

**Assessing the Causes and Consequences and of Domestic V against
Women: The Case of Bure Town**
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Abstract

This study was conducted to assess the causes and consequences of domestic violence against women in Bure town. To do this research, the researcher employed qualitative research approach. The researcher employed purposive sampling technique to gather adequate data from the subject of the study. In order to collect viable information, the researcher used both primary and secondary sources of data. The data were analyzed, summarized and interpreted through thematic data analysis technique. As the finding of the study indicated financial issue, drunkenness, masculinity and jealousy are the main causes of domestic violence against women. Loss of confidence, depression, mental and health problems, children drop out from school, loss of appetite for food, and weakness of their mental ability to change are found as a consequences of domestic violence against women in Bure town.

Keywords: Violence, Domestic Violence, against Women, Intimate Partner Violence

1.1. Background of the Study

Domestic violence against women is one of the most systematic and widespread human right violations across the world. International studies by WHO (2005) estimates that, approximately 35% of women across the world have experienced either physical or sexual violence or both.

As the studies of WHO (2005) states that, the causes of domestic violence are lack of economic resources and dependence of women on her intimate partner, excessive consumption of alcohol and other drugs, lack of legal protection, particularly with sanctity of home is strong factor in perpetuating violence against women. Heise et al (1999) research revealed the prevalence of domestic violence, like other parts of the world, in Africa. The main causes of domestic violence in Africa are the result of past discrimination that inculcates today women as inferior and men as superior, the system of patriarchy, income inequality and drunkenness (Ibid). Violence against women is not only extremely rooted but also challenged problem in Ethiopia

(Abbi et al, 2010). Yigzaw T. et al (2004) states that, the major causes of domestic violence against women are income inequality, lack of awareness, backward culture, drunkenness and dominance of both women and men.

As UN (2006) states that domestic violence against women can reduce the ability of women to work, care for their family and for themselves, and their contribution to the society. Domestic violence against women leads to far reaching physical and psychological consequences. It also affects women's sexually and economically. It is one of the most pervasive human right violations, denying women equality, security, dignity, self-worth, and their right to enjoy fundamental right. A recent study of WHO shows that 71% of Ethiopian women experienced either sexual or physical violence. Therefore, this violence and its causes and consequences require to be studied to add knowledge to the existing literature. That was the aim of this paper.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The impact of domestic violence against women are rampantly expands in sub Saharan countries including our countries, Ethiopia. As the researcher observed, a violence results for physical and psychological intimidation on women including lose their life and minimize their participation in the community. It affect all spheres of women life in economic, in political, and social affairs of the society. This is because of excessive consumption of alcohols, dominance of men.

Many researchers conducted a study regarding domestic violence against women. For instance, Yigzaw T.,et al (2004) attempted to show the prevalence of domestic violence against women and associated factor in Gondar . He focused on the extent of the problem. Sosena (2007) also conducted study on domestic violence against women in Kolfe keranyo sub city in Addis Ababa. But her study was limited to some victims of domestic violence (Clients of Ethiopian women lawyer association and married women's) in the sub city. She also focused on the magnitude of the problem. Both Yigzaw T.,et al(2004) and Sosena (2007) focused only on the impact of domestic violence on women. But domestic violence on women not only affects women but also distresses children and family as a whole. And also the above researchers did not also show the contemporary causes and consequences of domestic violence against women.

Therefore, the researcher tried to fill the gap by studying how domestic violence affected children psychologically specifically its impact on children's behavior and education. they also tried to investigate the contemporary causes and consequences of domestic violence against women which has not been addressed or investigated by other researchers.

1.3. Objective of the Study

1.3.1. General Objective of the Study

The general objective of the study was to investigate the causes and consequences of domestic violence against women at Bure town.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of the study included the following:

- A. To explore the causes of domestic violence against women in the study area.
- B. To identify the consequences of domestic violence against women in the study area.

1.4. Research Questions

- a) What are the causes of domestic violence against women?
- b) What are the consequences of domestic violence against women ?

1.5. Significance of the Study

This study will have the following advantages. It will create awareness for husbands in particular and the society in the general about the consequences of domestic violence against women and solve their problems through discussion in a peaceful ways. Besides, it will serve as source for other researchers to conduct further investigation on the issue.

1.6. Scope of the Study

The study was conceptually delimited on causes and consequences of domestic violence against women. Geographically the study was delimited in Bure town , which is located in West Gojjam zone of Amhara regional state.

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Research Method

In order to address the objectives of the study and to answer the listed research questions, the researcher used qualitative research method. According to Straus and Corbin (1998) qualitative research method is typical research approach which enables to come up with data that cannot

easily produced by statical procedures or other means of qualification. It is also the means for exploring and understanding the meanings of individual or groups ascribed to social or human problem (Creswell,2009). As the researcher mentioned earlier the main objectives of the study were to assess the major causes and consequences of domestic violence against women and the issue itsbnatural settings. .In order to gain ample information, the researcher employed qualitative research method because it is very typical research approach to gather detail information via direct communication with victims of the issue.

The rationale behind using qualitative research method was that it is better to understand and describe the issue under study by words and meanings in wide concept rather than in numbers or statistics. . To understand the subject matter direct contact is required rather than simply distributing questionnaires to gather data.

3.2. Research Design

For this research, the researcher employed case study research design. Case study research design is very important to investigate a contemporary phenomenon within its real -life context, especially When, how and what (Schramm,1997). Which is vital to gather detailed information about the issues because it is bound by time and activity.

3.3. Data Sources

In this research, the researcher used both primary and secondary sources of data to address broad based issues.The researcher interviewed officials of police office, justice and women affairs, and women in study area. The researcherused secondary sources from available literature, books, and journals, published and unpublished materials.

3.4. Data Collection Instruments

It is obvious that while conducting research, data collection is mandatory. In order to collect reliable data from the subject of the study, data was collected from both primary and secondary sources of data. From primary sources of data, the researcher collected responses from participants through structured interview, structured interview involves the use of predetermined questions and highly standardized techniques of recording. The secondary data used to collect data from published and unpublished materials such as : books, magazines and newspapers, reports prepared by research scholars.

Additionally, data were also collected from unpublished materials include such as diaries, letters and unpublished biographies.

3.5. Sampling Technique and Sample Size

In the course of this study, the researcher used purposive sampling technique from non-probability sampling technique to get deep information from key persons and those deemed to have sufficient knowledge with the area under study. The reason behind use purposive sampling technique was that, because it helps to get more information from the concerned body about the subject of the study.

The researcher undertook 20 sample sizes from the study area. From those 8 are key persons of the study from police office, women affair and justice office based on purposive sampling technique . The rest 12 participants were women's from the study area. The majority of the participant was women because they are highly susceptible to the issue. In deed in qualitative research method the sample size is determined by saturation of the respondents and the researcher determined the sample based on saturation of addressing the objectives of the study.

3.6. Data Analysis Technique

In order to analyse qualitatively collected data, the researcher used thematic analysis of data , which is the most common in the qualitative data analysis technique . The researcher mainly interested to employe this analysis technique, because it is important to analyse qualitative information and to systematically gain knowledge and empathy about person and situation. It also a means to gain insight and knowledge from gathered data. In addition thematic data analysis technique is important to analysis and interpreted data collected from various data collection procedures such as from interview, from published and unpublished materials in accordance with central issue or main theme. And as the researcher mentioned earlier data was collected from different part of the society and concerned body through different data collection tool so the researcher employed thematic data analysis technique so as to interpret and analysis collected data in appropriate way in line with the theme.

3.7. Ethical Consideration

Ethical consideration is very crucial to accomplish the study. According to Leedy and Armord (2005), ethical issues in research fall in four categories namely, protection from harm, informed consent, right to privacy and honesty with professional colleagues.

The researcher follows research ethics to receive available data from the participants. In gathering the required data for this research ,participant identity kept confidential. Besides, the participant informed that their response is only used for the purpose of academia only the researcher. During data collection, the researcher approach with the participants in polite and respectful way during interview. In general researcher of this study employed ethical consideration

4. Data Analysis and Interpretation

This chapter deals with presentation and analysis of data collected from the study subjects. This research studies about the causes and consequences of domestic violence against women in Bure town. To understand this causes and consequences the researcher collected data from target groups, the data were collected through interview and various sources from the subject of the study . After data was collected it was analysed in the following ways:

4.1. Background of the Participant

As the finding of the study indicates, the majority of the participants were aged between 30-50 years. In terms of their sex, the study included both men and women, but the majority of the participants were women's because they are highly susceptible to the issue. In terms of their educational status, most of the participants were educated those who have degree, diploma, grade 10 and 12 completed, but this doesn't means that illiterates were not participated. In case of religion, only two participants were Muslims and the rest were followers of Christianity and most of the participants were married.

4.1. Causes of Domestic Violence against Women

As the participant of this study mentioned domestic violence against women has various causes. These include financial issue, drunkenness, jealousy , and dominance of men as major causes. As far as the interview is related to causes of domestic violence against women in Bure town, Mr. x who

works in police office tries to mention causes of this violence. These are illiteracy of people, disrespect of human rights , historical background, culture and being selfish. According to Mr. S who employed on women's legal officer in Bure town states that drunkenness , expenses, men mentality towards women and dominance of men are causes of domestic violence against women.

The interview also continued to Mr. A who employed justice office tries to mention causes like rise living cost, third party interference and having more Children in times of marriage are the causes of domestic violence against women.

4.2.1. Financial Issue

As finding of the study indicates economic problems are the main causes of domestic violence. Most of the participants who faced domestic violence said that the major reason behind the occurrence of domestic violence related with financial problem. Again the root cause for financial problem in the family stretches from the lack of formal work or no income of the women which in turn affects the economic capacity of her family. Thus , men become unwilling to provide the required money for the women .

As per the finding of the study poverty or financial issue is the most dominant cause of domestic violence against women in town. Women played a key role in supporting and taking care of the poor family despite the problems of economic issues. Then women ask the husband to give them money to fulfill household expenses , but most men ignore the question of their wives . This can be interpreted in one hand men do not understand household expenses and on the other hand they thought women are responsible to fulfill it by their own and with very few amount of money.

According to head of gender case implementer and coordinator of Bure worda, states that many women reported to their office related to economic violence. Some victim women states that even they have sought their husbands prohibit them access to money for the expenses of health care.

4.2.2. Drunkenness

Drinking is also listed as main cause of domestic violence that mentioned by the participants. Excessive drinking of alcohol also been noted as a factor that causes aggressive and violent behaviour of men against their wives . The

research revealed that most causes of abuse are associated with the husband's excessive alcohol consumption. The finding shows that when men drink a lot of alcohol they used to use violent force against women to beat and harass them physically, psychologically and sexually . Some participants states that their husbands usually drink alcohol.

One participants of the study states her life experience as follows; ‘Her husband consume a lot of alcohol instead of fulfill household materials and needs and when she asks him to stop drinking alcohol and to save money he intimidate her’.

This and the above can be interpreted in one hand when men drink too much alcohol not volunteer to give money to his intimate partner and the burden to fulfill household materials only become to women .On the other hand women's sexually harassed by her intimate partner physically and sexually without interest of women.

4.1.3. Dominance of Men

This cause was explained that prevalent tradition links men violent, being powerful and seeking dominance. According to the information gained from participants some men want to do everything and to be superior to their wives. As Some other participants state that violence would occur when women are dominant. In some cases, women are dominant, men became ashamed and they believe that they are disrespected in the society and they forced their wives to work slow and work only at home. This indicates that men are manager of everything but women work what their husband ordered them to do. One participant of the study stated her life experiences as follows: “My husband is a farmer. He works most of the time on farmland. He tells me that must go together and work with me. After finished the work I go back home. He simply sits but I have to work at home too”.

According to the above participant, men usually work out side home but women work inside and outside home. This indicates that the dominance of men is another cause of violence in terms of work load of women. This action leads to violence act of both men and women.

4.1.4. Jealousy

As the finding of the study indicates jealousy is also main cause of domestic violence against women. According to the head of gender case implementer and coordinator of Bure town, there are more women who report cases related jealousy. He further explained that many of these cases reported to their office are related to men having sexual affairs with women outside of their marriage. The men ignore their women at home when they come back from the other outside. But surprisingly, there are men who do not allow their wives to go out of their home in any case and for any reason. One participant of the study stated her life experience as follows:

My husband has no source of income, I lead her family by selling tea, different alcohols including Tella. And to attract customers I laugh and talk with customers at that time my husband becomes hungry and creates quarrel with me and the customers.

As she told to the researcher he beat them always because of his jealousy.

4.3. Consequences of Domestic Violence against Women

As the finding of the study indicated, domestic violence against women has diverse impact on women, children, and family. It affects the life of women economically and psychologically. It has also negative impact on children's present and future behavior, education and their socialization. According to the information gained from participants, domestic violence have many effects that have greater risk of physical and mental health problems including loosing of confidence and depression.

4.3.1. Psychological Impact of Domestic Violence against Women

As the finding of the study indicates, most of victimised women are affected psychologically. It results depression including long time sadness. It also erodes the level of self-confidence and results to low self- esteem. As far as the interview related with consequences of domestic violence against women at Bure town, Mr X. who is employed in women affair states as follows: ‘‘Many women come in to my office and most of them were psychologically affected, they have not confidence and they fear to interact with the society’’

According to the above participant, domestic violence have psychological impact. They affect women psychologically including decreased self-confidence, ability to influence others, to interact with society and live in fear because of psychological harm endorsed by her intimate partner.

4.3.2. Economic Consequences of Domestic Violence against Women

As the finding of the study indicates, most of women who faced domestic violence have less capacity to contribute for family, for themselves and society as well. As the research revealed, victimized women were less competitive with women who were free from the victim of domestic violence economically and not use their own ability to perform best achievement as such women who were not victimized by the violence, this is because of depression or anxiety uploaded by violence of her intimate partner or husband. Women who faced domestic violence were not only affected by decreased benefit gained from their less economic activity but also forced to lose money on medical treatment for physical injuries and psychological intimidation.

The study at Canada on impact of violence against women estimates that 30% of victimized women do not attain their regular activities and do not work effectively because of physical injuries and violence by intimate partner (Day,1995).

This and the above can be interpreted in one hand domestic violence against women leads to lose money for medical treatment because of physical injuries and psychological intimidation . On the other hand, it reduces the ability of women to perform their economic activity equal with non-victimized women.

4.3.3. The Impact of Domestic Violence against Women on Children

As the finding of the study indicates, children were mainly affected by parents' violent behavior. Domestic violence against women not only affect women but also affect children's who were witnessing the violence. It has negative impact on the present and future behavior of children and their education.

As Walby (2004) states child witness of violence are more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems, perform poorly in school and be at risk

of perpetuating or exercising in the future. Mr. A who is an employed in Justice Office of Bure town states the impact of domestic violence on children as follows:

Domestic violence against women has many impacts on children, These include weakened mental ability, drop out from school and lack of having family love and this leads instability of children, decreases desire for food, feeling by family action when they interact with the society.

Thus, this shows domestic violence has negative impact on children who witnessed it. Children who witnessed domestic violence may learn that violence is the best way to resolve disagreement in family. Boys who witness violence may learn that women are not to be valued or respected and who see violence directed against women are more likely to abuse women when they grow up. Girls who witness domestic violence in their family origin are more likely to be victimized by her intimate partner, because she believes domestic violence as a culture and not report the case to expected offices.

This and the above can be interpreted in one hand, domestic violence affected children's education status include poor performance in education even drop out from school and result to scarce family love presently, on the other hand it may affect the behavior of children's in the future when they grow up, means they may learn that domestic violence as culture and best mechanism to solve the problem when they encountered in the family.

4.3.4. The Consequences of Domestic Violence against Women on Family

As the finding of the study indicates, domestic violence against women also has impact on the family. As far as the interview related with consequences of domestic violence against women in Bure town, Mr. Y who employed in police office of Bure town states the consequences of domestic violence against women on family in the following ways:

It results to divorce; destruction of wealth and economy and it decreased the economy of the family'' the researcher asked him how it decreases the economy of the family. 'And he said that, it indirectly affect the family when divorce happened the property of

family divided into two these sequentially results to decrease the growth of the economy of family.

As the researcher observed domestic violence not only affect women unilaterally but also it affects family, the largest part of the community either economically or psychologically. Thus, domestic violence against women affects the family in diverse ways such as economically, psychologically, and the research revealed this.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1. Conclusion

This study focused on assessing the causes and consequences of domestic violence against women by exploring the major causes and consequences of domestic violence against women by conducting study in Bure town in west Gojjam zone.

Despite the fact that governments formulation of policies and laws for the protection of the rights of women , domestic violence against women is still being practiced in many parts of Ethiopia including in Bure town. Domestic violence against women is entrenched mainly with the culture and religion of the society in Bure town and it is considered as normal.

The major causes of domestic violence against women are related with financial problems, drinking too much alcohol of men and women, jealousy and dominance behaviour of women over their wives . According to the data found from the study this are not the only causes of domestic violence against women but the dominant one.

Again it is found that women do not take their cases to the concerned government institutions rather they adjust or familiarize themselves with the domestic violence they face in fear of the society gossips, family pressure, and economic incapacity of women and lack of awareness on their rights protected under the Ethiopian legal system.

Last but not the least, the consequences of domestic violence against women includes not only problems on women but also problems on their children as well as the family as a whole. Women being the most affected part of the impact of domestic violence and it has an effect on education physical and

psychological development of the children. The family which is considered as basic unit of a state is also impacted with crisis when there is domestic violence against women.

5.2. Recommendation

The following recommendations are drawn based on the finding of the study in order to create an environment in which women would be able to free from domestic violence.

- The concerned organs like women affair office, police and court office should work hand in hand to drain the practice of domestic violence against women by creating awareness about women rights
- The task of creating awareness how domestic violence affect women among the public should be given greater attention. The available means of communication and media could be used for this purpose.
- Women should be aware about their rights and they should be informed to take their cases to the concerned body instead of familiarizing themselves with the violence.
- Social stereotypes on the status of women as subordinate to their husbands or to men in general should be changed through changing the attitude of the society on women inequality.
- To bring behavioural and attitudinal changes on gender equality and to minimize the ignorance of women's the strategies and programs should make to conceive different segment of the population.
- Job opportunities should be created for women who serve as a source of income because as the findings of the study indicate the main cause of domestic violence against women was financial issues.
- Rules and regulations on the issue of domestic violence against women should be applied strictly.

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