	7	4.7
500-1000	88	58.7
1001-2000	23	15.3
above 3000	29	19.3
Unknown	3	2.0
Total	147	98.0
What is the level of your husband's education?		
Illiterate	16	10.7
Read only	40	26.7
Attended grade 1-4	30	20.0
Attended grade 5-8	45	30.0
Attended grade 9-12	10	6.7
Attended higher education	9	6.0
Total	150	100.0
What is his occupation?		
Daily labourer	20	13.3
Merchant	34	22.7
Farmer	82	54.7
Government/Private organization worker	14	9.3
Total	150	100.0

Source researchers data,2023

Nature and Experience of violence in Home

The quantitative finding of the study shows that the majority of the participants 138(92.0%) are experienced violence at home. The finding of the study shows that the frequency of quarrel is varying from individual to individual due to personal factors. The study identified financial issue (42.0%), Transgression of gender role (refusing sex, talking back not accomplishing house hold chores, disobedient (15.3%) ,Jealousy(14.7%) , Drunkenness (13.3) and Unknown(14.7%) are the major reasons to violence in the study area.The nature of violence they experienced both physical and psychological violence in their life.

At home, physical punishment is widely used to discipline children. In one study in Addis Ababa, Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and SNNPR, 74% of children reported they were hit with a stick, 73% were hit on their head, 70% were slapped, 69% were punched, 64% were whipped with a belt, and 53% were forced to kneel down (Save the Children & ACPF, 2005). Beatings with sticks, belts, plastic hose, rope, and electric wire were commonplace. Punishments also include depriving of basic necessities, such as food (Ayode, 2012). Punishment is frequently gendered, with girls and

boys punished for different reasons or with different levels of severity. Girls for example, may be punished for avoiding housework, while boys may be beaten for letting cattle stray when they are herding (Pankhurst et al 2016). One study with 1,268 students across all 9 regions also found that verbal insults, humiliating, threatening and name calling were commonplace (Save the Children, MoE and MoWA, 2008). Summarising a number of studies, Mulugeta (2016) documents the consequences of such punishments, including physical injury, distress and in some cases running away from home, and so increasing numbers of street children. The beliefs that children are the property of parents, that physical punishment is necessary for child socialisation, along with lack of awareness of alternative ways to discipline children, help to explain the persistence of these forms of physical and psychological violence (Save the Children & ACPF, 2005, ACPF, 2014).

Experience and Information regarding Violence at home

The findings of the majority of the participants (82.0%) are told for their violence to their family, Neighbour, friends, and government and they got different responses (see table below).

Table 3:3 Experience and Information regarding Violence at home

Have you ever told your experience of violence to others?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	123	82.0
No	27	18.0
Total	150	100.0
If your answer is yes for above Question, for whom?		
Family	55	36.7
Neighbour	26	17.3
Friends	42	28.0
Government	27	18.0
Total	123	82.0
What was the response?		
Nothing	24	16.0
Helpful	77	51.3
Ignorance	22	14.7
Unknown	27	18.0
Total	123	82.0
If your answer is No for above question why you refrain to report?		
Fear of breaking relationship	12	8.0
Hope for future improvement	9	6.0
Total	21	14.0
System	129	86.0

Total	150	100.0
Have you ever tried to leave the violent relationship with your husband?		
Yes	100	66.7
No	50	33.3
Total	150	100.0
If your answer is Yes for above question what mechanisms you adopted?		
Runaway	8	5.3
Asking help from relatives	50	33.3
Reporting to the police	23	15.3
Fighting back	23	15.3
Total	104	69.3
Not Responded	46	30.7

Source: researchers data,2023

Women's experience of violence in the home was mainly drawn from in-depth interview and focus group discussion with victims of domestic violence. Discussion was made that depicts the types and frequency of violence by pinpointing women's experience of physical, economical, psychological and sexual violence by their husbands. For ethical and confidentiality reasons each participant is given a pseudonym names. Survey data that was obtained from questionnaire is also triangulated with qualitative data to the discussion in order strengthen the analysis of the issue under investigation.

Physical violence

While describing physical violence the participants mentioned serious incidents from slap to the use of weapons resulting serious physical injury. Most of them bore visible scare on their bodies. The findings showed that participant women were beaten, strangled, pushed, kicked, dragged by the hair, and they were threatened with weapons.

Ayelech a 38 years old also reveals her experience of physical violence as follow:

My relationship with my husband was romantic until I gave birth twin daughters. After I gave birth to the twins he developed a habit of heavy drinking, he insults me as if it is my mistake and always told me he is going to marry a woman that could give him a baby boy. Even sometimes he throws objects and threatened me with knife in front of my children. Sometimes I feel as if I am living with a monster I was patient that he could change his abusive behaviour but when conditions got worse I left him with my children and currently I am living with my parents. The only chance that I have is getting divorce and I am ready for that.

Psychological violence:

Women in the study area do not only experience physical violence but they also experience psychological abuse. All the women in the study experience a high level of both physical and psychological abuses. This finding suggests that men who are physically abusive are also psychologically abusive. Women often say that the psychological abuse and degradation are equally difficult to bear like that of the physical abuse. Verbal humiliation, such as being called names, sworn at or put down, were discussed and reported. They frequently described violence in terms of emotional or psychological abuse, referring to situations in which a man might constantly underestimate or downgrade a woman.

Meseret a 42 years old woman expressed her experience as follows:

He always insults me all the time in front of my friends and family members. He calls me ugly, Moron. When I give opinions on certain issues He often ignores and downgrade my opinion He would say that 'you don't know anything. You are not intelligent to talk about this issue and the like.

Elsabeth a 37 years old woman notes:

He calls me incompetent, stupid, ugly. I really feel embarrassed. He often told me that I am not good-looking, Worthless, inferior or lacking ability even to take care of my children and husband Cannot succeed on my own. He has tried all possible ways to humiliate me.

From the above statements it can be said that the abusers made women to lack their self-confidence and to be emotionally dependent. Abused women commonly experience diverse forms of psychological abuse. Threats are common, aimed at terrorizing the woman to such a point that the male partner feels in total control. Many women also live in fear and were psychologically terrified by their husbands.

They also reported that on-going psychological violence, emotional torture and living under terror is often more difficult than the physical brutality, with mental stress leading to depression and a sense of worthlessness. Some women even mentioned that rather than living in such abusive relationship they prefer to take their life deliberately this clearly shows there is a high suicidal tendency among abused women.

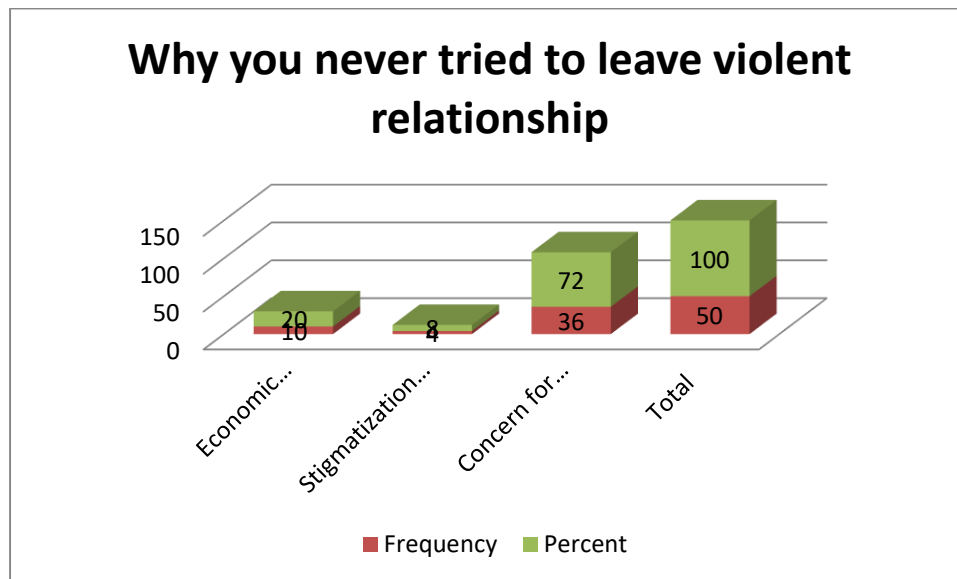
Psychological abuse is also expressed based on total control of movement, in which husbands want to show their power over their wives. Most respondents described such abuse in terms of a husband behaving with complete disregard for his wife's feelings. Male partners attempted to limit the respondents' actions in a variety of ways, such as limiting contact with family and friends, reproachful them for paying too much attention to other people

or things, and prohibiting respondents from going to work as well as preventing women from participating in different Social events.

One FGD member aged 32 mentioned her experience as follows: My husband does not feel comfortable when I leave home for shopping and some social events like weddings. He always ordered me to stay at home. He does not allow me to visit my parents and other family members even my children cannot visit their grandparents without his permission. The situation is getting worse but I have no option to resist because I am unemployed and economically dependent on him. I feared that he would divorce me.

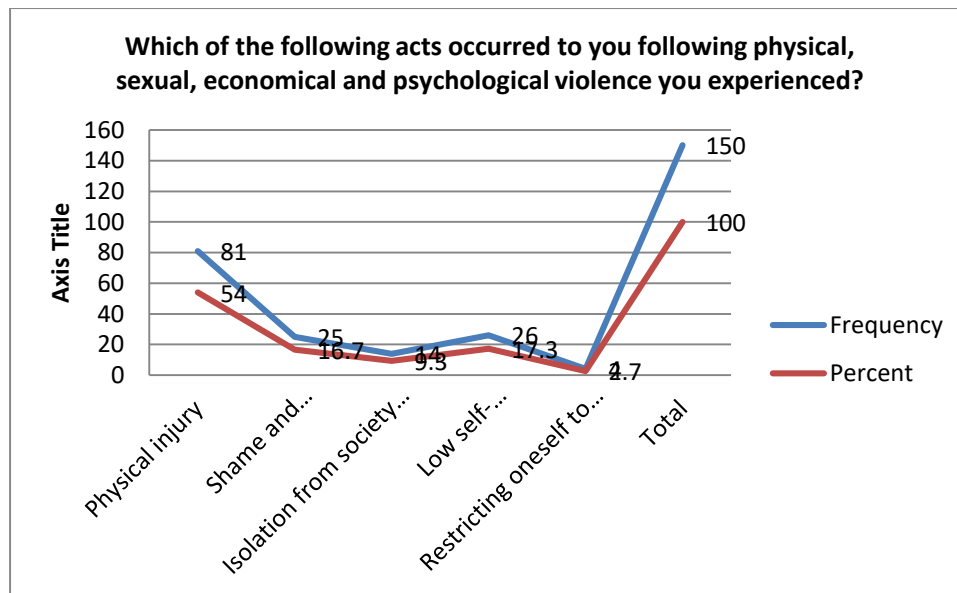
And the rest of participants are never tried to leave their marriage relation due to many factors. The identified factors are economic dependency, stigma from society, concern of children (see fig below)

Figure 0.1: Violent relation ship



The study result shows that the study participants are faced physical injury, shame, isolation, low self-esteem and restricting oneself (see below).

Figure 0.2: Type of violence faced by respondents



Ayantu a 41years old mentioned her experience as follows:

My husband and I began frequently quarrelling after I heard he had an affair with a woman who worked with him. To resolve the problem, I gathered neighbours and family members but he denied as if he had nothing with her but sometimes he came home drunken and even call her in front of me. After he began a relationship with her he always criticizes me and be little my opinion. Even he hits me in front of my neighbours and relatives. Still I am living with him with the hope that he could change his behaviour in the future.

The above events tell us how women are severely abused physically and psychologically by their abusive husbands; however, they would stay for a long in such abusive relationship for a long period of time. This shows women's ability to escape from their relationship is limited, due to their economic dependence even when they are subjected to severe and frequent physical and psychological violence.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion

Domestic violence is a very complex process and influenced by multiple factors. The likelihood of violence against women occurs throughout their marital lives. Many women live in fear not only for their own lives but also for the lives of their children. Women experienced physical, psychological economical and sexual violence. It was identified that poverty, alcoholism, jealousy

and transgression of gender role are the prevalent of causes of domestic violence against women. Both the qualitative and quantitative findings indicated that experience of domestic abuse puts women at greater risk of a variety of physical, psychological and economic problems. The effects of experiencing violence also include the inability to undertake daily work or social activities. Women perceive the psychological consequences of abuse to be even more serious than physical effects. The process of abuse alters women's views of themselves, their relationships and their place in the society.

A woman's response to abuse is often limited by the alternative existing to her. Some of the reasons women do not leave or use effective coping strategies include a lack of support from family, friends, legal institutions and above all economic dependency. Others include their belief that their husband abusive behavior will change in the future. In addition, limited access and availability of services, lack of knowledge and information about available services, and familial and cultural constraints often discourage women from seeking appropriate help and leaving their abusive husbands.

Despite these situations, there were women who decided to leave permanently their violent husbands. Divorce is one of the coping strategies for women in abusive relationships. but after divorce they face social stigma and economic problem.

Recommendation

The following recommendations are forwarded based on the finding of the study:

- The Federal and regional governments of Ethiopian should work on to minimize the prevalence DV that against women and girls through legal actions into practice and educative measures on women's rights.
- Women should be empowered, aware and educated about their human and democratic rights
- Further research is needed on the negative impacts of DV in the area.

DECLARATIONS

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Ethics approval and consent to participate

In the course of conducting this study, the researchers considered the following ethical issues. First, the researchers made clear the research objectives to participants and authorities in the study area. This helped the researchers obtain permission from authorities and other concerned bodies, as no one will be harmed by the study process. Therefore, informed consent was obtained from the study participants. Second, the respondents were informed about their right to quit responding to the interviews, focus group discussion questions, and questionnaires without any reason and at any time.

Data Availability

All data generated throughout the study have been included within the article, and raw data can be obtained from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Competing interests

The authors declare that there are no conflicts or computations of interest

Funding

We declare that there is no funding source for this research.

Authors' contributions

Both authors have equal contribution and shared responsibility in all steps of the research and manuscript preparation. This means quantitative data was interpreted and analysed by first author Asebe Awol Amado and qualitative data was thematized and analysed by co-author by Melkamu Gezehagn.

Consent for publication

The authors are fully agreed to publish the output of research for national and international society

Authors' information

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