

Street Harassment Among Addis Ababa University
Technology Faculty Female Students: Lived
Experiences, Impacts and Coping Strategies

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November, 2020

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Acknowledgments

I am most thankful to Unforgotten Faces, the non-profit organization, and all of its members, particularly the Country Director of the organization, Yewubdar Addisu. I am so grateful for you and for making it possible to see myself bring my education to the point where there is today. Thank you for allowing me to take leave from work in order to attend my classes and write my thesis. If I did not receive the trust and the time that I got from you, nothing would have been possible. Secondly, I am thankful to my advisor Dr. Mitiku Hambisa for giving me continuous constructive comments. I am also thankful to the participants of this study who were kind enough to give me their precious time of a day to share their personal experiences.

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to assess Addis Ababa University, Technology Faculty female students' experience of street harassment. Street harassment is relatively a new term used to explain gender based harassment that happens in public and crowded places. However, this term does not bring yet a unified definition among scholars and activists since it is recently introduced. The objective of the study was to explore on the lived experience, impact and coping up mechanism of female students in relation to experiencing street harassment. Qualitative research method was used in order to have in depth understanding of research questions. The study population is female students at Addis Ababa University Technology Faculty. Purposive sampling technique was used with in-depth interviews and focus group discussions of data collection tools. The data was transcribed and analyzed through thematic analysis approach. Experience of street harassment, its impact and how the students manage the situation are the main study themes discussed. The study result revealed that street harassment is challenging Addis Ababa University, Technology Faculty of female students. Due to the location of the Technology Faculty Campus, female students are more exposed to street harassment. The students travel out of their campus and cross a main public street to attend class, use library and get back to their dormitories. Harassers disrespect, violate the freedom and honor of women. The study shows that female students are affected by the acts of street harassment and they can only ignore the fact that they are facing harassment due to lack of organized legislation. The study adds to the literary work on street harassment and suggests other researchers to explore on the issue. The study also invites practitioners to participate in creating awareness on street harassment.

Key words: Addis Ababa, Female, Harassment, street, University

Chapter One

Introduction

Under this section background of the study that assess the overview of Street Harassment internationally, nationally and specifically in study area, and exploring problems, justifying and identifying research called statement of the problem , objectives and, significances of this study, finally delimitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Gender based violence against women and girls are the feature in the day-to-day experience of modern day (Elin, 2015). Even though the experience of gender related violence is common to most women in every part of the world, the measures taken regarding to violence are not significant in eradicating the problem. There is also a significant culture of tolerating the sexual violence depending on the socially accepted patriarchal laws and other norms, and it occurs in every region, country and culture of the world. Such violence transcends through different people with different income, class, race and ethnicity. Violence that occurs based on one's gender is undesirable and unwelcome behavior that is extremely upsetting to the harassed individuals. This causes those individuals to be threatened, humiliated or embarrassed (International Labor Organization(ILO, 2012). On top of all of that, effect on the feelings of individuals as Kassahun (2009) indicated that sexual harassment also impedes development and prevents women and girls from enjoying their human rights and basic freedoms.

Even though less attention is paid to women's sexual harassment acts back in the days in the academic realm, which usually leads to a practical solution to the problem, researches

showed increase since the early 1990's (Gardner, 1995). The psychology journal articles of (2014) found that over 85% published topics on women sexual harassment since 1990 and this figure depicts the change of attention towards the existing gender based harassment. However, the attention was not given to harassment to all kinds of harassment. Rather it focused entirely to sexual harassment existed between co-workers and supervisors organizations (Joyce, 2003)

Street harassment is one form of observed harassment, which affects women. This type of harassment specifically makes women to feel less safe in public place or throughout their daily activities. Street harassment can be explained as a form of sexual harassment through unwanted comments, gestures, whirling whistles, catcalling, shouted pinching and action forced on stranger in public place without their consent Stop Street Harassment (2015). Even though less attention is paid to it, street harassment has a serious harmful effect on women particularly and the society as a whole. Therefore, gradually street harassment is included in the wide spectrum of sexual violence national street harassment survey (USA, 2014). Street harassment is the everyday reality for women all over the world, therefore it is still a situation, which needs to be taken seriously, and which needs a continual emphasis from concerned entities. Even though street harassment is a global problem, there are no identified and universally accepted legal standards to punish harassment acts (Hagerty, 2013). In addition to the aforementioned fact about street harassment, laws applied to punish street harassment are different across different countries in the world, which creates a gap in the process of identifying a global solution to the problem.

Gender-based street harassment affects women community involvement by hindering their engagement in public spaces without their comfort level being touched. Un welcomed

comments, getting yelled at from people they have never seen or strangers can disturb individuals' emotion. Being repeatedly exposed to unwanted acts of harassment can force individuals to check their daily routine and need altering it. When harassed people feel like there is no an immediate solution to stop the street harassment, they act as a responsible body to stop or avoid the problem. These women can take different measures in order to avoid harassment through for instance, rethinking their dressing style, constantly looking for a partner to show up in public places. The harassments can also go deeper and affect women's self-acceptance. Their confidence about their physical appearance can easily deteriorate (Allan, 2014).

Laura (2015) in her study of everyday sexism explained that women who have been harassed repeatedly report that their behavior and confidence is affected and they experienced distress and anxiety. The women felt more conscious and ashamed about their body and body parts that led to self-objectification on women because as they experienced this they feel anxious about how their body was evaluated by strangers. As a result, objectification affected the women's cognitive or mental state. On the other hand, this kind of public or street harassment was associated with body image, behavior and more importantly self-esteem, which have emotional effects on woman who experienced street harassment. Women face the Street harassment with different age starting at the early age of seventeen. Among harassed women, around 50% encountered street harassment (Joyce, 2016). The recent study of National Stop Street Harassment Report (NSSHR, 2014) done in the United States, showed that street harassment is a significant problem in the country. Accordingly, survey showed that 65% of women that are being harassed in the streets. Out of these, more of women had

encountered verbal harassment, women had experienced physically aggressive forms, including sexual touching of women and forced to do something sexual.

In Kenya 400 women interviewed by advocacy group of women's empowerment and 50 percent had experienced gender- based violence while they are using public transportation (Kearl, 2015). Violence against women also has become a serious problem in Ethiopia. It is increasing at alarming rate these days (Kalif, 2007). Therefore, the above statistical data show the large scale of street harassment occurrences in different parts of the world.

As a systematic review and meta-analysis, 22% of the participants were street Harassment victims. Of the sexual harassment is high in Ethiopia. It is also exceptionally high among female university staff, commercial sex workers, and workplace.

There are internationally accepted laws to overcome the problems happen in relation to sexual valance. In Ethiopian context, though there is no policy that challenges harassment specifically, therefore, this study tries to explore and come up with a concise research finding of women's experience with street harassment among Addis Ababa university technology faculty female students: lived experience, impact and coping strategies

1.2 Statement of the Problem

There is a high prevalence of Street Harassment victims among young Ethiopian women including in Universities. Women's not know sexual violence will happen but you know for certainty when and how it will happen. Most girls first experience street harassment by boys and men at or even before puberty and thus learn to see their bodies as a source of sexual danger, their sexual vulnerability to boys and men becomes an inescapable and constant condition of being female, liability to be managed privately rather than discussed and reminded publicly (Hawely, 2006).

Street Harassment largely impacts women's perception of safety while in public space and consequently their use of this gendered and sexualized space. There are plenty of stories of street harassment that they have been shared and brought forth for discussion with different institutions in an international level. Hollaback is an exemplary institution that brings the experience of women on different sexual abuses including street harassments. Women voluntarily submit their stories to Hollaback and it is shared online to show women's everyday Sexism to notice how Street Harassment affects their sense of safety in public place. The stories posted on these sites are predominantly by women, and most seem to show an above -average awareness of the gendered nature of the problem of street

harassment. The following story clearly shows the experience of women's fear while being out alone, and how gender-based harassment impedes on women's mobility.

I was on my way back to my Hall of residence from a College based event. This was early on when I had few friends to escort me back to the Hall. In retrospect, I should have had another female walk with me, but they were not at the same Hall I was at. It was after 10 pm and I took care to walk down a well-lit pathway, which was busy at that time of night. It was about ten minutes' walk, so I thought I could make it. I never drink ... On the other side of the road, a drunken male student called out "Hey come over here!" in a loud and disrespectful voice. Fortunately, the Hall of residence was two minutes away at this point, so I dashed up the hill and did not look back. Yes, I know I am a woman and therefore incapable of walking on my own at night for ten minutes. I know that I really should have been supervised 24/7 with female friends because I am fragile and need to be chaperoned everywhere. However, some threatening behavior by some men seems to be due to their lack of inhibitions after imbibing alcohol. I never feel safe and drunk people have ruined my life with their bad behavior and their stupidity ... I hate being a woman because it just makes me a target for drunken come one and a use (Former Student, Everyday Sexism 2015).

In a study it is explained the Violence against women in Ethiopia as widely practiced with regional variation. There is a clear problem in regards to an adequate study on the matter, which is a hindrance to fully grasp the scale, the cause and the impacts of the violence. Community based studies in Ethiopia indicated 50-60% of women's experience domestic violence in their life time (Tora, 2013). Smith (2014) wrote on her article, Ethiopia is one of the countries where most women's are harassed on street, which comes in variety forms: Uninvited presence in day-to-day activities of women or in public places that can be unnerving and discomfoting as well as distracting.

Street harassment in higher education institutions of Ethiopia is a form of conduct which has negative effects on individuals experience and their mental well-being and self-confidence and which can adversely affect the study and professional paths of young people (Huerta, 2006). Sexual harassment is an everyday phenomenon in schools and universities. The problem is more implicit and silenced because of social and cultural taboos. Scientific studies can bring change to make the voice of this victimized group heard.

Addis Ababa University Technology Faculty is one of the well-known institutions in Ethiopia that provides tertiary education. It has a huge part in the academic world in Ethiopia and has earned the respect of many international institution and organization for its graduates. With regard to street harassment though, it seems that not much of a progress has been noted yet in comparison of how far this institution has come to providing quality education. Quality education should also include the safety and security of students and the environments free of sexual harassment. Addis Ababa University Technology Faculty has two different compounds where they take class and the dormitory. Female students make trips to attend class and library; they are exposed to different kind of sexual harassments.

This study was examined Addis Ababa University, Institute of Technology female students' experience of street harassment during their stay at the campus of the institution and will give an insight on street harassment. The following are the leading research questions that the study sought to answer.

1. What are the street harassment experiences of Institute of Technology Faculty female students in Addis Ababa University?
2. What are the impacts of street harassment on female students' lives?

3. How do female students cope-up with the acts of street harassment?

1.3 Objective of the study

The purpose of this study will be to explore the female students' experiences of street harassment. Street harassment can be verbal, nonverbal, sexual, and physical and includes stalking, flashing riches, grabs, winks, leers, whistles, or mentions that are sexual in nature. How the aforementioned acts of harassment are affecting the female students' lives and mobility in the public places. In addition to their specific experiences the study will examine how they are coping up with acts of street harassment.

The general objective of this study is to examine Addis Ababa University, Technology Faculty female students' experience of street harassment. Specifically, the study will:

- Assess Addis Ababa University, Institute of Technology female student's experience of street harassment.
- Explore female students' perception of cause of street harassment
- To assess how street harassment affects the female students
- Examine coping strategies that the female students employ when they encounter street harassment

1.4 Scope of the Study

The study was conducted in Addis Ababa where the Institute of Technology resides. The students of the faculty of technology live in the University provided dormitories. The female students usually have to walk and cross a main street with crowds to go attend their daily school lessons.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The finding of the study is useful to adding up to literature on the issue which can motivate other researchers to study on further details of the issue and initiate nationwide measures to address the issue. The study also encourages policy developers, practitioners and any concerned bodies on the matter to give more emphasis to the problem and work on protecting the female students. It also uncovers a hidden social setting that still is a hub of women street sexual attack despite the rhetoric that women subjugation is losing ground. Their coping up mechanisms or the way they are dealing with such problem also indicates their consciousness regarding what constitutes assault or not. Finding of the study also provides valuable information for those who would want to engage in building up a community highly aware of the problem. This leads to the community with eradicated sexual violence specifically against women. In addition, the study can also direct a governing body of the country to initiate and formulate nationwide measures to tackle the problem of street sexual harassment. In addition to the government, other civil society organizations can use the knowledge economy that would be resulted from this study for engaging in creating awareness on negative impacts of street harassment on the female students in all universities of the country.

1.6. Definition of Terms

Harassment: covers a wide range of behaviors of an offensive nature. It is commonly understood as behavior that disturbs or upsets, and it is characteristic repetitive.

Street Harassment: it is a gender based unwanted comment, gesture, and actions forced on a stranger in public without consent and is directed at them because of their actual or perceive sex, gender, gender expiration or sexual orientation

Lived experience: refers to a representation of experience and choice of a given person and knowledge that they gain from experience.

Coping strategies: refers to the specific efforts both behavioral and psychological that people employ to master, tolerate, reduce or minimize stressful events.

Self-objectification: the action or an act of objectifying oneself the action or an act of reducing oneself to the status of object.

Chapter Two

Review of Related Literature

Street harassment occurs in all parts of the world and it is known by many names. Street harassment is often excused as a cultural practice. It affects women of all classes and ethnicities in urban and rural areas. Even though it is an incidence happening in almost every part of the world, less attention is paid to it by scientific studies therefore there is limited statistical and academic research on the street harassment. Now a day nation and international organization that are combating street harassment have encouraged victims to submit reports of their personal experiences. In this chapter relevant theoretical perspective and studies about street harassment will be discussed.

2.1 Street Harassment: Basic Concepts, Assessment and Theories/Models

2.1.1 Basic Concepts of Street Harassment

Street harassment is relatively a new term used to explain gender based harassment that happens in public and crowded places. However this term does not bring yet a unified definition among scholars and activists since it is recently introduced. According to Hollaback, which is a social movement organization whose mission is to end harassment, street harassment can be described as anything from verbal harassment to groping, stalking, leering, flashing, and sexual assault. Although this term is fairly new, early studies indicate that street harassment is very common and harmful globally, yet rarely legislated against (Hagerty, 2013). Bowman (1993) indicated that street harassment is a phenomenon that has not generally been viewed by academic , judges or legislative as a problem requiring legal

readiness either because these mostly male observers have not noticed the behavior or because they have considered it trivial and thus not within the proper scope of the law.

Lived experience as it is explored and understood in qualitative research is a representative and understanding of a research or research subject human experience, choice and option and how those factors influence one's perception of knowledge (Lisa, 2008). The term lived experience is used to describe the first - hand account and impression of living as a member of a minority or oppressed group. Simply lived experience is the study of subject and object of a person's experience.

2.1.2 Assessing Lived Experience of Street Harassment

Gender based public harassment occurs between strangers in public or semi-public usually directed by men to women and can be verbal or non-verbal. This form of harassment often has a sexual nature and multiple forms of harassing behaviors such as insults, shouting, fondling and ogling (Gardner, 1995).

Street harassment is a transnational, trans-cultural phenomenon that impacts millions of people every day, the vast majority of whom being women. Despite its trivialization in popular culture and relative invisibility in scholarly literature, streetharassment is a prevalent phenomenon that has extremely negative short and long term impacts on its individual targets, including shame, anger, restricted mobility, depression, reduced self-esteem, self-objectification, anxiety, and fear of navigating public spaces, addition to fear or discomfort, victims may feel embarrassed, ashamed, confused, disgusted, or guilty, among other

responses, especially because street harassment often occurs in front of other people and thus may be additionally humiliating for the victim.(Bowman,1993).

However, not all women experience all forms of street harassment as harmful, and women may interpret similar types of street harassment in diverse ways. Indeed, some women purportedly encounter street harassment as a “positive” experience. As Lenton (1999) note, both men and women position street harassment as trivial or even construe it as flattery.Of course, such accounts of street harassment should not be viewed uncritically. This minimization of street harassment may variably function as a coping mechanism for women,and as a means of normalizing and downplaying the otherwise harmful behavior of men.It also reflects the entrenched, everyday nature of street harassment for many women. The context of street harassment has been shown to play a central role in mediating its perceived harmfulness. As Fairchild a note, harassment is in the eye of the beholder. That is, there is a degree of subjectivity in terms of whether a behavior is experienced as harassment or not, with the context the behavior occurs in playing a strong mediating role. Contextual factors such as the attractiveness and age of the harasser, being alone, location, and the time of day the harassment occurs, all influence the perceived seriousness of street harassment.The form street harassment takes can also influence perceived severity. Lenton (1999) found that behaviors that imply a greater risk of assault, such as following and touching, were encountered by their participants as more severe.

Logan (2015) discussed that street harassment must be acknowledged as problematic because it is an act which leads to a severe form of violence against and oppression of femininities a moment that if ignored and trivialized, serves to normalize sexually predatory behaviors, socialize men to dominate women, and perpetuate women's subordination and

marginalization. The United Nations Commission in 2013 declared that the vitality of addressing sexual harassment against women and girls in public places. It is identified that street harassment can negatively affect women and girls' health through limiting physical mobility which can affect their employment. In addition to that, women can have a question on their personal safety with their community and street harassment can create a weak connection between the women and the society as a whole. The Human Rights Commission was established in 2000 with the objective of sensitizing the public about human rights, ensuring that they are respected and take necessary measures where they are found to have been violated. Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) were ratified in September 1981 and periodical reports have been submitted on its implementation.

2.1.3. Theories/Models of Street Harassment Experiences

Street harassment has been described as an act which has a connection to women's self-objectification. There are several theories as to why public harassment occurs. Gerdes (1999) argued that although the body of research on harassment has grown, researchers, legal experts, and policy makers continue to disagree on what causes street harassment. Though, some scholars defined the causes of women harassment through different theoretical lenses. These scholars classified theoretical explanations of street harassment on women into different categories; the natural-biological model; socio cultural explanations and organizational model (Pina, Gannon & Saunders, 2009).

The Natural-Biological Model

Gerdes (1999) explained that many authorities argue that street harassment is a result of differences between men and women—some claim these differences are socially learned

while others believe street harassment is a natural phenomenon. The natural-biological model argues that “street harassment is a natural extension of mate selection evolutionary theory. In other words, street harassment represents an expression of sexual attraction, a form of a natural element in mate seeking Pina, et al. (2009) and Tangri, (1982) further explains that both men and women participate in natural, sexually-oriented behavior in the street that emanates from their strong natural urge for sex but men's sex drive is stronger hence, resulting in men more often initiating sexual approaches. This model holds that "either the woman is incapable of handling an overture or she is overly sensitive ... (or) a man may be too assertive or unable to properly control his sex drive (Chung, 1993). Thus, since biologically men have a stronger inner drive to be sexually aggressive and to find a mate, such sexual behavior is not meant as harassment (Pina, 2009).

The Socio-Cultural Explanations

Some researchers believe that society has established specific roles for men and women that are the source of street harassment. Men who harass women, they suggest, are simply conforming to the traditional male roles of aggression, power, and dominance while women are socialized at a very young age to believe their self-concept is dependent upon establishing and maintaining relationships. Hence, the socio-cultural explanations argue that such sexual urges men possess is learnt through social interaction. It has its roots in patriarchy and its attendant perception that men are superior to women and that some forms of violence against women are acceptable (Gold, 2004). Our society adopted a gendered division of labor that has been described as a “separate spheres” ideology.

These divisions are based on stereotypes that portray men as the breadwinners, suited to function in the “public” sphere of the street (Gold, 2004). The socio-cultural explanation is pioneered by early feminists, who argued that the extension of male dominance in society includes organizations, where the phenomenon is thriving where men are expected to be aggressive and dominant, and females are expected to be passive and accepting (Pina, 2009). From socio-cultural perspective women street harassment is seen as the product of the gender socialization process in which men claim power and dominance over women both at the public sphere (Mackinnon, 1979).

This explanation is rooted in the dominance of social power and how women street harassment is one of the ways of marginalizing women i.e. harassers choose victims according to their vulnerability and that victims perceive harassment as a function of the relative power of the harasser (Sheets & Braver, 2012). The element of aggression that is so deeply embedded in the masculine gender role is present in street harassment. So, men will engage in rating women’s bodies, pinching women, making implied or overt threats, or spying on women. Women are the game to impress other men. When men are being encouraged to be obsessively competitive and concerned with dominance, it is likely that they will eventually use violent means to achieve dominance (Gerdes, 1999).

Organizational Model

Others propose that street harassment is a result of unequal power relationships not gender differences, arguing that street harassment is merely a form of discrimination (Gerdes, 1999). According to organizational model women sexual harassment can be explained by a wide variety of organizational-related issues including; power, status inequalities within the

organization, permissiveness of the organizational climate, gendered occupations, and organizational ethics, norms and policies, affect the likelihood of women sexual harassment occurrence (Pina, 2009). The organizational model assumes that organizational characteristics set the stage for sexual harassment. Most street harassment is used by men against women as a display of power with the intention to intimidate, coerce, and degrade. Street harassment happens frequently in high pressure working environments and in workplaces where the stresses and challenges facing supervisors and managers are not always recognized or acknowledged (Bergstorm, 2017).

A wide gap in earning ability still exists, particularly for women who do not hold high-paying professional jobs. Full-time female employees still earn less than that of male workers. Moreover, poverty also one of the causes of sexual harassment because most victims crave for financial or material favors from their superior without the intent of being harassed however; the harassers do take advantage of them by asking them for sexual favor (Haruna , 2016).

Under this model, certain individuals appear more vulnerable to sexual harassment than others; they are younger people, those earning low salaries, minorities, those economically tied to their jobs, and women working in traditionally male jobs. The explanations of the organizational model for street harassment are appropriate to explore the issues raised in this study since it helps to examine street harassment beyond gender. One of the theories that are rooted in organizational model is Sex-role Spillover theory that has been used as theoretical framework for studies dealing with women sexual harassment in hospitality industry.

Objectification theory

Self-objectification is among these several theories which emphasizes on the occurrence of women's body part being viewed as representative of women (Fredrickson & Robert, 1997). Objectification theory is to make into and treat something that is not an object as an object which can be used manipulated, controlled and known through its physical properties. Objectification theory attempts to explain the extreme and pervasive tendency to relate women with their bodies and why this can have such negative consequences for women's body image. Objectification theory states that a starting point that cultural practice of sexually objectifying women are pervasive in westernized societies or modern society and create multiple opportunities for the female body to be a public display. Repeated objectification leads to self-objectification which is the internalization of women's objectification by those who are victims of harassment. Objectification can lead to women feeling ashamed of their physical appearance when especially if they think they do not meet cultural or societies' standards of beauty. Women may also feel anxious about how their bodies will be seen by others and evaluated. These feelings can lead to individuals being detached from their body and nature. Objectification can contribute to self-objectification, as they both encourage women to be constantly self-conscious of their body. Objectification has been found to be linked to body dissatisfaction, body surveillance, body shame, appearance anxiety, and disorder eating (Calogero, 2013).

Sex-Role Spillover Theory

Sex-role Spillover theory argues that when occupations have a skewed sex ratio, the gender-role expectations for the dominant sex may spill over into the occupational role (Gutek & Cohen, 1987). As an explanation for the reasons behind women sexual harassment directed

towards women the theory proposes that; women in female dominated occupations are often in situations in which attributes associated with their occupational role may overlap attributes associated with their gender role. Because the traditionally employed female's gender role is made more salient by the expectations of her occupational role, it may be difficult to perceive the extent to which she is being treated sexually and unprofessionally (Burgess & Borgida, 1996).

2.2 Empirical Study on Street Harassment Lived Experience, Impact and Coping Strategies

2.2.1 Empirical Study on Street Harassment Lived Experience

Researches have indicated a high prevalence of gender-based public harassment. In the studies of Canadian women 81% to 85% of female participant reported experiencing some form of harassment and many had been subjected to more than one type of harassment (Macmillan, 2000). The other study conducted in the United State found that 61%of women reported being the victims of sexually suggestive harassment every day or often, whereas men heard such comments in a much less frequency (Nielsen, 2000).

Universities play a major role in the process of establishing new social norms and reproducing old ones. They educate and socialize future professional and intellectual elites, they instill in people norms and rules of behavior. The position they occupy in society makes them one of the key places where stereotypes are reproduced or, conversely, where stereotypical attitudes are changed. If teachers act inappropriately towards students, make sexist jokes, and attack women's or men's intellectual capabilities, they illustrate that such

behavior is normal. Such behavior thus becomes routine, normalized, and can be further reproduced by students (Herbert, 1997).

Women who experience street harassment may feel humiliated. They may also fear physical harm. Since they lack the privilege of moving around freely in comfort, they may restrict their mobility in public spaces. Thus, some women who must enter the public area, whether often or occasionally may reroute their mobility in public places to avoid being harassed (Fairchild and Rudman, 2008). Thus, harassment makes the urban environment uncomfortable, hostile and frightening for women (Bowman, 1993).

Sharma and Sharma's (2014), in their study examined women perceptions of safety in public places and their responses to harassment. Women responded that they feel unsafe in public places which make it difficult for women to freely and safely access public places. To put this in figure, the finding of their study revealed that more than one third of the women perceive public place as unsafe and reported being sometimes afraid to go out alone even during day time. Sharma (2014) study also found that variation in the way women react and cope with street harassment including talking on phone to be able ignore the harassers' uninvited harassment, confronting the harasser, avoiding eye contact, or trying to ignore the harasser and changing their routes.

The research done by MacMillan (2000) demonstrates why literature on harassment in the workplace and academic settings is not as applicable to public harassment. There is a difference in how women perceive harassment from strangers versus non-strangers. Public harassment is perpetrated by strangers, whereas harassment at work or school is most likely perpetrated by someone known to the victim. Additionally, women who are harassed by

strangers may have little recourse. There are sexual harassment policies that can protect women at work, but on the street there are fewer policies, and they may be difficult to enforce.

Around Africa, there are few accessible statistical studies to show the exact numerical prevalence of street harassment, but judging from local news articles, street harassment is both prevalent and violent. In fact, a particular form of street harassment/sexual assault, public stripping, is gaining more publicity in countries like Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Uganda. In Uganda, street harassment was practically legislated when an “anti-pornography bill” sought to criminalize the display of “sexual parts of a person such as breasts, thighs, buttocks or genitalia” and to “ban behavior that might cause sexual excitement” (Msimang, 2015). Before the law was even passed by parliament, police were arresting women wearing shorts skirts and women were experiencing increased harassment concerning their clothing (Msimang, 2015). In Nairobi, Kenya, where public stripping and street harassment are a similarly large problem, women are not legally blamed for provoking harassment, but they are not fully supported by the police either (Matata, 2014).

Research studies on different institutions of higher learning in many African countries have revealed the trends and nature of sexual harassment experience by women students. These include degrading verbal remarks, unwanted touching, and other types of gender-based violence (Adedokun, 2004; Abati, 2006; Ejiogu, 2006). High proportions of female students in colleges and universities across the continent of Africa have experienced sexual harassment from male faculty, staff and students.

March 13, 2011 marked the 8th annual WOMEN FIRST 5km race, which is the second largest running event organization by the Great Ethiopian Run. It was my first time running this race and i was excited about my participant. As I walked out of my house headed towards the starting point , I overheard two security guards who were sitting and watching the participant gather say to one another , “ Today we are going to look butts” instantly , i was filled with an array of emotion that ranged from anger to sadness. The anger was an instantaneous reaction the emanated from a feeling of helplessness that however many advances we make as women, our reduction as a body parts was inevitable to some section of the male grouping. The sadness was deep-seated and of the realization that for all the men that were out there supporting their mothers, sisters,daughters,wives, girlfriends and friends, there were equally many men who were at that point objectifying women’s activism (African Feminism, 2011).

2.2.2. Empirical Studies on Impacts of Street Harassment

The negative impacts that street harassment has on women as individuals are discussed in different studies. The major dangers women can face due to street harassment include fear, rape-wariness, denial of autonomy and respect, self-objectification, and depression cumulatively impact on women, placing them in a disempowering and marginalized position in society. Everything put together, the numerous effects of street harassment operate as a form of gender socialization, one through which women learn through constant subjection to objectification, sexualization, and evaluation to associate feelings of shame, disempowerment and victim with their identities as a women (Kearl, 2010).

Street harassment in higher education is an objectionable form of conduct which has negative effects on individuals and their mental well-being and self-confidence and which can adversely affect the study and professional paths of young people (Huerta et al. 2006; Knapp et al. 199). The severity of the impact of sexual harassment in higher education is amplified by the fact that formal education is often a key factor in an individual's professional and personal development.

Johanna (2017) discussed the impact of street harassment, on violence and discrimination against women to a group of female students in Cape Town. She asked to draw how sexual harassment affects the body. One of the girl drew a picture of a flower and it's broken. South African females understood the impact of harassment as making you feel broken and it does precisely that. It makes you feel broken. ILO (2001) tries to look at the impacts of street harassment on individual, enterprises and society as a whole.

Impact on the Individual

In general, more than half of the harassed employees described negative consequences for their personal well-being as a result of sexual harassment (European commission, 1998). Sexually harassed individuals have been experiencing a range of psychological and physical symptoms problems; even some individuals have already taken up their life as a result of such social evil.

Emotional and psychological consequences

Sexual harassment is humiliating and degrading, and can cause victims to suffer a loss of self-confidence and self-esteem. Even less severe harassment, if repeated, can have a serious,

stressful effect on workers (Boland, 2005). Many harassed employees reported feelings of mistrust, fear, insecurity, helplessness, anger, and humiliation, and some employee complained about nervousness and depression and have become distrustful (European commission, 1998). Harassed persons also commonly suffer from emotional stress including feelings of humiliation, anxiety, powerlessness, depression and loss of motivation. Compliance with sexual demands brings with it a sense of loss of self-worth and a loss of confidence in their own abilities (ILO, 2001).

Studies show that the effects women sexual harassment have on victims can range from minor and temporary mood changes to serious physical and psychological health problems. In the pilot study of sexual harassment in the hotel industry Chung (1993) summarize feminist writers conclusion on the effects of sexual harassment as: discomfort from violation of physical privacy, reduced self-confidence, loss of motivation, lower productivity, less job satisfaction, reduced commitment to work, fear of retaliation, interrupted careers, high stress levels, loss of friendships, mentorships, and other work alliances with male workers, coercion out of nontraditional jobs, physical and emotional illness and disruption of marriage and/or other relationships with men.

Physical Consequence

A harassed person commonly suffers a range of physical effects while facing sexual harassment, which include common physiological symptoms which accompany the stress and trauma caused by sexual harassment include nausea, loss of appetite, anger, headaches, fatigue and anxiety (ILO, 2001). Physically, the symptoms of stress can often be seen in women whose weight fluctuates. Their stomach may be upset and they may begin vomiting

or stop eating, causing weight loss. Or, they may seek comfort in food and gain considerable weight. Victims also report having heart palpitations or high blood pressure (Boland, 2005). Street harassment has a serious and negative impact on women's health and well-being.

Women may experience physical injuries, fear, anxiety, embarrassment, and shame. Women may blame themselves for the incident(s) and may feel that they are bringing shame on their family, and they are often frightened of it happening again (Bergstorm, 2017). The study findings of Marsha, (2009) that was conducted among college faculty staffs in Hawasa city, Ethiopia revealed that compare with women reporting no experience of abuse or street harassment, those who reported having experienced both had an increased risk of depression. The writers of the study further concluded that despite differences in study subjects, operational definition of terms related to women sexual harassment and instruments used to conduct the studies the available study outcomes indicate that the mental health status of women sexual harassment victims is adversely affected.

Muscular pain, back and neck trouble were the consequence of sexual harassment. Harassed women experienced headaches, muscle aches, stress reactions such as palpitations and sleeping problems and some committed suicide (ILO, 2001). In addition to the mental trauma due to the incident, rape can also result in physical injuries and unwanted pregnancies. The unplanned pregnancy not only violates a woman's human and reproductive rights, but also generates social hatred and stigma.

Interference with Private Life

Street harassment affects a woman's personal and professional relationships on many levels. Street harassment experiences threaten to disrupt attachments and often lead to feelings of

disconnection and isolation from others (Gold, 2004). Harassment interferes with the private lives of the employees such as disliking sexual activities in their private lives. They had an adverse effect on relationships with family and friends. They have interpersonal level: tension in relationships, feeling hostility towards others after experiencing sexual harassment, and withdrawal from contact with other (Boland, 2005).

The devaluing or aggressive acts that commonly occur in the context of discrimination can disrupt important and valued relationships in the workplace and at home, leaving the relationally oriented woman vulnerable to blaming and devaluing herself or assuming an overly conciliatory and under assertive approach to addressing the situation (Lenhart, 2004). Even more worsen; women are committed suicide or attempted suicide due to intolerable conditions and lack of support suffered by the victim. This is because the cultural norms that brand women who are sexually harassed as having brought it upon themselves, label the women victims as 'loose' or 'tainted'. The shame of having to live with the stigma is cause enough for some women to want to take their own lives (ILO, 2001).

Impacts for Society

ILO (2001) explained that it is increasingly being recognized that sexual harassment impedes the achievement of equality between men and women; it condones sexual violence and has detrimental effects on the efficiency of enterprises and well-being of people, thereby hindering productivity and development. Due to the above mentioned effects sometimes victims feel their only choice is to resign, thus they may suffer permanent damage to their careers; thereby decline their positive contribution for the society (Joshi & Nachison, 1996). Strengthening this idea (Haruna , 2016) argue that such negative incidence have

psychological influences on the women regardless of their age, relationship, disability, physical or social background therefore their morale becomes inevitably weak and productivity affected, and its full impacts will rest on the society at large

According to Vettori & Nicolaides (2016), since victims very often leave their workplace silently to avoid further harassment, the true extent of sexual harassment in the workplace is very often cloaked in a 'conspiracy of muteness' It is also widely acknowledged that it is wasteful from economic, social and human resource development points of view to invest only in selected parts of the population through discrimination, based on sex, race, ethnicity, age or otherwise. Chappell and Martino (2006) further elaborated that health care and long-term rehabilitation costs for the reintegration of the victims of violence at work, unemployment and retraining costs for those who lost their job because of such violent events, disability and invalidity costs for those whose working capacities are impaired by violence at work, and legal and criminal justice system expenses are all part of the price paid.

2.4.3 Empirical Studies on Females' Street Harassment Coping Strategies

Women who are facing street harassment can react to the act of harassment in a variety of ways. Their reactions to the harassers can range from non-confrontational to highly confrontational responses. Most of the time women can just ignore street harassment. At other times, they reacted, descriptively by staring back at the harasser, hitting him, or shouting at him. The decision of women to confront the harasser can depend on certain considerations such as whether she was in a familiar place, whether she was with an elder person, or whether the harasser had crossed a certain line. At times, women chose to move away from harassers due to fears that the situation might worsen further. Also several

reasons have been identified for why women avoid reaction to harassment is societal pressure, concern about being called a feminist fear of retaliation or fear of being perceived as impolite, aggressive, or non-feminine are described as reason for non-confrontational behavior of women (Swim & Hyers, 1999).

In Bahamas women generally ignore street harassment, accepting it as a part of their daily lives. Some women choose to change their routes, travel in group, and adjust their wardrobes to cover their body more, politely reject their come-ons, and give fake phone numbers when asked (Malaka, 2016). Some women also said that they did not like or want to create a scene and be uncomfortable. Most women believed that witnesses who were around when the act of harassment is taking place, would be unsupportive because they were busy or because harassment did not directly impact their lives. This thought also compelled the women to abstain from confrontations. Even though women who were non-confrontationally at time of harassment, many women felt that it was actually better to confront harassers and wished that they did so more often.

2.2.4 Strategies for Self-Protection

Women who have experienced harassment in public places, they always anticipate facing harassment and make themselves ready and adopt strategies or coping up mechanism to prevent it from occurring. The strategies chosen by the women were directed at keeping attention away from themselves and marking their personal boundaries within the public spaces that they occupied. Phadke (2010) asserts that safety for women does not automatically come from institutional factors like infrastructure or policing but has to be actively produced by women on an everyday basis. The production of safety takes place with

the implicit understanding that the responsibility of negotiating danger rests with women. Not surprisingly, as public transport was seen as one of the most common sites for harassment, some participants who were able to afford personal cars chose to travel by their own vehicles. However, even traveling in a car would not always be safe particularly after dark. While using public transport, women tended to protect their bodies from unwelcome touches and stares in various ways. Another strategy for preventing harassment was to avoid going out alone at night. Interestingly, street harassment occurs mostly in crowded places, and at night, the crowds may be expected to be less. Despite this, women felt vulnerable going out at night especially on their own. It is apparent here that harassment had forced women out of public spaces at least at certain times and increased their dependence on men.

Silence is one of the biggest problems with street harassment. Too many girls in South Africa think they need to accept this is as the norm and too many good men do nothing to stop it. We all need to stand up against street harassment. This means not laughing when a girl make a complaint, not dismissing her and not telling her she is being too sensitive or overreacting. It means taking harassment seriously and expressing disgust at the perpetrators of such violence. It means saying something when you see it happening and understanding that catcalling, aggressive staring and touching without permission is violence (Jahanna, 2017).

Lazarus & Folkman (1984) as defined coping as a person's cognitive and behavioral efforts to manage demands that are appraised as demanding or stressful. Coping involves the cognitions and behaviors of a single person, the context of an organization and the larger society making it difficult to predict distinct responses to street harassment (Cortina & Wasti, 2005).

The chronicity of harassing situations may activate unique response patterns, because coping does not entail a reaction to an acute, one-time event. Rather, in response to enduring, related challenges, sexually harassed women may engage in a trial-and-error approach to coping—learning over time which strategies are most and least effective and experimenting with new strategies to manage the ongoing problem (Cortina, 2005).

Thus scholars can only predict certain responses to stressful situations (coping mechanisms) that most victims employ. After assessing various literatures on stress coping mechanisms Knapp, (1997) classified individuals' responses to stressful situations in to two general types: engagement coping and disengagement coping.

Engagement coping

Engagement coping also called "problem-focused coping" include "finding ways to change the situation, trying to prevent the situation, or planning/preparing for future similar situations" (Knapp et al.1997). Confrontation/negotiation and advocacy seeking coping mechanisms fall in this category. The former involves addressing the perpetrator directly and the latter involves using individual and/or organizational support that focuses the response on the perpetrator (Knapp et al.1997). Accordingly personal strategies and formal strategies fall under engagement coping mechanisms (Bruynooghe, 1995).

Personal Strategies

Personal responses the victims try to solve the problem on their own. A personal response may be 'contacting the harasser to talk about the unwanted sexual behavior' or 'avoiding the places where harassment is possible'. When you are sexually harassed at work, your choices are pretty straight forward; either you ignore it or do nothing. You can make a joke of it. You

can avoid the harasser if possible. You can ask or tell the harasser to stop (Boland, 2005). Personal strategies range from obliging, to assertive and aggressive strategies. Obliging strategies include avoiding the harasser or places where the possibility of harassment exists.

Bruynooghe (1995) explained that sometimes street harassment can be prevented, but the price for this is high (restriction of own freedom, constant threat of a new incident). A woman may be denied opportunities, a promotion, or a raise. In retaliation for complaining, she may be reassigned to a difficult position or transferred away from her family and support. With an assertive strategy the harassed respondent makes it clear that she/he does not like the harassing behavior. An assertive strategy in which the respondent (immediately) makes it clear that the harassing behavior is unwanted seems to be one of the most effective ways of stopping sexual harassment. An aggressive strategy, physical self-defense, is used primarily against severe street harassment. Aggressive strategies are risky: sometimes they work but they may also lead to a further escalation of the harassment.

Formal Strategies

Formal responses also deployed to get the aid of professionals, supervisors, confidential counselors or to make a formal complaint. Harassed employees can contact a confidential counselor; file a complaint, or any concerned body. However, as literatures on coping with harassment suggests that few women make formal complaints about harassment experiences while many of other keep on silent for avoiding further harassment (Schneider 1997). Victims of sexual harassment often do not file reports because they are afraid of mobbing, bullying, and further victimization; or afraid that the report would not be taken seriously (Bergstorm et al.2017).

Moreover, some women do not report because they do not wish to hurt the person who is harassing them. Yet, when women do report harassment, the majority of the time, the situation improves (Boland, et al. 2005). Rather women choose to either neglect or negotiate with the harasser though, as Nego-feminism claims that especially African woman's willingness and readiness to negotiate with and around men even in difficult circumstances is quite pervasive. Since, it cemented in the African people's long standing experience of negotiating with and around patriarchal values (Nnaemeka, 2003).

Even though both mechanisms are applauded for ending harassment effectively victims use them rarely since service providers are highly constrained in the way they may deal with customer misbehavior: direct confrontation can lead to customer complaints which would result in negative job performance evaluations and consequent sanctions (Hughes & Tadic, 1998; Reynolds & Harris, 2006 as cited in Yogil, 2008). According to Cortina & Wasti (2005) women from collectivist and patriarchal cultures are even less likely to engage in this most assertive, vocal, and public means of coping with harassment.

Dis-engagement Coping

Disengagement coping which is considered as "emotion-focused coping" include self-blame, seeking social support, avoidance, or distancing does not work to change the condition or event directly (Knapp et al 1997). Accordingly Non-Intervention Strategies and Informal Strategies fall under engagement coping mechanisms (Bruynooghe, 1995).

Non-Intervention Strategies

Nonintervention responses are responses where the harassed person ignores the situation/acts as if nothing has happened. The most important reasons for this were fear of secondary

victimization and fear of escalation of the harassment. Victims of sexual harassment often do not file reports or respond appropriately because they are afraid of mobbing, bullying, and further victimization; or afraid that the report would not be taken seriously. According to the researchers the non-intervention strategy is very offender-friendly and will not stop the violence. Literatures on coping with harassment suggests that few women make formal complaints about harassment experiences while many of other keep on silent for avoiding further harassment (Schneider et.al 1997).

Avoidance/denial and/or social coping fall in this category that are the most frequently employed during and after WSH even though they contribute a little to defuse the assault. Studies found out that service providers often avoid violent incidents, ignore difficult customers and make efforts to discount or overlook acts of deviant behaviors or emotionally disconnecting themselves from the situation (Reynolds & Harris, 2006 as cited in Yogil, 2008).

Informal Strategies

Informal responses are used to get the assistance of friends or family. Informal assistance may be called for from colleagues, supervisors, partners, and friends. This strategy may have positive as well as negative effects depending on the reaction of the person the respondent speaks with: if the person reacts with understanding and support then the strategy is successful. If the person reacts with rejection and disapproval then the strategy is not effective. In this case the harassed runs the risk of secondary victimization. Even some women staff members felt isolated from their colleagues, thought that they had received unjust criticism from their colleagues for complaining about sexual harassment, and, consequently, their work motivation decreased (European commission, 1998).

Targets of WSH employ the strategy of "bringing along a friend" whenever they believe the perpetrator will be present or discuss their experiences with sympathetic others, such as peers, coworkers, friends, and family members (Gutek & Koss, 1993 as cited in Knapp et al., 1997). Although disengagement coping is not effective in stopping WSH, according to Knapp et al. (1997), p.692 "it may assist the target in managing the psychological and somatic outcomes associated with the event and may provide him or her with suggestions for more effective coping"

Chapter Three

Methods

This chapter discusses the research methods of the study. Within the chapter, all about the design of the study, method of sampling, research site, and sources of data, sampling procedure, and collection of data tools, in-depth interview, and methods of data analysis, themes and ethical issues will be presented.

3.1 Research Design

This study was employed a qualitative approach. Qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of or interpret phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them. The approach involves a use and collection of a variety of empirical materials like case study, personal experience, life story interview, observational, interactional, and visual texts-that describe routine and problematic moments and meaning in individuals' lives. Qualitative approach is a systematic subjective approach to describe life experiences and give them meaning. In order to get in-depth information on the experience of the study population “Female and their experience of street harassment” phenomenological research design is found to be the fitting for this study, which focuses on

exploring each individual participant's experiences which helps the researcher to understand the street harassment from those who have firsthand experiences. The qualitative way of research is best for this study because the aim of the research is not to generalize the data collected; rather it is to be a part of the researched population or community experience through the information collected. This is explained well by Dennis H, as "The social relationship between the researcher and participant is distant in quantitative research but close in qualitative research (Dennis, 2010).

Miles and Huberman (1994) defined qualitative method of research in a convincing way. It involves immersion in situations of everyday life. These situations are typically "banal" or normal ones; they are reactive of the everyday life of individuals, groups, societies and organisation. It involves looking at the ordinary in places where it takes unaccustomed forms so that; understanding people's culture exposes their normalness without reducing their particularity. Qualitative study shows us the way in which small facts speak to large issues (Shaw and Gould, 2001), and find a way of locating general theme in particulars (Eisner, 1991).

The qualitative study by nature can give a description of the studied issue or it explores and finds a way to certain knowledge. In this qualitative exploratory study the research finds a way in to the knowledge of the studied community experiences (Shaw et al. 2001). A qualitative approach can shed light on the lived experiences of the female students in Addis Ababa University Institute of Technology Faculty.

The researcher is familiar to the studied community for she is also a woman who has been exposed to the experience of street harassment both when she was a higher education

institution student and also after graduation. The researcher has been a witness of the street harassment the female students experience as well as being victim of the harassment. The researcher did not have difficulties to find studied populations or the participants of the study and win their trust. It was also possible if needed for the researcher to spend time with studied population.

3.2 Study Site, Population, Sample Size, and Sample Techniques

The site of this study is located in the city of Addis Ababa, Arada sub city, and region 6 where Addis Ababa University, Technology Faculty is found. The participants of this study are students of Addis Ababa University, Technology faculty known as “5kilo campus”. Most of the participants have their own dormitory in the campus; they use the library and attend class.

The population of the study was all female undergraduate students at Addis Ababa University Technology Faculty civil engineering department and they were selected based on years spent in the university campus, thus all the participants were above third year. They were selected for the reason that their stay in the university gives them more experience in relation to this study and it was believed that these students have extensive experience in the university than first and second year students. The in-depth interview and focus group discussion were designed in a semi-structure way. The samples of the study were 6 female students that were selected for in-depth interviews and 6 female students in focus group discussions as a single group and the participants and civil engineering department and their age is 22-23 years. Techniques of sampling for this study were non-probability or purposive sampling. Purposive sampling technique is to get details information from the individual

experience with phenomenon of interest. Purposive sampling procedure the researcher chooses the samples, based on who would be appropriate for the study. With the main criteria the researcher constituted the participants were selected. One of the main criterion for this study is the requirement for participants to be a female, at the time of the study who is a university student and who is willing to conduct an in-person interview as well as participate in a focus group discussion. Participants were recruited based on the possible information that could be gained from them to address the objectives of this study. Participants who met the criteria and who were interested in completing an interview and being part of a focus group discussion were selected and the interviews and the focus group discussion were scheduled and conducted based on participants' suitable time.

The data used for this study was primary. The tools that are used to collect the data were in-depth interview and focus group discussion with "female students" and also personal observation was a useful addition to the study. The informants of this study were all female students due to the research study objective. The data is used to examine the street harassment experience of higher education institution female students, its impact on them and how they are coping up with this experience.

3.3 Data Collection Tools

The data used for this study was primary. The tools that are used to collect the data were in-depth interview and focus group discussion with "female students" and also personal observation was a useful addition to the study. The informants of this study were all female students due to the research study objective. The data is used to examine the street

harassment experience of higher education institution female students, its impact on them and how they are coping up with this experience.

In-depth interview and focus group discussion was conducted with consideration of aiming to address research questions of the study. During the interview guiding questions were used. The question was open ended to give the participants a freedom to freely speak and for collecting in-depth information on the researched matter (Hill, Thompson, and Williams, 1997). So in order to achieve complete and comprehensive answers from participants, the researcher developed recommended standards and use spontaneous probes that could elicit more information and more clarification. It is inevitable to used spontaneous probes with proper explanation depending on the specific issues that was emerging from individual participants in order to clarify information that will be gathered.

3.4Data Collection Procedures

After translating and finalizing the tools for data collection the researcher has visited Addis Ababa University Technology Faculty where the participants are found. The study was conducted among Addis Ababa University Technology Faculty female students. To collect the data the university gave the granted study permission. Participants filled out consent and profile forms at the time of the interview as well as focus group discussion. The profile form was consisting of questions about age, level of education completed, occupation, and religion. The participants were also briefed about the importance of their consent in order for the researcher to use the information obtained from them. After completing the above mentioned procedures, the researcher directly got in to conducting the interview and the focus group with a voice recording tool. Below is the profile of the participants of the interview and focus group discussion.

Table 1: In depth interview and Focus Group Discussion participants profile

No	Name	Sex	Age	School Year	Field of Study	Years of Education
1	Saron	F	23	2018	Civil Engineering	5
2	Elili	F	22	2018	Civil Engineering	4
3	Messay	F	23	2018	Civil Engineering	5
4	Tigist	F	22	2018	Civil Engineering	4
5	Hilina	F	22	2018	Civil Engineering	4
6	Woineshet	F	22	2018	Civil Engineering	4

3.5 In-depth Interview

In-depth interviews can be defined as a face to face meeting between the interviewer and the interviewee to address the understanding of the interviewee's perspective in relation to their life experiences or situations (Taylor and Bodgan, 1992). The interview questioners have three items and five parts. Through questions formulated, information was gathered on the female students' experience of street harassment. The data collected from in-depth interviews is not going to be used to represent every female student in the university rather it is to have an understanding of female students' experience of street harassment and how it affects their lives. The goal of the interview is to understand the experience of the female students and to get insight of the situation they are passing through every day in their lives.

In depth interviews help the researcher to dig into the respondent's deeper experience, it allows the respondent to talk freely and so the true facts, perceptions and motivations are discovered. The interviews were tape recorded instead of writing down on a questionnaire.

3.6 Focus Group Discussion

In addition to the interviews, the researcher added focus group discussion to support the data collected from in-depth interviews during analysis of data. The Focus group questioner has three item and five parts. Focus groups have been proved particularly effective for research that seeks to explore ideas, concepts and where there is a desire to create shared meanings about their lived experience of street harassment. Combining the Focus Group Discussion with In-depth Interview method provides the opportunity to have both in-depth personal information and helps to understand the social context of the targeted issue. The benefit of focus group discussion is that it helps to gain a wide range of responses during one meeting and helps people to remember issues they might otherwise have forgotten (Colen, 2007).

In a qualitative study the two methods of data collection are complementary to each other. Creating homogeneity in the focus group discussion group can help participants feel comfortable in expressing their opinions. The informal observations were a plus in acquiring information on unanswered or skipped questions regarding the inquiry of the study.

3.7 Techniques of Data Analysis

All interviews and focus group discussion were audio recorded after having the participants' permission. The audio interview recordings were transcribed by the researcher. The interview was held in Amharic which is the working language of the

participants and it was necessary to be transcribed in English which is the language used in the present study. The words of the interviewees were transcribed with the exact meaning. Some expressions of the interviewees were translated to English language expressions. Audio files were only used by the researcher.

During data analysis the researcher strived to stick to the true meaning of the participants' words as much as possible. Since the researcher's bias and expectations are likely to influence data analysis, the researcher tried her best to avoid misinterpretation of the words of the interviewees and focus group discussion results.

In order to meet the objective of the study, the data was ready for analysis in the order of the research questions. Then a cross analysis was conducted to determine common themes across the participants interview responses and focus group discussion (Hill, Thompson, and Williams, 1997). Since the study is qualitative with in-depth interview and focus group discussion data collecting techniques, the words of each interviewee and participants are important sources of information. Therefore high attention and values were given to the raw data.

After transcribing the collected data list of themes were generated from the data results based on the research questions of this study. Then, after reading the transcript, phrases and ideas from each transcript were drawn that fit into each of the themes. The exact words and ideas of participants were used to address research questions. Core ideas were identified to further categorize the ideas within the themes into meaningful information. Finally, according to the themes that are generated the result and discussion chapters of the study were organized and presented.

3.8 Ethical consideration

The research and the researcher have ethical obligations to the study and participants of the study. During the researcher's engagement with participants there were ethical acts that were considered. The rights, needs, values and desires of the respondents were respected by the researcher (Creswell, 2009). The researcher made sure beforehand, the aim of the study is explained to each student in order to gain their confidence and trust. First the researcher made it clear the aim and objectives of the study as well as the procedures to be followed up front to everybody taking part in the research.

Second, all participants were told that participation is voluntary and for personal or any other reasons, if they want to withdraw from participation in the study they have the right to do so at any time. Written consent was obtained from each student to participate in the study, after ensuring that the data was treated confidentially. All ethical considerations were discussed with each student before briefing about and engaging in the study. It was agreed with respondents that at any time they can withdraw from being recorded. As a result all respondents volunteered to be tape-recorded. Finally, the interviewees were given a pseudonym to maintain their confidentiality and anonymity while reporting the findings.

Chapter Four

Results

In order to have the full picture of the findings of this study, a profile detail on the informants of the study. The informants are students at Addis Ababa University, School of Engineering. After profile presentation of the informants, result of the individual interviews and focus group discussion will be presented. Based on the guiding questions of the research, major themes of the study were generated. The themes are, experience of street harassment, impacts of street harassment, and coping mechanisms of street harassment

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Participants of the Study

The participants of the study for both the individual interview and focus group discussions were female students of 5kilo Technology Institute, Engineering department. The students were on their third year of their higher education studies and above and most of the students' age is 22 and 23.

4.2 Participants Lived Experiences of Street Assessment

Interviews and focus group discussions were held with students in Addis Ababa University Technology Faculty. The guiding questions of the study were prepared based on the research questions of this study. Below is presented the results from the interviews and focus group discussions.

Most of the participants of this study passed through the experience of street harassment. They see street harassment as a daily reality happening without their permission. Sub themes that are emerged under this theme are Views of street harassment and Causes of street harassment.

The participants of the study responded that they experience street harassment almost every day. They defined street harassment as a stranger intruding in a personal life and make a comment that is offensive, insulting, diminishing, sexual and vulgar. In addition to most of the participants agreeing that street harassment is a day to day experience in their life they have also learned to take it as something inevitable and there is nothing to do about it.

The respondents shared their experience of Street Harassment. It ranges from verbal comments from strangers regarding how they are dressed, their physical appearance and

other sexual utterances to sometimes physically abusing. Liya makes her experience of harassment intelligible.

Most of the time the harassment I face is just yelling or commenting and cat calling. They yell that I am beautiful. I ignore it. If you say something back, it is creating conversation and I do not want that. Therefore I tell myself that it is not my business to mind what they are saying and ignore it. Sometimes I might say that what you are doing is not right or you can do better than this.

I have a funny and also embarrassing experience of harassment. I went to market bazaar with my mother. When we were heading to the gate, we came to the spot where there is a place people are drinking and enjoying. My mom and I tried to pass through that spot. A guy pinched my mother on inappropriate body part. My mom screamed. It was embarrassing and funny.

Messay shares her experience of street harassment around her school compound as follows;

I remember once, there were these guys who were very drunk when you walk to your dormitory from library, you do not see a lot of people around. Students watch TV Before mid-night at the university lounge. 2 in the morning can be very late and students are in their beds. So around that time I came across two guys who were totally drunk. They grabbed my hands and stopped me. They said they know me and even though I was telling them I do not know them. They said they would want to talk with me and I told them they do not have the right to insist on talking with me because I do not know them. I also told them I would scream if they do not leave my hands. They said that I am not beautiful and why would a person like you would scream. Finally one of the guy allowed to let me go. I was so scared but I was careful not to show that. I breathed heavy when I got to my dormitory. After that I started to study in my dormitory or I would go to library with other people. I saw that guy who harassed me another time. I do not like seeing him around.

Saron relates how frequent she gets harassed to her physical appearance.

My experience on street harassment, almost it happens all the time. I think all women face the problem in their lives. Even though I think it happens more to me because of my physical appearance, I am a little bit over weight. From younger to older, all kinds of people harass me on the street. I always think street harassment is part of my every day experiences. Even if I only walk short distances, street harassment happens to me. To tell about my specific experiences, one time, I was walking on the road from 5kilo Museum to Kaldo burger (a restaurant located around Addis Ababa University, Engineering Campus), a group of guys, said something rude and hurtful to

me, I turn around and said get out of here, he run and grabbed me by the hand. I was walking with my friend. It was shocking to be grabbed by a stranger. People around told the guy to leave me alone and my friend as well. Later I found out that my phone was stolen in the commotion the harasser created. I don't know exactly who stole my phone but, you can tell it was him from that situation. He was holding me, people surrounded us and I was kind of shocked. I don't remember what exactly happened.

Elili also shares her experience of Street Harassment.

My experience of Street Harassment is, on the streets I hear guys calling me "Enatu" (a name used to address a female person). They would comment on my way of dressing, my physical appearance, how I walk. Sometimes they would grab me by my hand and drag me. As you know it I am a student of Skilo university. When I go from class to my dormitory or library....sometimes I hear male groups commenting on how I am dressed. They would insult me too. Most Street Harassment happens on my walk from library to dormitory. In the school, most of the guys are educated and they are not much in to harassing women on the street. I do not face harassment from them often. If it happens, it is seldom. Most of the harassment happens outside of school compound. This happens because most guys on the street do not understand the rights of others.

An experience I cannot forget is, one time, I was walking from class to my dormitory, and there were two big guys. They insisted that they would not let me go. It was tiresome. I had only thirty birr and I gave to them. I cried. I had that money for dinner. This was sad. I did not have my dinner because I gave the money to the harassers.

Messay explains how it is difficult to face Street Harassment every day.

I am a very sociable person. It is not difficult for me to get along with new people. I am very friendly but when I walk on the streets, I put on a very serious face. I am skinny and when you look at me you might think that i am may be unable to defend myself if something physical happens. My appearance encourages most guys to harass me on the streets. They think it is easy to do whatever they wish. They would also think that I would not give any kind of response to their harassment.

It is with in the past six month, around Mexico, there was this guy who was trying to touch me, I defended myself because I knew he was about to touch me, he could not touch me where he intended to do, but he touched my hand and I said are you sick, it is rude to touch people. But he pretended to be like nothing happened. I was happy he did not touch me but I am always scared similar street harassment would happen.

Experiencing Street Harassment is a day to day phenomenon for all the respondents of the interviews. The students' responses were affirmative to the question if they experience Street Harassment. It is also confirmed by the focus group discussion regarding the existence of harassment on the street between people who are completely strangers to each other.

The general participants of the focus group discussion shared that they face Street Harassment every day. Saron shares her experience as follows:

Usually we face verbal Street harassment. Everywhere you go, there will be a stranger to give a comment on how we walk, how we are dressed. They would say whatever that pleases them. If I say something back, I know they would not stop from saying more. I do not want to have that kind of conversation with someone I do not know. It is beneath me. But there are times I cannot ignore the situation. There are harassers who touch you or pull your hair while walking on the streets. I tell them that they are idle who do not have anything to do. I tell them to go get something to do instead of touching and pulling my hair.

Messay says:

As my friends said I face Street Harassment everywhere I go. Sometimes I think the harassers look on women down. Everything is not normal. When you go to school, government offices, taxis (especially taxis) I face Street harassment.

Hilina explains how and where they face street harassment:

We can face Street Harassment everywhere as it is told before. Since we are students, around our school, when we walk to our dormitories we face Street Harassment. The Street Harassment usually is not only oral sometimes there is a physical harassment. I believe that students face Street Harassment more around their school and other places.

Woineshet says her experience of Street Harassment is similar to the other participants of the focus group discussions.

My response is similar to the others who are here. I never have a serious physical harassment but I face verbal comments to the level that you will be bothered, to the level you cannot walk alone, till you need to use earphones just to avoid hearing their comments. That much Street Harassment invades your privacy.

Hilina further elaborates her experience of Street Harassment. She faced a verbal harassment on the streets around her school compound from strangers she never seen before.

There is an established understanding of Street Harassment. We also think that we women are abused from that experience of Street Harassment. I personally have

experienced harassment both physical and verbal. When we talk about my verbal abuse, I am a student of 5 kilo university campus. We spend a lot of time around that area. We eat our food in the nearest cafe around our school. The area is inhibited by not only students but other youths who seemingly are idle. Therefore we are exposed to a verbal harassment which is shockingly common in this area. It has become a part of our daily routine. These youths are always around. Physical harassment comes usually from guys who you do not come across for more than once. The harasser thinks that I might not see this woman again so it is fine even if I abuse her physically. When you wear shorter dresses, they would come and touch your thigh. This includes young children and older people.

Participants in variation had seen Street Harassment as a circumstance that is not serious. But they admit that it is a trouble throughout our day to day activities that involves public places.

Saron shares her view.

Personally, I have not had serious physical harassment. The Street Harassment that I face most of the time is just oral comments. People on the streets without introduction of each other, they give comment on my physical appearance or the way I dress. These comments include insulting and offensive words.

The participants report that Street Harassment is mostly done by men hanging out by the streets and give disrespectful comments on women who are passing by the streets.

I can defiantly say men harass most because that is what my experience tells. Young people are the one most of the time harasses women. For example, those who are engaged in a small street businesses, like the shoe shine boys, mobile shop holders, parking persons (specially around our university campus) there are also young people who you can easily think are idlers, we don't know what they do but they are always around different small shops in the area. These people do a lot of harassing. These days I see little children are also harassing, having the same culture of harassment with the young people. When we walk down to 4kilo from 5 kilo university campus, we experience little boys running towards us and touching and grabbing. Sometimes I wonder if they even know what they are doing but it became almost a culture practiced by every little boys just like the adult men.

4.2.1 Views of Street Harassment

The participants of the study shared their views on street harassment based on their personal experience.

One of the participants whose name is Messay responded desperately to the question what street harassment is.

It is something that you face every day. It is an abuse that we ignore at some point. When you take a taxi, young people who work with the public transportation, every day they say something and yell at you. If we start from my neighborhood, when I leave home, people from my area would street harass me. In every place I go through, my neighborhood, and transportation and around school, street harassment is inevitable.

Another respondent elaborates what Street Harassment using her own words.

Street harassment is an experience of a female person (I am not sure if there is harassment on male person, (there might be) but for now I would only describe it based on female person experience. Therefore street harassment is a female person facing something hurtful, unpleasant comment from a stranger. The comments are on how a female person walks, on how she is dressed. These comments have impact on the life of the female person, on her emotions, even on how she feels on that very day. A stranger is not expected to give any comment to an individual he does not know.

Another respondent also defines Street Harassment as a form of communication only done by strangers without the will of the person who is receiving the information. The respondent believes the harassing information flows mostly from men to women and seldom from women to women.

Street harassment is a stranger giving a comment to individuals who are passing by. This does not include asking and receiving information. The comment comes mostly from guys to women, sometimes women commenting on women. If what you are saying does not incorporate the willingness of the other person, which is considered street harassment.

4.2.2 Causes of Street Harassment

The participants of this study put light on the causes of Street Harassment driven from their experiences. The informants shared their opinion on the causes of Street Harassment. The general participants of the study agree on harassers' ignorance as a main cause of Street Harassment. Saron believes harassment on the streets happen because of the harassers' ignorance.

I think it is their problem. I say this because, most of the time I am kind of loud, when I talk, laugh but most of the verbal harassment I hear are not on these character of me rather my physical appearance. But sometimes they might comment on those things as well.

Elili opposes the idea of Street Harassment caused by the person who is being harassed.

Rather the harassment on the street mainly happens due to the ignorance of the harassers.

I do not think Street Harassment is caused by the victim of the harassment rather it comes from the character of the harasser. Whatever way I dress myself, whatever way I walk, just because the harasser has a habit of harassing he will do it. It comes from their habit. I have had Street Harassment experience in every way I dressed. At the time I was dressed with fancy clothes and just normal clothes, both times I experienced Street Harassment. So I think it depends on the character of the harasser.

Messay describes how Street Harassment is taking place due to lack of proper punishment by the law for the act of Street Harassment.

Ignorance, lack of proper punishment, the law not being strong, whatever is the damage on the harassed females, it can be raping, physically hitting or damaging your face, it is always putting them in jail for not long time which makes them careless about the consequence of their acts.

Tigist believes people in a normal mind should know harassing women on the street is not right. Harassers are not aware of the common sense of respecting others.

People who sit on the side of streets and harass people who walk by, I do not think they are normal. It is their ignorance which is the cause of Street Harassment. They are the one who are violating the rights of others. I don't violate someone's right by dressing the way I dress. My physical appearance is by far their concern. Therefore it is all them causing Street Harassment.

Woieneshet upholds that Street Harassment is caused mainly by the harassers' idleness, ignorance and lack of strict law and legal body.

I believe there are so many factors contributing to actual happening of Street Harassment. Ignorance, idle mind, and lack of proper punishment to the act of Street Harassment are some of the causes.

The focus group discussion participants also added their perspective on the causes of Street Harassment. The general view is Street Harassment is mainly comes from the harassers

which is also a general view by the interviewee individuals who participated in this study.

Therefore the focus group discussion is consistent with the interview responses.

Saron says harassment on the streets is happening due to the youth unemployment rate in the country.

In my opinion Street Harassment happens due to the vast existence of young men with no job. These guys on the street do not have good education and mostly are addicted people. They do not have better thing to do, therefore it comes as easy as greeting to give sexual comments to whatever women just passed by.

Elili believes lack of proper understanding of Street Harassment and its effect on women is the reason for the acts on the streets.

The main reason for guys to harass women is because they do not have the awareness. Most of them are ignorant of the fact that it is wrong to yell or comment on women who is a stranger and is just passing by. I sometimes think that if they knew what they are doing is wrong and if they understood the impact on the women, they would not do it. However there is lack of knowledge in the society on the matter.

Messay accepts the general awareness of Street Harassment is poor and worsens the situation. She explains it as follows:

In our country Ethiopia, the matter of Street Harassment and harassment in general is not problematized. Even though we face the problem every day, there is not the initiative to create the awareness on the problem and its impact on half the population of the society. I do not see anything being done to solve the problem. May be it takes more than taking the harasser to a legal institution; it might need awareness creation on a larger scale.

Tigist reports:

Clearly I see harassment happened because the harassers lack knowledge on what it means to harass and its negative effect on the person being harassed. Many people might think it is fancy to worry about such thing when we have different problems which are visible in the eyes of the society. Therefore knowledge creating is important on the issue.

Hilina Reports:

Ignorance and unemployment are the main causes for harassment. Usually guys who are harassing women passing on the street are idle people who does

not have good educational background and they do not have jobs most of the time. Even though there are harassment coming from our campus friends and other unexpected people, the majority of harassers are those who usually spend their time on the street in group. The other reason might be we Ethiopians do not have enough youth centers where this young people go to spend their time.

Woineshet explains:

In my opinion, lack of knowledge is source of street harassment. Most of these young men who harass us on the streets do not have good education for them to know that what they are doing is wrong. If they had good education and the awareness on the matter, I believe they wouldn't harass women who are stranger to them. On the other hand, if they had job they wouldn't have time to harass, rather they will be working.

4.3 The Impacts of Street Harassment

The second research question of the present study is: what is the impact of street harassment on the female students at Skilo University Technology institute. Respondents of this study stated that they face Street Harassment every day. The mere exposure to something repeatedly will absolutely have an impact to the person who is facing the circumstance daily. The respondents rose that strangers give them comments while they are walking on the streets regarding their physical appearances, the way they are dressed, and how they walk. The comments are mainly disrespectful, insulting, and also uninvited. These comments mainly have impacts on those who are receiving the information. The respondents agreed that street harassment has impact on their lives even though sometimes it is hard to point at the exact influence on their lives.

Informants of the study have explained the direct and indirect impacts of Street Harassment on their day to day activities. One of the respondent shares her experience as follows;

The impact of Street harassment on me I think is effect on the way I dress. It makes me feel insecure when I think of what would they say to me. I always

know they would say something. When I see a crowd of guys and I have to pass by, I hesitate and I lose confidence. Especially around the university gate, group of men hanging around repeatedly see us and comment on our physical appearances, dressing style, how we walk, etc. I usually compromise going to library by staying at our dormitories just to avoid harassment. It is very uncomfortable and it makes self-conscious.

Another informant agrees with the first respondent of the study on Street Harassment and its negative impact on self-esteem. She further explains that the repeated exposure to the comments of a stranger regarding your external appearance definitely has impact on personal understanding of self, on how you act around people and other things. The impacts might not be that huge and immediate but it has effect in time.

As I told you before, feeling insecure is common. But I don't think they have immediate and huge effect towards my self-esteem. I ignore them, I don't think what they do is right. I never let it pass as nothing, I would say something back. But when you face Street harassment repeatedly, it will have a negative impact on one's self-esteem.

The informant further explains that the comments, the insults and other utterances of harassers on the streets have an effect when studying or attend classroom lectures. Their mood might change due to the disrespect they face on the streets.

Sometimes the things they say, it can be stuck in your mind and you might remember it when you are in the library studying. Sometimes you would think about, going out again and seeing them. Thinking they would still be around disturbs. There is an obvious impact on our educational success especially if it occurs repeatedly.

Another informant of the study elaborates on the impact of Street Harassment on self-confidence. It is known that the positive and negative words we hear have a direct impact on self-confidence. The informant shows how Street Harassment affects self-confidence and other important values of life.

Even though it is in a very limited way, Street harassment has a negative effect on self-confidence. They might say “look at her, she is not attractive. Look at her” these kinds of verbal comments affect the level of your confidence negatively. This has an impact on my education, on my work. Losing your self-confidence can mean losing your important relationships. This affects your social relationship which can lead to isolation and depression.

The respondents also share how they see Street Harassment and its impact in relation to their educational journey.

In relation to my education, the impact of Street Harassment is, when I attend classroom lessons sometimes I might think of the guy waiting and harassing me when I go out. That disturbs and I might not pay proper attention to my study. It is not good to have it in your mind. It bothers everywhere you are, in the classrooms, library and also after library. Sometimes you might spend the night in the library thinking that if I go to the dormitory he might see me. This affects me.

One of the respondent argued that Street harassment can appear as a complement given by a stranger to a female person. However that is a false premise. She elaborates why.

Seldom, Street Harassment can be seen as a compliment, but that is a rare case. But it can make you feel terrible. What they say about you can affect your self-confidence. They would say something on how you are dress in unpleasant manner. They would question what you are wearing. When you are wearing a nice dress (in the harassers) eyes, they would say that “you are looking amazing, you are going to make a nice wife”. This seems compliment but I do not think it is healthy because it is a comment from a complete stranger and I do not dress myself to get comment from the harassers. I personally do not like to be touched by people on the streets. I despise when taxi people touch me when I tried to get in to a public transportation. I am so tired of that. They push you in to the taxi. I don’t like any physical touch from people I don’t know.

Liya talks about the impact of Street Harassment on her day to day activities.

Personally I cannot say that, Street Harassment does not have impact on me. But, when you see the detail, street harassment can impair me from doing smaller things that I have mentioned before. Regarding my education it does not have any impact. You know I understand what they are trying to do. For instance if they speak that I am not attractive, I know that I am not what they are saying I am. I know that I am attractive. Therefore, I convince myself, I don’t allow my mind to be affected with what Street Harassers are saying. But it affects your daily chores. You compromise some of the activities you wanted to do just because you wanted to avoid street harassment.

Tsion confirms that street harassment has influence on how we want to appear on the streets.

It has impact on me in terms of feeling down because of comments I receive from strangers. I never know if the comments are real. It has impact if I rethink what I would wear to avoid uninvited comments.

Messay says what makes Street Harassment is worse because there is no any legal entity concerned regarding. It is not taken as a serious matter.

I do not believe in the law regarding Street Harassment at the first place. I do not think they would take this case seriously. I feel like they might not think Street Harassment is punishable. In addition to all this, you might be asked to have witness and this would be a very long and time consuming process. It wastes my personal time and those who are witnesses. As long as you do not see a physical injury, the legal process will be difficult

Elili explains that how Street Harassment impacts the honor and liberty of women negatively and she also adds how to avoid the impact of Street Harassment.

Street Harassment happens commonly. Young generations started to see harassment as something normal. Especially these days, girls cannot pass by the street without being harassed. This is affecting the honor and liberty of women in our country.

How I see success in relation to Street Harassment is, harassment should be ignored and if you do not pay attention to the act of harassment, you can have a successful life. But if you pay attention to it and relate it to your life, if it is kept in your mind, it affects your self-confidence and decreases your success.

Participants of the focus group discussion also shared their thoughts and views regarding the impact of Street Harassment on them in terms of their educational journey, self-confidence and success. Most of the participants responded positively for street harassment having an impact on their educational journey, self-confidence and success which is consistence with the responses of interview.

Saron explains her opinion on this.

Street harassment is an act that happens unwillingly. It is something unpleasant, uninvited that comes from individual or group of people as a comment. The comments usually focus on a physical appearance of a woman.

This comment does not help once moral growth. It forces us to think about something superficial. It changes our focus from our education to something irrelevant. As a student I will say I am more vulnerable to Street Harassment. As a student we also face harassment in our school campus. Even though the amount of harassment we face might not be as much as harassments on the street, there is still the experience of harassment in our school campus.

Elili explains how Street Harassment impacted her experience.

In my opinion as a student, I am more vulnerable to Street Harassment more than any other women. Because as a student I usually have to walk, take public transportation and within our school campus, I am in contact with different people around. This situation might give the harassers the opportunity to harass. For instance those people who work in office might be exposed to different kind of harassment but little from Street Harassment because they might have to not walk during the day where a crowd of guys are on streets.

Messay agrees with the other participants of the discussion regarding the impacts of Street Harassment on them.

I agree with my friends with the point that we students are vulnerable to harassment. We students are not yet at the age where we have enough experience to overcome problems that can trigger psychological issues. In addition to not being ready to tackle the harassment issue, we students are in journey of finding ourselves and street harassment is a hindrance to this process.

Tigist goes on adding her views on the impacts of street harassment on her life.

As students we spend time outdoor a lot, from our classroom to the library. The outdoor times create a situation favorable for harasses to yell and say things that are not really nice. And as a student we are vulnerable to the impact of harassment itself. I sometimes find myself thinking about what these individuals who are stranger to me have said. This is not good for our psychology. Unfiltered and negative utterances should not have any space in our thinking but they do.

Hilina elaborates on the impacts of street harassment as a student.

As a student of 5 kilo campus, I have experience of harassment specially that happens right outside of the campus. When we go out of the school, there are group of young men hanging out by the main road. These guys usually yell and comment at us when we walk. As students, I believe we are more vulnerable to harassment. We are young people who wants to focus only on our education but

this is tempered by guys who are ignorant and do not seize to say whatever that comes to their mind. This is being exposed to people with toxic mind.

Woineshet prefers that street harassment should be downplayed.

I personally get frustrated when think Street Harassment makes me vulnerable in relation to my education. There is not an organized way to tackle the problem so I like to take my attention away from it.

4.4 Coping Up with Street Harassment

The third major theme of this study is how the female students manage the issue of Street Harassment in their lives. The informants and participants of this study shared how they look on to themselves when facing Street Harassment. The informants' response to street harassment varies among them.

Saron elaborates on how she tells the harassers to behave or to stop what they are doing politely. She mentions that Street Harassers can be different age grouped of male individuals.

I would always tell them not to say something like that, it is not right to comment, please behave and when the harassers are little boys, I would ask them what they are doing and where they have learned it. But most of the time I would just tell them to behave. I never misbehave with them. But I would just try to show them it is not right what they are doing. I would also show them that I am not happy. I never ignores their harassment because I do not think it is right. And if something is not right I do not know how to ignore it.

Elili prefers to ignore street harassment or change routes in order to avoid harassment from happening. She also thinks confronting Street Harassment can lead to an escalated circumstance.

Most of the time, I do not respond to verbal harassments on the streets. I would just keep walking. If I say something, I worry that they might attack me physically; they are usually bigger than me. I would just be afraid something bad would happen if I say something

Rahel also uses avoiding and ignoring Street Harassment as a coping mechanism.

I try to avoid harassment and it is very effective. I do not cope with Street Harassment by saying something back at them. If today Street Harassment happens to me, I try to avoid it by all means from happening to me on the next day. I flee from possible places that Street Harassment would happen. It can be any kind of harassment I try to avoid it. For example if you see a mental person on the street you would not go near to that person. That is what I would do with street harassers I do not go closer to them.

Tsion agrees with ignoring Street Harassment as a way of managing the issue.

I usually try not to respond to it. But there are times I am forced to say something and I would respond. I sometimes respond positively just to avoid any further escalation of harassment. Sometimes harassment might include insulting; when that happens I totally ignore it.

Messay gives her opinion on how it can depend on how she responds to Street Harassment based on the circumstance she is in.

To think you can prevent yourself from harassment by physically attacking the harassers is almost impossible. But I would change my routes. I would be careful how I dress myself. But if I have to say something back to them, I would even insult them. To give response to the act of harassment, I always check the time and the place. If it is kind of late, I ignore their harassment no matter how much it bothers me. Again the area where the harassment happens is quiet and if many people are not around, I would not give response to Street Harassment acts. I have a cousin and she is very young, I saw a guy running to her and hugging her. He does not know her. What does this mean? I pushed the guy and picked a pebble to throw at the guy. People who were around, they were just laughing and doing nothing. For many people street harassment is a joke

Liya explains how it is difficult to respond to Street Harassment. She says we are told to take it easy and let it go. Society wants us to pretend and see Street Harassment as nothing.

Usually when I face harassment and if it is verbal, I just ignore it. I do not respond to verbal Street Harassment most of the time. Unless what they say irritates me, I do not respond. I know I have the right to respond and defend myself but if you say something back...you would be considered different from the society and people will tell you that you are blowing what has happened out of proportion. Even women would give this kind of comment. They say he did not do anything, he only told you that you are beautiful. My generation has accepted street harassment as something normal. It is being normalized. There are women who just smile and pass when they face harassment. I get mad when I see those kinds of women. I do not like also creating a scene on the street. It is better ignored than responding to it. But there are nasty comments that can get in to

your nerve. When you do not respond they would tell you that you are a dumb. Sometimes they really antagonize me to say something back.

The focus group discussion participants also shared their methods of coping up with street harassment. The general response confirmed that they do not respond to the act of street harassment in any way, instead they ignore and work on avoiding street harassment. The focus group discussion supports the interview responses on the coping up mechanism of street harassment which is mainly ignoring the situation.

Saron shares her opinion on this as follows:

I usually ignore harassment. I do not say anything to the harassers. I think the key is not to say anything and not to be bothered. I personally believe that saying something to them is not worth doing. If I am responding to what they are saying I feel I will be equally ignorant with them.

Elili uses earphone devices to avoid street harassment.

I wear earphone to avoid hearing their harassment acts. Even if I know they are saying something, the earphone helps me not to internalize their ignorant comments.

Messay describes the ways she uses to manage street harassment

I cope with harassment by ignoring the harassers and the acts that I face. I do not believe responding to them helps and I do not believe it is worth spending my time to get them punished by a legal body. I do not even know if the law enforces the punishment of harassment.

Tigist variably affirms the idea of responding positively to comments that comes from the streets will smooth out the situation.

I have seen that if you hear a comment that is positive on the street, it is better to respond positively. If you do not respond positively, the harassers start to insult you and the harassment worsens. I never tried to take anyone to get punished to a legal entity. It will be a waste of time to take a legal measurement.

Hilina admits that even though Street Harassment is frustrating, there is no a better way to deal with this than pretend it is nothing.

I personally like to take Street Harassment lightly. When there is no a proper way to cope up with the problem, it is better to pretend it means nothing. However there are times that it is frustrating and I wish there was something I can do about it. I deal with harassment case by case. Sometimes I ignore it, some other time I would respond to it just orally. I just hope other organized bodies with proper power could do something about it.

Woineshet speaks that it is better to ignore and avoid street harassment.

I usually ignore Street Harassment. Sometimes I will avoid walking by myself. It is better to be with friends when walking on the streets. I wear earphones to shut off the yelling, insults and other verbal comments coming from the street

Chapter Five

Discussion

This chapter presents discussion of the results of the study. The discussion will be presented according to research questions and themes of the study. The themes are experience of street harassment, impact of street harassment and coping up mechanisms. There are sub themes emerged from these themes and they are included in the discussion.

5.1 Discussion

This qualitative study explores street harassment of female students in Addis Ababa University Technology Facility. The study also explored lived experience , impact and coping mechanism of females students .The study fill gap in the literature on street harassment how it affects student while they are staying at university compound. This study provide in-depth and focus group discussion description of lived experience , impact and coping mechanism the time staying at university . The study is qualitative by nature and it provides a description and illustration of the students experience with words that abide the deeper meaning than just a mere presentation in number .Specifically , this study consisted of semi-structure that grant the participant the opportunity to answer oped-ended question regarding lived experience , impact and coming up mechanism .

This chapter will further explain the results provided in the previous section. The results will be discussed in terms of three categories (lived experience , impact , and the coping up mechanism). Even though the study is presented based on the main categories identified, some important themes which are not categorized under main themes were also discussed.

5.1.1 Lived Experience of Street Harassment

In this theme of the study the participants addressed how they experienced street harassment in different ways. Street harassment is mostly verbal, sometimes physical and also it has psychological effects which is consistent with Gardner's (1995) explanation of street harassment: Street harassment is verbal, physical, or psychological harm done to women in public spaces. This form of harassment often has a sexual nature and multiple forms of harassing behaviours such as insults, shouting, fondling and ogling (Gardner, 1995).

There is extensive study on sexual harassment throughout the world but not enough insight on street harassment even though street harassment is an everyday experience of female individuals. Students of Addis Ababa University, Engineering campus are the informants of this study and they face street harassment in every movement they make every day. Although street harassment is a fairly new coined term, early studies indicate that street harassment is very common and harmful globally, yet rarely legislated against (Hagerty, 2013). The participants report that how street harassment affects every day life situation. Even though it is inevitable to face street harassment of the students have to walk to go to their class and library.

The students face Street Harassment mostly outside of their university compound. Fellow male students from the university are more reserved and respectful to the female students. The harassment happens when they walk from their dormitory which is located separately from their library, classrooms and other facilities of the university. The students' dormitory is separated by Main Street from where classrooms and libraries are located. The main street harbors unemployed idle groups of men which mainly is the cause for the female students to be harassed. It is necessary for the female students to cross the main street to get to library and classrooms and get back to their dormitory.

Street harassment is one of the prominent problems that affect women in participating public places every day in life. The participants explained how they encounter verbal harassment in their day to day routine from leaving their dorm to going to different places to complete their day to day activities. Logan (2015) discussed that street harassment must be acknowledged as problematic because it is an act which leads to a severe form of violence against and oppression of femininities a moment that if ignored and trivialised, serves to normalise sexually predatory behaviours, socialise men to dominate women, and perpetuate women's subordination and marginalisation. Due to fear of street harassment the students walk long distance even if they know the shortest way to get to their destination or they completely cancel going somewhere. The participants explain the experience of street harassment ranging from yelling, unwanted comments and when it passes that they come straight to their subjects and grab or touch body parts. This kind of act from a complete stranger can be traumatising and it forces subjects to rethink from going out to public places or change their routes as (Fairchild and Rudman) explained that some women who must enter the public area, are often or occasionally forced to reroute their mobility in public places to avoid being harassed.

As the participant explained most harassment comes from outside of the university compound and it makes it difficult for them to go out of their classes and library because there dorm and class are located separately and they have to cross the main road every day. This situation makes them more exposed to street harassment more than other students from different university for instance Addis Ababa University, Art and Humanities Campus. Most university compounds have classrooms, library and dormitories in a same compound. From the participants discussion the harassers is always around their university, which makes it difficult to respond. It will get

exacerbated to respond because the chance of seeing the harassers again is high. In one of the experience shared by the participant of the study, it is explained that responding to street harassment exposes them to more abuse. The experience of the participant was when she responded to a verbal harassment, the harasser came and grabbed her hand and people were gathering to see what was happening. In the midst of the situation the girl lost her phone. When thinking back the harasser purposely grabbed her in order to have the chance to still her phone. The situation was more frustrating and it was impossible for her to attend class. The situation created an economic strain on the student. Most of the participants have concerns regarding street harassment not taken as a serious matter and there is a lack of understanding of the problem. It is difficult to have street harassment as an issue. The existence of this experience makes it harder to deal with important things in life.

These issue rise on focus group discussion and most of them had similar kind of street harassment experience happened to them. The participants explained that because of street harassment, they see public places unsafe, uncomfortable and not friendly. Sharma (2014) in his study discussed and put it in figure, that more than one third of the women face street harassment in public places and they perceive public place as unsafe and reported being sometimes afraid to go out alone even during day time.

5.1.1.1 Views of Street Harassment

Participants of the study view street harassment as an act of giving unpleasant comments about the physical appearances of female person which happens in a public place by a total stranger who has not any prior relationship with the person who is being harassed. The harassers are mainly male individuals. They have a rare experience of a female street harasser. The

participants have shared their views on street harassment based on their own personal experience. This is a shared view by the participants of this study with Gardner (1995) and his findings street harassment is a gender based public harassment that manifests between strangers in a public area usually directed by men to a women stranger and the harassment happens in the forms of insults, shouting, fondling and ogling.

5.1.1.2 Causes of Street Harassment

The participants of this study shared their perception on the possible causes of street harassment. the majority of the participants of the study affirmed that street harassment is cause due to ignorance or lack of awareness, knowledge and understanding on the matter. Most of the harassers on the street lack the knowledge or the ability to discern between if street harassment is right or wrong. According to a socio cultural explanation, the harassers do not believe that they are doing when they harass women on the street. this might come from an already established system that sees men are a dominant part of the society and women are vulnerable and possible victims(Sheets and Braver, 2012)The men usually are engaged in rating women's bodies

5.1.2 Impact of Street Harassment

The participants discussion reveals that negative impacts of StreetHarassment against female students was immense. Regarding impacts of Street Harassment most of the participants of in depth interview and focus group discussion, said it definitely affects their everyday activities. Street Harassment happens in public places while walking or engaged in other activities and it is not known when taking place. Comments are given by strangers who are the harassers on different public spaces. They give comments on how the subjects are dressed, on their physical appearance and sometimes personality. This study shows how Street Harassment has impact on

female students of Addis Ababa University Technology Faculty and at the time of their stay at the university campus and during movements out in public places.

All the students experience being harassed on the streets. Receiving comments from strangers in a public places make the students stop from engagements and connecting with people. The unwanted comments about physical appearances, dressing styles and other sexual utterances from strangers makes the students day difficult. The students will be under the force of the impacts of the comments throughout the day. The harassers disrespect, violate the freedom and honor of women. The students are obligated to receive unwanted information which has a possible impact on the psychological health of the students. Most of the participants of the study said that when harassers give an inappropriate comment on the way you are dressed and about your appearances, it is unbearable and it makes everything difficult, and when they give comment repeatedly you are forced to feel uncomfortable about a self and develop low self-esteem and lack of self-confidence. Most of the participants agree that Street Harassment has negative impact on self-esteem and when it repeatedly happens from strangers regarding physical appearance, it inevitably has impact on personal understanding of how to act around strangers. The impact is explained well as “Street Harassment in higher education is an objectionable form of conduct which has negative effects on individuals and their mental well-being and self-confidence and which can adversely affect the study and professional paths of young people (Huerta et al. 2006; Knapp et al. 1997)”.

Participants explained how street harassment makes them feel ashamed of themselves because its happening on public places from the person they don't know and there are audiences when it happens. The majority of the participants also addressed the impact Street Harassment has on making you reserved from everything out side of your environment. The major dangers women

can face due to Street Harassment include fear, rape-wariness, denial of autonomy and respect, self-objectification, and depression cumulatively impact on women, placing them in a disempowering and marginalised position in society (Kear, 2010). Most of the participants shared that how street harassment affects their education. Due to the fear of facing Street Harassment and other sexual assaults possibly resulting from confrontation, most of the time participants have left library earlier than they planned. The participants believe that leaving library late can expose them to harsh harassment. Even though they want to stay late in the library and study they have to be back to their dormitory before it gets late.

This study indicates that the impacts might not be that huge and immediate at the time of street harassment but it has impact in time. Johanna (2017) discussed the impact of street harassment as follows: she said as part of my work for Project Monma i gave a talk on violence and discrimination against women to a group of female students in Cape Town. I asked to draw how sexual harassment affects the body. One of the girl drew a picture of a flower and its broken. The drawing shows the impact of street harassment as making you feel broken .

5.1.3 Coping up Mechanism

In this theme most of participants from interview and focus group discussion expressed their coping up mechanism being ignoring the harasser. But there was also a variant response regarding management of street harassment: one of the participants explained that she tells the harassers that giving comments to strangers is not right. It is not polite to disrespect people and they should be polite. But most of the participants use ignoring street harassment as a coping up method; they believe it is the best way to deal with harassers on public places because most of them are physically bigger and threatening. Some informants use taking another route to their destination in order to avoid confronting harassers and making a change in the way they dress in

order to keep away from harassers' attention. The participants' management of street harassment is consistent with the experience of other women in different part of the world. For instance based on Malaka, 2016 study she found out that, in Bahamas women generally ignore street harassment, accepting it as a part of their daily lives. Some women choose to change their routes, travel in group, adjust their wardrobes to cover their body more, politely reject their come-ons, and give fake phone numbers when asked(Malaka , 2016).

The participant explained that even if they want to respond or say something back to the harassers, society consider it wrong and they discourage you from doing something about it. The participants believe that our community strongly suggests that it is better to ignore street harassment and take it lightly. If you respond to street harassment, they think you have blown the situation out of proportion. Even women who are the subject of street harassment would give the similar kind of comments. There are women who just smile and pass the situation. Several reasons have been identified for why women avoid reaction to harassment is societal pressure, concern about being called a feminist fear of retaliation or fear of being perceived as impolite, aggressive, or non-feminine are described as reason for non- confrontational behaviour of women (Swim & Hyers, 1999).

One of the participants explained with example why ignoring street harassment is the main coping up mechanism. The students have faced scary experiences when they tried to respond to street harassment. They have been exposed to grabbing, touching, hitting and vulgar comments. When they try to respond to street harassment it escalates to assaults and abuses. For instance one of the participants' cousins got yelled at on the street and she responded to the harasser verbally. The harasser tried to hit the girl. People around were complicit and they did not try to mediate. Our societies do not see street harassment as violence against women. Even though

saying something when you see it happening and understanding that catcalling , aggressive staring and touching without permission is violence(Jahanna ,2017) .

The participants also said we need to take street harassment lightly. When there is no a proper legislation to cope up with the problem, it is better to pretend it means nothing. However there are times that it is frustrating and we wish there was something to do about it. We deal with harassment everyday sometimes we ignore it, some other time we would respond to it just orally. We just hope other organised bodies with proper power could do something about it. Also in addition to building institution to combat street harassment it is also vital women have to be empowered. Phadke (2010) asserts that safety for women does not automatically come from institutional factors like infrastructure or policing but has to be actively produced by women on an everyday basis.

Chapter Six

Summary, Conclusion and Implications

This chapter presents summary, conclusion and implication of the study. The summary will present an overview of this study and its chapters. The conclusion will provide the final comments and implication of the study will be presented.

6.1 Summary

The purpose of this study was to assess the female students lived experience of street harassment at Addis Ababa University Technology Faculty. Female students at Technology Faculty face street harassment and Qualitative research method was used to evaluate their experience, impacts and coping up methods of the students in relation to street harassment. It was evidenced that Street Harassment is experienced at all levels, but the problem is more serious at 5 kilo Campus institutions because they travel out of the compound and cross a main public street to attend class, use library and get back to their dormitories. In-depth interviews and focus group discussion were held in order to answer the research questions of this study. Data was collected and analysed. The analyzed data and the results from the data was presented.

6.2 Conclusions

The study discussed how Female students have faced various forms of street harassment , ranging from simple unwanted sexual comments to grabbing, touching and hitting by different harassers outside of their school compound. The female students see street harassment as an act that happens on public places by a stranger men to women who are walking by. The act is commenting on women's body, insulting and As a result of this, victims who are female students

are exposed to street harassment and its impacts. The comments they hear on the streets have impact on their self esteem, confidence and their educational endeavor. Their privacy is invaded and feel unsafe by strangers. The victims ignore street harassment as a coping mechanism. Responding to street harassment escalates the severity of the result of harassment. The study provides useful information to stakeholders with the intention to get in to tackling the problem of street harassment. It also is one important addition to the literary works on street harassment in our country Ethiopia.

6.3 Implications

6.3.1 Implication to Research

In regard to research implications, this study does not include all kinds of lived experience of street harassment and how much their lived experience affects their future lives. Study can be also conducted on the experience impact and coping up mechanism of street harassment after graduation. It can be also recommended that study can be done to find out why street harassers harass female strangers on the street in order to have a complete understanding of the issue and bring change on the matter.

6.3.2 Implication to Practice

Street Harassment is an existential problem of young women who are trying to understand their environment. It is essential to create a healthy society and women constitute half part of the community. Experiencing street harassment everyday has an impact on the lives of women. Any individual should not be exposed to something unwanted, uninvited that is offensive, uncomfortable and unfriendly with high intensity of happening every day. The fact that strangers say something to an individual who is just walking by needs a serious attention. Government

should take the initiation to create awareness on the street harassment and its problems as well as creating a system that would punish the act of street harassment. It is also necessary for practitioners, concerned public institutions and nonprofit organization to work on building a system that would bring change in the lives of women. This study will help these concerned bodies to have a pick at the problem of street harassment.

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Appendix A: English Version of Data Gathering Tools

Appendix A1: Semi-structured Interview Guide

The purpose of this interview is to gather data on which will be used to answer the following research questions

I. General Interview Protocol to be followed

In each interview session, I will:

- . Introduce myself and develop rapport with the interviewee
- . Discuss the purpose of the study
- . Provide structure of the interview (audio recording, taking notes, and use of Pseudonym)
- . Ask if she has any questions
- . Test audio recording equipment
- . Smile to make the interview feel comfortable

II. Interviewee's Demographic Characteristics

- a) Interviewee's pseudonyms
- b) Name of the school
- c) Interviewee's sex: A) Male B) Female
- d) Department: A) civil B) mechanical C) Electrical D) Computer science
- e) Interviewee's age
- f) Interviewee's family structure: a) Nuclear b) Extended c) Blended d) others
- g) Interviewee's age
- h) Interviewee's Family Background (Socio Economic status):
 - a) Educational level, b) occupation, c) income....
- i) Did you encounter any type of harassment / abuse previously? If yes, what for example?

III. Items Related with the Research Questions

A) Items Related with Street Harassment Lived Experiences

- 1) What is street harassment to you?
- 2) What do your lived street harassment experiences look like? Please tell me / narrate the story of time when you were harassed? Then what happened? Then what?
- 3) Is there any special experience of street harassment you can never forget? Please share.
- 4) Who harasses you most? Male or Females? Why? Why not? Are there female harassers of females and males harassers of males?
- 5) From your experience, what do you think are the causes of street harassment (factors)? Do you think that the factors are sometimes related to you /your personality? Your ways of dressing?

Do you have anything to forward regarding street harassment in your compound/or somewhere else?

B) Items Related with the Impacts of Street Harassment

. What are the impact (negative effects) of street harassment on your

- a) Self esteem
- b) Self confidence
- c) Self efficiency
- d) Educational achievement
- e) Life in general

On impacts of street harassment: Do you have anything more to forward?

C) Items Related with Coping Strategies

- What strategies do you use to cope up with street harassment? How do you evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies? Do they work most of the time? If so how?
- How do you protect yourself from facing street harassment?
- Have you ever tried to go to a legal body to get harassers punished? What kind of measurement did you take the harasser?

On coping strategies: Do you have anything to forward?

IV) Concluding remarks

At the conclusion of the interview, I will

- . Thank interviewees for their participation
- . Ask if they would like to see a copy of the result
- . Ask and record interviewee's reflection on the interview

Appendix A2: Focus Group Discussion

I) General Focus Group Discussion Guide Line Protocol

- 1) Begin with one facilitator providing introductory comments
 - Well come and thank you everyone for volunteering to participate
 - Introduce yourself
 - Hand out consent
- 2) I will ask participants to review any questions and sign the consent form.
- 3) I will give participant information about the process time, break, and bathrooms.
- 4) Informed basic guidelines for the participants for the focus group participants
 - Keep personal stories in the room
 - One person talks at a time
 - Everyone's ideas will be respected
 - Do not comment or make a judgments about someone else's says
 - Its ok to take a break if needed
 - Everyone has a right to talk

II) Focus Group Discussion Demographic Characteristics

- a) Participants pseudonyms
- b) Name of the school

- c) Participants sex: A) Male B) Female
- d) Participants Department: A) civil B) mechanical C) Electrical
D) Computer science
- e) Participants age
- f) Participants family structure: a) Nuclear b) Extended c) Blended d) others
- g) Participants Interviewee's age
- h) Participants Family Background (Socio Economic status):
Educational level, occupation, income....
- i) Did you encounter any type of harassment / abuse previously? If yes, what for example?

Introductory Questions

Think about your experience of street harassment

A) Items Related with Street Harassment Lived Experiences,

- 2) What is street harassment to each one of you?
- 3) What are your lived street harassment experiences look like? Please share your story of time when you were harassed? Then what happened? Then what?
- 4) Is there any special experience of street harassment you never forget which can be brought to the discussion? Please share.
- 5) Share your own experience on who harasses you most? Male or Females? Why? Why not? Are there female harassers of females and males harassers of males? From your experience, what are the causes of street harassment (factors) Do you think that the factors are sometimes related to you /your personality? Your ways of dressing?
Do you have anything to forward?

B) Items Related with the IMPACT of Street Harassment

What are the impacts (negative effects) of street harassment on the group's life?

- a) Life in general
- b) Self esteem

- c) Self confidence
- e) Self efficiency
- f) Educational achievement

Do you have anything to forward?

C) Items Related with Coping Strategies

- What strategies are used among you to cope up with street harassment? How does each one of you evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies? Do they work most of the time? If so how?
 - How do you protect yourself from facing street harassment?
 - Have you ever tried to go to a legal body to get harassers punished? What kind of measurement do you take on harasser?
- On coping strategies: Do you have anything to forward?

III) Concluding remarks

At the conclusion of the discussion, I will

- . Thank the participants of the focus group discussion
- . Ask if they would like to see a copy of the result
- . Ask and record the focus group discussion

Appendix B: Amharic Versions of the Data Gathering Tools

Appendix B1: Semi-structured Interview

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III) Өзіндік жұмыс

A) 1) 2) 3) 4) 5)

- 1) ...
- 2) ...
- 3) ...
- 4) ...
- 5) ...

B) 1) 2) 3) 4) 5)

- 1) ...
- 2) ...
- 3) ...
- 4) ...
- 5) ...

C) 1) 2) 3) 4) 5)

- 1) ...
- 2) ...
- 3) ...
- 4) ...
- 5) ...

IV) Өзіндік жұмыс

- ...
- ...
- ...

Appendix C: Sample Filled in Informed Consent Forms



