The Cause and Consequence of Gender Based Violence in Dembia Woreda, Koladiba Town.

Yeshiber Molla,
Department of Civics and Ethical Studies,
College of Social Science and the Humanity,
University of Gondar: Ethiopia

Abstract
Gender violence is a day-to-day tragedy around the world. Many females, both children and adults, have suffered a great deal from different acts of violence because of their sex. Rape, beating, female genital mutilation (FGM), abduction, and early marriage are among the dominant types of gender violence that affect women physically, psychologically, socially and economically. This study tries to focus on some of the main causes and consequences gender based violence in Dembia Woreda, Koladiba Town. The objectives of this study is identifying the root causes and consequences of GBV so as to minimize the possible outcomes of gender based violence in Dembia Woreda, Koladiba Town. Considering the research problem and objective along with the philosophy of the different research methods qualitative research method is employed for this study. For the purpose of collecting data through this method purposive sampling semi structured face to face Key Informant interviews were conducted with nine key informants were conducted from different social groups. The study found that the main cultural causes for gender based violence Dembia Woreda, Koladiba Town are the subordination of women to men in marriage, gender socialization, high amount of alcohol consumption by most of the young generation and lack of proper governmental policies. This study also identified health problem, psychological and social consequences of GBV in the study area.

1. Background
Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a universal concern. It is a problem of both the developed and the developing world. Steeves (1997) noted that “gender based violence is a global reality that kills and injures millions of girls everywhere. Those not directly attacked remain affected by an ever-present fear of violence.” UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) in its 20003 report states that one out of three women is likely to be sexually assaulted during her lifetime (Marshall 2004).

World report on violence and health defines violence as an intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, deprivation (WHO, 2002). One of the forms of violence is violence against women, also called Gender Based Violence (GBV). Gender based violence is defined as a form of violence that targets individuals or groups of individuals on the basis of their gender that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liability, whether occurring in public or private life (Heise, 1992).

Gender based violence has gained increasing international attention since the ratification of the United Nation declaration on the elimination of violence against women in Vienna in 1993, followed by the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 and the fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. These conferences adopted a plat form for action, and declared that violence against Women is an obstacle to the achievement of equity, development and peace. These conferences encouraged governments, research institutions, non-governmental organizations and other civic society organizations to promote research on the prevalence, causes and consequences of violence against women in order to mitigate the problem and measure effectiveness of interventions (ICPD, 1994).

It has been widely acknowledged that the majority of persons affected by gender-based violence are women and girls, as a result of unequal distribution of power in society between women and men. Further, women and girls that are victims of violence suffer specific consequences as a result of gender discrimination. Although countries are adopted several laws that can ensure equality of men
and women, women are still discriminated due to inadequate enforcement of the enforced laws. Violators or perpetrators of women and girls remain unpunishable due to different reasons (UN economic commission for Africa, center for gender and social development, 2008).

The health consequences of Gender-based violence (GBDV) according to Heisse (1999) include short-term health effects that have non-fatal outcomes such as minor cuts, headaches, pains and bruises. In addition, the long-term health outcomes include organ damage, chronic disabilities, mental disorders, depression, pregnancy complications and even fatal consequences such as suicide and murder. For majority of women, the persistent insults, abuse, confinement, harassment and deprivation of financial and physical resources may prove more harmful than physical attacks and result in women living in a permanent state of fear and sub-standard, mental and physical health (UNFPA, 1999). In support of this, the WHO information tool on violence notes that women have reported that the mental torture and living in fear and terror was undoubtedly the worst and most profound and long-lasting aspect of gender-based violence (WHO, 1997).

GBV is widespread, it occurs both in developed and developing countries. According the WHO, 35% of women in the world and 45% in Africa have experienced GBV in their lifetime (Sensasi, 2014). In Ethiopia alone, 49% of ever-partnered women have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner, rising to 59% ever experiencing sexual violence (Population Council, 2008). The complications of gender violence get worse in developing countries like Ethiopia where poor economic background often result in inadequate health care.

Gender-based domestic violence affects men, women and children. It is a serious problem that transcends racial, economic, social and religious lines. More so, it affects human health, undermines human dignity and in the long run become a major drawback to economic development. This becomes worse where management strategies of gender based violence are not available. One of the innovative solutions would be to investigate the cause and consequences of GBV with the aim of laying strategies to address GBV in the study area. Therefore, this study stands with the objective of identifying the root causes and consequences of GBV so as to minimize the possible outcomes of gender based violence in Dembia Woreda, Koladiba Town.

2. Research Methods

As noted in Creswell (2003), there are three familiar types of research approaches to Social research namely, quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods. Though, each approach has its own strengths and limitations, Creswell (2003) advocates that certain types of social research problems call for specific approaches. Hence, in selecting an approach one should take in to account the nature of the research problem, the personal experience of the researcher, and the audience for whom the report will be written. Considering the research problem and objective along with the philosophy of the different research methods qualitative research method is employed for this study. Data which are vital to the study were collected from various sources. The research used both primary and secondary sources of data. For the purpose of collecting data through this method purposive sampling semi structured face to face Key Informant interviews were conducted with nine key informants were conducted from different social groups. The interview was conducted with two women, children and youth affairs office experts, two women who experienced gender based violence, four men, one police officer and with twojudges in Koladiba Town. Focus Group Discussion was also conducted. The respondents were selected based on their willingness to express the issueat hand and the issue that were discussed. Finally, the whole collected data were analyzed in thematically organized way.

3. Description of the Study Area

Dembia woreda is located at 370 26’E longitude and 120 17’ N latitude. The woreda capital, Koladiba, is located 750 km North of Addis Ababa and 35 km southwest of the zonal capital, Gondar. The woreda shares borders with Gondar town and Lay Armachiho in the North, Gondar Zuria Woreda in the east, Chilga and Alefaworedas in the west and part of Lake Tana in the south. Total area of the woreda is 1490 km2 with 45 kebeles (of which five are urban centers). According to 2007 census, the Woreda has total 270,994 (247,643 rural and 23,351urban) population. The total population can be
The altitude of the woreda ranges from 1790 and 2600 meter above sea level. The agro ecology of the woreda is temperate (Woinadega) with mean annual minimum and maximum temperature of 11 and 32 respectively and the mean annual rain fall ranges from 995 to 1175mm.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Types of Gender Based Violence in the Study Area

Rape is one of the prevalent gender based violence across different parts of the world with varied degree of prevalence rates. It is also the other type of GBV mostly occurred in the study area. According to my interview with women, children and youth affairs experts most of the time females prefer to be silent while they are victims of rape or rape attempt. This is due to the culture of silence to cover what the society considers as shame.

Economic abuse is one of the types of gender based violence in the Koadiba. Women are not entitled to administer their income as equal to their husband as well as they are not allowed to sell and buy the family assets. According to the data obtained from the respondents, male have culturally endowed with the right to administer the property in general. It is on the free will of the husband that the whole families supply with food and clothing. Due to this, women are emotionally mistreated to depend on their male partner on their family affairs. They are totally or partially ignored from their property by their intimate partner. This created economic dependency that gives rise to increased risk of targeted violence and even economical and psychological pressure was expended onto them which made them suffer high levels of stress physically and mentally. Similarly, the outcome of the FGD has shown that GBV against women is a serious issue.

Moreover, other than economic abuse, sexual harassment is also the other type of GBV in the study area. By sexual harassment means, the mechanism by which females are insulted, motivated to unwanted sexual behavior and coerced to do what they never want to do. As the data obtained from FGD and key informant interviews revealed that women are insulted in reference to their body like breast, leg, eye, fore head, ear, fatness, thinness, tallness, shortness, body shape, etc.

Some of the participants explained that sexual violence is one predominant form of violence existing in the society. One participant stated that when a girl is born or turns into a woman, the issues on GBV arises. She also adds up that GBV begins from neighborhood to society. Other forms of violence such as psychological violence are implicitly stated by one participant.

4.2. Causes for Gender Based Violence in the Study Area

There are many factors that cause GBV in Koladiba Town. Attitudinal difference between male and female sex is one of the causes for gender based violence in Koladiba Town. The community values one gender in comparison to another or differently through the culture of the social groups. In the study area male are valued and favored than females. Most parents prefer to give birth for baby boy than baby girl especially at the first pregnancy. This becomes the first stage of discrimination on female begins by the female sex. Women by themselves have special regard for boys than girls among the study area. Because the male are considered to be a symbol of respect for the family and inherits the parents. Therefore a social attitude which is attached with male sex and female sex is one of the major causes of GBV in the study area.

The subordination of women to men in marriage was often used as a symbol of other types of subordination, providing excellent examples of the way in which gender hierarchies can represent other social and political hierarchies (Mead and Wisner-Hanks, 2004). Marriage is one of the areas where girls are appropriated for gender based violence in the study area. This is expressed in a way of new form of marriage which expose woman in the current situation to violence is the emergence and prevalence of cohabitation as a marriage life. The boy and the girl live together without the consent of the family and finally results in unwanted pregnancy, physical violence like beating, injuring, insulting, etc. There is no way to return back to her family for the girl to escape the violence since she move with the boy without the consent of her family.
As the data obtained from FGD and key informant interviews shows that, high amount of alcohol consumption by most of the young generation especially in the study area is also the other cause of GBV in the study area. The local alcohol producing system is most of the time indigenous to the society. There is strong relationship between alcohol consumption and gender based violence in Koladiba Town. According to my interview with the police officer, the majority of people of the study area consume the locally produced alcohols like Arekiand Tela and the uncontrolled consumption of alcohol by youths creates a society where crime and violence is prevalent.

The participants of the FGD were asked the causes of GBV. Majority of the participants stated that lack of awareness and poor attitude to be the main reasons. One participant stated that lack of proper governmental policies is a major causative factor for GBV. Women keep silent though they are affected in many situations. This becomes feasible for perpetrators to engage in more high level crimes which are associated with the welfare of women. Other factors that aggravate the condition are lack of awareness and the predominance of poverty.

4.3. Consequences of Gender Based Violence in the Study Area

One type gender based violence consequences comes from rape of woman without the preparation of girls. When we look the issue form the dimension of rape, it is crucial to think of the possibility of unwanted pregnancy to the woman without preparation. This woman will be challenged by the pressure of the family, means of income to feed the baby, place to live and so many others. This gender based violence up on this woman complicated her relation with the family and her means of survival in the future. According to FGD result, women who are raped also exposed to sexually transmitted disease like HIV/AIDS. In this case, HIV/AIDS infected woman may face high problem of health and social problems like stigmatization.

According to WHO (1996), mental stress or psychological abuse is often more unbearable than physical brutality and in some cases it leads to incidences of suicide and suicide attempts. Similar results have been found in United States whereby 35-40 % of battered women have expressed psychological distress (UNFPA, 1999). Poverty can be both causes and consequences of gender based violence. In the case of gender based domestic violence context, women are exposed to poverty much more than their earlier life while they are divorced from their partner.

As the data obtained from FGD and key informant interviews shows that, the domestic position of women in gender division of labour is a challenge to earn income by engaging on the public spheres of life. The cultural influence have its own role to perpetuate women's to poverty. The culture shapes the attitudes of both men and women towards economic decision maker and decision implementer. This also accelerates women's migration to urban areas in order to earn income.

According to FGD participants, violent crimes like wife beating, rape and early marriage causes different types of physical harm or injury up on women. Experts from women’s and children's affair office stated that sometime in the study area women experience physical disability that is posed from gender based violence. Moreover, death is also the ultimate possible outcome of GBV. One of my respondents gave an example of a woman who passed away after sustaining injuries from the husband’s beating.

The interview result with women who experienced gender based violence shows that verbal violence cause them to have lower self-esteem and it leads them exposed to end up failing in school grades, as participation in class is affected. Suicide was also given as a negative effect of gender based violence where the party being looked down upon will find no reason to live as she/he will consider her/himself unworthy of living. Under-development is another effect as once a girl child is given off to marriage the potential of that individual is not recognized. She will be faced with family responsibility at an immature age such so that focusing on her own development might be a challenge. Moreover, according to the interview with children and youth affairs office experts of the town some of the girls may end up venturing into commercial sex working after their right to education is denied to them.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations
GBV in the study area includes physical, sexual, psychological, and economical violence. The primary data shows that women in the study area faced all types of violence. Psychological violence took the major stake followed by sexual, physical and economical. The combination of some or all violations is also the experience of the respondents. Moreover, it is also identified that the causes for GBV in Koldiba Town are the subordination of women to men in marriage, gender socialization, high amount of alcohol consumption and by most of the young generation and lack of proper governmental policies. It can be stated here that the main contributory factors towards GBV in the study area is the fact that there does not exist adequate knowledge or awareness on the issue. This awareness is not just lacking in the case of the community people but also lacking in professionals who work with the rights of women who are subject to such violence. For the betterment of this situation it is necessary to take stand of the situation and ensure that such women are adequately recognized and supported. Gender based violence have so many health, psychological and social consequences on women in the study area. Rape of woman without the preparation of girls which leads to unwanted pregnancy to the woman without preparation and exposed to sexually transmitted disease like HIV/AIDS. Moreover, the verbal violence causes them to have lower self-esteem and leads to be in different social problems. In addition to the above mentioned consequences of GBV in the study area, it is also identified that victims of gender based violence exposed to disease of mental illness like mistrust of others, depression and anxiety, self-isolation, craziness, etc. these mental illness have their own social, economic, political, cultural crisis on individual in particular and the society in general.

References
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