



**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**  
**CENTER FOR GENDER STUDIES**

**EXPLORING THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO INCREASING  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS DURING THE COVID-19  
PANDEMIC, THE CASE OF BOLE –SUB CITY OF ADDIS ABABA CITY  
ADMINISTRATION**

**BY**

**HANA BEZABIH SEUWY**

**JUNE, 2022**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**



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**A thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies of Addis Ababa  
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**ADVISOR: EMEZAT HAILU (PH.D)**

**JUNE, 2022**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

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## **DECLARATION**

I, declare that this thesis entitles," Exploring the Contributing Factors to Increasing of Violence Against Women and Girls During COVID 19 Pandemic in the case of Bole-sub city of Addis Ababa city Administration" is my original work and has not been presented for a degree or masters at any other university by another person. I also acknowledge all the materials that I used for this thesis.

### **Declared by:**

Name: -----

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Date-----

### **Confirmed by Advisor:**

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Sign: -----

Date: -----

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## **Acronyms and Abbreviations**

ACPF	African Child Policy Forums
AMREF	African Medical and Research Foundation
AWSAD	Association for Women Sanctuary Development
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
DV	Domestic Violence
EDH	Ethiopian Demographic health survey
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
GBV	Gender based violence
HIV	Human Immune Virus
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
UNODC	United Nation Office on Drug and Crime
UN	United Nation
UNFPA	United Nation Fund for Population Activities
UN	United Nation
VAW	Violence Against Women
WHO	World Health Organization

## **Abstract**

*The research title entitles with exploring the contributing factors for the increasing of violence against women and girl at bole sub-city in the Addis Ababa city administration. This thesis therefore takes a closer look at the factors that contribute to the increasing of violence against women and girl at the time of COVID 19 in comparison with prior to COVID 19 at the study area, in Addis Ababa city administration. Qualitative research method is utilized in having an in-depth interviewee and key informant interviewee .By using a snowball sampling technique and purposive sampling technique. Therefore, the result from the data indicated that the contributing factors for the increasing of violence against women and girls could be categorized in to two phases The first phase of the factors are the existing reasons of violence prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 such as poverty, trend of normalizing the case of violence, lack of awareness, trusting people without knowing the true personality of the perpetrator. The second phases are the new factors that came up with the following of the outbreak of the pandemic those are the existing of the pandemic by itself, lockdown, victims misperception that legal institution were closed, regarding dropping charges, regarding the increase of under-reported cases of violence, concerning the trend of Watching pornography image and video emotional factors. Therefore, as per the research finding those contributing factors that have existed prior to and after the outbreak of COVID-19 has played crucial role for the increase of violence against women and girl during the pandemic at Bole Sub-city of Addis Ababa city administration. The study also find out the impacts of violence on the lives of women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the impacts get worsened in line with COVID 19 further the study participant recommends their idea to prevent violence against women and girls when such pandemics occur in the future.*

*Key words: COVID-19, violence against women and girls, Lock down*

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the study

The term "violence against women" refers to any act of gender-based violence that causes or is likely to cause physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or private life, according to the United Nations General Assembly's 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. Increased interpersonal violence especially violence against women and children has been related to crises and periods of unrest. Pandemics are no different. Indeed, pandemics' regional or global nature, as well as the dread and uncertainty that comes with them, provide an enabling atmosphere that can exacerbate or initiate various types of VAW and Children (Wanqing, 2020).

Throughout history, infectious illnesses with pandemic potential have emerged and spread on a regular basis. Humanity has already been tormented by major pandemics and epidemics such as plague, cholera, flu, severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus (SARS-COVID 19), and Middle East respiratory syndrome corona virus (MERS-COVID 19). The world is currently dealing with the new corona virus disease pandemic of 2019 (COVID-19). The COVID-19 pandemic, commonly known as the corona virus pandemic is a current corona virus disease pandemic that began in 2019, (COVID19). The corona virus, which causes severe acute respiratory syndrome, is to blame. The outbreak began in December 2019 in Wuhan, Hubei, China on March 11, 2020, the world Health organization (WHO) declared it a pandemic (WHO, 2020).

The virus is spread from person to person through little drops produced by coughing or sneezing. It spreads most quickly when people are in close proximity to one another, which is why social separation is advised (WHO, 2021).

On February 14, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic was discovered to have spread to Africa after only three months. The infection has spread across the continent in three months. Ethiopia's first case was announced by the federal ministry of health March 13, 2020. There were 274,601 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported to the world health organization between March 13th, 2020, and June 17th, 2021, with 4,260 deaths (WHO). A total of 1,948,073 vaccine doses have been delivered as of June 14, 2021 (Federal Ministry of Health, 2021).

Since the beginning of the pandemic, there has been widespread concern that the lockdown measures put in place to stop the spread of COVID-19 have escalated gender-based and interpersonal violence against women and girls. Women have been kept at home because of their limited mobility, increasing their chance of being victimized by intimate partners or family members. According to the United Nations Office on drugs and crime's (UNODC) current edition of the Global Study on Homicide, the house remains the most dangerous place for them (UNODC, 2019).

This study aims to investigate the factors that contribute to rising levels of violence in one of Addis Ababa sub-cities, Bole, where such rising levels of violence against women and girls have been observed in comparison to the non-COVID-19 pandemic period. The study attempts to show the impact of the increasing levels of violence against women and girls in Bole, a sub-city of Addis Ababa City Administration.

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

Many governments have taken substantial steps, such as imposing national lockdowns, as a result of the worldwide pandemic, COVID-19, being designated a Public health emergency of international concern on 30 January 2020 and subsequently proclaimed a pandemic on 11 March. Ethiopia's government also adopted a number of steps, ranging from public health emergency response to declaring a state of emergency. To limit the potential risks of COVID-19, a communication plan and a state of urgency have been implemented. By personalizing risk communication and community involvement efforts at various levels, the plan segments the population. The government has resorted to drastic measures such as lockdown and declaring a state of emergency. However, it was not overly rigid and has not been very draconian (Mekonnen, 2020).

In Ethiopia, the global pandemic had a number of detrimental economic, political, and educational consequences. In Ethiopia, several sources of information show that the prevalence of violence against women has grown since COVID-19 was released. For example, Hiwot essay, titled Sexual violence during COVID-19 (2020), indicates that rape has increased significantly during the COVID-19 epidemic, putting women and children at greater danger in Addis Ababa. As she claimed, rape is the most common form of sexual violence in Addis Ababa. FGM is often practiced on females in more rural regions. During COVID-19, sexual violence has increased, although the government does not yet know why. Is it because everyone is at home, or is it due to anything else? The ministry of women, children, and youth affairs is now investigating why women and girls are being raped at an increasing rate. (Hiwot , 2020 & Health Africa UK, 2020).

The women and children's Heads of the Addis Ababa City Administration also stated that 101 children were raped in Addis Ababa within two months following the Ethiopian COVID-19 outbreak. This represents a substantial 51% gain over the previous year's two months. As she conducts live interviews with Walta TV (Almaz, May/2020), Another Walta TV response, (Madam Mahelet May/2020). The Ethiopian Women's Joint Vice Chairperson reveals that there were emergency shelters exclusively for women and girls who had been victims of violence. As a result, those erecting makeshift shelters are signaling an uptick in violence against women and girls. Furthermore, they demonstrate that during the COVID-19 pandemic, violence against women and girls escalated, prompting the establishment of temporary shelters in a variety of approaches to address the issue and give care to survivors of violence.

Specifically, in the study area in Bole sub-city, the violence committed against women and children has increased during COVID-19 pandemic. The total violence record in 2020 compared to the previous year has increased by 55.62%. The rate of violence in 2019 was 22.2% while this increased to 77.8% in 2020. The number of victims in 2019 was 41 while this number increased to 143 in 2020. This data is based on the nine months report of the Addis Ababa police commission, Bole sub-city women and children affaire office. This clearly shows that the violence that is committed against women and girls is increasing during the COVID-19 time as compared to non-COVID-19 time.

Different researchers in Ethiopia have undertaken studies on the issue of violence against women and girls. Despite the fact that the preceding studies discussed different correlated points of violence against women and girls. To the best of my knowledge, no research has been done on the exploring the contributing factors to increasing violence against women and girls during COVID 19 pandemic, the case of Bole sub-city of Addis Ababa city administration.

Therefore, based on these facts, the researcher believed that further research was needed to find out the contributing factors to increasing violence against women and girls during COVID 19 pandemic, the case of Bole sub-city of Addis Ababa city administration. And finally, this study recommends various measures that would help to prevent violence against women and girls if such a pandemic occurs in the future.

### **1.3. Research questions**

- What are the contributing factors for increasing violence against women and girls during Covid19 pandemic at the study area?
- What are the impacts of violence on those impacted by increased levels of violence during COVID-19 pandemic at the study area?
- In what ways can violence against women and girls be prevented in the future if such kinds of pandemic occur?

### **1.4. Objectives of the Research**

#### **1.4.1. General Objective**

The general objective of this research is to explore the contributing factors for the increased violence and impact on women and children during the COVID-19 pandemic in Bole sub-city, Addis Ababa City Administration.

### **1.4.2. Specific Objectives**

- To assess the contributing factors to increased violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic
- To assess the impacts of different types of violence on the lives of women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To forward appropriate recommendations and suggestions that are believed to be applied to prevent violence against women and girls if such a pandemic occurs in the future

### **1.5. Significance of the study**

The study will be important to find out the contributing factors to increasing violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic and also the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls. In addition, the study was tried to assess measures taken by different bodies concerning violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the study tries to implicate necessary measures that have to be applied in order to tackle any form of violence against women and girls when this kind of pandemic occurs in the future. Again, the study will benefit other researchers as an initial input to study more on the issues of pandemic COVID-19's impact on violence against women and girls.

### **1.6. Scope of the study**

The study is focused on one of the sub-cities in Addis Ababa city Administration which is Bole sub-city. It's the area where the rate of violence against women is highly exposed during pandemic COVID-19 as compared to the previous non COVID-19 time according to the report data received from the sub cities.

### **1.7. Limitation of the Study**

To conduct this research, the researcher faces some challenges related with identifying violence against women survivors since the violence case is more private and secured it was challenging to find them and making face to face interview to gain some information that is crucial for the study around the study area. In addition to this, the researcher encountered lack of finding of Scholarly articles or similar conducted researches in this particular issue particularity in the

context of Ethiopia. Even though, the researcher has faced these difficulties, different measures had taken to overcome the challenges. Among these, convincing the concerned organization gives permission to meet the victims of violence. And also since the researcher is member of the federal police makes comfortable opportunity to convince the concerned body and to achieve the aim of the research.

## **1.8. Organization of the research**

The thesis is organized into five chapters. The first chapter deals with the background, the statement of the problem, the objective and the significance of the study. In this chapter, limitations of the study, definition of terms and organization of the study are also incorporated. In the second chapter, important areas of related literature on relevant topics for the study of violence against women and the pandemic COVID-19, including theoretical studies are reviewed. The third chapter discusses the methodology of the study. In this part, the participants, source of data collection, sampling technique and size, data processing and analysis, and procedures of ethical issues are discussed. The fourth chapter is concerned with the data analysis, discussions and findings. The last chapter deals with the summary, conclusions and recommendations. Finally, lists of bibliography and appendixes are included.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

#### **2. Organization of the section**

The concept of violence and COVID, in particular, are the key concerns that are addressed in chapter two as part of the literature assessment. There is a part that explains the definition of COVID 19, as well as the meaning of violence, the intersection of COVID 19 pandemic and violence against women and Children, the different forms of violence, contributing factor for the increasing of violence against women and children, multi-dimensional impact of COVID 19 on women and children in Africa, things to be done to tackle Violence against Women at the Time of COVID-19 It also looked at what existing laws say about stopping violence against women and children. And theoretical framework is included under this section.

#### **2.1. COVID 19 Pandemic**

The disease COVID-19 is caused by a new corona virus strain known as COVID, where CO stands for corona, VI for virus, and D for disease. Animals and people can both contract the corona virus; Fever, cough, and shortness of breath are all symptoms of the infection. On March 11th, 2019, the World health organization's Director General declared the virus a global pandemic on the 11th of March, 2019 (Mekonnen, 2020).

COVID-19's effects on women and girls are aggravated merely because of their gender in every field, from health to the economy, security to social protection. Gender-based violence is on the rise as the COVID-19 epidemic cause's increased economic and social hardship, as well as restrictions on transportation and social isolation. Many women are being forced to "lockdown" at home with their abusers, while supports for survivors are being disrupted or made unavailable. These problems are exacerbated by overcrowding, substance misuse, and limited access to

treatments. Before the pandemic, it was projected that one out of every three women would face violence at some point in their lives. Many of these women are now locked with their abusers at home. (Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on women, 2020).

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres' report shows that globally, 243 million women and girls aged 15–49 have been subjected to sexual and physical violence perpetrated by an intimate partner in the previous 12 months (United Nation Policy Brief, 2020).

As more people choose to stay at home, there have been allegations of an upsurge in intimate relationship or domestic violence in numerous countries. As people stay at home, women in violent marriages and their children are more likely to be exposed to abuse. As women's care giving responsibilities have grown, so have their livelihoods, access to basic necessities, social and protective networks, and services for survivors. There is also more stress in the home. As a result, there is a higher likelihood of violence, and survivors lose their few remaining resources. The health sector plays a vital role in minimizing the impact of violence on women and their children as part of the COVID-19 response, especially through guaranteeing access to needed services for survivors of violence (Women's Aid UK, 2020).

Despite the limited data, different studies indicate that, based on emerging evidence and lessons from past health crises, there is strong evidence to suggest that women and girls in Sub Saharan Africa will suffer from extreme and multifaceted negative secondary impact as a result of the COVID-19 crisis (Rafaeli, T. and Hutchinson, G. 2020).

## **2.2. COVID 19 Pandemics and Violence against Women and Children**

Increased interpersonal violence, especially violence against women and children, has been related to crises and periods of unrest. Pandemics are no different. Indeed, pandemics' regional or global nature, as well as the dread and uncertainty that comes with them, provide an enabling atmosphere that can exacerbate or initiate various types of VAW and Children. While there are few thorough studies indicating increases in VAW/C reporting during or after a pandemic, media accounts and anecdotal evidence abound. When the Ebola outbreak hit West Africa, for example, an "epidemic" of "rape, sexual assault, and violence against women and girls" was widely documented as collateral damage by the UN. As of mid-March 2020, there have been reports

from Australia, Brazil, and the United States in the current new corona virus outbreak (COVID-19). As of mid-march 2020, there are already reports from Australia, Brazil, China, and the United States suggesting an increase in VAW/C. In China's Jianli County (central Hubei province), the police station reported receiving 162 reports of intimate partner violence (IPV) in February—which was three times the number reported in February 2019 (Wanqing, 2020).

"90 percent of the occurrences of violence are tied to the COVID-19 outbreak," says Wan Fei, the founder of an IPV non-profit. In early March 2020, the National Domestic Violence Hotline issued a statement on "Staying Safe" during COVID-19, which included anecdotal evidence of perpetrators using the virus as a scare tactic to threaten or isolate victims, and urged those at risk to make a safety plan, practice self-care, and seek help. According to a poll of 400 frontline workers in Australia, 40% reported an increase in "help requests" and 70% reported an increase in case complexity (van Gelder et al., 2020b.)

Intimate partner violence (IPV) and digital violence are the two types of VAW that the COVID-19 pandemic is most likely to aggravate. Intimate relationship violence is a particularly common type of VAW. IPV is reported to have been experienced by 30% of women who have been in a relationship at some point in their lives. During a lockdown, when families are forced to remain in their homes, this type of interpersonal violence is extremely prevalent. As the world shifts to remote work and increased Internet usage for virtual interaction, the epidemic is also likely to increase harassed, stalked, or intimidated via technology like texting and social networking. Global Internet use grew by 50 to 70% during the pandemic. Sexual harassment, zoom bombing, stalking, threats, and sex trolling are all made easier as a result of this the avenues through which IPV and digital violence are exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic (UN, 2021).

The pandemic has resulted in some of the most extensive government lockdown orders in history, which have been implemented with the full force of the law in various countries. Women who are subjected to domestic violence have little possibility of escaping. In Malaysia, the Philippines, and Nepal, physical violence-related searches such as "violent relationship", "cover bruises", and "my boyfriend beats me" grew by 47 percent, 63 percent, and 55 percent, respectively, from October 2019 to September 2020 (UN, April 2021).

According to existing data from a big data analysis undertaken by UN Women, Quilt.AI, and UNFPA in eight Asia-Pacific countries to uncover trends on social media platforms and search engines, reported incidences of domestic violence increased during lockdown times. Since the commencement of the COVID-19 epidemic, there has been a sharp spike in searches for VAW, which peaked during times of movement restrictions, such as lock downs. The effects of violence on women and their children's health, particularly intimate partner/domestic abuse, are severe. Injuries and major physical, emotional, sexual, and reproductive health problems, such as sexually transmitted infections, HIV, and unwanted pregnancies, can arise from violence against women. Women's violence is extremely common. The most common form of violence against women is intimate relationship violence. In their lifetime, one out of every three women has experienced physical and/or sexual assault by an intimate partner or sexual violence by any attacker. The majority of this is domestic violence. During every form of emergency, including epidemics, violence against women tends to rise. Although data are scarce, reports from china, the United Kingdom, the United States, and other countries of 2020 suggest an increase in domestic violence cases since the COVID-19 outbreak began. According to the report of COVID-19 and violence against women the number of domestic violence cases reported to a police station in Jingzhou, a city in Hubei Province, tripled in February 2020, compared with the same period the previous year. (COVID-19 and Violence against Women What the Health Sector/System Can Do, 2020).

### **2.3. Definition of violence against women and girls**

The following definition of violence against women (VAW) is from the United Nations General Assembly's 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (A/RES/48/104). For the purposes of this Declaration, the term "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. Physical, sexual, and psychological violence against women includes, but is not limited to, battering, sexual abuse of female children in the home, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation, and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence, and exploitation; and (b) physical, sexual,

and psychological violence occurring in the general community (Gmelin, Raible, Dick, Kukke, & Miller, 2017).

As of the 1990s, the world society began to identify violence against women as a barrier to women's human rights, following years of agitation by the women's rights movement. GBV is a barrier to gender equality, according to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which asked member states to disclose relevant data and steps taken to address the issue in 1992. In 1993, the United Nations' Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women offered a formal definition of VAW: "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life." This definition has since been adopted in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and is accepted within the international community.

Women's rights violations can be committed by the family, the community, or the government. Battering, sexual abuse (including of female minors), sexual harassment and intimidation, rape (including marital rape), harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, trafficking, and forced prostitution are all examples of acts that fall under the concept of VAW. Recent definitions of VAW have been amended to include digital violence in light of the shifting world of technology and increased internet access. July 2018 resolution from the United Nations General Assembly recognized digital VAW as a "growing concern," describing VAW in digital contexts to include: harassment, stalking, bullying, threats of sexual and gender-based violence, death threats, arbitrary or unlawful surveillance and tracking, trafficking in persons, extortion, censorship, and the hacking of digital accounts, mobile telephones, and other electronic devices, with a view to discrediting women and girls and/or inciting other violations and abuses against them.

Violence can be defined in a variety of ways. Violence is defined by the World Health organization as the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or a group or community that results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development, or deprivation. (WHO, 2020) Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of the most common human rights violations globally, affecting one-third of all women at some point in their lives. It is the leading cause of

death and disability in women of all ages, as well as having severe health consequences. VAWG is a significant roadblock to poverty reduction and peace building. Violence against women and girls is defined as any act of gender-based violence that causes or is likely to cause bodily, sexual, or mental pain or suffering to women or girls, including threats of such actions, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or private life. Physical, sexual, and psychological abuse perpetrated or permitted by the state in the home or in the community are examples of violence against women and girls (UN Women, 2020).

### **2.3.1 Different types of Violence against women and children**

There are different types of violence that occurs from different situations and different factors. Domestic abuse, often known as "domestic violence" or "intimate partner violence," is a pattern of behavior intended to establish or retain power and control over an intimate partner in any relationship. Nearly one in every three women in the world has experienced domestic violence at some point in her life. Africans have the highest prevalence of all of these. (37%) (Biftu et al, 2019). Physical aggression can also be shown by physical hostile acts such as kicking, biting, slapping, beating, or strangling. Accidents are frequently used to cover up intentional injuries. Women are occasionally critically harmed, and in some circumstances, they die as a result of their injuries (Krantz, 2005).

Psychological, mental, or emotional violence, on the other hand, refers to acts such as barring a woman from visiting her relatives and friends, persistent humiliation or belittlement, economic constraints, violence or threats against valued things, and other forms of controlling conduct (Krantz, 2005).

Depression, suicide attempts, posttraumatic stress disorder, other forms of anxiety, and alcohol and drug misuse and dependency are all mental health consequences of violence. The poor mental health consequences of sexual assault and rape have been well-documented, and they overlap significantly with the consequences of physical violence. Shock, tremendous dread, numbness, uncertainty, overwhelming helplessness, and/or disbelief, as well as self-blame, are among short-term emotional reactions to sexual assault. Fear, anxiety disorders (including phobias and obsessive-compulsive disorder), depression, suicide attempts, sexual dysfunction, low self-esteem, interpersonal problems, and substance misuse are among mental health

consequences of sexual assault. (Bonnie E. Carlson and Alissa Pollitz Worden, Michelle van Ryn, Ronet Bachman, 2003).

Sexual violence, on the other hand, might be perpetrated by a family member, a dating partner, an acquaintance, or a stranger and it can affect young girls and teenagers as well as adults. As with gang rapes, a woman can be sexually violated by one or more people. Rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual violence are all phrases that are frequently used interchangeably (Krantz, 2005).

As we have seen above, there are different points of view on intersection of violence and COVID 19 pandemic, but it was difficult to find a study conducted on the contributing factors to the increasing of violence against women and girls during COVID 19 pandemic. The current literature also attempts to show the contributing factors to the increasing of violence against women and girls during COVID 19 pandemic. By exploring the victims data report prevalence in line with the existing of COVID 19 from the police institution at the study area.

### **2.3.2. Contributing factors for the increasing of violence against women and girls during COVID 19**

Violence against women and children rises during times of crisis. Pandemics, such as COVID-19 enhance the dangers of violence against women and children while also complicating the implementation of effective prevention measures. The loss of employment, money, or other assets can place a strain on a family's finances. When traditional gender norms dictate that men should provide for their families, this reality can lead to feelings of inadequacy, insecurity, and loss of control, leading to power assertion, including violence towards partners, spouses, children, or other family members. When poverty and the inability to meet basic needs exist, girls are more likely to be married young or sexually exploited. Quarantine isolation, and physical separation, as well as increasing domestic and care obligations, raise the likelihood of tensions, stress, anxiety, and mental health disorders in families. This can lead to further fighting and quarreling, which can lead to abuse. It can also take the shape of dangerous coping habits, such as excessive drinking, which has been linked to an increased risk of abuse. Women and girls are at an even greater danger of being abused in this environment as preventative initiatives adapt to deliver programming, especially through online modalities. As more people use

technology for professional, educational, and social activities, there has been an increase in documenting of violence against women online.

During the epidemic, quarantine procedures and self-isolation rules increased internet use by 50 percent to 70 percent. Physical threats, sexual harassment, stalking, zoom bombing, and sexes trolling, among other types of online abuse, are perpetrated against women and girls. According to studies from several nations, there has been a significant increase in allegations of online abuse and bullying, notably towards minors, during this epidemic. Furthermore, pornographic traffic has increased considerably, as has the possibility of sex tortion, throughout this time. These factors make it difficult to ensure that a preventative program that requires internet participation does not cause unintentional harm (Younes, 2020).

For every additional three months of lockdown, the UN Population Fund anticipates that the COVID-19 pandemic will result in 15 million additional GBV infections worldwide. This statistic is calculated based on a 20% increase in violence during lockdowns. According to the information supplied in media reports and summarized in this section, a 20% increase is a conservative estimate, with some nations reporting a doubling of calls to domestic violence helplines. Even with limited evidence, it's evident that the combined effects of lockdowns and wider pandemic conditions increase violence and hinder victims' capacity to report instances or seek treatment. Emerging data reveals that VAW has become more widespread over the world after the emergence of COVID-19. In the last year, an estimated 243 million girls and women aged 15 to 49 were victims of physical or sexual assault by intimate relationship. The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on violence fit within a larger pattern of violence against women increasing during emergency situations and illness outbreaks. For example, during the 2014 Ebola outbreak, the adolescent pregnancy rate in portions of Sierra Leone soared by 65 percent, owing to an increase in rapes during the epidemic. Several variables contribute to the increase in violence experienced by women during public health crises. During the COVID-19 epidemic, three factors contributed to increased violence and decreased support: (1) increased exposure to perpetrators due to lockdown orders and care responsibilities (2) triggering stressful environments for perpetrators, and (3) reduced support services. (UN, April 2021).

- Violence against women is exacerbated by anxiety, disruption of social and defensive networks, and a lack of access to assistance.

- The likelihood of close partner violence increases when long-distance measures are applied and people are urged to stay at home. Women and their children, for example, are more prone to be victims of violence since their families spend more time together and are dealing with increased stress and possible economic or unemployment issues.
- During this outbreak, ladies are given extra attention. School closures exacerbate this burden and put them under even more strain.
- Loss of livelihood and income lowers access to essential needs and services, increases family stress, and exacerbates tensions and violence for women (many of whom are unpaid workers). Women may become increasingly vulnerable to financial abuse as their wealth increases.
- Abusers may employ COVID-19 limitations to exert authority and control over their victims, limiting access to resources, assistance, and psychosocial support from both formal and informal networks.
- Perpetrators may also deny access to basic things like soap and hand sanitizer.
- Attackers can exert control over and circulate false information about the sickness, humiliating their partners in the process.
- Critical sexual and reproductive health services, including those for abused women, may be more difficult to obtain.
- Other services, including as phone lines, crisis centers, shelters, legal aid, and protection services, may be cut, making it more difficult for women with sex to seek the minimal supports available to them. UN women, (2020).

Report on COVID-19's Impact on African Girls Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa, hundreds of thousands of individuals have been infected, and the livelihoods of millions have been impacted, according to the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) and Plan International in June 2020. It's also worth noting that several countries made good use of the lead time before the pandemic hit the continent, putting in place the required control and mitigation measures. The pandemic's rapid evolution and multifaceted impact, on the other hand, have taken many governments and other actors off guard, making it difficult to respond promptly and effectively. This has been exacerbated by the continent's already inadequate health systems. Africa's position in the fight against the epidemic has become dangerous, with fewer than 2 hospital beds per

1,000 people on average, with several western countries (over 71 so far) banning exports of COVID-19 vital supplies. Control and mitigation methods aimed at reducing infection rates have worsened the status of already vulnerable children, particularly in Africa, where child protection agencies are already strained. Millions of girls have been denied food, basic healthcare, and protection, while millions more have been subjected to abuse and exploitation. The pandemic's control and mitigation methods have been felt more acutely by children, particularly in disadvantaged African communities. Even so, girls have been more adversely affected than boys. COVID-19-related quarantines, stay-at-home measures, and movement restrictions have brought prospective victims and perpetrators together in the confines of the home, exposing girls to abuse and violence more frequently. (African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) and Plan International, 2020).

### **2.3.3. Impact of COVID 19 on Women and Girls in Africa**

Women and girls have been disproportionately harmed and killed by epidemics and pandemics throughout history, and COVID-19 is no different. Existing social and cultural norms and practices that underlie structures of systemic gender discrimination and marginalization glaringly manifest themselves. In emergency situations, societies and institutions revert to instincts to manage and survive, exposing previously hidden and suppressed beliefs and practices. A confluence of variables in Africa puts girls and adolescents at danger of marginalization, prejudice, and neglect. Gender and social conventions have always put girls at a disadvantage compared to the rest of the population. Pandemics, like other crises, frequently cause social infrastructure and services to fail, causing health transportation, food, sanitation, legal security, and other governing structures to collapse or become dysfunctional. As a result, women and children may be exposed to more human rights violations, including gender-based violence.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated and added yet another layer of risk to an already dangerous web of vulnerabilities for African girls, who account for about half of the continent's entire child population. Gender equality and the multifaceted vulnerability of girls have been emphasized to an unprecedented degree. The pandemic has raised serious worries about the possibility of reversing years of progress in Africa toward gender equality and human development (African Child Policy Forum and Plan International, 2020).

### **2.3.4. Things to be done to tackle Violence against Women and girls at the Time of COVID-19**

Despite the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has put a huge strain on health systems, particularly frontline health professionals, there are some things that can be done to aid women and children who have been victims of violence. Governments and policymakers must incorporate various types of services to address violence, according to WHO declaration on COVID-19 and violence against women and what the health sector/system can do on 7 April 2020. We assist women in their COVID-19 preparation and response strategies, as well as identifying ways to make physical distance measures more accessible to them.

- Health facilities must identify and provide information about services for survivors throughout the country (e.g., hotlines, shelters, rape crisis centers, and counseling), including opening hours, contact information, and whether services can be provided remotely, as well as establish referral links.
- Health providers need to be aware of the risks and health consequences of violence against women. They can help women who disclose by offering first-line support and medical treatment. First-line support includes: listening empathetically and without judgment, inquiring about needs and concerns, validating survivors' experiences and feelings, enhancing safety, and connecting survivors to support services. The use of health and telemedicine in safely addressing violence against women must urgently be explored.
- Humanitarian organizations should include services for women and children who are victims of violence in their COVID-19 response plans and collect information on violence against women.
- Community members need to be aware of the growing risk of violence against women during this epidemic and the need to meet and support women who have been abused.
- Women who are experiencing violence may find it helpful to contact supportive families and friends, to request telephone support, or to seek out local services for survivors. As the conflict escalates, you may find it helpful to have a safety plan. If you need to leave your home quickly to find a neighbor, a friend, a relative, or a place to stay, you need to find a place to go (WHO, 2020).

## **2.4. Violence against Women in light of The Ethiopia's Legal Framework**

Ethiopia has made substantial "gender-sensitive" legal amendments in the previous decade to better protect women's rights. The 1995 FDRE constitution, the 2003 Revised Family Law, and the 2005 Revised Criminal Code are the most important of this legislation (Megeresa, 2014).

### **2.4.1. The FDRE Constitution of Ethiopia**

In its chapter on fundamental rights and freedoms, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's (FDRE) Constitution, 1995) have a number of rights that are directly relevant to women's right to be protected from domestic abuse. One article is entirely devoted to enumerating women's rights (FDRE Constitution, 1995: article 35). These include, among other things, equal legal protection, equality in marital affairs, the right to affirmative action, protection from harmful traditional practices, maternity rights in the workplace, the right to consultation, property rights, employment rights, and access to family planning information and services, among others. (Ibid). One of the sub-provisions of this basic article specifically imposes on the state an obligation and accountability to protect women against abuse (Ibid. article 35.4). Furthermore, the constitution recognizes fundamental rights that are directly related to the right to protection from domestic violence, such as personal security and the prohibition of inhumane treatment (Ibid. articles 15, 16, & 18). The constitution also states that all international treaties that the country has ratified are intrinsic aspects of the law of the land (Ibid. article 9.4), and that all recognized fundamental rights and freedoms must be interpreted in accordance with these treaties (Ibid. article 13.2). These clauses, if applied correctly, provide a substantial opportunity for interpreting rights, especially those connected to domestic violence, in light of international treaties that have been widely interpreted over time (Fikremarkos, 52). Ultimately crucial as Ethiopia has been a country that ratified many of these treaties, including ICCPR, ICESCR, and CEDAW (Megeresa, 2014).

### **2.4.2. The Family Law**

Other more specific gender-sensitive laws were enacted in the country after the FDRE Constitution was adopted. One of these laws is the revised family law code of 2000, which made significant changes to the areas of the Civil Code dealing with marriage and repealed the majority of the Code's discriminatory clauses. Some of these enhancements include rules requiring respect, support, aid, and loyalty between spouses, as well as one requiring shared family management (Revised Family Law, 2000: articles 49, 50, and 56). This topic is against

violence because our family law clearly states that marriage must be at least 18 years old. So, directly or indirectly, it is against forms of violence (Megeresa, 2014).

### **2.4.3. The Criminal law**

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's Revised Criminal Code, or The Criminal Code 2004, is the other major area of Ethiopian law that has recently been revised in accordance with the FDRE constitution, and includes new and revised provisions relevant to the protection of women from domestic violence. The Code handles violence against women in a variety of ways, including enlarging undefined provisions, establishing new offenses, redefining the elements of these offenses, adding aggravating conditions, and changing the punishments for violations (Ibid).As a result, the law makes the majority of kinds of violence against women and girls, including rape, illegal. The Criminal Code of 2004 prohibits abduction (Ibid. articles 58–7590), female genital mutilation (Ibid. articles 565–6), and early marriage (Ibid. article 649), as well as trafficking in women (Ibid. article 597), prostitution for profit (Ibid. article 634), and physical violence within marriage or in an irregular union (Ibid. article 564) (Megeresa, 2014).

## **2.5. Theoretical framework**

The goal of the study is to determine the variables that contribute to the rise in violence against women and girls, as well as the lives of violence survivors in the study area. As a result, radical feminist philosophy is relevant to the researcher because radical feminism is a feminist ideology that begins with the premise of a fundamental conflict between the sexes and oppression of women as a direct result of patriarchy. This theory is based on the notion that all social behavior is the result of some form of constraint or coercion, and that while every social system has different types of interacting constraints, they do not have to result in repression. However, under patriarchy, engagement and communication are restricted in a way that fosters and sustains rigidity, which is perceived as oppression, and patriarchy plays a key role in deciding when and why a basic power struggle between the sexes occurs. Given that radical feminism's starting point is the belief that gender inequality is the root of all other injustices and oppression, it is possible to classify it as part of the (discourse) theory of conflict. Gender inequality is the root of all other inequities and oppression, according to radical feminist theory. Repression of women occurs within the patriarchy, which is a hierarchical structure of male dominance over the female

gender that includes, and is sustained by, traits such as obligatory motherhood and restrictions on reproductive choice. The creation and presentation of a submissive image in order to socially create femininity and female sexuality,

- ✚ Violence against women
- ✚ Institutions that favor the dominance of men over women, such as the church and traditional family models (Vukoi Jelena, 2018). According to UN, 34% of health facilities have an improved water source and 61% have sanitation facilities, significantly increasing the risk to frontline workers and users (Vukoi Jelena, 2018).

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARECH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3. Introduction**

The concern of this study was to find out the contributing factors to the increase in violence against women and girls at the time of the outbreak of COVID-19 in Addis Ababa city administration, Bole-sub city. To that end, this chapter discusses the design and procedures of the study. In the first part, the participants and methodologies used are discussed, followed by the second part in which the procedures for data gathering, discussion and analysis are presented.

#### **3.1. Design of the Study**

The purpose of this study was to find out the contributing factors to the increase in violence against women and girls at the time of the outbreak of COVID-19 in Addis Ababa city administration, Bole-sub city. The study is mainly qualitative research method since it attempts to find out and gain an in-depth understanding of individual experiences, thoughts, opinions, and trends, and to dig deeper into the problem at hand.

#### **3.2. Description of the study area**

The study was conducted at Bole-sub-city of Addis Ababa city administration, the capital city of Ethiopia, The Sub-city was selected purposely which can be justified on two grounds. First, it is based on the Bole sub-city Police Department's Report. The report shows that after the outbreak of COVID-19; the rate of violence against women and girls was higher when it was compared to the non-COVID-19 report. The number of violent crimes per capital has increased compared to the previous time the Secondly; researcher is a current employee in the Federal Police Department in which information sharing among police organizations is a common system in the departments so that I could follow up every crime happened in the sub-city very closely. This really helps the researcher to get appropriate data which helps the current study.

### **3.3. Participant of the study**

The participants of the study are women and girls who have been victims of violence in Bole-sub City. And from organizations such as the Police organization and AWSAD, who have been working on the issue at hand, participated as key informants. In an attempt to find out how these victims of violence are supported and the problems they encounter due to the different violence, it was very essential to include these key informants as a target group of the research. It was very difficult to study the whole population of violence victims because they were scattered in different areas far from the specific shelter and the police stations. In addition most of the victims refused to cooperate for the interview because of suspicion and fear that they might encounter additional problem. Concerning children victims, most of them failed to explain the situations they have went through that makes it difficult to conduct interview with them. Most of all there is no different experience from the 15 interviews of the study that the researcher interviewed, based on the report data. So the researcher tends to concentrate only in a smaller version of a population i.e. sample; 15 women and girls from different types of violence victims and Police leaders from the study area, where selected.

### **3.4. Research Methodology**

This section of the research describes the methods used, the instruments and elements used for data collection, the data analysis methodologies used, as well as the researcher's ethical considerations from the standpoint of the people, qualitative research is interested in their beliefs, experiences, and meaning systems. Statistical analysis and empirical calculations are not included in qualitative research (Brink, 1993). Social and cultural anthropology, philosophy, psychology, history, and sociology are the foundations of qualitative research. The goal of qualitative research is to develop new concepts and theories by systematically describing and interpreting topics or events from the perspective of the individual or population being examined (Viswambharan & Priya, 2016).

Qualitative research is a type of social activity that focuses on how people interpret and make sense of their experiences in order to better understand people's social realities (Zohrabi, 2013). Therefore, researchers apply qualitative research and use non-numerical data mainly to focus on first-hand information of people's experiences as expressed in the lived and told stories

of individuals who are victims of violence women and girls about their current and previous life situations. Furthermore, with the person who has direct contact with the victims of violence? Thus, the study mainly focuses on survivors of violence against women and girls and knowledge and experience of the men police officer at the study area.

### **3.5. Source of Data Collection**

#### **3.5.1. Primary source of data**

For this study's purpose, the primary source of data has been gathered from the target study population, which is a survivor of violence against women and girls. The data was collected by using semi-structured in-depth and key informant interviews with key informants from concerned government organization for instance from police and non-governmental organizations AWSAD and focal persons in the study area.

#### **3.5.2. Secondary source of data**

A secondary source of data was obtained from documents, both published and unpublished, articles, journals, books, and different reports concerning the issue.

### **3.6. Method of data collection**

The following instruments were employed for generating the information that could address the purpose of the study. These were semi-structured in-depth interview and key informant interview, the question were originally prepared in Amharic (the local Language) for the sake of easy understanding to the interviewer and the participants of the study.

#### **3.6.1. In-depth interviews**

In-depth interviews with semi-structured interviews were conducted in order to get rich and valuable information. The total number of participants in the interview was made up of different types of victims of violence. An in-depth interview was carried out among the target population that are victims of violence against women and girls living in Addis Ababa city, specifically in Bole sub-city. To identify the target population for an in-depth interview, I used data from the register of the Bole sub-city in order to make initial contact. I find out the number of survivors of violence by the Bole sub-city women and children's affaire leader's 9-month crime record report

during the COVID-19 pandemic in the study area, Then after, using snowball sampling techniques, I find out the first ones before snowballing by help of the Bole Sub City women and children's affaire investigation leader contact 15 victims of violence from the total number of 143 victims of violence and the AWSAD coordinator through the approach of taking the ethical considerations that are going to be important when i conduct the interview with the respondents. Snowball sampling helps the researcher find a sample when it is difficult to locate. Researchers use this technique when the sample size is small and not easily available. This sampling system works like a referral program. Once the researchers find suitable subjects, they ask them for assistance in seeking similar subjects to form a considerably large sample. To capture adequate and full information, semi-structured interviews were selective.

### **3.6.2. Key informant Interview**

To conduct the study, the researcher used five key informant interviews. The participants in this interview were from the Bole sub-city women and children's affaire investigation police officer leader, AWSAD health officer, psychological experts, and AWSAD shelter coordinators, and they were held with selected respondents by considering the relationship of the issues with the people, which helped the researcher capture some crucial information that will be fruitful for the needed outcome.

### **3.6.3. Observation**

As the name suggests, observation is a method of gathering facts by watching. The researcher has interviewed time with her respondents in their environment while taking notes and/or recording. A variety of techniques, including listening, reading, and recording behavior and phenomenon features, can be used to acquire data through observation.

## **3.7. Sampling Technique and size**

In order to undertake this research, the researcher employed purposive sampling technique and snowball sampling technique, which are non-probability forms of sampling techniques used to gain the right people that have relationships with the issues that i want to capture. And to identify potential subjects in studies where subjects are hard to locate consecutively, it's a typical tactic employed by social scientists who want to work with a well-known but hard-to-find site. The researcher begins with a small group of people, and then expands the sample size by asking the

first participants to propose others who should engage in the study. Thus, a total of 20 participants were chosen from the 5 key informants chosen using the purposive sampling technique, and the rest were in-depth interviews chosen using the snowball sampling technique, and the researcher tried to incorporate different types of violence cases such as rape, denial of child, labor exploitation, and abortion in order to demonstrate the various impacts of different violence that women and girls face.

The type of sampling that was employed for the key informant interview is a non-probability purposive sampling technique. From a variety of non-probability sampling techniques, for this research, the researcher used judgmental or purposive sampling for the sake of selecting the right people that have relationships with the issues that the researcher wants to capture.

The following are target populations for key informants from governmental and non-governmental organization. The researcher chooses them as key informants because they are part of them that can help victims of violence:-

- **Psychologists:** A psychologist is a person who provides psychological support to victims of violence and assists them in recovering from their abuse. So the researcher interviews two psychological experts, one from the Bole sub-city women and children affairs investigation office and the other from AWSAD (women's Sanctuary development), both of whom provide psychological help to abused women and girls in the study area.
- **Police leaders in the Bole sub-cities' women and children's affairs investigation office:** because the district chief is the first person to welcome victims when they arrive to report, and because the police, as a law enforcement agency, support victims in seeking justice.
- **AWSAD Shelter Coordinator:** People who work at the shelter center where the victims are residing so that the coordinator's shelter can explain the victims' conditions. They will also have a relationship with the victims.

In general, the importance of interviewing these people and the reason I chose those listed informants is that they are directly or indirectly connected to women and children who have been abused, so I have included them in my interview because I believe they are important because I find information from their perspective as per their profession and the support they

provide to victim of violence against women. Also, I feel I will be able to find out what i don't get from abused women in terms of diverse perspectives on victims of violence, and that will enable the researcher to achieve the research objective.

### **3.8. Data Processing and Analysis**

The goal of the study was to assess the overall situation in the study area in terms of violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic, using explanatory and narrative data analysis methodologies based on findings from violence survivors, key informants, and other important supporting documents. That is, based on a list of the researchers study questions and objectives from various groups of respondents, the instances of violence survivors clearly recount and explain based on the explanations and the reflections about the issues.

### **3.9. Ethical consideration**

In many ways, the ethics of violence research is the same as that which guides all research with human subjects: researchers should strive to respect the autonomy of all participants, maximizing potential benefits of participation and minimizing risks while ensuring that both are accrued equitably and respect vulnerable populations. However, due to the traumatic and potentially threatening nature of the subject matter, the weight of each ethical deliberation within the project is heightened. Indeed, it is by no means hyperbole to suggest that, if handled improperly, the safety and even lives of respondents and interviewers may be at risk. Therefore, it is essential that some special precautions be taken to minimize the risk of harm. In particular, we've identified seven key considerations that all researchers should review before embarking on violence research. Those are: informed consent, ensuring participant safety, protecting privacy and confidentiality, minimizing participant distress, mandatory reporting of violence, referrals for care and support, and protecting field staff. Taking this into consideration, the researcher will respect the ethics and adhere to the preconditions for interviewing the victims (Innovation for Poverty Action,2020).

## **CHAPTER FOUR:**

### **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4. Introduction**

The main purpose of this study was to explore the contributing factors to increasing violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic than in previous times. To that end, this chapter deals with the analysis and presentation of the data that has been obtained through face-to-face in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, and document review methods, and it also tries to answer the following research questions raised at the beginning of the study.

- What are the contributing factors for increasing violence against women and girls during Covid19 pandemic at the study area?
- What are the impacts of violence on those impacted by increased levels of violence during COVID-19 pandemic at the study area?
- In what ways can violence against women and girls be prevented in the future if such kinds of pandemic occur?

#### **4.1. Analysis of the Data**

Specifically, in the study area in Bole sub-city, the violence committed against women and girls has increased during COVID-19 pandemic. The total violence record in 2020 compared to the previous year has increased by 55.62%. The rate of violence in 2019 was 22.2% while this increased to 77.8% in 2020. The number of victims in 2019 was 41 while this number increased to 143 in 2020. This data is based on the nine months report of the Addis Ababa police commission, Bole sub-city women and children affaire office. This clearly shows that the violence that is committed against women and girls is increasing during the COVID-19 time as compared to non-COVID-19 time violence report of the bole sub-city, then the researcher select the bole sub-city by considering that it can represent other sub-cities which the prevalence of

violence against women and girls increasing, during COVID 19. Further the researcher decided to limit the scope of the study to a manageable size due to budget and time constraints.

The research finding indicates that the increasing violence on women and girls during the COVID-19 outbreak was caused by the following major factors. The reason which includes staying at home for unpredicted period, level of unemployment, losing the existing job and situation of isolation.

#### **4.1.1. Analysis of the Interview**

The main purpose of this study is to explore the contributing factors for the increasing violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic than the previous times. According to the nine months report of Bole Sub-city Women and Children investigation Department from July 2012- April 2013 E.C, 143 individuals were reported to be victims of violence. Even though the data in the report keeps names of the victims confidential, the nature of violence are stated as physical, sexual, and labor exploitation. From the total number of the victims the researcher was able to approach 15 survival of violence and conduct in-depth interview with. Five of the interviewees were key informants from the governmental organization of Addis Ababa police commission officers, Women and Children's affairs, health officers, and from the non-governmental Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) employers who have a direct or indirect relationship with the issue.

**Table 1. Annual violence case report of women and girls in Bole Sub-City,**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Reported Types of Violence</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Number of girls victim of violence cases</b>	<b>Girls</b>
	1. Physical assault	-
	2. Sexual assault	20
	3. Labor exploitation	21
<b>Total number of victim girls report</b>		<b>41</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Number of women victims of violence</b>	<b>Women</b>
	1. Physical assault	-

	2. Sexual assault	-
	Total number of women victim	-
	<b>Total number of women and girls violence reports number</b>	<b>41</b>

Source: Addis Ababa Police Commission Bole Sub City Women and Children Investigation Team 2021.

**Table2.Bole Sub-City 9 month Violence case Report of Women and girls**

No.	Reported Types of Violence	Girls
1.	<b>Number of girls victim of violence cases</b>	
	1.Physical assault	4
	2. Sexual assault	94
	3.Labor exploitation	-
	Total Number of girls victims	98
	<b>1. Number of women victims</b>	
	Physical assault	2
	Sexual assault	43
	Total number of women victim	45
	<b>Total number of women and girls violence reports number</b>	<b>143</b>

Source: Addis Ababa Police Commission Bole Sub City Women and Children Investigation Team 2021.

In the analysis, the participants' responses were categorized based on questions prepared for victim of violence against women, questions prepared for the police officer, for psychology experts, for shelter coordinator in AWSAD, and for health officers in AWSAD. The purpose of the questions was designed to find out the contributing factors for the increasing violence against women and girls during the COVID 19 pandemic. In this regard, different respondents raised different issues. The analysis of the participants' responses is summarized as follows:-

## **4.2. Contributing factors for the increasing violence against women and girls at the time of COVID-19**

### **4.2.1. The existence of COVID-19 pandemic by itself**

People's health and their rights were compromised when the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak was officially announced in Ethiopia. Temporary lockdown was declared to reduce the spread of the pandemic. Domestic abuse by a spouse or domestic partner has become more widespread in recent years. As a result of lockdowns and stay-at-home laws, some groups were at risk of abuse. Women and girls in particular were vulnerable. During this time, peoples' behavior has also altered.

From the interview, the researcher has learnt how internal and external elements, including personality traits, the media, the economic inflation, and government's way of response toward the pandemic, influenced the societal perception of the public about the pandemic. For instance, the information that has been released from mainstream media and government, though with positive intentions or for the purpose of caution, has also been causing negative feelings that led to irresponsible actions like the violence which happened to the 143 individuals in Bole Sub-city. The negative feeling during the pandemic has resulted in losing hope and faith that individuals were triggered to selfish and purposeless acts and crimes on women and girls.

As a result of the lack of clear information about COVID-19's genesis and spread, shock, confusion, and panic as well as an early lack of understanding about the varying nature of the virus, emotional and psychological changes have occurred. The COVID-19 epidemic has elicited a wide range of emotional and behavioral changes; such as boredom, stigma, concern, phobia, annoyance, and rage. Therefore, it is possible to indicate that when new phenomenon occurs, people face range of challenges in learning and getting used to the situations. It is also difficult to accept new things especially when it comes to life claiming pandemics like the COVID-19.

On the other hand, there is a wrong perception that the virus would result a kidney or liver failure to the people who have tested positive. This has been creating panic which would lead the people to the thoughts that they would never live longer. Thus, they commit violence on women and children.

**In this regard, the health officer whom the researcher approached shares her story related to the existing pandemic as follows:**

*As a result of the pandemic, people are bewildered and despondent, resulting in emotional changes. Furthermore, some people believe that if they contract the COVID-19 virus, they will be more prone to diseases such as pneumonia, kidney failure, and other ailments. They claim that their chances of survival are minimal. Peoples' early positive personality was dramatically changed. The sense of obligation and empathy were replaced by selfish thoughts and actions as people focus on satisfying only their own desire and being attached to simple belongings for they think that they have a short time to live. This is due to the misconception that everyone has a chance to be infected by the virus. For the fact that the COVID-19 inception and spread has caused panic, uncertainty, depression confusion and lack of knowledge on the transmission and safety mechanisms lead people to only do things that make them happy and violate the rights of women and girls, especially those whom they had a close relationship with(KII04AUG/26/2021).*

**The psychologist 01 from AWSO also shared her experience as follows:**

*The pandemic is causing fear and a great deal of concern about the future world. Stress, anxiety, sadness, and other mental illnesses are rising highly as a result of uncertainty. In the cases of women and children who are victims of violence during the pandemic, they have been facing difficulties to report their cases or have access to medical and psychological treatments. They were not able to report their situations because they thought legal institutions other organizations were closed because of the pandemic. As a result they were separated from legal and social support system chains. This also put people at higher risk for violence as they remain at home while they are supposed to seek help. We are still seeing similar things and the continued spread of the pandemic have led to the situations that breed violence (KII02 AUG/21/2021).*

#### **4.2.2. Regarding the Lock down**

Participant of the study said that the lockdowns or stay-at-home orders that many governments have imposed are necessary to stop the spread of the novel corona virus but they limit women's ability to escape domestic violence. Typically, IPV occurs among spouses or cohabitants, so it often takes place within the home. According to the researcher's observations and the responses of the participants in the study, lockdown forces people to stay at home and give families extra time to be together. This strengthens ties but also increases stress, tensions, and conflicts, especially when people are confined to each other for long periods of time.

In civilizations where women are largely responsible for domestic activities, tensions at home escalate as a result of spouses being stranded at home together during crises times, such as armed conflicts or natural disasters, thereby boosting IPV.

Ethiopia has taken unprecedented preventive measures, such as confinement to the home and the closure of schools and offices, to halt the spread of the corona virus pandemic in the country. Unfortunately, such orders may have been associated with intimate partner violence (IPV) against women and children.

This study tends to show that even if the COVID-19's response plan limited the spread of the virus, it weakened women's ability to respond to their violent perpetrators in a way that they could get legal and psychological as well as social supports. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all women and girls who are included in the study, regardless of their age, social or economic background. The lockdowns and quarantine measures have also aggravated their exposure to sexual and physical violence and labor exploitation, which has been disproportionately severe and more likely to have long-lasting and irreversible impacts. The lockdown is a contributing factor for the increasing of violence against women and girls during COVID-19. There was a chance of having more time between the perpetrator and the victims.

**Concerning the above mentioned topic (lockdown), one of the victims in in-depth interview respondents shared her history as follows:**

*Health officials from different governmental and non-governmental groups were compelled to work full time throughout the lockdown due to the pandemic's progress. I was working as a housemaid, and the wife was a doctor who spent majority of her time*

*working in hospital. She was working days and nights for few months. Her husband works at a nongovernmental organization. Because of the lock down he only goes to work two days a week. Their children were already sent to their aunt's where the mother visited them on weekends. In this case, the husband has too much time to spend at home posing on the internet mostly. His wife not being at home he started tempting me to have sex with him. He repeatedly asked me and I rejected him. I tried to keep my distance from him by staying at the kitchen and doing something else at the opposite corner of the house from where he would be seated. However, one late night he came to my living room drunk and slept with me forcefully. I was hoping that it would end up that night but it didn't. The rape continued for several nights as he also threatened me that he wouldn't pay me a penny if I tell what happened to anybody. I was sick and tired of the violence and one day I found the way to go out and left the house for good but without receiving a piece of coin from my salary. Even if I am able to report my case, the memory of it still haunts me (case study 1, Aug 29/ 2021).*

**The psychologists 02 at the Women's Development Center also explained how lockdown would contribute to violence against women as follows:**

*Pandemics have their own impacts, and it will provide people a chance to get to know each other and let perpetrators contemplate and plot domestic violence on the people whom they are close to. Outside activities are limited and they are not enjoyable as the ordinary social interactions are prevented by lockdowns or other safety issues. Hotels and schools, for example, are closed throughout the nation when the prevalence of COVID-19 expands. As a result, students spend more time at home, and various government and non-government employers spend the majority of their time at home. Most of the perpetrators use some alcohol and other stimulants at their home within the family. For example, those who have different addictions, be it drugs or alcohol, would bring the substances to their home and abuse them in front of their family or employees. This creates more comfortable opportunities to commit violence within home in the family members and others that can easily be found. Especially house maidens are more vulnerable. If the perpetrators don't have house maidens at home, the violence is directed at close relatives such as sisters and cousins.*

*On the other hand a husband and wife may spend too much time together during lockdowns that they start to notice new and strange behaviors that they have never seen before the pandemic. Thus they would become completely unfamiliar with one another. This is another reason for the occurrence of domestic violence (KII 03, AUG 21/2021)*

As per the researcher's observation, most people started drinking alcohol because of the long time they spend at home during the lockdown. They take it as a relief mechanism from the stress they got into because of the pandemic and the panic triggering information. Alcohol intake is frequently linked to abusive behavior and, is the major cause for IPV. The Covid-19 pandemic has raised the range of alcohol intake between people for a variety of causes. Drinking is frequently utilized as a coping mechanism in stressful conditions. This happens not only on people who are under financial and psychological stress, but also the very fear of contracting the virus is stressful. Uncertainty about health and economic prospects therefore are likely to increase the number of people turning in to dangerous coping mechanisms such as alcohol. As the pandemic kept on spreading stress to daily lives, it also increased the likelihood that women and girls would experience violence at home.

The pandemic does not only increase the risk of IPV by triggering greater alcohol consumption, but also by keeping the danger close to home. Closed bars and restaurants may force more people to drink at home, adding to the danger women face living with an abuser.

**Another victim on the in-depth interview also shared her experiences of how Lock down can be the contributing factor for the increasing of violence as follows:**

*At the time of the shutdown, the house I was working in was one of the best in terms of living conditions, with many large service rooms. The employer's behavior was not particularly bad at first. But after the outbreak of COVID-19 a while, numerous activities started to take place in the house following the lockdown. Many young men began to come in various areas of the living room, bringing young women with them in a way that was not seen before. Then there was the issue of smoking some stuff and drinking, which began to spread into the living room. They started forcing me to drink and smoke because I spend the night there. I have repeatedly refused to accept the offer to smoke, but I have agreed to assist them with some tasks on the orders of the woman who hired me.*

*Occasionally, charcoal is used to make coffee. Cleaning kitchen equipment and other labor services were part of my job. I also assist them by accompanying them to the store when they need something. In addition to the money my employer paid me, they were also giving me tips. As a result I became more willing to accept their orders. I have become submissive. One day, I was boiling coffee for the teen smokers who were enjoying their daily cup of coffee. At some point I told them that I wanted to go because I wasn't feeling well. And they told me that I would leave when I was done serving them. But there was still something wrong from the thing they were smoking. I passed out in the midst of it. When I woke up, I found myself in a room with a boy who always insisted on forcing me to smoke, drink and have sex with him. He also assaulted me sexually. When I told this story to the employer that hired me, she told me something else that affected me. She said "you did all these things with your own interest." What I have been promised was that I would assist those teen agers and get a good tip but what I gained in return was painful violence and assault(Case study 2,sep 29/2021).*

From the story of the above informant one can learn that the victim has encountered four kinds of domestic violence that are sexual abuse, forced drug abuse, labor exploitation, and survival blaming during COVID-19 lockdown.

**Psychologist (2) at AWSAD offered the following story:**

*The quick extension and spread of the pandemic which has resulted in the lockdown has made the women believe that they have no option but to accept any job offer for the fact that job opportunities have reduced. In this case they were in the middle of a situation that they could not do anything about any violence they encountered except to live in silence with its painful memory. This reality hurts the women even in their future lives(KII 03, AUG/21/2021).*

**Here is also additional story from another victim:**

*I have two children and we live in a rental house. I work in different houses to support my family. Since the COVID-19 outbreak and the lockdown schools were closed. The public school used to serve the kids their breakfast and lunch before. But during the lock down I have to feed them myself. So I did not have a choice but to be engaged in*

*commercial sex work against my will in order to afford the food for my children. This allowed one of my sex partners to know my residence and the unbelievable happened. He came home and sexually assaulted my 9-year-old daughter, a fourth-grader, while I was at work(case study 3, Sep 2/2021).*

What makes this case different from the other is that the lockdown brought a negative contribution to the victim through her financial or economic weakness or poverty. The public schools in Addis Ababa and the research area (Bole Sub-city) have been playing significant role in carrying the burdens of poor families through their school feeding programs. However, the lock down during the pandemic has blocked the opportunity which the children have been gaining food access and forced the mother to be engaged in a commercial sex work which caused a sexual assault to her 9 years old daughter. Not only being engaged in a work without free will but also having her own daughter a victim of her commercial sex work partner makes the situation worse

#### **4.2.3. Regarding Victims' Misperception that legal institutions were closed during the lockdown**

The participants in the interview said that they thought all legal institutions were locked down. However, it is evident that the national government of the country led by Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed declared a five-month state of emergency in April 2020 by still allowing economic activities in legal institutions to continue during this public health crisis (KII 01, Aug, 21/2021).

From the researcher's observation when other governmental and non-governmental organizations were shut down at the time of COVID 19, the police institutions and courts were fully operational. Serious cases such as crimes against children, assaults against women and children have been given priority by the institutions and the court. Authorities were constitutionally bound to give effective remedies to victims of human rights violations, even in times of emergency. However, the victims' understanding was completely the reverse. As a result of the feedback received from the respondents, victims were under the impression that, as a result of the lockdown, police institutions and courts were no longer operational. As a result they didn't try to report their cases, which has worsened the situation as they have been attacked

frequently at home. They were afraid to leave their homes for the fear that they could be infected by the virus and they restrained themselves from seeking help or get tangible information.

**Concerning the aforementioned factor, a health officer at the Women's sanctuary**

**Development Center said the following:**

*During the time of the pandemic women and children who were the victims of violence couldn't report their cases immediately because of the wrong perception that legal institutions were closed. The misperception does not come by itself because abusers have also their own role to cover up their crimes by telling them such wrong information. Thus, the victims would come to the police stations and health centers after they suffer repeated violent attacks. When we asked why they came late and why after exposing themselves to repeated attacks, they would respond that during the outbreak of the pandemic, especially at the time of lock down, people assumed that legal institutions, like courts, police stations, and health centers were closed like any other organizations. Even when it comes to the cases of married women, they experience unwanted and unplanned pregnancies due to a misunderstanding that there is no family planning service during a pandemic. The fact that they face unwanted pregnancy is considered as one of the violence against women and children. Such unplanned or unwanted pregnancy also leads to disagreement between marriage partners and causes more violence that would result to family disintegration (KII 0, AUG/26/2021).*

**Here is also another case of a victim who participated in the in-depth interview**

*I used to have my own rental house which I would afford from my job at a restaurant. Before the pandemic, the salary and tip were both good. However, after the outbreak of COVID 19, everything changed; the number of customers decreased the tips we received from them decreased. The owner also reduced my salary but decided to assist me by simply reserving the restaurant room for me to spend the night. That was because I couldn't afford to pay my house rent. After some peaceful nights, his behavior started to change. When other employees leave the restaurant, he would always sexually abuse me. He would kisses me, touch my body, sleep with me, and has sexual intercourse with me without my will. He would also compromise his did claiming that it was for mutual*

*benefit and say the sexual relation satisfies both of us. He went on to say that he would assist me by relocating to his home at no cost. And I was considering leaving the restaurant for good, but I was afraid of what would happen to me if I did. So I told myself that I had to continue working here, but I was supposed to go to the police station and tell them everything that happened to me. Meanwhile, I was afraid of being infected because COVID-19 prevalence had risen at the time. But I was mostly thinking that police stations were closed due to the lockdown. So, I made myself believe that there was no possibility for me to seek a solution to my situation. By saying this, I exposed myself to repeated violent attacks. Finally, one of my colleagues informed me that her brother was a police officer and that they were still at work, and she suggested that I file a police report (case 4 Sep/02/2021).*

#### **4.2.4. Regarding the increase of under-reported cases of violence**

The respondent police and health officers said that victims aren't motivated to go to the police station to recover or seek help. What type of aid can they get if they go to the police is their dilemma. On the other hand there are children who are victims and do not easily understand the kind of service they could get because of their age. Family members are the other influential groups in terms of silencing the victims not to report the violence they encountered. The main reason for this is that most of the violence are committed by intimate partners or close family members and families do not want this reality to go official. They want it to remain a secret. Victims also restrain themselves from reporting the violence because of the fear that they will face another attack when they return home and for the fact that they have nowhere else to go.

Violence by extremely close family members, repeated threats, and family influences during the COVID-19 pandemic has their own impact for the increase of under reported case and violence on women and children.

#### **According to Psychologist at AWSAD (1)**

*Fear of humiliation, fear of punishment, financial insecurity or economic dependence was worsened at the time of COVID 19. In addition to this, societal unequal power between men and women, and victim-blaming attitudes are also the main reasons why so many cases go unreported. Most victims avoid the idea of reporting their cases because*

*they fear the humiliation that would come from the concern that people would insult them. In terms of financial insecurity or economic dependence women are mostly dependent the income that is generated by men for the fact that most men do not allow their wives to generate their own income. In this case if a woman is not capable of generating her own income, the idea of reporting violence to the police is impossible for her. The COVID-19 incident makes this situation worse or is a contributing factor for the increase of under reported cases of violence on women and children in Bole Sub-city of Addis Ababa (KII 03AUG/21/2021).*

**Concerning this case, a police officer described his experiences as follows:**

*One reason that most crimes were not reported is that the outbreak of COVID-19 itself. That is because people don't want to go out of their homes for they fear getting infected. The second one is that some victims believe that going to the police and telling them what happened will not change the reality. They rather feel like they we will be creating a new problem for themselves and allow individuals to harm them again (KII 01/AUG/21/2021).*

#### **4.2.5.Regarding dropping charges**

In accordance with the findings of the study, not only were many cases of violence underreported during the pandemic, but also the reported cases of violence are dropped by the victims before justice is completed. The more the victims drop their cases the more the perpetrator is encouraged or motivated for extra violence against women and children. The victims drop their cases due to the following factors as per the police's explanation based on their testimony;

*In comparison with the previous year, COVID-19 outbreak has resulted on complaints of attacks on women and children in our sub-city. These assaults were reported to the police and officers would be assigned to follow the case. They would start arranging the necessary paperwork, creating a case file, gathering information, and completing their investigative duties. But in the middle of the task the victims who reported the case of violence would suddenly drop their case. When asked why, they would say that they feared the perpetrator would harm them even more. Elders and negotiators would also meddle in the situation to talk the victims out of pursuing their cases. The mechanism they use to talk them out is the situation that COVID-19 has already created to the whole*

*community. They abuse this situation as the victims' weak point. For instance, lack of job opportunities and other relief mechanisms would force the victims drop their charges against their perpetrators. As a result, victims are at greater risk and they are more likely to be attacked again since the perpetrators will have a higher chance of escaping justice and commit extra violence(KII 01, Aug/21/2021).*

**In this regard, psychologist 2in the women's sanctuary development center explained as follows:**

*Because the majority of the victims are financially dependent on the abuser, they just negotiate with him to accept money and then leave the case before the police have completed their investigation. Their dependence on the abuser's freewill, combined with the crisis time of COVID-19, makes it impossible to find extra income generating opportunities, force them to easily drop their cases. The other point is that victims drop their charges they may fall in love unconditionally with their abusers and wish to keep their relationship going. Further, related to the outbreak of COVID-19, people do not want to follow their cases for they also get faded by the long process in line with the stressful situation that COVID-19 has brought(KII 02, Aug/21/2021).*

#### **4.2.6. Regarding the case of poverty being aggravated**

The interviewees identified poverty as the key cause of violence as they described how their dependence worsened, making them more vulnerable to violence, particularly when a pandemic struck. Similarly, poverty is connected with other aspects of the respondents' stories; some of them said that they were exposed to violence as a result of poverty, which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Similarly, AWSAD key informants and in-depth interview respondents stated that women and children who are victims of violence have a lower standard of living. This living standard has an impact on the likelihood of being exposed to various forms of violence, which is exacerbated during times of crisis. Due to a variety of underlying variables, it is extremely difficult for women and children living in poverty to get rid of abusive relationships. As a result, poverty is one of the reasons contributing to the increase of violence against women and children, mainly when man-made and natural pandemics strike. As a result, different respondents expressed how their level poverty exposed them to violence as follows:

## Victim in AWSAD:

*During the lock down my husband was reduced from his job, which was the only means of income to support the family. I was a house wife. When he lost his job we couldn't afford to cover our costs and raise our daughter like the way we used to. This created disagreements and conflicts between my husband and I frequently which led to the disintegration of our marriage. So I made the decision to raise my child by my own. I realized I need to get a job as a housemaid and care for my daughter and myself. By that time the demand for domestic workers or house servants has decreased. As a result, I've had trouble finding work. I believe many people did not want to hire house maids because they are at home, and they do not want hire me because they fear I will be unable to do my job efficiently for my daughter was with me. After a lot of hardship, I finally got a job with a bachelor house. A few months after I started working, he caressed my daughter, kissed her lips, bit her, and inserted his finger into her vaginal canal. If I spoke up about his actions, he would either kick me out of his house or cut my salary. If he fires me or reduces my salary, I'll be devastated, remembering the exhaustion I felt when I initially tried to find a job as a housemaid. Fearing what would happen if he kicked me out of the house, I continued without seeing all of the repeated attacks on my daughter. But one day, I noticed that my daughter was being kissed so badly that I could not keep quiet. I told him to let go off her. Then he hit me angrily and told me that I would not have a payment beginning from that day. "You will just do your job and eat dinner with your child. If you don't want, I will kick you out of my house with your bastard," he said. He would also threaten me saying that I would never find anyone to hire me. So I started doing what he said and kept on living without a salary. Gradually he started paying my salary, but he continued torturing my child. One day I waited for the right moment, I grabbed my daughter and ran out of his house to a sanctuary (case 5, Sep/02/2021).*

According to the above points raised from the survival of different violence, various factors are contributed for disagreements between any relationships. Women's low living standards and high levels of dependence on men often increase women's vulnerability of being attacked by abuses, particularly when men face economic hardship and living standards get in to hardship

situations. Those disagreements led women and girls to the exposure of violence against women and girls. Unemployment, staying in home for unpredicted period of time, situations of isolation from different job opportunities particularly in connection with the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic existence and other issues related to the pandemics, has contributed significantly to the exacerbation of violence against women due to the dominance of the patriarchal system. Also Radical feminism argues that men oppress women through patriarchal appropriation. Patriarchy refers to the system in which the male social group holds the economic and political power, whether in the family or within society, and has control over the female social group (over their bodies, their work, their sexuality, etc.), resulting in the total subordination of women to men. (Camille Cottais,2019).

**The stories captured from in-depth interviewee of victim of violence that illustrate how poverty makes individuals vulnerable, from another respondent,**

*I was working as a bartender my entire life. But the number of customers during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak decreased, and the owner of the bar was forced to lay off the number of employees. I was one of them. When I was unemployed and desperate, I would meet a guy who promised to support me throughout my life because he already knew that I was dismissed from my job. Later we got into relationship and I accidentally got pregnant. I told him that I was pregnant. But he would refuse his own baby. Then we separated. One day I hopelessly went to the northern edge of the city as I have decided to commit suicide. In the middle policemen would find me and brought me to women's shelter. I was able to give birth for my baby at the shelter. Now I understand why he made me believe that he would support me. Poverty and financial insecurity was my week side (case 11, Sep/10/2021).*

**Concerning the above mentioned issue, other respondent shares her experience in the following way:-**

*I was a house made for many years but I have to change career and went to a school to learn hairdressing with the money I have been saving. After I earned the knowledge I was hired in a barbershop as a hairdresser. In line with the high prevalence of COVID-19 number of customers was reduced and I was laid off. There was a security guard at the*

*building, where I was working in, who was interested in me. We were not well acquainted during the time. But he had my number and he called me after I was laid off from my job. We started seeing each other and we got into a relationship. I would observe him talking on the phone with a woman repeatedly and when I asked him what was going on, he would tell me that he was married and had children. We broke up. Suddenly I realized that I was pregnant and when I told him he would suggest aborting the baby. I did as he said. One day a woman called me and told me that she would like to meet me. She was his wife. I told her the truth. The next day he called and told me that he was sorry for the trouble I went through. And he said that he would like to see me and give me some money. When we met that was not what happened, He would rather tell say “how dare you disturb my marriage?” and bit me up brutally. I was so hurt that I couldn’t even work or help myself. Then people suggested that I go to the women’s shelter. I was accepted there. Now I am learning sewing clothes at the shed. My case is still in the hands of the police (case 6, Sep/07/2021).*

Moreover, the participants portrayed that a good financial situation would prevent violence. Financial dependency is a situation where violence is completely unavoidable. According to the victims and other professionals, the above cases show that women and children are vulnerable to different kinds of violence because of poverty. Violence can touch women and children of all socioeconomic backgrounds. Somehow, when women lack resources and become dependent, they become more vulnerable and unable to leave an abusive relationship. Due to poverty, which would make violence more severe, low economic status increases women's risk of becoming victims, especially in times of emergency such as the COVID-19 pandemic time.

Similarly, it is the researcher’s observation that the COVID-19 pandemic complicates conditions for women and girls. The socioeconomic status of a person is intrinsically linked to domestic violence. When one's income is low, domestic violence is more likely to occur. Poverty and domestic abuse can have severe repercussions for a low-income household. The COVID-19 pandemic has added to low-income families' already stressful conditions, based on the responses and experiences of the interviewees in this study.

#### **4.2.7. Considering the issue of violence as a normal trend**

Considering the issue of violence as a normal trend has blindfolded majority of the people and prevented them from seeing the rise of the cases of violence during the outbreak of COVID-19. It has also prevented citizens from contributing their own share towards combating violence against women and children.

Due to the fact that COVID-19 was all over the media and the major issue of concern between the majority, the issues of violence on women and children had become a minor topic to the extent that people sees it as normal.

Participants of the study suggested that in order to support abused women and children, first it is necessary to recognize the problem or the case as one of the contributing factors of violence that hurt women and children. However, if the problem is being treated as a routine occurrence rather than a criminal act, it would be the contributing factor to aggravate violence. Abused women have no one to talk to about their difficulties and sorrow because sharing such a problem in many parts of the society is a bit shameful. As a result, women who have been victims of violence are not more willing to talk about their difficulties and grief. Female victims have no initiation to seek treatment for their difficulties; for they think that no one would believe them. In terms of attitudes, respondents stated that many individuals had a negative view of violence against women and children. Violence, particularly between husband and wife, is seen as a normal aspect of life in the majority of our society. People say if there is the existence of a sexual relationship between two people, even without the consent of a woman, both people are satisfied with the relationship, so there is no way to say violence has occurred because both people are content and satisfied with their relationship. Having said this, during the COVID-19 outbreak, the violent cases were increased due to different factors, but it doesn't get special attention; rather, they consider it a normal scenario.

**In this regard, psychologist in AWSAD stated the case that strengthens the idea of normalizing violence as follows:**

*In partnerships when people are bitten or insulted by their partners, there is no any ways to report the incident to the authorities due to fear of stigmatization of the society once the society consider the case as normal scenario it keeps silent the victim to do not speak*

*out what happen to them. If a husband insults his wife, the possibility of considering it as a violence and going to report case is minimal. This is due to the reality that most violence that is committed by husbands is considered as normal by the society and women are mostly told to let it slide and be a good wife (KKI 05, Aug/26/2021).*

**In addition to this, shelter coordinators hared the following experience:**

*With regards to normalizing the issue of violence, majority of victims who have faced financial attacks during COVID-19 from their abusers have similar stories that they didn't get their salary for the tasks they pulled off. When they tell other people that they have been denied, there are times that the situation is not considered as violence and as it is a normal phenomenon (KII05, AUG/26/2021).*

**In this matter, the psychologist 1at the Women's Development Center added the following:**

*Men react to and normalize the issue of violence in their relationships in a variety of ways, from verbal abuse to physical violence. In the majority of cases, women and children are frequently subjected to verbal and physical abuse, such as bullying and harassment. But they don't consider it as a form of violence, rather they take it as a normal part of life and they wait and abstain from searching for a solution. Even if the victims understand the case as violence and are ready to tell other people about it, they may not get the right person who understands violence as a violation of women's rights. Such reality makes the life of abused women and children miserable (case study, 15/Sep, 13/2021*

#### **4.2.8. Concerning the trend of Watching pornography image and video**

According to the respondents rape or other sexual abuses were committed on women and children because the lockdown has allowed men and women to stay at home for a very long time. Moreover, since internet access is abundant people would spend their time watching pornographic films that exposed women and children to sexual abuse.

**Related to this, here is another case of a violence victim:**

*She came from the Amhara region, Wollo, following here schoolmates like any other childe her age would think as if Addis Ababa is the City of opportunities. When she*

*arrives she went straight to her uncle's place. Then she started pursuing her education from 8<sup>th</sup> grade. "My cousin and I were in grade eight when the COVID-19 outbreak in Ethiopia was announced. Schools and offices were closed. As a result, my cousin and I stopped going to school, and we spent a lot of time together. My uncle, who worked as a taxi driver, goes to work early in the morning and return late at night. One day my cousin was watching pornography video and he urged me to sit with him and watch the movie with him. When I refused, his question, He started threatening me saying If I don't watch the pornography with him, he would tell his father (my uncle) that I have a relationship with a boy in our neighborhood and I'll be sent back home. If he does, I can't learn. When I tell him that he has to stop watching such movies, he simply said "No way. When I was in school, my friends and I used to watch this kind of movies together. So now this is a good way to pass the time. Then one day, he persuaded me to just watch the movie with him, and we did, and I don't know what happened. But I had sex with him, and I kept on doing it with him frequently while remaining silent and pregnancy occurred. Nobody in the house knew whether I was pregnant or not until the day I gave birth. After I gave birth, I didn't want to go back to my uncle's house, so now I'm in a women's shelter. I don't want to put my cousin on trial because if I do, there might occur a serious problem in our families. So it's better to keep quiet and learn some handcrafts here at the shelter. After I complete my handcraft training, I just want to go out and work with the skill I have earned here (case 7, Sep/10/2021).*

**Psychologist 1 at a women's shelter sadly said the following:**

*Adolescents are addicted to pornography because of their age, and those who watch it want to act on it right away. The current pandemic exposed domestic workers and children for sexual abuse and other violence. When people are alone at home and are watching pornography, they would look for any one near them to release their motivated desire. Our activities are constrained by the lockdown in the same way that our walls restrict us. As a result, we do everything at home, and domestic employees are the first to suffer. If domestic workers are not available, the victim will be a family member; a sister, a cousin, and especially children. The pandemic has created an opportunity for this kind of violence against women and children (KII 05, Aug/26/2021).*

The increasing of Wi-Fi accessibility has its own contribution in exposing people for pornographic pictures and videos. The accessibility of expanding (Wi-Fi), that connect computers, tablets, cell phones, and other devices at homes was increasing. As a result, the majority of families have chosen to obtain Wi-Fi access in order to spend their spare time at home consuming and accessing various forms of entertainment while also being eager to learn. This exposure, on the other hand, encourages young boys to watch pornographic films and photos that drive them to be engaged in sexual relations with anyone who may be at their own age or whom they can dominate.

As per the researcher's observation, During the Covid-19 pandemic, much of peoples 'life styles have transformed especially when internet access allowed them to do their activities online. More Internet usage may therefore expose women to experience violence such as unsolicited pictures, sexist comments, physical threats and stalking. Internet access was maximized well than before COVID 19 particularly at the time of Lockdown.

#### **4.2.9. Regarding lack of awareness and illiteracy**

What the researcher learnt through the study was women and children were highly exposed to violence because of their low living standards and having a desire of living a better life. As a result of this, they may easily be tricked, and they don't think about what type of trouble they might get themselves into. Unpleasant things can happen to women and children when they are not able to understand things from diverse perspectives. Abuser are easily able to fulfill their sexual desires using the weak points of women and children who have less awareness about situation like the issues lockdown and the wrong conclusions that legal and health institutions where closed.

People who have replied to the research interview have also confirmed that violence can strike at any age, at any educational level, and at any socioeconomic level. It is a violation of human rights, but those who lack the capability to defend themselves frequently lack formal education, and their level of vulnerability is higher than anyone else. As different respondents mentioned, the majority of the victims come from rural areas of the country in order to gain better life prospects, such as access to school and support their families. However, as a result of their lack of understanding, they encounter troubles and violence in Bole Sub-city of Addis Ababa and

they expose themselves to a variety of situations, resulting in a complicated position with a loss of hope during COVID-19 pandemic.

Women and children are unaware of how abusers utilize various strategies to persuade them to be engaged in transient (lasting only for a short time) sexual connections. In temporary sexual relationships, there are circumstances in which it is feasible to become a victim of a one-time sexual encounter.

**In this case, one of my respondents shared the following experience:**

*I moved to Addis Ababa from Gondar in northern Ethiopia. I've been working as a housemaid in one household since 2020. After the outbreak of COVID-19, my employer who was a teacher had to stop working due to the lockdown. For some reason which I didn't understand his wife and children lived in Butajera of Oromia Region. He told me that he had a plan to have divorce and start a relationship with me. Then he bought me some clothes, shoes, and hygienic material without touching from my monthly payment. So, we started a sexual relationship. The way he treated me made me believe that our relationship would be everlasting and he would be a faithful husband for me. Two months later, I noticed some signs of pregnancy, and I told him. He took me to a health center for checkup. The result was positive but he would tell me to abort it. He promised me to give me money for the abortion and when I asked him why he was doing this, he said: "My wife is ready to accept my invitation to come to Addis Ababa and live with me. Though we lived separately we are still legal marriage partners. So you must leave my place today." So I left his house, he gave me some money for the abortion and I did so. Then I decided to work in another house. When I told the brokers about my background, they advised me to report to the police, and I am aware that the case is currently being investigated by the police. So what I'm learning from my life is that if I had a better understanding and had some suspicions and doubts about him, I might not have ended up in such a predicament. What I'm telling other ladies is to think twice before accepting such inquiries (case 8, Sep, 10/2021).*

One can learn from this story that the man uses a variety of strategies to get what he wants, and the woman is easily duped as a result of her lack of awareness. As a result, she is targeted for

violence. The assailant and victim are in more contact than ever before as a result of the closure during COVID-19 outbreak. Her illiteracy, as well as her lack of awareness was also used as a weakness for the perpetrator to commit the violence.

#### **4.2.10 Trusting people without knowing their true personality**

The Bole Sub-City Women and Children's Investigation Department Officer was asked about concerning trusting people without knowing them truly, he said that violence against women and children is common because the relationship between the victims and the perpetrators is so close. One of the concerns that develop as a basis for the increase in assaults is that the relationship between the victims and the perpetrators is so close. The relationships develop through blood or work related ties and mostly women and children do not suspect that violence would occur. They trust their abusers based on the common sense or the feeling that they are part of the family and they won't be attacked. Trusting people without knowing their true personality have their own impact on women's and children's lives especially during pandemic crisis like the COVID-19, which lead people to stay at home.

According to the shelter coordinator, who shared her personal experience with victims in rehabilitation, when it comes to trusting people without knowing their true personality, "the majority of victims are categorized as victims of intimate partner violence. "There are different victims of violence who live in our shelter. For instance, there is a daughter who was raped by her own father and a woman who was raped by her cousin. This is due to unworthy trust between people," she says.

#### **4.2.11. Conclusion to the above Contributing Factors**

Based on all the above information, one can conclude the following violence against women and girl is not a new issue for the public. Violence is practiced or exercised through many means and ways at any time. During crises such as pandemics, wars, or natural disasters occur, the rate of violence against women and children increases. The current situation in Ethiopia by itself, where war is raging between the Ethiopian Government Defense Force and the Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF) forces together with the COVID-19 pandemic has raised the vulnerability of women and girls towards different types of violence. Women and girls are

suffering far more than other members of society. They are being uprooted from their villages and being raped as the battle goes on.

This study was designed to exploring the factors that contribute to the rise of violence against women and children during COVID-19 pandemic. According to the study, various respondents recognized that the contributing factors such as poverty, normalizing the subject of violence, lack of understanding and illiteracy, as well as a fear of stigma are major reasons for the cause of violence prior to the COVID-19 time. But they became exacerbated during the outbreak of COVID-19 and contributed more to the increase in violence. For instance, poverty, normalizing the subject of violence, lack of awareness, illiteracy, fear to report violence and watching pornographic movies are just few factors that have caused the increase in violence during COVID-19 time. However, there are also other factors that are associated with COVID 19. Some contributing factors to the increase in violence during COVID-19 have been identified by research respondents. According to some respondents, the existence of the pandemic by itself is one major contributing factor to the increase of violence. Victims of violence didn't have had wrong information that legal institutions such as police stations, and courts were locked down. For this reason, they thought that these institutions are not providing services, so there is no opportunity for them to report their issues of violence and seek a solution from the responsible authorities during the pandemic. From the researcher's point of view, the victims were unable to get access for mainstream medias to get the appropriate information, or the victims were not interested in the information that come from mainstream media outlets .

Another issue raised the participants on the research was that the perpetrators or the ones who were committing violence have been threatening most of the victims not to go anywhere and report the case. The victims were also given incorrect information about the closure of legal institutions. Another point mentioned by the participants as a contributing factor during COVID-19 was that they were afraid that they could be socially out-casted if they report the violence committed against them. This has caused the increase of underreported cases and gave more courage for the abusers to commit more violence. As a result the rate of violence has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even after reporting the incident, most of the victims drop their cases and try to find solutions by making unlikely negotiations with the perpetrator. Elders and other family members have their own role in meddling in the situation.

Because most victims are victims of intimate partner violence and it is likely to meet their abusers time and again, they are afraid of being attacked more than once. Also, because of their low economic status, the victims easily drop their cases by accepting small amount of bribe money from the perpetrator.

To conclude, according to the research violence against women increased at time of COVID 19 by a variety of factors. Watching pornographic videos, abundant Wi-Fi access, lack of awareness, fear of stigma, and poverty, are among the contributing factors for the increase of violence on the stated period of time at Bole Sub-city of Addis Ababa. When we look at the case of poverty, for instance, as a contributing factor, the economy has been seriously affected at the time of COVID 19. For example, demand for domestic workers has decreased, and employment opportunities in small businesses have reduced. Due to market changes, employers' pay is also reduced, resulting in a fall in monthly salary for employees and leaving women in a position where they do not earn enough money to survive. While money is vital to survive, women's vulnerability to unintended sexual relationships, unwanted pregnancy, and violence is exacerbated by lack of jobs and income.

However, the research findings demonstrate that other factors also played a role in aggravating violence during the COVID-19 temporal alterations. Since the onset of COVID 19, there has been an increase in the number of attacks on women and children. Among the points raised by participants of the study as contributing factors is the fact that the wrong perception about transmission of the COVID-19. There were various rumors that the virus would cause a fresh kidney or liver failures to the people who are infected. Those sayings lead people to psychological, emotional, and behavioral changes that can cause people to become overwhelmed by unnecessary feelings like depression or anxiety. It created a sense of irresponsibility and a lack of accountability. The road to self-sufficiency and happiness has become ideal. The loss of hope on some people has contributed significantly to the desperate and irresponsible attacks on women.

Another contributing factor to the increase in violence during COVID-19 is that lockdown was forcing people to stay at home, providing families with more time to spend together. This strengthened bonds but also built up stress, tension, and arguments, especially when people are unusually confined to each other all day. Of course, this has a great chance for a strong family

bond and protects the prevalence of the virus, but unfortunately, it paved the way for IPV and DV. Movement restrictions and being locked at home with the perpetrator during quarantine are making it hard for survivors to escape, report domestic abuse, and seek help. Survivors were confessing that they have been prevented from going outside because of the COVID-19 prevalence. As a result they encountered repeated violence. They are also unable to reach out and talk on the phone or call for support because of the loss of privacy. In general, this chapter dealt with the contributing factors to violence. And these factors could be categorized in to two. The first factors are the existing reasons of violence prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, such as poverty, trend of normalizing violence, lack of awareness etc. The second ones are the new factors that came up with the pandemic and they include lockdown, emotional factors, economic factors etc. Therefore, these contributing factors that have existed prior to and after the outbreak of COVID-19 has played crucial role for the increase of violence against women and children during the pandemic at Bole Sub-city of Addis Ababa.

#### **4.3. Concerning the impact of different types of various violent incidents on the life of women and children during COVID 19**

Sexual assaults have been common issues of concern that almost all interviewees mentioned with different stories. Each of these assaults has their own impact on the lives of the victims, especially when correlated with the existing COVID 19. Besides the physical and health impacts of violence there are other negative outcomes of the pandemic that compound the vulnerability or the level of despair for many women experiencing violence.

Violence has most likely been the day today reality of human life. Its impacts can be seen in numerous forms. It has an impact on the lives of women and children, particularly when man-made and natural disasters strike, as well as pandemics. The same is true for women and children who have been exposed to various forms of violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. The following are some of the impacts raised by the study participants:

##### **4.3.1. Extremely vulnerable to stress, frustration, and a lack of opportunity**

Most of the participants share almost the same emotional feeling that they have faced stress, frustration and lack of opportunity. They said the impact of the pandemic was terrible, unpleasant and depressing. Because of the closure, for example, everyone was compelled to

spend significant periods of time at home together. This is owing to the fact that it is unusual, which is a key cause of psychological, anxiety, and behavioral alterations. As a result, the pandemic is contributing to a departure from the regular way of life in the house to people's behavioral changes and feelings of despair. This has resulted in domestic sexual assaults on women and children.

**For this reason, psychologist 1 in the women's shelter claimed the following:**

*The women went on to say that they had no one to talk to about the violence because the pandemic's behavior prevented them from meeting anyone who could freely converse with and address their problems. They were aware that coming into contact with people was a risk factor for the transmission of COVID-19. Even if the victims believe that speaking out is preferable than remaining silent and staying at home facing abuse is not an option, they are unable to do so for different reasons. For the fact that majority of the victims were domestic employees who have come from rural Ethiopia to pursue their education at their relatives' homes, they were not allowed to leave the houses without their employers' or relatives' consent. The fear of getting infected by the virus was also preventing them from moving around freely. Prior to COVID 19, there were more opportunities to leave the house for various reasons, but that has changed today. As a result, in addition to the sadness and unemployment brought on by COVID 19, women who have been sexually molested are more prone to feeling significant anxiety. Abused women are more anxious, and even if they decide to look for another job, the shortage of job creates compelling reasons for them to stay in a bad circumstance (KII0, 2Aug/21/2021*

#### **4.3.2. Regarding the impact in losing faith in legal and social service institutions**

The victim of violence participants and the key informants said that the impact of many forms of violence on the lives of women and children is devastating, and it has impacted them in various ways. AWASAD's shelter coordinator informed to the researcher that "Because of the wrong perception that legal and public institutions' were locked down, victims believe that no one cares about their injuries, which is why the legal and social institutions are closed." Thinking that

police stations are closed because of the lockdown, they have lost a great deal of trust in the police and justice system. Even when we told them that the legal institutions are open and ready to assist them, they refuse to believe it. As a result, victims of violence are losing trust in the institutions and are not ready to receive help. As a result, the psychologists at our shelter have been challenged to support them psychologically and build trust in them, as well as change the victims' attitudes toward the police and other social services.

#### **4.3.3. Concerning the impact of Society overview in blaming the victim**

The societal attitudes towards rape, domestic violence and many harmful traditions in Ethiopia have developed varying degrees of victim blaming. Victim blaming is frequent, especially in cultures where treating certain groups of individuals as less important is socially acceptable and encouraged. People blame the victims, especially women and children, when they even know the fact that someone provokes the violence through their actions, comments, clothing, or the way they interact with people. Yet victim-blaming is a primary reason why sexual and domestic violence victims do not report their assaults.

Furthermore, society's responses push the victims to blame themselves for the actions committed against them. It also keeps them to remain silent and develop hatred against their own self and being. Most of the victims are already dealing with guilt and humiliation as a result of what happened to them. It is the researcher's opinion that the victims should not be blamed for what they were dressing, their interaction with people, or whether they had a previous consensual relationship with the attacker and for the harmful violence they went through. It is never the fault of the victim. Also, different respondents explained that there are contributing factors for society to blame the victim, such as the power, control, and entitlement of a perpetrator. This refers to the perpetrator's fake actions and acceptance between the society, which are considered as good values to hold accountable and blame the victim for the violence committed against them.

One of the victims who have been interviewed on the research has also confessed that she was the one who took the blame for the violence by the group of teen agers that she suffered from. Among the reasons why the society blames the victim is if the abuser used alcohol, it is obvious that he cannot control himself. So the victim will be held accountable for not controlling her own self and for not keeping herself away from that person.

According to the psychologist 2 in women's development shelter, many people were obliged to spend the majority of their time indoors during the outbreak. For example, one of the activities they perform at home is drinking alcohol. They are more likely to commit violence on people near them if they consume too much alcohol. Then, instead of blaming the attacker, society blames the victims for failing to take the necessary precautions to protect them.

So, according to the participants with regard to survivor-blaming ideas, the victims are blamed for the way they act, dress, and the way they interact with people. Such societal attitudes influence the victims not to speak out the situation and remain silent, as well as give the perpetrator confidence and a sense of being guilt-free. In general, such misunderstandings of concepts negatively impacted victim women and children.

According to the psychologist 1 working at women development center experiencing victim-blaming is extremely harmful to a sexual abuse victim. In the aftermath of an assault, victims lose their sense of personal safety, lose control over their own bodies, and feel more vulnerable. Sexual violence involves a physical and emotional violation and hearing offensive words from others exacerbates sentiments of self-blame that the victim is already feeling.

**In this regard, a police officer shared his experiences as follows:**

*Hearing victim-blaming statements can be intimidating, leading a survivor to hide information about a previous experience for fear of being humiliated and judged. This is why it's so important to challenge victim-blaming statements when you hear them; you never know what others have been through. Victim-blaming is a serious threat to victims' ability to safely reveal their experiences and seek help (KII 01, Aug/21/2021).*

#### **4.3.4. Fearing of social stigma as an impact**

Stigma is not a strange phenomenon between societies that the researcher is living in. It is feared not only by most violence victims but also those who even showed a little symptom of viral diseases like COVID-19. It has been a trend to avoid a person who recovered from the virus and joined the society if he/she coughs a little bit during the pandemic. The impact of stigma on people who have suffered from violence is hardly bearable.

**The following story of a victim will explain it how:**

*Following the onset of COVID-19, many individuals were affected by the pandemic and I lost my mother by the virus. I am the only child in my family, and I have a close relationship with my father. After my mother died, my father's reaction to me changed dramatically. It was no longer the approach that a child should receive from a father, but rather it has become the approach of a boyfriend. He always wanted to have dinner outside the house, chill out, and share different experiences like couples with me. I was not happy, and I always refused to accept his questions because I believed that our bond has turned into something more than just a father and daughter. But, because he is my father, I don't want to upset him, and I believe that he would never harm me in the ways that I suspected. So I accept his question, and one night we go to a restaurant together and had a good time. Few minutes later, he said to me: "since you do not drink alcohol, it is better to take away some bottles of drink for me rather than sitting here in the bar." Then He bought alcohol and we went back home. At home, he drank and started watching movies, so I left him in the salon. I went to my room and fall asleep. When I woke up, I found my father sleeping by my side. When I asked why he came here and slept with me, he responded "It was because you are my only child and the memory of my wife. I don't want to lose you." Then I realized that my own father raped me while I was asleep. Later I was terrified about what I was going to do when I heard from the people in my village that my mother had died, not from COVID-19, but because she was HIV positive. I became even more terrified thinking that I could be a victim HIV positive. I decided to check for HIV and also take a pregnancy test, both of which came back negative. However, the health officer informed me that the results indicated are before three months, so I had to come back three months later to find out the actual result about the virus. Also, it was suggested that I take HIV prevention medicine prophylaxis, whether I am positive or negative. I was also told that the tablet was very difficult to take because it required good food and rest. So if I return home, the actions or relationship that I had with my father may continue as a wife and husband. If I don't return, I won't be able to take the medicine for lack of access to good food. I told the health officer that the rape was from my father, and I didn't want to go back home, but I also didn't want to disclose the case to the public. I was frustrated by what society may say about my father. I also feared that the society will say offensive things about my father and me so I will be*

*stigmatized. Therefore I decided to join the shelter and take the medicine here(Case 13, Sep/13/2021).*

#### **4.3.5 Regarding the impact of economic instability on victim women and children**

The economic impact of the pandemic has increased poverty levels and led to increased unemployment. Women are disproportionately affected by the crisis because they work in the service industry and informal industries, such as house maiden jobs, housecleaning, and child care, where they earn lower income from and have no employment insurance.

It is observed that unemployment makes a woman more financially dependent and makes her more vulnerable to IPV. As a result of the violence committed against them, women and children are exposed to many impacts. For example, from an economic point of view, the pandemic was increasing poverty levels and leading to increased unemployment. Unemployment makes a woman more financially dependent and makes her more vulnerable to violence. Most of the victims who responded to this research came from the rural parts of the country to Addis Ababa. While they are striving to make their lives better they become vulnerable to violence for a variety of reasons. But because their economic capacity is so weak and so small, they can't quickly escape from the situation. However, not every woman has been impacted in the same way. Women who have low-income and low-skill are more likely to be trapped in a vicious circle of systematic poverty.

From the cases of some victims who have responded to the interview in this study economic insecurity or poverty has led women and children to face different violence and make unnecessary sacrifices like remaining silent and take more violence in order to raise children, fear of getting job opportunity escape stigma.

From the researcher's observation and from the interviewee's responses, it is understood that if the victims are unhappy with the way they are working and wants to change they will be more likely to worry about not getting a job. This is due to the decreased demand for domestic workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of stress and anxiety, they are also forced to engage in unprotected sex with someone they think will help them financially. Then there are the things that happen in the middle of a relationship, such as the loss of a partner who is responsible for

the pregnancy. One may be involved in an unwanted decision. For example, because of the violence that affected the majority of the people who responded to this research, it is understood that they were hurt and affected in many ways.

So, in the researcher's observation, the situation of the COVID-19 impacted the activities of major economic sectors. As a result the opportunities to gaining jobs were very limited, and women and children were forced to suffer a lot more than men in various dimensions. Furthermore, when it comes to abused women, in addition to psychological and physical harm, they may not be able to lead their lives at work and earn money because of the loss of job opportunities. It has also made them more vulnerable to frequent attacks, making it impossible for them to recover from their injuries.

#### **4.3.6. Regarding Psychological impact**

According to psychologist 1 at the Women's Sanctuary Development Center,

*An internal problem or pain is referred to as psychological harm. As a result, it is the most serious harm that can be done to a victim. They are subjected to various forms of psychological abuse as a result of the violence perpetrated against them. Self-hatred, self-blame, and depression are all factors that might contribute to suicide. Most victims lose faith in all mankind, especially if a family member commits the violence against them. They say to themselves: "If my own family hurts me this much, other people will injure me even more". They feel agitated and recall events from their past(KII04, JUN06, 2021).*

Since the onset of COVID 19, victims have been experiencing a variety of psychological issues. Women and children, for example, confront a range of psychological issues in addition to the visible violence they face. The following are other impacts that women and children face because of the psychological traumas they are going through.

*One of the participants in the interview of the study, who had been raped by her cousin, told the researcher that the violence she had went through had caused her to loathe herself, causing her to lose self-esteem and optimism, as well as sentiments of vengeance, which she expressed whenever she spoke about her experience to others. She has a strong sense of remorse and always wonders "Why does this keep happening to me?"*

*Sometimes she couldn't even comprehend what had really occurred to her. She kept blaming herself for the violence she had suffered .She would always ask herself: “Why did I travel to Addis Ababa when it would have been better to stay at home?” She had also lost faith in the people around her. “As a result of the sexual assault I’ve experienced, I feel that all males have the same characteristics”, she says. As a result the victim is always contemplating revenge on men in the future. “In addition to my humiliation from the sexual assault, I had to go to the hospital to give birth and I was frustrated from the fear that I may have been infected by COVID 19 because the disease's prevalence was quite high at the time. When I was giving birth, I was hearing on television that it is very serious if pregnant women are infected by COVID 19. It made me unable to breathe, so I would have died when I gave birth. I was too scared about it and the COVID-19 situation made me even more depressed (case 10, Sep/15/2021).*

**According to psychologist 2 in women sanctuary development center how victim of violence women impacted in psychological trauma shared the following:**

*The majority of the victims were domestic workers, with some of them also going to night school. However, because schools were closed during COVID 19, their prospects of seeing their peers at school were to some extent diminished. It also has a negative impact. They don't have a counselor or a mentor to help them with the issues they're dealing with. The abusers and the victims spend a lot of time together at home as a result of the COVID 19 outbreak and the lock down. In addition to the trauma, the lack of a partner with whom to discuss the problem and seek a solution has resulted in anxiety, depression, and a decision to give up in life because of the outbreak of the COVID 19 (K1102, Aug/21/2021).*

**To support the above ideas, psychologist 1 in the women's sanctuary development center added:**

*As a result of the violence committed against them, women are more likely to experience psychological damage than any other victim before COVID-19. In particular, mood swings and instability caused by the onset of COVID-19 itself had their own bad psychological effects. For example, following the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, many*

*people are experiencing unprecedented behavioral changes. Depression, or sadness at the time, was becoming increasingly severe in victims of violence. Women who have been abused have become more troubled and seem to never forget it in the future. Even though they receive psychological support, returning to the psychological stability they had was a little more difficult (KII 02, Aug/21/202).*

#### **4.3.7. Regarding the health impact**

A health officer working at women's sanctuary development center shared her experience as follows:

*Women who have encountered sexual abuse or violence should get medical treatment within 72 hours the incident happened to them. They are encouraged to take post-exposure prophylaxis medicines. PEP is a short course of HIV treatment used as soon as possible after a suspected HIV encounter to prevent the infection from taking hold in your body. Whether the virus is in their blood or not, the treatment is extremely tough because it necessitates proper nutrition. However, during COVID-19, the ability to find work was quite limited. Wage cutbacks, particularly for women, are a major source of financial difficulty during this time since it is a period when women are most challenged in terms of financial crisis. So the victim who come to the shelter and take the medicine are challenged afford good food when they have problems; they are especially vulnerable because they have financial problems and the shortage makes their health problems worst. All these are happening because they are subjects to sexual violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Victims of abuse who believe health centers were closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 also came to the center after spending many days at home, where they were subjected to a significant degree of violence and health threat. As a result of this condition, the opportunity to take HIV/AIDS post-exposure prophylaxis drugs, which should be taken within three days of the violence. As a result, the COVID-19 outbreak and the belief that social institutions were closed had a significant impact on women and children (KII04, Aug/26/2021).*

Based on the above descriptions, the participant noted that women and children are impacted or suffer body injuries as a result of the violence they encountered.

According to the shelter coordinator at the women's development center and a police investigator in the Bole sub-city, Victims of violence have suffered physical and psychological harm as a result of their injuries. For example, victims of violence who come to the AWSAD for help come with a variety of physical injuries. There are victims who have their eyes bitten and those who have had ear infections. So, the shelter covers the medical expenses of the injured women until they recover. "However, a huge number of women outside the shelter seek assistance from the Women's Development Center," said the coordinator. But due to the expense of money that is invested to supporting injured women, the shelter is facing difficulties to receive new victims. Fistula was also another health impact of sexual violence that one of the study subject's 14-year-old daughters, who had been raped by her cousin, went through.

#### **4.3.8. Concerning reproductive health impact**

The participants said that women who have been victims of violence have put their reproductive health in danger due to a misunderstanding of no reproduction health service due to the COVID 19 lockdown.

#### **In this regard, the health officer 1 at the shelter shared her experience as follows:**

She said that most victims wanted to terminate their pregnancy and engage in unsafe abortions, putting themselves in a precarious health situation. Even worse there is some pain they will go through after e after the abortion. Therefore, it is necessary to take some time off work. But they couldn't be tolerated because of the time of COVID 19, when job opportunities were limited and there was lack of money to survive. This makes, reproductive health issue one of the impacts that victims of sexual violence are severely dealing with.

#### **Concerning the issue, health officer also added the following:**

*As a result of the violence perpetrated against them, the victims are at an increased risk of obtaining HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. According to the health officer's experience, women and children who have been sexually abused, refuse to accept reproductive health treatments for a variety of reasons, especially in fear of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, there are certain misunderstandings about the closure of reproductive health service centers. There was a good chance of obtaining sexually transmitted diseases, getting pregnant, and having an unsafe abortion. Furthermore, as a*

*result of this complicated health consequence, the family and other good relationships are driven into disagreement and conflict, which most women become the first victims of. They are in a great financial distress, have lost their wages, and are in a state of despair. They lack the psychological and financial strength to overcome these challenges. The spread of the virus have aggravated the situation (KII04, Aug/26/2021).*

#### **4.3.9. Exposure to an unfamiliar lifestyle**

The participants have also expressed how they were exposed to an unfamiliar lifestyle. They said that victimized women have been gaining trainings for martial arts, taekwondo, sewing, and other skills. Most of the beneficiaries are above the age of 18. However, due to some unsettling behaviors of the victims in the shelter, the wrong information they receive about the shelter, and due to the challenge of unfamiliar or new lifestyle in the shelter, they are not stable enough to wait longer and receive the training aimed at making victim women economically independent and preventing violence that is caused by dependency. Some of them leave the shelter swiftly and return to their previous lives, where they will confront new types of violence as well as economic dependence.

In this regard, the researcher has obtained information from the victimized women about the treatment in the shelter. They say that they joined the AWSAD in order to be healed from their emotional pain as well as seeking for physical healing. The shelter provides psychosocial assistance; other health care services with training that would enable the victims possess professional skills to obtain economic independence. Meanwhile, the life style here would be strange for most of the victims and challenges them to quickly cop up with.

The AWSAD's internal regulations require the beneficiaries from all walks of life to live in peace and harmony. The ladies staying at the shelter, on the other hand, may need to adjust to a new way of life because they have previously lived within various communities, each with their own set of experiences and habits. There is a communal dormitory, for example, where a large number of people share a single bedroom, which can be challenging, especially given the psychological trauma of the abuse and the occasional misunderstandings and clashes with one another.

**In light of the above description, one of the respondents shared her difficulties of exposure to an unfamiliar lifestyle as follows:**

*There were two things that troubled me when I entered the AWSAD with the assistance of the police," she says. "One reason was that the COVID 19 pandemic was spreading fast, and everyone was on high alert to avoid contracting the disease. I have never spent a day and night outside of my former home before. But now I'm in a dormitory with a large group of individuals. I was worried that I would be infected. At first the women who came into the shelter before I did were really nice. But they would ask questions like why I joined the shelter and the more I talk about what happened to me, the more I realize how painful the violence was. I would try to isolate myself and spend my time in depression. It is a great challenge for new comers to familiarize themselves with the environment and the new life style with new groups of people(case 14, Sep/13/2021).*

#### **4.4. Recommendations and suggestions to prevent violence against women and children if pandemic occur in the future.**

**The participants were also asked if they had appropriate recommendations and suggestions to preventing violence against women and children if pandemic occurs in the future,**

The research findings indicate that the frequency of reports of violence against women and children in the research area (Bole Sub-city of Addis Ababa) increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to research participants, a number of factors have contributed to the increase in violence. As a result, the participants in this study have given the following recommendations that they believe would avoid the rise in violence against women and children if comparable pandemic emerge in the future.

##### **4.4.1. Raising Awareness**

Concerning about raising awareness about the pandemic and the violence, the participants said that families, communities, police, and health professionals can all help to decrease and prevent violence against women and children by establishing the points that will be delivered and the methods of delivery, depending on their profession. According to the study's conclusions, existence of the pandemic, as well as the lockdowns considered to be the major contributing variables to the rise in violence. An increase in underreported cases, a growing trend of blaming

the victim rather than the perpetrator, a growing trend of dropping charges before the police have finished investigating them, and an underestimated amount of violence against women and children are also discussed with other aspects.

As a result, a variety of bodies, including family, community, police, and health professionals, all have a role in preventing contributing factors for the increasing violence on women and children. Therefore, it's vital to build awareness for each person based on their professions by determining what points will be delivered to them and how they will be presented. Organizations such as law enforcement institutions, and the health sector, are supposed to exist to support women and children from all walks of life but due attention for victims of violence must be a priority. Raising awareness between families and communities is a proactive preventive method that all actors and stakeholders must exert maximum effort to avoid violence on women and children if a pandemic occurs in the future.

#### **4.4.1.1. Regarding raising awareness to the family**

The respondents said that family is the foundation of everything before we go into society, which is why family is selected as a first class to tackle the problem of violence against women and children. In the family, there are several issues of concern that must be dealt with, and things that need to be done on the family side.

In this regard, participants of the study recommend that effort must be made to raise awareness on the points that has been discussed in the study as contributing factors for the increased violence against women and children during COVID-19 pandemic. The study's findings demonstrate that women, even among their closest relatives, are victims of abuse. Because they believe the abusers are members of their family and cannot harm them, they have easily become victims of their own loose trust on other people. As a result, it's critical to teach women and children that they could be abused by close family members in a variety of ways and they have to be cautious.

This cannot not be accomplished only by coordinating community policing officers there must be also giving live speeches between communities. It's also an option to raise awareness via social media and mainstream media. It is vital to teach families how to create a culture of open communication at home regarding the subject of domestic violence against women and children

and the severity of the issue. If families are open to communicate freely on such issues, the victims will be more at ease in dealing with their situation.

The police must educate the families of victims of violence, as well as the community, on the need to report to the police and the consequences of neglecting to do so. This should be done with community policing. It's also important to stress the benefits of reporting assault to the police and to highlight possible concerns that can be resolved by the police and the police investigation office. It will also need collaboration with a range of charities to strengthen the effort. Police and other media can be used as teaching tools. Another suggestion made by participants was that it is vital to emphasize and teach the community that blaming victims won't solve a problem except encouraging the abuser to commit extra violence. It's never a good idea to blame victims. Furthermore, it would be good to select a family police officer in the home who informs the police about what is going on at home in order to avoid the culture of silence and report the violent case to the appropriate body.

In terms of dropping charges, the participant of the study recommended the following suggestions: The police should educate the victim and her family the necessity of reporting violence as soon as it occurred. Another concern that has been brought up is that parents are expected to supervise their children's activities both inside and outside home in a number of ways. According to the participants of the study, there was widespread access to wireless internet in many houses due to the closure following the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Watching the most recent blockbuster films has been used as a cover for domestic sexual assault on children. Therefore, parents should monitor what their children are watching on TV, mobile phones or laptops.

#### **4.4.1.2. Regarding awareness raising for community**

The respondents and key informants said that community is a group of individuals who live together in a larger society and have a shared quality or interest. As a result, the larger society has contributed to the rise in violence against women and children, whether purposefully or unintentionally. Instead of preventing these contributing causes in the future, the participants of the study made the following recommendations, which the community should address in order to prevent violence against women and girls in the future.

Considering all of the facts, awareness rising for the community is advised. These community awareness trainings should be mostly led by community members who have acceptance for a variety of reasons. Clerics will be more receptive and attentive to it, resulting in the desired transformation in viewpoint and attitude. It is required to teach the community that violence against women and children occurs for no apparent reason, as well as to avoid misrepresentation and victim blaming. Instead, they must be proactive and supportive of the victims' needs.

Despite the fact that the police are responsible for apprehending criminals, the community should be enthusiastic and sincere at this time. Communities must be thought how to cooperate and give a basic statement when summoned to testify. If the community does not cooperate, the police will not be able to bring about the necessary change in combating violence against women and children as well as preventing other crimes.

#### **4.4.2. Regarding Creating a strategic plan that is time-sensitive**

The respondents said that the government of Ethiopia has declared lockdown to control the prevalence of COVID 19. COVID-19's response plan prioritized the probability of preventing only the prevalence of the virus. It did not give emphasis to the exposure to increased violence due to the lock down. But before declaring a lockdown, it was important to think about what bad things could happen because of the closure. It is well-known that women and children are the most vulnerable groups in society whenever pandemics are on the rise or in war situations. With this in mind, measures were taken to limit the spread of COVID-19 by restricting the activities of students and public servants in many sectors. Although it had its own positive effect on reducing the spread of the virus, in contrast, there was an increase in violence against women and children during lock down.

The researcher also recommends that when such outbreaks occur, proclamations and laws should take into account the benefits and drawbacks or negative effects on women and children. They must always consider the greater consequences that would lead to a failure in generations because a failure in protecting women is more likely to bring failure in generations. Studies are also mandatory to determine who and where the most violent attacks occur: To discover and design specific prevention strategies, researchers look into who commits sexual assault and where it occurs."

### **4.4.3. Preparing free call service**

According to Psychologist 2 at the AWSAD, victims prefer to make phone calls than reporting to the police in person. "When I asked them why they don't go to the police station, they would say that they were scared and it would be comfortable to report their case over the phone. So I came up with the idea that if there was a free hotline for organizations that support violence against women and children, just like the Women's Development Center, and if the phone numbers were promoted through various media, it would have a positive contribution to reporting incidents and breaking silence. I think it would go a long way towards reducing violence against women and children".

But when we look at the reality under the ground, affected women and children do not report the abuse to the police or other relevant departments. As a result, there are many attacks that are not reported and are ignored. This in turn encourage the abusers in one way or another and makes the victim vulnerable to repeated attacks, thus increasing the violence committed against women and girls. There are a number of reasons for this. One of the reasons is the fear of what the community will say about the victim. The other is that the transmission of COVID-19 was so widespread that people were afraid of becoming infected if they walked out to the police station. They simply hold on to their cases without informing anyone, perceiving that due to the closure that is being taken to control the transmission of the virus, police and health facilities are unable to provide assistance. These are only a handful of the numerous possibilities. Therefore, to alleviate this fear of social stigma and for other listed reasons, it is better make it possible for victims to use a free telephone line to reach out the relevant departments instead of going in person to police stations and other concerned offices.

The respondents were asked if they get psychosocial support, they said that victims of violence face more obstacles from concealed psychological issues than physical difficulties following an attack. Because of the violence perpetrated against them, victim women are subject to worry, sorrow, despair, self-blame, and retaliation, according to psychologist 1 at AWSAD. "As a result, more intensive and coordinated help, in addition to ongoing psychotherapy is required.

#### **4.4.4. Facilitating economical support from local and non-governmental organizations to poor women and children**

Regarding facilitating economical support from local and non-governmental organizations to poor women, victims as well as key informants said that during the outbreak of the pandemic, cases of poverty and economic dependency on many women and children got severe and exacerbated because of the situations that resulted from the outbreak of COVID 19. And they were exposed to violence specifically as a result of the poverty. So it's better for different local and non-governmental organizations, especially those working on women's affairs, in collaboration with the government, to facilitate support in different ways that could enable them create their own jobs to generate their own incomes. The pandemic has led to fewer work opportunities for women and caused them to be unemployed and vulnerable to violence. When such difficulties arise, it would be preferable in the future if the government and non-governmental organizations work together to support and assist poor women and children.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study was designed to find out factors that contributed to an increase in violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Addis Ababa city administration's bole sub-city.

#### 5.1. Conclusion

This study looked into the factors that contributed to an increase in violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Addis Ababa city administration's bole sub-city. The finding shows that violence against women increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially intimate partner and domestic violence at the study area. Due to the existing of the pandemic by itself, lockdown, victims misperception of the lock down of the legal institutions, increasing of the under report case, increasing access of Wi-Fi internet access and watching pornography video and image, a lack of awareness and exacerbating of the factors of violence prior to COVID 19. The existing of the pandemic by itself, the lockdown exacerbated violence against women surged. Several circumstances that contribute to violence against women and girl were heightened by the lockdown. It increased home tensions, influenced gender roles, stress-relieving activities, and financial constraints, goes to the increasing of violence against women and girl. The different factors contributing to violence were addressed thoroughly in an attempt to explain why the increase in violence against women occurred during the pandemic. Violence is a complex process that is influenced by a variety of circumstances. Physical, psychological, economic, and sexual violence have all been perpetrated against women and girls. The cultural system makes it difficult for women and girls to speak out about what has happened to them and to protect the perpetrator in various ways. The cultural system also favors blaming the victim and imposes certain requirements for not being held responsible for the abuser. Women socioeconomic issue exposing women and girls to violence. Women who have been subjected to violence are more likely to suffer from a variety of physical and psychological consequences. The options available to a woman when confronted with violence are frequently limited.

Lack of support from family, friends, and society at large, economic difficulty, and fear of retaliation from an escalation of violence by intimate partners are all reasons why women do not escape abuse or employ healthy coping mechanisms. A variety of individual and community-level measures can help to minimize the rise in violence against women and girls during pandemics. Intervention programs aimed at the family community that raise awareness about violence and advocate for nonviolent ways to deal with stress and anger can help reduce violent behaviors during times of crisis.

## **5.2. Recommendation**

- ✓ The emotional and psychological instability that the epidemic has caused in individuals, families, and communities level has been a source of sexual assault. But Experts were simply encouraged to take precautions to prevent becoming infected, not to transmit the virus, both before and after COVID-19 were discovered in Ethiopia. It wasn't teaching or mainstreaming about the psychological and behavioral changes that a person experiences as a result of COVID 19. As a result, the researcher believe that in the future, governmental women's and children's organizations, as well as other charities dedicated to women's issues, should engage in various forms of awareness-raising and stabilization work in order to protect women and children from violence when such pandemics occur.
- ✓ Women and girls who were already victims of partner violence have been unintentionally exposed to more severe violence, new challenges in coping with violent experiences, and other forms of violence, such as violence that used the lockdown to threaten women's security and ability to protect them from the virus. As a result, new techniques to aid victims are needed, with an emphasis on how IPV abusers may be leveraging COVID-19's threat to gain even greater power and control over their partners
- ✓ Several individual and community-level strategies can help to minimize the spread of DV during pandemics. Intervention programs that promote awareness about domestic violence and advocate for nonviolent strategies to cope with stress and anger can help to reduce violent behavior during times of crisis.
- ✓ Sensitize and engage the private sector using available global guidance on how to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, including female employees who work from home during COVID-19 and experience domestic violence.

- ✓ Encourage healthy ways of coping with stressful conditions by aggressively challenging gender stereotypes and detrimental masculinities, which are exacerbated under COVID-19 circumstances such as increasing family care duties for women, financial uncertainty, and unemployment .Because there are more un-reported attacks than reported attacks, there is still a lot of work expected from different parts, starting with any individual, family, society, and community. Concerned government organizations, particularly police organizations, have a significant role to play in sensitizing the community to report cases of violence through training in collaboration with community police officers, as well as by using the media to publicize the attacks.
- ✓ Ensure women’s organizations and women’s community organizations participate in the decision-making processes so that needs and concerns are identified and included in prevention of and responses to violence against women and girls.
- ✓ Engage with media sources to continue to raise awareness of growing violence against women and girls, explaining how COVID-19 exacerbates the risk factors that fuel violence.
- ✓ Reinforcing multi sector child protection systems for girls who are at risk of experiencing violence and exploitation, including by ensuring access to justice for survivors.
- ✓ Aiding community-based child protection systems in their efforts to rebuild following the pandemic's severe impact on their operations facilitating access to comprehensive post-rape treatment, including reporting and investigations of complaints.
- ✓ Maximizing the number of shelters.

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## ANNEXONE

### List of key informant

No	Code	Type of participant	Responsibility	Sampling technique	Date of interview
1	KII 01	Police officer	Bole sub-city women and children affaire investigation Police Leader	Purposive Sampling	Aug/21/2021
2	KII 02	Psychologist 01	Psychological expert in women shelter	Purposive Sampling	Aug/21/2021
3	KII 03	Psychologist 02	Psychological expert in women shelter	Purposive Sampling	Aug/21/2021
4	KII 04	Health officer	Health officer in women shelter	Purposive Sampling	Aug/26/2021
5	KII 05	Shelter coordinator	Women shelter chief coordinator	Purposive Sampling	Aug/26/2021

Source: Participants of the interview, 2021

## ANNEX Two

### List of in-depth-interviewee participants

<b>Code</b>	<b>The type of violence faced</b>	<b>Current job</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Marital</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>The type of violence faced</b>
Case 1	Rape, exploitation	Housemaid	Above 18	Single	Snowball	Aug/29/2021
Case 2	Rape	Housemaid	Above 18	Single	Snowball	Aug/29/2021
Case 3	Rape	Labor work	Above 18	Single mom	Snowball	Sep/02/2021
Case 4	Rape	Waiter	Above 18	Single	Snowball	Sep/02/2021
Case 5	Rape attempt	Housemaid	Above 18	Divorce	Snowball	Sep/02/2021
Case 6	Forced to abortion	Hairdresser	Above 18	In relationship	Snowball	Sep/07/2021
Case 7	Rape	Student	Under 18	Single	Snowball	Sep/10/2021
Case 8	Rape	Housemaid	Under 18	Single	Snowball	Sep/10/2021
Case 9	Rape	Housemaid	Above 18	Single	Snowball	Sep/10/2021
Case 10	Rape	Housemaid	Above 18	Single	Snowball	Sep/10/2021
Case 11	Child denial	Housemaid	Above 18	Single	Snowball	Sep/10/2021
Case 12	Rape	Housemaid	Above 18	Single	Snowball	Sep/13/2021
Case 13	Rape	Housemaid	Above 18	Single	Snowball	Sep/13/2021
Case 14	Rape	Housemaid	Above 18	Single	Snowball	Sep/13/2021
Case 15	Rape	Housemaid	Above 18	Single	Snowball	Sep/13/2021

Source: Participants of the interview, 2021

## **ANNEX THREE**

### **Interview Question**

#### **Informed consent**

My name is Hana Bezabih. I am a postgraduate student at Addis Ababa University, College of Development Studies Center for Gender Studies. I am studying "Exploring the contributing factors for increasing violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic: the case of Bole-Sub City of Addis Ababa City Administration." for the partial fulfillment of requirements for a Master's Degree in Gender Studies. I kindly request your willingness to participate in the interview and give your response. Your response is vital for the study, and your participation is voluntary. Any information you will give serves only for this study and should be kept confidential. Your name and profile will not be mentioned in the study paper. You can ask any question during the interview session.

**I appreciate your willingness to share your ideas on the following questions, and I thank you in advance for your cooperation.**

#### **Part one Interview Questions Prepared for victim of violence against women**

1. What would you like to begin with?
2. How do you describe sexual assault?
3. Can you explain the changes in your life caused by the COVID 19 virus?
4. What do you think are the causes of violence against women?
5. What kind of attack did you carry out, and could you tell me more about it?
6. Can you tell me if there is a better opportunity or opportunity for the attacker in connection with the outbreak of COVID 19?
7. Can you tell me about the impact the violence has on your life especially with connection with COVID 19?
8. What kind of support did you get from those who helped you recover from the trauma and other people who knew about it? What strengths and weaknesses did you experience?
9. Who do you think is responsible for preventing sexual assault and what should be done?

10. What can be done to prevent women and children from becoming vulnerable when such kind of outbreak existing in the future?
11. How would you describe the support you received from various departments to recover from the abuse?
12. Can you tell me what you think should be done to recover from your current situation?
13. Also, is there anything you would like me to say or do you want to add to the discussion?

**Part two Interview Questions Prepared for the police officer**

1. Where do victims of violence go first to report abuse?
2. For those who come to you to report abuse on your part what is your reaction to the victim?
3. How do you describe the motives of the victim of violence women who came to the police station to report the abuse?
4. How do you describe the prevalence of violence against women after the outbreak of COVID 19 in Bole sub-city compared to prior to the COVID 19 time?
5. What do you think are the causes of violence against women particularly in relation to COVID 19 outbreak?
6. How do you describe the impact of violence on women?
7. Can you explain what the security forces are doing to protect women from violence?
8. Let me know if there is anything that could be a challenge for the police in their work to protect women from violence
9. How do the victims express their confidence in the law and the law enforcement agencies?
10. Legally to prosecute the perpetrator and bring the victim to justice to the end what kind of work is being done by the police?
11. What activities are expected of other members of the community, in addition to the actions taken by the police to reduce sexual violence against women?
12. What can be done to prevent women and children from becoming vulnerable when such kind of outbreak existing in the future?
13. Also, is there anything you would like me to say or do you want to add to the discussion?

### **Part three for Interview question for psychology expert**

1. What does it mean to have psychological harm?
2. Depending on your line of work how do you describe the damages of victims of violence have suffered and what kind of assistance do you have to help you get out of this predicament?
3. What do you think are the causes of violence against women?
4. Can you explain to me what you believe should be done to prevent violence against women?
5. From the services offered by medical facilities to assist the victim in his or her recovery one of the many types of support is psychological support. What does the service access look like?
6. Let me know if there is anything that could be a challenge for the psychological experts in their work to recover Victims from their injuries and return to their former lives protect women from violence
7. What can be done to prevent women and children from becoming vulnerable when such kind of outbreak existing in the future?
8. Also, is there anything you would like me to say or do you want to add to the discussion?

### **Part four for Interview question for health officers in AWSAD association for women sanctuary development)**

1. What are the causes for violence particularly in line with COVID 19?
2. Can you explain to me some of the conditions that may have made women more vulnerable to violence than those who came to you for health care during the COVID-19 epidemic?
3. What are the health problems women faces after the attack?
4. At a time when the COVID 19 epidemic is rampant, what is the overall access to medical care to victim of violence through health facilities following the reduction in the standard of care provided by governmental and non-governmental organizations?
5. Can you explain to me if there is a challenge for the victim to provide the necessary support from the health professional to recover from the trauma and return to their former life?
6. What can be done to prevent women and children from becoming vulnerable when such kind of outbreak existing in the future?
7. Also, is there anything you would like me to say or do you want to add to the discussion?

**Part five for Interview question for shelter coordinator in AWSAD (association for women sanctuary development)**

1. What is the cause for violence particularly in line with COVID 19?
2. What was the service delivered from the shelter to the victim of violence women?
3. How do you understand the positive impact that detention has on women victims?
4. How do you describe the comparison and accessibility of the temporary detention center where the abused women were used as shelters?
5. What are the challenges and opportunities for abused women in detention?
6. What can be done to prevent women and children from becoming vulnerable when such kind of outbreak existing in the future?

ስሜ ሀና በዛብህ ሰወዬ እባላለሁ። በአዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ በስርዓተ-ጾታ ትምህርት መርሀ ግብር የሁለተኛ ዲግሪ

ትምህርቱን ለማጠናቀቅ የመመረቂያ ጥናት ፀሁፌን ለመስራት በዝግጅት ላይ እገኛለሁ።

ጥናቱ የሚደርግበት ርዕሰ ጉዳይ "በኮቪድ-19 ወረርሽኝ ወቅት በአዲስ አበባ ከተማ አስተዳደር በቦሌ ክፍለ ከተማ ከቀደመው ጊዜ በተለየ በሴቶች እና ልጃገረዶች ላይ የሚደርሱ ጥቃቶችን ለመጨመር አስተዋፅዖ ያላቸውን ምክንያቶች ማለስ "የCOVID-19 ወረርሽኝ በሴቶች እና ህፃናት ላይ በሚደርሰው የጾታዊ ጥቃት ላይ የሚደርሰውን ተፅዕኖ በመገምገም ቀጣይ መሰል ወረርሽኞች በሚከሰቱበት ጊዜ በሴቶችና ህፃናት ላይ የሚከሰቱ ጥቃቶችን እና በተያያዥ የሚከተሉ ጉዳዮችን ለመቀነስ የሚያስችሉ ነጥቦችን አመላክቶ ለማለፍ ያለመነው።

በመሆኑም ከዚህ በታች በተዘጋጁት ጥያቄዎች ዙሪያ ያሉትን ሀሳብ ሊያካፍሉን ፍቃደኛ ስለሆኑ ለመልካም ትብብረዎ በቅድሚያ ክልብ የመነጨ ምስጋናዬን እያቀረብኩ የሚሰጡት ምላሽ ለጥናታዊ ፀሁፉ ብቻ እንደሚውል እና ሚስጥራዊነቱ እንደሚጠበቅ ልገልፅላችሁ እወዳለሁ።

**ቃለ መጠይቅ ጥያቄጥቃትለደረሰበትግለሰብ:-**

1. ከምን መጀመር ትፈልጊያለሽ?
2. ጾታን መሰረት በማድረግ የሚፈፀም ጥቃትን እንዴት ይገልፁታል?
3. የተከሰተው የኮሮና ቫይረስ ወረርሽኝ በሂወትሽ ላይ ያስከተላቸውን ለውጦች ያብራሩልኝ?
4. ለሴቶች ጥቃት መንስኤ የሚሆኑ ምክንያቶች ምን ምን ናቸው ብላችሁ ታስባላችሁ?
5. የደረሰብሽ ጥቃት ምን እንደሆነ እና ስለተፈጠረው ነገር በዝርዝር ልታስረጁኝ ትችያለሽ?
6. ጥቃት አድራሹ ጥቃት እንዲፈፅም ያስቻለው ሁኔታዎችን በእርሶ እይታ ምን አይነት ነገሮች ናቸው ብለው ያምናሉ ያብራሩልኝ?
7. ከተከሰተው የኮሮና ቫይረስ ወረርሽኝ ጋር ተያይዞ ጥቃት አድራሹ ጥቃት ለመፈፀም ከሌላው ጊዜ በተለየ የሚረዳው ምቹ ሁኔታ ወይም አጋጣሚዎች ካሉ ያብራሩልኝ?
8. የተፈፀመው ጥቃት በሂወትሽ ላይ አድርሶብኛል ብለሽ እምታስቢውን ጉዳት ቢዘረዝሩልኝ?
9. በጥቃቱ ሳቢያ ከደረሰብሽ ጉዳት ለማገም ፅርዳታ ከሚሰጡ እና ሌሎች ጉዳዩን ከሚያወቁ ሰዎች የተደረገልሽ ድጋፍ ምን ይመስላል ምን ጠንካራ እና ደካማ ጎኖችን ስለመታዘብ ችለሻል?

10. ያታዊ ጥቃትን መከላከል የማን ሀላፊነት ነው ብለሽ ታስቢ ያለሽ ምን ምን ተግባራት መከናወን አለባቸው?
11. ቀጣይ እንደ ኮሮና ቫይረስ አይነት ወረርሽኝ በሀገር ደረጃ በሚከሰትበት ወቅት ሴቶችን እና ህፃናትን ከጥቃት ተጋላጭነት ለመከላከል ምን አይነት ተግባራት መከናወን አለባቸው?
12. ከደረሰብሽ ጥቃት ለማገገም ከተለያዩ የስራ ክፍሎች የተደረገልሽን ድጋፍ እንዴት ትገልጫለሽ?
13. አሁን ባለሽበት ሁኔታ ከደረሰብሽ ጥቃት ለማገገም መደረግ አለበት ብለሽ እምታስቢው ድጋፍ ቢገልፁልኝ?
14. በተጨማሪም ሌላ ሊነግሩኝ ወይም ከተነሳው ሀሳብ ሌላ የሚጨምሩልኝ የሚፈልጉት ነገር ካለ?

**ቃለ መጠይቅ ጥያቄለፖሊስ**

1. ጥቃት የደረሰባቸው ሴቶች የደረሰባቸውን የጥቃት አይነት ሪፖርት ለማድረግ በቅድሚያ ወዴት ነው የሚያቀኑት?
2. በእናንተ በኩል ጥቃት ደርሶባት ወደ እናንተ ሪፖርት ለማድረግ ለምትመጣ ተጠቂ የምታደርጉት የአቀባበል ሁኔታ ምን ይመስላል?
3. ጥቃት የተፈፀመባቸው ሴቶች ሪፖርት ለማድረግ ወደ ፖሊስ ተቋም ለመምጣት ያላቸውን ተነሳሽነት እንዴት ይገልፁታል?
4. በቦሌ ክፍለ ከተማ ከኮሮና ቫይረስ ከተከሰተ በኋላ ከቀደመው ጊዜ ሲነፃፀር ያለውን የጥቃት ስርጭት እንዴት ይገልፁታል?
5. ለሴቶች ጥቃት መንስኤ የሚሆኑ ምክንያቶች ምን ምን ናቸው ብላችሁ ታስባላችሁ?
6. በጥቃቱ ሴቶች የሚደርስባቸው ጉዳት እንዴት ይገልፁታል?
7. ሴቶችን ከጥቃት ለመከላከል የፀጥታ ሀይሉ ምን አይነት ተግባራት ንእያከናወነ ይገኛል ቢያብራሩልን?
8. ፖሊስ ሴቶችን ከጥቃት ለመከላከል በሚሰራው ስራ ላይ ስራውን በውጤታማነት እንዳይሰራ እንደተግዳሮት የሚነሳ ነገር ካለ ቢገልፁልኝ?
9. ጥቃት የደረሰባቸው ሰዎች በህጉ ላይ እና በህግ አስፈፃሚ አካላት ላይ ያላቸው እምነት እንዴት ሰይገልፁታል?

10. ከህግ አንፃር ጥቃት አድራሹን በፍርድ እንዲጠየቅ እና ተጠቂ እስከመጨረሻው ድረስ ፍትህ እንዲያገኙ እየተሰሩ ያሉ ስራዎች ምን ይመስላሉ?
11. ጥቃት የደረሰባቸው ሴቶች ጉዳያቸውን እስከመጨረሻው ድረስ ተከታትሎ ፍርድ ለማሰጠት ያላቸው ቁርጠኝነት እንዴት ይገልፁታል?
12. በሴቶች ላይ የሚደርስ የታዊ ጥቃትን ለመቀነስ ፖሊስ ከሚተገብራቸው ተግባራቶች በተጨማሪ ከሌላው የማህበረሰብ አካል ምን አይነት ተግባራቶች ይጠበቃሉ?
13. ቀጣይ እንደ ኮሮና ቫይረስ አይነት ወረርሽኝ በሀገር ደረጃ በሚከሰትበት ወቅት ሴቶችን እና ህፃናትን ከጥቃት ተጋላጭነት ለመከላከል ምን አይነት ተግባራት መከናወን አለባቸው?
14. ሌላ ሊነግሩኝ የሚፈልጉት ነገር ካለ?

**ቃለ መጠይቅ ጥያቄ ለስነ-ልቦና ባለሙያዎች**

1. የስነ-ልቦና ጉዳት ማላት ምን ማለት ነው?
2. ጥቃት የደረሰባቸው ሰዎች ከዕርሶ ሙያ አንፃር የሚደርስባቸውን ጉዳት እንዴት ይገልፁታል? ከዚህ ጉዳት እንዲወጡ በእናንተ በኩል የሚደረጉ የድጋፍ አይነቶች ምን ይመስላሉ?
3. ለሴቶች ጥቃት መንስኤ የሚሆኑ ምክንያቶች ምን ምን ናቸው ብላችሁ ታስባላችሁ?
4. በሴቶች ላይ የሚፈፀሙ ጥቃቶችን ለመከላከል መደረግ አለባቸው ብለው የሚያምኑበት ነገር ካለ ቢያብራሩልኝ?
5. ጥቃት የደረሰባት ግለሰብ ከደረሰባት ጥቃት ለማገገም እና ወደ ቀደመው ሂደት ለመመለስ የሚረዳ ዕገዛን ተከትሎ በጤና ተቋማት በኩል ከሚሰጡ አገልግሎቶች መካከል አንዱ የስነ-ልቦና ድጋፍ እንደ መሆኑ መጠን የአገልግሎት ተደራሽነቱ ምን ይመስላል?
6. ተጠቂዎች ከደረሰባቸው ጥቃት ለማገገም እና ወደ ቀደመው ሂደታቸው ለመመለስ በስነ-ልቦና ባለሙያው በኩል አስፈላጊውን ድጋፍ ለማድረግ እንደ ተግዳሮት የሚያነሱት ነገር ካለ ቢያብራሩልኝ?
7. ቀጣይ እንደ ኮሮና ቫይረስ አይነት ወረርሽኝ በሀገር ደረጃ በሚከሰትበት ወቅት ሴቶችን እና ህፃናትን ከጥቃት ተጋላጭነት ለመከላከል ምን አይነት ተግባራት መከናወን አለባቸው?
8. በተጨማሪም ሌላ ሊነግሩኝ የሚፈልጉት ነገር ካለ?

**ቃለ መጠይቅ ጥያቄለጤናባለሙያዎች**

1. በኮሮና ቫይረስ ወረርሽኝ ወቅት የጤና አገልግሎት ለማግኘት ወደ እርሶ ከመጡ ተጠቂዎች መካከል ሴቶችን በተለየ መልኩ ለጥቃት ተጋላጭ እንዲሆኑ የሚረዱ ምቹ ሁኔታዎች ምን እንደሚመስሉ ከገጠመሽ ጉዳዮች አንጻር ቢያብራሩልኝ?
2. ከጥቃቱ በኋላ ሴቶች ከጤና አንጻር የሚያጋጥሟቸው ችግሮች ምንድን ናቸው?
3. የኮሮና ቫይረስ ወረርሽኝ ስርጭት ሰፊ በሆነበት ጊዜ መንግስታዊ እና መንግስታዊ ያልሆኑ ተቋማት ከሌላው ጊዜ በተለየ የሚሰጡት መደበኛ አገልግሎት መቀነስን ተከትሎ ጥቃት የደረሰባት ግለሰብ ከደረሰባት ጥቃት ለማገገም እና ወደቀደመው ሂደት ለመመለስ የሚረዱ ዕገዛን ተከትሎ በጤናተቋማት በኩል አጠቃላይ የህክምና አገልግሎት ተደራሽነት ምን ይመስላል?
4. ተጠቂዎች ከደረሰባቸው ጥቃት ለማገገም እና ወደቀደመው ሂደታቸው ለመመለስ በጤና ባለሙያው በኩል አስፈላጊውን ድጋፍ ለማድረግ እንደተግዳሮት የሚያነሱት ነገር ካለ ቢያብራሩልኝ?
5. ቀጣይ እንደ ኮሮና ቫይረስ አይነት ወረርሽኝ በሀገር ደረጃ በሚከሰትበት ወቅት ሴቶችን እና ህፃናትን ከጥቃት ተጋላጭነት ለመከላከል ምን አይነት ተግባራት መከናወን አለባቸው?
6. በተጨማሪ ሊነግሩኝ የሚፈልጉት ነገር ካለ?

**ቃለ መጠይቅ ጥያቄለማቆያአስተባባሪዎች**

1. ጥቃት የደረሰባቸው ሴቶች በማቆያ ይደረግላቸው የነበረው ድጋፍ ምን ይመስል ነበር?
2. ማቆያው ጥቃት ለደረሰባቸው ሴቶች ያለውን አውንታዊ አስተዋፅኦ እንዴት ይረዱታል?
3. ጥቃት የደረሰባቸው ሴቶች እንደሚረፈዱ ሲገለገሉበት የነበረው ማቆያ ተቋም ከተጠቂዎች ቁጥር ጋር ያለው ንፅፅር እና ተደራሽነት እንዴት ይገልፁታል?
4. ጥቃት የደረሰባቸው ሴቶች በማቆያው በነበራቸው ቆይታ ያለው ተግዳሮት እና መልካም አጋጣሚ ምን ይመስላል?
5. ቀጣይ እንደ ኮሮና ቫይረስ አይነት ወረርሽኝ በሀገር ደረጃ በሚከሰትበት ወቅት ሴቶችን እና ህፃናትን ከጥቃት ተጋላጭነት ለመከላከል ምን አይነት ተግባራት መከናወን አለባቸው?
6. ሌላ ሊነግሩኝ የሚፈልጉት ነገር ሰካለ?

