

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

**PATTERN OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE:-
AMONG MARRIED WOMEN OF AWASSA TOWN**

BY:- MEKDES EYOEL

JULY 2007

Pattern of intimate partner violence among married
women of Awassa Town

Prepared by: - Mekdes Eyoel

A thesis submitted to Addis Ababa University for a partial
fulfilment of Masters Degree in Gender Studies

July 2007

Acknowledgment

I would like to acknowledge and thank many people who supported me to finish this study. I acknowledge and thank my main advisor Dr Neguse Deyassa for his continuous advice and encouragement to finish this study. I also acknowledge and thank my co advisor Dr Mena Olango for his encouragement and advice to finish this work.

Secondly, I would like to thank all 384 women who were participated in in-depth interview and 24 women participated in focus group discussion in Awassa town. I also want to thank hayk dar sub city representatives for their willingness and cooperation during my data gathering time.

Thirdly, I acknowledge and thank Ato Sisay and his families for giving laptop computer that helped me a lot for my work. I also gratefully acknowledge all the staffs of institute of gender studies at Addis Ababa University for their familial support during my work. In addition, I would like to thank all my staff members from Ethiopian kale hiwot church in Dalle woreda and head office for their encouragement to complete this study.

Fourthly, I would like to appreciate and thank my friends w/t Rahel Gossaye, w/t Tsege Gebru, and w/t Damenech Chaffo for their encouragement and support during my work.

Finally my great appreciation and thanks goes to all my family members. Without their encouragement I may not finish this study. So this is the fruit of their continuous support for me.

Above all I would like to thank the almighty God for helping me to complete this work.

Mekdes Eyoel

Table of contents

	Pages
Acknowledgment	
Acronyms	I
Abstract	II
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Background	
1.2 Statement of the problem	3
1.2 Objective of the study	5
1.3 Significant of the study	5
1.4 Limitations of the study	5
1.5 Organization of the study	6
2. Literature review	7
2.1 Definitions of terms	7
2.2 The theoretical approaches	8
2.2.1Psychiatric model	8
2.2.1.1 Deviance disavowal theory	8
2.2.1.2 Culture of violence theory	8
2.2.2 Social Psychological model	9
2.2.3 Socio cultural model	9
2.2.3.1Social learning model	10
2.2.3.2 Resource theory of violence	11
2.2.3.3 Gender theory	13

2.3 The association between violence and risk factors	14
2.3.1 Individual factors	15
2.3.2 Relationship factors	16
2.3.3 Social factors	16
2.2.4 Community factor	17
3. Methodology	19
3.1 Study design	19
3.2 Study area	19
3.3 Source population	20
3.4 Sample size	20
3.5 Sampling method	21
3.6 Data collection procedure	22
3.7 Data collection instruments	23
3.8 Methods of data analysis	23
3.9 Ethical issue	24
4. Results	25
4.1 Socio demographic status of the women	25
4.2 Socio demographic characteristics of spouses	28
4.3 Prevalence of physical and sexual violence	30
4.4 Type of physical violence	31
4.5 Attitudes towards gender norms	32
4.6 Women's justifications of being battered	33
4.7 Attitudes towards sexual violence	34
4.8 Response of the respondents to intimate partner violence	37

4.9 Consequences of physical violence	39
4.10 Socio economic correlates of physical violence	40
4.11 Socio demographic correlates of physical violence	43
4.12 Socio economic correlates of sexual violence	45
4.13 Socio demographic correlates of sexual violence	48
5. Discussion	50
5.1 Prevalence of physical and Sexual violence	50
5.2 Women's attitudes towards gender norms and violence	51
5.3 Response to intimate partner violence	53
5.4 Risk factors to intimate partner violence	54
6. Conclusion and recommendations	57
6.1 Conclusion	57
6.2 Recommendations	57
References	
Appendix	

Table of Content of Figures

	Page
Figure 1 Type of Physical violence by intimate partner experienced in the life time and last twelve months	33
Figure 2 Attitudes towards gender norms of married women participants in the study	35
Figure 3 Justifications for wife beating of married women participants in the study	37
Figure 4 Women's justifications to refuse sex with intimate partner	39
Figure 5 Discloser in response to intimate partner violence of married women participants of the study	41
Figure 6 Reported immediate consequences of physical violence among women experiencing physical violence	42

Acronyms

CDC:-Centre for disease control and prevention

WHO:- World health organization

FGD:- Focus group discussion

SPSS:- Statistical Package for Social Science

IPV:- Intimate partner violence

HIV:-Human immunodeficiency virus

AIDS:-Acquired immun deficiency syndrome

Abstract

The aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between the socioeconomic status of women and intimate partner violence in Awassa town. In addition it was aimed to find other risk factors for intimate partner violence.

The research was conducted by qualitative as well as quantitative methodology. Qualitative data was used as supplementary to the quantitative data and gathered by focus group discussion in Awassa town from April 30 to May 7. The data for quantitative study was gathered by in depth interview from March 20, 2007 to April 20, 2007. The collected data was analyzed by using a software SPSS. Descriptive statistics, chi square, logistic regression and cross tabulation were utilized from SPSS to analyze data.

Three hundred eighty four women were interviewed. The mean age of respondents was 33.7. The minimum age of the respondents was 17 and the maximum was 48 years old. The reported life time prevalence of sexual violence is 39.8% and it was 38.3% in the last twelve months. The life time prevalence of physical violence was 56.3%, and it was 51.3% in the last twelve months.

The findings of this study confirm that physical and sexual violence against women is also a problem in Awassa town. It also illustrates that women's socioeconomic characteristics such as age, monthly income, property ownership, decision making power, the number and type of marriage influence the likelihood of physical and sexual violence. There was no significant association between the educational level of the women and intimate partner violence that are sexual and physical violence.

In addition, the finding reveals that socio demographic characteristics of the husband such as alcohol, khat and hostile behaviours have

strong association with sexual and physical violence. These are the risk factors for physical and sexual violence.

More over, this study suggested that empowering women, dissemination of information regarding laws related with intimate partner violence and appropriate service for the victims of intimate partner violence are necessary to tackle the problems related with intimate partner violence.

Chapter one

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The social construction of femininity and masculinity started from early childhood in patriarchal society. As a result of this, socialization, distinct roles, responsibilities and opportunities are granted to them. These social constructions reinforce men's dominance. On contrary it leads to the dominant construction of femininity as submissive and subordinate (Anderson, 1997:658). The consequence of this socialization will be the denial of different accesses such as educational and economical prestige. In addition, distinct spaces were created for men and women that are private and public spheres. In this dichotomy the public is an exclusive domain of the men where as the private is an exclusive responsibility of the women (Richter, 1994)

Gender relations are the sites for power struggles in the private and public sphere. Since in patriarchal society men are economically and socially powerful, power remains firmly in the hands of men. The powerful and the dominant partner will be the breadwinner of the family. In marriage mostly the relationship is in between the 'powerful' men and the 'powerless' women (Richter, 1994).

In many cultures men has the right to control their wives behaviour because of their economic dependency and perceived gender norms. If a wife doesn't fulfil her feminine roles or challenged his rights, then the husband may act violently.

This kind of violence that results from gender inequality is called gender based violence (Richter 1994). Moreover, marriage is a social structure that gives the husband the right to get domestic and social services from their wives. Most men utilize violence to maintain these rights and privileges. There fore women experience violence primarily at the hands of men they know more and with in the so called "safe heaven" of home (Sweetman, 1998).

One kind of gender based violence is intimate partner violence. Intimate partner violence refers to any behaviour with in an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship. It is asocial and health problem world wide. It is also a serious human rights abuse (Saltzman 2002). Common risk factors of intimate partner violence include young age, poverty, low social status, women's disempowerment, stress in daily life, alcohol consumption and jealousy. Mostly women's lower status due to their gender socialization exposes them to violence by their intimate partner (Garcia,2006).

Intimate partner violence harms women a lot, and negative impacts of intimate partner violence ranges from short term to long term effects on the victim body. The long term effects are different kinds of disability including HIV/AIDS. Since there are different kinds of violence in marriage, the consequences are also different. For example, sexual violence is the risk factor for sexually transmitted disease like HIV/AIDS. It leads to immediate and long-term physical and psychological harm to the women. Physical violence may lead to miscarriage and disability (CDC, 2006).

More over, intimate partner violence is the major health, social and human right abuse problem. Violence is also a direct obstacle to women's full participation in

development. Women cannot fully devote their labour or creative ideas to development when they are burdened with the physical and psychological harms of intimate partner violence. So it is an issue that needs special attention (Bates 2004).

1.2 Statement of the problem

Worldwide 10-69% of women reported that they are being physically assaulted by an intimate male partner at some point in their lives. Physical violence in intimate relationships is in a third to over half of cases accompanied by sexual violence (Heike, Ellsberg et al., 2002).

Even though the international conventions such as Elimination of violence against women and Elimination of any kind of discrimination against women (Beijing,1995) are ratified, Ethiopia is one of the countries with highest prevalence of intimate partner violence.59% Of women in Ethiopia reported that they face sexual abuse by a partner. 46% of the women in Ethiopia forced physically to have sex. Nearly one third of Ethiopian women reported being physically forced by a partner to have sex against their will. A larger proportion of women reported that they engaged in sex because they were afraid of something their partner might do. 71% of the women in Ethiopia face either sexual or physical violence at some points in their lives (Garcia, 2006: 1264).

All the above findings suggest that intimate partner violence is one of the major social problems in Ethiopia. Since Ethiopia is a country with patriarchal culture, Women are vulnerable to violence by their intimate partner. In addition to this, most of them accept it as normal that would happen in their life. So, women live with in violent relationship by blaming their chance of being created as a woman. Though intimate partner violence has short term and long term effects on the victims, most of the time the victims suffer from minor cuts, scratches, bruises and welts. Others are long lasting and cause serious problems like disabilities including broken bones, internal bleeding and head trauma (CDC,2006)

Emotional violence can cause low self esteem, suicide and depression. It will be difficult to trust others and being in relationships after intimate partner violence. Depression is also the impact of intimate partner violence. In addition some of the victims think about and commit suicide (CDC,2006). Intimate partner violence is the major health, social and human right abuse problem. So it must get special attention (WHO, 2005).

The purpose of this study is to assess the level of socioeconomic status and the risk factors of intimate partner violence against married women in the study area and determine weather there is a relationship between women's socioeconomic status and intimate partner violence.

1.2 Objectives of the study

General objective

The general objective of the study was to assess the pattern of intimate partner violence.

Specific objectives

- To assess the magnitude of intimate partner violence.
- To identify the risk factors for intimate partner violence on married women
- To asses the relationship of socioeconomic status of women and intimate partner violence

1.3 Significance of the study

The magnitude of this research reflects if there is a relationship between socioeconomic status of women and intimate partner violence. It also illustrates the educational, age, gender inequality and income of the women in relation to intimate partner violence. This research also assesses other risk factors in addition to socio-economic status of the women that increase the likelihood of intimate partner violence.

1.4 Limitations of the study

This research study is delimited to married women in the age group of 15 to 49 years due to time and resource constraint. It is also limited to two kebeles of Awassa because of the time and resource constraint. The other limitation was obtaining information from the participants on some issues like problems on marriage relation due to cultural influences.

1.5 Organization of the study

There are six chapters included in this thesis. The first chapter is the introduction part. The introduction part comprises the back ground of the study, statement of the problem and the organisation of the study. The second chapter is the literature review. The literature review includes the definition of dependent variable, independent variables, theoretical approaches and the association between intimate partner violence and risk factors. It also included the objective of the study and justification for the study. The third chapter is the methodology. This chapter comprises source population, study area, sampling method, data collection, data analysis technique and measurement. The fourth chapter is the result. The fifth chapter is the discussion. The six chapter is conclusion and recommendation.

Chapter two

2. Literature review

2.1 Definition of terms

Intimate relationships involve the relationship between current or former spouses and boy friends or girlfriends. Intimate partner violence refers to any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, emotional or sexual harm to those in the relationship. It is one kind of domestic violence that includes child and elder abuse (WHO, 2005).

The most common form of intimate partner violence includes: Physical violence, which is a harmful act made by a partner upon a woman including slapping, hitting, kicking and beating; sexual violence which is a forced sexual intercourse and other form of coerced sex made without the will of a woman; and emotional or psychological violence, violence made on a woman such as intimidation, humiliation and constant belittling. This research was aimed to assess the cause and prevalence of sexual and physical violence among married heterosexual couples (WHO, 2002).

Gender is a socially constructed perception on how men and women can act and think based on their perceived gender identity. Risk factors are factors that increase the chances of exposure to something. In this study the risk factors for intimate partner are factors that increase the likelihood of intimate partner violence. These factors can affect at individual, relationship, societal and community level. Socio-economic status of the women is one of the risk factor for intimate partner violence (Krug, 2002).

2.2 Theoretical approaches

There are many theoretical approaches to analyze violence in the family. In this research three theoretical approaches were used to analyze intimate partner violence. These are psychiatric model, social psychological model and socio cultural models(Stith andStraus,1995). For this study the above models were selected in order to relate intimate partner violence with individual factors, relationship factors, relationship factors, societal factors and community factors.

2.2.1 Psychiatric model

Psychiatric model analyze the risk factors for intimate partner violence in relation with offender's personality characteristics. It includes personality disorders, alcohol and other substance abuse. This model analyzes the cause for intimate partner violence in relation with individual factors. Risk factors are personality disorders, alcohol abuse and other substance abuse.

2.2.1.1 Deviance disavowal theory

The "deviance disavowal" theory suggests that drinking alcohol give an excuse to certain behaviours. So abusing wife after drinking can give excuse to the husband. The women themselves take the act as normal since they believe that the alcohol is the reason for perpetrating such act. Even they don't consider it as violence (Stith and Straus, 1995). Alcohol intake is one of an individual factor that increases the chance of the chance of experiencing intimate partner violence.

2.2.1.2 Culture of violence theory

Culture of violence theory analyzes violence in terms of the perpetrators behaviors. Men who chose violence as a solution to solve any disagreement become more violent in their intimate relationships. From early childhood children were grown through corporal punishment at school by their teachers and in their house by their elders. This has a negative effect in the future because violence becomes the only solution to solve any disagreement (Laura, 2005:129). According to this theory intimate partner violence was analyzed in relation to individual factors.

Personal behaviour is highly related with intimate partner violence. Men who assault their wives are more likely to be emotionally dependant, insecure and low in self esteem and are more likely to find it difficult to control their impulses. They are also more likely than their non-violent peers to exhibit greater anger and hostility, to be depressed and to score high on certain scales of personality disorder, including anti-social, aggressive and borderline personality disorders. This kind of behaviours leads to violence in any kind of relationship with others (Krug, 2002).

2.2.2 Social psychological model

This approach analyzes violence in terms of the organization, structure and every day interaction between the intimates. These are marital conflict, marital instability, economic stress and poor family functioning. If there is frequent disagreement and conflict between the couples, it will be related with high level of violence. Marital instability is also related with high physical violence. In addition, economic stress in marriage relationships due to low socioeconomic status and many children increases the likely hood of violence in the marriage. Moreover, compared to happily married couples, unhappy couples tend to blame problems on each other down. They also spend less time with each other. This leads to poor family functioning and ends with violence (Hoffman 1994).

2.2.3 Socio cultural model

This kind of violent act examined in relation with socially structured variables such as inequality, patriarchy or cultural norms and attitudes about violence and family violence and family relations. There are different theories to analyze this model of approach (Stith and Straus, 1995).

2.2.3.1 Social learning theory

The patriarchal notion of masculinity involves distinctly hierarchical gender positions and definitions of male success in terms of controlling women. In this case male authority is associated with violence. The society grants men with opportunities to take the leading position. Therefore, violence within intimate relationship especially between married couples is perceived as normal. It is not considered as problematic in the society (Anandahi, 2006). Such conditions could make women not to seek support during violence, and women choose to leave the marriage. Social norms and gender roles have multiple effects on the life of an individual. It is the root cause for intimate partner violence and the cause for continuation of the problem (Laura, 2005).

Social learning theory suggests that an individual learn how to behave and act by observing the role models. Social norms and gender roles are socialized from a social group that same trend will pass from generation to generation. In our patriarchal society where women have subordinate position in marriage relationship, the norm makes women highly vulnerable to violence. Women's primary goal of life is considered to be wifehood, and the ultimate target would be motherhood. Therefore only one path and only one means of livelihood are open to women. In marriage relationship, in order a

woman get acceptance in a society as a good wife, she has to obey and be guided by her husband. More over, low social value and power in the society lead to lack of different benefits. These are low levels of education, lower participation in public role and lack of economic opportunities. In addition lack of family, social and legal support is societal factors that resulted from perception of the society about women. Each of the above factors make women vulnerable to violence (Jewkes, 2002 :).

In our society, since women and men have different responsibilities for the household activities, mostly women are home makers where as men are the 'providers' or breadwinners. Men who are breadwinners of their house have an authority to correct their wives in the society. On contrary, this kind of responsibility was not given to the women when men fail to fulfil perceived gender roles. An individual who is socialized in this kind of society accept and perpetrate violence as normal trend of life(Jewkes,2002:).

2.2.3.2 Resource theory of violence

Resource theory of violence proposes that individuals who have few resources compared with their partners may engage in domestic violence as a means to gain power within the relationship (Straus and Stith, 1995: 6). Men's chances of perpetrating violence increase when they earn less income than their female partners. This suggests that violence is more likely among couples who deviate from the typically gendered configuration of the male as provider within couple relationships (Anderson, 1995: 664).

A high level of absolute resources or socioeconomic status decreases the likelihood of physical wife abuse, even when controlling for the husband's stress. Husbands with fewer socioeconomic resources are more likely to abuse physically their wives. Husbands who have few resources are vulnerable to stress, and may use violence to exert their power, establish control and maintain dominance within the home (Bates, 2004).

According to Rachel Jewkes findings, Male identity is highly associated with experience of power. One of the sources to build masculine identity is economic independency. If a man lacks this opportunity, he felt that his manhood is in danger. So violence will be the result to gain the power that he missed and to resolve the crises (Jewkes, 2002:).

At one end, men who are not contributing sufficiently to the household expenditures may feel frustrated by their inability to fulfill their traditional role of primary provider for the family and even resort violence to assert their dominance. On the other hand, men who contribute a major proportion of household expenditures may feel uninhibited due to fiscal dominance to unleash physical violence. Income of the spouses is directly related with violence (Jewkes, 2002).

As resource theory proposes and different studies indicate that men's higher relative income serves as a protective effect against their perpetration of domestic violence where as lower income levels compared with female partners are linked to higher odds of perpetrating violence. Men who have both higher and lower educational resources than their female partners are more likely to perpetrate violent acts than possessing the same levels of education and income as their female partners (Hoffman, 1997:133).

Bates suggested that the odds of violence in marriage increased as women's household socioeconomic status decreased. Her survey findings indicate that the risk of intimate partner violence will increase when the socioeconomic status are exposed to intimate partner violence (Bates,2004).

The resource and social theories are interrelated. As it was suggested in social theory the society shapes the behaviour of an individual. In patriarchal society women are forced to be what the society wants them to be in order not to become out of cultural norms. In this way they are denied from educational opportunities. In developing countries like Ethiopia education is a means for income, employment and better status. Lack of this opportunity means lack of resource, and this in turn makes them vulnerable to violence because marriage is the only livelihood for them. Therefore the resource theory and the social theories are related that means one is the result of the other (Hoffman, 1994: 132).

2.2.3.3 Gender theory

The cultural depiction of the husband as breadwinner has supported the greater rewards accorded to men that provided men with a resource for demonstrating their masculinity.

Gender theorists argue that violence is a resource for constructing this masculine identity and thus the use of violence will have different meanings for men and women (Hoffman, 1994: 132). Men have differential access to higher status positions that may help to sustain marital quality. When they feel their masculinity is challenged, violence is a culturally appropriate means for men to exert dominance and control (Anderson, 1997:658).

Gender theory suggests that status incompatibility should be less important to women's perpetration of violence against male partners. Dominant gender constructions of femininity as passive, supportive, and nurturing may discourage women from employing violence as a means to gain power in their relationships (Anderson, 1997: 658).

2.3 The association between violence and risk factors

The risk factor for intimate partner is factors that increase the likelihood of physical violence. These are individual factors, societal factors, and relationship factors. Individual factors are factors related with the behaviour of the perpetrators. Societal factors are factors related with the gender norms and gender roles in the society. Relationship factors are factors that are related with the marriage relationship between the spouses.

A Socio-economic characteristic of the women is one of the societal risk factors for women's vulnerability to intimate partner violence. Socioeconomic characteristics of the women can be measured in the education, income, property ownership and decision making power(Krug,2002).

There are different factors that increase the vulnerability of the women to intimate partner violence. These are societal factors, individual factors, relationship factors and community factors.

2.3.1 Individual factors

Individual factors are factor that are related with the victims and the perpetrators characteristics. These are young age, heavy drinking and other substance abuse. Young age is one of the risk factor for intimate partner violence. World Health Organization's study on violence analyzed that young age is one of the risk factor for intimate partner violence. Young aged women are at higher risk of experiencing physical, sexual or both by an intimate partner (WHO, 2005). Manju Rani suggested that age can influence gender balance because an individual plays different social roles at different ages (Jalmert,2006).

WHO study suggested that older women in abusive relation ships develop different strategies to decrease the frequency of violence.

The study also suggested that their greater status compared to the others make them less vulnerable to the others make them less vulnerable to violence. The study revealed that there is a high prevalence of intimate partner violence among women of child bearing age in the studied areas (WHO, 2005).

There is strong association between drinking and violence. If an individual is under the control of alcohol, he is unable to control his behaviour. As a result he will abuse his partner. According to WHO study result, women who lived with heavy drinkers were five times more likely to be assaulted by their partners than those who lived with non drinkers. There fore drinking alcohol is one of the major risk factor for intimate partner violence (WHO, 2005).

2.3.2 Relation ship factors

These are factors related with marital conflict, instability and male dominance in the family. The type, choice and number of marriage affect the relationship between the spouses. Women who were living with a partner but were not married reported higher life time intimate partner violence than those who married. There fore the type of marriage play a significant role(Laura,2005).

2.3.3 Societal factors

Societal factors are factors related with the traditional gender norms of the society, structural gender inequalities and notions of manhood linked to dominance. In societies that men have economic and decision making power in the house hold , where women don't have easy access to divorce and where violence become the solution for resolving any disagreement. Societies with stronger ideologies of male dominance have more intimate partner violence. In such societies manhood or masculinity is linked with control that leads to violence. When the use of violence is seen as a socially accepted norm in marriage relationship violence become a greatest risk (Jewkes, 2002: 1425).

According to WHO report, many women agree that a man has good reasons to beat his wife under certain circumstances. These circumstances range from not completing house work adequately, to refusing sex, to disobeying her husband, to being unfaithful. In Ethiopia 68% of the women agreed with one or more reasons for wife beating (WHO, 2005).

2.3.4 Community factors

One of the community factor for intimate partner violence was status of the women in the community. The socioeconomic status of the women was highly related with intimate partner.

Rachel Jewkes suggested that even though intimate partner violence can occur in all socio-economic status, its prevalence is higher in low socio-economic status (Jewkes,2002:).

Women's high socioeconomic status has protective effect against the risk of intimate partner violence. This same factor can be the risk factor for men to be violent. For some men, living in poverty generates stress, frustration and inadequacy. This is because they failed to fulfil their perceived gender roles of provider. According to Hoffman, women in lower socioeconomic classes are vulnerable than other women because wives in these marriages often lack the economic and personal resources that are necessary to leave their violent relationship (Hoffman, 1994:132).

Education is one of the resources that are directly related with status. Most of the time educational differences between the spouses lead to violence. In the case of women, education has a protective effective effect. The proportion of experiencing domestic violence was not significantly lower among women with more than five years of education (Bates, 1997; 9).

In addition, different studies suggest that low educational resources are directly related with violence. Women with slightly less education than their male partners have almost three times greater odds of violence than women who are partnered with men possessing the same educational attainment. This is because women with low educational achievements are more likely to be dependent on the marriage relationship for survival.

On the other hand, if the husband's educational attainment is lower than that of the wife, there will be intimate partner violence (Hoffman, 1994: 132).

Monthly income of the women is directly related with intimate partner violence. Many studies have documented that lower levels of income are associated with higher levels of physical wife abuse. There is indirect relationship between income and intimate partner violence (Hoffman, 1994: 100). In house holds in which the husbands and the husband and the wife both earn income and make expenditure decisions, the levels of domestic violence are lower (Loi, 1999).

Chapter three

3. Methodology

The methodology of this feminist research combines the radical feminist view of degradation of women in patriarchal society with the violence enacted on them. Radical feminists argue that patriarchy is the root cause for women's degradation. Low social support due to patriarchal culture in turn leads to low social position in the society. This makes women vulnerable to violence

3.1 Study Design

This study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods. The quantitative method was designed to identify the major causes for the women to be victims of intimate partner violence. It was designed to investigate the prevalence and risk factors of intimate partner violence. It was designed to address married women with different socioeconomic status. Focus group discussion was used to gather information for the qualitative method.

3.2 Study area

The study was conducted in Awassa town which is the capital of southern nation's nationalities and peoples region. It is 275 kilometres away from Addis Ababa. The population of Awassa town is 235660 It is divided in to six sub cities. . Since it is the capital of southern nations nationalities and peoples' region there are people from different ethnic groups with different cultures.

The study was conducted in one of the six sub-cities, Haikdar sub-city. Two kebeles were selected from the sub-city. The big market of Awassa town is located in one of the kebeles. This kebele was selected assuming to find women with different socio-economic status. The other kebele was selected by simple observation in order to get women with relatively higher socio-economic status, as married women with different socioeconomic status were targeted for the study.

3.3 Source population and study subjects

The source population of this study were married women who were living in Awassa, and the study subjects were married women in the age group between 18 and 49 years of age who were able to communicate using Amharic language, who were not chronically ill at the time of interview and who lived in the selected kebeles for six or more months. For the qualitative data, the source population were

women living in the town and the study subjects were victims of violence by intimate partner, and members of community organizations in the selected kebeles.

3.4 Sample size

The study used sample size determination formula for single proportion. To determine the minimum sample size, the study considered a 48% prevalence of physical violence by intimate partner obtained from previous study among Butajiran women in 2002 (WHO, 2005), at 95% certainty and maximum discrepancy of $\pm 5\%$ between the sample and the underlining population.

The sample size was 384 women from the two kebeles, and was distributed according probability to population size. Two focus group discussions each having about ten participants was employed.

$$n = \frac{(Z_{\alpha/2})^2 \times P \times (1 - P)}{d^2}$$

3.5 Sampling Methods

For the quantitative method, the two kebeles were selected conveniently to include married women of different socioeconomic status in the study. Systematic sampling method was employed to select the households from the Kebele's household number as sampling frame, and the first household in each Kebele was selected using a lottery method. In case if the selected household has no eligible women the nearest household was selected. Interview was conducted by trained enumerators by going house to house in selected homes using a standardized questionnaire. For the qualitative method, two focus group discussing groups were selected.

The first FGD participants were victims of intimate partner violence, and were selected from Haikdar sub-city department that deals with the victims of domestic violence using purposive type of non-probabilistic sampling. For the second focus group discussion, selection was made conveniently from women involved in community based organisation called "Edir".

3.6 Data collection procedure

In this study, both qualitative and quantitative data gathering methods were employed. Face to face interview was the main instrument for data gathering in order to obtain quantitative result, and focus group discussion was utilized as complimentary to obtain additional information.

The quantitative data was collected from a survey in two kebeles of Awassa town. Well organized questions were designed for the interview based on WHO standardized questions for domestic violence. The data was collected in Amharic language. Female interviewers were recruited and trained for data collection on how to use the questionnaire and follow ethical issue guide. The privacy of the interviewee was given special attention. The interview was discontinued when there was interruption by other household or other members of age above two years.

In addition, focus group discussion was the qualitative component of data collection. Two focus group discussions were conducted among married women in the age group between 18-49 years. Participants were selected from different socio-economic status. Well designed checklist was prepared and utilized for the focus group discussion. The focus group discussion was conducted in Amharic language. The discussions were modulated by the principal investigator, assisted by tape recorder and written in field note books.

3.7 Data collection Instruments

The dependent variable was intimate partner violence. Any act of physical and sexual violence in the last twelve months was taken as dependent variables. The independent variables were socio-demographic and possible risk factors for intimate partner violence. These were individual factors, societal factors, community factors and relationship factors, including age, educational status, income, decision making power and substance abuse.

All women were asked if they face slapping, beating, pushing, kicking and threatening by a weapon ever in their life or in the last twelve months. These questions were used to measure physical violence. Sexual violence was measured by any act of using force to have sex with out a wife's will.

The socioeconomic status of the women were measured in this research by occupational prestige, monthly income , decision making power, property owner ship, educational level, and age of the women.

3.8 Methods of data analysis

Data from quantitative survey was coded and entered into a computer using excel software for windows, and data cleaning and analysis was performed with Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) for windows version 11. Means, frequencies, proportions and confidence intervals were employed as appropriate. The association between the

prevalence of intimate partner violence and the background characteristics of the woman and her spouse were measured by chi-square test. The relative odds of violence and the 95% confidence intervals were estimated by using binary logistic regression. Adjusted odds ratio was utilized to test the association between a single independent variable and the dependent variable by adjusting for possible confounding effect. For this analysis, we set the criteria for entry and retention in the regression equation α at 0.05. For the qualitative data, the discussion was first transcribed and translated to English language. Themes were categorized according the phenomena, and were triangulated to supplement the quantitative data

3.9 Ethical issue

Approval letter was obtained from respective kebeles. The study has followed the WHO ethical and safety guidelines (Garcia-Moreno, 2005). Informed consent was obtained from each woman participating in the study and from the local formal and informal leaders, and privacy and confidentiality was also maintained. Counselling service was obtained when victims of violence requested.

Chapter Four

Results

4.1 Socio-demographic status of the women

A total of 384 women were involved in a study conducted in Awassa Hykedar sub city. The mean age of the respondents was 33.71 with a standard deviation of ± 6.5 years, and it ranged from 17 to 48 years. The majority, (83.9%) of the respondents have one to five children, 13% of them have more than five children and 3.1% did not have children at all. More than one in three, (36.5%) of the respondents didn't have their own property, 58.9% possess one item of their own and only 4.7% of them possess two or more items of their own. As shown on table 1, majority of the women have low educational status, and about 33.2% of the respondents were illiterate while 42.6% of the respondents were educated more or equal to secondary level of education. About 23.2% of the respondents don't have their own income, and 76.8% of the respondents have their own income. Even though these women have their own income, 59.2% of them have monthly income that was below three hundred birr. About 14.6% of the respondents don't have decision making power on their own income.

Majority of the respondents are still engaged in their first marriage, while the other 21.1% of the women are living with their second, third or fourth husband. More than one in three, (35.2%) of the respondents is engaged in a marriage that was arranged by elderly, 22.9% used nothing to certify their marriage relationship. About 21.4% and 20% of the respondents reported that their marriage was certified by municipality and religion, respectively.

About 43% of the respondents responded that the marriage took place by the consent of both couples. According to the result 27.3 % of the respondents respond that the choice took place by the husband only and 18.5% of the respondents respond that the choice took place by the family and 7.3% of the respondents were married after they were abducted. For the focus group discussion, there were two sessions. The mean age of the participants was 35.24 years, and all were married women of the same age group as these participants in the quantitative data.

Table 1 Socio-demographic characteristics of married women participants of the study, Awassa, Southern Ethiopia, July 2007

Characteristics	Number	Percent
Age		
15-24	25	6.5
25-34	175	45.6
35-49	184	47.9
Mean $\pm$ SD	33.7 $\pm$ 6.5	
Type of the marriage		
None	88	22.9
Family	134	34.9
Municipality	82	21.4
Religious	80	20.8
Choice of the marriage		
Both	165	43.0
Husband	105	27.3
Family	71	18.5
Abduction	28	7.3
Monthly income		
<300	174	45.3
300-500	51	13.3
500-1000	48	12.5
>1000	21	5.5
Decision making power		
No	56	14.6
Yes	328	85.4
Number of marriage		
First	302	78.9
Second or more	77	20.1
Property owner ship		
None	140	36.5
One item	226	58.9
Two or more items	18	4.7
Educational level of the women		
Illiterate	127	33.2
Primary	93	24.2
Secondary or higher	163	42.6
Total	384	100

4.2 Socio demographic characteristics of spouses

Table 2, indicates the socio-demographic characteristics of the husbands of the respondents. The mean age of the husbands was 43 years. Majority of them have greater or equal to secondary education and only 4.4% of the husbands were illiterate. Most of the men were engaged in formal sectors as higher or lower professionals. Only 12.3% of the men were engaged in trade, while 27.9% and 9.9% of the men were daily labourer and soldiers, respectively.

Among the respondents 51.6% responded that their husbands are alcohol users. The frequencies of drinking vary from daily drinking to about one to three times in a month. About 43.2% of the respondents reported that their husbands fight with one another. The frequency fight varies from one time to greater than five times in the last 12 months, while 31% of the respondents report that they never saw their husband fight with others.

Table 2 Socio-demographic characteristics of spouses of women participants Of the study, Awassa, Southern Ethiopia, July 2007

Characteristics	Number	Frequency
Age of the husband		
20-34	32	8.3
35-44	168	43.8
45-54	157	40.9
55+	27	7.0
Mean $\pm$ SD		
Educational level of the husband		
Illiterate	47	12.0
Primary	126	32.8
Secondary or higher	209	54.4
Husband's educational type		
Higher professionals	74	19.3
Lower professionals	117	30.5
Daily labourers	100	26.0
Others	93	24.2
Alcohol intake		
Never drink	186	48.4
Occasionally drink	161	41.9
Daily	37	9.6
Khat intake		
Never chew	238	62.0
Occasionally	108	28.1
Daily	38	9.9
Fighting with others		
No	131	34.1
Yes	245	63.8

4.3 Prevalence of physical and sexual violence

The respondents reported that they have experienced one or more kinds of violence throughout their life time. As indicated below, 56.3% (with a 95% confidence interval of 51.1%, 61.1%) of women experienced at least one episode of physical violence, and 39.8% (with a 95% confidence interval of 35.0% and 44.8%) experienced sexual violence by intimate partner within their life time, of which 51.3 experienced physical violence and 38.3% of the women faced sexual violence in the last twelve months.

**Table 3 Life time and 12-months time prevalence of physical and sexual
Violence by Intimate partner of married women participants
in the
Study, Awassa, Southern Ethiopia, July 2007**

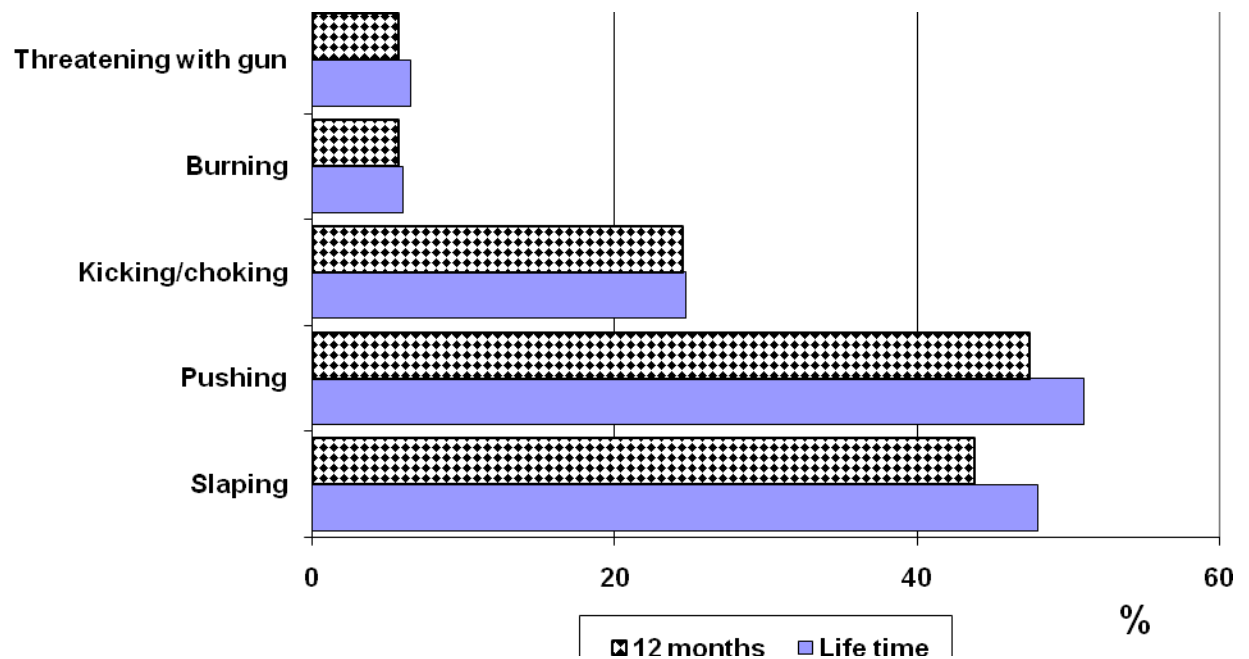
Type of violence	Number	Prevalence (95% Confidence Interval)
Life time		
Physical violence	216	56.3 (51.1, 61.1)
Sexual violence	153	39.8 (35.0, 44.8)
12 months time		
Physical violence	197	51.3 (46.2, 56.2)
Sexual violence	147	38.3 (33.5, 43.3)

4.4 Type of physical violence

As shown on fig 1, 48.3% of the women were slapped in their life time.

About 51% were pushed, 24% were kicked and 6% of the women were burnt by their intimate partner in their life time. While 43.8% of the women were slapped, 47.4% were pushed, 24.5% were kicked and 5.7% were burnt in the last twelve months.

Fig 1 Type of physical violence by intimate partner experienced in life time and last 12 months, of married women participants in the study, Awassa, Southern Ethiopia, July 2007

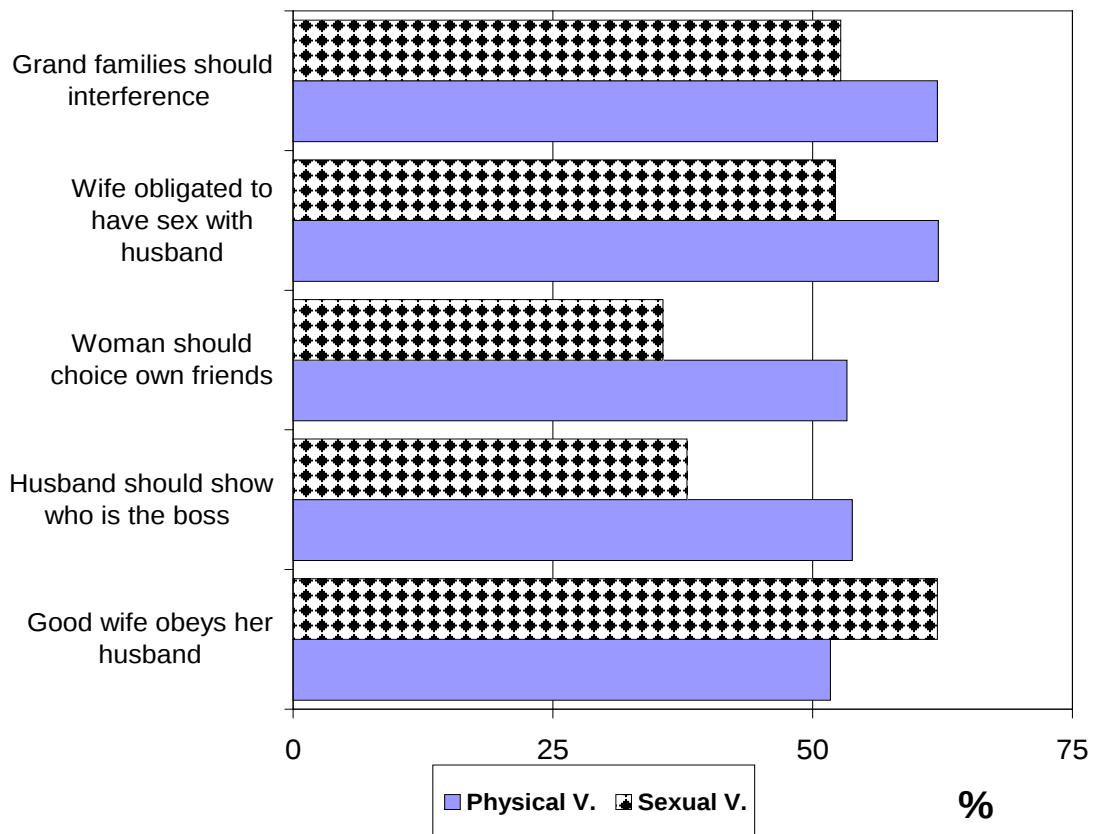


4.5 Attitudes towards gender norm

As shown on fig 2, 51.7% those who agree that a wife must obey her husband and 62.0% of those who accept that he is the boss, experienced physical violence. About 53.3% of the women who agree that woman must choose her friend by her self face physical violence. In addition, about 62.1% of those who agree that there must be interference of others to solve the disagreement between husband and wife and 62% of those reported a woman is obligated to have sex with her husband experienced physical violence.

Similarly, about 62% of the women who agree that a wife must obey her husband and 37.9% of the women, who accept that the husband is the boss, experienced sexual violence. Among the respondents 35.6% of the women who agree that woman must choose her friend by he self that woman must choose her friend by her self 35.6% of them and 52.7% of the women who agree that there must be interference of others to solve the disagreement between husband and wife, experienced sexual violence. In addition 52.7% of those reported a woman is obligated to have sex with her husband experienced sexual violence.

Fig 2 Attitudes towards gender norms of married women participants in the Study, Awassa, Southern Ethiopia, July 2007



4.6 Women's justifications of being battered

Women who agree with wife beating if she didn't complete domestic activity and if she ask the presence of girlfriends face more physical violence. Those who agree with wife beating when she is unfaithful and if she doesn't obey don't face more physical violence. This may be because these women accept and live with in men's superiority with out challenging it. In addition women those who agree with wife

beating if she refuses sex face physical violence equally with those who disagree. This indicates that whether the women agree or refuse to have sex with their husband they face physical violence.

This was also supported by the focus group discussion made among victims of violence by intimate partner.

"A husband has a right to beat his wife, if she doesn't fulfil her duty as a woman and if she disobeys him."

A 32 year old woman in focus group B

"Women who are beaten by their husbands must do something wrong."

A 41 years old woman in focus group B

"It is my duty to make a house suitable living. I must make him to feel happy whenever returns home. As a good wife, I have to finish all my household activities on time. And I must be at home, when he returns home. If I don't accomplish these duties of mine, he has to punish me."

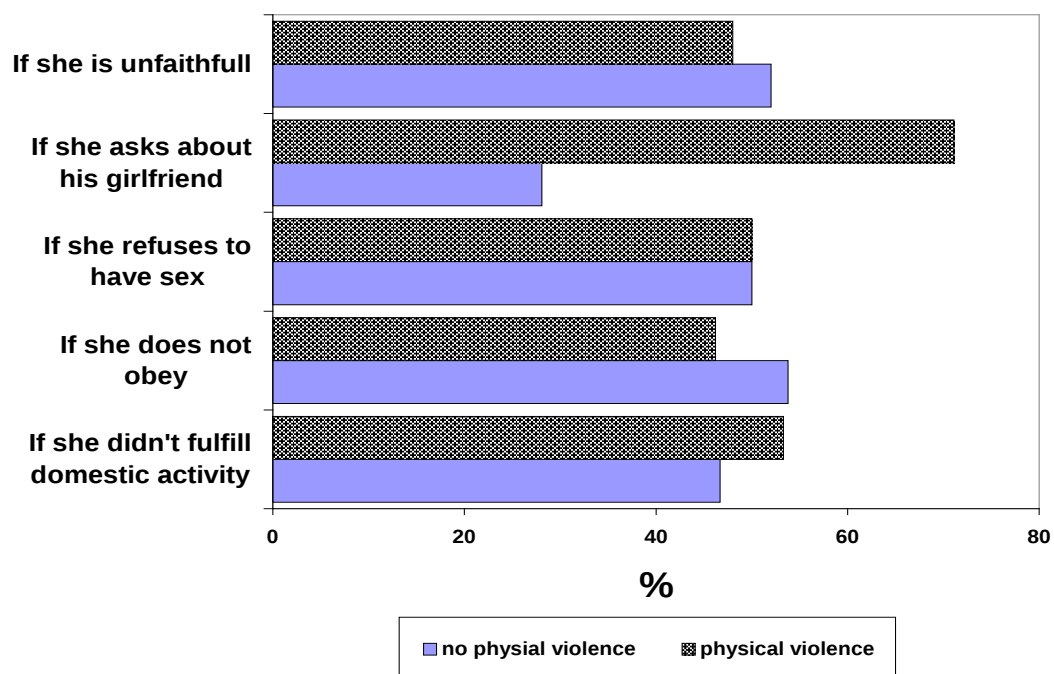
A 34 years old woman in focus group B

Most of the participants of focus group discussion from community organization disagree with any of the reasons for wife beating. They agree that a husband has no right to beat his wife under any of the reasons. The participants agree that culture plays a significant role in the perpetration of violence.

“In our society different status will be given to married women and divorced women. Since most women afraid that of being divorced, they choose to live with violent partner what ever is the problem.”

A 40 years old woman in focus group discussion A

Fig 3 Justifications for wife beating of married women participants in the study, Awassa, Southern Ethiopia, July 2007



4.7 Attitude towards sexual violence

Figure 4, indicates that those who agree that women has right to say no for sex when ever she doesn't want, face less sexual violence than others. Sexually violated women disagreed to say "no" for sex when they were sick and when their husbands were drunk than women who were not-sexually violated, and these differences were statistically significant at $p < 0.001$.

However, sexually violated women disagreed to say “no” for sex when they don’t wanted sex than non-sexually violated, and these differences were statistically significant at $p < 0.001$. However there was not statistically significant difference between sexually violated and non violated women for disagreement to say “no” for sex when the couples were quarrelled.

Similarly in the FGD, Majority of the women responded that a woman has not the right to respond negatively to have sex with her husband in any of the reasons. One of the respondents said that:

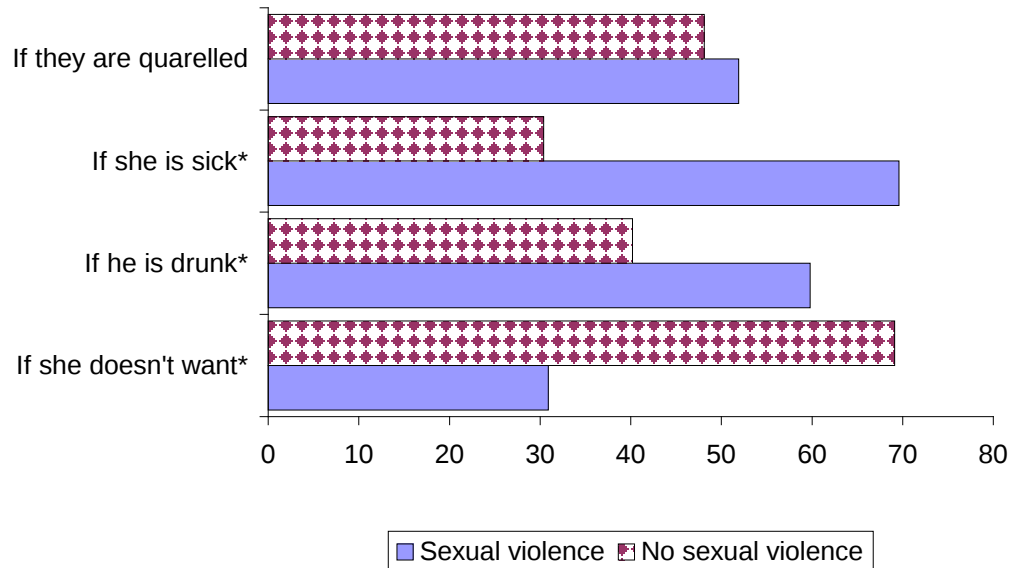
“If she refuses sex, he will go to another woman. In order not to face this kind of problem she has to fulfil her husband’s need”.

Most of the women themselves believe that a woman must not say ‘no’ to her husband when ever he needs sex.

“If I refuse to have sex with him, I will force him to see another woman. So to prevent such kind of problems, I have to satisfy his needs”

A 30 years old woman from focus group B

Fig 4 Women's Justifications to refuse sex with intimate partner among married women participants in the study, Awassa, Southern Ethiopia, July 2007



* = $P < 0.001$

4.8 Response of the respondents to intimate partner violence

Almost about half (51%) of the women responded that they informed about their problem of violence to nobody. Few of the respondents informed the issue to their family members, neighbours and friends. Only 1.6% of the women reported to the police Fig 5.

In the focus group discussion, women described that they were keeping the event secret. Some of the sayings are as follows

“For the last fourteen years, the problems that I was facing became the secret of mine. Since I have married him with my own choice, I decided to solve it by my self with out the interference of others. When it became out of my control, I decided to leave.”

A 40 years old woman from focus group A

“One of the identities of a good wife is keeping secret of her marriage. Those who disclose their marriage secrets decrease their status.”

A 35 years old woman from focus group B

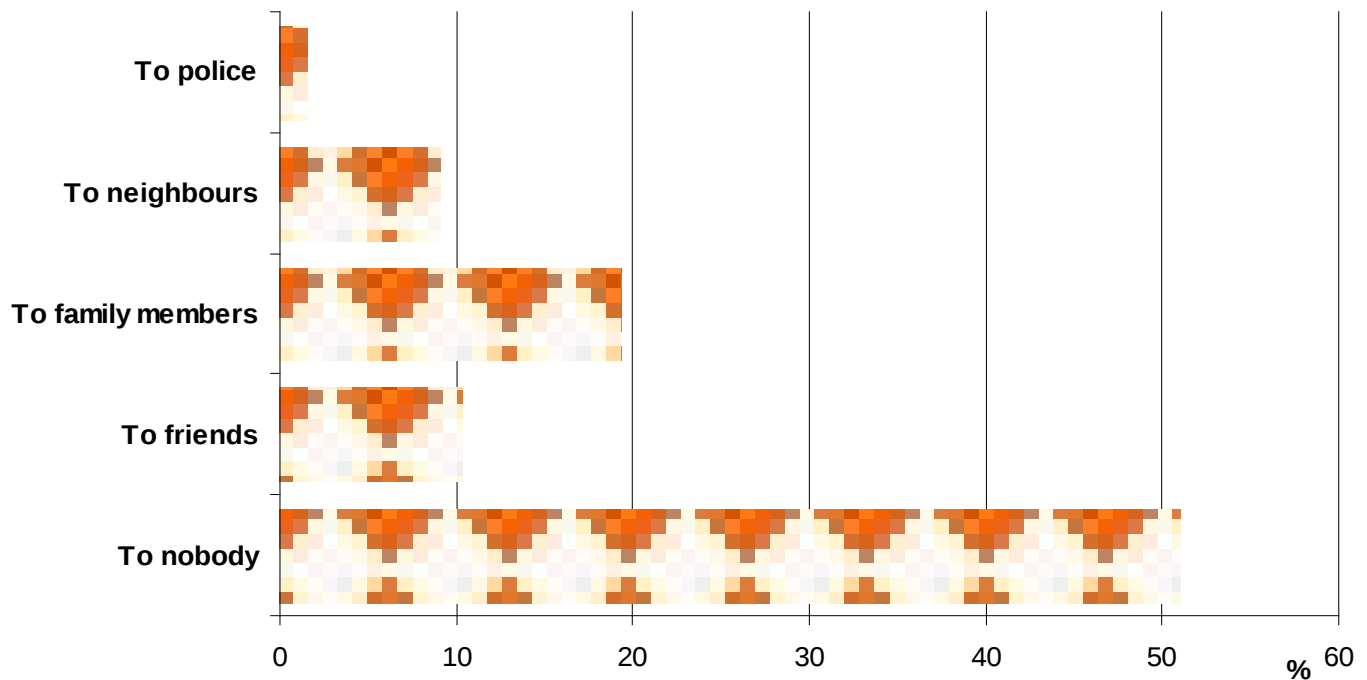
Some of the participants respond that they have no choice since they were dependent on their partner.

“If you let anybody to know what is going on between us, I will punish you.”

This was a thought of the partner that was always in the minds of a 28 years old woman in Awassa town.

"Most of the time he punishes me by preventing from using household expenditures. Due to this, my five year old daughter was suffering with me. So I decided to keep things secret for the sake of my daughter who knows nothing about us

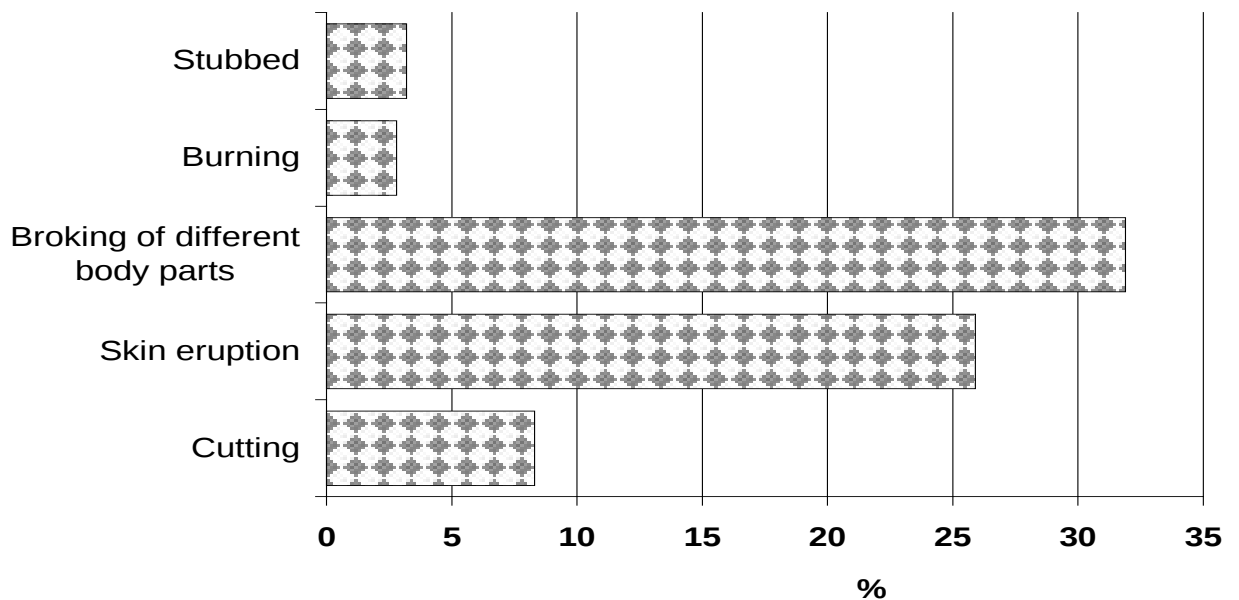
Fig 5 Disclosure in response to intimate partner violence of married women Participants in the study, Awassa, Southern Ethiopia, July 2007



4.9 Consequences of physical violence

The commonest reported immediate consequence of physical violence by intimate partner include broking of any part of the body among 31.9%, skin lesion and eruption among 25.9%, cutting among 8.3%, burning among 2.8% and stabbing using knife among 3.2% of the victims Fig 7.

Fig 6. Reported immediate consequences of physical violence among Women experiencing physical violence by intimate partner of married women participants in the study, Awassa, Southern Ethiopia, July 2007



4.10 Socio-economic correlates of physical violence

In the crude analysis, women who have a marriage certified by family “*Ye shimagle wul*” and by municipality, women who receive a monthly income of 1000 birr or more, women who are able to decide on higher duties within house and women having a higher wealth index were less likely to experience physical violence in the last 12 months compared to their references. After adjusting for these socioeconomic

factors, the likelihood of experiencing physical violence in the last 12 months was lower to statistically significant level among married

women certified by municipality (Adj-OR = 0.36; 95% CI; 0.15, 0.88) than among women who don't have marriage certificate, among women who are able to decide on higher duties within their house (Adj-OR = 0.26; 95% CI; 0.12, 0.56) than among women who couldn't decide. The likelihood of experiencing physical violence in the last 12 months was lower to statistically significant level among women who have a higher (two or more items) wealth index (Adj-OR = 0.15; 95% CI; 0.04, 0.63) than among women who scored no item. However, after adjusting for these socioeconomic characteristics the association found between experiencing physical violence in the last 12 months with the type of marriage ,decision making power and wealth.

The likelihood of experiencing physical violence among women who married for second or more time was higher than a newly married women, crudely. However, the significance of the difference failed after it was adjusted for the socio-demographic characteristics of the study subjects. However, there was not statistically significant difference in the odds of experiencing physical violence in the last 12

months by difference in educational level of the study subjects (table 4).

The odds of experiencing physical violence is more on women in the age group 25 to 34 years of age. The chance of experiencing physical violence is high on women who were engaged in trade. However, after adjusting for socioeconomic characteristics of the women ,there was no significant association between employment type and the age of the women with intimate partner violence.

Table 4 Socioeconomic correlates of physical violence in the last 12 months by intimate partner among of married women participants in the study, Awasa, Southern Ethiopia, July 2007women

Characteristics	%	Crude OR(95%CI)	Adjusted * OR (95% CI)
Age			
15-24	32.0	1.00	1.00
25-34	53.7	2.47 (1.01, 6.01)	2.46 (0.72, 8.37)
35-49	51.6	2.27 (0.93, 5.51)	2.51 (0.73, 8.63)
Type of the marriage			
None	69.3	1.00	1.00
Family	52.4	0.46 (0.26, 0.80)	0.55 (0.26, 1.17)
Municipality	43.7	0.26 (0.14, 0.48)	0.36 (0.15, 0.88)
Religious	67.9	0.40 (0.21, 0.75)	0.62 (0.26, 1.48)
Number of marriage			
First	48.2	1.00	1.00
Two or more	62.3	1.80 (1.07, 2.97)	1.71 (0.87, 3.33)
Educational level			
Illiterate	57.5	1.00	1.00
Primary	45.2	0.61 (0.36, 1.04)	0.80 (0.37, 1.73)
Secondary or more	49.7	0.73 (0.46, 1.17)	1.19 (0.58, 2.47)
Income			
<300	60.3	1.00	1.00
300-500	45.1	0.54 (0.29, 1.01)	0.71 (0.34, 1.50)
500-1000	52.1	0.71 (0.38, 1.36)	1.10 (0.48, 2.52)
>1000	33.3	0.33 (0.13, 0.86)	0.47 (0.14, 1.57)
Employment			
Housewife	41.6	1.00	1.00
Employed	51.2	1.48 (0.85, 2.56)	1.08 (0.55, 2.10)
Trade	57.8	1.92 (1.10, 3.36)	0.79 (0.36, 1.77)
Daily labourer	53.6	1.62 (0.83, 3.18)	== == ==
Decision making			
No	78.6	1.00	1.00
Yes	46.6	0.23 (0.12, 0.47)	0.26 (0.12, 0.56)
Wealth index			
None	53.6	1.00	1.00
One item	52.7	0.96 (0.63, 1.47)	0.80 (0.37, 1.73)
Two or more item	16.7	0.17 (0.05, 0.63)	0.15 (0.04, 0.63)

* The data was adjusted for wealth index, decision making, employment, monthly income, educational level, number of marriage, type of marriage and age

4.11 socio-demographic correlates of physical violence

In the binary analysis, women who have husbands who drink alcohol on a daily bases and occasionally, husbands who chew khat on a daily bases as well as occasionally and husbands who fight with others were experiencing physical violence at higher level than women whose husbands were not drinking alcohol, not chewing khat and not fighting with others respectively. Moreover, after adjusting for socio-economic characteristics of the spouse, women who have husbands who drink alcohol on a daily bases and drink alcohol occasionally experienced physical violence 4 times and 2.35 times higher than women whose husbands were not drinking alcohol at all (Adj-OR= 4.00; 95% CI; 1.02, 15.8) and (Adj-OR= 2.35; 95% CI; 1.13, 4.90), respectively. Similarly women whose husbands were chewing khat on occasionally basis experienced physical violence about 2.6 times higher level than women whose husbands were not chewing khat (Adj-OR= 2.60; 95% CI; 1.08, 6.27). Women whose husbands were fighting with others experienced physical violence at about 3.47 times higher than women whose husbands were not fighting with others (Adj-OR= 3.45; 95% CI; 1.74, 6.87). However, there was not difference between women whose husbands were chewing khat on a daily bases and not chewing at all

after socioeconomic characteristics of husbands were included in the model.

Our model also showed us that there was no statistically significant difference in odds of experiencing violence in the last 12 months by difference in choice of marriage, age, educational status and occupation of husbands of study subjects Table 5.

Table 5 Comparison of 12 months prevalence of physical violence by some socioeconomic characteristics spouses of married women, Awasa, Southern Ethiopia, July 2007

Characteristics	Prevalence	OR (95% CI)	Adjusted
Choice of the marriage			
Both	47.9	1.00	1.00
Husband	52.4	1.18 (0.73, 1.95)	0.83 (0.47, 1.46)
Family	43.7	0.84 (0.48, 1.48)	0.49 (0.24, 1.01)
Abduction	67.9	2.29 (0.98, 5.37)	1.24 (0.50, 3.09)
Husband's age			
20-34	46.9	1.00	1.00
35-44	57.1	1.50 (0.70, 3.20)	1.07 (0.39, 2.23)
45-54	47.8	1.03 (0.48, 2.20)	0.64 (0.22, 1.89)
55+	40.7	0.48 (0.28, 2.20)	0.45 (0.10, 1.92)
Educational level (husband)			
Illiterate	63.8	1.00	1.00
Primary	57.9	0.78 (0.39, 1.56)	0.71 (0.30, 1.66)
Secondary or higher	44.0	0.45 (0.23, 0.86)	0.55 (0.20, 1.53)
Occupation of the husband			
Daily labourer	53.0	1.00	1.00
Lower professional	42.7	0.66 (0.39, 1.13)	0.86 (0.34, 2.16)
Higher professional	55.4	1.10 (0.60, 2.02)	1.68 (0.55, 5.11)
Others	57.0	1.17 (0.67, 2.07)	1.55 (0.59, 4.05)
Alcohol intake			
Never	69.8	1.00	1.00
Occasionally	71.3	3.75 (2.40, 5.85)	2.35 (1.13, 4.90)
Daily	39.9	8.57 (3.56, 20.6)	4.00 (1.02, 15.8)
Khat intake			
Never	39.9	1.00	1.00
Occasionally	71.3	3.74 (2.29, 6.11)	2.60 (1.08, 6.27)
Daily	69.8	2.89 (1.41, 5.94)	1.30 (0.43, 3.95)
Fighting with others			
No	24.4	1.00	1.00
Yes	49.7	5.93 (3.68, 9.56)	3.45 (1.74, 6.87)

* the data was adjusted for some characteristics such as fighting with others,
khat intake, alcohol abuse, occupation of the husband, educational level of the husband, age of the husband and choice of the marriage.

4.12 Socio-economic correlates of sexual violence

In the crude analysis, women who have a marriage certified by family “*Ye shimagle wul*” and by municipality, women who receive a monthly income of more than 300 birr or more, women who are able to decide on higher duties within household and women having a higher wealth index were less likely to experience sexual violence in the last 12 months compared to their references. Similarly, women who married for the second or more time and women who were working as a trader and daily labourers were experiencing more sexual violence than their references. After adjusting for these socioeconomic factors, the likelihood of experiencing sexual violence by intimate partner in the last 12 months was lower to statistically significant level among married women who receive a monthly income of 1000 birr or more (Adj-OR = 0.10; 95% CI; 0.02, 0.58) than among women earning a monthly income of 300 birr or less, among women who are able to decide on higher duties within their house (Adj-OR = 0.14; 95% CI; 0.07, 0.31) than among women who couldn’t decide. However, after adjusting for these socioeconomic characteristics the association found between experiencing physical violence in the last 12 months with married marriage certified by family or “*Ye shimagle wul*” and with women having a higher wealth index of two or more items was refuted.

The likelihood of experiencing sexual violence among women who married for second or more time was higher than a newly married women, both crudely and after it was adjusted for the above mentioned socioeconomic characteristics (Adj-OR = 2.76; 95% CI; 1.37, 5.53). However, there was not statistically significant difference in the odds of experiencing sexual violence in the last 12 months by difference in age group and educational level of the study subjects (table 6).

Table 6 Comparison of 12 months prevalence of sexual violence by some Socio-economic characteristics of of married women, Awasa, Southern Ethiopia, July 2007

Characteristics	Prevalence	Crude OR(95%CI)	Adjusted * OR (95% CI)
Age			
15-24	28.0	1.00	1.00
25-34	41.1	1.79 (0.71, 4.52)	1.47 (0.40, 5.48)
35-49	37.0	1.51 (0.60, 3.79)	1.96 (0.52, 7.39)
Type of the marriage			
None	53.4	1.00	1.00
Family	35.1	0.47 (0.27, 0.82)	0.56 (0.26, 1.19)
Municipality	26.8	0.32 (0.17, 0.61)	0.64 (0.25, 1.64)
Religious	38.8	0.55 (0.30, 1.03)	1.47 (0.60, 3.59)
Number of marriage			
First	35.0	1.00	1.00
Two or more	50.6	1.90 (1.15, 3.16)	2.76 (1.37, 5.53)

Educational level			
Illiterate	44.1	1.00	1.00
Primary	34.4	0.67 (0.38, 1.16)	0.80 (0.37, 1.73)
Secondary or more	36.2	0.72 (0.45, 1.16)	1.09 (0.51, 2.34)
Monthly Income			
<300	51.1	1.00	1.00
300-500	33.3	0.48 (0.25, 0.92)	0.63 (0.28,1.41)
500-1000	27.1	0.36 (0.18, 0.72)	0.51 (0.21,1.27)
>1000	9.5	0.10 (0.02, 0.45)	0.10 (0.02, 0.58)
Employment			
Housewife	29.2	1.00	1.00
Employed	35.0	1.30 (0.72, 2.35)	1.14 (0.56, 2.33)
Trade	43.1	1.84 (1.02, 3.30)	1.32 (0.57, 3.04)
Daily labourer	50.0	2.42 (1.21, 4.86)	== == == ==
Decision making			
No	76.8	1.00	1.00
Yes	31.7	0.14 (0.07, 0.27)	0.14 (0.07,0.31)
Wealth index			
None	40.7	1.00	1.00
One item	38.9	0.93 (0.60, 1.43)	1.00 (0.54, 1.85)
Two or more item	11.1	0.18 (0.04, 0.08)	0.12 (0.02, 0.64)

* The data was adjusted for wealth index, decision making, employment, monthly income, educational level, number of marriage, type of marriage and age

4.13 socio-demographic correlates of sexual violence

Table 7 revealed that comparison of twelve months prevalence of sexual violence by some socio-demographic characteristics and risk factors of married women and their spouses crudely. Educational level of the husband has a relationship with sexual violence. Men who were educated more than or equal to secondary education perpetrate less sexual violence than those who were educated less than or equal to primary education. There is no association between husband's education and sexual violence after adjusting the data.

The odds of sexual violence by intimate partner were higher among women whose husbands were drinking on daily bases and on occasional bases than women's husband who never drink alcohol. Even after adjusting for women's husband socio demographics, the association was still significantly (Occasionally drinking Adj OR= 2.28; 95% CI; 1.03, 5.04 and for daily drinking habit Adj OR= 2.89, 95%CI; 1.34; 17.8). Women's risk of experiencing sexual violence increase four times when their husband drink alcohol daily.

The chances of experiencing sexual violence were high on women whose husbands chew khat than those whose husbands never chew khat. Where as, after adjusting the socio demographic characteristics of the respondents and their spouses, the same result was not obtained .and hostile behaviours are the risk factors for sexual violence. In addition, women living with partners who fight with others, face more sexual violence. This holds true after adjusting the data.

Table 7 Comparison of 12 months prevalence of sexual violence by some
Socio-demographic characteristics of spouses of married women, Awassa, Southern Ethiopia, July 2007

Characteristics	Prevalence	Crude OR (95% CI)	Adjusted* OR (95% CI)
Choice of the marriage			
Both	38.2	1.00	1.00
Husband	37.1	0.96 (0.58, 1.59)	0.83(0.47,1.46)
Family	28.2	0.63 (0.35, 1.16)	0.49(0.24,1.01)
Abduction	53.6	1.87 (0.83, 4.18)	1.24(0.50,3.09)
Husband's age			
20-34	37.5	1.00	1.00
35-44	43.5	1.28 (0.58, 2.79)	0.90 (0.24, 3.34)
45-54	31.8	0.78 (0.35, 1.70)	0.54 (0.13, 2.27)
55+	44.4	1.30 (0.47, 3.80)	2.38 (0.38, 14.7)

Educational level (husband)			
Illiterate	51.1	1.00	1.00
Primary	39.7	0.63 (0.32, 1.24)	0.62 (0.22, 1.76)
Secondary or higher	34.0	0.49 (0.26, 0.93)	0.37 (0.11, 1.27)
Occupation of the husband			
Daily labourer	31.0	1.00	1.00
Lower professional	40.2	1.49 (0.85, 2.62)	3.01 (1.12, 8.14)
Higher professional	43.2	1.69 (0.91, 3.17)	5.11 (1.51, 17.3)
Others	39.8	1.47 (0.81, 2.66)	1.88 (0.70, 5.02)
Alcohol intake			
Never	27.4	1.00	1.00
Occasionally	45.3	2.20 (1.40, 3.43)	2.28 (1.03, 5.04)
Daily	62.2	4.35 (2.07, 9.10)	4.89 (1.34, 17.8)
Khat intake			
Never	33.6	1.00	1.00
Occasionally	50.0	1.98 (1.24, 3.14)	0.82 (0.34, 1.96)
Daily	34.2	1.03 (0.50, 2.11)	0.54 (0.15, 1.71)
Fighting with others			
No	18.3	1.00	1.00
Yes	49.0	4.28 (2.57, 7.12)	3.09 (1.44, 6.63)

* the data was adjusted for some characteristics such as fighting with others,

khat intake, alcohol abuse, occupation of the husband, educational level of the husband, age of the husband and choice of the marriage.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSIONS

5.1 Prevalence of physical and sexual violence

The result of this study indicates that the prevalence of physical violence by intimate partner of 56.3% is high in Awassa. Although the figure is in the range of the world health organization's multi-country finding that ranged between 13% in Japan and 62% in Peru, the result of this study is in the highest range. Though there is no comparable

study in Ethiopian urban population with which to compare, comparing the finding with prevalence of physical violence conducted in rural Butajira, this study has explored a higher prevalence. This may be due to difference in (urban versus rural) setting. In urban setting of our community where lots of stress is acquired due to poverty could result in higher rate of hostile act of which battering a wife may be an act men surpass their frustration.

The findings of this research revealed that the prevalence of lifetime sexual violence was 39.8% that was lower than the WHO multi country study done in rural Butajira. However, it is still in the range of the WHO multi-country life time prevalence of sexual violence that ranged from 6% in Japan city and Serbia and Montenegro to 59% in Butajira, Ethiopia. The finding of sexual violence is relatively very low in this study and it may be due to measurement of our highly culturally sensitive nature of the issue related to sexuality. Moreover, under reporting is a serious problem in sensitive issues as this and it is believed that this figure is the lowest possible prevalence of sexual violence by intimate partner.

5.2 Women's attitudes towards gender norms and violence

There are perceived gender norms in Awassa society like other Ethiopian society. Men are responsible to control the household because it is believed that men are expected to show perceived masculine identity. Most women accept this gender norm as normal.

According to the findings of this study , women who agree that a good wife obeys her husband, the wife is obligated to show who is the boss and the wife is obligated to have sex with husband experienced more physical violence than who disagree with these norms. Since these women accept the dominance of the husband as normal, they don't challenge the violence enacted on them by their intimate partner. Their attitude towards gender norms made most women vulnerable to physical and sexual violence (Subramaniam and Sivayogan 2001; Hindin 2003).

Secondly, the odd of physical violence was higher in societies who justified wife battering. The findings of this research revealed that women experienced more physical violence, if a woman didn't fulfil her domestic activity. This indicates that women have no right to ask information about him. Most of the participants of focus group discussion support this idea. According to them most women have no right to ask about their husband's bank account, the money he lends to others, and his relationship with other women that could show us the patriarchy (Jewkes 2002; Martin, Taff et al. 2007).

Most women justify wife beating as normal because of patriarchy. They are socialized in societies who accept the dominance of the husband. This dominance notion of the masculine character grants men with power to exercise dominance (Jewkes 2002; Martin, Taff et al. 2007).

On contrary, the feminine construction of women as submissive and makes them to accept violence as any thing that must happen in marriage. So they themselves give right to their partner to abuse them (Martin, Taff et al. 2007). In addition, divorce is not acceptable in most societies. This cultural influence force most women to continue their relationship after whatever violence they have been experienced. Women also continue their volatile relationship for the sake of their children, fearing worst thing will happen to their children.

The other cultural norm is sexuality. Patriarchy will be manifested in marriage relationship by sexual dominance of the men. In marriage relationship sexual intercourse is controlled by the dominant partner who is the man. The women have to fulfil the needs of the man, and traditional beliefs about sex in marriage influence the likelihood of experiencing sexual violence. Women, who argue that woman has the right to refuse sex with her husband when ever she doesn't want it, experienced less sexual violence than those who disagree with this idea. This indicated that the women's acceptance of sexual violence has significant association with sexual violence. Most women don't consider forced sex in marriage as violence. The participants in focus group also support this idea. According to them a husband has the right to have sex with his wife whenever he needs, no matter what her needs is. This is consistent to many theories that happen in

developing countries (Heise, Ellsberg et al. 2002; Jewkes 2002; Martin, Taff et al. 2007).

They also argue that refusal of sex by his wife may force the husband to form sexual relationship with another women. This was because women have the responsibility to make her husband happy in their marriage. Failing to fulfil this duty could force the husband to involve in other extramarital engagement, and such happenings are considered a women's fault rather than what it is done by the husband.

5.3 Response to violence by intimate partner

In this study almost more than half of abused women said that they had been remained passive during the assault. Only 1.6% of abused women had complained to the police. This is consistent to study done in eastern Sri Lanka (Subramaniam and Sivayogan 2001). This may be reflecting the common trend of battered women to shun outside intervention, especially from the police or help agencies. In addition to the perceived shame of exposing marital discord to outsiders and fear of retaliation from the perpetrator, the lack of awareness of the existence of helping agencies may contribute to their reluctance to seek outside help.

Ironically, it has been found that majority of abused women continue to remain in abusive relationship. Majority of women irrespective of their education and employment status placed the welfare of their

children as prime reason for continuing to stay in abusive relationship with the perpetrator. Other reasons include economic dependency since most women are economically dependent on their spouses. It may also be lack of information about the law and helping institutions or bad experience from the institutions.

5.4 Risk factors to intimate partner violence

The result of this study revealed that there was strong association between the type of marriage and physical violence. Women living in certified marriage by municipality or by family (ye shimagile wul) experienced less physical violence than women living in non-certified marriage. This may be due to their perception of lacking legal bases of the marriage, and it is thought that there is no equal right in marriage relationship if they don't certify their marriage.

There was also strong association between the type of marriage and sexual violence. Women who married for second or more time experienced more physical and sexual violence than women who married for the first time. This may be due to the fact that women living in their second or more marriage had may already passed experiencing violence from their ex-husband. So they would be more conscious to report violence than women in their first marriage. Additionally, spouse may not trust their wives due to the women's past experience of sexuality.

Women's income has strong association with sexual as well as physical violence. Higher income of the women decreases the odds of experiencing physical and sexual violence. This is consistent to many studies (Subramaniam and Sivayogan 2001; Koenig, Lutalo et al. 2003). This may be due to the reason that women's decision making power may be increased.

Employment of the women engaged in trade and daily labour experience more physical as well as sexual violence than housewives. This is in contrary to other studies in developing countries (Jewkes 2002; Koenig, Lutalo et al. 2003). This must be taken into account that social and cultural differences exist between the study settings. This high prevalence of violence in daily labourers and traders than housewives may be due to housewife's engagement in activities that is given by norm as to work and do household works. On the contrary, women working outside houses as a trader or daily labourer may get information that may oppose the traditional gender role that could challenge their husbands resulting in violence. Women working outside their home may be suspected for sexual affair with other men that could be justifiable for being battered.

Decision making power was observed to have a protective effect on violence by intimate partner. This is in consistent to many studies (Richter 1994; Jewkes 2002; Koenig, Lutalo et al. 2003; Martin, Taff et al. 2007). This may be due to the reason that decision making power

in marriage relationship can give a women an authority to decide equally on each matter. The findings of this study also indicated that socioeconomic status such as income, employment, type of marriage, number of marriage; decision making power and property ownership of the women have strong association with physical as well as sexual violence. However, educational level of the women has no significant association with sexual and physical violence, as in many study (Jewkes, 2002).

More over, in this study there were association between the spousal socio- demographic characteristics and intimate partner violence. The age of the husband, the educational level and the occupation of the husband have no significant association with sexual as well as physical violence. However, hostile behaviour, khat chewing habit, and alcohol using behaviour have strong association with physical and sexual violence.

The likelihood of experiencing sexual and physical violence increase in women whose husbands drink alcohol on a daily bases and occasionally, and this association is consistent with other studies from Uganda (Koenig, Lutalo et al. 2003) Sri Lanka (Subramaniam and Sivayogan 2001) and others (Heise, Ellsberg et al. 2002).

More over, women who are married with hostile spouses experienced more sexual and physical violence than women living with non violent behaviour. This may be due to the use of excessive power by

husbands (Jewkes 2002; Hindin 2003; Martin, Taff et al. 2007). Men who use power to solve any disagreement in their relationship with others may also use power to solve any disagreement with their intimate partner.

Khat has an association with physical violence and sexual violence. It has an inverted “U” shape association with sexual as well as physical violence. Its effect on violence of women is observed among men who chew khat on occupational bases. It may be due to the intermittent amphetamine like effect could elicit partial euphoria that could result in violence. However, in high and continuous khat chewing, it may have impotency to involve in sexual violence (Laura,2005).

In addition, the cross tabulation between occupation of the husband and sexual violence reveals that women were highly exposed to sexual violence, when they get married to husbands who have higher profession than daily labourers. This may be due to the reason that husbands in higher profession were reserved on their marriage relation ship due to HIV/AIDS.

Chapter 6

Conclusion and recommendation

6.1 Conclusion

Intimate partner violence is a major health, social and human right abuse in the study area. This study indicated that the prevalence of sexual and physical violence is high in Awassa town. Socioeconomic factors that play a significant role in the women's vulnerability to intimate partner violence include decision making power and property ownership of the women. Income of the women, the type of marriage (certification of marriage) and the stage of marriage (first or second or

more marriage), engagement in daily labour or trading and age of the women are other socioeconomic and demographic character associated with intimate partner violence.

Alcohol drinking behaviour, khat chewing habit and hostile behaviour of spouses has effect on perpetuating the descent woman. However, there was not association between other socio demographic characteristics of spouses and experiencing violence by intimate partner.

6.2 Recommendations

1. There is a need of increasing institutions that could help pre-marital counselling and conflict resolution programs targeting young adults (legal, health institutions)
2. Since violence by intimate partner is a common problem, it must be acknowledged to push for gender equality and empower women.

3. Provision of temporary shelters for battered women having primary health care counselling should be considered
4. Management of alcohol among men in community; both individually and at society level need consideration
5. Encouraging at national, regional and district level on programs that Empower women by improving the opportunities for women's employment, education, training and access to credit.

References

- Anandhi, S. Jeyaranjan, (2006). Masculinity and Domestic violence in a Tamil Nadu Village. Institute for Development Alternatives (IDA), Chennai, 16-26
- Anderson K. L.(August 1997). Gender, Status and Domestic Violence: An integration of feminist and family violence approaches. Journal of Marriage and the family, 59,655-669.
- Bates, L. M.(December, 2004). Socioeconomic factors and Processes Associated with Domestic Violence in Rural Bangladesh. International family perspectives volume 3.

- Center for Disease control and Prevention (CDC). (2006). Intimate partner violence fact sheet.
- Fawcett, B. Featherston, B. and Hearn J .(1996) Violence and gender relations: theories and interventions. London : Sage.
- Garcia-Moreno, G. Jansen, et al. (2006). Prevalence of intimate partner violence: findings from the WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence. Lancet, 368, 1260-69.
- Heise, L. Elsberg, M. Gottmoeller, M. (2002). A global over view of gender based violence., International federation of Gynaecology and Obstetricks, Elsevier Science Ireland Ltd.78, Suppl 1, S5-14.
- Hindin, M. J. (2003). Understanding women's attitudes towards wife beating in Zimbabwe." Bull World Health Organ. 81(7), 501-8.
- Hoffman, K.L. Demo, D.H. Edwards, J.N., (1994). Physical Wife Abuse in a Non-Western Society:An Integrated Theoretical Approach. Journal of marriage and the family, 56, 131-146
- Jalmert, L.(Feb,2006). Violence against women and the gender power order. Donostia-San Sebastian, Switherland.
- Jewkes, R.(April 20,2002). Intimate Partner Violence: Causes and Prevention. The Lancet, Vol.359
- Koenig M.A, Lutato T. (2003). Domestic Violence in Rural Uganda: evidence from a community based study. Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 2003
- Krug, E.G. et al (2002) eds. World report on violence and health. Geneva, World health organisation.
- Kumar, C.S. Gupta, S.D. Abraham, G.(2002). Masculinity and Violence Against women in marriage: An explanatory study in Rajasthan. International centre for research on women, Washington, D.C.

- Laura, A. Corrine, W. and Ulla, L. (2005). Gender inequality and Intimate partner violence among women in Moshi, Tanzania. *International planning perspectives*, 31(3):124-130.
- Loi, V.M. Huy, V.T. Minh, N.H. (1999). Gender based violence: the case of Vietnam. Family Sociology Department, Institute of Sociology, 7-12.
- Martin, E. K., Taff, C.T. et al. (2007). A review of marital rape." Aggression and violent behavior. 12, 329-347.
- Odujinrin, O. (1993). Wife battering in Nigeria. International federation of gynecology and Obstetrics, Ireland, 159-164.
- Richter, A. (1994). Women, Culture, women and Autonomy centre. VENA.
- Saltzman, L. (2002). Intimate partner violence surveillance. Atlanta.
- Stith, S.M. and Straus, M.A. (1995) Understanding Partner Violence: Prevalence, Causes, Consequences and Solutions. National Council on Family Relations, Minneapolis, MN,
- Subramaniam, P. and Sivayogan, S. (2001). The prevalence and pattern of wife beating in the Trincomalee district in eastern Sri Lanka. Southeast Asian J Trop Med Public Health, 32(1), 186-95.
- Sweetman, Caroline, (ed). (1998). Violence against Women. Oxfam Focus on Gender Series. Oxford: Oxfam GB
- World health organization. (2002). Domestic violence fact sheet.
- WHO. (2005). Multi country study on women's Health and Domestic violence against women.
- Yllo, K.A. (1993). Through a feminist lens: Gender, Power and Violence. Sage publications

Appendix

The following questions are designed to assess the prevalence and risk factors for

intimate partner violence. The discussion between you and me will be kept as a secret. You can respond to the following questions only if you are willing to answer.

Do you want to continue on the interview? Yes_____

No_____

I. The following questions are related with you.

1.How old are you? _____

2.Do you have children? Yes_____ No_____

3.How many children do you have?_____

4.What is your educational level? 1.Illeterate

2.Primary

3. Secondary or above

5.How did the marriage between you and your spouse was certified?

1.None

2.Family

3.Municipality

4.Religious

6. Who choose your husband for you?

1.Both

2. Family

3.Husband

4. Abduction

7.From the following lists identify items that you owned by yourself, with others and those you didn't owned.

Items	my own	with others	I haven't
Land	1	2	3
House	1	2	3
Organization	1	2	3
Large cattle	1	2	3
Small cattle	1	2	3
Utilities	1	2	3
Jewellery	1	2	3

Others

1

2

3

8. Do you have your own income? Yes_____ No _____

9. If your answer for question 8 was 'yes' , what is your occupational type?

1.Housewife

2.employed

3. Trade

4.Daily labourer

10. How many Ethiopian birr do you get per month?_____

11. When compared with you spouses income you income is :

1.Greater than

2.Equal to

3. Less than

12. Can you use your income with your own decision?

1.Yes

2.No

13. Does your spouse prevent household expenditures?

1.Yes

2. No

II. The following questions are related with your spouses

14. How old is your spouse? _____

15. What is your spouses educational level?

1. Illiterate

2. Primary

3. Secondary or above

16. What is the occupational type of your spouse?

1. Daily labourer

2. Higher professional

3. Lower professional

4. Trade

5. Other

17. How often does your spouse drink alcohol?

1. Never

2. Occasionally

3. Daily

18. How often does your spouse chew Khat?

1. Never

2. Occasionally

3. Daily

19. Does your spouse fight with others?

1. Yes

2. No

III. The following questions are related with accepted attitudes on gender.

20. Good wife must obey her husband, whether or not she agrees with his idea

1 Agree

2 Disagree

21. It is good to show that the husband is the boss of the house.

1 Agree

2 Disagree

22. Wife has a right to choose her own friend whether the husband agrees or not.

1 Agree

2 Disagree

23. Women must not refuse sex with her husband.

1 Agree 2 Disagree

24. Grand family members can interfere in the disagreement between them.

1 Agree 2 Disagree

25. What is your opinion on husbands who batter their wives. Which of the following can be appropriate reason for wife battering?

- A .If she doesn't fulfil domestic activity.
- B. If she is not obedient.
- C. If she refuse to have sex with him.
- D. If she asks about his other girlfriends.
- E. If she isn't faithful

26. When does women can refuse sex with her husband?

- A. If she doesn't want
- B. If her husband drink alcohol
- C. If she is sick
- D. If he mistreated her

IV. The next questions are about things that happen to many women, and that your current partner may has done to you.

27.Has he or any other partner ever done the following to you?

- 1.Pushed you or shoved you
- 2.slapped you or threw something at you
- 3.Kicked you, dragged you or beat you
- 4.Treatened or burnt you on purpose
- 5.Treatened to use or actually used a gun or other weapon

against you

28.Have you face any of the following in the last twelve months?

- 1.Pushing
- 2.Slapping
- 3.Kicking
- 4.Burning
- 4.Using a weapon

29.Have you experienced any of the following ever in your life by your partner?

- 1.Forced sex
- 2.Forcing to have sex by humiliating you

30.Have you experienced any of the following in the last twelve months?

- 1.Forced sex
- 2.Forcing to have sex by humiliating you

31. Have you ever face severe physical injury in your life time?

1. Yes
2. No

32. Did you face sever physical injury in the last twelve months?

- 1.Yes
2. No

33. What kind of sever physical injury did you face in the last twelve months?

1. Stubbed
2. Burning
3. Broking of different body parts
- 4.Skin eruption
5. Cutting

34. Did you seek help from any of the following?

1. Nobody
2. Friends
3. Family
4. Neighbours
5. Police

Thank you