



ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AGAINST WOMEN IN ADDIS
ABABA: THE CASE OF BOLE SUB-CITY**

BY: SOLOMON DAWIT DIRIBA
ID: SGS/0258/2012A

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES OF St. MARY
UNIVERSITY IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE
DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

June, 2021

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



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ADVISOR: TAYE AMOGNE (PhD)

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Declaration

I, the under signed, declare that the research entitled “*Gender Based Violence (GBV) Against Women in Addis Ababa: The Case of Bole Sub – City*” is the result of my original work apart from the review literature which all sources clearly mentioned and properly acknowledged. I have conducted the study by myself with the assistance, guidance and constructive comments of my research advisor. This research has not been presented in this or any other universities.

Solomon Dawit

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Date: _____

Letter of Certification

This is to certify that Solomon Dawit has conducted this research on the topic entitled “*Gender Based Violence (GBV) Against Women in Addis Ababa: The Case of Bole Sub – City*” under my supervision. The thesis is suitable for examination and the student has got my approval to present it for assessment.

Advisor: Dr. Taye Amogne (PhD)

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Date: _____

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CSA	Central Statistical Authority
EWLA	Ethiopia Women Lawyer Association
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UN	United Nation
UNDP	United Nation Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

ABSTRACT

Gender-based violence against women is one of the most common human rights, social, and health problems. However, studies on these issues are recent phenomena, especially in developing countries such as Ethiopia; there is still a lack of basic information on the scope, understanding of its effect, the root causes and how to prevent it. Despite the limited research, there are few studies, police and media reports indicate the prevalence and severity of the problem in the country. The study was conducted to explore and understand the experiences of women's violence in their own words about gender-based violence. Therefore, the researcher used a qualitative research method. The study was conducted in Bole sub-city from February to April 2021 including women who had been married or in relationship and engaged in sexual violence, Bole Sub-City Women, Children and Youth Sector, and Bole Sub-City Police Department. Interviews were applied on selected topic for 12 participants. The result of study is described as a complex phenomenon because of the various forms of abuse, intimidation, and social exclusion of those violated women's rights, including rape and battering. Violence against women occurs ranging from simple to serious acts which brought different forms of psychological, economic, social, mental, health and self-esteem effects to victim women. Additionally, the findings show that men who are physically abusive are also more likely to be psychologically, economically, and sexually abusive. In this study, lack of awareness and transgressions were identified as the main causes of gender-based violence. Alcoholism, masculinity, and jealousy have also been linked to dominance factors of violence. In fact, all causes are interrelated and manifestations of unequal power relationship between women and men has a significant impact on women's overall well-being. Regarding to response of gender-based violence, the study found that most abused women are not passive victims but develop active strategies to improve the safety of their children and themselves. It includes avoiding, enduring, and some fighting back while others try to keep their peace by fulfilling their husbands or partners needs even though they don't want to. The response to women's abuse is often limited by the options available to them. Where women need help, they have primarily turned to informal sources of support than formal sources. As the study shows, they often don't get the necessary support from the concerned bodies. Despite many obstacles, there were women who were determined to leave their husbands or intimate partner considering as divorce is one of the most effective strategy to deal with abused women. But after a divorce, they face many social and economic problems. Generally, although gender-based violence is a serious problem, it is still viewed as 'normal', private or family matter due to lack of awareness. Therefore, this study aims to provide insights into the experiences of disadvantaged women in Ethiopia and contribute to new and broader choices to prevent and strengthen the management system of gender-based violence

Key words:

Gender based violence (GBV), Sexual abuse, psychological violence, Alcoholism, masculinity, jealousy, violence, and intimate partner.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a sexual abuse. It is a fundamental violation of life, liberty, security and dignity, inequality of men and women, non-discrimination and physical and mental integrity (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2010). A recent global survey of 50 population-based studies in 36 countries found that 10 to 60% of married women or partners are physically assaulted by at least one current or former partner (Hayes 2009).

According to Chalk (2002), in Africa, relationships with other people, self-confidence, physical activity, social development, and psychological activities and gender-based violence are ignored. Women, especially girls, who have been sexually abused possess Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms. According to a World Health Organization's (2010) study in Mbwambo, up to 36 percent of women in Namibia, 56 percent in Tanzania and 72 percent in Ethiopia are sexually assaulted by their lifetime partners. The newest statistics from the Rwandan National Institute of Statistics indicates that 31 percent of women experience domestic violence after the age of 15, mostly by their husbands or partners. In 10.2 percent of cases, violence occurs during pregnancy.

In Kenya, one of the most serious consequences of sexual violence in neighborhoods is that it can affect girls' school performance. In 2003, Kenya's Demographic and Health Survey found that 44 percent of married couples between the ages of 15 and 49 reported being physically or sexually abused by their husbands or partners a minimum of once.

Although violence against women is common and widespread in Ethiopia as well, it is difficult to estimate its exact size and magnitude. However, gender-based violence is the most common form of abuse against women. Addis Ababa University – Center for Human Rights (un) report indicates, the extent of violence and related issues in partner relationships in western Ethiopia including rural and urban areas show that 76.5% of women were victims of violence during their lifetime; and 72.5% reported being victim in the past 12 months, and 56.9% had been subjected to multiple physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

As a study collaboratively conducted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPD) and the Population Council (2010), under the heading of "Gender in Ethiopia", one in 10 women was physically abused by her husband. Additionally, as the study conducted by Save the Children in 10 Woredas on the abandonment of harmful traditional practices in 2010/11 in Ethiopia indicates 3 out of 10 women had been beaten during their lifetime.

Violence against women also aims to save lives. Empowerment, participation and equal participation of women are of central importance in all areas of society in order to guarantee equality, development and peace. Without a doubt, gender equality is fundamental to sustainable human development. To assist the effort of stakeholders, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were involved in the fight against GBV. At the national level, these efforts were more than expected by the focus group.

Apart the expected outcomes mentioned above, gender-based violence increases poverty and impedes development efforts. Furthermore, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPD) and the Population Council on Sexual Assault (2008) pointed out one in four women in the city; and one in three women in the countryside is the victim of GBV and out of these 17% of women reported being raped or having sex without their permission. More specifically, sexually abused women are at risk of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV / AIDS. This will prevent them from receiving adequate support because of the stigma attached to their survival. This limits their livelihoods, access to education and health services, and their ability to participate in political processes.

Because women play a significant role in the informal economy, as the first child caregivers, the effects of gender-based violence are far greater than those of survivors. Gender-based violence, which affects productivity in health services, police and legal services, as well as household income and food security, has significant economic and personal costs. On the other hand, fighting GBV involves preventing and responding to the attack, but some argue that preventing GBV should be the key to stopping it first. Because GBV is based on gender and gender-based power differences, GBV prevention strategies are generally deeply rooted in efforts to promote gender equality. Therefore, rather than dividing and viewing GBV as a separate and neutral problem, it should be situated in a state of gender inequalities (Sida, 2015).

Although interventions and responses to violence against women are now widespread and varied, there is still relatively little evidence to show the results of these initiatives. This is because tackling violence against women requires changes in values, attitudes, and behaviors that are difficult to measure or quantify in a short period of time. This study, therefore, examines the effects of gender-based violence and its management in Bole Sub – City, Addis Ababa from the aforementioned perspectives.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Gender-based violence occurs in all countries, rich or poor, developed or developing, ethnic, religious, color, social, wealth, urban or rural, etc. For instance, the rise of gender-based violence (GBV) is accompanied by a growing number of astronomical movements in the Northeast. Increasing researches have highlighted health burdens, genetic influences, and the demographic consequences of such violence. They acknowledge that violence against women around the world violates basic human rights.

The problem of gender-based violence is also not exceptional in Ethiopia. The report from police shows that there has been an increase in GBV related reports over the past five years from 2015/16 up to 2019/20. The statistical data reported from Bole Sub – City Police Department show that the number has increased from 80 (26.6%) cases in 2015/16 to 132 (46.2%) cases in 2019/20. It is noteworthy that the reported violence increase is about 19.4 percent that put the sub – city at the second level next to Gulelle Sub – City in Addis Ababa.

According to the data, the high number of victim women indicates the seriousness of the problem, and it is important to note that police statistics show that the total number of victim women is catastrophic. Many people still view gender-based violence as a private matter and believe that it should be done or kept at home. Considering that there are still many unreported cases of violence in our society, many women are still suffering in silence. As the report of Shipway (2004) reveals, the fear of reporting the cases to either the police or agencies is that the violence may become greater or worse; in contrary, the victims may have hope that the relationship can be saved; and lack of knowledge how to report and where to go for justice.

Although gender-based violence is a serious problem, little is known about “how” and “why” this phenomenon occurs in Ethiopia, especially among women who have been abused. Few studies in

Ethiopia have mainly focused on the width and range of the problem as UNFPA (2016) pointed out. Likewise, only physical or sexual assaults are legally recognized as gender-based violence, and only those reported by the victims are recorded in the Bole Sub – City Police Department. People who do not report and are emotionally, psychologically and financially harmed are not on any record. These people are not only hidden from the statistics, but they are also hidden from family, friends and other social networks. The above problems indicate as there is a problem on understanding of this issue. Thus, this study aims at filling the conceptual gap about GBV and tries to contribute its part in creating awareness about it.

1.3 Research Questions

- What are the lived experience of women in Bole Sub – City look like?
- What are the major reasons behind gender-based violence in Bole Sub – City?
- How the survivors respond to gender-based violence in Bole Sub – City?

1.4 Objective

The general objective of this study is to provide a comprehensive understanding on effects of gender-based violence in Bole Sub – City, Addis Ababa. The study describes violence as a system of control and oppression that can include emotional, social or economic force, coercion, sexual or physical harm. In particular, the study will aim to show effects of gender-based violence against women by exploring the root cause and effects of gender-based violence.

1.4.1 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study are:

- To describe the lived experience of women in Bole Sub – City.
- to identify the major reason behind gender-based violence in Bole Sub-City.
- to assess the mechanism that survivors use to respond to gender-based violence in Bole Sub – City.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The purpose of the study is to assist the concerned body in providing GBV awareness within the community. The study also provides an opportunity for the community, educators, and management to understand why most men and women are physically, emotionally and psychologically abused and how to avoid GBV problems.

The study will be important for community workers, psychologists, social workers, and social educators to understand the cultural factors related to GBV and help them decide what proportion their efforts are affecting the community and what they should still do. It also helps to evaluate the contributions of stakeholders like “I Choose Life Africa” (ICL) in raising awareness of GBV in children in the community.

The findings of the study are useful for those organizations that have an interest in community involvement in combating child sexual abuse and develop programs to assist victims.

The study is vital because it adds to the body of knowledge needed to further develop research on GBV for interested scholars and researchers.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is limited to examining Gender Based Violence (GBV) in four areas: physical, psychological, sexual and economic. Additionally, the sample of the study are limited to women in Addis Ababa. Therefore, general research will be conducted only for this area of study. The proposed source of information includes support provider groups like NGOs and hospitals, other service providers, such as relatives, friends, police, religious leaders, and psychologists and victims.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

The research study is delimited to some victims of married women or women in relationship who are dwellers of Bole sub-city. It is believed that the research setting was convenient to identifying the potential participants to address the research questions. Moreover, due to time and resource constraints the study was based on small samples and limited information. It would have been better, if different institutional players, men and women from different social status have been included. The major constraint in doing this research is the outbreak of COVID – 19 that hinders the researcher to find more potential participants for further research input. Moreover, the absence of adequate researches conducted with similar titles in the Ethiopian context led to the shortage of reference materials.

1.8 Operational Definition of Variables

Gender: A term used to describe the social characteristics of men and women. These social characteristics are built on a variety of factors, such as age, religion, nationality, ethnicity, and

social origin. They vary in and out of cultures and define identity, status, roles, responsibilities, and power relationships among members of any community or culture.

Violence: is a system of control and oppression that may involve emotional, social or economic force, coercion or physical harm. It could be in the form of open, verbal or physical threats. It can also be subtle by intimidation, persecution, deception or other forms of psychological or social pressure. The victim may be forced to behave as expected or to act on his or her wishes out of fear.

Gender-Based Violence: refers to fundamental human rights violations that promote human dignity and self-determination and sexual-oriented roles that hinder human development. They refer to physical, sexual, and psychological harm that strengthens subjugation and allows one sex to dominate and control another.

Coercion: The act of intimidating, verbally abusing, cheating, deceiving, using cultural or economic means to coerce another person into engaging in unethical behavior.

A perpetrator: A person, group, or institution that directly commits, supports, and accepts attacks on another person or group. Criminals can be controlled by real or perceived power, decision-making and / or authority.

Poverty: the poorest living standard of husbands or intimate partner who has low or insufficient income.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the previous literature study on the effects of GBV against women and its management. Therefore, this chapter reviews various information on GBV as explained by various scholars in books, magazines, research reports and websites. The empirical review, the magnitude of GBV against women, the causes, the effects and combating GBV against women are discussed in more detail in this chapter.

2.2 Empirical Review

The United Nations has called for declaration to end violence against women in 1993 and defined as "acts of gender-based violence that brings in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, integrating threats like the acts of arbitrary deprivation of liberty or coercion, occurring either in public or private life." The declaration mentioned such violence includes, but is not limited to, the mentioned points here under:

Physical, sexual, and psychological abuse in the family, sexual abuse of girls and young women in domestic violence, rape, and female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices of non-marital violence and violence related to physical, sexual, and psychological abuse in the society including rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and workplace harassment, and in educational institutions and elsewhere.

GBV also includes abuse by one person in a relationship, such as marriage, cohabitation, intimacy, or family relationships. GBV can take many forms, including physical violence or assault (hitting, biting, kicking, pushing, restraining, slapping, throwing objects, battery) or threats thereof; sexual assault; Controlling or dominating; intimidation; persecution; Passive/hidden abuse (e.g., neglect); And economic deprivation. The idea was that anxiety causes symptoms in the traumatic process and takes years to develop post-traumatic stress disorder in adult life.

With its complicated formulation, this model is important in order to correct the damage to the psychological integrity of the victims at the time of the sophisticated practice of child sexual abuse and traumatic trauma. It is later described in mental health problems in adults' life and in individuals and sexual adjustment (Rieker and Carmen 1986). The post-traumatic stress received

the strongest support from clinicians observations of individuals with a history of severe and recurrent abuse from traumatic stress. It is also often associated with post-traumatic stress disorder, a disorder in which the disorder is more pronounced.

This concept asserts that gender-based violence against girls has a negative impact on their development and social development. It indicates that the psychological well-being of children is damaged, especially if the victims are able to understand the world. The post-traumatic stress disorder model helps to better explain the impact of gender-based violence on girls' performance.

2.3 The Magnitude of Gender Based Violence Against Women

Gender-based violence against women occurs in all societies, regardless of race, class, creed, status, or education. As a major social problem, accurate and relevant information on GBV is needed to strengthen advocacy efforts, to help policy makers understand the problem, and to guide the design of preventive interventions (WHO, 1997). However, studies on the issues are recent developments, especially in developing countries; There is still a lack of basic information about the size, the root causes and the possible protections.

Much of the information provided by the police and other formal institutions is also believed to be incredible because of underreporting. The scale of the problem is contradicting to each other by the fact that GBV recorded and reported as crime (UNICEF, 2000). Abane (1997) argues in his study of violence against women in Kenya that women should fight with untrained police and health officials to respond adequately to reports and requests for treatment. Victims, on the other hand, are often unwilling to report because they are being intimidated by their boyfriends or husbands, afraid of their boyfriend or husband's reaction, and fear of family respect and, above all, social and economic dependence. It prevents those who abuse them from reporting their abuse. Due to the current socio-economic situation in Ethiopia, cultural and religious barriers continue to be reported, with numerous reports of violence against women (Original et al., 2005). However, a small number of statistics from around the world indicate the seriousness of the problem.

Ellsberg (2000) analyzes the extent of violence, noting that GBV is a widespread phenomenon. A recent survey of 50 demographics from 36 countries found that 10% to 60% of women had experienced violence at least once or more in their life time from their current or former partners. Physical abuse is almost always occurred by psychological violence in one-third to one-half

including sexual abuse (Baghshaw, others, 2000). This is also found in the study: most women living with physical abuse report psychological and sexual abuse. Community-based studies in Ethiopia indicate that 50-60% of women have experienced GBV during their lifetime (Negussie, 1998, Tegbar *et. al*, 2004).

International studies have identified a series of violent incidents: disobedience to her boyfriend or husband, reciprocity, poor preparation of food, inadequate care for children and home, and abstinence from sex (Heise et al, 1999). All of these mentioned are violations of gender norms.

2.4 Causes of Gender Based Violence against women

It is important to understand the causes of social problems, such as GBV. Researchers from different parts of the world have come up with different theories to explain the causes of GBV. They try to explain different disciplines, including psychology, social work, sociology, criminal justice, and public health. Competitive concepts, in turn, come with a variety of solutions. Many focuses on individual and socio-structural approaches, but do not provide a complete explanation. They are able to focus on single causes to explain the occurrence of violence.

2.4.1 Individual Approach

For more than two decades, researchers, policymakers, and service providers have applied a variety of models and conceptual frameworks to abuse women. Much of the definition of abuse focuses solely on the behavior of the victim and the victim or between the two. Factors related to the offenders observed include anxiety, psychological and behavioral disorders, alcoholism and drug or gambling. Likewise, factors related to victims incorporate physical disability, economic dependence, and unemployment (Davis, 1994). The causes are generally personal problems, such as stress, poverty, unemployment, or a biological, psychological, or social origin. The following are some individual approaches that focus on the individuals involved in the abuse.

Biological Theory

Biological concepts that explain family or parental violence based on biological variables. This model suggests that male sexual jealousy, which is common in men, has improved their reproductive capacity (Burgess & Draper, 1989). The researchers also found that childhood attention deficits, brain damage, and various biochemical factors, such as testosterone and

serotonin, can affect relationships. The link between head trauma and violence can be caused by damage to various parts of the brain, resulting in stress. Biological models, however, give no reason for social issues and reduce the guilt of the offender for their actions. There is no solid evidence for these controversies, but most researchers agree that biological factors may play a role in some situations. In addition; attempts to predict GBV using biological variables are accurate only when other non-biological factors are added to the host. Therefore, they have limited application (Cunningham, Al, 1998).

Psychopathological Theory

Psychopathology also states that individuals who engage in violence against women are more likely to be physically or mentally abused. Violent people are viewed as sick individuals and isolated from others (Pagelow, 1984). Dutton (1987) found that male abusers were more interested in power than men who were not abusive. According to one explanation, events in their life that they feel powerless because of their low self-esteem or that they have little control over others or that they have a strong desire for power.

Dutton (1994) found that abusive men have narcissistic traits. Innocent men and violent men have a higher level of dependency than men who take longer to enter into relationships compared to non-violent men (Ryan, 1995). Criticism of this theory alone can reduce the importance of social structure and reduce the perpetrator's responsibility for the action, which can lead to consequences (Cunningham, et al, 1998).

Social Learning Theory

From the perspectives of violence against women, the theory of social education, and the so-called transmission from generation to generation, can be traced back to violence in the family, which is the main agent of society (Straus et al., 1986). Particularly those who are violent or watchful for violence in their own family learn that violence is a means to an end. Dumas, Margolin, and John (1994) found that men who were victims of violence were more likely to be victims of GBV, and women who observed violence were more likely to be exposed to their partners' aggression. Straus et.al (1986) feels that every generation is involved in a violent family. The family is a training ground for violence, with the idea that you are being hit by the people you love the most. Evidence

or support for this view comes from an evaluation of the Cognitive Behavior Program, where the researcher reported high levels of GBV by men who were exposed to violence as children.

However, it differs from other concepts in explaining why social transmission is not universal and why some beatings do not inform stories of violence against their families. According to sociology critics, the rate of violence from generation to generation is only 30%, so 70% of those who witness violence do not commit violence (Kaufman & Ziegler, 1987). Proponents of the theory of social education argue that although their theory does not explain all forms of violence, individuals who cause violence to children are more likely to behave violently as adults (Strauss, 1991).

Although violence against women is linked to individual causes, violence occurs in all socio-economic, educational, and environmental conditions, and therefore, this explanation is incomplete. In recent years, many scholars and researchers have suggested that these cultural expressions are not enough to justify the importance of gender and that it occurs in all socio-economic, racial, and class groups.

2.4.2 Socio-Structural Approach

This approach determines the cause of GBV in a structured society. Central to this approach is the establishment of an inequitable balance between men and women in the patriarchal family (Heise, 1998). Criticism of patriarchs as a cause of violence against women can be categorized into socio-structural approaches (Sweetman, 1998).

The feminist model focuses primarily on cultural institutions that support the structure of relationships in the patriarchal culture and patriarchal culture (Bograd, 1988). Major contributions to violence against women have historically been dominated by men, gender-based roles for men and women, and socialization of women's limited resources. (Johnson, 1995). This view is supported by cultural studies that show less violence in more equitable societies.

Feminism includes diversity in the context of GBV. The theory of feminist is not the same. It often represents the widespread of conflicting views and where political affiliation is dynamic and practical. However, feminism holds some central judgment about the position of men and women. Theories acknowledge that society is fraught with patriarchal and unequal power relations or that gender between women and men (Cunningham, *et.al*, 1998).

In fact, patriarchy is a contested term for women. They have spent a lot of time trying to explain and analyze, but in general the movement is united as a patriarchy and against the oppression of women. For example, for the Marxist feminist concept, the patriarchy is derived from the structure of economic production. According to them, economic exploitation in one part of the world is the main manifestation of the social structure and determines the nature of gender relations (Mitchell, 1980). Liberal feminism focused on the oppression of women in the legal system. The patriarchal system denies women's equality in all spheres of life and ensures that societies' attitudes toward women reinforce their differences. For them, the patriarchy provides a low-level and orderly control system to satisfy the traditional belief in sexuality. Extremist feminists who have emphasized human relations have been corrected by male oppression or patriarchy (Walyby, 1990).

In the patriarchal social order, men occupy a special place in the dominance of women and the sole dominance of the social institution. Women are kept in a social order by men and primarily by men in institutions that ensure their obedience and sustainability. GBV is socially tolerant of women's submission. The attack is defined as structural rather than isolated by individual relationships, as it is within the framework of cultural, socio-economic and political power relations, focusing on the social norms that contribute to domestic, community, and GBV.

Cultural values that are the values of fathers in most societies. They believe that men have the right to control the behavior of their wives, and that those who challenge this right by questioning the right to housing or even expressing the needs of children are punished. Violence in various countries, such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, has always been a form of punishment, and husbands have the right to correct a wrong wife. Approval of the right roles and responsibilities of women and men often changes from gender norms (Heise et al. 1999).

Countries like Ethiopian, who have traditional societies, the beating of wife is considered as a natural and expression of love or affection. The survey found that 37% of respondents in Ethiopia described violence as "normal" or "not serious" (WHO, 2005). On the other hand, data collected by Ethiopian CSA (2000) on violence against women shows that the majority of women (85%) believe that it is right for a husband to beat his wife for at least one reason.

Cultural values emphasize another type of hatred that interferes with family autonomy (Connor, 1992). Paternity values also support the inferiority complex of women, with men often having the highest decision-making power in the family (Heise, 1998). Women are marginalized in the family structure and are allowed as men's rights to control those who are considered victims of GBV. The acceptance of the family as an appropriate and typical structure as a center of such power should raise the question of its appropriateness as a social institution. However, although the extent of violence is eventually becoming apparent, the family is still considered a model of social improvement (Kevin et al., 1996).

The community reinforces family structure and the position of women in it, and as is customary, it submits to gender-based violence. It also supports low support either by devaluing and low valuing women's effort. This makes women vulnerable to violence by maintaining their social and economic dependence on men (Carrillo, 1992). Low economic status of women is associated with low power in the state. This inadequacy allowed the state to continue the family rebellion, leaving it with an agenda. Because women do not have the time or opportunity to participate in political power, the region has ignored issues that concern women. The state also provides local support for GBV and supports the violence (Bewley et al., 2000).

The feminist attitudes also emphasize that inequality over domination and marital power is the root cause of violence against women (Yllo, 1993). In a society with strong patriarchal traditions or patriarchal ideologies and social institutions, husbands control their wives and use violence to maintain that control when necessary (Levinson 1989 cited in Richaters, 1994).

Maintenance of patriarchal institutions contributed to the abuse of women. Many men believe that marriage is their patriarchal right to have unrestricted control over their wives and believe that violence is an acceptable way to establish such control (Dobash and Dobash 1988 cited in Eliot 1996). Similarly, in societies such as Ethiopia, where there is strong patriarchal culture or patriarchal values and social institutions, boyfriends or husbands control their girlfriends or wives and use violence to maintain that control when necessary. Religious and legal enforcement agencies, the main patriarchal institutions, play a major role to the existence of GBV.

Religion in the country violates and intensifies violence against women. Christian and Islamic marriages in particular are often criticized for asking for higher moral reasons. In addition, men

who abuse many women justify violence on religious grounds, and many cultural practices that abuse women are justified in the name of religion (Alemmaya, 2002).

Legal enforcement agencies are also reasons and conspire to continue violence against women. In Ethiopia, there is a tendency among legal enforcement officers to view the act as a crime unless the woman's battery is severely damaged. GBV has even been officially ignored (Original et al., 2005). This can be seen in Article 589 of the Federal Democratic Republic (FDRE) Constitution, which provides for a maximum penalty of up to ten years in prison for raping. However, marital rape (i.e., rape by husband) is not included in the article.

More recently, cross-cultural research has focused on the structural and cultural foundations of violence, particularly on the relationship between violence and the patriarchal institution. Levinson's study identified four strong cultural factors of wife's abuse such as economic disparities, physical violence in conflict resolution, men's power and in home decision-making, and women are not allowed for divorce (Richaters, 1994).

The traditional norms and values that promote patriarchal system are socially learned for every section of society. The norms and social values that contribute to tolerance and expression of GBV are major issues. Both men and women grew up in a patriarchal society, so they learned to behave more aggressively in other social media agencies and institutions (Margaret, 1993). Women have grown up believing that they are inferior to men. It is widely believed that a good husband should control his wife and that his family should keep order.

Socialization takes place everywhere. However, many studies show that the family is the first and foremost social institution. The values and institutional practices of boys and girls in the family are seen as the basis for future relationships with friends and family. Individuals accept or internalize the rules and definitions of the social group as internal. Male and female identity in cultural femininity and masculinity are largely the result of social norms derived from social laws, values, and moral promises (Walby, 1990).

In addition to family socialization, women often learn to respond to violent social interactions, particularly gender-based violence, and to accept cultural institutions such as schools, religious institutions, and law enforcement. However, the process of socialization alone cannot explain the

abuse of women in the family setting, but other social relations institutions play an important role in promoting this unique behavior (Koss *et.al*, 1993).

The patriarchal approach to the issue of violence against women is a bipartisan and gender-based role on the one hand aggressive, dominant and authoritarian man on the one hand and passively dependent, self-condemnatory women on the other. (Hillar, etc., 1989). Men around the world have established hierarchical society who have the power and resources to control women. This culture is inherent when the gender is socialized from the beginning. Women are thought to be active and obedient, and men are commanded to be active, dominant and aggressive. This causes men to develop masculine concepts, demean women, and be aggressive towards women (Russell, 1990).

While gender roles refer to the order of masculine or feminine behaviors in order for men and women, gender roles identify the degree to which an individual enters those societal norms (Hillar et al., 1989). As children develop gender identity, they begin to notice that some behaviors are encouraged and some are discouraging for men or women. Through social processes known as sexual typing, individuals develop certain masculine and feminine traits to a certain degree and level and integrate them with their own emotions (Russell, 1990). This aspect of a person identity of gender individual's gender identity.

Gender roles in society have different perspectives for men and women. In general, they create an imbalance of power between men and women, and they exercise power and control of their subordinates. Socially constructed roles harm women and strengthen oppressive relationships (UNHCR, 2003).

In every part of the world, the role of women and their position in society is restricted. One of the key features of each culture is the way it expresses gender roles. Roles are almost always assigned to women. The proper gender role of society can lead directly to abuse (UN, 1993). Studies around the world have shown that violence against women is often linked to gender in gender roles (Hiese *et.al*, 1999).

Gender roles and protected cultural differences are related to unequal power relations between husbands and women. Therefore, there is strong research support for gender roles and vulnerability

to GBV. Women abuse is often perpetrated in the context of gender roles. Many women, as wives and mothers, are required to perform household chores. It is clear that those women hold traditional gender roles in society, are less likely to witness about violence, and more likely to fight abuse (Abram, 2003, Minghan, 2004). Traditional gender roles give authority to the men and treat the women as the property of the men.

The role of marriage partners and the cultural values of gender in society are often reflective of the patriarchal approach to related power relations and affirm the dominance of men. Men who believe in their power and rights are being threatened. They use violence to regain their supremacy (Miyunhan, 2004).

Heise (1998) also found that at the family level, men's dominance and masculinity were important, but at the macro level, men's rights, masculinity, aggression, and gender were seen as solutions to conflict. According to a review by the National Council for Research in the United States, many studies show that men who grow up in a patriarchal family structure are more likely to be aggressive, rape, and beat their closest partners when their traditional gender roles are encouraged. (Garcia, 1999).

The study of violence against women in Bangladesh revealed that although most violence against women in the country takes place at home, it does not prove its origin or sustainability at home alone. Rather, violence is part of a system that governs the social norms of women (Schuller et al, 1996). The study found that women often violated or challenged by gender roles in society.

In general, the feminist ideology holds that gender determines the social role and status of women and shapes their social relationships. Therefore, it is impossible to apply, or explain a social issue without considering gender. In Africa, including Ethiopia, women's descriptions are often found in literature. It is difficult to avoid interpreting GBV in light of the widespread of gender disparities in countries. Almost all traditional African societies are patriarchal and in this scheme women are inferior. Violence persists until gender inequalities are resolved (Ofei-Abogaye, 1994).

Although there is a lot of support for the socio-structural approach to GBV, the root cause, which focuses on individual characteristics, cannot be ignored. Because not every man in the patriarchal

society would take violent action against his close friends. A full description of violence against women cannot be socially-structured (census, and 1992).

2.4.3 Multi-Casual Approach

General descriptions of violence against women may include social issues such as race, class, gender, and culture, as well as personal or relationship characteristics, such as social support, relationship variability, alcohol / drug use, and behavior. To illustrate GBV, Anderson (1997) combines perspectives on violence against women and families. The concept of gender is used to indicate that men and women view violence differently and that violence is a way of building masculinity. Aspects of the social system are designed to maintain the patriarchal system, which in turn influences the structure of power between intimate relationships and increases the risk of violence against women in relationships where men have a higher status than women.

Proponents of ecology also believe that interactions between individual circumstances, personal, situational, social, political, and cultural factors can occur. Many researchers have used the "ecological framework" to look at the personal, situational, and socio-cultural relationships that undermine Heise (1998). Violence against women in this model stems from interactions between different levels of social environment.

The model can best be seen as four central circles. The inner circle represents the biological and personal history that each individual brings to the character in relationships. It highlights three persistent vulnerabilities assessed in personal history (Heise, 1998): witnessing marital violence in childhood, physical or sexual abuse of children, and loss of consistent paternity. The second circle represents the immediate context of the abuse, usually with family or another close friend. It covers issues such as abuse, men's dominance in decision-making and men's economic control in relationships, marital conflict and alcohol use.

The third circle represents formal and informal institutions and social structures, including neighborhoods, workplaces, social networks, and peer groups. This model explores issues within formal and informal social structures and institutions, including those related to legal issues such as unemployment / low-socio-economic status, social exclusion and "guilty peers" association. According to some authors, low-income women are nine times more likely to be sexually assaulted

than those in high-income groups. Poverty also exacerbates violence by undermining women's ability to quit violence (Buheler, 1998).

Fourth, most circles represent socio-structural elements. It includes social and economic policies, laws, and institutions as well as cultural norms. Many levels agree on a number of issues at each stage that increase the likelihood of a male partner being abused. Heise (1998) defines the macro system as "a broad set of cultural values and beliefs that conveys and communicates the three other social ecosystems." "Women's Punishment," and Cultural Support for the Use of Violence in Conflict Resolution.

Ecological advocates have found that the key risk factors found in GBV literature and the interactions between them are more important than any other cause to explain partner violence.

Combining individual vulnerability issues with the findings of traditional studies, the ecological model contributes to understanding why some societies and individuals are more aggressive than others and why women are more often victims. Therefore, this study uses an ecological framework to examine the individual, situation, and social structural risk indicators in the study environment.

2.5 Effects of Gender Based Violence Against Women

Gender based violence against women is a complex and multifaceted problem. In addition, there are many ways in which violence promotes self-determination. Violence promotes inequality and, in turn, promotes perpetrators inequality. GBV, for example, is associated with poverty, by reducing women's access to work, mobility, and access to information. It affects women's ability to care for themselves and their children and is associated with suicidal behaviors such as alcohol and drug addiction. In addition, violence determines women's self-confidence, their sense of self-determination, and their ability to be and be like independent, capable women (Garcia, 1999).

Gender based violence has very short and long-term consequences. Among the worst consequences of violence are physical and sexual abuse of women that has many negative effects on women's health. These include unwanted pregnancies and HIV risk, other sexually transmitted diseases, and pregnancy complications (Watts, 2002). A recent study from the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that for many women, the risk of contracting HIV comes from a

regular partner and makes it difficult to negotiate safe sex through unequal relationships. Sex is not a matter of choice for these women. (UNICEF, 2000)

Reports from various countries indicate that partner violence has resulted in a significant number of deaths. Studies in Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa, and the United States show that 40% to 70% of women who are murdered are more likely to be killed by their husbands or boyfriends in subsequent sexual assaults.

Gender based violence is a hidden obstacle to social life and economic development. It wastes women's energy, undermines their self-confidence, undermines their health, and undermines the full participation of women in society.

Partner abuse has a significant economic impact on victims and their families and society as a whole. This is partly because of its impact on health care, mental health and the criminal justice system. Linn According to the National Crime Victims Survey of Canada between 1992 and 1996, it is estimated that women who are victims of unmarried violence can earn up to \$ 150 million a year. These costs include medical expenses (40 percent), property losses (44 percent) and wages. In addition to the impact of the victim, partner violence puts a heavy burden on the health system Baghdad, and Al (2000). The study also found that women who were victims of GBV in Chile can earn an estimated up to \$ 56 billion was lost in 1996.

It has become clear that GBV has a negative impact on the stability of marriage, the quality of family life, and the social well-being of children. Above all, women are given limited opportunities for growth and development, which has a significant impact on the development of society as a whole, as female members are denied access to their basic rights and creativity (WHO, 2005). Real and life-threatening violence creates a climate of fear that restricts women's lives, limits their freedom of movement, and affects their decision-making and living standards.

2.6 Management of Gender-Based Violence Against Women

Fighting GBV involves preventing and responding to the attack, but some argue that preventing GBV should be the key to stopping it first. Because GBV is based on gender and gender-based power differences. GBV prevention strategies are generally deeply rooted in efforts to promote

gender equality. Therefore, rather than dividing and viewing GBV as a separate and neutral problem, it should be in a state of gender equality (Sida, 2015).

The international community has tried to devise a way to prevent and respond to GBV, and almost everyone's fight against GBV begins with changing communities. Below are steps taken to prevent GBV.

- Shifting in attitude from seeing women as victims to surviving, actors and agents of change, with a strong focus on women's and girls' empowerment and the Agency (Ibid).
- Efforts to increase women's political participation and influence in the context of peace, conflict, and other humanitarian crises. Women have the right to participate equally in politics at all levels of society, including in the peace process.
- In many countries, women's political representation is very little, and women are often isolated from formal peace negotiations. This has dire consequences for sustainable development, peace and human well-being (Not, 2013).
- Efforts to increase women's economic empowerment by strengthening women's bargaining power and resilience. This includes promoting women's entrepreneurship and employment opportunities, improving access to women's land and property rights, promoting equal access to unpaid care for women and men, and promoting universal access to quality education. While such efforts may contribute to increased gender-based violence against women in the short term due to gender stereotypes associated with gender roles, gender growth is still important for long-term prevention of genital warts. Women's economic empowerment interventions as well as gender norms can reduce such risks to couples and communities (ibid).
- In terms of intimate relationships, sexual and reproductive health and rights are crucial to prevent sexual intercourse. Such efforts include the promotion and protection of women's sexual and reproductive health, family planning opportunities, and HIV / AIDS prevention and control of sexual freedom (UNHCR, 2011).
- Incorporating men and women as criminals, as victims / survivors, and as agents of change. Boys and boys are ignored as GBV survivors. Therefore, it is important to understand and

address the specific vulnerabilities and needs of men and women, especially in the context of military conflict. Instead of simply ‘bringing people’

- To prevent violence against women, it is important to adhere to the rules on sexuality and masculinity. Such an approach acknowledges that boys and girls are bound by promiscuity as well as by violence.
- Lack of awareness and lack of solutions can contribute to the continuity of the GBV cycle. Successfully, however, such approaches allow boys and girls to become agents of change (ibid).
- Changing of transforming GBV-based depends on principles and characteristics. The logic of GBV is based on gender stereotypes, for example, the connection of masculinity with the role of provider. Macho's behavior and violence, as well as ideas about femininity, chastity, subjugation and exploitation. Defensive efforts should start early in your life and lead to girls and boys. Both informal and formal education are important areas for formal change and have the potential to address gender differences and prevent GBV (ibid).

It is important to respond to GBV before the attack, both activities are interrelated. Just defend, and ignore the rest of your life in front of you (USAID, 2016). Action against the GBV following the attack includes medical and psychological support for the victims, legal assistance, and a rehabilitation center to provide them with a stable environment. One of the responses to GBV: Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Centers or shelters play an important role in providing safe accommodation for vulnerable and vulnerable women and girls. Shelters are the basis for providing protection services and resources to help women and girls who are victims of violence and sexual abuse, etc. Take steps to recover from traumatic experiences, to rebuild self-esteem, and to regain self-determination and independence (Gierman, 2013).

In general, combating GBV incorporates preventing and responding to the violence. However, some scholars argue that preventing is the way to banding it that occurs due to the imbalance of power between men and women. For this reason, gender equality has to be promoted instead of categorizing GBV as a neutral problem. Consequently, the International community tried to plan the way of preventing and fighting for GBV since both activities are interrelated; by opening rehabilitation centers and shelters with safe accommodation for vulnerable women.

Summary

Gender-based violence is a complex problem that requires a rigorous effort to reduce the mental and emotional changes of women, including the development of positive points. This is especially true for women who have low economic income that make it difficult to get access to basic health care and other necessary services. They may not even have enough money to travel to receive the assistance. In some cases, women find it difficult to reach the media or concerned bodies where assistance is rendered. The analysis in this chapter clearly differs from the magnitude of GBV in Section 2.2, and factors in the home, community, psychological, society, and different approaches under the causes and explains the effects of GBV under 2.3 section as a whole play an important role in perpetuating or reducing gender-based violence stating the way of managing GBV under section 2.4 suggesting the possible ways of fighting GBV involving preventing and responding to the attack, taking it consideration of the controversy forwarded by different scholars and suggests the possible ways of responding and preventing to GBV by siting the devise designed by International community. As can be seen from this chapter, gender-based violence issues are complex and entrenched in patriarchal communities, and to address this, women's literacy, empowerment and poverty alleviation, their decision-making, and the participation of men everywhere will be involved. Partners and agents of change to combat gender-based violence as mentioned under its management. Chapter 3 discusses a broader context and the concept of research methodology used.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the research design and methods used to answer the study questions. It explains the study settings, population, sample size and sampling procedures, methods, and data collection tools.

3.2. Study Design and Approach

In the study, the researcher's main goal is to capture women's experiences of gender-based violence in their own words and attitudes. Therefore, a qualitative methodology was primarily used, that is to be recognized by feminist perspectives. Reinharz (1992) pointed out that the feminist approach to women's empowerment emphasizes on women's empirical experiences, which serve as significant indicators of the facts.

Qualitative research methods are appropriate way to explore women's experiences and realities. Unlike quantitative studies that are more concerned with frequency and distribution issues, qualitative research is based on participants' views and their real life meaning of experience. The approach was also allowed to examine and explain into hidden and invisible issues from the perspective of feminist research. Sarantakos (1997) states that qualitative research is a process of understanding based on specific approaches to social or human problems. Therefore, the researcher built the analysis of words or responses, providing detailed views of the informants, and conducts the study naturally.

Accordingly, the **Descriptive Research Design** was presented to carry out the lives of victim women. The basic feature of descriptive research studies are those studies which are concerned with describing the characteristics of a particular individual, or of a group Kothari (2004). Descriptive research design helps answer questions about who, what, when, where and how. They relate to a particular research problem; thus, this research design is used to find out information about current events and to describe “what is said” about changing situations or conditions Jeane (1999). The framework that was used in this study also help to examine individual, situational, and social-structural risk factors for gender-based violence. The quantitative methodology also applied as an additional approach for conducting survey.

3.3 Target Population

The target population of this study were victim female who faced of violence once, twice or throughout their lives, concerned government body, polices, and lawyers from Ethiopian Women Lawyers Associations (EWLA).

3.4 Sampling Method

In this study, Snow Ball Sampling Method, was used to select study topics and the location of the study. Snowball sampling is where research participants recruit other participants for a test or study. It is used where potential participants are hard to find as **Stephanie Glen** states. Having this point in mind, first, the Bole Sub-City Women, Children and Youth Sector was chosen to get potential participants. Based on the information gained from the Sub – City, it is one of the sub – cities with the highest rates of gender – based violence against women. The sub-city consists of 15 Woredas and has an estimated population of 425,097 according to the census done in the year of 2020/21 by Bole Sub – City Health Sector. After the research area is selected; Gender-based violence and key informants were selected as well.

Due to the nature of the study, selection of research participants was employed using snow ball sampling technique. The researcher is not going to use sampling techniques for representation and generalization since the aim is to investigate and understand the problem in-depth. Flick (2002) stated that qualitative research focuses on depth than breadth, insights than comprehensive. Since qualitative research is a challenging, it is important to select participants who can provide meaningful information on the topic. Merriam (1988) also explained that a sample needs to be selected based on what one wants to discover, understand, and gain insight from which can be learnt. Thus, the researcher selected those who can provide fresh and rich information with help of other participants.

A total of 12 participants were deliberately selected for interview; 8 of them were victims of gender-based violence and 3 were key informants. After interviewing women who were victim of GBV, the researcher was able to conduct further interviews with key informants.

Two Woredas were randomly selected using non probability sampling technique from the sub-city for administering questionnaires. The primary sampling unit was the Woreda and the second unit was the households. Each selected Woreda interviewees were purposefully identified. A total of

130 female respondents were considered as supportive to qualitative data due to time and financial constraints.

3.5 Data Collection Tools

3.5.1 Interview

In all three pilot interviews, the first step was conducted with the female victims of GBV. The interviews covered a variety of topics, including their experiences of violence, the causes and consequences of gender-based violence, issues raised, decision-making processes, and formal and informal support and responses. The interview guide had a structured and semi-structured format to cover a wide range of topics in detail. The interviews were initially written in English and translated into Amharic for conducting the interview. The translated copies were first given to a language expert to verify the translation. Corrections were then made to a consistent discussion between the language experts and the researcher.

The research instrument allowed the researcher to understand and analyze invisible phenomena such as emotions, thoughts, perceptions, experiences and plans. Moreover, it allowed to dig into the women's real experience and life what is considered a significant indicator.

The researcher, on one hand, received support from Bole sub-city Women, Children and Youth Sector to select potential victims. On the other hand, the researcher himself consulted with key informants who have found useful additional information on the topic of research; and male police officer and female police officer were selected from the Bole Sub-City Police Department, while a key informant (legal aid coordinator) were selected from Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA).

During the interview, the researcher read a description of each study that explains the purpose of the study and the types of questions to be asked, stating the anonymity used to keep their secrets and participation in the study was voluntary and could be terminated at any time they want.

The researcher made his utmost effort to ensure the privacy of each interviewee by choosing the most appropriate time and place for the interview explaining the confidentiality of the interview and the resulting information. There were many challenges to conducting an interview, as research on gender-based violence against women is considered an "emotional topic". However, efforts

were made to ensure that every woman felt safe and supported during the interview, and participants were encouraged to speak on such sensitive issues.

The interview took from 45 minutes to an hour; some of the interviews were taped by each informant. However, most of the participants were not willing to be recorded, so the researcher took notes from the interview. The researcher then carefully transcribed the tape into Amharic before translating the information into English.

The interviews took place from February up to the beginning of March. It was held at a convenient time and place with each participant. Interviews with women who were victims of GBV allowed each woman to re-identify the question that suited her and explore her own thoughts and feelings and came up with her own interpretations.

3.5.2 Questionnaires

Following an interview, the researcher prepared a questionnaire for 130 women that non probability sampling technique. These questionnaires are believed to provide comparative quantitative data to complete the qualitative data and to compute the information obtained from interview.

A questionnaire is used to collect data from a specific geographic area. As Anastas (1994) states the questionnaires, like interviews, are a form of oral reports. Questionnaires are often sent for attitude, opinions and beliefs. They are also used to inquire about behavior, especially behavior that occurs in the past when behavior or direct observation is difficult or impossible. In fact, the questionnaires were help to spot out the burden of the issue. It is believed that they do not provide in – depth data on gender-based violence. Due to this reason, both close and open-ended questionnaires were used giving respondents the opportunity to express themselves freely without being restricted by the researcher’s proposed responses. The basic premise was that the respondents were free to answer the questions in their own comfort and honesty.

The purpose of this approach was to ensure that each interview was presented exactly the same questions in the same order. These responses can be safely mixed and comparisons can ensure confidence within the sample subgroup or between different study periods.

English was the language used in the preparation of questionnaires but the researcher, with the help of language experts, was able to interpret it into Amharic language so as to understand and examine women's experiences, attitudes, and responses towards gender-based violence. However, because of the limited time allotted for the study, the researcher decided to interview only the victim women since women's opinions reflected is by far better than men. a total of 130 questionnaires were distributed with the help of 4 data collectors that was filled by respondents of Woreda 07 and Woreda 03.

3.5.3 Document Review

Secondary data were gathered from available published and unpublished materials like reports, documents, and project documentation.

3.6 Method of Data Analysis

Qualitative data were analyzed using descriptive research design in the form of interpretational analysis which was collected using snow ball sampling techniques, which Gal et.al (1996) explains saying that interpretational analysis is the way of examining data to find constructive ideas, themes, and patterns that would explain the events being studied. Thus, the researcher was able to use interpretational analysis approach for this study. The most important step in interpretive data analysis is to develop a set of categories that adequately and concisely summarizes the information. Accordingly, the information obtained from the interview is divided into different categories of effects of GBV, causes of GBV, Response to GBV and GBV intervention mechanism. Quantitative data was also analyzed using simple statistical percentages.

3.7 Validity

Obviously, no single method can help to understand the subtle differences in human experience. As a result, all of the above-mentioned data collection techniques have their strengths and weaknesses, so this study incorporated a variety of related and interconnected approaches and methods. The best way to focus on strengths and minimize weaknesses is to use more than one method in a study. By choosing complementary methods, the researcher covered the weaknesses of one method over by the strength of another. For this reason, a good research involves a number of methods, often called triangular data collection techniques. The triangulation of data allows verification for data.

3.8 Ethical Consideration

Because the study of gender-based violence is an emotional issue; raising ethical issues are important. With this in mind, the researcher applied ethical observations in accordance with the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on ethical issues related to gender-based violence research to ensure the safety and quality of information of respondents. First and foremost, willingness of participants was asked and the purpose of the study was also explained to them. They were also informed that the study was benefited them and for all women. Privacy was encouraged and respondents were told that any information they provide was kept confidential. Tapes were recorded, taking into account each participant's consent. Therefore, some of them asked not to be recorded, their wishes were respected properly. Pseudonyms or false names (codes) were also used by the researcher to protect all participants and their privacy.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Socio-Demographic of The Respondents

This chapter deals with background characteristics of the respondents. A total of 12 individuals were involved to conduct interview. While the median age of the study participants was 36, the age of participants ranged from 20 to 52. Educational status of the participants varied from illiterate to degree holders. There were groups of women victims of gender-based violence, responsible bodies of government sectors and married women.

Regarding the survey study, the total numbers of respondents selected to fill out questionnaire was 130 married women and women in relationship. The economic and socio-economic characteristics of respondents such as age, occupation, education, religion, and other characteristics of the respondents and their husbands were presented as follows.

Table 4.1 below depicts that most of the respondents are in the age group 26-32 years, which constituted 26.92% percent of the respondents. The second major age group is 40 to 46 years in which 23.08% of the respondents are included. The lowest percentage is observed in the age group 20 to 26 years that constitutes 13.08 % of the respondents.

Concerning education, respondents were asked about their educational level. Accordingly, Table 2.2 shows that 40% of the respondents have finished primary education and 15.38% of the respondents have completed secondary education. A significant proportion of respondents, that is, 30% have no formal education. On the other hand, among the respondents' husbands or boyfriends as indicated in table, is 41.54% of them have above secondary educational level. Husbands or boyfriends that have no formal education constitute 11.54%. It confirms the gap of education between men and women in Ethiopia.

Table 4. 1 Socio – Demographic of the Respondents

Items	Respondents			
Age group	Frequency		Percent	
21 – 26	17		13.08%	
27 – 32	35		26.92%	
33 – 38	25		19.23%	
39 – 44	30		23.08%	
45 – 50	23		17.69%	
Total	130		100%	
Item	Respondents			
Educational Status	Wife’s Educational Status		Husband’s Educational Status	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
No formal education	39	30%	15	11.54%
Primary level	52	40%	35	26.92%
Secondary level	20	15.38%	54	41.54%
Above secondary	19	14.62%	26	20%
Total	130	100%	130	100%
Item	Respondents			
Employment status	Wives/intimate partner		Husbands/intimate partner	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Non workers	79	60.77%	6	4.62%
Workers	51	39.23%	124	95.38%
Total	130	100%	130	100%
Item	Respondents			
Types of work	Wives/ intimate partner		Husbands/ intimate partner	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Professionals	9	17.65%	33	26.62%
Daily Laborers	20	39.22%	36	29.03%
Petty trade	12	23.53%	6	4.83%
Technical	7	13.73%	32	25.81%
Others	3	5.87%	17	13.71%
Total	51	100 %	124	100%
Items	Respondents			
Religion	Frequency		Percent	
Orthodox	75		57.69%	
Protestant	13		10%	
Muslim	42		32.3% 1	
Catholic	-		-	
Total	130		100%	

Source: from Survey data

Women employment situation has its own contribution to GBV against women. As table above shows more than half of the respondents, (60.77%) is unemployed while the respondent husbands or intimate partner who do not have job only comprise (4.62%). However, women are burdened with house chore or domestic responsibility and work more and longer each day than men, it was unpaid and considered as valueless. Consequently, as the study in Ethiopia of UNFPA and Population Council (2010) states, most women are economically directly dependent on their husband or indirectly independent on their intimate partner, which has a significant contribution in clarifying the occurrence of GBV.

In order to understand the type of work, respondents were asked the type of work they do. As table shows 39.22% of respondents reported that they were engaged in daily laborers, which are followed by petty trade 23.53%. Regarding respondent's husbands or intimate partner work status, 29.03% of them work on daily laborers, which are followed by 26.62% which constituted professionals. The least proportion is petty traders, which is 4.83%. The table indicates that more women are engaged in informal activities compared to men.

As table above depict the majority of respondents are Orthodox Christians (57.69%), which is followed by Muslim (32.3%) and Protestants constitute 10.0%. No respondents report having no religion because it is mostly very important aspect in Ethiopia for social and cultural life. Women are kept at subordinate position compared to men

4.2 Experiencing of Gender Based Violence

The experience of victims of violence was mainly drawn from interview with participants. Discussion was made that depicts the effect, severity and frequency of violence by pinpointing women's experience of physical, economical, psychological and sexual violence by their husbands or intimate partners. As already explained each participant is given a pseudonym for ethical reason. Survey result was also combined to the discussion in order strengthen the analysis of this phenomena.

Physical Violence

When describing physical violence, the participants mentioned serious incident from slap to the use of weapons resulting death. Most of them bore visible scare, bruise and cuts on their bodies.

The findings showed that the women were shaken, strangled, pushed, kicked, dragged by the hair, pinned to the wall and they were threatened with weapons. *Case A*, a 31-years old, states the following situation:

*My husband always used to punch me hard. I don't have any idea why he would beat me. I remember one time when he physically abused me even harder. He was very drunk. He began beating me very hard. I was bleeding then; he took me by my hair, dragged me out of the house and left me there. My neighbors helped me.*¹

Case B, age 28, also reveals her experience of physical violence as follows:

*I have been abused after I started relationship with him. I have been repeatedly abused for the last 7 years. I had been severely and frequently beaten by my boyfriend; he broke my tooth. He used scissors, knives etc. and many times he threw me knives. My boyfriend drank a lot. But even when he was not drunk, he was still aggressive, may because of financial support he gave me.*²

The above scenarios tell us how women are severely abused and injured by their husbands and intimate partners; however, they would stay for a long period of time. This shows women's ability to escape from their relationship is limited, even when they are subjected to severe and frequent physical violence. In relation to this, Ellsberg (2000), in her study in Nicaragua, pointed out that most married women experienced severe physical abuse but they didn't leave the abusive relationship due to different barriers.

The response of the woman tells us GBV is a norm accepted by the women as well. Sometimes they believed that disobedient wife deserves chastisement by her husband or intimate partner. The demographic and health survey of Ethiopia indicated that the majority of women said a husband is justified in beating his wife at least for one reason (CSA, 2001). Justification of women abuse is a reflection of gender power relation with most societies. Even women internalized they are subordinate to men and the duties of a wives or intimate partners are first and for most to please and obey their husbands or boyfriends.

¹ *Interviewed by the researcher on February 23, 2021*

² *Interviewed by the researcher on February 21, 2021*

Women were also harshly beaten when they were pregnant. It shows physical violence may not stop even when women become pregnant. For example, *Case C*, age 45 reveals how she was beaten during her pregnancy.

*When I was six -months pregnant, my husband severely and frequently kicked me in the stomach. Consequently, I suffered a miscarriage and had serious stomach pain.*³

In supporting this, Hiese *et.al* (1999) states that although studies are inconclusive as to whether violence is likely to begin or escalate during pregnancy, research has demonstrated that violence does not necessarily stop when a woman becomes pregnant. Worldwide, as many as one in every four women are physically or sexually abused during pregnancy, usually by their partners.

In interview women mentioned their experience of GBV. It was revealed that physical violence such as slaps, punches and kicks were said to be very common which is in agreement with research finding from different countries that showed physical violence affected both a third to over half of ever partnered women (Hiese *et.al*, 1999).

The result of small survey also confirmed the above situations. In order to assess the physical violence, women were asked and their response is summarized in the following table.

Table 4. 2 Percentage of Respondents Experiencing Physical Violence

Items	Respondents	
	Frequency (67)	percent
Physical Violence		
Moderate violence (Pushed or shoved, Kicked, Slapped and Punched)	39	58.21%
Severe violence (dragged, thrown objects and threatened/assaulted with weapon)	28	41.79%
Total	67	100%

Source: from Survey data

³ *Interviewed by the researcher on February 22, 2021*

As table 4.2 indicates, out of the whole respondents (N=130) 51.53% (i.e., 67) respondents have reported to one or more of the above types of violence by their husbands. The acts of violence most frequently mentioned by women were being slapped, pushing, punches and kicked (58.21%), followed by dragging, thrown objects and threatened /assaulted with weapons (41.79%). The severity of a physically violent act was ranked according to its likelihood of causing physical injuries. Being slapped, pushed or shoved were defined as *moderate* physical violence. Being hit with a fist, kicked, dragged, threatened with a weapon, or having a weapon used against her was defined as *severe* physical violence (WHO, 2005). According to this definition, among women reporting physical violence, a relation between frequency and severity of violence was found, such that women reporting moderate violence accuse less frequency of violence, while women who experience severe violence also reported higher frequency of violence.

Psychological Violence

Most physical abuse occurs in the context of other forms of abuse, such as verbal, emotional or economic abuse and social isolation. All the women in the study experience a high level of both physical and psychological abuse. This finding suggests that men who are physically abusive are also psychologically abusive. Women often say that the psychological abuse and degradation are even more difficult to bear than physical abuse. Verbal humiliation, such as being called names, sworn at or put down, were discussed and reported. They frequently described violence in terms of emotional or psychological abuse, referring to situations in which a man might constantly insult or undermine a woman. *Case D*, 36 a year-old, states:

*He offended me all the time using bad words. He called me stupid, non-sense...If I asked him about things or giving opinions on something. He often ignores and put down my opinion. He would say that 'you don't know anything. You are 'woman'.*⁴

This revealed how women are perceived as inferior to men cognitively. In relation to this, Eshetu *et.al* (1999) stated that women in Ethiopia are considered as weak both physically and mentally. Accordingly, their idea is not considered as important as men and are expected to be submissive, obedient and respectful of their husband or intimate partner.

⁴ *Interviewed by the researcher on February 23, 2021*

The women's accounts of emotional abuse also illustrate the processes through which women become demoralized and trapped in abusive relationships. Most women mention that psychological abuse severely affects their self-esteem. As *Case B*, a 28-year-old notes:

*He calls me idiot, stupid. I feel really upset, embarrassed. I am often told that as I am not physically good-looking, Worthless, inferior or lacking ability, cannot cope or succeed on my own, and am not good cooker, or housekeeper. He has tried all possible ways to humiliate me.*⁵

From the above anecdote, it can be safely said that the abusers made women to lack their self-confidence and to be emotionally dependent. Abused women commonly experience diverse forms of psychological abuse. Threats are common, aimed at terrorizing the woman to such a point that the male partner feels in total control. Many women also live in fear and were psychologically terrified by their husbands. *Case E*, age 37, remembers the most violent episode:

*He went to the kitchen and got knife and held it right my eyes. He was threatening to take out my eyes.*⁶

They also reported that ongoing psychological violence – emotional torture and living under terror – is often more unbearable than the physical violence, with mental stress leading to a high incidence of suicide and suicide attempts. In relation to this, a close association between GBV and suicide has been established based on studies in the United States, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Peru, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Suicide is many times as likely to have been attempted by a woman who has been abused than by one who has not (UNICEF, 2000).

According to Sosen 2007, psychological abuse is also manifested based on control of movement, in which husbands or intimate partner want to show their power over their wives or girlfriends. Participants described such abuse in terms of a husband or intimate partner behaving with complete disregard for his wife's or intimate partner's feelings. Male partners attempted to limit the respondents' actions in a variety of ways, such as limiting contact with family and friends,

⁵ Interviewed by the researcher on February 21, 2021

⁶ Interviewed by the researcher on February 26, 2021

reproachful them for paying too much attention to other people or things, and prohibiting respondents from going to work as well as preventing women from participating in different association. *Case F*, a 26-year-old says:

*He likes to have power over me. He doesn't also allow me to have contact with anyone including my closest friends. As a result, he makes me too dependent on him.*⁷

Social isolation as an aspect of GBV is complex. *Case G*, a 32 years old, also states:

*He does not want me to use make up, nor to wear nice clothes. Besides, he wants me to be an isolated person. He always tried to isolate me from society. He knows my work schedule and I am expected to be sharp. If I would be only one minute late, he would start beating, kicking, and hitting me. I don't have any social life since I met him.*⁸

The statements made by abused women are telling how the abusers impose isolation in an effort to control women. In her study, Ello (1993) pointed out that gender-based violence against women can be seen to be a systematic form of domination and social control of women by men. Wife abuse reinforces women's dependence and enables men to exert authority and control.

The survey result also showed that 37.3% of married women experience of psychological violence. It is summarized below in the table.

Table 4. 3 Types of Psychological Violence and Frequency

Items	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percent (%)
Psychological violence		
Insult	49	37.69%
Humiliation	28	21.54%
Intimidation/scaring	24	18.46%
threats of harm	16	12.31%
Isolation	13	10%
Total	130	100%

Source: from Survey data

⁷ Interviewed by the researcher on February 23, 2021

⁸ Interviewed by the researcher on February 23, 2021

As table 4.3 indicates 37.69% of respondents claimed that they experienced psychological violence. They had been insulted, humiliated, intimidated/ scared and threatened of harm by their current husbands or intimate partners. A considerable overlap was found between psychological and other forms of violence. This indicates all of the women living with physical violence reported psychological violence. Research suggests that physical violence in intimate relationships is often accompanied by psychological abuse and in one-third to over one-half of cases by sexual abuse. For instance, in Nicaragua, among 188 women who were physically abused by their partners, only 5 were not abused sexually, psychologically, or both (Ellsberg, 2000).

Sexual Violence

Women's experiences with sexual violence varied along a ranging from battering rape and bullying to threats, verbal humiliation and nonphysical forms of pressure that compelled them to engage in sex against their will. In an abusive relationship, sex is just another form of male control, in an effort to gain the woman's complete acquiescence. These strategies of control often focused directly on the female victim's body and sexuality. The forced sexual act becomes one in which the woman is silenced, controlled and subordinated.

Sexual violence in marriage or relationship is clearly an issue of gender inequality, in which a woman is forced to give in to her husband's or intimate partner's demands. As UNFPA (2016) reveals, women experienced rape or physically forced sex in the context of a battering relationship. Women are not willing to call their experiences as rape, which could be a sign that the concept of marital rape is rather absent in the Ethiopian culture. For these women, sex is the result of threatening behavior on the part of the husband or intimate partner. In these cases, unwanted sex occurred due to fear of some negative reactions from the husband or intimate partner. Having sex is perceived by some women as the quickest way to cancel out the husband's or intimate partner's anger and to avoid further violence. *Case H*, 36 years old, states:

He would ask me to have sexual intercourse with him after he had beaten me in a terrible way. I was so scared that I allowed him to do everything he wanted. Another

*occasions, when he was drunk, he used to tell me that he had been with another woman.*⁹

Some women feel obliged to be submissive and have sex with their husbands or intimate partners. This type of acceptance is based on the idea that a woman is obligated to serve her husband's or boyfriend's needs, irrespective of her own wishes.

Kumssa (2004) mentioned that many Ethiopian women believe that they have to submit to their husband's or intimate partner sexual needs, even at their own expense. For example, 45% of women surveyed in UNDP sponsored study said they would do nothing if they suspected their husbands cheating, even though their husband's infidelity would be placing them at greater risk. Thus, it can be inferred that, women who lack sexual autonomy most often do not have power of negotiating use of contraception, and thus are at risk of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

According to the report of WHO (2010), married women are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. The main reason is that they don't have the courage to ask their husbands to use condom even though they are aware as their husband have contact with another women. Violence influences the risk of HIV and other STIs directly when it interferes with women's ability to negotiate condom use.

Certainly, qualitative data from studies in Uganda, India, and elsewhere indicate that women find it difficult to suggest or insist on condom use in face of or threat of violence (WHO, 2005).

Most participants, during interview did not feel comfortable with the expression "marital rape". Even some said women should have sex with her husband or intimate partner. Justification for forced sex came from cultural, religious and legal point of view. For many, marriage translates in to sexual entitlement.

Women who are raped by their husbands or intimate partner often accept responsibility for their attacks, blaming themselves for doing or saying something they should have known, it would make the husbands or intimate partners lash out them. These females culture often encourages men to

⁹ *Interviewed by the researcher on February 26, 2021*

exercise control over women. Sexual abuse and rape by an intimate partner are not considered as crime in most countries, and women in many societies do not consider forced sex as rape if they are married to, or cohabiting with the perpetrator. The assumption is that once a woman enters into a contract of marriage, the husband has the right to unlimited sexual access to his wife (UNICEF, 2000). The family Law of Ethiopia also rules that married couples should have sex. Lack of legislation and cultural perception on marital rape both reflects and reinforces the presumption of many men, as well as some women, that it is a wife's obligation to comply with her husband's sexual demands. However, the truth that as it was stated in the above, many married women or women in relationship related forced sex exposed to HIV infection and other reproductive health problems.

Respondents also mentioned being forced to engage in types of sexual activity that they found degrading and humiliating. In her interview, *Case I*, a 33 years old, point out how her husband wanted her to watch pornography and make different sexual acts. She says:

I feel so ashamed to tell you this, but I will tell you, it will helpful for your study. My husband would watch porn movies often, before going to sleep and forced me to watch as well. I never wanted to watch them. He wanted me to do those things that he saw in the movie. They were very horrible. I could not do them. I told him several times that I didn't want to do them, but he forced me to.¹⁰

By forcing or threatening women to have sex, husbands or intimate partner not only cause their wives or intimate partner to feel emotionally, physically and sexually inadequate, but also create confusions about their identity as women.

As a result, and also because of the almost universal cultural prohibitions related to discussing intimate sexual behavior, sexual violence is even more difficult to investigate than physical violence. Nevertheless, emerging data suggest that for women, ironically, much non-consensual sex takes place within consensual unions. In research gathered from nine countries, on average one in five women acknowledged being forced to have sex by her partner. Thirty percent of a

¹⁰ Interviewed by the researcher on February 21, 2021

sample of women in Bangkok, Thailand; 48 percent in Peru; and 59 percent in Ethiopia (Butajira) reported being forced into sex by their partners. Evidence from Papua New Guinea and India, where forced sex was reported by one-half to two-thirds of research respondents, indicates that it is often initiated or accompanied by beatings (WHO, 2005).

Table 4. 4 Percent of Respondents Experiencing Sexual Abuse

Items	Respondents	
	Frequency	percent
Forced to have sex	34	26.15%

Source: from Survey data

As table 4.4 indicates, women were asked about their experience of sexual violence. However, only 26.15% reported their husbands or intimate partners forced them to have sex. The researcher believed that there is under reporting to marital or in relation rape. It is because of the fact that most women in Ethiopia consider sex as the entitlement of husbands or intimate partners.

Economical Violence

Economic abuse is another form of abuse in which women are the primary victims. Men have traditionally controlled and dominated the financial assets of the family, and have retained the power to make financial decisions within the family (Shipway 2004). As women reported, economic or financial abuse involves the control of the use and availability of money, preventing her participation in money-spending decisions and refusing to give her money for basic household necessities. *Case E*, a 37-year-old woman says:

He has a job, but most of the time, he spent the money only for himself, not for the family. My husband never tried to help me in solving family problems. He sometimes brings the salary home, most of the time he doesn't, but I never have the courage to ask him why he does that. If I would dare to ask him where the money is, my question could bring abuse.¹¹

¹¹ *Interviewed by the researcher on February 26, 2021*

Even when woman's gets better salary than their husbands, the man continues to control financial resources. According to UN 1993, women's economic contributions to the family did not reduce or influence the dominant position of their husbands within the family.

Some participants said that economic abuse includes preventing the woman from working outside the home and earning an independent income. *Case B*, 28 -year-old woman says:

He didn't let me work. He didn't allow me to leave the house. Sometimes I could not go to work because of the injuries caused by violence. I felt ashamed to go to work when my face was all bruised and scared.¹²

Many women also indicated that withholding of family support to be severing violence, since most married women in the study area and, for that matter in Ethiopia, are house wives (NCTP, 1997). They found refusing money excruciating. By virtue of their socio-economic supremacy and physical strengthen men exercise different controlling behavior. Men restrict their wives or intimate partners' movement and access to resources. They prevent them from getting education. When women fail to comply with their demand, they can punish and threatening them by refusing to give them money and physically assaulting them.

Financial domination, like psychological, physical and sexual abuse, has important negative effects on women's emotional, social and physical well-being. The experience of violence itself is the salient aspect of women's accounts of partner's abuse. Victims of partner violence report a range of abusive acts. They primarily talk about physical abuse, but in almost all of the cases, husband or intimate partner violence also includes psychological, sexual, and social and economic components. Abuse occurs in several ways, all are interrelated.

The survey results also show that 33.08% of the respondents reported having experience economic abuse by their current husbands or intimate partner, since most of the respondents had no their own source of income. This indicates many women found withholding money tormenting. When men do not provide enough money for family spending, women worry about the needs of family members. Having nothing to prepare food with them lead their life in misery.

¹² *Interviewed by the researcher on February 26, 2021*

The majority of women are abused by their partners several times. This situation is due to their husbands' or intimate partner's strong adherence to traditional attitudes favoring dominant and subordinate relations between husbands and wives. It appears that patriarchal mentality is a key factor supporting sustained violence in the home. With regard to GBV, there are many existing factors. The following section will focus on the causes and consequences of GBV which were identified by the women.

4.3 Perception on Gender Based Violence

4.3.1 Causes of Gender Based Violence

This section presents the main factors that perpetuate gender-based violence and consequences. Data was mainly collected from interview. The quantitative data also supported the results. Participants mentioned various reasons in connection with the occurrence of violence. Although participants mentioned various reasons to the occurrence of GBV, the section has discussed the major ones which were mainly and repeatedly pointed out by the participants.

While international research indicates that the root cause of gender-based violence is the inequality in gender relations, several factors contribute to the severity and frequency of GBV. Participants who reported having experience of violence mentioned various causes of violence.

Table 4. 5 Reasons for Violence as Identified by Women

Items	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percent
Reasons for Violence		
Financial issue	43	33.08%
Drunkenness	41	31.54%
Transgression of gender role	21	16.15%
Jealousy	14	10.77%
Nothing known to the wife	7	5.38%
Others	4	3.08%
Total	130	100%

Source: from Survey data

Table 4.5 reveals that 33.08% of respondents indicated financial issue is the main cause of GBV, 31.54% of respondents reported drunkenness, 16.15% claimed transgression of gender role and 16.3 % of respondents said that nothing known to them is the reason of GBV and 3.08% mentioned others reasons. Wives identified more than one reason that reinforce violence and all of them are interrelated each other. For example, husband's drinking habits were mostly linked to violence and poverty. It is believed that poor men might drink to forget their problems, and that a husband's use of his family's limited income on alcohol may lead to increased marital tension. Furthermore, while interview, participants mentioned factors that trigger of GBV.

4.3.1.1 Poverty and Gender Based Violence:

The participants frequently mentioned poverty as the main reason of GBV. They pointed out that how their dependency on husband's income became worst and vulnerable to violence. *Case J*, age 39, explains the situation:

Since I don't have money to support the family, I argue with my husband about money. You know that every goods price has increased. Even sometimes I can't feed our children. As a result, I persist requesting for money, it often leads us conflict, consequently, he acting violently.¹³

This shows the subjugation of women emanates largely from their subordinate economic status. Most of the participants in this study are not employed and those who are employed get humble and less paying jobs. Resources are under the control of men. As a result, power imbalance men and women. This predisposes women to GBV and reinforces it. Research also showed that women from all socio-economic groups are risk of physical, sexual emotional and economic violence by their husbands. However, women living in poverty suffer disproportionately (WHO, 2005).

It was also said that lack of economic resources supports women's susceptibility to violence and their difficulty in get out from a violent relationship. The link between violence and lack of economic resources and dependence is interrelated. On the one hand, the threat and fear of violence keeps women from seeking employment, or, at best, compels them to accept low-paid, home-based exploitative labor. And on the other hand, without economic independence, women have no power

¹³ Interviewed by the researcher on March 02, 2021

to escape from an abusive relationship. *Case A*, a 31 years old, states how lack of resource trapped her in abusive relation.

*I am completely depending on my husband's income. I have to tolerate my husband aggressiveness. What could I do? I don't want divorce. If I divorce, I will have nothing... I don't have any place to go with two children. I have to take him for a while, but at least I raised my children at home, not on the streets.*¹⁴

If a woman is economically dependent, she cannot leave the violent husband or intimate partner even if she wants to. It is a common belief that if a woman has her own income, she may not trap in abusive relationship and will not worry about supporting herself in the face of separation. Otherwise, men tend to be more violent when they see that women have no means of living. A UN 1993, report based on various research in different countries, reported that poverty can be both a cause and consequences of violence against women. It also exacerbates violence by hampering women's ability to leave violent situation.

Moreover, the participants portrayed that a good financial situation prevents violence. Violence is completely unavoidable in cases where financial insecurity is present. As many women mention, men are just acting out the anger and pain accumulated through confrontation with social stress the insecure economic situation causes a lot of problems and a lot of stress. For some men, living in poverty is likely to generate stress, frustration, and a sense of inadequacy for having failed to live up to their culturally defined role of provider. Men start drinking and making big problems at home. However, *Case 7*, 32 years old argues on contrary:

*I think some men are born to be violent. Violence cannot be explained through economic situation or financial factors. I have adequate income to support the family and he had too when he had money, he behaved even worse in my opinion, economic security can never prevent violence.*¹⁵

¹⁴ Interviewed by the researcher on March 02, 2021

¹⁵ Interviewed by the researcher on February 21, 2021

The above situation indicates that all women are vulnerable to male violence. Violence can touch women of all socio-economic backgrounds. But the fact that when women lack resource, they are more vulnerable and unable to leave the abusive relationship due to poverty, which would make violence worse and worse. Low socio-economic status reflects a variety of conditions that in combination increase women's risk of victimization.

The survey result also confirmed that low status of women is highly associated with the occurrence of GBV. It showed that out of the whole respondents, 49.1% women are housewives and intimate partner (not having their own income) while 59.1% of them have low educational status and they are vulnerable to GBV. One can understand that women who have low status are more likely to experience physical, sexual, economic and emotional violence or they are more likely to talk about it.

Education and income status of individuals in marriage are important intervening factors for violence. If the woman is educated, she is more likely to know her rights and duties. She will be assertive and free from harmful myths and will defend her rights through all means. In fact, it has been shown in the demographic and health survey that educated women are less likely to agree a man justified in abusing his wife or intimate partner for any reason compared to uneducated women. On the other hand, when women have their own source of income the vulnerability to violence will be lower (CSA, 2001).

4.3.1.2 Alcohol and Gender Based Violence

Drinking was the other consistently mentioned reason for GBV. Excessive consumption of alcohol has also been noted as a factor in provoking aggressive and violent male behavior towards women. The finding revealed that most cases of abuse are associated with the husband's excessive alcohol consumption. *Case B*, 28 years old says:

When he would drink a lot of alcohol, he used to hit me with anything he could find. Drinking is one of the main reasons [for violence] because he has no longer know what he is doing.¹⁶

¹⁶ *Interviewed by the researcher on March 20, 2021*

Case J, also added:

My husband always drinks. Hence, when he come home drunk, he sends us (wife and child) away from our home and he stays alone at home throughout the night. He also kicked and forced me to have sex with him.¹⁷

In the above anecdote, it is apparent that the participants consider alcoholism plays a role in abuse but is certainly not a simple cause. Although causal relationship between drinking and GBV has not been established, their association has been consistently shown by various studies across the world. Population based surveys from Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Nicaragua, South Africa, Spain and Venezuela found a relationship between a woman's risk of suffering violence and her partner's drinking habits (Heise *et.al* 1999).

There is, however, a great debate about the nature of the relationship between alcohol use and violence and whether it is truly causal. Cole, *et.al* (1999) argued that the link between violence and alcohol is culturally dependent, and exists only in settings where the collective expectation is that drinking causes or excuses certain behaviors. This is also supported by this research; it was said that men might come home drunk when they have some misunderstanding with their wives or intimate partners thereby, they would get courage to say what they want and even assault their wives or girlfriends physically as well as sexually.

Furthermore, most people believe that a woman should not react to her husband or intimate partner if he is drunk. This indicates that men use the drink to get courage to vent their feelings and do whatever they want. A drunken man can ascribe his misbehavior to the drink he took thereby projecting the blame. Their wives or intimate partners also recognizes the need for not reacting when he is drunk and if she reacts the society will blame.

Despite conflicting opinions about the causal role played by alcohol abuse, the evidence is that women who live with heavy drinkers run a far greater risk of physical violence, and that men who have been drinking inflict more serious violence at the time of an assault. The result also shows

¹⁷ *Interviewed by the researcher on February 26, 2021*

women who lived with heavy drinkers were more likely to be assaulted by their partners than those who lived with non-drinkers.

The survey result also indicated that women are more vulnerable when their husbands or intimate partners are an alcoholic. In order to examine the link between alcohol and GBV, the respondents were asked about their husbands’ or intimate partners’ drinking habit and their response is summarized in the following table 4.10 below.

Table 4. 6 Respondent’s Husbands or Intimate Partner Frequency of Drinking Alcohol

Items	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percent
Frequency of Alcohol Drinking		
Do not drink alcohol	58	44.62%
Usually	21	16.15%
Always	23	17.69%
Rarely	28	21.54%
Total	130	100%

Source: from Survey data

As indicated on table 4.6 above, from usually – rarely accounts (i.e., 55.38%) of the respondents’ husbands or intimate partners drink alcohol, which is the largest, and those who do not drink alcohol account for 44.62%. It was found that alcohol drinking has association with GBV against women.

4.3.1.3 Jealousy and Gender Based Violence

It was also revealed that jealousy on the part of the aggressor can provoke violent behavior too. Both the survey and qualitative information showed that jealousy can lead to the occurrence of violence, specially, for women who are at young age. They said that their husband's or intimate partner’s jealousy demand and accusations justify their attitude in isolate from fiends, neighbor and family. *Case F*, age 26, reveals:

My boyfriend was so jealous. As a result of his jealousy, I was forced to leave my job. He also isolated from my family and closest friends. When he found me greeting with

*men even our neighbors, he started accusing me of having affairs with them and acting violently.*¹⁸

As mentioned in the above, the occurrence of violence linked with jealous that made women to limit their activity and participation outside private sphere. Women said that when there is a large age gap between husband or intimate partners and wives or intimate partners, husbands or intimate partners would be jealous and acting violently. Indeed, it is all about controlling women and to show their superiority on their wives or girlfriends.

4.3.1.4 The Transgression of Gender Role

The transgression of gender role was also mentioned as cause of gender-based violence. It was said most violent incidents are precede by arguments, which could as well stem from differences of opinions and disobediences. Disagreement could also arise from disobedience, not fulfilling demands of husband or intimate partner. For instance, refusing sex, which is construed as transgression, was often mentioned as a reason for physical as well as sexual violence. Conflicts also arise when a man see that a woman is not discharging her expected roles like getting food ready on time, child care and housekeeping. He would blame her for the failure and they might exchange words culminating in beating. *Case E*, age 37, reveals:

*I woke up early in the morning, I went to work and when I came back, I should perform house hold chores. I am expected to serve my husband and his relatives. He did nothing. If he did not like what I had done, he just shouted and even beat me.*¹⁹

This indicates that justifications for violence frequently evolve from gender norms about the proper roles and responsibilities of men and women. In most Ethiopian families' kitchen work is considered as women responsibility, and failure to fulfill indoor chores on the part of they will result in violence. In fact, culture determines and shape gender norm and it sets the boundary of females and males. Culture defines the do's and don'ts and this in turn has bearing on how individuals perceive and react to actions of marital partners. Krug *et.al* (2002) pointed out that cultural justifications for violence usually follow from traditional notions of the proper roles of

¹⁸ *Interviewed by the researcher on March 02, 2021*

¹⁹ *Interviewed by the researcher on March 13, 2021*

men and women. In many settings women are expected to look after their homes and children, and show their husbands or intimate partners obedience and respect. If a man feels that his wife or intimate partner has failed in her role or overstepped her limits – even, for instance, by asking for household money or stressing the needs of the children – then violence may be his response.

It is also stated that most men do not let the woman take decision. They do not admit that a woman can have a better perspective, and take her perspective in to consideration when deciding. Men do not like when their wives or intimate partners make suggestion oppose their views or answer them. They get angry when women raise questions on resources and decision UNICEF (2010).

It is rightly stated by the woman that is in most cases men do not want to accept women's idea and it is also considered as challenging of their gender role. In Ethiopia, there are a number of proverbs that put down women's nature and capabilities in order to justify the social predominance of men over them. For example, “Women are children with long legs” or “the thought of women and the light of star do not take one far”. Thus, women are thought and expected to be submissive, passive, dependent and obedient to men. If they are disobedient, men will use violence to discipline and maintain control. Ellsberg (2000) asserted that numerous studied around the world have suggested that violence against women is most common in societies where gender roles are rigidly defined and enforced, and where the concept of masculinity is linked to toughness and male dominance.

The opinion of women towards gender role expectation is also aggravated the occurrence of GBV. The widespread acceptability of circumstances where wife-beating is justified highlights the extent to which, partner violence is conceptualized as a form of chastisement for female behavior that transgresses certain expectations. For example, by supporting the acceptability of wife beating, *Case G*, says:

My husband was accusing me of having affairs with a number of men, some of whom his own friends and our neighbors. I knew that he had no any tangible reason rather to cover his extra marital affairs. I would have been accepted any punishment, if I had extra marital affairs.²⁰

²⁰ Interviewed by the researcher on March 13, 2021

From the above view, it can be said that women appear to make distinctions regarding the circumstances under which wife-beating may or may not be "acceptable". They legitimize violence by prescribing it to an erring wife, which is the result of perceiving men as corrector and women error prone. On population report on ending of violence against women, Heise (1999) note that societies often develop distinctions between reasons for violence against women, defining some violence as just, or acceptable, and other violence as unjust or unacceptable.

Findings from quantitative data also support the above statement. The respondents were asked their opinion about good reason for wife or intimate partner beating and their response is summarized in table 4.7.

Table 4. 7 Percentage of Women Who Agree That a Man Has Good Reason to Beat His Wife If:

Items	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percent
Reasons		
failure to complete house hold work	7	5.39%
She disobeys him	11	8.46%
Husband suspects infidelity	9	6.92%
If she refuses sex with him	29	22.31%
Wife is Unfaithful	52	40%
No response	22	16.92%
Total	130	100 %

Source: from Survey data

As shown in the above table, the reason most widely accepted as a justification for violence was female infidelity (40%), refusing sex with him the next accepted reason (22.31%) and (8.46%) of respondents said that disobeying a husband is good reason to wife or intimate partner beating. On the other hand, 6.92% of respondents agree that a man has good reason to beat his wife, if he suspects infidelity. The remaining (16.92%) did not agree in the aforementioned reason for wife beating. The findings indicate the strength of cultural norms that support men's violence against women, and women's obligation to obey her husband or intimate partner. For example, over half of the women, in the study, believed that husbands have a right to abuse their wives or intimate partners at least for one reason. Thus, it is importance, not only of changing laws to protect women, but also working to change attitudes women and their rights in general.

Women were also asked about their opinion in some gender role and their response revealed how the women see themselves in relation to the position of their husbands or intimate partners.

Table 4. 8 Respondent's Opinion About Gender Role

Items	Respondents		
	agree	disagree	total
Women are equal with men in all aspects.	68.46% (89)	31.54% (41)	100% (130)
Good wife is obedient to her husband even if she disagrees	42.31% (55)	57.69% (75)	100% (130)
Wives have the right to refuse sex	54.62% (71)	45.38% (59)	100% (130)
House hold chores are the responsibility of women	45.38% (59)	54.62% (71)	100% (130)
The husband should have final say on important family mater.	54.62% (63)	51.54% (67)	100% (130)

Source: from Survey data

Table 4.8 illustrates that 68.46% of the women in survey agreed that women are equal with men while 31.45% of respondents disagree to the statement. Women believed that wives or intimate partners have the rights to refuse sex are 54.62% and 45.38% disagreed to the opinion. Out of the whole respondents 45.38% of them also reported that house hold chores are an exclusive of women while the remaining 54.62% disagreed to the statement. Regarding the opinion of the husbands or intimate partners should have final say on important family matter, 54.62% agreed while 51.54% disagreed to the statement. This indicates how women see their position in relation to men and the acceptability of male dominance.

Research also shows that abuse in partner type relationships is more likely to occur and continue where the couple, particularly the women, holds traditional attitudes towards gender roles (WHO, 2005).

4.3.1.5 Masculinity Linked to Dominance

The testimonies also pointed out that GBV occurs without any reason or for a trivial reason. Some women said that they could not reach an understanding of GBV. *Case H*, age 36, describes her confusion:

I have often asked myself this question, but never found answer. I think it has more to do with his nature. He is a violent person, there is no other reason. We live with our two kids and nobody interferes with our life. We have a normal financial situation; he has a job...but he is still violent.²¹

This might be explained by the prevalent tradition that links masculinity to aggressiveness, being powerful and seeking to ensure dominance. Some men want to do everything according to their wishes and likes, and they need to feel to be superior to their wives or girlfriends.

Both qualitative and quantitative findings indicate that there are contributory conditions, superseding conditions and contextual factors to the occurrence of GBV against women. Contributory conditions are a set of conditions which give rise to disagreements and misunderstandings between a husband and wife. This includes economic reason, drinking, jealousy, disobedience and failure of domestic responsibility. Some of the causal factors are related each another. E.g., drinking habit can result in economic problems. Superseding conditions are also the factors that determine whether or not a misunderstanding between a husband and wife would lead to GBV. For example, there could be an argument over expenses. Then, when she does not properly accomplish house hold chores, a husband may beat his wife. Moreover, according to the gender norm a woman should not ask or challenge her husband or intimate partner. Contextual factors also like umbrella influencing at all levels. It forms the pattern, define and acts on contributory conditions determine whether they will cause discontent and disagreement, controls superseding factors and dictates the response. The type of response will help to perpetuate GBV. There are also interactions among contextual factors magnifying or undermining their impact. For example, ideological factors influence the economic sector and can make legal provision ineffective.

²¹ *Interviewed by the researcher on February 21, 2021*

4.3.2 Consequences of Gender Based Violence

Physical violence coupled with emotional, sexual and economic abuse has multiple effects on women. Among all variations in forms of abuse and situational contexts in which women are victimized, partners seem to use violence to deprive women of their physical, psychological and social integrity and wellbeing. Many informants mention multiple consequences of violence.

Some participants report that their partner's physical violence caused them injuries and fractures that needed medical intervention and long-term treatment. A few points out that the violent event could have resulted in their death. More commonly, informants mention bruises and lesions as physical consequences of violence. For example, *Case I*, a 28-year-old, notes:

*I have bruises on my face, my head was swollen, and my eyebrow was bleeding. When I walked short distance, I have breathing difficulties and my heart is beating really hard. It is because my boyfriend comes home and it is his hobby to hit me, kick me...*²²

It was stated that GBV has profound consequences on women's overall well-being. The experience of GBV puts women at greater risk of physical and mental health problems including injuries, depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, sleep disorders, low self-esteem, loss of confidence in life and suicidal tendencies (Davis, 1994). The influence of GBV can persist long after the abuse has stopped. The more severe the abuse, the more severe its impact on women's physical and mental health. The impact of different types of abuse and multiple episodes over time appears to be cumulative. In its most extreme form, GBV kills women. *Case K*, age 38, puts:

*He tries to destroy my confidence, my pride and my dignity. I used to look after myself and I used to have a pride in my appearance, but now I look at myself. It is because of what he has done to me, ...*²³

Abuse leads to a number of physical ailments, including irritable bowel syndrome, gastrointestinal disorders, hypertension and various pain syndromes. Violence during pregnancy ended in miscarriage in the case of two of the women whose partners had punched them. In addition, a few

²² Interviewed by the researcher on February 26, 2021

²³ Interviewed by the researcher on March 02, 2021

informants note that sexual abuse caused unwanted pregnancies. One woman mentioned being infected with HIV/AIDS. Some women feel emotionally exhausted and became detached from their bodies. This type of mental detachment is common among women victims of GBV. The husbands' or intimate partners' degrading verbal remarks also often erode the woman's self-esteem and sense of competence as a person, woman, worker, wife and mother. Many women consider the psychological consequences of abuse to be even more serious than its physical effects.

According to Alemmaya (2002), at the personal level, the consequences of violence have been examined in terms of 'emotional breakdown', 'mental depression', 'physical injuries', 'deprivation of basic needs', 'suicide thoughts', and 'degree of control over spending money and taking decisions of the family'. It is observed that the consequences do not vary among victims of the different types of violence. The intensity and incidence of physical violence varies marginally among the victims of the different types. The majority of the victims reported that they were haunted by thoughts of committing suicide, the only difference among them being the frequency and intensity of such thought. In fact, one of them had made an attempt at suicide, but did not succeed. In sum, the victims of GBV were found to be a dejected and frustrated lot.

Table 4. 9 Percentage of Consequences of Gender-Based Violence

Items	Respondents	
	Frequency (100)	Percent (%)
Negative consequences		
Physical injury	21	21.21%
acquired STD/HIV	2	2.02%
Get unwanted pregnant	8	8.08%
Mental instability	23	23.23%
Isolated from society	19	19.19%
Lost job	4	4.04%
Lack of self-confidence/low self esteem	17	17.17%
Others	6	6.06%

Source: from Survey data

As indicated in table 4.9, respondents who experiences violence pointed out the consequences of violence as result of physical, economic, sexual and emotional abuse by their current husband or intimate partner. While physical injury was happened for 21.21% of women, mental instability

and isolated from the society were for 23.23% and 19.19%, respectively. On the other hand, 8.08% said that they get unwanted pregnancy and 2.02% respondents acquire STD. The rest of respondents lost their job and became dependent on the husbands or intimate partners and other people.

Children are also profoundly affected by living an environment of violence, fear or intimidation, loss of their concentration or problem at school and most of them are traumatized. Most women victims of GBV are more concerned for the sake of their children whether to stay or leave the abusive relationship. The next section will discuss the response of women, society, legal enforcers and the magnitude of management to GBV.

4.4 Response to Gender Based Violence

This section presents the response to GBV, which includes women's coping mechanism to violence while they are in abusive relationship. It was also discussed the main reason why women stay and leave the abusive relationship. Moreover, this section presents the response of formal (legal bodies) and informal groups (family, friends, neighbors, and elders) how GBV is managed and what they are doing it to combat it.

4.4.1. Women's Individual Responses to GBV

A women's response to abuse is often limited by the options available to them. In focus group discussion and in-depth interview women consistently mentioned the main reasons why they remain in abusive relationships or endure abuse for many years before leaving and even seeking help. Some of the reasons were economic hardship, concern for the children, emotional dependence, lack of support from family and friends, lack of knowledge and information about available services and stigmatization of being a divorced. The emotional attachment of women to their husbands or intimate partners is yet another deterring factor.

It was said that women's lack of resources or insufficient resources prevents them from leaving the violent relationship. As mentioned in previous section, most of women are economically dependent on men which would hinder them to leaving the violent husbands. *Case G*, 32 years old, stated:

The main reason why I have to stay in a violent relationship is the economic factor. If I had another place to go, the problem would be easily solved, without being forced to let me be violated. I have to be patient! What else can I do? I don't have any place to go with my children.²⁴

Many women found difficult leaving their violent partner due to lack of resources. Gelles, *et.al* (1988) described women who stay in the abusive relationship as tending to have less education and fewer job skills, and being unemployed when compared to women who actively seek help and leave the relationship because those women may have a less resources that they can utilize.

Women also perceive themselves as the primary person responsible for the children's care and welfare. Women preferred to raise their children with their husband not only because of financial consideration but also, they felt it would be best for the child to be nurtured by both parents. They believe in sacrificing their individual interests for the sake of the family. *Case J*, age 39, describe how she endured the violence for the sake of her children.

I have five children with him, so I have to tolerate violence because of them. I hope he will be changed one day before the kids grow up. I believe in God, and I believe that one day God will change him for the sake of the children. It is not easy to divorce at this time, and with five children. Things are very hard for me, indeed, but it is better for the children to have their father than to grow up without him.²⁵

Children are the main factor that makes women endure violence for a long time and not seek help. The fact that many of them believe that children need both parents as stated in the above, despite one being violent, keep them trapped in violent relationships. Women think that whatever the problems are, they have to be patient and obedient for the children's sake. They do not consider divorce to be a solution to their abusive situations. Another woman, *Case K*, a 38 years old, reveals:

²⁴ *Interviewed by the researcher on March 02, 2021*

²⁵ *Interviewed by the researcher on February 23, 2021*

*If I thought divorce were the solution, I would have divorced him a long time ago, but I think that I would have destroyed my family if I divorced. My children would grow up without a father.*²⁶

It was frequently said that they live for their children. It is not desirable to have a divorce. In their minds, if woman gets divorced, her children will lose a parent, living with the father and no mother, or living with the mother and no father. If the husband remarries, the stepmother may hurt the children. So, many women think that they should endure the suffering and keep the family intact for their children.

Moreover, women's traditional gender role belief is related to greater reluctance to report abuse and the likelihood that a woman would stay with a relationship even the violence is severe. It is well known that in a patriarchal society, women are socialized to accept responsibility to ensure a successful marriage. This way, women are entrapped in the patriarchal structures of family and go to great lengths to save their home and marriage. They believe that violence is part of every man's behavior. For example, *Case C*, 45-year-old married states:

*I think that the woman should sacrifice herself, because even if she marries another man, it would be the same story.... The woman must maintain the balance in the family.*²⁷

Many women in violent relationships suffer years of oppression because they are taught to live their lives according to traditional values. These women believe that they should try, as prescribed by their roles of wives and mothers, to keep the family together and restore the relationship by any means. Women feel committed to their role as mothers beyond any other consideration. These women link leaving the relationship or making drastic changes to a lack of commitment to their families. It is clear that women who endorse the traditional gender roles in many societies are more likely to be submissive, less likely to have power relation in relationship and more likely tolerate abuse (Myunghan, 2004).

²⁶ *Interviewed by the researcher on March 13, 2021*

²⁷ *Interviewed by the researcher on March 02, 2021*

The above scenario tells us women fear to be divorced. In a patriarchal society, to be a wife and a mother represent key aspects of a woman's identity. Zimmerman (1995), in his study in Cambodia, pointed out that in developing countries most women cited the stigmatization associated with being unmarried as an additional barrier to leaving abusive relationships.

There are women who stated that lack of support from family, religious belief and others are barriers from taking action. The abused women justify stay in the relationship and defend themselves by appealing to high loyalties to religious value. It was mentioned that religious leader frequently sanction discourse of the 'good and religious wife' by persuading her to tolerate her husband violence and to reconcile with him. It's very powerful when women have a system of faith where they are told to be patient by somebody who they are seeing in a position of spiritual authority. In relation to this, Sadaat *et.al* (1998) state that manipulation of religious texts to empower abusers often inhibits abused women from seeking assistance. For women who believe that leaving their abusers is equivalent to turning their back on God's word, staying in the abusive relationship may be perceived as a moral choice. In religious cultures in which male authority and female obedience are fostered and upheld, even in case of abuse, the meanings of family life are imbued with religious significance that shapes the thoughts, actions, and decisions of abused women as they seek to make sense of their lives.

In-depth qualitative studies of women in the United States and Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe show that various factors can keep women in abusive relationships. These commonly include: religious belief, fear of retribution, a lack of alternative means of economic support, concern for the children, emotional dependence, a lack of support from family and friends, and an abiding hope that the man will change (Ellsberg, 2000).

Women who stay in abusive relationships develops diverse coping skills include keeping herself out of the husband's sight, refusing to engage in an argument initiated by the husband or simply leaving the home to avoid a probable violent incident, enduring etc. *Case J*, a 39 years old, says:

I have to go away when he comes home drunk. However, I am afraid that if I let him alone at home, he will break everything in the house. What can I do? He is still my

*husband and the father of my children. A wife should tolerate this kind of behavior because of the children and the family.*²⁸

Case H, a 34 years old, added:

*The woman has to be very tolerant with a violent husband or boyfriend. She has to be quiet when her husband or boyfriend is angry or drunk. She can talk to him about the problem afterwards, using a lot of tact. She has to try to explain to him what he has done. Women have no place to live in case of a divorce; they cannot go back to their parents... they have no support. That is why women have to bear a violent relationship.*²⁹

For the women above coping mechanisms it can be said that culture played a significant role because it is so central life in Ethiopia. It has an impact on the level of tolerance and expression in abusive relationship. The norms and socialization process of society also contributed to the toleration towards GBV.

Some women stated that they avoid topics and behaviors that might aggravate their husband's or intimate partner's violent reaction. Women begin to make concessions by thinking over their husbands' or intimate partners' habits and behavior patterns and by carefully controlling their own tempers. From the above view, it can be said that socialization played a significant role. Women considered themselves submissive and tolerant while men perceived as aggressive and intolerant. A few women in the study fought back verbally and less often physically, recognizing that their actions at times were also abusive. Case I, a 28 years old, described as follows:

*I just didn't know what else to do and I just fought back with the same words "We abused each other...we kicked, we swore, we hit each other, things went flying We were both on the same level then."*³⁰

²⁸ Interviewed by the researcher on February 23, 2021

²⁹ Interviewed by the researcher on February 21, 2021

³⁰ Interviewed by the researcher on March 13, 2021

The above situation showed that there are a few women who develop coping mechanism of fighting back verbally and physically against their partners. There are researchers argued that violence is equally a problem for both sexes. However, this argument ignores the disproportionate rate of male violence against women and that most documented female violence is committed in self –defense (Bogard, 1988).

4.4.2. Societal and Institutional Responses to GBV

Despite the many barriers to women disclosing violence, the results reveal that women in violent relationships did actively seek ways to reduce or end the violence in their lives. Where women sought help, they primarily turn to informal sources of support, particularly family, friends, and neighbors rather than to formal sources. Some mentioned that friends and family members listened to their fears, intervened to calm down the abusive husband or intimate partner, sheltered women, helped them leave, took them to hospitals, and accompanied them. It was also pointed out that neighbors are very important actors in stopping cases of GBV. However, they are often only aware of serious cases that cause a disturbance in the neighborhood.

On contrary, most participants revealed that they didn't receive the kind of support or service they need. They stated that family and friends do not realize their situation, so they are unenthusiastic to ask and share their problems. When they decided they had better seek outside assistance they might not get. *Case B*, a 32 years old remembers how she lacked support even she was severely being abused:

*He was grabbing my hair, grabbing my waist and slapping my face. I yelled for help ... I looked out the window for help ... nobody came my neighbors were bored.*³¹

It was also said that when women told their situation for families, they considered it as "normal". They were told to be patient and tolerate. In most case, women were made to bring back in abusive relationship by elders 'Shimagle'. *Case F*, a 26 years old, reveals:

³¹ *Interviewed by the researcher on February 23, 2021*

*I never remember peaceful day with him. He always insults and beat me. I run way to my friends many times but just to be brought back by elders, whose words no one dare to reject. They would say 'women should be patient and wise to maintain the relationship instead of running away'...*³²

It is clear that in many social groups of Ethiopia GBV dispute have to be primarily dealt with by the elders. This system provides powerful communal ways of keeping women seeking help from formal institutions. When women consult their family, they are frequently advised to reconcile with their husbands. Standards of femininity as nurturing, caring and reconciliatory are there by reinforced. A study by Armstrong (1998) also reveals GBV as a major problem affecting women and that not many women report such cases. This is because society plays a significant role in determining the options that a woman in an abusive relationship can exercise. Whether she leaves, remains or reports the perpetrator to the police and pursues the case, has more to do with how society has always treated the issue of GBV. As the result of the nature of the circumstances in which GBV occurs, women who found themselves in this situation are forced to deal with the problem at the personal and private level within the family or in the community.

Armstrong further argues that women who are experiencing violence do not report such cases and that they act only when violence becomes severe and causes serious injury. When this happens, women are forced to report to the police.

The result shows that the woman comes to believe that she deserves such treatment and expects no empathy. It was also revealed that when women sought help from formal network like police, they also encounter unpleasant response. *Case C*, age 45 states:

*They were really unhelpful, they made it really difficult, they didn't explain things to me, and they gave information that wasn't true I found out later.*³³

The women felt that the police did not take their fears seriously, that they did not truly comprehend the terror that women experience. *Case A*, a 31 years old says:

³² *Interviewed by the researcher on February 26, 2021*

³³ *Interviewed by the researcher on February 26, 2021*

I went to the police; the police said just it is just usual issue between husband and wife. They no longer wanted to get involved. The police didn't take my complaint and told me to go home.³⁴

From the above scenario, it can be said that law enforcement bodies do not take appropriate measures on assailants. They tend to neglect cases of violence considering it as private matter. Some even reflect the prevalent tradition siding with offenders. This indicated that women are not only discouraged by informal groups but also by legal enforcers. Some women asserted that reporting to the police has no value and does not give solutions when they are seeking help. Abused women face obstacles from the police, lack of legal support and responses of various social agencies which often demonstrate direct or indirect support for the husband's or authority and his use of violence (Dobash and Dobash, 1988).

Although there were a number of problems arising from women's experiences with the police, there are also a few positive cases of women who had dealings with the police in which the police believed them, were quick to respond and were supportive indicated the police services had worked well for them. The variation in women's experiences with the police suggests that the effectiveness of the police in each case depended a great deal on the individual police officer.

On the other hand, the information which was obtained from legal bodies showed that many women feel obliged to conceal with their own abuse and continue to live in violent relationships because of culture and tradition, religious beliefs and society's perceptions. Women abused by spouses or intimate partners confront unique difficulties in bringing their attackers to justice and seeking safety for themselves and other family members. It was also mentioned abused women are reluctant to have their partners jailed or their families break up or are fearful of condemnation by their families or community should they pursue criminal charges. These and other factors often make women reluctant to bring charges of GBV or lead them to drop charges already filed. In fact, it was mentioned that the delaying court decisions is another contributory factor to dropping of charges by victims.

³⁴ *Interviewed by the researcher on February 21, 2021*

4.4.3. Decision to Leave Abusive Relationship and Its Barrier

Although most of the participants claimed that they decided to leave the abusive husbands or intimate partners while others left their violent partners, they stated that leaving an abusive or violent relationship is tremendously difficult. Women reported a number of factors that presented problems for them when they were thinking about leaving and when they actually left. It was often accompanied by financial problems or confusion and worries over the effect of parental separation on children. Six interviewed women had left and returned several times before they finally decided to leave once and for all. According to Center for Human Rights (un) stated, women who decide to leave the abusive partner may also have to deal with some troubling behavior on his part. He may become very apologetic and beg her to reconcile with him, he may send elders and he may promise to change or may threaten to hurt or kill her.

Basically, most men saw their female partners as their own property and they do not expect that their wives or intimate partner might to leave them. Men's idea of proprietary right was expressed through their domineering behavior regarding the activities of those women, UNFPA (2010). Violence occurs when they believed that women were slipping out from their control, sometimes certain men threatened to kill their spouse if they left the relationship. As men exerted ever tighter controls and demanded more from women, their wives usually experienced a growing sense of entrapment, mixed with a combination of acute fear, shame and humiliation.

Despite these obstacles, there were women decided permanently to leave the violent husbands or intimate partners. Divorce is one of the active coping strategies for women in abusive relationships. A number of factors mentioned that motivate women to divorce. These include women's awareness that the abuse is getting higher in frequency or severity, that their abusive partner will not change, and when violence begins to take effect on the children as well as emotional and economical support of family and friends. *Case G*, a 32 years old, says:

I was afraid of what would happen to me if I divorced him. I was afraid of others' opinion (stigmatization of divorce). I decided to find the force to fight against the violence and the public opinion. My sisters and brothers supported my decision. I filed for divorce. He did not believe it; he thought I would always take his behavior.

*I am finally living as a human being. But he is still threatened me that is why I have come to EWLA.*³⁵

From the above scenario, one can understand that after women separated from violent husband or intimate partner, they may be threatened. Leaving an abusive relationship does not of itself always guarantee safety. Violence can sometimes continue and may even escalate after a woman leaves her partner (Bewley *et.al*, 1997).

Two women mentioned the beneficial influence of divorcing a violent partner. They attempted to make sense of what had happened to them, and to better understand their inner worlds and how they could ultimately end their victimization. *Case I*, a 33 years old, reveals:

*There have been situations when I wanted to kill him, especially when I realized about his extra marital affair with my best friend. If I killed him, I would be in prison now. This is my advice to other abused women: If you suffer violence in your family, it is better to divorce than to kill your husband. I divorce him after having four children. I would say that it is better to have a financial problem than to suffer GBV.*³⁶

From the above situation one can understand how GBV motivates to commit crimes. Many studies also confirmed that women may commit crime when the violence become beyond their capacity. In her findings Tibatemwa (1999) noted that most of the women who commit violent crimes against others are victims of GBV from their husband or intimate partners. From the interviews she did with women in prisons who committed violent crimes, most of them justified their actions either on the grounds of self-defense or at least as a reaction to provocative acts (physical violence) by the victim. This was common among women who killed their husbands or intimate partners. Their violence was a reaction to physical abuse.

Participants feel that they regain their dignity and sense of self-worth and personal power. Women try hard to empower themselves in order to rethink their place in the world and to find new ways

³⁵ *Interviewed by the researcher on March 13, 2021*

³⁶ *Interviewed by the researcher on February 26, 2021*

of life. The way out of victimization is facilitated if they can generate their own income. *Case H*, a 36 years old puts:

*I was trapped to leave him because I had no place to live, neither a job. But now I don't expect anything from him. I know that I have to face everything by myself. I am working and I can solve my problems alone.*³⁷

It is important for women to establish a new understanding of themselves, to reanalyze, reinterpret and reassess themselves and their married lives in order to take control and find strength to take up new challenges. This helps them to handle the situation and deal with their new lives.

Regarding divorce as coping mechanism, the information obtained from Ethiopian Women Lawyer Association (EWLA) indicates that the number of women who are requesting divorce has alarmingly increased, as the result of they were victims of marital abuse. Despite this increment, divorce is still considered of last option.

The survey result also confirmed the above situation (qualitative findings). Women victims of GBV were asked whether they had told anyone about their partner's violent behavior or not and their response is summarized in table 4.14 below.

Table 4. 10 Percentage of Women Who Told Their Experience of Violence

Items	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percent
Response		
never told any one	19	37.26%
Informed to friends	15	29.41%
Informed to family	11	21.57%
Contacted police	5	9.80%
Others	1	1.96%
Total	51	100 %

Source: from Survey data

³⁷ *Interviewed by the researcher on February 21, 2021*

As indicated in the table 4.10, the respondent's reactions to their intimate partner's violent and abusive behaviors showed variation ranging from doing nothing to contacted police. The table shows that a large proportion of women, 37.26% reported not having told anyone about their partner's violence. This suggests that in many cases the interviewer was the first person that they had ever talked to about the violence. On the other hand, 29.41% and 21.57% of women said that they told and sought help from friends and family, respectively. The rest of 9.80% is found to be contacted the police. This indicates many women prefer to suffer in silence, especially rather reporting to the police. It may be a widely held belief that GBV is considered as private issue. WHO (2005) also confirmed in Ethiopia only 0.2% of women report to the police, which is the smallest (i.e., insignificant) as compared to other countries included in to the study.

In order to understand the existence of support or response of formal and informal network to abused women in time they need, women were also asked whether the network's response was helpful or not to prevent or tackle the violence as the following table shows.

Table 4. 11 The Response to GBV

Items	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percent
Responses		
Helpful	11	32.35%
blame you	6	17.65%
Ignorance/ did nothing	15	44.12%
Others	2	5.88%
Total	34	100 %

Source: from Survey data

As table 4.11 above indicates, 44.12% of respondents reported that they couldn't find support or ignored when they sought help. Women who constitute 32.35% said that they receive support while 17.65% of respondents reported they were blamed when they told their husbands' or intimate partners' violent behavior. This indicated that although respondents reported having told family, friends and police about their partner's violence as shown table 4.15, they were less likely to report that these people had tried to help them.

Although women reported that they experienced physical, economical sexual and psychological violence by their current husband in the survey, they are still living with the husbands. In order to understand why they stay and the barriers to leave the abusive relationship, women were asked that if they have tried to leave and the barriers to leave abusive relationship. The result shows that 35.6% of respondents have not tried to leave the abusive relationship while the remaining said that attempts were made to leave but they mentioned a variety of barriers include economic dependency, concern of children, lack of support, stigmatization of divorce and other barriers.

4.5 GBV Intervention Mechanisms

The key informants from formal organizations were asked towards intervention mechanism and they replied saying the intervention of all woredas in Bole Sub – City, the practice of GBV affects many women as well as those that are younger. These women are exposed to forced sexual intercourse which has led to numerous complications such as unwanted pregnancy and HIV infections. Economic and physical violence perpetrated against women also lead to the disintegration of families. When the women are no longer in a position to look after their children and the family due to extreme and continuous violence, families disintegrate with adverse impact on children.

Key informants as well as focus group discussants raised an interesting connection between the different forms of violence women face such as physical, sexual and economic violence are all seen forcing women to leave their families behind and embark on separation.

The main strategy used to implement the intervention strategy was sustained community conversations in the selected intervention woredas and Blocks (Got' ጎጥ) of the Bole Sub – City. The prior intervention to embarking on community conversation to reach the communities, conducted an assessment towards establishing available resources in terms of structures that can reach the broader community. This assessment which was also informed by previous experiences of the sub – city working in communities revealed the existence of rich resources in terms of grassroots/local structures that exist in the community and can be used as instruments for passing on the message of preventing and responding to cases of GBV. One of the key informants stated that:

*These structures constitute formal government bodies of Bole Sub – City Women, Children and Youth Sector, Bole Sub – City Police Sub – City Department as well as informal structures.*³⁸

As the key informant suggests, the main structures that were used for conducting successful community conversations from the formal/government structures included: all levels of government structures in the sub – city, namely police in particular community police, health extension workers, schools and Woreda administration. At community level, women’s and youth grassroots associations/organizations, development army groups, religious organizations, and elders were directly involved in community conversations.

The role of overseeing community conversations was given to community policing structures at woreda and block levels. Typically, community conversations brought together different sections of the community such as health extension workers, teachers as well as Woreda administration for community conversation. Grassroots organizations like development army groups take active part in the conversations. Leaders of development army groups organized into the one to five groups play active role in community conversations. They also serve as important entry points for reaching the broader community as they pass on the message from community conversations to their group members in their respective localities.

4.5.1 Monitoring and Follow Up on the Intervention

The monitoring of the intervention has structures that are present at woreda and community levels. One of the key informants has said that:

*The presence of structure at the lowest administrative levels where actual community conversations take place has meant that the monitoring structure is able to do regular follow up on the conversations ‘with its constraints’, the progress and possible outcomes. A quarterly meeting of all stakeholders–government representatives of different sectors and community/grassroots organizations evaluates the conduct of the community conversations.*³⁹

³⁸ Interviewed by the researcher on March 16, 2021

³⁹ Interviewed by the researcher on March 16, 2021

It is possible to say that while they are having such meetings, controversial issues that may have arisen during community conversations will be reviewed. The meeting also provides opportunity for cross checking of achievements as reported by different stakeholders.

4.5.2 Direct Support to Survivors of Violence

Direct support also provided to survivors of GBV. The main support provided for survivors relates to provision of shelter, medical service and psychological therapy. Victim women were sent to referral hospitals for treatment. However, due to lack of financial budget survivors are suffering a lot while trying to covering medical and associated costs.

4.5.3 Effectiveness of Intervention by Formal Organizations

The key informants began by acknowledging the benefit intervention structure saying that

It is believed that effective communication channel and strategy brings on board household members, neighbors as well as formal and informal structures at grassroots level. However, we are facing lack of awareness from the society and unable to cooperate with us and there is a great financial constraint to execute the need tasks accordingly.⁴⁰

From the response of key informants, it is possible to say that the challenges occurring nowadays are: first, there is lack of awareness about the crisis of GBV and keeping it at home. Second, considering it as a family issue and not dare to disclose it to the concerned formal bodies. Third, the negligence and unable to cooperate in combating GBV. Finally, lack of financial capital is a major threat that tackle them not to mobilize the community to the required level of change. Even though there are changes are being seen, they are not satisfactory as expected due to the aforementioned reasons.

⁴⁰ *Interviewed by the researcher on March 16, 2021*

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary of the Findings

Gender based violence is a very complex process and influenced by multiple factors. The potential for dangerous violence against women occurs throughout their marital lives. Many women live in fear not only for their own lives but also for the lives of their children.

Women experienced physical, psychological, economical and sexual violence. Many of them do not consider forced sex as rape if they are married or in relationship. The forced sexual act proved to be one way in which the woman is silenced, controlled and subordinated. The justification for forced sex came from cultural, religious and legal points of view.

It was identified that poverty, alcohol, jealousy and transgression of gender role are the prevalent of causes of GBV against women; therefore, the adequate explanatory approach for the incidence of GBV is a multi-casual one. In this study, using an ecological framework the result of analysis indicated that GBV is result from interaction between personal, economic, social, political, and cultural factors. The cultural system predisposes, justifies and perpetuates GBV. The socio-economic standing women predispose them to multiple forms of violence and perpetuate their inferior status. The political-legal context has not only perpetuated violence but also it is sometimes an excuse the occurrence of GBV and at other time it does not protect and rehabilitate disadvantaged women.

Both the qualitative and quantitative findings indicated that experience of GBV puts women at greater risk of a variety of physical, mental health and reproductive health problem like HIV/AIDS. The effects of experiencing violence also include the inability to undertake daily work or social activities. Women perceive the psychological consequences of abuse to be even more serious than physical effects. The process of abuse alters women's views of themselves, their relationships and their place in the world.

A woman's response to abuse is often limited by the alternative existing to her. Some of the reasons women do not leave or use effective coping strategies include: lack of support from family and friends, economic hardship, and fear of retaliation from and escalation of abuse by intimate

partners. Others include their belief that their husband will change for the better, that divorce stigmatizes, and those children need their fathers'. In addition, limited access and availability of services, lack of knowledge and information about available services, and familial and cultural constraints often discourage women from seeking appropriate help and leaving the offensive husband or intimate partner.

Furthermore, women who stay in abusive relationships develop diverse coping skills or survival strategies, which include keeping out of the husband's sight, refusing to engage in an argument initiated by the husband or boyfriend or simply leaving the home to avoid a probable violent incident, enduring. Women considered themselves submissive and tolerant while men are perceived as aggressive, intolerant.

Despite these situations, there were women who decided to leave permanently the violent husbands or boyfriend. Divorce is one of the active coping strategies for women in abusive relationships, but is only taken when women realize that the abuse is getting higher in frequency or severity, that their abusive partner will not change, and when violence begins to take effect on the children as well as emotional and economical support of family and friends, however, after divorce they face a lot of social and economic problem.

Likewise, the data gathered shows that lack of financial budget for governmental organizations is also another hinderance in combating GBV by exceedingly far from the awareness creation among the community.

By giving voice to abused women, this study represents a step forward. The researcher anticipates that this process of understanding cultural meanings of GBV and individual perceptions, attitudes and responses is an important base for developing appropriate interventions for violence reduction and prevention in Addis Ababa, even for Ethiopia. Moreover, further studies including men attitude perception and experiences in GBV would provide a wider view on these issues.

5.2 Conclusion

As it has been discussed in the previous chapters, the research used qualitative method. As a result, twelve women who were the victim of GBV were interviewed. Additionally, three key informants

were interviewed. The research has explored Gender-Based Violence Against Women in Bole Sub – City.

The research identified different form of indicators which gave priority to the need for protecting the women from GBV. The interviewed women were experienced different types of violence which adversely affect their social well-being. This includes physical, sexual, economic, and psychological violence. While the majority of participants of the study explained that they had suffered sexual violence, it indirectly affected their psychological and social health. Inception of all forms of violence begins at home by their husbands or intimate partner. Perpetrators in the society treat their wives of intimate partners in illicitly because of their poor economic power. Husbands or intimate partners also block them in pursuing education and employment. Hence, it is understood that discrimination is the prime reason for inequality and injustice towards women who are victim of GBV. Negative attitude of the society towards victim women with GBV restricts them to access resources. This necessitates the need for a change in the attitude of people in society and such a change should affect the rights of abused women in a positive manner.

Several causes of GBV are identified wherein the impact of GBV was highly mentioned. Some responses gathered from participants is evident from previous sections and shows as majority of them stated that they are physically, psychologically, economically and sexually abused due to alcoholism, jealousy, thinking of unfaithful, refusing sex, as well as the hierarchical structure and traditional outlook of the society. This displays as there is lack of awareness in the society regarding GBV which challenged women. The lack of awareness could be considered as a generic term which is applicable in all sectors of the society since victim women are violently handled at home and considered as a private family issue.

Awareness can be spread across the nation with the purview of protecting the GBV victim women. The responsible government, community service providers associations and non-government organizations should focus more on spreading awareness to the society in safeguarding women from GBV in all circumstances to mitigate and eliminate GBV. Accordingly, few representatives of governmental organizations had stated that the laws and policies for safeguarding sexually abused women are implemented successfully; however, this does not mitigate the number of

harassment cases associated with GBV towards women. This necessitates the need to fill the gaps in implementation of policies to safeguard abused women.

However, there are several challenges in the implementation of legal instruments and policies that support the rights of all societies. The responses of representatives of different organizations stated that their role in the society is to safeguard the rights of women. However, no special programs were dedicated for the promotion of awareness in the society by most of the organizations whereas only few spread awareness through special programs. Awareness does not imply only to the society but also to the victim of GBV. Though abused women should come forward breaking the silence, negative attitude, and low self-esteem. This requires knowledge which can be imparted through education and different campaigns. Government, stakeholders and beneficiaries should consider the ideals of education for all people in the nation. Only through different forms of education shall awareness be spread across the nation. Discrimination in any form should be made an offence by the government to tackle violence-based issues. Though legal instruments can strictly impart the safety of women entertained only through variety forms of education to create awareness for minimizing the issues of GBV and strengthening its management.

5.3 Recommendations

To summarize the study, the findings of this research appear to be promising in the fight against GBV focusing on its management. As a recommendation, the researcher highly believes as a lot has to be done towards combating GBV.

- Using different medias additional awareness creation trainings should be organized to involve a large number of people from different parts of Addis Ababa with different cultural and religious backgrounds.
- By organizing different symposiums and campaign, educating young people about gender equality and GBV can be useful in fighting future violence against women.
- By dealing with the concerned bodies, if possible, additional funding is needed to establish more facility providing centers in Addis Ababa as there is still a long way to go to respond to violence against women.
- By arranging either weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually a program, Women, Children and Youth Sector has to announce its projects and activities through different medias such

as radio, television shows and, most importantly, social media, to attract international and local donors.

- Collaboratively with health sectors, providing adequate information to women regarding the health and social implications of the violence and abuse.
- With the help of police, initiating investigations as to what all forms of violence that all abused women experience so that the experiences of these women can be better understood.
- Adoption of policies and legislations is required to recognize the different acts that violate the rights of a women and abused women.
- The involvement of a diverse set of individuals so as to develop more comprehensive solutions in the combat of violence against women. This, in the form of policies and the protocols followed by law enforcement, healthcare providers, service providers and all other personnel who are involvement in the betterment process.
- Giving trainings to stake holders such us the police in prevention and response to GBV against women.
- Strengthening the magnitude of GBV management apart from creating awareness and emphasizing on implementation of all possible solutions and measurements.
- Finally, noting that it is difficult to meet the needs of many individuals, the researcher suggests that the organization will work harder to meet the needs of abused women in line with filling the gap mentioned in chapter four.

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ANNEXES

Annex- A

St. Mary University

School of Graduate studies

Project Management Department

Interview Questions for Subjects of the Study

This study is being conducted to gather information and data on gender-based violence against women. The information you provide will be kept confidential and used for the research purpose only. If you are willing to participate in this interview, I would like to ask you about the relationship between you and your boyfriend or husband. I hope you will participate in this interview as your personal view and life experience are very important to the study.

Thank you very much for your interest to participate!

Age_____ Occupation_____ Educational status_____

1. Are you in relationship or get married?
2. How is your relationship or marriage life?
3. Have you quarreled with your boyfriend or husband? How often?
4. Who in your relationship or family often commits violence or experience it?
5. Would you describe the abuse you experienced?
6. What are the main causes of violence?
7. Would you tell me the consequences of violence on you?
8. How do you think about the attitude of society towards gender-based violence?
9. In your opinion, what is the role of gender and cultural value in the occurrence of gender-based violence?
10. What things did you do to cope with your abusive situation?
11. Did you try to leave the abusive relationship?
12. What are the barriers to leave the abusive relationship?
13. Did you seek assistance? If yes where, who and what assistance?
14. Did the assistance meet your expectations?
15. Did you report to the police?
16. What was the response of the police?
17. What do you think should be done about gender-based violence?

Annex- B

St. Mary University

School of Graduate studies

Project Management Department

Structured Questionnaire for Married women and Women in relationship

The questionnaire is designed for women who are in a relationship or married. The purpose of this questionnaire is to observe and assess the experience, causes, consequences, and responses of effects of gender-based violence against women and its management. Since this questionnaire is not for the assessment of an individual's personality, writing your name is not necessary. However, your personal information very important to the study. The information you feel and the answers you give are used only for the research purpose only. Therefore, if you are willing to take part in this survey, I would like to ask you about your relationship with your boyfriend or husband. Therefore, you are kindly asked to answer the questionnaire precisely and honestly. Your personal information is critical to the study.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Section One: Respondent's Background

1. What is your age? _____ (write in a complete year)
2. What is your religion?
 - A. Orthodox
 - B. Protestant
 - C. Muslim
 - D. Catholic
 - E. Other (Specify) _____
3. What is the higher grade you have completed?
 - A. No formal education
 - B. Primary (1 – 8 grades)
 - C. Secondary (9 – 12 grades)
 - D. above secondary level
4. Are you working?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
5. What is your occupation? _____
6. How long have you been in relationship with your current boyfriend or husband? _____

7. What is your boyfriend's or husband educational level?
 A. Illiterate C. Secondary
 B. Primary D. Above secondary (above grade 12)
8. Does your boyfriend or husband have job? A. Yes B. No
9. What is his occupation? _____
10. Does your boyfriend or husband drink alcohol? A. Yes B. No
11. How often your boyfriend or husband drink alcohol?
 A. Always B. Usually C. Rarely D. Occasionally
12. Do you think your boyfriend's or husband's drinking alcohol affects stability in your relation or in the home?

Section Two: The Respondents and Their Relationship with boyfriend or husband

13. Do you quarrel with your boyfriend or husband? A. Yes B. No
14. If your answer for question 13 is "Yes" how often did you quarrel with your boyfriend or husband?
 A. Rarely B. Sometimes C. often
15. Have you ever experienced violence by your current boyfriend or husband?
 A. Yes B. No
16. What was the main reason for violence?
 i. Financial issue A. Yes B. No
 ii. Drunkenness A. Yes B. No
 iii. Transgression of gender role (refusing sex, talking back. Not accomplishing house chores, disobedient, etc.) A. Yes B. No
 iv. Jealous A. Yes B. No
 v. Nothing known A. Yes B. No
 vi. If other, specify it. _____
17. The following acts happen to many women, has your current boyfriend or husband done the following to you?
 i. Push or shoved A. Rarely B. Sometimes C. Often
 ii. Kicked A. Rarely B. Sometimes C. Often
 iii. Slapped or punched A. Rarely B. Sometimes C. Often

- iv. Dragged or thrown objects A. Rarely B. Sometimes C. Often
- v. Threatened or assaulted with weapons A. Rarely B. Sometimes C. Often

18. Has your boyfriend or husband done the following to you?

- i. Insulted A. Rarely B. Sometimes C. Often
- ii. Humiliation A. Rarely B. Sometimes C. Often
- iii. Intimidation or scaring A. Rarely B. Sometimes C. Often
- iv. Threats of harm A. Rarely B. Sometimes C. Often
- v. Isolation A. Rarely B. Sometimes C. Often

19. Does your boyfriend or husband often ignore or put down your opinion or contribution?

- A. Yes B. No

20. Has your boyfriend or husband forced you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want? A. Yes B. No

21. Did your boyfriend or husband limit your access to money and other resources in the house? A. Yes B. No

22. Did your boyfriend of husband refuse you to work outside home?

- A. Yes B. No

23. Did your boyfriend or husband prevent you from attending meeting or participating in different ceremonies? A. Yes B. No

24. Did you ever tell your experience of violence to others? A. Yes B. No

25. If your answer is "Yes" for question 24, for whom?

- i. Family A. Yes B. No
- ii. Neighbor A. Yes B. No
- iii. Friends A. Yes B. No
- iv. Police A. Yes B. No
- v. If other, specify it: _____

26. What was the response?

- A. Nothing B. Helpful C. Blame you D. Ignorance
- E. If other specify it. _____

27. Have you tried to leave the violent relationship? A. Yes B. No

28. What was the barrier to leave?

- i. Economy dependency A. Yes B. No

- ii. Stigmatization of separation A. Yes B. No
- iii. Lack of support A. Yes B. No
- iv. If other, specify it. _____

29. What efforts did you make to overcome the acts of violence you experience?

- A. Nothing C. Asking for help E. Other, Specify. _____
- B. Run away D. Fighting back

30. Which of the following acts occurred to you following physical, sexual, economical and psychological violence you experienced?

- i. Get pregnant A. Yes B. No
- ii. Physical injury A. Yes B. No
- iii. Isolated from family and society A. Yes B. No
- iv. Lack of self-confidence A. Yes B. No
- v. Lost job A. Yes B. No
- vi. Low self-confidence A. Yes B. No
- vii. Disempowerment A. Yes B. No
- viii. If other, specify it. _____

Section 3: Opinion about gender roles and attitudes towards girlfriends and wife abuse

31. Women have equal right with their boyfriend or husband in all aspects.

- A. Agree B. Disagree

32. Men are superior to women. A. Agree B. Disagree

33. Good girlfriend or wife is obedient to her boyfriend or husband even if she disagrees to him opinion. A. Agree B. Disagree

34. A girlfriend or wife should assume a lower status in relationship of in the family.

- A. Agree B. Disagree

35. Wife abuse should be considered as “normal” and taken for granted in the relationship or marriage life. A. Agree B. Disagree

36. Girlfriends or wives have the right to refuse sex with her husband in a number of situations. A. Agree B. Disagree

37. The house hold activities are the only responsibility of girlfriend or wife.

- A. Agree B. Disagree

38. According to your opinion, good reason for boyfriend or husband to beat/ abuse his girlfriend or wife if:

- | | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|--------|-------|
| i. | Fails to complete house chore | A. Yes | B. No |
| ii. | Disobey her boyfriend or husband | A. Yes | B. No |
| iii. | Refuse sex with him | A. Yes | B. No |
| iv. | He suspects her to be unfaithful | A. Yes | B. No |
| v. | If other, specify it. _____ | | |

Thank you!