

**INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN  
FOFA VILLAGE OF YEM SPECIAL DISTRICT:  
EXPERIENCES AND COPING MECHANISMS OF WOMEN  
SURVIVORS**

**BY**

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**INDRA GANDHINATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (IGNOU)**

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

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**ADDIS ABEBA, ETHIOPIA**

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the Indira Gandhi National Open University, in Partial Fulfillment of the  
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VILLAGE OF YEM SPECIAL DISTRICT:  
EXPERIENCES AND COPING MECHANISMS OF WOMEN SURVIVORS  
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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the dissertation entitled **Intimate partner Violence against women in Fofa Village of Yem Special District: Experiences and coping mechanisms of Women Survivors submitted** by me for the partial fulfillment of MSW to Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Addis Ababa is my own original work and has not been submitted earlier either to IGNOU or to any other institution for the fulfillment of the requirement for any other program of study. I also declare that no chapter of this manuscript in whole or in part lifted an incorporated in this report from any other work done by me or others.

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## **List of Acronyms**

AIDS: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

FGD: Focus group Discussion

FGM: Female Genital Mutilation

IPV: Intimate Partner Violence

SNNPRS: Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State

UN: United Nations

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund

VAW/G: Violence against Woman and Girls

WHO - World Health Organization

### **Abstract**

*Intimate partner violence against women is physical, psychological, economic and social violence perpetrated by current or former husbands against women. Intimate partner violence occurs in all areas and transcends social, economic and geographical boundaries. Women in Yem special district also face different forms of violence in the hands of their husbands. The aim of this study was to assess and understand the lived experiences of women victims of intimate partner violence in Yem Special District Fofa village. It explores the social, psychological, economic and social problems experienced by women survivors of intimate partner violence. It also describes the various coping mechanisms used by these women survivors to deal with the social, economic, psychological and economic problems they encounter in the hands of their former or current partner. The study used exploratory and descriptive research designs and explored the lived experiences of women survivors of intimate partner violence in Yem Special District Fofa village. The study used various data gathering tools including in-depth interview and focus group discussions. An in-depth interview was carried out with ten women survivors and two focus group discussions were conducted with ten study participants to qualify the study findings. The findings of the study indicate that survivors of intimate partner violence experience a combination of psychological, economic, social and psychosocial problems as a result of the abuse by their husband. It also revealed that women experience the different forms of violence irrespective of the economic and educational background. The study also confirmed that although mostly the physical violence is seen as far worse than emotional abuse, the study findings confirm that women experiences of emotional abuse are the worst. Furthermore, the study identified various techniques or strategies used by women survivors to deal with the violence that they encounter in the hands of their husband. Some of them include fighting back, discussing with close friends and families, reporting to responsible bodies, getting elderly advice, and fleeing. The study also discussed the support available for victims of violence by various service providers and the perception of victims towards this support.*

# Chapter One

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Worldwide one of the most common forms of violence against women is abuse by intimate partner. Intimate partner violence occurs in all countries and transcends social, economic, religious, and cultural groups. Although, there are many other forms of violence that women may be exposed to, most of this violence is intimate partner violence. Overall, 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. Worldwide, almost one third (30%) of all women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner. In some regions, 38% of women have experienced intimate partner violence (WHO, 2013).

The WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women, which collected data on Intimate partner violence from more than 24 000 women in 10 countries, confirmed that intimate partner violence is widespread in all countries studied including Ethiopia. It indicated that among women who had ever been in an intimate partnership:

- 13–61% reported ever having experienced physical violence by a partner;
- 4–49% reported having experienced severe physical violence by a partner;
- 6–59% reported sexual violence by a partner at some point in their lives; and
- 20–75% reported experiencing one emotionally abusive act, or more, from a partner in their lifetime (WHO, 2012).

Article 1 of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women states that: “The term ‘violence against women’ means 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 in private life.”

Gender-based violence against women is “violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman, or violence that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty”(UN, 2006).

Intimate partner violence can be defined as a pattern of abuse whereby one partner exerts physical, sexual, or emotional control over a romantic partner. Intimate partner violence is one of the most global human rights abuse and public health problems. It is the manifestation of gender inequality for women and girls due to their social status in the society. Intimate partner violence occurs to women of all ages; however, reproductive age represents an increased risk (Kishor and Kiersten, 2004 and Ellsberg, Jansen, Heise, Watts, García, 2008).

Domestic violence also called intimate partner violence is the most prevalent and hidden form of violence. Although domestic violence can occur to any one of any age, culture, religion and race, most victims are women and girls. Domestic violence is viewed as a manifestation of the power imbalance between men and women and it takes various forms. Domestic violence involves

violence by the intimate partner in the form of physical, psychological, social, sexual and economical abuses.

This research therefore, assessed the social, economic, physical and emotional experiences of victim women of intimate partner violence and their coping mechanism in YemSpecial District Fofa village.

### **1.2.Statement of the Problem**

Violence against women is severe and pervasive in Ethiopia. Women in the region face economic, physical, sexual and psychological violence by their intimate partner.

According to the study conducted by World Health Organization in Ethiopia (2006)

- Nearly one half (49%) of ever-partnered women experienced physical violence by a partner at some point in their lives and 29% during the past 12 months.
- 59% of ever-partnered women experienced sexual violence at some point, and 44% during the past 12 months.
- Combining the data for physical and sexual violence, 71% of ever-partnered women experienced one or the other form of violence, or both, over their lifetime.
- 35% of all ever-partnered women experienced at least one severe form of physical violence

Similar study conducted by World Health Organization indicate that, among the woman who have experienced violence, 39% of the women had never talked to anyone about the physical violence, few abused women asked formal agencies or authorities for help. The most often

mentioned were local leaders (by 15% of women who had experienced physical partner violence), health services (4%), police (2%) and the courts (1%) and among those women who did not seek help, 53% said they feared the consequences or had been threatened, and 37% said they considered the violence “normal” or “not serious”(WHO,2005).

The above figure also represents the situation in Yem Special District. In Yem Special District, violence against woman particularly Intimate Partner Violence is among the key problems women and girls face as a result of persistence of poverty and harmful traditional norms and practices. The situation even gets worst when these women lack a social support which serves as a protective factor for the abused woman. Some perpetrators of intimate partner violence use social isolation to control and assault woman which makes it difficult for women to reach out for help from others (Wong, Fong and Tiwari, 2011). Most victim women do not tell anyone about their experience and report cases of violence to the police or other responsible bodies during the first abuse incidence due to fear of stigma and discrimination. Disclosing their status may cost them a life of discrimination with consequences including not being able to get married afterwards. Women who are constantly beaten are looked down on by the community. Thus, women who are abused prefer to keep it to themselves, despite suffering physically and emotionally.

Moreover, women victims are afraid of not obtaining fare or just response form community leaders. The community tends to assume that women and girls who experience violence must have asked for it in some way. This situation coupled with the lack of knowledge and skills to protect themselves even makes women more vulnerable to physical and emotional suffering and further harm (Care Ethiopia, 2008).

Studies in some countries indicate that women who had experienced physical violence use different methods to avoid or cope with the violence including fighting back and leaving their home. However, most women preferred not to talk to anyone else about the violence. In Ethiopia, many women do not discuss the violence with anyone else either that they consider it as a normal feature of life that is not worth mentioning, or that they are ashamed of the violence, and therefore prefer to suffer in silence (Yegomawork, Negussie, Yemane, etal, 2003).

Despite the efforts by various development actors, violence against women remains a problem that cuts across lines of income, class and culture. As a result, in this research efforts were made to offer recommendations on how to promote protection of women from the cause and consequences of intimate partner violence through understanding the experiences of victim women and their coping strategies. It also provides information for designing programs and strategies that can address the real needs of these women.

**Research question:** under various topics the research has responded to the following research questions.

1. What are the social experiences of victims of intimate partner violence
2. What are the economic experiences of victims of intimate partner violence
3. What are the physical experiences of victims of intimate partner violence
4. What are the emotional experiences of victims of intimate partner violence
5. What are women's coping mechanism/strategy to the violence that they encounter by their intimate partner



6. What are the educational and economic background of victims of intimate partner violence

### **1.3.General and Specific Objective**

#### 1.3.1. General Objective

- To assess and understand the lived experiences of women victims of intimate partner violence in Fofa village of Yem Special District.

#### 1.3.2. Specific objective

- To assess the educational and economic backgrounds of women victims of intimate partner violence.
- To assess the social, emotional, economical, and physical problems experienced by women who are victims of intimate partner violence
- To assess victim women's response or coping mechanisms to violence that they encountered.
- To come up with practical recommendation that promote protection of women from the consequences of intimate partner violence

### **1.4.Significance of the Study**

Women victimized by intimate partner violence experience physical, emotional, economic and social distress. In this regard, understanding the true experiences of these women and their coping strategies was essential due to the following reasons

- Despite the large number of victimized women, much remains unknown about the experiences of victimized women and their response to violence thereby distorting the designing of programs and strategies that can address the real needs of these women.
- To fill study gaps by exploring and presenting the experience of women victimized by intimate partner violence as well as the current responses available for them in the study site
- To render need based support and ensure the protection of women survivors from further harm.
- To produce relevant data that can be used by the office of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, the police, civil society organizations and other service providers to shape practices, inform policies and programs thereby ensuring victims of intimate partner violence receive the support that they needed

### **1.5.Scope of the Study**

Even though both men and women can be victim of violence, the research only targeted victim women as evidence in Ethiopia, suggests that, more women than men are victimized by violence. Moreover, the violence women suffer from in the hands of their partners is more sever. Among the women the research only targeted women who experienced intimate partner violence and women above the age of 18.

### **1.6.Limitation of the Study**

The research has the following the below limitations.

- As the issue of intimate partner violence is very sensitive issue in areas where patriarchal social structure are dominant women victimized might were unable to give clear explanation to the questions raised by the researcher
- The quality of the research might be compromised because of the language barrier between the researcher and respondents compromised

### **1.7.Operational Definition of the Study**

**Intimate Partner violence:** any act of violence including verbal and non-verbal, by an intimate partner or husband that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, economical or psychological suffering of the women in the specific marital relationship.

**Victimized women:** are women who have suffered from physical, psychological, sexual and economical violence by her intimate partner or husband.

**Yem Special Woreda:** is one of the special districts in Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State of Ethiopia

**Fofa village:** is one of the villages found in YemSpecial District

## **Chapter Two**

### **2. Literature Review**

#### **2.1. Violence Against Women And Intimate Partner Violence**

The term “violence against women” refers to many types of harmful behavior directed at women and girls because of their sex. Violence against women is present in every country, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. It includes physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse. It causes pain, disability and death to an untold number of individuals every day, in every country in the world (JHU, 1999).

Violence against Women and Girls (VAW/G) was declared to be a violation of human rights by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1993, in its Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. The UN Declaration defined VAW/G as including physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family and general community, which is perpetrated or condoned by the State, and includes traditional practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (USAID, 2008). It includes spousal battering, sexual abuse of female children, dowry-related violence, rape including marital rape, and traditional practices harmful to women, such as female genital mutilation (FGM). It also includes non-spousal violence, sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in school, trafficking in women, forced prostitution, and violence perpetrated or condoned by the state, such as rape in war (JHU, 1999).

Violence against women and girls is one of the most systematic and widespread human rights violations. It is rooted in gendered social structures rather than individual and random acts; it

cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries; affects all societies; and is a major obstacle to ending gender inequality and discrimination globally (UN, 2006)

The most common type of violence that women experience worldwide is Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). Intimate partner violence refers to any behavior in an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological and sexual harm to those in that relationship. It involves acts of physical aggression (slapping, kicking, hitting or beating), Psychological abuse (intimidation, constant belittling or humiliation) forced sexual intercourse or any other controlling behavior (isolating a person from families and friends, monitoring their movement, and restricting access to information or assistance) (WHO,2002).

According Saltzman, intimate partner violence is described as physical, sexual, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse. This type of violence can occur among heterosexual or same-sex couples and does not require sexual intimacy (Saltzman, 2002).

Partner violence occurs in all countries and transcends social, economic, religious, and cultural groups. Although women can also be violent and abuse exists in some same-sex relationships, the vast majority of partner abuse is perpetrated by men against their female partners (JHU, 1999). To this regard Devries assert the above statement indicating that Intimate partner physical violence is the most common type of violence against women, affecting 30% of women worldwide (Devries, 2013) .

## **2.2.Magnitude of Intimate Partner Violence**

Statistics indicate that one of five women will be a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime. One in three will have been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused, usually by a

family member or an acquaintance (UNFPA, 2008). In nearly 50 population-based surveys from around the world, 10% to over 50% of women report being hit or otherwise physically harmed by an intimate male partner at some point in their lives (WHO, 2006).

International research consistently demonstrates that a woman is more likely to be assaulted, injured, raped, or killed by a current or former partner than by any other person. Findings from nearly 80 population-based studies carried out in more than 50 countries indicate that between 10 percent and 60 percent of women who have ever been married or partnered have experienced at least one incident of physical violence from a current or former intimate partner. Most studies estimate a lifetime prevalence of partner violence between 20 percent and 50 percent. Although women can also be violent, and abuse exists in some same-sex relationships, the vast majority of partner abuse is perpetrated by men against their female partners (WHO, 2006).

Physical violence in intimate relationships almost always is accompanied by psychological abuse and, in one-third to over one-half of cases, by sexual abuse. Most women who suffer any physical aggression generally experience multiple acts over time. Women often say that the psychological abuse and degradation are even more difficult to bear than the physical abuse (JHU, 1999)

### **2.3.Causes of Intimate Partner Violence**

Evidences indicate that there is no one single factor to account for violence perpetrated against women. Several complex and interconnected institutionalized social and cultural factors have kept women particularly vulnerable to the violence directed at them, all of them manifestations of historically unequal power relations between men and women. Factors contributing to these

unequal power relations include: socioeconomic forces, the family institution where power relations are enforced, fear of and control over female sexuality, belief in the inherent superiority of males, and legislation and cultural sanctions that have traditionally denied women and children an independent legal and social status. Moreover, lack of economic resources underpins women's vulnerability to violence and their difficulty in extricating themselves (UNICEF, 2000). Poverty or patriarchy, alcohol or aggression has been contested by social scientists as the causes of intimate partner violence for decades. According to Jewkes however, such assumptions have been change through the course of time (Jewkes, 2002). Moreover, increasingly, researchers are using an "ecological framework" to understand the interplay of personal, situational, and sociocultural factors that combine to cause abuse (Heise, 1998; Dutton, 1995). In this model, violence against women results from the interaction of factors at different levels of the social environment (CHANGE, 1999)

This increase in data has enabled researchers to identify associations that pertain to more than one setting, explore hypotheses critically, and understand the plausibility of associations when considered in the light of what else is known about a society. Furthermore, understanding of the mechanisms through which many associated factors contribute to intimate partner violence has been greatly advanced, helping clarify interventions needed for primary prevention (Jewkes, 2002). In short the complication of the issues and the presence of enormous variables that in one way or the other causes intimate partner violence make difficult to understand the issue itself clearly.

Apart from the complication of the issue itself, there is no clear definition what intimate partner violence means however; Jewkes (2002) define intimate partner violence as follows.

*“Physical violence directed against a woman by a current or ex-husband or boyfriend.*

*The term “intimate partner violence”*

Often includes sexual violence and can also include psychological abuse; both these forms of abuse often, but not always, accompany physical violence. However, inconsistencies in the definitions used in research, particularly with regard to inclusion or exclusion of sexual and psychological abuse by male intimate partners, has resulted in most global quantitative studies on the causes of intimate partner violence focusing solely on physical violence.

Jewkes (2002) further put social and demographic characteristics, the stress triggered by poverty on men poverty, Alcohol and social norms as important causes for intimate partner’s violence. However, he stress in two important variables that are major to foment the occurrence of violence in epidemiological sense: the unequal position of women in a particular relationship (and in society) and the normative use of violence in conflict. Without wither of those factors Jewkes (2002) said no violence could occur.

Whereas the WHO (2002) report further added additional variables: personality disorder and relationship between the man and women, beside the above referred by Jewkes (2002).

#### **2.4. Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence**

The consequences of intimate partner violence on a woman’s health, survival and development are manifold. Intimate partner violence against women prevents women from enjoying their human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as the rights to life and security, physical and mental health, education, work and housing and to participation in public life (UN, 2006).



Survivors of intimate partner violence often experience as a direct consequence of violence, life-long emotional distress, physical pain, unwanted pregnancy, mental health problems and poor reproductive health (UN, 2006). They are more likely to experience a range of poor physical and emotional outcomes than those who had never been abused. Sexual, psychological and emotional violence inflicted by an intimate partner is also widespread. It prevents women from fully participating in their communities socially or economically. It also reduces the capacity of victims/survivors to contribute productively to the family, the economy and public life (Reeves and Kely, 2009).

The consequences of abuse are profound, extending beyond the health and happiness of individuals to affect the well-being of entire communities. Living in a violent relationship affects a woman's sense of self-esteem and her ability to participate in the world. Studies have shown that abused women are routinely restricted in the way they can gain access to information and services, take part in public life, and receive emotional support from friends and relatives. Not surprisingly, such women are often unable properly to look after themselves and their children or to pursue jobs and careers (WHO, 2002).

Beside the above general conclusion, Intimate partner violence has a number of impacts on the overall wellbeing of women and children:

#### **2.4.1. Intimate Partner Violence Impact on Overall Health Status**

Various research indicated that sharing with violent partner have negative impact on woman's health. Violence has been linked to many serious health problems, both immediate and long-term. These include physical health problems, such as injury, chronic pain syndromes, and gastrointestinal disorders, and a range of mental health problems, including anxiety and

depression (CHANGE, 1999). Beside the actual injuries possible occur during physical violence, women possibly pushed to engage with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs to forget what is really happening in their life, which in many way endanger the health status (WHO, 2002).

#### **2.4.2. Intimate Partner Violence Impact on Reproductive Health**

Women lose their right of protecting their reproductive health in situation where they have violent partner. Sexual and physical violence appears to increase women's risk for many common gynecological disorders, some of which can be debilitating (CHANG, 1999). They are exposed for unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted disease and even HIV/AIDS. Studies consistently show that domestic violence is more common in families with many children. Violence could also occur during pregnancy which in many ways leads to miscarriage, late entry to prenatal care, still birth, premature labor and birth and fatal injuries (WHO, 2002). It is also linked with increased risk of miscarriages and abortions and fatal distress (CHANG, 1999).

The negative consequences of abuse extend beyond women's sexual and reproductive health to their overall health, the welfare of their children, and even the economic and social fabric of nations. By sapping women's energy, undermining their confidence, and compromising their health, gender violence deprives society of women's full participation (Carrillo, 1992).

#### **2.4.3. Psychological Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence**

Women who are abused by their partners suffer more depression, anxiety and phobias than non-abused women, according to studies in Australia, Nicaragua, Pakistan and the United States. Research similarly suggests that women abused by their partners are at heightened risk for

suicide and suicide attempts. Beside, feeling shame and guilt, panic disorder, poor self-esteem, post-traumatic stress disorder are some of psychological consequences of intimate partners violence (WHO, 2002).

#### **2.4.4. Economic Impact of Intimate Partner Violence**

A study in Chicago, IL, United States, found that women with a history of partner violence were more likely to have experienced spells of unemployment, to have had a high turnover of jobs, and to have suffered more physical and mental health problems that could affect job performance (Taluc, Lloyd, 1999). They also had lower personal incomes and were significantly more likely to receive welfare assistance than women who did not report a history of partner violence. Similarly, in a study in Managua, Nicaragua, abused women earned 46% less than women who did not report suffering abuse, even after controlling for other factors that could affect earnings (Orlando, Morrison, 1999)

#### **2.4.5. Intimate Partner Violence on Children**

Children who witness marital violence are at a higher risk for a whole range of emotional and behavioral problems, including anxiety, depression, poor school performance, low self-esteem, disobedience, nightmares and physical health complaints. Indeed, studies from North America indicate that children who witness violence between their parents frequently exhibit many of the same behavioral and psychological disturbances as children who are themselves abused. Recent evidence suggests that violence may also directly or indirectly affect child mortality. Researchers in León, Nicaragua, found that after controlling for other possible confounding factors, the children of women who were physically and sexually abused by a partner were six times more

likely to die before the age of 5 years than children of women who had not been abused (WHO, 2002).

### **2.5.Intimate Partner Violence and Women's Coping Mechanism**

Studies in some countries indicate that women who had experienced physical violence use different methods to avoid or cope with the violence including fighting back and leaving their home. However, most women preferred not to talk to anyone else about the violence (Yegomawork, Negussie, Yemane, Ellsberg, et al, 2003). Women victims are afraid of not obtaining fare or just response form community leaders. The community tends to assume that women and girls who experience violence must have asked for it in some way (Care Ethiopia, 2008).

In Ethiopia, many women do not discuss the violence with anyone else either that they consider it such a normal feature of life that is not worth mentioning, or that they are ashamed of the violence, and therefore prefer to suffer in silence ((Yegomawork, Negussie, Yemane, Ellsberg, et al, 2003). Women who are abused prefer to keep it to themselves, despite suffering physically and emotionally.

Other studies indicate that women disclose the abuse by their partner as a survival or coping strategy. Women who disclose the abuse are not necessarily seeking help to stop the violence; instead, they may use the process of disclosure as a survival or coping strategy for their mental well-being. Evidences also indicate that women's coping styles to violence may be culture dependent (Montalvo, 2009).

Qualitative studies have confirmed that most abused women are not passive victims but rather adopt active strategies to maximize their safety and that of their children. Some women resist, others flee, while still others attempt to keep the peace by submitting to their husbands' demands. What may seem to an outside observer to be a lack of positive response by the woman may in fact be a calculated assessment of what is needed to survive in the marriage and to protect herself and her children (WHO, 2002).

The above explanation falsifies the presumption that women are passive in intimate partner violence rather they were actively responding either through directly confronting with their male counterpart or adapting various mechanism to reduce risks that possible came in their lives or their children.

According Kiribati Family Health and Support Study (2007), most of women consider violent act they face from their partner as personal issues and didn't tell to any one at least at initial stage.

However, according to the study the following action are the most common one often exercised by those who face intimate partner violence:

- 1- Going to the nearby legal authorities for help
- 2- Fighting back
- 3- Discussion with partners
- 4- Asking mediation of local elder of family members
- 5- And fleeing from the house

Despite the above coping strategies however, research indicates that millions of women face physical harm including death due to intimate partner violence.

## **2.6.Intimate Partner Violence in African**

Different, but overlapping and largely complementary, approaches and perspectives have been adopted to understand intimate partner violence. The human rights approach is based on the obligations of states to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and therefore to prevent, eradicate and punish violence against women (WHO, 2010).

According to (Bowman,2003) There are a number of striking characteristics about Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in African context, (1) the larger overall amount of domestic violence, despite severe underreporting, and the apparent absence of the phenomenon of domestic murder–suicide; (2) the persistence of formal notions of women as property and related concepts of the institution of marriage within traditional society; (3) differing notions of the public and the private and a more relational sense of the self; and (4) background conditions of poverty, economic devastation, social transition, and, in some instances, state incapacity to deal with the problem.

The problem of intimate partner physical violence against women in developing countries, especially in Sub-Sahara Africa is very high. Three African countries: Ethiopia, Namibia and Tanzania were 50%, 31% and 47% respectively.

Bowman (2003) further tried to compare the intensity and frequency of IPV in some selected African states and US. An international statistical survey reported the following comparative statistics for the percentage of women reporting physical abuse by a male partner in the years

**Table 1: Percentage of Women Reporting Physical Abuse**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Percentage of women reporting physical abuse</b>
Tanzania:	60%
Uganda:	46%
Kenya:	42%
Zambia:	40%
United States:	28%.

The extent and intensity of intimate partner violence in both developing and developed states mainly comes from strong legal frame work and strict follow-ups over such cases. To this regard (Chalk and King, 1998) indicated that most developed countries crafted intimate partner violence prevention strategies. The most common reforms involve criminalizing physical abuse by intimate partners; either through new laws on domestic violence or by amending existing penal codes.

Extensive survey about violence against women carried out in 1998 in Ghana revealed that one in three of the respondents had been beaten, slapped, or physically punished by a current or most recent partner, over half of those within the previous year. Psychological violence is harder to study but large numbers of the women and girls responding to the Ghana Survey reported that their male partners had threatened them with a fist or other object, intentionally humiliated or shamed them in front of others, prevented them from seeing family and friends, prohibited them from going to work or taken their earnings away from them, injured or damaged things of importance to them, and the like (Bowman, 2003).

Besides, review of inquest dockets referred in (Bowman,2003).shows that 56% of murdered women in South Africa and 60% murdered women Zimbabwe were killed by their intimate partners. In short the above figure simply indicates how intimate partner violence claims the lives of millions of women in Africa.

He further put what the reality seems when the abused women tries to pursue her case on legal bases “Moreover, in poor countries, the police are without the resources or training to deal with domestic abuse, they are not paid very well, and corruption is rife. Thus, a victim may find that her case was not pursued after the abuser paid off the police officer.<sup>17</sup> In short, domestic violence victims in some African countries expect little from the police—in many cases with good reason. Given this expectation, massive underreporting of domestic violence incidents to the authorities is not surprising” (Bowman, 2003).

As almost every article about domestic violence in Africa points out, women are still formally regarded as akin to property in most African customary law traditions. Early marriage price—in many places, a certain number of cows—is paid by a man’s family to the woman’s family upon her marriage, for example. This not only makes it appear that she has been “bought” by the man and has thus become his property, to do with as he likes, but also makes it more difficult for women to return to their families of origin to escape domestic abuse since their families may be either unable or unwilling to return the bride price (Bowman, 2003).

In short, Intimate partners’ violence, is a deep rooted day to day social reality in Africa which in many way interlinked with the societies’ way living. The existing culture in many parts of Africa and other socio-economic factors fomented the severity and extent of the issues. Apart from that lack of government and societal attention to the issues, corrupted and poorly organized



institutions to entertain the issue and give appropriate care for victims further complicated the reality on the ground.

### **2.7.Intimate Partner Violence and the Ground Reality in Ethiopia**

In many traditional society, when a women one married she is considered as a property of her counterpart. Hence in any regard when a married women face any kinds of harassment form her partner, the community even the closest family of her are reluctant to intervene in any manner. To this regard Bowman (2003) explained that the impact of polygamy, the acceptance of male promiscuity, the power of extended family over the married couple and the almost universal institutions of bride price as underlying the widespread abuse of wives. The payment of bride price to the wife's family at the time of their marriage makes it difficult for women to leave abusive husbands, unless their families of origin are willing to return the amount paid. Apart from the traditional ways of marriage; however, most of people who are in modern segment of the community, are still reluctant to act earnestly against IPV.

In modern n Ethiopia IPV though a lot was not said about it, it has debilitating socio-economic consequences. In Ethiopia, the magnitude of intimate partner physical violence against women varies place to place. Research findings showed that the highest and the lowest prevalence of intimate partner violence against women founded in Western Ethiopia 68.6% Abeya (2011), and in Northern Ethiopia 31% Feseha (2012) respectively.

In Ethiopia IPV prevention strategies is very low. Rather, it is focused on gender equality and gender based violence outside the door. Regarding to this the government of Ethiopia addresses domestic violence within its nine-year national reproductive health strategies (2006-2015). One

of the strategy's targets is to ensure that all new law enforcement recruits are trained in the protection of women's rights, especially those pertaining to gender-based violence with revisions made in the family code (FDRE, 2006).

Ethiopia is one of the highest prevalent intimate partner physical violence against women, but the prevalence is varying place to place. Based on the fact therefore the following study result will be used as an input for researcher and government program planner and the community to design effective prevention strategies in the year to come.

## **Chapter Three**

### **3. Research Methodology**

#### **3.1. Research Design**

In any research choosing the appropriate research design that minimizes biases and maximizes the reliability of the data collected and analyzed is essential. As a result, this research used a qualitative research design that is competent to respond to the research objectives and questions laid down. Exploratory and descriptive research designs were used in order to have an in depth understanding of the issue of intimate partner violence and the experiences of women survivors of intimate partner violence in particular.

The respondents for this particular research were victim women who had been abused by their intimate partner. The researcher involved victim women who are above the age of 18 and have been abused by their intimate partner. The research focused on the Yem Special District Fofa village. According to the district office of Women and Child Affairs, the area is known for frequent occurrence of intimate partner violence. The researcher selected this area as a result of its proximity and convenience for data collection as well as due to the fact that the issue intimate partner violence was understudied in the area.

#### **3.2. Study Area**

Yem Special District is one of the 8 Special districts of the South Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State (SNNPRS). The district is subdivided into 34 kebeles (30 rural and 4 urban) where nearly 98% of the total population residing in the rural kebeles. According to the

statistical abstract of BoFED (2006), the total population of the district is 91,819 (45989 Female and 45832 Male).

Women and girls in Yem Special District experience domestic violence for various reasons. Abuse and exploitation of women and the practice of gender based discrimination are inherent in the area. This situation has prevented a large section of women from getting equitable resources and opportunities for development. As a result of the patriarchal social structure, the gender prejudice and biases were given less attention and the negative attitude towards women had persisted for a long time despite of the efforts made by development actors. Therefore, the research had come up with practical strategies and recommendation to bring substantial changes in the lives of these women through assessing their true experience

### **3.3.Universe of the Study**

The research was carried out in Yem special district. According to the district office of Women and Child Affairs, the area is known for frequent occurrence of intimate partner violence. From the year 2008 to 2013 a total of 1857 women have reported violence by their intimate partner in the district. This area was selected because it is convenient for data collection and the situation of intimate partner violence has not been studied in the area before. Nonetheless, focus of the research was on social, economic, physical and emotional experiences of women affected by intimate partner violence, the responses of victim women to the violence they encountered. It also sees the support available for them. Victims of intimate partner violence were the primary sources of data for this research. In addition, various literatures were reviewed to make the study findings comprehensive.

### **3.4.Sampling Method**

The research used non probability sampling technique to identify respondents for the study. The researcher applied non probability technique as it is more useful for assessing the social realities and experiences of the respondents. Prior to identifying the sampling methods the researcher learnt about the culture of the community. To this regard, communication and discussion were undertaken with village leaders, office of women children and youth affairs and community based organizations. Then the qualification for sample selection was determined to identify the most appropriate respondent.

The sampling method used to identify the samples was purposive sampling. By using purposive sampling method the researcher identified victims of intimate partner violence. This was done after the researcher reviewed the abuse cases reported to the FofaSpecial District Women Children and Youth Affairs Office. Form the list of the reported cases, the researcher identified recent cases of abuse perpetrated by intimate partner. Accordingly, the researcher identified 34 cases. Of the 34 cases few of the registered cases were incomplete. Hence the researcher only used those cases with a completely filled address. Then, using the addresses in the records, an attempt was made to trace the reporting women for an in-depth interview and FGD. Accordingly the researcher identified 10 women survivors of intimate partner violence for in-depth interview and other 10 for focused group discussion based on their consent.

The reason for choosing the sampling method is related with the nature of the objective which is the lived experience of victims of intimate partner violence. Therefore the researcher used a total

of 10 in depth interview respondents and 10 focus group discussion participants identified based on purposive sampling technique

### **3.5.Data Collection Tools and Procedures**

#### **3.5.1. Data Collection**

The data collection methods used in this research were in-depth interview and FGD. Prior to the data collection interview questionnaire was prepared. The researcher used both open ended and semi structured questions where it was possible to have an in-depth insight about the true experiences of victim women.

In depth interview was used to have an in depth understanding on the true experiences of victim women and collect detail information about their lived experiences and coping mechanisms. Focus group discussion was used to bring together limited number of people who share same background. The focus group discussion was more effective in encouraging communication and enabling people to share their knowledge, perception and experiences when discussing sensitive issues like intimate partner violence.

In the In-depth Interview a total of 10 Women survivors were targeted. The researcher also carried out two focus group discussion consisting of 10 participants from survivors of intimate partner violence. The FGD was conducted separately for two women survivors groups each consisting five members.

### **3.5.2. Data Collection Procedures**

Prior to the actual data collection the researcher developed data collection instruments including interview and FGD guides. Then the researcher checked the data collection tools for their practicality and relevance in capturing the lived experiences of women survivors of intimate partner violence as well as informing the research objectives. Accordingly, the researcher revised the tool and made it ready for actual data collection. The actual data collection took place within two weeks' time.

The research used various techniques to assure the quality of the data:

- The researcher carefully chosen the study respondents,
- the research made maximum effort to make the language used in the questionnaire less ambiguous,
- suitable time and place was selected to conduct the interview
- Above all the researcher used the data collection tools judiciously.

### **3.6.Data Processing**

The raw data collected from interview and FGD were interpreted and analyzed to facilitate deeper understanding of the lived experiences of women survivors of intimate partner violence. All the data tape recorded from interview and focus group discussion was transcribed and coded and analyzed using identified themes from the literature and the exploratory interviews.

### **3.7.Ethical Consideration**

The researcher makes sure that the rights of women survivors of intimate partner violence were respected throughout the research process. The researcher provided appropriate information about the scope, purpose and potential impact of the research to research respondents. The identified sample respondents took part because they were willing to share their opinions and experiences. To this regard, consent was obtained from respondents prior to conducting the actual data collection. They were also assured of confidentiality and given the option to decline to answer any or all of the research questions. In addition, no names or other means of identifying individuals were recorded and this report has been presented under pseudonyms. Moreover, all the research respondents were treated with respect throughout the research process.



## **Chapter Four**

### **4. Findings and Discussions of the Study**

#### **4.1. Findings**

##### **4.1.1. Profile of Respondents**

All the research respondents were survivors of intimate partner violence between the age ranges of 22 to 60 at YemSpecial DistrictFofa village. A total of twenty survivors participated in the research of which ten of them participated in the in-depth interview and ten in focus group discussion. All the research respondents are Yem ethnic origin except one girl who was from Amhara. Three of the in-depth interview participants have never gone to school and do not know how to write and read. The remaining respondents level of education ranges from second grade to tenth grade (primary education to high school).

In terms of the length of stay in marital relationship, for in-depth interview participants, the length of stay ranges from 4 years to 26 years. Three of the research respondents are still in marriage relationship, two are separated, one is widowed and three of them are divorced. Two of the research respondents were married twice and the remaining eight were married only once. In relation to the type of marriage, majority of the participants were married out of love, two of the marriages were arranged by the parents and two of the participants forcedly got married by abduction. All the research respondents are homogenous in the fact that all have children either from their previous or current marriage.

In relation to the source of income and role in the household, two of the research respondents have no source of income, three are engaged in small scale business activity, three are engaged in

agricultural activity, one of the respondents is a daily laborer and the remaining one is dependent on the husband for income sources. All the research respondents are responsible for all household activities like cleaning, and cooking as well as bringing up and caring for children.

**Table 2: Profile of in-Depth Interview Participants**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Profile of participants</b>
Age	ranges form 21-53
Type of marriage	Out of love or customary marriage (6) Arranged marriage (2) Abduction (2)
Current marital status	married (4) Separated (2) Widowed (1) Divorced (3)
Number of children	Ranges from 1-5
Current source of income	Small Business (3) Daily labourer (1) Husband (1) No income (2) agriculture (3)
Role in the household	all respondents carry out all the household chores

#### **4.1.2. Profile of Respondents' Husband**

The ages of the respondents' husband range from 30 to 70 and all are from Yem ethnic origin. Except for three who are illiterate, the level of education of the respondents' husband ranges from primary education to higher level education. Few of the husbands are in relationship with other women or married after being separated from the respondents. And four of the

respondents' husbands have children from another woman either from their previous marriage or out of marriage.

In terms of the source of income all the respondents' husbands have income sources. The source of income varies from monthly salary, daily laborer and to agricultural. Concerning their role in the household all the husbands do not participate in the routine household chorus.

#### **4.1.3. Type of Abuse Encountered by Respondents**

The types of abuse encountered by research respondents include physical, economical psychological, and social. The kind of physical abuse indicated by in-depth interview and focus group discussion participants includes kicking, beating, hitting by using different materials including throwing stone and hitting different parts of the victims body, slapping, putting scar on the face, punching, biting ears, kicking, breaking hands and legs by beating victims carelessly, hitting on the stomach during pregnancy, hitting tooth and making them to fallen out, and piercing with blade. Out of the ten in depth interview participants, seven of them reported as being physically abused by their intimate partner or husband and the remaining three have encountered social and emotional abuses.

The type of emotional or psychological abuse indicated by in-depth interview participants include nagging, threatening, insulting, making them feel hopeless, betrayal, threatening with a knife, forcing victims to get out of their own house, leaving them alone during pregnancy and labor, denying that he is not the father of his child, and practicing polygamy. One of the in-depth interview participant stated that her husband had forced her to get out of their house during her

pregnancy and delivery because he wants to be with another women. This issue has made this woman to feel hopeless and lose her confidence. Similarly, another participant pointed out that her husband has left her during her labor time without offering any help and support which made her very angry and hopeless. Moreover, two of the respondents indicated that their husband has been practicing polygamy. This issue has made the women to be very sad and upset. This is mainly because even though their husbands are seeing other women they do not want their wives to meet with other persons.

Although the causes of the psychological abuse varies from victim to victim all of the in-depth interview and focus group discussion participants shared similar opinion on the different types of emotional or psychological abuse practiced in Yem special district.

In relation to the kind economic abuse encountered by survivors of intimate partner violence, the economic abuse ranges from preventing the women from being employed to taking their money by the use of force. The economic abuses indicated by respondents include not providing money to fulfill household needs, preventing victims from engaging in income generating activity, preventing victims from being employed and earning income, precluding victims from getting their share (during divorce), taking victims money and material by force, and concealing the amount of money that he makes.

Except for one, all of the in-depth interview participants mentioned that they have experienced economic abuse by their intimate partner or husband. Four of the participants stated that their husbands have forcefully taken the money that they earn and used it for their personal purposes.

In addition, four participants indicated that their husbands have prevented them from engaging in any business activities and getting employment opportunities through using various strategies including beating and getting drunk and threatening customers. Others have reported that they have experienced physical pain as a result of the frequent physical abuse which has prevented them from engaging in business activity and earning income. Others have reported that their husbands do not tell them the amount of money that they make and do not provide money to fulfill household utilities.

In relation to the social problems that respondents face, most research respondents except for the two indicated that they have encountered various forms of social problems because of their intimate partner. The social problems reported by them includes social isolation, threatening close friends, neighbors and families to stay away from the victim, preventing victims from attending social gatherings, going to neighbor's house, not allowing victims to have close friends and families, accusing victims of having special attachment with friends especially if they are male friends, nagging victims to stop visiting friends and families, preventing victims from inviting friends and families into their house.

Five of the interviewed survivors indicated that their husbands isolate them from friends, neighbors and families due to fear of back biting and suspecting their wife as having special attachment with them. Some indicated that they are not allowed to attend social gatherings like iddir, Ikob<sup>1</sup> and other coffee ceremonies. Two of the respondents reported that their husbands do

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<sup>1</sup>Iddir is a social gathering attended for funeral and mutual aid services.

not allow them to bring friends and neighbors into their house for reason that they don't know.

One has reported that her husband threatens her close friends and families and forces them to stay away from her.

**Table 3 Type of Abuse Encountered By In-Depth Interview Participants**

name	Type of abuse encountered by the respondents			
	Physical	Emotional	Economical	Social
Zenash	Beating, hitting with a stick/stone, &slapping,	Nagging, threatening	Taking her money Threatening her customers	-Isolating her from friends and neighbor  - threatening her close friends, neighbors and family  preventing her from attending social gatherings
Mintewab	slapping, hitting her withan object including with a stone, biting ears,	Nagging, insulting	The physical pain has prevented her from engaging in business activities	Doesn't let her go to her neighbor's house.  He thinks that she will back bit him if she keep going to her neighbor
Yemegnus hal	Beating, slapping, kicking her with his leg, broke her hand	Threatening, insulting	He doesn't provide money for his children and buying household utilities  He doesn't tell her the	He doesn't want her to be close to friends, neighbors and family

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Ikob is gathering where by individuals come together to save money for helping each other in a lottery basis

			<p>amount of money that he makes</p> <p>He takes away her money forcefully</p> <p>When she gives him money to buy things he use it for other purposes</p>	<p>He accuses her of being friendly with others</p>
Woineshet		<p>Neglect, threatening, insulting</p>	<p>He doesn't provide her money to fulfill household needs</p> <p>He doesn't want her to make money</p>	<p>He doesn't want me to talk with boys</p>
Gebeyanes h		<p>Neglect, insulting, lack of care at her time of her need</p>	<p>He doesn't give her money</p>	
Zerfnesh	<p>Hitting, beating, biting</p>	<p>Insulting, dating other girls</p>	<p>He doesn't want her to work and earn income</p> <p>Even after her divorce he doesn't want to give her share.</p>	<p>Preventing her from meeting friends and neighbors</p> <p>He doesn't want her to participate in social gatherings</p>
Edget	<p>Hitting, beating her , he hit her on the stomach during her pregnancy</p>	<p>Forced her to leave with him</p> <p>Practicing polygamy</p>	<p>forcefully taking money</p>	<p>He doesn't want her to meet with friends</p> <p>Nagging her when she plans to meet people</p>
Abebech	<p>hitting her with an object, broke her leg twice,</p>	<p>Making her feel lonely, threatening, nagging, insulting</p>	<p>destroying assets</p> <p>He takes her money away</p>	

fantaye		Threatening, insulting, practicing polygamy		He doesn't want her to bring friends and family to her house  He isolates her from friends and family
Mekdes	Slapping, hitting her with a stick	insulting, nagging, threatening,	he doesn't want her to engage in business activity	He doesn't want her to go to the neighbor's house for coffee  He isolates her from friends and family

#### 4.1.4. First Abuse Incidence

In relation to the first abuse incidence almost all the respondents indicated that the first abuse usually occurs during and after the pregnancy period. Although the respondents don't know the major reasons behind the first abuse, in most of the cases it starts with small arguments like why didn't you open the door quickly, why did you go out, why didn't you respond when I call you and the like. The first abuse may range from small argument that causes emotional pain to hitting and beating. Some of the respondents stated that they have got their hands and legs broken during the first abuse incidence. They also stated that it was their neighbors who tried to mediate the fight during the first violence incidence. In addition, few of the women that are physical abused have called for help during the first incidence. The others did not call for help but their neighbors came as a result of the loud voices during the fighting and argument. However, the neighbor that have heard the fight do not all go inside the house to mediate. Some of the



neighbors may stay outside and waited until the fight is over. The reason for that is that some neighbors do not want to interfere in husband and wife matters.

Concerning their current attitude towards the first abuse incidence, more than half of the respondents wished that they should have ended their marriage during that time. They get very angry and upset when they think of the first incidence. Abebech stated that:

*The first fight with my husband was because of economic reason. I used to sell areke(local liquor) during market days and my husband came to my shop and drank glasses of areke. After he finished drinking I asked him to pay. Then he left the shop without paying for the service. At that night, my husband got home being very drunk and then he started beating me saying that why I asked him to pay for the areke that he had. At that time I couldn't defend myself so I screamed for help. Then our neighbors calmed the fight.*

#### **4.1.5. Frequency of the Abuse Incidence and the Reason Behind**

In all the case the abuse occurs frequently. However, it may not be that series in some days. Both the focus group discussion and the in depth interview findings indicate that the frequency of the abuse has increased after the first abuse incidence and that the market days are usually the days that victims face physical and emotional abuses. According to most in depth interview participants, the worst violence occurs during market days and holidays when their husbands got drunk. Whenever the husbands had local bears like *areke* and *tela* their behavior changes and becomes very abusive. The other reasons behind their husbands' abusive behavior as reported by

in-depth interview participants are suspicions of cheating, jealousy, the husbands need to start relationship with other women in addition to them and fear of gossip. According to them, whenever the husband sees them with other person or engage in some kind of business activity or went outside their home they suspects them of having special relation with others

#### **4.1.6. Physical, Emotional, Economic and Social Experience of Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence**

As expressed by the survivors of intimate partner violence, survivors have gone through different experiences after the physical, emotional, economic and social violence that they have encountered.

##### **4.1.6.1. Survivors' Experience as a Result of the Physical Abuse by Their Husband**

As expressed by survivors of intimate partner violence, survivors have encountered various problems as a result of the physical violence perpetrated by their intimate partner. The major problems identified during the in-depth interview include long term sickness which some respondents were bed ridden for few months as a result of the physical pain, kidney problem due to the beating with a stone and heavy material, scares in different parts of their body that reminds them the cruelty of their husbands. As a result of the physical abuse, victims incurred unexpected medical expenses where some victims were forced to beg money and some to be indebted. Moreover some of the respondents were unable to do household activities including cooking that has forced them to use the labor of their children. Some others indicated that they were unable

to work as before. Some others still have lost parts of their body like their ears which has caused them serious pain and hearing difficult. The majority of the respondents stated that they were unable to continue their income generation activities due to the broken hands and legs. Mintewab, for example, mentioned that she has difficulty to stand for long hours and sometimes losses control of herself. Similarly Yemegnushal stated that she was hit in the head and that there was blood clotting in her head and that she is having migraine most of the time. She also stated that, she was unable to hold her children because her hands were broken. Zerfnesh indicated that she has lost her tooth and that she is having continuous pain in her tooth and sometimes unable to sleep. Abebech clarified that she is unable to walk long distance because her husband has broken her leg twice. She is very sad because she is unable to go to big market places like Derigebeya<sup>2</sup> . Edget clarified that her husband had prevented her from going to clinics or hospitals after the beating to get medical service and is currently unable to give birth because of that.

Edget who is now unable to give birth stated:

*I remember the moment as if it was yesterday. The day was Sunday and it was a market day in our village. I was four months pregnant. I prepared dinner and was waiting for my husband until he comes. I was waiting for hours but he didn't show up in the next three hours. While waiting for him i fall as sleep for a while. Then my husband was knocking at the door. Since I fallen as sleep it took me a while to open the door. When I opened the door he was very drunk. I let him into the house and gave him the dinner that I have prepared and then I lay down. I have heard from my neighbors that they have seen my*

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<sup>2</sup>Derigebeya is one of the biggest market places in Yem Special Woreda where you can find different items including oxen, sheep, goats, cloths, food items and other household materials

*husband with another woman quite a few times. So I decided that it would be good to ask him and find out about that from him. According I tried to ask him very calmly but his responses were very aggressive and filled with anger so I was very scared then he came to me and beat me in my stomach very badly. I was screaming but nobody came because it was very late. The next moment I remember is that my clothes were covered with blood and that I was very tired and unable to stand. Since he was standing next to me I asked him to get a help or to take me to the hospital. However his response was unexpected he told me that he will not let me go to the hospital since people may find out about these. Then he kept me in the house for few weeks until I managed to escape and go to my parents' house. I stayed with my parents for few days until I feel better. However, after few weeks I started to feel very sick and my parents took me to the hospital. At the hospital I found out that my babies bone is growing inside of me and that I need to go through surgery immediately. Then since it is life and death situation my parents collected money from their neighbors and friends and covered my medical expenses. Now due to his beating I was unable to give birth and to have a child again. What makes me very angry is that I have sacrificed lots of things for this marriage but he didn't even came to visit me when I was in the hospital and accused me of being not able to give him a child.*

#### **4.1.6.2.Survivors'Experience as a Result of the Emotional Abuse by Their**

##### **Husband**

As it is showed in the table above, physical violence is mostly accompanied by emotional violence. And sometimes women may encounter emotional abuse alone. As expressed by the

women survivors and focus group discussion participants the emotional pain that victims suffered include lack of sleep or not having enough sleep, long term stress which resulted in blood pressure, headache and intestine problems, being afraid that the abuse incidence might happen again, loss of appetite, anger, regrets, feeling hopeless, loneliness, and being afraid to be married again.

As expressed by the women survivors the emotional pain that they have encountered is hard to bear than the physical pain. Out of the ten women that were interviewed eight has said that apart for the physical violence the emotional pain is still in their head and that they couldn't let go of it. They indicated that the insults, the denial, the false accusation, jealousy, and lack of trust unfaithfulness of some husbands are very painful to bear. Fantaye who indicated that she is emotionally hurt stated that:

*My husband had never physically abused me. However, he threatens me and insults me in front of people. He also practices polygamy. Even though I hate what he does and get angry and fill sleepless all the time I couldn't do anything about it because I was totally dependent on him for survival. However, through time I learnt that I have to get out of this dependency circle. My neighbors and families also assisted me in the process. Now I have divorced my husband and engaged in small business activity. I am also able to support my child and myself. Now I regret to think about what I have emotionally gone through.*

Zenash who is a victim of violence indicated that although the medical doctor had advised her to relax and get enough sleep, she was unable to do that because of the frequent nagging and threat

on the side of the husband. She indicated that she was unable to sleep and mostly put herself under pressure and this sometimes causes her blood pressure to go up. Mintiwab indicated that she sometimes get afraid that that her husband might hit her again and sometimes goes to bed without having dinner to avoid dispute with her husband. Zenash, Gebeyanesh, Zerefenes, and Abebch indicated that they usually get headache because they get very angry with her husband's behavior. Ediget indicated that because of the physical abuse by the husband she is unable to give birth and her husband accuses her of not being able to give him a child and this situation had bothered Ediget and caused her emotional pain including anger and regrets.

#### **4.1.6.3.Survivors'Experience as a Result of the Economical Abuse by Their Husband**

The survivors experience in relation to the economic abuse that they have encountered includes income loss, decrease in the number of customers coming to their shop, inability to work and earn income as before as a result of the physical abuse, not being able to reach the income level as friends, unexpected loan to sustain their business as the husband usually take the money they make, closing of business due to the frequent fight with the husband, and inability to do the kind of business that survivors aspires.

##### **a. Income loss**

Survivors engaged in income generation activities indicated that the economic abuse by their husband has resulted in the reduction of their income. In most of the cases the reason for reduced income was due to the negative attitude of their husbands towards their business. According to the respondents their husbands suspect them of having special attachments with their customers.

Therefore, they purposely get drunk to insult and threaten their customers. As a result, the number of customers coming to their shop decreased and resulted in reduced income. Zenash who used to own a local liquor shop, for example stated that:

*I used to earn income by selling areke and borde to villagers. My husband did not want me to proceed with my business. He suspects that I was having an affair with some of the customers. He comes to my shop got drunk to insult and threaten me and my customers. Due to his repeated action my customers stopped coming to my shop. Hence I was unable to make profit which has forced me to close my shop. I am now dependent on my husband to purchase household utensils and fulfill my children's need."*

b. Physical pain to engage in income generating activity

Some of the research respondents indicated that they were unable to do their business activities as before due to the physical pain or problem they have encountered as a result of the abuse. Respondents stated that they were unable to do their private business activities or get employed to earn income due to the broken hands and legs, headache and other related physical pain. Mintewab who encountered physical incapability as a result of the abuse by her husband noted:

*I used to make Kocho (local food made from false banana) and areke sell it in my small shop which is very near to the market place. I earned some money from it which was enough for me and my family. However after the big fight with my husband I got seriously sick. My ears were damaged; I stated having a very bad headache and other pains. Due to all this pain and physical disability, I was forced to depend on my children's labor. During that time my children were attending school hence I was forced to take my children's education time.*

*These was mainly because I lost my ear, could not stand for long hours as I loss control of myself, and also because was also bed ridden for a long time. I was also not able to reach the income level that my friends and neighbors had reached”*

c. Unexpected loan

Respondents indicated that they were forced to take loan form their neighbors and colleagues to sustain their business. According to them, their husbands forcefully take the money that they have made from their small scale businesses. Some respondents mentioned that their husbands take the whole money without considering the profit and loss of the business. As Abebech and Yemegnusah stated their husbands forcefully take the money that they have collected from their small scale business. They both said that they sometimes hide their money in the kitchen and somewhere away from their husbands’ site both to avoid the fighting with their husbands as well as to save money for their children’s education. However, despite the efforts they made they were forced to take loan from their friends and neighbors to sustain their business or divert their business activity. Similarly the focus group discussion conducted with victims of violence confirms same experience as above.

d. Not being able to decide for themselves

Some respondents indicated that their husbands’ do not allow them to involve in either self-employed or get employed in other household, government or private sector. According to them their husbands mostly want them to be house wives responsible for doing household activities including taking care of themselves and their husbands. Accordingly, these conditions have made them to be dependent on their husband to fulfill their basic needs. According to Woineshet and



Zerfnesh, their husband does not let them work outside of their house. They only want them to work at home. They do not want them to earn income and become independent. According to them, the reason for such behavior of their husband's is the suspicions that women who work outside the house are more likely to involve in extra marital relationship. Moreover, they want their wife to be dependent on them all the time.

#### **4.1.6.4. Social Experiences of Survivors as a Result of the Abuse by Their**

##### **Intimate Partner**

As indicated in the previous section, most research respondents except for the two indicated that they have encountered various kinds of social violence by their intimate partner. According to them their husbands had prevented them from going to social gatherings including Ikub and Idir as well as from meeting friends, families and neighbors. They also threaten those friends and colleagues who tried to support them.

In order to respect the wishes of their husbands' victim women started to either meet their friends in secret or to stop contacting them. As a result of these, some people started to distance themselves, victims started to lose their social commitment and to visit their friend and families less frequently due to fear of being beaten. This in turn created gaps between the victims and close friends and family which also made victims become isolated from friends, minimized their relationship and friendship with others, as they are forced to stop going to social gathering and meeting friends.

#### **4.1.7. Coping Mechanism Used by Victims of Violence**

##### **4.1.7.1. Physical Abuse and Coping Mechanism Used By Respondents**

The kind of coping mechanisms used by respondents include running away, spending the night outside the home particularly in the neighbors and family house until the husband calms down, calling for help, screaming, reporting to the police, fight back, advising their husbands about their action in peaceful times, some indicated that they try to tolerate the abuse until their children finish school, begging their husband to stop the abuse, reporting to respected elders, getting advice from village level woman watch groups<sup>3</sup> and office of Woman, Children and Youth Affairs.

According to Zenash, when she sometimes calls for help some people were reluctant to enter into their house to help her out and calm the fight. This is mainly because they do not want to interfere in their private matters. In addition, after she reported to the police her neighbors who have tried to rescue her were called as a witness and during that time some were afraid to give their words on what they have seen or heard. Those neighbors who have testified against her husband get into bad terms with her husband.

Most women who were beaten badly go to the hospital to get the necessary medical service. According to Mintiwab she has been to both traditional and modern clinics to get medication of

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<sup>3</sup> Women watch groups: are groups of women voluntarily working to protection women in their surrounding area. These women were trained on various protection issues and concerns of women. They were establishing by the district women, children and youth affairs office and Actionaid Ethiopia.

the physical pain that she has had as a result of the physical abuse by her husband. Some of the victims have to go frequently to the hospital to clean the painful open skin infection or wound.

Some respondents indicated that the physical abuse by the husbands has prevented them from doing their day to day activities including going to the market and walking long distances.

Mintiwab indicated:

*I used to go to the market to buy the thing that I want and go to my family's house which is found a little far from my house. But now due to the physical pain that I had encountered as a result of the abuse by my husband I cannot walk or stand for long hours. Therefore, I have stopped going to the market and visiting my family; my families are the one who come for visit.*

On the other hand Abebech and others have used strategies like reporting to woman watch groups and the government office of women, children and youth affairs. Abbebech has also used methods like asking people that are close to her husband to give advice to her husband about his abusive behavior and the like.

#### **4.1.7.2. Emotional Abuse and Coping Mechanism Used by Respondents**

The major psychological coping strategy used by respondents is trying to calm down, getting advise from people that they trust, going for professional help, diverting attention, going to friends or neighbors house for a while, and facilitating conditions so that close friends and family members could advise the husband.

Some respondents indicated that the emotional pain that they have suffered as a result of the abuse by their husband has adversely affected their health conditions. Some victims had developed blood pressure, headache and gastric problems. When they went to health centers to get medical services the doctor told them to relax and do other activities to divert their attention from things that make them angry. Some respondents used different strategies like going to their neighbor's house and having coffee with neighbors and the like.

According to Zenash, who has faced blood pressure as a result of the frequent abuse by her husband, whenever she and her husband indulge into argument and fighting she goes out of the house and try to relax and make herself calm. She also tries to think about things that makes her happy.

Contrary to that, Yemegnushal consults her close neighbors and family members to settle the emotional pain that she is in as a result of the emotional abuse by her husband. However she indicated that consulting friends about the abuse does not have sustainable solution to the physical abuse perpetrated by her husband but it helps to bear the emotional pain for a while. Most of the time the advice that she receives from her close friends and families is to tolerate her husband's behavior and stay with him which has contributed to her continued abuse by her husband. Another respondent, Woineshet who her husband threatens with a knife at night time stated that, "my husband threatens me with a knife most of the nights. The situation was happening on a regular basis during my pregnancy and post natal periods. I tolerated his action

for almost a year and finally I left the house and reported the case to the police. I would have been dead if I haven't left him sooner.

Fantaya who has encountered emotional and psychological abuse by her husband also stated that:

*I used different strategies to deal with my husband's abusive behavior. Some time I engage in debating with him so that he will respect my wishes and understand my point of view, other time I spent the night at my friend's house to avoid unnecessary arguments and insults. I have also asked people to advise him but since all this attempts were unsuccessful I finally divorced him. Although divorce was my last option it brought emotional stability and peace in my life.*

#### **4.1.7.3.. Economic Abuse and Copping Mechanism Used by Respondents**

The coping mechanism indicated by in-depth interview and FGD participants include stopping their business to meet their husbands' wish, and diverting the kind of business, teaching children the business skills so that they could support in the process, getting advise for older people that they know, and hiding the money that they have cared from their business.

Mintewab indicated that her strategy to cope with the economic abuse was to show her children the business skills required to sustain the business that she has started. She noted that:

*I used to handle my small scale business perfectly however after my husband gets in my way by beating me I was unable to continue my usual activity. If I don't work I couldn't feed my self and may children. Hence my option was to teach my older child the business*

*skills. Now my child is the one working on my business and I only give her advice as needed.*

Similarly Gebeyanesh stated that

*My husband left me when I was pregnant. After my child was born I was unable to feed myself and my child. So I approached the respected elderlies who are members of the social court in our village to advice my husband so that he will provide some money for his child. However since my husband was a friend of them, he told them that the child is not his hence the elders refrained for pushing him to play his fatherly role. Hence I waited for some time and reported my case to the court. After few trials the court .....in my favor and my husband was told to contribute three hundred birr per month. As a result, I was able to get some additional money to feed my child and continued to work on different jobs to sustain my income.*

While Woineset on the other hand indicated that “I earn some amount of money from my small business. However my husband forcefully takes the money that I have earned. So I decided to hide the some of the money that I have made each day so this strategy has enabled me to save some money to sustain my business and feed my children”.

#### **4.1.7.4. Social Abuse and Coping Mechanism Used by Respondents**

The social coping strategy that respondents use to address the social violence that they encounter is reporting their situation to traditional judges<sup>4</sup>, reducing the number of family and friends visit, visiting friends and family members secretly, asking the husband for permission to visit friends and going to social gatherings, and advising the husband that it is beneficial to attend social gatherings so as to get an up to date information on various issues.

Respondents indicated that prior to approaching the police and other prosecutors the victims first go to traditional leaders. Some respondents indicated that they ask the traditional leaders to give advice to their husband about his action so that he could stop abusing them through intervening in their social matters.

The other strategy used by respondents is to visit neighbors secretly. They indicated that it is difficult to be isolated from neighbors and families as they will need their assistance and support of neighbors in one way or another. Hence some victims have continued to meet with families, friend and neighbors despite their husbands' discontentment with the issue. And some indicated meeting their friends secretly. Some stopped meeting friends, neighbors and families.

#### **4.1.8. Most Effective and Least Effective Coping Strategy**

Victims of intimate partner violence use various coping styles to deal with violence the face at the hands of their husband. Literatures of on coping strategies indicate that coping strategies

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<sup>4</sup>Traditional judges are respected community elders who mediate and settle disputes between husband and wife.

include a broad diversity of thoughts and behaviors used to manage the demands of a taxing situation (Lazarus & Folkman, 1984).

Empirical evidence in the coping literature indicate that although individuals may have preferred ways of coping with stressors, their actual responses to stressors tend to vary with the characteristics of the stressful situation (De Ridder, 1997; Holahan *et al.*, 1996). Therefore, a thorough understanding of coping strategies requires taking situational variability into account.

Among the coping styles, some has proven to be effective than other depending on the nature of the abuse situation and the person who is employing them. Lazarus and Folkman (1984) described constraints that could affect the choice and usefulness of coping strategies. They organized these limitations within three categories: environmental constraints, personal constraints, and extreme threat. In the case of this study, multiple coping constraints could be cited which includes lack of social support, high dependency of the victims on their husband, and frequency of the abuse. Through considering the mentioned constraints respondents were asked about which of the coping strategies used by them were most and least effective. Accordingly most respondents reported as bellow

**Table 4: Most and Least Effective Coping Strategy Indicated by Respondents for the Physical Abuse**

<b>Most effective coping strategy</b>	<b>Least effective coping strategy</b>
Reporting to the police	Hiding



Running away	Telling family members
Divorce	Fighting back
Screaming	Leaving home temporarily

**Table 5: Most and Least Effective Copping Strategy Indicated By Respondents for the Economic Abuse**

<b>Most effective copping strategy</b>	<b>Least effective copping strategy</b>
Hiding money	undertaking business activity secretly
Separation/divorce	
Elderly advice	

**Table 6: Most and Least Effective Copping Strategy Indicated By Respondents for the Emotional Abuse**

<b>Most effective copping strategy</b>	<b>Least effective copping strategy</b>
Consulting close friends and families.	
Doing entertaining things	Arguing
Getting elderly advice	

**Table 7 Most and Least Effective Coping Strategy Indicated By Respondents for the Social Abuse**

Most effective coping strategy	Least effective coping strategy
Getting elderly advice	arguing
Secretly meeting friends	
persuading the husband and attending social gathering with his presence	

Both the in-depth interview and focus group discussion participants agreed that they used different coping mechanism all the time. However, those mentioned in the table above are what they usually use. Moreover, respondents stated that the coping styles indicated as effective may sometimes be less effective as the situation is different all the time. This is also confirmed in other literatures which indicate that the importance of context in the selection of coping strategies (Matlinet *al.*, 1990; Moos & Swindle, 1990).

For instance, although divorce and separation has brought peace to some of the respondents there are also emotional pains associated with it which they still could not bear.

Woineshet noted that:

*“My action towards the threat of my husband was to leave my house. Even though leaving my house has prevented me from fear and has made me survive I don’t think that it is the best option”. For Zenash, telling family members about the abuse is the least effect strategy. She stated that: “when I tell my family about the abuse that I had faced in*

*the hands of my husband, they always tell me to calm down and tolerate his behavior. However this situation has enabled my husband to beat me more and make me live in painful situation.”*

#### **4.1.9. Disclosing Intimate Partner Violence**

Most of the research respondents indicated that they do not tell anyone about the first abuse. Mostly, the neighbors find out about the first violence due to the noise that is created during the abuse time. They also do not tell family members at first. However, when the issue starts to get worse from time to time they have disclosed the issues to close family members and friends. They have also indicated that they do not report abuse case to the police at first but when they realize that the situation of violence is getting worse they have decided to appeal to the law. Few respondents indicated that they first disclose their cases to respected village leaders with the aim that these leaders would help them in advising their husband and bringing behavioral change.

Yemegnusah stated that

*At first I did not plan to disclose the abuse case to anyone. During the third abuse incidence my neighbors, who have heard the shouting and screaming in the night before asked me why we were arguing. Then since they have heard our shouting I couldn't deny what went on and this was my first disclosure of my private life. However when abuse continues to get worst I reported to the police with the help of my neighbors.*

Gebeyannesh and Abebech have similar experience. They both disclosed their situation to village leaders with the hope that they will give advice to their husbands to change his behavior.

However both indicated that they have reported to the police since consulting the village leaders did not give them the liberty that they needed. According to them the village leaders made efforts to convince their husbands to behave however they were unable to bring the desired behavioral change. Hence, it was good for them to be protected by the law.

#### **4.1.10. Supports Available to Victims of Violence**

As indicated by respondent, there are a number of supports offered by governmental and non-governmental organizations operating in the area. Among the supports indicated by more than half of the participants include financial supports to facilitate legal processes among victims, psychological support, various awareness raising activities by the district women children and youth affairs office. Moreover, those victims who were seriously injured indicated that they were able to get medical services with minimal payment. The other support indicated by the victims was the social and emotional supports offered by the good neighbors and elderlies in the area.

The respondents perception towards the support offered to them varies according to the kind of abuse that they have encountered. The majority of the respondents have a good feeling towards the support offered by the office of Women Children and Youth Affairs Office and other service providers. However, they still believe that there needs to be more support for victims of violence other than what has been offered to them so far. They also indicated that the support offered to them is far from adequate

## **4.2. Discussions of the Findings**

Violence against women and girls takes place in a multitude of contexts, including homes, schools, and the workplace (USAID, 2008). The most common type of violence that women experience worldwide is intimate partner violence. Partner violence occurs in all countries and transcends social, economic, religious, and cultural groups. Although women can also be violent, the vast majority of partner abuse is perpetrated by men against their female partners (JHU, 1999). The study findings in Yem Special District also confirm this situation. Women in these areas are exposed to different forms of abuse including physical, psychological, economic and social abuses. It also revealed that women experience the different forms of violence irrespective of the economic and educational background. Although the study respondents did not attend higher level education and the maximum educational level being grade 10; all have experienced the different forms of violence irrespective of the educational and economic background.

The Study finding in Yem Special District found that the kind of physical abuse women experience in the hands of their husband ranges from small injury to high physical impairments. Women are beaten, kicked, and hit with an object by their husbands'. The study conducted by John Hopkins University also confirms by stating that women are more likely to be assaulted, injured, kicked, or killed by a current or former partner.

In addition, the finding of this study indicates that although alcohol does not have a direct correlation with intimate partner violence, severe drinking problems triggers intimate partner violence in one way or another. Similarly other researches also substantiate this finding (Sharps et al, 2003).

The consequences of intimate partner violence are of different kinds and affect the healthy growth, survival and development of victim women. Women who had experienced frequent physical violence in the hands of their intimate partner had encountered physical and emotional complications. UN reports on the violence against women also confirms by stating that women survivors of intimate partner violence experience a direct consequence of violence which includes life-long emotional distress, physical pain, and health problems (UN, 2006). Other studies also indicate that women who have experienced serious abuse face overwhelming mental and emotional distress (Goodwin, Chandler, Meisel, 2003).

Economical abuse is another form of abuse that survivors of intimate partner violence had experience in the hands of their husbands' in the study area. The kind of economic abuse they had encountered among others include; preventing victims' form involving in business activity, refusing to allow victims to work or getting job, steeling victims money away, lack or inadequate support for household chores as well as wasting money in alcohol drinks. The intent of economic abuse is to prevent victims from access resources, disabling victims from achieving self-sufficiency and gaining financial independence. This economic abuse has resulted in loss of income, weak job performance, inability to meet households demand, and become economically insufficient. In addition women were forced to be totally dependent on their husbands for their survival and unable to maintain economic security. Similarly, a study in Chicago, IL, United States, indicates that victim women are more likely to experience unemployment, weak job performance and low income.

In addition to the physical and economic abuse married women experience emotional and social abuses. The study findings indicate that women experience nagging, yelling, threatening, neglect, mistreatment, and ignorance. In addition, social isolation, threatening close friends, neighbors and family, and preventing victims from attending social gatherings as well as meeting close friends and families are the kind of social abuse encountered by women. As a result of the emotional and social abuses victim women are facing problems like lack of sleep, long term stress, anxiety, loss of appetite, poor work performance, and health complication. On top of that these women suffer from loneliness and social isolation. Similarly, studies show that women victims of emotional and social abuse are more likely to experience poor physical health, difficulty in concentration, poor work performance (Straight,2003). Even though, this study did not come up with suicidal thoughts and or suicide attempts of victims some literatures indicate that this could also be the result of intimate partner violence.

Although mostly the physical violence is seen as far worse than emotional abuse, the study findings confirm that women experiences of emotional abuse are far worse to victims. Survivors of intimate partner violence indicate that the effects of emotional abuse are hard to bare and very deep. This finding is also reflected in other similar studies as damaging and painful.

This research also found that women often experience a combination of all forms of abuse which includes physical, emotional, economic and social. Of the women who had been under study more than 75% of them have experienced all forms of violence. Moreover, the different violence had interrelated effect on women. The physical abuse encountered by women had emotional, economic and social implications on victim women and vice versa.

Survivors of intimate partner violence used various methods to cope with the physical, emotional, economic and social abuses they encounter in the hands of their husbands'. Women survivors in Yem special district had used different measures including fighting back, discussing with close friends and families, reporting to responsible bodies, getting elderly advice, fleeing and the like to cope with the violence they encounter. This is also confirmed in various studies (KFHSS, 2007).

Survivors of intimate partner violence used various methods to cope with the physical, emotional, economic and social abuses they encounter in the hands of their husbands'. Women survivors in Yem special district had used different measures including fighting back, discussing with close friends and families, reporting to responsible bodies, getting elderly advice, fleeing and the like to cope with the violence they encounter. This is also confirmed in various studies including Kiribati Family Health and Support Study. Survivors of intimate partner violence invite the intervention of different persons including close families, neighbors, and elderly to give advice to their respective husband so that the abuse can stop and the relationship can be maintained before appealing to the law. The motivation to go to law enforcement agencies or the police mostly arises as a result of the continuous abuse by the husband and extreme physical injury.



## **Chapter Five**

### **5. Summary Conclusion and Recommendation**

#### **5.1. Summary**

The study was conducted to explore and understand the lived experiences of women survivors of intimate partner violence in Yem Special District. This area is identified by the researcher as the issue of intimate partner violence in particular the experience of victims is under studied in the area.

Yem Special District is one of the special districts in Southern Nations, Nationalities and people's regional State with high cases of domestic violence. The area is very remote with 98 percent of the population being dependent on traditional agricultural system. Issues of unequal power relation between men and women, belief in inherent superiority of men, as well other socio cultural practices had contributed for the wide spread practices of intimate partner violence in the district.

The overall objective of the study was to assess and understand the lived experiences of women victims of intimate partner violence in Fofa village of Yem Special District. The specific objectives of the study were to assess the social, emotional, economical, and physical problems experienced by women who are victims of intimate partner violence, assess the educational and economic backgrounds of women victims of intimate partner violence, assess victim women's response or coping mechanisms to violence that they encountered and to come up with practical

recommendation that promote protection of women from the consequences of intimate partner violence.

In order to respond to the above objectives of the research, the study employed qualitative research and explored the lived experiences of 10 women survivors. Moreover, the study used focus group discussion and literature reviews to have a deeper understanding of intimate partner violence and the experiences of victims. The data gathering tools used in the study include in-depth interview and focus group discussions. An in-depth interview was carried out with ten women survivors and two focus group discussions were conducted with ten study participants to qualify the study findings.

The research raised key questions and identified the social, economic, emotional and physical experiences of women victims of intimate partner violence and the coping mechanisms that these victim women use. It also explored the social and economic back grounds of victim women.

The findings of the study indicate that women survivors of intimate partner violence had experienced abuse in the hands of their husband irrespective of their economic, education and social backgrounds. The study identified that both literate and illiterate women face violence in the hands of their husbands due to varied reasons. It also revealed that women experience abuse irrespective of their level of income. Women who are dependent on their husbands for their daily living and women who earn income face violence.

The findings indicate that, the kind of physical abuse that women experience in the hands of their husbands are sometimes very harsh and had forced women to be hospitalized, loss part of their body and caused them severe pain. Women were also forced to be indebted due to the high medical costs. In addition, the emotional abuses perpetrated against women include threatening, nagging, insulting and many more. These had caused women to face emotional and physical pains. Further, the study revealed that although mostly the physical violence is seen as far worse than emotional abuse, the study findings confirm that women experiences of emotional abuse are the worst. Social isolation is also another problem identified by the women which made them feel lonely and loss connection to other community members including their close friends and families.

With regard to the economic problem, the study identified that women victims mostly depend on their husbands for meeting their daily needs. This is mainly because; the husbands mostly interfere in victims' business activity or prevent them from working and earning income. Moreover, the fear of violence keeps some of the respondents from seeking employment opportunity and earning income. This has made women to be engaged only in household chores.

Furthermore, the study identified various techniques or strategies used by women survivors to deal with the violence that they encounter in the hands of their husband. Some of them include fighting back, discussing with close friends and families, reporting to responsible bodies, getting elderly advice, and fleeing.

Apart from that, the study identified the various supports available to survivors of intimate partner violence offered by governmental and non-governmental organizations operating in the area. These supports include include financial supports to facilitate legal processes, psychological support and various awareness raising activities by the district Women Children And Youth Affairs Office. it also identified the perception of women towards these support. The majority of the respondents have a good feeling towards the support offered by the office of Women Children and Youth Affairs Office and other service providers. However, they still believe that there needs to be more support for victims of violence other than what has been offered to them so far. They also indicated that the support offers is far from adequate.

## **5.2.Conclusion**

Millions of women in the world are victims of violence. This figure is also the same for developing countries like Ethiopia. Despite the existing national and legal policy fame works women in the country are exposed to different forms of violence at the hands of their husbands.

Evidences including the findings of this research indicate that there is no one single factor to account for violence perpetrated against women. Several socio economic, historical and cultural factors place women at risk of violence. Intimate partner violence has a serious physical, psychological, economic, and social consequence that affects the survival and development of victim women.

This research looked at violence against women from the lived experiences of women victims of intimate partner violence create a clear understanding of the situation. The women shared their true experiences and the kind of physical, economic, social and psychological problems they encountered due to the violence by their intimate partner. Moreover, the victims indicated the kind of coping mechanism that they use to deal with the violence. Although these women found some of the coping strategies used by them to be effective in some way other times it may not bring the desired outcome.

The information collected under this particular study will contribute for increased understanding of the situation victim women among various development actors and enable them to carry out intervention and design workable strategies. This in turn will bring positive outcome for the women who are suffering from intimate partner violence. Moreover, the findings will enable development actors to work in a coordinated manner so that they can address the problems that women encounter in various areas.

### **5.3.Recommendation**

During the assessment participants were asked about what should be done to address the challenges they face accordingly they forwarded the below recommendation and possible directions for actions.

- In most of the cases the problems the women mentioned was the lack of adequate support. To this regard, effort must be made to provide holistic support to victims of violence by both government and non governmental service providers. In addition, their

needs to be coordination among services providers to enable easy access to further violence prevention and response services

- The other challenge raised by respondents was related with the survivors lack of economic capacity to get the medical service that they need. According to them the medical expense are very high especial when there is severe pain associated with the physical abuse. Hence in order to address these, responsible bodies including civil society organization working in the area of gender based violence need to facilitate condition for easy medical access for victims of violence. Moreover, comprehensive and long term collaboration need to be in place between governmental non governmental service providers
- Sometimes as a result of the frequent intimate partner violence, victims prefer separation or divorce as a last resort to end the violence they encounter every day in the hands of their husband. At this time victims are sometimes are unable to get their fair share of their property. Hence, law enforcement bodies should ensure the rights of women are respected at the time of divorce. This includes their right to property, child support and custody.

#### General Recommendations

- Governments and other development actors should draw up integrated programs to combat violence against women.
- Government and civil society organizations need to educate the public about the effects of violence against women through engaging with various awareness raising activities.

- Enhance equal access to quality protection services including medical, psychosocial and free legal aid supports for women who are victims of violence.
- Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement officials and development actors to effectively respond to women affected by violence. In addition, training programs should be established for the judiciary, law enforcement bodies and civic leaders who deal with women who have experienced violence

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## **Appendix A**

### **Interview Schedule for Women Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence**

My name is Kidest Mirtneh. I am currently a social work student at IndrhaGandi Open University. This study, conducted in Yem special District Fofa town, is about women survivors of intimate partner violence. The major objective of the study is explore and understand the lived experiences of women survivors of intimate partner violence in Yem Special District Fofa village. The findings of the study may contribute to the improvement of responses to victims of intimate partner violence

For the purposes of this study, an in-depth interview will be carried out with women survivors. of intimate partner violence. You are accordingly selected to participate in this study. Your contribution in this interview could help in successfully accomplishing the study and future intervention pertaining to this concern. The study will not identify you or any of your family directly as only a summary of all the interview results will be presented in the final report. in addition your real name will not be included in the study. During the interview I will use tape recorder not to miss any points raised during the discussion. The recorded voice will only be used for analysis purpose and will be kept confidential.

Your participation in the study will only be upon your free and informed consent. You are entitled to withdraw at any stage of the study. In compensation of your time you will receive 30 birr. Thank you.

Signature of participant \_\_\_\_\_

### **Profile of respondents**

Age\_\_\_\_\_

Current marital status\_\_\_\_\_

Level of Educational\_\_\_\_\_

Type of marriage\_\_\_\_\_

Religion\_\_\_\_\_

Length of marriage\_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity\_\_\_\_\_

Number of children\_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth\_\_\_\_\_

Source of income\_\_\_\_\_

Time of marriage/cohabitation\_\_\_\_\_

Role in the household\_\_\_\_\_

### **Profile of partner**

Age\_\_\_\_\_

Current marital status\_\_\_\_\_

Level of Educational\_\_\_\_\_

Type of marriage\_\_\_\_\_

Religion\_\_\_\_\_

Length of marriage\_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity\_\_\_\_\_

Number of children\_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth\_\_\_\_\_

Source of income\_\_\_\_\_

Time of marriage/cohabitation\_\_\_\_\_

Role in the household\_\_\_\_\_

### **Background information in relation to the abuse encountered by victim women**

1. What forms of abuse did you experience in the hands of your intimate partner?
2. When did you first encounter the abuse by your intimate partner?
3. What was your experience when the first abuse occurred?
4. What is your current feeling and experience in relation to the first abuse incidence?
5. How long have you experienced the abuse by your intimate partner?
6. How frequently is the abuse after the first incidence?
7. What was the reason behind your husband's abusive behavior?

Interview guide in relation to the physical, economic, emotional and social experiences of women

1. Will you please describe the physical experience that you have had as a result of the abuse by your husband
2. Will you please describe the economic experience that you had as a result of the abuse by your intimate partner?
3. Will you please describe the social experience that you had as a result of the abuse by your intimate partner?
4. Will you please describe the physical experience that you had as a result of the abuse by your intimate partner?
5. Will you please describe the emotional experience that you had as a result of the abuse by your intimate partner?

Interview guide in relation to coping strategies used by research respondents

1. Will you please describe your response/action towards your husbands abusive behavior?
2. Will you please describe the measures/strategies that you have taken after the first violence incidence?
3. Will you please describe your response actions towards the physical pain that you had encountered after the abuse by your intimate partner? If any
4. Will you please describe your response actions towards the emotional pain that you had encountered after the abuse by your intimate partner? If any
5. Will you please describe your response actions towards the social challenge that you had encountered after the abuse by your intimate partner? If any
6. Will you please describe your response actions towards the economic problems that you had encountered after the abuse by your intimate partner? If any
7. Have you disclose the case of abuse to anyone? If yes to whom?
8. Have you received any support from the person that you have disclosed the abuse to?
9. Will you please describe the response measure (coping mechanisms) that were useful?
10. Will you please describe the response measure (coping mechanisms) that were not useful

11. Will you please describe the kind of support you have received from service providers? If any?
12. Did you encounter any challenges in seeking help from service providers? What should be done to address the challenges?
13. Will you please describe the response of service providers when you approach for help?
14. Will you please describe the protection mechanisms in place to protect married women from abuse by their husband?
15. Will you please describe what should be done to ensure protection of married women from partner abuse?

#### Points Focus Group discussion

1. What are the physical experiences of women affected by intimate partner violence?
2. What are the emotional experiences of women affected by intimate partner violence?
3. What are the economical experiences of women affected by intimate partner violence?
4. What are the social experiences of women affected by intimate partner violence?
5. What are the sexual experiences of women affected by intimate partner violence?
6. What are the different coping mechanism used by women affected by intimate partner violence
7. What are the useful coping mechanisms used by victims of intimate partner violence?
8. What are the least useful coping mechanisms used by victims of intimate partner violence?
9. What are the supports available for victims of intimate partner violence
10. What are the perceptions of victim women towards the supports available for them