

Running Head: An Exploratory Study on Child-Parent Abuse

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ON CHILD-PARENT ABUSE: NATURE, CAUSE AND
EFFECT OF ABUSING PARENTS BY THEIR OWN CHILDREN IN GULELE SUB-
CITY OF ADDIS ABABA**

**BY;
HELEN TESFAYE**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES OF ADDIS
ABABA UNIVERSITY IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)**

ADVISOR: MESELE MENGISTEAB (PhD)

MAY, 2016

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

**AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ON CHILD-PARENT ABUSE: NATURE, CAUSE AND
EFFECT OF ABUSING PARENTS BY THEIR OWN CHILDREN IN GULELE SUB-
CITY OF ADDIS ABABA**

Approved by:

Meske Mengsteab 

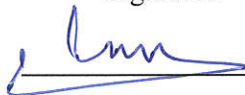
Advisor

Signature

30 June 2016

Date

Demelash Kassaye (Dr.)



Internal Examiner

Signature

Date

Moges Tadesse



External Examiner

Signature

Date

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and for most, I would like to thank and honour the Almighty God for giving me the strength to start and complete my study. Next, I am grateful to my Advisor, Dr. Mesele Mengisteab for his invaluable comments, suggestions, critiques and encouragements that he gave me from the beginning to the end of the study.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for my family, in particular my mother W/ro Genet Tarekegn and my father Ato Tesfaye Tsegaye with dedication, and my friends and colleagues specially Merko Melese and Gebru Mahtem for their countless and uninterrupted support throughout this study.

I extend my special thanks to all study participants who have invested their time during the interview and data collection sessions and for providing valuable insights and contributions to this study.

Thank you all!

Contents

CHAPTER ONE:INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2. Statement of the Problem	4
1.3. Significance of the Study	6
1.4 Objectives of the study.....	7
General objectives	7
Specific Objective	7
1.5 Research Questions.....	7
1.6 Scope of the Study	7
1.7. Limitations of the Study.....	8
1.8. Operational Definitions.....	9
1.9. Organization of the Thesis	10
CHAPTER TWO:LITERATURE REVIEW	11
2.1. Definition and Terminology.....	11
2.2. Nature of Child Parent Abuse	13
2.3. The Prevalence of Child Parent Abuse	16
2.3.1. International Experience of Child Parent Abuse	16
2.3.2. African and Ethiopian Perspective	18
2.4. Causes of Child Parent Abuse.....	19
2.4.1 Socio Economic Status.....	19

2.4.2 Alcohol Use and Substance Abuse	20
2.4.3 Peer and Social Pressure	20
2.4.4 Past Abusive Experience of the Parent	21
2.4.5 Parenting Style.....	22
2.5. Effect of Child Parent Abuse: on the Parent and on the Child.....	22
2.5.1 Effects on the Parent	22
2.5.2 Effects on the Child	23
2.6. Theoretical Framework	23
CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY	26
3.1. Study design	26
3.2 Participant Selection and Procedures.....	26
3.3. Data collection.....	27
3.4. Data analysis.....	28
3.5. Trustworthiness and Data Quality Assurance	29
3.6. Ethical consideration.....	29
CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS	31
4.1. Background Information of Research Participants.....	31
4.2. Nature of Child-Parent Abuse	35
4.2.1 Verbal Abuse	35
4.2.2. Physical Abuse	40
4.2.3. Financial and Material Abuse	42

4.3. Causes of Child-Parent Abuse	45
4.4. Effects of Child-Parent Abuse.....	51
4.5. Coping Strategies of the Parent in Child-Parent Abuse.....	55
CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION	61
CHAPTER SIX:CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION FOR SOCIAL WORK	68
6.1. Conclusion.....	68
6.2. Implications for Social Work	69

Reference

Appendices

ABSTRACT

Child-Parent abuse is a very sensitive and complex issue like that of other types of abuses in the family. Though, it has received very limited attention and recognition from researchers and concerned bodies. In Ethiopia there are no organized data which shows its prevalence. Creating an awareness of the problem is essential to provide an adequate help for the victims or to follow up planned intervention methods. To fill this gap, a phenomenological study was conducted based on the lived experience of 10 parents (6 mothers and 4 fathers) who are experiencing CPA in Gulele sub city of Addis Ababa. Data were collected using an in-depth interview with these parents and the researcher's observation; and it was analyzed simultaneously with interpretative analysis method. The findings of the study show that some parents have suffered a great deal from the various acts of abuses by their own children. In general, it was identified that the abuses include verbal, physical, and financial and material exploitations. The verbal abuse includes, constant insults, threatening to harm, humiliation and demeaning reactions. The financial and material exploitation or abuse consists of stealing money or parents' belongings, demanding the parent to buy things knowing that they can't afford and selling possessions of theirs or their parents' and destroying the parents' belongings. And a serious incident from choking and slapping to the use of weapons resulting in grave bodily injuries is included under the physical abuse nature of CPA. Because of this parents are suffering stigma from their neighbours and from the society, physical injuries, emotional and psychological problems. It is found out that the abusive children's addiction (of alcohol, khat and substance abuse); economic dependency or unemployment, past abusive experience of the parent and negative peer influence are the major causes. The parents take reporting the abuse to the police as a last measure after having to deal with it for a long time. All measures the parents took to handle the situation are unsatisfactory to them; because they want ending the abuse not their relationship with their child. Therefore the necessary attention and professional response is indispensable.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Different literatures define the phenomena of children abuse or violence to parents, using the terms “domestic violence” and “family violence” interchangeably. Horsburgh (2012) argues that, the key difference between domestic violence and family violence is that family violence overtly acknowledges both immediate and extended family members and is thus inclusive of violence at home. It is the most under researched form of family violence, despite high rate of occurrence and increasing prevalence (Walsh & Krienert, 2007). The widespread belief that parents need to protect their children, even when it is to their own detriment, and the lack of clarity about what is acceptable and what is violent adolescent behavior have compounded the slow recognition of adolescent violence against parents amongst helping professions and policy makers (Bobic, 2004).

The first reference about Child-Parent Abuse (CPA) found in literature was credited to Harbin and Madden (as cited in Walsh and Krienert, 2007) defining it in 1979 as a “new” type of family violence (Patuleia, Alberto & Pereira, 2013). Kennair and Mellor also define it as “any act perpetrated by a child or adolescent that causes a parent to feel threatened, intimidated and controlled” (Kennair & Mellor, 2007). And in a recent literature, “Child-to-Parent Abuse (CPA) is a unique form of family violence defined as a pattern of behavior by a child or adolescent that uses verbal, financial, physical, or emotional means to practice power and exert control over a parent” (Correll, 2014).

Overall, a variety of definitions and naming have been used by previous literatures such as Parent Assault (Agnew & Huguley, 1989), Parent Abuse (Cottrell, 2003), Child to Mother Violence (Jackson, 2003), Child to Parent Violence or CPV (Ulman and Strauss, 2003), Adolescent Violence to Parents (Bobic, 2004), Parents Victimized by their Children

(Gallagher, 2004), Battered Parents Syndrome (Harbin & Madden, 1979), Adolescent Violence in the Home (Horsburgh, 2012), and PA or Parent Abuse (Laing, 2014).

As such, it is difficult to estimate its prevalence, but the one small-scale survey conducted in the UK suggested that approximately 14% of young people have used violent tactics against a parent at least once, with 3.8% reporting having used severe violence (Browne & Hamilton, 1998).

Prior research has been plagued by shortcomings including, but not limited to, a reliance on small clinical samples, age parameter restrictions, antiquated data, undefined parental relationships, and conflicting findings across studies (Bobic, 2004). However, according to Holt & Retford (2013), such data is broadly consistent with more robust international prevalence data which has emerged over the past 30 years, primarily in the USA, Australia, Canada and Spain. Such data has drawn from surveys and from community samples alongside with analysis of criminal justice data (i.e. from young people who have been arrested, charged or convicted of violence-related offences towards their parents) and data from clinical populations (i.e. from families who have sought medical/psychiatric support for their child's behaviour).

The forms of abuse could take from minor kinds of insulting and disrespect to graver bodily injury and death. Cottrell elaborated it briefly in the following way: *Physical abuse* includes hitting, punching, slapping, and pushing and is the most visible form of abuse. A number of large scale studies suggest that up to 14% of parents are physically assaulted by their adolescent children at some point (Cottrell, 2001). *Psychological abuse* includes name calling, criticizing and put-downs, creating fear, running away from home, and threatening to hurt or kill a parent or themselves (Cottrell, 2001). Although behaviours such as yelling occur at some point in many families, they can be considered parent abuse when they become persistent. Abuse often begins verbally and escalates to include other forms. *Financial abuse*

includes stealing or taking things without permission, damaging the home or possessions of the parent, and demanding things that parents cannot afford (Cottrell, 2001).

Australian data indicate that in comparison to fathers, “mothers are more likely to take out intervention orders against adolescent children” (Paterson & Luntz, 2002, p. 91) and that physical violence by sons is the most common type of assault (Evans & Warren-Sohlberg, 1998).

Regarding its impact, Julia R. Correll on the study conducted in University of Washington 2014, found out that, many parents reported negative emotional shock due to their child’s violent and abusive behaviour, including fear of their child, despair about their situation, and shame. Some parents whose children exhibited severe or chronic violent behavior described how their child’s behavior caused them extreme stress that greatly affected their lives. And some were emotionally impacted by their conflicts as well and concerned their child would end up in the adult criminal justice system (Correll, 2014).

And in particular, parent abuse involves a ‘double stigma’ because it combines the stigma of parenting a problematic child with the stigma of experiencing domestic violence in the home (Holt, 2011). Though family violence remains a taboo topic and victims continue to experience stigma, parents who experience child-parent abuse are at an even greater disadvantage because of these unique factors (Correll, 2014).

All the above sources shows that, unlike the little attention given to the issue, there exists high prevalence of the abuse, its seriousness and its impacts on parents in different areas. In Ethiopia too, even though we have no clear census to refer, depending on the researchers’ observation, the act of CPA is increasing from day to day.

Normally or due to various reasons, it is very common for children to live with their parents until they get to establish their own family in our most society. An adult descendant living with the family can assist and give a support according to what is expected in the norm

of Ethiopian societies. But on the other hand this social connection can put a lot of stress on family relationships and in some cases play a role in parent abuse. In this kind of scenarios mothers are the first to be abused since they usually have closer emotional as well as physical connection with their children and also are the primary care givers in most families.

Despite the little attention given and almost no research on the subject, it is now becoming a major societal problem in Addis Ababa according to my observation of reported cases in police stations and criminal courts. The current research attempts to be a pinpoint on the seriousness and of high risk of the problem on parents.

Owing the above facts, the study is designed to explore parents' experiences of abuse perpetrated by their own children in their care. It is specifically initiated to explore the causes and effects of the problems in our context. The detail of the study is conducted to explore nature of the abuse on parents by their own children, the causes, the types of the abuses and impacts on the life of the victims. It also tries to look the kind of coping mechanisms followed by the victims in addition to the above main issues.

The research takes a qualitative method approach while conducting the study. Data collection focuses on experiences of all types of abuse, including physical, verbal, financial, and damage to property. It is hoped that it stimulates discussion about how the phenomenon might be addressed in our context. It also can be a stepping stone for further study on the area by that it can get an attention which balances its occurrence so that practitioners act up on it.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Compared to other types of family abuse, relatively few resources are available to assist families experiencing child-parent abuse (Correll, 2014). Child-Parent abuse is a very complex area. It is gradually growing in occurrence, however, is gaining less attention, under recognized and under reported due to different reasons. There is also little evidence based information or research for practitioners to work on it. According to Holt (2009), the stigma

by scientific journals that rests on the topic could be because of the sensitiveness of the problem of domestic violence and the potential feelings of shame, guilt and social isolation that abused parents may experience.

Most parents hide the abuse from public view until it gets to graver level and often wait very long before seeking help. Parents feel ashamed and/or think they should be able to handle the situation by themselves without outside assistance. Shame and guilt are singled out as the main reasons for parents' unwillingness to report their children's violence (Bobic, 2004). In addition, some parents may feel it is not safe for them to attempt to control the situation for it might enrage their child more. But any form of abuse is harmful to the victim as well as the abuser and may lead to more serious consequences if ignored (Marin, 2010).

Due to the nature of my job, as a federal public prosecutor, I was able to go to different police stations for example; Menen, Shiromeda, Addisu Gebeya and Kechene police stations which are found under Addis Ababa Police Commission Gulele sub city branch, and give decisions on various types of criminal cases. Among most kind of cases or reports I encounter, the number of parents visiting police stations claiming that their own children becoming violent on them is rising from day to day.

Different researches, by Cottrell (2001) in Canada, Marin (2014) in New Zealand, Gallagher (2004) in Australia and others, were conducted on the area. However, it has been untouched topic in our country or even other African countries as far as the researcher's knowledge is concerned. Therefore, the seriousness of the problem, but the non existence of studies in our country on the area initiated me to conduct this study.

In almost all the cases, it is easy for anyone to see the emotional breakdown the parents are having by simply watching their face when they come to report the abuse by their own children. Some are unable to merely describe the problem rather just express their

feelings with tears. Also in courts while giving their witness testimony, I usually observe the dilemma parents especially mothers struggling through, between the thought of by standing against their own offspring and the inability to resist the abuse.

The only institutional remedy given to the parents is legal sanctions and punishment on the children. But I believe and observe, this really does not give a relief to the parents especially. This motivated me to explore about the issue but I found nothing done specifically on it in our country. The fact that the problem has been neglected and remained hidden to the public makes it worse to get a solution for the victims. Thus, it is essential exploring the problem to provide the victim parents adequate help and follow proper intervention methods. Since accepting the existence of the problem is the first step to make a solution.

So, this study fills the lack of basic information on the prevalence of the problem fundamentally by deeply exploring its nature, root cause, and consequence. Then this can enable to pave a way for appropriate interventions.

1.3. Significance of the Study

There is abuse in various forms and subjects around the world however; few are studied in the kind of abuse in which this paper deals with. Researches can enable to magnify the existence of the problem and opens a way for a solution.

Since accepting or knowing the existence of the problem is the first step to make a solution, showing the existence of the problem is obviously the pre step of accepting the existence of the problem. By then one can be able a travel to the formulation of a solution.

Therefore by exploring the nature, cause and effect of the problem this study proves the seriousness of CPA. The findings from this research could reveal some areas which may require intervention or remedies on which different organizations can embark on it. It also hoped to enlighten the strengths and weaknesses of the measures that the victims take to cope with the abuse and help determine implications for social work practice. Social workers

should promote and facilitate evaluation and research to contribute to the development of knowledge (NASW Code of Ethics, section 5.02(b)).

1.4 Objectives of the study

General Objectives

The general objective of the study is to explore the nature, causes and consequences of abusing parents by their own children and to explore the coping strategies of parents to manage child parent abuse based on the lived experience of the parents.

Specific Objective

1. To explore the nature of child-Parent abuse,
2. To explore the cause of child-Parent abuse,
3. To explore the consequences of child-Parent abuse,
4. To explore the coping strategies of parents to manage child parent abuse.

1.5 Research Questions

The research focuses generally on seeking answers for what the nature, cause and effect of an abuse on parents by their own children are and what coping mechanisms are followed by the parents to handle it. Specifically it has the following questions:

1. What are the characteristics/natures of the child to parent abuse related abuses?
2. What are the causes of violence against parents by their own children?
3. What are the effects of the abuse?
4. What coping mechanisms are followed by the victims to handle CPA?

1.6 Scope of the Study

Child abuse, intimate partner abuse, and to some extent sibling abuse are some of the various forms of domestic violence or abuses which are given the due attention. This study only focuses on the less researched form of abuse which is child to parent abuse. That is, an

abuse of different nature imposed on an adult caretaker of his/her biological offspring by the latter.

The study tries to explore the nature, cause, and consequence; in addition, the coping measure taken by the victim parents after abuse happens in their life. The focus of the study is not to show cause and effect relationship of CPA; but to explore the nature, cause, and consequence of CPA using a qualitative research method.

CPA is characterised by a large degree of under-reporting. That is, most parents report the abuse to outside parties when it reached to the level they cannot cope anymore. Because of this, the research is restricted to reported cases and may only represent very few incidents of the problem which are only exposed. Nonetheless, it is hoped that it can be a pinpoint by showing how the issue might be addressed in our country.

1.7. Limitations of the Study

There are a number of limitations to this study. It is only limited to the experience of parents abused by their own children and discusses the issue from the parents' perspective only. In other words, the voices of the children who are perpetrators of the abuse were not heard. Therefore, future studies involving the voice of all parties are needed; especially in finding out the causes of CPA.

This study is restricted to reported CPA cases since the topic is characterized as one of those which are under exposed. Therefore it only stimulates discussion about how the issue should be addressed by exploring the nature, cause and effect of CPA. And open a way for further study which will balance the occurrence of the problem with the solution.

1.8. Operational Definitions

Abuse: an act by a child aimed at Provoking fear, physical or financial damage to the parent or other family members with the objective of gaining control or power over the latter (Cottrell, 2001).

Cause: the background motives for the incidence of CPA

Child: biological child who impose an abuse on his/her parents

Child-Parent Abuse: is a continual harmful verbal, physical, financial or similar act of a child over a parent due to various reasons and results negative effects on the later

Coping strategies: the measures or mechanisms used by the parents to defy or solve an abuse by their own children

Effect or consequence: the outcome or impact on parents from the abusive act of their own children

Financial or material abuse: includes stealing or taking things without permission, damaging the home or possessions of the parent, and constant demanding things that parents cannot afford.

Nature or form: the types of abuse inflicted on parents by their own children

Parent: is an adult caretaker of own biological offspring

Physical abuse: includes intentional use of force to cause injury, harm or disability. This includes but not limited to hitting/ kicking, pushing, punching, slapping and pushing. It is the most visible form of abuse.

Psychological abuses: are acts that are intended to intimidate and persecute the victim. That includes criticizing and put-downs, insulting, creating fear, persistent yelling, and constant humiliation, running away from home or isolation, threatening to hurt or kill a parent or themselves, belittling/ridiculing, destruction of objects and verbal aggression.

1.9. Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is organized in to introduction part and five chapters. A review of child parent abuse literatures is covered in chapter two of this paper. It is structured with a commentary on various limitations of the extant research, including methodological and measurement issues. The chapter continues with a description of various literatures' findings on child parent abuse prevalence and demographic information about both the perpetrators of parent abuse, and the targets of their violence. Types of child parent abuse or forms of the violence are then illustrated, followed by a detail on the findings on the causes of CPA. Finally effects of CPA on the life of both the victims and perpetrators are and discussed.

In the third chapter, which is the methodology section, incorporates an explanation of the study design, method of data collection, sampling technique and data analysis as well as ethical considerations.

Starting from chapter four up to chapter six the findings of the study are analysed are presented in detail. These chapters are designed based on a framework to discuss the findings underlining the aim of the study. In chapter four the various characteristics of violence that victims of CPA come across are discussed. Then the causes of CPV are presented with a brief explanation of participants' experience in chapter five. In a similar way of analysis it explains the consequences of CPA on the parents/ victims. This chapter also discusses how the victims of CPA cope with the abuse. And finally in chapter six implication of the study is drawn based on the discussion and of the conclusions.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Definition and Terminology

2.1.1. The Notion of Child-Parent Abuse

As it is tried to be stated in the introduction part, different literatures use different terminologies to define the phenomena of children abuse or violence towards their parents. Some include “Parent assault (PA)” (Agnew and Huguley, 1989), “Parent abuse” (Cottrell, 2003), “Child to Mother Violence” (Jackson, 2003), “Child to Parent Violence or CPV” (Ulman and Strauss, 2003), “Adolescent violence to parents” (Bobic, 2004), “Parents victimized by their children” (Gallagher, 2004), “Battered parents Syndrome” (Harbin and Madden, 1979), “Adolescent Violence in the Home” (Horsburgh, 2012), and “Parent Abuse” (Laing, 2014).

Usually, types of abuse are named after the victim, such as child abuse and elderly abuse (Clement, 2014). A lack of consistent terminology to describe and define adolescent violence in the home may be contributing to obfuscation of the problem and a consequent inadequate service system response (Howard, 2011). However though there given inconsistent terminologies, they all describe same or similar kind of action using specific categorizations. Having those terminologies, the following definition are given in the most prominent and current literature on child parent abuse.

The first one is a definition given by Jo Howard in a study conducted in Peninsula Health Drug and Alcohol Program & Youth Service; according to this researcher, CPA is presented as only conducted by adolescents and define it as: “Adolescent violence in the home is an abuse of power perpetrated by adolescents against their parents and other family members, including siblings. It occurs when an adolescent attempts to physically or

psychologically dominate, coerce and control others in their family” (Howard, 2011). Similarly in another study conducted in Australia, Ashleigh L Haw gives the definition “Adolescent violence towards parents (AVTP) refers to the deliberate and ongoing infliction of abuse from an adolescent child towards a parent or guardian, with the intention of exerting power and control” (Haw, 2014). Both definitions however have made quite an omission on solely defining the action being done exclusively by adolescents. The abuse can also be inflicted by child, teenager and adult descendants towards their parents too.

Other definitions like Parent assault (Agnew and Huguley, 1989) and Battered parents Syndrome (Harbin and Madden, 1979) has also been given, however, it excludes the various forms of abuse other than assaults and battering.

Barbara Cottrell in a study conducted in Canada define CPA as Child-to-Parent violence (CPV) is an intentional act by a child aimed at provoking fear and physical, psychological or financial damage to the parent with the objective of gaining control or power over the latter (Cottrell, 2001). And in 2014, Julia R. Correll from the university of Washington try to define it as, a unique form of family violence defined as a pattern of behavior by a child or adolescent that uses verbal, financial, physical, or emotional means to practice power and exert control over a parent (Correll, 2014). This two are broader and accepted definitions which are most widely used by various literatures.

2.1.2. The Relation between Abuse and Violence

'Abusive' behavior can be validly defined as violence, or other coercive behavior, perpetrated against someone less powerful (Gallagher, 2004). This definition might be arguable in the context that who holds more power since in almost all cases it is the parent in our case. But it helps in the context that an act of violence can be one form of abuse and the abuse might also be executed to gain power according to most definitions.

According to the Oxford English dictionary (2001), 'Violence' is behavior involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill; strength of emotion or an unpleasant or destructive natural force. And 'abuse' is defined as, use to bad effect or for a bad purpose; the improper use of something; treat with cruelty or violence; and address in an insulting and offensive way. As can be inferred from the definition, young children may not be physically capable of inflicting graver physical harm to parents, however an attack can be disturbing and damaging for the victim even if no physical damage is done (Gallagher, 2008). Therefore, the term "abuse" is used than "violence" due to the above interpretation.

For the purpose of this study also 'child-parent abuse' is used since it can contain all categories of both the children and parents and can undoubtedly describe the phenomenon under study; meaning, it acknowledges parents of all age and status as victims of the violence and also include all age and both sex of children as perpetrators of the abuse. To describe a behavior that appears intended to control, intimidate, disempower or hurt parents, whether this be physical violence, verbal abuse, threats, destruction of property or emotional abuse, "abuse of parents" may be the more apt term (Gallagher, 2008).

2.2. Nature of Child-Parent Abuse

As with partner abuse, parental abuse includes physical, psychological, emotional and financial abuse (Bobic, 2004). Verbal abuse, which is the most prominent in CPA, was not included in this definition of the nature. In a more inclusive way, Cottrell briefly explains the nature of the abuses and their definitions in this way: *Physical abuse* – hitting, punching, shoving, breaking things, punching holes in the wall, throwing things and spitting; *Psychological abuse* – intimidating the parent, making them fearful; *Emotional abuse* – maliciously playing mind games, trying to make the parents think he or she is crazy; making unrealistic demands on parents, such as insisting they drop what they are doing to comply

with their demands; lying, running away from home and staying away all night; making manipulative threats, such as threatening to run away, commit suicide or otherwise hurt themselves without really intending to do so; and controlling the running of the household; *Financial abuse* – stealing money or parents' belongings. Selling possessions – theirs or their parents', destroying the home or parents' belongings, incurring debts the parents must cover; demanding parents buy things they don't feel they can afford (Cottrell, 2001, pp.3-4).

In a study conducted in 2011, Holt found out that, *physical violence* often co-occur with *verbal abuse*. Thus, parents referred to being bitten, kicked, battered, thumped and punched – in the throat, head and stomach (and in one case, while 39 weeks pregnant) (Holt, 2011). Furthermore, there were descriptions of shouting, swearing, screaming and, in two posts, the theft of money from other family members. There were also descriptions of *threats of further violence* towards the parent or siblings, with one daughter threatening to 'petrol-bomb' her parent's house (Holt, 2011).

Research findings show that in order to create the fear, intimidation and control over the parent, children use indirect actions like throwing things, slamming doors, hurting the other family members and siblings, so on. Violence was also directed onto objects: furniture was smashed, ornaments were thrown and doors were kicked in (Holt, 2011).

2.2.1. Who are the Victims?

Although fathers are also susceptible, mothers are the most frequent victims of parent abuse (Cotrell, 2001). Due to the fact that mothers in most families spent more time in taking care of the house hold and the strong emotional connection with their children than fathers, majority of literatures agree that mothers are the primary victims of CPA. This situation could get worse when the fathers are not in the family due to various reasons. Often, abused mothers are single parents (Cotrell, 2001).

Though focused on male and adolescent children only, Evans & Warren-Sohlberg also prove that, a trend toward increasing involvement by mothers as a primary disciplinary agent coupled with the traditionally greater volume of mother-child compared to father-child interaction establishes a condition for higher probabilities of conflict and aggressive acting-out among adolescent males (Evans & Warren-Sohlberg, 1988).

In addition to single mothers, elderly parents and parents with disabilities may be particularly vulnerable to abuse by their teenage children (Cotrell, 2001). Also as it is stated above, in order to create the fear, intimidation and control over the parent, children use indirect actions of abusing their siblings and other family members. Teenage who abuse their parents may also abuse their younger siblings and/or family pets (Cotrell, 2001).

2.2.2. Child Abusers

Regarding the nature of the abuse and age of the child abusers, Howard suggested that, the higher rates of violence against parents positively correlates with an increase in age, size and strength of the adolescent (Agnew & Huguley, 1989; Harbin & Madden, 1979; Paulson et al., 1990 as cited in Howard, 2011). Approximately one-third of the abuse incidents reported involved adolescent females who tended to be younger, more frequently abusive, and more likely to use household items as weapons than did abusive adolescent males (Evans & Warren-Sohlberg, 1988). Boys are more likely to be physically abusive and girls more likely to be emotionally abusive towards their parents (World Health Organization, 2000). The majority of violence is perpetrated against mothers, mostly by male adolescents, and abuse against fathers is usually by sons (Bobic, 2004; Cornell & Gelles, 1981; Cottrell & Monk, 2004; Evans & Warren-Sohlberg, 1988).

The clinical, court and qualitative studies are fairly consistent in suggesting that boys are two or three times more likely to be violent to parents than are girls (Gallagher, 2008).

According to Gllager, there are a number of specific reasons why CPA may be more common for boys than girls, apart from higher overall rates of violence in males.

1. Boys are closer in size and strength to parents than are girls.
2. Boys are more likely to identify with aggressive fathers.
3. Boys may be more affected than girls by parents' separation as they are typically separated from the same-sex parent.
4. Cultural stereotypes see males as superior to females which for some boys may create conflict when their mothers try to impose discipline (Gallagher, 2008).

2.3. The Prevalence of Child-Parent Abuse

2.3.1. International Experience of Child-Parent Abuse

Though CPA is consensually higher than indicated by statistical data, it is difficult to identify due to various reasons. One of the main reasons is that parent's unwillingness to report their abuse by their children. Many parents feel embarrassed to admit these situations in their families, often tolerating very high levels of aggression before seeking for help. This attempt to maintain the myth of family harmony ends up maintaining CPV as a secret, avoiding confrontation, open discussion and hiding or minimizing it (Patuleia, Alberto & Pereira, 2013). Parental shame, fear of blame, and community judgment of their capacity to parent are factors that contribute to parents maintaining secrecy (Bobic, 2004; Agnew & Huguley, 1989).

The other problem in recognizing CPA is that, the differences in methodologies used by researchers. Most studies identify violence simply as physical assault or battery against a parent, in spite of the broad range of violent behaviors that might be involved (Routt & Anderson, 2011). Also there are no official records of the reported CPA incidents and there is

no exact data on the prevalence of abuse against parents, the various studies conducted so far can help or use as an indication as to the prevalence of the problem around the world.

A charity organization called 'The national charity Family Lives' in England and Wales runs a helpline for parents in the field of family support. The organization receives substantial numbers of phone calls from parents experiencing violence from their children. A survey in 2008 by this organization shows that, 7 per cent of 30,000 calls to the helpline were about physical aggression from children to their parents, mostly from adolescents aged 13-15 years and usually targeted at mothers. And in 2010 it was reported that between June 2008 and June 2010, the helpline received 22,537 phone calls from parents reporting aggression from their children, 7,000 of which involved physical aggression (ParentlinePlus, 2010).

Before the above survey in 1919's one small-scale survey was conducted in the UK and it suggested that approximately 14% of young people have used violent tactics against a parent at least once, with 3.8% reporting having used severe violence (Browne & Hamilton 1998 as cited in Holt, 2013).

In Canada, the Canadian National Clearing House of Family Violence conducted a large scale study in 2003 and also indicates that 14% of parents had already been assaulted by their adolescent children. It is estimated that 1 in every 10 parents were assaulted by their children (Patuleia, Alberto & Pereira, 2013).

In Australia too though it is an old data source, official Australian estimates of adolescent violence against parents come from the Queensland Domestic Violence Telephone Line's data collection in the late nineties, when in the period 1 July – 30 December 1997, 33 calls were recorded from parents about adolescent violence. This represented 5% of all calls made to the line (Hastie, 1998 as cited in Holt, 2013).

In the United States, studies show that in the 1980s and 1990s, 5-10% of adolescents showed aggressive behaviors toward their parents per year (Cornell and Gelles, 1982). In

another study in the United States of America also indicated that, 57% of parental abuse was physical; using a weapon at parent 17%; throwing items at 5% and verbal abuse reported at 22%. With 82% of the abuse being against mothers (5 times greater than against fathers) and 11% of the abusers were under the age of 10 years old (Robinson, Davidson & Drebot, 2004). Data estimate the incidence of adolescent violence towards parents in two-parent families at 7–18% and at 29% in one-parent families (Peek et al. 1985, as cited in Bobic, 2004).

Generally, CPA has been reaching worldwide dimensions with an incidence of 1% in French families, 4% in Japanese families, and 6% in North-American families (Cyrulnik, 2005 as cited in Patuleia, Alberto & Pereira, 2013). Though, Such data has drawn from surveys from community samples alongside analysis of criminal justice data (i.e. from young people who have been arrested, charged or convicted of violence-related offences towards their parents) and data from clinical populations (i.e. from families who have sought medical/psychiatric support for their child's behavior (Holt 2012).

2.3.2. African and Ethiopian Perspective

Almost all literatures on violence in the family in African countries and Ethiopia focuses on the abuses perpetrated on women by their husbands (intimate partner violence) and abuse perpetrated by parents on their children.

Similar to that of the England and Wales, there is an organization in South Africa which runs a helpline for parents in the field of family support. This organization provides various documents on parenting guidelines and information for parents. However, there are no organized records or reports or even researches available on CPA except few example stories written by parents on the website.

In Ethiopia, a recent study conducted by Samson Chane in Dangla town administration about domestic elderly abuse, found out that the common perpetrators of

abuse were neighbours, children, other relatives, and in-laws. And the major types of abuse include physical, emotional, financial abandonment and neglect. Also mentioned that this problems that had far-reaching impacts on their social, economic, emotional and physical well-being. Some were subjected to live in such misery that they contemplated and even attempted suicide as a final solution to their problems (Samson, 2014). Though, this study mainly focuses on the general domestic abuses on elderly people not only the abuse by their own children but by various people too. But it on the other way somehow shows the prevalence of the problem/CPA in a way of showing that elders are being abused by their on children.

2.4. Causes of Child-Parent Abuse

Most literatures found out that various reasons for CPA. This simply indicates that there's no one specific cause and situation. Parent abuse can occur in any family and is not associated with socio-economic class, ethnic background, or sexual orientation (Cottrell, 2001). However, the most prominent causes for CPA found out by studies are socio economic status, addiction of alcohol and drug abuse, negative peer pressure, past experience of abuse and parenting style.

2.4.1 Socio Economic Status

There is a varied finding and argument about whether low or high socioeconomic status being a cause for CPA. In a qualitative study, Cottrell and Monk (2004) identified low socio economic status as a risk factor of CPA among parents in Canada; they found youth of lower socio economic status lacked opportunities available to their peers, which increased stress and consequently risk of CPA.

It is possible that families of lower socioeconomic status experience greater stress that puts them at risk for increased family instability and conflict (Hong et al., 2012 cited in

Correll, 2014). And adult descendants of lower socio economic status parents also may get involved in CPA due to Problems related to work and employment (Cottrell 2001).

On the other hand, “some studies have found higher rates of CPA in families of higher socio economic status. For example, in a community-based survey, Paulson et al. (1990) found a non-statistically significant trend that families of higher perceived social status were at an increased risk of CPA, while Nock and Kazdin (2002) found a similar relationship in a clinical sample” (Correll, 2014 page 9-10).

The third argument is that, regardless of whether or not there is a true relationship between socio economic status and CPA, researchers agree that CPA undoubtedly occurs in families of all socio economic status levels (Correll, 2014). There is no significant relationship between socioeconomic status and CPA (Agnew & Huguley, 1989).

2.4.2 Alcohol Use and Substance Abuse

Drug and alcohol use have been cited by some practitioners as a cause for CPA (Gallagher 2004; Horsburgh, 2012). It could get worse if it combines with financial problem. But on the contrary in a study conducted by Jeffrey A. Walsh & Jessie L. Krienert, the found out that the overwhelming majority of offenders in their sample reported no use of alcohol or drugs during the attack (Walsh & Krienert, 2007).

2.4.3 Peer and Social Pressure

Some studies have found that those adolescents who are perpetrators of adolescent violence in the home are more likely to become close with other peers who display violent behavior (Agnew and Huguley, 1989 as cited in Horsburgh, 2012).

Further still, adolescent boys are also subject to social norms that promote physical strength and authority as defining qualities of being a man. Peer pressure that encourages “macho” behavior and involvement in activities such as teen gangs are examples of how such

norms are manifested. These wider social influences are crucial in explaining the creation of values and beliefs that underpin violence; however, their acknowledgement in the literature is lacking (Bobic, 2004). Also adolescents are exposed to violence on the Internet, TV, computer games and other 'pop culture mediums' (Horsburgh, 2012).

2.4.4. Past Abusive Experience of the Parent

Past experience of abuse that triggers children to be abusive on their parents can be seen in two ways. One is an abuse experience on the children themselves by the parent. Children for instance, may become violent to their parents as a result of their experience of negative events in the past (Clement, 2014). Australian researcher Eddie Gallagher found that in up to 50% of parent abuse cases there had been previous instances of domestic violence witnessed by a teenager who was now expressing their own anger (Gallagher, 2004).

And the other can be experience of abuse on either of the parent by the other parent. Violence between the parents, divorce or any other type of trauma can be a trigger for youngsters to become violent against their parents (Clement, 2014). Some parents who have been victims of spouse abuse have often already lost respect in the eyes of their children. It is sad, and quite unfair, that children often lose respect for both parents when one abuses the other (Gallagher, 2004). This may also mean that they are also at risk of accepting violence as a solution to interpersonal conflict (Cottrell, 2001).

When youth witnessed domestic violence, they often used some of the same violent behaviours and emotionally abusive attacks they were exposed to earlier in their lives (Holt & Retford, 2013). In 2011 a study conducted by Routt and Andersin in Washington, USA, data indicates that 53% ($n = 143$) of those interviewed abusive children were exposed to or witnessed domestic violence in which fathers used physical violence against mothers and 38% ($n = 104$) experienced physical abuse by their fathers or male caretakers. In addition,

32% ($n = 86$) were both exposed to domestic violence and were physically abused (Routt & Anderson, 2011).

2.4.5 Parenting Style

Some studies conclude that parenting style is a significant causal factor for CPA (Cottrell, 2001; Gallagher, 2004). This could be due to an absence of hierarchical structure within the family and lack of parental supervision, guidance and boundaries (Agnew & Huguley, 1989; Cottrell, 2001). Also children exhibiting the behavior seem to have grown up believing themselves to be entitled to everything and anything (Holt & Retford, 2013).

Another parenting style factor is that parents are so much controlling or so much reluctant so that instead of supporting children to reach developmental milestones such as self responsibility, separation and independence, children develop a sense of entitlement (Gallagher, 2004). And most other studies conclude that 'authoritative parenting' or parenting where corporeal punishment is used, contributes to adolescents becoming violent towards parents (Gallagher, 2004). This also includes parents having opposing parenting styles, with one parent parenting indulgently and the other firmly (Kennair & Mellor, 2007).

2.5. Effect of Child-Parent Abuse: on the Parent and on the Child

2.5.1 Effects on the Parent

CPA often results in a wide range of impacts on the parent victim(s) and their relationships outside of the family, other family members, and on the child perpetrator him or herself (Correll, 2014). Existing literatures have sorted out the following effects on victimized parents: Loss of self esteem (Gallagher, 2004); social isolation (Bobic, 2004; Haw, 2010); increased risk of homelessness (Haw, 2010) and mental health issues (Haw, 2010; Howard, 2011); interactions between fear, concern and worry, betrayal, self-blame and

shame, denial, loss of trust and resentment, loss and grief, social isolation, and hopelessness and despair (Cottrell, 2001; Holt, 2013).

They sometimes get physically harmed due to CPA, though detrimental emotional impacts are most often parents' primary concern (Holt, 2013). And also Children who are abusive towards their parent(s) are also abusive toward sibling(s), and CPA may contribute to conflict between parents, often aggravates already problematic family interactions (Holt, 2013).

2.5.2 Effects on the Child

In CPA the parents are not the only victims but the children too. In a study conducted in Netherlands, Suzanne Clement describe it in the following way "They could for instance get a temporary restraining order or be rejected to enter the house. If the abuse really gets out of hand, the adolescents can even receive a criminal record that will restrict their opportunities in the rest of their lives. In addition to these visible consequences, abusive youngsters may not learn communication skills when they do not receive adequate help. As a result, they may become abusive against other loved ones in the future. Hence, in this sense, the abusive youngsters or adolescents can become a victim of their own behaviour, as the respondents concluded" (Clement, 2014 pp.15). However, it is undoubtable that the effect more affects the parent than the child since each and every effect happens on the child rebounds on the parent.

2.6. Theoretical Framework

CPA has different theoretical explanations. The major ones tried to be focused in this study are feminist theory, stress theory and social learning theory.

Feminist theory identifies violence can be seen as the result of patriarchal social constructs which define the relationship between women and men as one of subordination.

According to the feminist theorists socially structured encouragement of violence by males and the unequal division of childcare and household tasks has been shown to put mothers at greater risk of parent abuse (Cottrell, 2001; Cottrell & Monk, 2004; Ulman & Straus, 2003). However the limitation of feminist theoretical framework in relation to CPA is that, it does not entirely explain why female children may get involved in CPA and also why fathers are victims of CPA.

According to Stress theory parent abuse results from children and young people possessing inadequate resources to cope with intolerable stress (Strasburg, 1978). Experiences of stress may be due to exposure to violence, economic hardship, and other interpersonal, social, and environmental challenges (Strasburg, 1978). Lenient parents probably have children who are less aggressive overall, however, when such parents do have aggressive children; they are more likely than very strict and harsh parents to be victimized by these children (Gallagher, 2008). And in addition family stress could be as a result of various reasons such as divorce, conflict over money, substance abuse either by the parent or the children and similar other family conflicts. However, after finding no relationship between parental reports of stress and rates of parent abuse, Cornell and Gelles (1982) suggested that further research is required to better understand the role personal and family stress plays in children and young peoples' violence toward parents.

The Social Learning theory adopts the principle of vicarious learning, or modeling, which asserts that behavior is acquired by witnessing how the actions of others are reinforced (Bandura, 1973). Accordingly in CPA children who witness violence between parents, adult partners or extended family may learn that abusive behavior is an acceptable way of resolving conflict and appropriate behavior used to achieve one's aims (Horsburgh, 2014). Various authors have alleged that children who are violent toward a parent often have been victims of

parental violence, either directly or through the witnessing of adult partner abuse (Cottrell, 2003; Evans & Warren-Sohlberg, 1988; Ulman & Straus, 2003).

But on the other hand, some researchers like Gallagher (2004) raise the argument that, abusive children and young people may come from nonviolent families. Children could concurrently be victims of bullying at school (Cottrell, 2001). However, parents are not the only source of social learning for children. Peers, through direct interaction or through the media, provide additional important mechanisms for social learning through imitation, reinforcement, and the transmission of attitudes. In earlier research, Agnew and Huguley (1989) found that young people who assaulted their parents were more likely to have friends who assault parents. Similarly, Cottrell and Monk (2004) found that male youth were influenced by social messages that promote the idea that it is acceptable to control and victimize women, including their mothers.

To sum up, the feminist theory as it is discussed above, perceives violence as the result of patriarchal social constructs. It in short does not have an explanation for the question why female children are abusive on their parents and also why fathers are also the victims. Therefore it is not inclusive to follow this premise. Thus, the study follows both the stress theory and social learning theory premises. Stress theory supports the issue in a way of being inclusive of most grounds of CPA and social learning theory is widely employed due to the multi dimensional view it provides.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1. Study design

This study mainly aimed to examine parents' experiences of abuse by their own children in their own words and from their own standpoint. As a result, qualitative methodology is used. Qualitative social research seeks to establish knowledge of the social world by the study of people's own interpretations of the social world (Kelly, 2011). Qualitative research provides detailed description and analysis of the quality, or the substance, of the human experience (Marvasti, 2004). It is also affirmed by Pietkiewics & Smith (2012), that qualitative research is in general concerned with how individual make sense of the world, experience events and what meaning they attribute to the phenomena.

Therefore it is the most appropriate means of exploring parent's views of their experiences and reality since this study is intend to explore the nature, cause, effect and the coping mechanisms of an abuse by children on their own parents from the parent's point of view. And the focus is not to show cause and effect relationship; but to explore the nature, cause, and consequence of CPA using a qualitative research method. Since qualitative researchers are mainly concerned with meaning (e.g., how individuals make sense of the world, how they experience events, what meaning they attribute to phenomena, and so on). In other words, they are more preoccupied with the quality of experience, rather than causal relationships (Pietkiewics & Smith, 2012 p.7).

3.2 Participant Selection and Procedures

The research participants are parents who are or have been experiencing any kind of abuse perpetrated on them by their own children. When selecting participants of the study it is very difficult to include all victim parents of CPA. Therefore, those who reported an abuse by their children to the police are selected purposively based on their economic condition,

educational background and marital status. The idea behind qualitative research is to purposefully select participants or sites (or documents or visual material) that will best help the researcher understand the problem and the research question (Creswell, 2014).

To do so, the right place to get potential participants or those who can provide meaningful information on the topic is by contacting police stations and selecting from documents of the police. Because, all the necessary information about the case including address of the victims or the parents is recorded and can be found on a police rapport (a document which includes all the necessary information of the case).

I first try to select the participants using secondary data sources. As indicated mainly by using the police reports and charges framed by the prosecutor when necessary. The purpose of purposeful sampling is to select information-rich cases whose study will illuminate the questions under study (Patton, 1990). Therefore, participants are selected from among the police stations which are under Addis Ababa Police Commission Gulele sub city branch; specifically from Menen, Shiromeda, Addisu Gebeya and Kechene police stations. It is chosen due to the researcher's work experience in the area therein it make it easier to get all the essential information and contacts or key informants. Then, after the participants are selected purposively, a contact was made by the researcher through phone with participants and they were asked their consent to participate in the study.

3.3. Data Collection

A variety of methods can be used in phenomenological-based research, including interviews, conversations, participant observation, action research, focus meetings and analysis of personal texts (Lester, 1999). Hence, the researcher's observation and an interview are used in this study. After securing the consent of participants, an in depth interviews are conducted to get the desired information relevant for the study. The in-depth interview aims to get close to the subjects' view of the social World (Kelly, 2011).

The interview is conducted in Amharic with each of the research participants. Each interview began with an explanation of the purpose of the interview. Probing and follow up questions were used to shed a light on some questions since it is a qualitative interview. And the ordering of questions in the interviews was not followed when necessary. It was free to probe when interesting points arise; and the interviewer direct the interview based on the questions' interests and concerns. The interviews are held on the convenient time and place for the participants. And the interviews and discussions are also recorded.

3.4. Data Analysis

Data analysis is the next step after the collection of the data which can enable us to improve our understanding and have advanced knowledge. It is the stage in which a large amount of interview notes, tape recordings, jottings or other records all of which have to be analyzed. To analyze data means to systematically organize, integrate, and examine; as we do this, we search for patterns and relationships among the specific details (Neuman, 2014). To analyze, we connect particular data to concepts, advance generalizations, and identify broad trends or themes (Neuman, 2014).

Among the methodological approaches of qualitative research, phenomenology, grounded theory, case study and historiography are the major applicable by most researchers. Phenomenology, developed by Edmund Husserl, is concerned with attending to the way things appear to individuals in their experience (Pietkiewics & Smith, 2012). This study applies phenomenological qualitative method to attain the aims of the study which is to explore the nature, causes, consequences and coping methods of abuse towards parents by their own children based on the lived experience of the parents.

The researcher in here continually interprets any raw data to understand their meaning and their directives. That means, while the participant attempts to make sense of their own experience, the researcher is also involved in making a detailed analysis of these personal

accounts and presenting these accounts in the form of experiential themes (Pietkiewics & Smith, 2012).

Pietkiewics & Smith, (2012) further explained it that, there are two major aims of phenomenological analysis for the researcher. While the first one is trying to understand what it is like to stand in the shoes of the subject and the second is developing interpretive analysis of what the experiences of the participant which have made them make the claims are means for them. Therefore in this study data collection and data analysis are simultaneously done.

3.5. Trustworthiness and Data Quality Assurance

Trustworthiness refers to the criterion that is used to evaluate the truth value of qualitative studies. Trustworthiness rally first by creating an atmosphere of trust with the parents during the interview phase and then after by tape recording conversations with the participants and assisting them to provide clear, vivid descriptions of their experiences. Also supreme effort is made to avoid mistakes during transcribing and writing. During the conversational interviews with the participants, an atmosphere of trust is created so that they can share their stories in an open, honest manner.

3.6. Ethical Consideration

Several ethical considerations are taken in the process of making this study. Participation of respondents is strictly voluntary based. They were fully informed as to the purpose of the study. Following verbal description of the research project, the participants are gave their consent to participate in the study. Therefore informed consent from all respondents is sought starting from the beginning of the study.

The ethical considerations are also aimed at preserving participants' right to self determination and the right to be respected. Research Participants are informed the information they provide are kept confidential not be disclosed to anyone else. To this end,

some information which might directly or indirectly imply the personality of respondents are not documented and attached.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS

This chapter presents the findings of the study and discusses them mainly in line with the research objectives. The chapter begins with a description on the profile of study participants and proceeds with discussion of the findings with the identified themes. And in order to fully draw the picture and have a clear understanding of the cases or the family's situation, the demographic information of the children who are perpetrators of CPA is included with in the description on the profile of each study participants. The next part of this chapter presents the natures or types of CPA; the third on the causes of CPA; the fourth part on the consequences of CPA and lastly the strategies followed by the participants to cope with the abuse are presented.

4.1. Background Information of Research Participants

The research participants of this study are 10 parents who are victims of CPA. They are some among those who reported an abuse committed on them by their children to the police. The demographic description provided in this section includes the age, marital status, number of children, current family size and educational background of each participant and their abusive children in order to have a clear image of the cases. As it is indicated in the methodology section the identity of the study participants is not mentioned for ethical reasons.

Interviewee 1 is a 57 years old single mother currently residing in Gulele sub city. She have 5 children; among them, one of her daughter passed away one year ago leaving a grandson to her. Her husband, father of the children, has passed away 10 years ago. She is currently living with her daughter, her son and her grandson. Her daughter stops working for a short while in order to take care of the 10 month old baby of her diseased sister. The other two children got married and left. Interviewee 1 sustains the life of the family with a small

business. “I support the family selling Gesho and Bikil; I also have a little room for rent from which we monthly get 1000 birr” (Interview March 7, 2016). Interviewee 1’s son who is still leaving in the house with her, her daughter and her grandson is 30 years old. He completed grade 12 before years and used to work as a mechanic; however he is currently doing nothing and showing appalling behaviours since this recent five years.

Interviewee 2 is a single mother and is a civil servant. She is widowed and has six children. Her first son resides abroad; the second one gets married and is living his own life in another place and her third daughter passed away before years. She is currently residing in Gulele sub city with her two daughters, her 5th son and a homemade. She manages the family by the income she gets and a support from her children. Her son who is still in the house is 30 years old. He completed grade 10 and had started to attend in private college; however didn’t proceed it.

Interviewee 3 is a mother of five children; two sons and three daughters. Two of her daughters are married and are not living with her. She is living with her two sons and one daughter currently. “Their father right now is in sight problem and he spends at home” (interview March 11, 2016). Her daughter is a student and her sons used to serve as members of the national defence force but are currently jobless. One of them is 35 years old and used to live around Saris by renting a house, which the rent is paid by his sister after he returned back from the military because of a reason she don’t know. He fulfils his other needs by performing some minor tasks like carrying stuffs for people. But now he get back to her house because of the house he lived going to be demolished. He is still not working. She manages the family by making and selling Gabbi.

Interviewee 4 is a father of five children; two of them have started working and the other two are students. He is 53 years old. He lives with his wife and his three children in

Gulele sub city. He works in a governmental organization and he mostly go out for a field to other parts of the country. His wife is a house wife therefore he has to spend most of his time at work to win the life of the family. His son who is still living in the house is 32 years old. He completed level 2 technical and vocational education training 7 years ago though is not willing to work “he wants everyday to sit in the house watching TV without doing a thing; but if he gets money, he spent every penny of it extravagantly drinking and chewing khat” (Interview March 15, 2016).

Interviewee 5 is a 51 years old mother. She has four children and she is divorced with her husband because of his alcohol addiction. She completed grade 10 in the old curriculum. Her two children resides in US America and she is at this time living with two of her sons. One of them lives with her to help or protect her and has his own income. The other one which is the eldest of all is 32 years old. He joined university before years but became incomplete since he didn't focus on learning. After that he came back to her/home and starts working and learning at the evening program of Addis Ababa University. But he again became reluctant and terminated paying the school fee. Then he gets employed and started working but when he gets money he started to drink alcohol and smoke cigarette. “At the beginning he didn't disturb us when times goes his behaviour changed and started disturbing” (Interview March 16, 2016).

Interviewee 6 is a 69 years old father. He has 7 children; three of them are living with him; the two girls have married. The others live abroad. His wife passed away 14 years ago. He is retired and gets his income from renting a house. His two daughters living with him are students and his son is married. He is 30 years old. After completing his university education, he is a teacher in a public school currently. When he gets married, interviewee 6 gave him the service rooms to live in with his wife.

Interviewee 7 is a 49 years old mother of four children. She has completed grade 12. Her husband passed away four years ago. Her first and second children have started living their own life. She is at this time living with her daughter who is graduated two years ago and her last and 21 years old son. He terminated his school at a preparatory level (grade 11).

Interviewee 8 is a father of 7 sons and 3 daughters. His first son resides in USA; his second daughter lives here in Addis Ababa and she works as a secretary in NGO where he manages; his third son is a private driver; his fourth son is the one who is in jail in the police station during the interview; his fifth daughter is a student in university studying electro mechanical engineering; his sixth son is grade 7 student and the last one is grade 3 student. He has his first degree in education planning and a second degree in Theology; he is currently a national director of one NGO. His fourth son is 21 years old. “He has 6 records in this police station, we reported 6 times and had appeared before the court 3 times” (Interview April 1, 2016). He completed grade 12 and had a vocational training of electric circuit service, however didn’t finish it.

Interviewee 9 is a 50 years old mother of 4 daughters and 2 sons. She hasn’t completed basic education. None of her children has completed high school except the last one who is still in school. But they help her sustain their living by doing various jobs. Two of her children have got married and left. Her 30 years old son is also living with her though is always in conflict with her and the family members. She said that, “he has started drinking since he was 20 years old; that means he reflects this behaviour for the past ten years” (interview April4, 2016).

Interviewee 10 is a father of 10 children and he is 80 years old. He manages the family with a bakery business. Some of his children work in the bakery. He is currently separated with his wife. His two daughters got married and are living their own life. One of his sons is 38 years old. He used to live with his grandparents for some time and is not

willing to continue his school after he joins the family of interviewee 10. He is also not willing to work in the family business or else.

4.2. The Nature of Child-Parent Abuse

The experience of victims of CPA was mainly drawn from an in-depth interview with them. The respondents reported that they have constantly experienced more than one kinds of abuse throughout their life time by their own children. Generally the most common types of abuse revealed can be grouped based on the research questions in to three major themes of verbal abuse, physical abuse and financial or material abuse.

4.2.1 Verbal Abuse

Most of the study participants have reported that they have experienced verbal abuse on regular bases by their children. Some tend to explain their experiences straight to the point and others found it hard to describe it that way because of the emotional breakdowns they are dealing due to the abuse. For the purpose of discussing them, the forms of the verbal abuse are generally divided under 3 sub themes under this section as: constant insults; humiliation and demeaning reactions; and threatening to harm them and other family members.

4.2.1.1. Consistent Insults

When describing the insults by their children, it is easy to view from the participant's face that some of them find it emotionally and psychologically so painful to express it out again what they have been experiencing.

And interviewee 1 describes the words she has been called by her son with pain that, "*He yell at me that 'go to Debre Lobanos monastery what are you still doing here you old lady?'*".

Interviewee 2 also repeatedly mentioned during the interview that the insults from her son are getting worse from day to day and she is on the level of not able to resist it no more.

It is always a mess in the house. I can't especially resist his insults. His words are so harsh that they don't get out of your mind so easily.

Interviewee 10 describes in pain that the bad words or insults are related to lack of respect and the negative attitude his child have towards him. He explains that, "*He insults me and everyone in the house. He even does not have a respect for guests that on occasion come to our house*".

Interviewee 4 also tries to describe the situation of his abusive child with him and including the other members of the family that, "*He use nasty terms to insult us (including his mother)*". And similar experience is narrated by interviewee 2 as:

In home he always quarrels with all members of the family even including with the home meads. He gives us bad nick names and insults us every day.

4.2.1.2. Constant Humiliation and Demeaning Reactions

The parents describes repeatedly that they are confused from where the children get the intent to treat them this much demeaning and harsh. They wander thinking how their children get the thoughts of standing against them. They also continually mention the breakdown that they are holding in their heart due to the degrading reactions and constant critics from their own children. Interviewee 6 tries to explain the situation in this way:

He makes me cry day and night. I cry for that he disgraced me at my old age, at the age he should have treated me with respect. It is because of him that I became diabetic.

Interviewee 4 also with wonder and misery answers his experience of abuse that, "*he sometimes throws things on me. He spits on my face*".

Interviewee 2 narrates her experience of humiliation in the public by her son in a very sad memory as:

I can't get a peace in my own house. Now he is of sure that I am not able to do anything to him; he even say 'you can't do anything, if you want, go and call the police!' Even while he was in police station he yells at me that 'the prison is better than your home'' it is crushing to be yelled by your son like this.

Interviewee 9 also expressed her emotional abuse and the negative feeling she currently is adopting because of the demeaning and humiliating behaviour of her son as follow: *"I hate him. I always cry. He broke my heart and he ashamed me. He embarrasses me every day. He was supposed to protect and help me rather than making me cry day and night"*.

Interviewee 1 also added on the issue in the following manner:

I gather elders once and beg them to give him an advice. But when they do, he makes fun of us and them too. I was so embarrassed. When I try to talk to him that what is happening to him and advice him to be like his brothers and sisters, he replied disrespectfully that 'u can go to Debre Libanos Monastery and live there if I am disturbing you; you are useless old lady'. It is the place where I once took him forcefully for holy water.

Interviewee 3 also tries to explain the situation by briefing an incident occurred: *"the other day, he put the toilet's key in his pocket and when I asked him to give me, he pushed me and when I tried to take the key from his pocket, he held by hand and threatened me that he will kill me"*.

Interviewee 1, a 57 year old widow mother, explains that she is not able to handle the demining reactions even by trying to make a peace full interaction with her son by tolerance and fulfilling his demands:

He doesn't support me in any way, but on the other hand started asking money from me for a cigarette. He even doesn't accept it when I give him the amount

I have, he throw it on my face when I give him fifty birr claiming that it is very small amount.

Similarly interviewee 5 illustrates the experience in pain. Her feeling towards the situation is as similar as the other parents that found it demoralizing and trapped in an abusive life hopelessly.

When I always try to advice him, he replied impolitely to me that not to repeat things. Then I became confused and stop saying anything to him.

The demeaning reactions are also committed on the participants indirectly; that is by abusing or harassing siblings and other family members; and further the neighbours. It is intentionally done to get the attention of the parent. Interviewee 4, a 58 years old father of 5, explain one of the irritating act of his son that, *“He controls the TV by his own and the family has no say on the choices of the program. The children watch programs from the neighbourhood, and he uses the volume to the maximum so that everybody is disturbed”*.

Interviewee 5 further explains her worry that worse thing might happen in the family when his brothers lacks patience and try to defend.

He intentionally came after his elder brother get home and sleep. Sometimes he knocks the door and he enters and sleeps properly. But, most of the time he kick the door by his leg. So, I left the door open. Now, he didn't sleep even after he enters in to home. He sings, shout and disturb. He always intimidates to kill us (me and his brother)... I worry that if something wrong happens with his elder brother, the elder loss his temper and bad things may occur. No one could save us. That mean we all die together.

Interviewee 6 expressed his experience that: *“He spits on me and on one of his sisters, also he beat her husband. People said to me that I should rent a house and go out of my own house or he might kill me”*.

4.2.1.3. Threatening to Harm

This is the other form of verbal abuse mentioned by most participants. One of the research respondents, interviewee 4, explained how he is being abused by his 32 years old son in the following way:

He says me awful things like “wait for me and I will kill you”, He insults me.

When he begins to insult me, I always go to my bedroom and try to control my emotion.

Interviewee 6 also explains similarly about his abusive son that, *“He intimidates that four coffin would come out from my house. I asked him that being a teacher how he intimidates me like this but he insists that he would kill me.* He further than the threats explains the anxiety and traumatic memories that he is dealing with due to the abuse in the following way *“Oh! We run and shut our door when he comes. My daughter’s children should go to their home at 3p.m in the evening before he comes. If he comes, I would not allow them to go out because he may hurt them”.*

Similarly Interviewee 9 expressed how her son intimidates her that, *“He always says that he understands why children kill their parents and he will do the same on me. He always intimidates me to kill”.*

Interviewee 10 also added the same experience as: *“He intermediates that he will kill me he says that “you will be found dead in the morning”.*

Mentioning incident Interviewee 4 explained the experience of abuse in his house by his son on him and on the other family members too by giving an example as follows:

One day my two daughters were playing and laughing, and he suddenly comes and became furious saying that they were laughing at him. He grabbed his dagger and intimidated them to kill.

Interviewee 6 also explains his recent experience that had his servant was not around his son could have killed him.

Two days ago he was intimidating me for slaughtering me! I couldn't make it. My servant did not allow him to get in my house. Then he has been rounding the compound. I was afraid and did not sleep the whole night. Last night there were guests in my house but they could not go to the toilet. So, they left the house because of him.

4.2.2. Physical Abuse

When describing physical abuse the participants mentioned serious incident from slap to the use of weapons resulting grave bodily injuries. The nature of the physical abuse they face according to the finding indicates, choking, throwing of things, punching walls or doors, stabbing, straggling, hitting and threatening with weapons. They also indicates that this acts of abuse are also done on the other family members too which indirectly affects the participants. The research participant's experience of physical abuse is presented bellow;

Interviewee 1, a 57 years old mother, stated one example of the incident in the following way;

The other day he choked me on the neck with his hand and it is his sister who saved me by screaming and calling people.

Also interviewee 1 explains her experience of the abuse on the other family members as, *"His brother is a father of four but he insult him and say him 'who are you to take me to church?' he even was trying to stab him with a knife and also try to frighten him."*

Sharing the experience, interviewee 4 also states the following situation about his 32 years old son:

He tries to stab her (his little sister) with a blade the other day. We just saved her but we don't want to report to the police because she was already going to

her campus ...when his sisters talk to him, he directly moves to confrontation and conflict, so they do not talk details about him. One day he assaulted his other younger sister and she has been to a clinic. She did not go to a police because of neighbours and family influences.

Similarly interviewee 2 also says;

He came to me and asks me for money. I told him to leave me alone and to give me peace. He said 'women! I know you have a lot of money; why don't you give me some?' and enter in to the house pushing me aside. He is against everyone; with his sisters too. For example he once up on a time punched his deceased older sister so badly and run away from home for some time. She slept in hospital for few days and got well.

Interviewee 6 bitterly explains the situation as:

One day he attempted to beat me and I shouted for help, my daughter's husband tried to defend me but he beat him also. He spits on his other sister's children and husband and finally they stopped to come home.

In another incident, interviewee 6 further explains the fear he had been experiencing when his son was threatening him with a dagger in the middle of the night.

He narrates that:

Two days ago he was intimidating me for slaughtering me! Had my servant was not around, he could have done it! ... My servant did not allow him to get in my house. Then he has been rounding the compound. I was afraid and did not sleep the whole night.

Interviewee 8 also added: "*The other day he jumps the fence and tries to hit his mother with a stone.... And in the morning he went out and came back after abusing a drug*

being necked and acting like a mentally ill person. Then I arrived when he started fighting with his brother and attacked me when I try to stop them”.

4.2.3. Financial and Material Abuse

Financial or material exploitation is the other most shared form of abuse by the participants. According to them it is the most recurrent act of abuse. It is generally manifested based on the finding in the form of intentionally damaging and also stealing the parents' property.

Interviewee 1 explains the situation in this way: *“He damages my property. The other day there was a computer that I bought 7000 birr to his sister for her work when she graduated; he breaks it in to pieces”.*

Interviewee 2 also share and narrate the abuse as follows:

He damage properties in the house. Especially one time while I was at work, there was a machine in the house including the refrigerator, he collected all my clothes, mattresses and he try to connect all my house with the electric and was trying to burn it all. It was saved with the help of God that neighbours turned off the power and saved all my properties. Then they call me and when I arrive there, it was all this mess; he was trying to burn down all my clothes, my shoes, blankets and the house. He tears up some of the clothes with a knife and he go out.

Interviewee 2 further describes her experience with pain that, *” he started stealing different things from home. He takes our clothes, money, mobile phones, including the servant's phone, and other a lot of things. His problem is so wide that I just can't tell shortly. He step by step took almost all my properties; sold his clothes, blankets, bed, my clothes, all his shoes ... he took everything in the house. He even took the bed he used to sleep on and sell it and drinks with the money”.*

Interviewee 2 in addition, bitterly described one incident in tears that:

One day he asked me for money. I told him to leave me alone and to give me a peace. He said ‘women! I know you have a lot of money; why don’t you give me some?’ and enter in to the house pushing me aside. My bed room was locked. He call the home made and ask her to bring him knife and started to crack the door to break it. Then I go to police station and bring police but during that time he runs away.

Interviewee 3 also shares similar experiences: *“he sold his own clothes and stole his sister and mine too”*.

Interviewee 4 shares her experience as; *“I applied to the Kebele to advice him for me, to tell him to work because he has the profession. But he was so mad at me that he broke all of my things in the house including my TV”*. Similarly Interviewee 5 also states about her abusive child that; *“He tries to kick us and distract our property ...He sold his own clothes. He always forced me to give him money. That is why I want him to be detained”*.

Interviewee 6 also explains his experience in the following way; *“I planned to build a kitchen in the compound and he said that I can’t build anything unless I divide and give him some land. He is married. It is his wife’s father who advices him”*. Interviewee 6 further narrates an incident that:

One day before the death of his mother, he was quarrelled with me and his mother was mad at him for what he had done. Then he broke everything; the TV, Radio, the shelf full of glass. We had no choice except for the maintenance. He throws and breaks many of my things. If he got water with a bucket, he kicks it intentionally and the water flows.

Interviewee 8 shares the other parents experience and describe his own case that; *“He always come home in the middle of the night getting drunk, he even get in to the house*

jumping the fence; he steal things/property and clothes from home and sell them, he damage my properties including a car in one incident”.

In addition to the above manners, the financial abuse is also manifested in a way that the children demanding what the parent do not have or asking them to fulfil things that are beyond the economic capacity of the parents. This is manifested in three participant’s experience. Interviewee 1 explains:

For example he sometimes woke up in the morning and throw away food saying it is cooked the day before, he doesn’t agree with all homemade I bring home to help me and want them away from home.

Also Interviewee 2 narrates the condition in the following way:

Sometimes he start in disagreement or complaining about the food, he complained that the food have no enough butter, he sometimes ask for meat knowing that there is no meat in the house. He doesn’t contribute a dime but demands a lot. Our livelihood only depends on my income. Sometimes his brothers and sisters support us but that even is not sufficient. He knows this but starts quarrelling without an ample reason. It is by simple and silly things.

Interviewee 10 also added:

He demands beyond his capacity and even beyond the family’s capacity. All of the family members eat what we have and get to work, but he even chooses what to eat in the house. He always demands fancy things knowing that none of us in the family had the chance to have them. He doesn’t work. He just demands everything and then he drink and chews chat, that’s it. And he wants to kill me when I told him it is not possible to live like that.

4.3. Causes of Child-Parent Abuse

The above section shows that parents face different types of abuse by their children. The reason for the occurrence may differ based on the cases. The most mentioned reasons for CPA which are identified by the participants themselves are discussed below. Accordingly, based on their experience the parents have identified major causes of CPA; which are, addiction of alcohol and khat and substance abuse; Economic dependency/ unemployment; past experience of abuse; and negative peer and movie influence.

4.3.1. Addiction

All of the study participants except one revealed that their children's addiction is the main cause of disagreement and quarrels. Interviewee 1 explains; *"He is fine when he is not drinking alcohol. It is addiction. I sometimes ask him to take him to Tsebel (holy water) and he shouted at me that he is not crazy and won't go there. During the times he didn't drink alcohol, he is normal and behave appropriately"*.

Interviewee 2 also shares the experience as; *"I suppose the source of his problem is that the fact that he is addicted to alcohol, cigarette, khat (addictive plant), and also I suspect he abuses drug too. He doesn't know what he do, he daily try to tear up his own clothes, he always break doors and so many things; and he have been doing this for a long time"*.

According to Interviewee 7 the source of all problems with her son is alcohol addiction. She explains that:

He talks very bad things, which is generally an insult. Every day at night he gets drunk and insults everyone in the neighbourhood in his way to home. But after he gets in to the house, he don't attack or abuse anyone but nag with all of us. And in the morning after he gets better he gets ashamed of what he did while he was drunk. The problem always starts when he gets drunk; otherwise he is so decent and peaceful.

Interviewee 5 like that of the above mentioned parents share that addiction is the source of the abuse; she explained that the alcohol addiction and the abusive behaviours developed recently after he had been fired from university and came to home.

His behaviour changed in the near three/four years. He became alcohol addicted. He started to always drink and disturb us. Now his situation is very dangerous. He drinks and can't come to home and he came with other person's assistance. When he got money he drinks much and smoke cigarette. At the beginning he didn't disturb us when times goes his behaviour changed and started disturbing. We tried to convince him to continue his education and not to feel bad because of his failure at university, but he fails to follow; He got a work with good payment though, he was not able to keep it because he lacks the diligence and punctuality; since he sleeps in the mornings while spending the nights drinking.

Interview 7 remembers the day her son started drinking with grief and regret as follows:

Now it is almost two years. I remember the day that he celebrated Meskel holyday and drink alcohol for the first time; after that day he becomes another person. Since then he becomes abusive, alcohol addict and very nagging. During the times we try to advise or say something to him, he says sorry and apologises. But he doesn't stop the alcohol. He then started chewing 'khat' sometimes. There are I think other things that he consume also which I don't know what they are.

According to interviewee 7, the source of the other forms of addictions she mentioned is his alcohol addiction. She further explains the situation as:

Every day at night he gets drunk and insults everyone in the neighbourhood in his way to home. But after he gets in to the house, he don't attack or abuse anyone but nag with all of us. And in the morning after he gets better he gets ashamed of what he did while he was drunk. The problem always starts when he gets drunk; otherwise he is so decent and peaceful. He used to be a very decent and even a role model for other children in the neighbourhood.

However alcohol is ruining his life and he is not willing to stop it. People used to like him but now everyone is blaming him for his new addiction and the bad behaviour.

Interviewee 8 also shares the experience and stated about his son that: *"The other day he jumps the fence and tries to hit his mother with a stone. And in the morning he went out and came back after abusing a drug being necked and acting like a mentally ill person. Then I arrived when he started fighting with his brother and also attacked me when I try to stop them"*.

4.3.2. Economic Dependency (Unemployment)

Unemployment or economic dependency of a child can give rise to increased risk of CPA and specially gets to the apex if addiction of alcohol and other substances is supplemented in to it. In this research also economic dependency has been cited by the participants as a cause for the abuse or violence. Interviewee 5 explains this issue in relation with her son's condition as follows: *"his behaviour becomes worse when he get fired from work. We made him to train driving car and get a license. But, he couldn't finish the training"*. Supporting this issue interviewee 3 also stated her experience about her 35 years old son that:

After a while he returned home from the military without any physical injury with a severance pay. We advised him to change the money in to a permanent

asset. But he extravagantly spent the money and left empty handed. After that he doesn't have any permanent job. He occasionally engaged in labour otherwise we are fulfilled his day to day demands.

The other important point the participants revealed is that once the children are adapted with the dependent life on their family, they are not willing or they lose the interest of going out and work. They are behaving in this way knowing the fact that the family is not able to sustain itself. Interviewee 4 clearly describe this situation based on his experience as: *"his behaviour is that, he wants everyday to sit in the house watching TV without doing a thing; but if he gets money, he spent every penny of it extravagantly drinking and chewing khat. He wants to just seat and get money. He wants me to give money permanently"*.

Some participants mention that their children are not willing to have a job and lead their life even when they search and get them a job. Interviewee 2 states about her 30 years old son that, *"I found him a job once in a Korean company with a good salary but he leaves that too"*.

In regard to this points interviewee 3's explanation that shows how the level of dependency in combination with addiction is highly contributing for CPA is also presented as follows:

We once expel him from home after a discussion with all our relatives. Then he became a street boy. I was forced to take a food to his place. People come and told me his situation. I took a food for him in the night by hiding in the dark to escape from the blame of the rest of the family. He spends the rest of the day around the village by drinking and smoking. He is changed. I couldn't deal with it. Their father is sick and seeks help. Living is becoming tough. Our pension is so small. It was better if he could help himself and leave alone us.

4.3.3. Past Abusive Experience of Parent

The other interesting issue revealed by the participants of this study is the past experience of witnessing domestic violence by the children as a cause for CPA. Children who have witnessed an abuse or violent behaviour during their early ages by their father are more exposed of holding and expressing that altitude toward the mother and also to the other family members. For example interviewee 7 briefly describes and tried to make sense of her experience as follows:

He (my husband) always used to come home getting drunk. Because of this the children grew up in an uncomfortable manner. The older child gets out of home so early and started his own life because of this situation of their father. Their father always drinks alcohol and disturb us in the night. My children even starting from their early childhood asks for their diner early in the evening and get to sleep not to see their father coming home drunk and act so annoyingly.

Further she make sense of her son's behaviour by suggesting that he has learnt it from witnessing her being a victim of partner violence. She infers that he grasps this behaviour from his deceased father as:

I sometimes think my son learned this behaviour from his father. His father used to behave like this and in the same way. He used to disturb us very badly that even the police were around our house every day. I think he inherited the behaviour from his father. Even every step and actions he is doing now are exactly the same with what his father used to do. This all actions however are not to attack or harm us but just a simple nagging and make us lose our peace.

Similar experience is also discussed by interviewee 5 as follows:

Their father also used to drink alcohol and disturb us the whole night. I was not able to sleep back then. That is why we got divorce. Our family gathered and

after discussing everything, we all agree on the decision of me with my children being separated from him and that he should rent house. He and I always used to fight when he gets home drunk. It is in this situation that our children grow up. They grow in fear and terror when he and I quarrelled. They grow up in this environment. But, I didn't expect my children to become alcoholic and abusive since I raised them that I was suffering in that life for them. I thank God that all of them are good except one.

Same has been experienced by interviewee 9 and she stated her estimation as to the causes of the alcohol addiction and the behaviours comes with it as: *"I don't know for sure. But his father was acting the same. He was alcoholic and drunk every day so that his son follows his footsteps"*.

4.3.4. Peer and Movies Influence

This is the other most common form of cause mentioned by the parents who are experiencing CPA. In similar way as the above ones, the experience of the participants is presented bellow.

Interviewee 4 explained about the peer pressure and his son's condition as: "He was a teenager back then and his friends were not kind of in a good shape. He used to spend much time with them. He goes out of the house saying he is going to school but he was practically not spending the days in school. Because of this he just terminates it".

Interviewee 7 also shares the same experience as follows: *"He drinks alcohol with his friends and he gets drunk... he never been this way his whole life. He refused to go to school without any reason. I also think the environment we live in has a contribution for this. He just watches his friends and the compound children"*.

Interviewees 5 also bitterly explained her son's behaviour as:

All he does is sleeping all the day and comes home drunk at night. He learns this kind of useless life from his friends... Right immediately after he got released from the police station, I know where he goes. He has friends who drunks with him; I don't even know where his group gets the money for drinking.

Interviewee 8 stated about his son that:

His friend who used to be with him and thought him this all bad habits is now a good mannered person while my son is like this. His other friend terminated his school from university and is abusive like him. There are a lot of children in our area who act this way.

In a different way than peer pressure another participant, like interviewee 6 and interviewee 2, revealed that movies that her child grows up watching are the sources of his abusive behaviour. Interviewee 2 briefly described this as follows:

Since he was a little child he used to watch a lot of movies and the movies he used to watch are very abusive and not meant for children. He started imitating the actions and behaviours he watched from the movies. Then he started to fight with the neighbour children, in school and at home with his brothers and sisters too. He considers what he always see on the movies as bravery.

4.4. Effects of Child-Parent Abuse

The major consequences of CPA according to the findings of this study are isolation from the neighbours and from the society/stigma, Physical injuries and Emotional and psychological problems.

4.4.1. Emotional and psychological problems

Participants of the study reported the intense and long lasting impact of CPA is the emotional and psychological problems that it causes. The most significant effects relate to the

shock and disbelief that their own child is using abusive behaviour against them and also depression and sleep problems. Interviewee 6 a 69 years old father described this situation with astonishment and soreness as:

It is because of him that I became diabetic. He makes me cry day and night. I cry for that he disgraced me at my old age, at the age he should have treated me with respect.

Further experiences is drawn that the demeaning reactions from their abusive child and the fear of blame and judgment from others is also putting a big emotional stress and severely affecting the self esteem of the parents. This is explained by interviewee 2 this way:

He complains and tells to people that I ruined his life and his story; he thinks that people hate him because of me; because I reported the abuse to the police... The other day it is the police who came to the house hearing our shoutings and screams while he was shouting and frightening that he will kill me. How can I tell people saying that my child beat me up? It is very embarrassing. I get ashamed of his acts while it was him who should be.

Interviewee 6 further explains the anxiety and traumatic memories that he is dealing with due to the bad treatment from his son in the following way *"Oh! We run and shut our door when he comes. My daughter's children should go to their home at 3p.m in the evening before he comes. If he comes, I would not allow them to go out because he may hurt them"*.

Interviewee 5 also is anxious about the activities of her abusive child and his relationship with his older brother that always makes her lose her sleep. She states that:

I always worry that they may kill each other one day. (With his older brother)..... I worry that if something wrong happens with his elder brother, the

elder loss his temper. No one could sustain us. That mean we all die together...
he don't respect anyone. I always worry that he may conflict with his elder
brother and bad thing may happen. I couldn't sleep.

The parents also describe the psychological problem they are dealing with because of the actions of their abusive child towards the community members. Interviewee 7 is a 49 years old widow mother and explains her experience on this issue as:

I just get ashamed of the neighbourhood and the community people because
he insults everyone while he gets drunk every day.

Interviewee 8 also shares the experience and what his family is suffering form because of his abusive child. He also shares his experience that, *"The insults are not only to the family members but to the neighbours also. He fights with other children. We always come to the police station because of him"*.

In a different way interviewee 10 uttered the bad emotion he is experiencing right now because of the inflicted abuse of his son on him and his family members as:

To tell you the truth, I am starting to thinking of doing something evil before
he kills me or my children. I will kill him and get my family peace. I am 80
years old my years are over therefore nothing will be more important to me
now than leaving my family peaceful life. I wanted to kill him and kill myself
too for the sake of my family. Now, because of him my business is over.
...What can I do when the whole family lose the means of income due to one
child? He destroys our livelihood. He also intermediated to kill his sister who
helps us.

4.4.2. Neglect from their Neighbourhood

Participants of the study reveal that the abuse of their child causes them neglect from people. They have reported that the isolation even is including from their family members and relatives. Interviewee 1 explains the situation in this way: *“Even the police are so tired of us always going to the station every time”*. She also explained the gravity of the consequence saying that she doesn't have anyone who could bury her when she dies in Amharic language as *“አንድ ቀባሪ የለኝም”* and further explained that: *“He insults everyone. I don't have a friend around and in the neighbourhood because of him. He says bad words to everyone, even to the elders”*.

Interviewee 5 explained how CPA isolates her from her family members as follows:

My families used to come to my house and we used to spend most of the night together. We were happy. But, now he scared them too. Then after, they didn't come to my house often. And in case they come they didn't spent the night. They left immediately before he comes.

Interviewee 9 also describes how her abusive child's behaviour affects her social life as follows:

He hits the wall of our neighbours and insults them by calling their name. They also reported the police ...Our neighbours always claim that they lost their peace. They asked us find some kind of solution about him. Nobody wants us among our neighbours because of his character.

4.4.3. Physical injuries and health problems

Participants also reported high level negative effects on their health and wellbeing. Interviewee 5 explained it as *“The doctors told me that your blood condition is abnormal; I became blood pressure patient because of the anger and my brother makes me to get treatment. Now I am officially sick”*.

Interviewee 6 also explains that the physical injury is not limited only to him but also other family members too:

It is because of him that I became diabetic. He makes me cry day and night. I cry for that he disgraced me at my old age, at the age he should have treated me with respect. One day he attempted to beat me and I shouted for help, my daughter's husband tried to defend me but he beat him also. He spits on his other sister's children and husband and finally they stopped to come home.

Interviewee 1, a 57 years old mother, also stated one example of the incident as, "*The other day he choked me on the neck with his hand and it is his sister who saved me by screaming and calling people*". Also interviewee 1 explains her experience of the abuse on the other family members:

His brother is a father of four but he insult him and say him 'who are you to take me to church?' ...he even was trying to stab him with a knife and also try to frighten him''.

4.5 Coping Strategies of Parents in Child-Parent Abuse

Parents who are victims of CPA often suffer a great deal before seeking support. All of the study participants are parents who have reported the abuse to the police; though they all have revealed that it was the last measure they take after trying various methods to avoid the CPA. Among the measures they took before reporting to the police, the major and mostly mentioned by them are tolerance, praying, seeking help from elders, friends and spiritual fathers and finally reporting to police and building cases. They are discussed one by one as follows.

4.5.1 Avoidance

Interviewee 4 explains his experience of taking the abusive behaviour of his son in patience as: "*He says "wait for me and I will kill you", and he sometimes he throws things.*

This time, I keep silent. Because since I am diabetic, I need silence and I don't want to be angry. If I speak to him, I may pass annoying moments. I don't want to answer to him when he speaks".

Interviewee 8 also added:

I reserve myself from doing anything. He argues and nags with his mother and siblings. I patiently pass his every bad move. But I report to the police when it gets worse; because I don't want him to teach his bad habits to his little brother and sister.

Interviewee 6 also narrates his method of coping with the abuse with tolerance and self defence as follows:

I shut the doors and when he comes in the night, I would try to defend myself by either a hoe or a knife. The moment he begins to talk, I run and close the door and I will order my servant to do the same.

Interviewee 7 added the same experience as: *"when he came home drunk in the middle of the night, we try to sleep before he enters because he will start to say something".*

4.5.2. Using Spiritual Practices

Participants have reported that they have been going and also trying to take the abusive child to churches; and they express their grievances to God. Interviewee 1 explains this as:

I always pray to God that to make him stop drinking alcohol; I pray that he make his drink sour. I go to church and cry every time. His brother cover my cost and I went to Gihen Mariam Churech and also to Axum Tsion and cry that God to lead this child to the correct way. It is only God who can change his life.

Interviewee 3 also added: *"I went to church and also take him with me when he is agreed. I took him church and I prayed for him. I tried to baptise him through holy water. But he is always disagreeing. When I tried to convince him he objected me with no reason"*.

Interviewee 6 also explains his method as:

I did not take him to a professional consultant or adviser. He is not willing because he thinks he is absolutely normal. When I took him to the holy water, the people there advised me that my son was definitely normal and has no any problem.

Similar experience is also mentioned by interviewees 8 that, *"according to our religion we try to take him to church and pray, arrange him to join in different religious clubs in the church"*.

4.5.3. Seeking Help from Elders, Friends and Spiritual Fathers

Participants recognize that asking friends, family members and spiritual fathers for help and telling their experience with their abusive child as one method of coping with the problem. Interviewee 1 explained, *"I try to stop him by advising. During the time he smashed the computer; I assemble elders and make them give him an advice"*.

Interviewee 6 also shares his experience that *"I told to three of his colleagues but they tried to tell him and they finally said that he would not listen to their advices and one of them told me to use legal mechanisms to force him leave the house"*. Interviewee 6 added:

I called priests and begged them to advice my son but he insulted and disgraced them. They said that he is not a kind of person who knows what he is doing could not be advised. He does not speak totally when they try to talk to him. But finally he ordered them to leave the house.

Interviewee 8 also expressed his method that, *“he is afraid of no one. He doesn’t listen to all of us. It is evil spirit. I even try the police commanders who I know personally to try to advise him before I file the accusation, but he is impossible”*.

Interviewee 9 also mentions that, *“I asked his friends and my families to advise him. Even if it is the first time to come to the court, I applied many times to the police station. We closed our cases by negotiation. But now he is becoming beyond my control”*.

4.5.4. Reporting to Police and building cases

As discussed above the participants have suffered a great deal before seeking support and report the abuse to the police. Interviewee 8 shares his experience that *“I tried everything; I even have used a physical harm on him to correct his ways. I try to send him out of Addis to Asosa to work and shape his life. I have a car there but it was impossible to lead him again”*.

Interviewee 4 also added that he tried to seek for help from other bodies before appealing to the police. He describes this as:

In 2003 E.C, I applied to the Kebele to advice him for me, to tell him to work because he has the profession. But he was so mad at me that I told that to people. He broke all of my things in the house including my TV. Then I sued him to the police Station. The police collected my witness evidences and subpoena him. But he disappeared for a year. He went to the regions.

Interviewee 6 also shares his experience that *“I told to three of his colleagues but said that he would not listen to their advices and one of them told me to use legal mechanisms to force him leave the house”*.

Interviewee 7 explains that she reported to the police when the abuse gets worse: *“this is our first time to report to the police. Previously I tried to use different techniques like getting in the middle when he started to argue with his sisters and trying to make him sleep. And I drag him home at night when he disturbs the compound. But this time, his behaviour gets worse and becomes beyond my capacity”*.

The failure to seek help from others and to immediately report to the police is often linked to feelings failure in the parenting role and shame and stigma of having an abusive child. Interviewee 2 explains the situation as follows:

How can I tell people saying that my child beat me up? It is very embarrassing. I get ashamed of his acts while he is not. He complains and tells to people that I ruined his life and his story; he thinks that people hate him because of me because I reported the abuse to the police.

And the other issue raised by the parents in relation to reporting CPA to the police is that, once they have make the report most of them gets in to a dilemma of getting their child in prison and some withdraw the claim right after a short while. Though they also make the report while can't resist the abuse again. Interviewee 5 tries to make an explanation that:

We withdraw one or two criminal proceedings by solving the problem through negotiations. We advice him many times but he didn't change his behaviour. We made accusations to police many times. I want his rehabilitation, nothing more. Now his situation is very dangerous. When he disturbs me I always shout and my neighbours assist me to bring him to police. My intention is not revenge. I believe that in times when he is under arrest he will not have access for drink. At this time he may get back to his soul and change his behavior.

Interviewee 8 also added:

He have 6 records in this police station, we reported 6 times and had appeared before the court 3 times; while withdrawing our claim the other times thinking that he has approved his behaviour.

Interviewee 5 also tried to reason out the condition as: *"I complain for five or six times to police. I also withdraw my court proceeding held at federal first instant court, menagesha bench. It was one year ago. I treat him and advice him many times after that though not able to be successful"*.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION

In line with the research objectives and the research questions, as mentioned in the methodology section, by employing qualitative data sources this study explores the phenomenon of parents who are experiencing an abuse by their own children based on the meaning the parents themselves gave to the event. Accordingly, ten parents were included in the study.

This section like that of the way the findings are presented above, will also starts with a little highlight on the demographic information of the study participants and a discussion based on the order of the research objectives focusing on the major issues which were mainly and repeatedly pointed out by the participants.

Most literatures focus and find out that mothers are more susceptible to CPA. For example, the studies of Cotrell, 2001 and Evans & Warren-Sohlberg, 1988 can be mentioned. However, according to the findings of this study, fathers are almost equally susceptible to CPA. Four out of the ten participants are fathers who are victims of the same. The forms of abuse are also similar.

But regarding the sex of the abusive children, the study participants reveal that all of them have been and are being abused by their sons. None of the ten participants have experienced any kind of abuse from their daughters. Studies also revealed that boys are two or three times more likely to be violent to parents than are girls (Gallagher, 2008). Literatures, Bobic, 2004; Cornell & Gelles, 1981; Cottrell & Monk, 2004; Evans & Warren-Sohlberg, 1988, found out that, the majority of violence is perpetrated against mothers, mostly by male adolescents, and abuse against fathers is usually by sons. However the age of the abusive children in this study is 21 – 38 years old; in which most of them (around 8) are above 30 years old.

The findings also reveal, as a common characteristic for all, that almost all forms of abuse which are done on the parent are also perpetrated on other family members targeting to annoy the former. These actions also include breaking and throwing materials or goods to disappoint or irritate the parent. A study by Holt (2011) also supports this finding that, in order to create the fear, intimidation and control over the parent, children use indirect actions like throwing things, slamming doors, hurting the other family members and siblings, so on. Violence was also directed onto objects: furniture was smashed, ornaments were thrown and doors were kicked in (Holt, 2011).

Nature of Child- Parent Abuse

The first question of the study is about natures of CPA. Accordingly, study participants have revealed that the major forms of abuse which are perpetrated by children on their parents are verbal abuse; physical abuse; and financial and material exploitations.

Consistent with the literatures (Patuleia, Alberto & Pereira, 2013) verbal abuse, especially insults and intimidation to harm, were the most frequent forms of abuse experienced by parents in this study. In the literatures there are ranges of behaviors that can constitute verbal abuse like intimidating the parent and making them fearful as psychological abuse; and maliciously playing mind games, trying to make the parents think he or she is crazy; lying; making manipulative threats, such as threatening to run away, commit suicide or otherwise hurt themselves without really intending to do so; and controlling the running of the household (Holt, 2011). But the finding in this study is different on the data that trying the parent think he or she is crazy, threatening to run away and commit suicide or otherwise hurt themselves without really intending to do so were not exhibited in the findings.

While discussing about their experience of the abuses by their own offspring, the parent's emotional pain was clearly seen from their face during the interview. Besides the direct verbal abuse from their children, the blame from them that they claim they ruined their

life and the fear of judgment from others is also putting a big emotional stress and severely affecting the psychology of the participants/parents.

The second most mentioned nature of abuse according to the finding is financial and material exploitation. Similar to that of literatures like Cottrell (2001), except incurring debts the parents must cover, financial and material abuse in this study includes stealing money or parents' belongings, selling possessions of theirs or their parents', destroying the home or parents' belongings (in one case trying to burn with a fire); and demanding parents buy things they don't feel they can afford.

Except in the case of two participants, stealing money or parents' belongings, selling possessions of theirs or their parents' is experienced by all. It also includes doing the same to their siblings' belongings and including home-made's properties too. In addition, three out of ten parents have also revealed that they are financially abused in a way that the children intentionally demanding things that are beyond the economic capacity of the parents. They intentionally ask knowing that the parent cannot afford to fulfil.

The third major form of CPA is physical abuse. Participants mentioned serious incident from choking to the use of weapons resulting grave bodily injuries. The nature of the physical abuse they face according to the finding indicates: chocking, throwing of things, punching walls or doors, stabbing, straggling, blocking a door way, hitting and threatening with weapons.

The physical abuse, like that of the other forms of abuse, is also inflicted on other members of the family including neighbours and friends in two cases. In which this directly or indirectly have an impact on the parents. Like that of other studies of for example, Gallagher (2004), very grave or serious physical injury on parents by children has been rare in this study. But it has been occurred on other family members especially on siblings in two cases.

Causes of Child-Parent Abuse

The most repeatedly mentioned reasons for CPA based on the experience of the parents are identified and categorized in to: addiction (of alcohol and khat including substance abuse); economic dependency or unemployment of the abusive child; past abusive experience of the parent; and negative peer and movie influence.

Supporting the study of Gallagher (2004); and Horsburgh (2012) and contradicting the finding of Walsh & Krienert (2007), this study found out that, chewing khat, excessive alcohol consumption and drug abuse are the major cause of CPA. All of the study participants except one revealed that their children's addiction to alcohol and other stimulants especially khat is the main cause of disagreement and quarrels in their home which leads to the abuse. Some even mentioned that the abusive child starts behaving that way only in case of consumption of the addictive substances.

Past abusive experience of the parent is also another cause of CPA revealed by this study. It supports the findings in literatures of Clement (2014); Cottrell (2001); Gallagher (2004); and Holt & Retford (2013). Children who have witnessed an abuse or violent behavior during their early ages by their father are more exposed of holding and expressing that attitude toward the mother and also to the other family members.

According to the social learning theory, behavior is acquired by witnessing how the actions of others are reinforced (Bandura, 1973). Children who witness violence between parents, adult partners or extended family may learn that abusive behavior is an acceptable way of resolving conflict and appropriate behavior used to achieve one's aims (Horsburgh, 2014). In this study also, four participants shared their experience of past domestic violence by their partners and the witnessing of that scenario by the children as a cause for the current abusive behavior of the child.

A study supporting the social learning theory by Cottrell and Monk in 2004 found out that, male youth were influenced by social messages that promote the idea that it is acceptable to control and victimize women, including their mothers (Cottrell & Monk, 2004). In this study too peer and movie influence is the other cause of CPA raised by the participants.

Literatures like Agnew & Huguley (1989) cited in Horsburgh (2012); and Horsburgh (2012) itself, find out that, children who are perpetrators of CPA are more likely to become close with other peers who display violent behavior and share the behavior. However, unlike that, the study participants mention the influence in a way of not sharing abusive behavior but other forms of behaviors which causes the abuse like driving them in to addiction. In relation to this, two participants have expressed that the expansion of anti social norms in their community is highly contributing for the abusive behavior of their children. They explained the living environment as child unfriendly that alcohol and addictive substances like khat are easily assessable to all without any kind of limitations and control.

And like that of the above mentioned studies, Horsburgh (2012) has also recognized negative movie influence as a cause of CPA. This study also has identified the same. Especially one of the participants has firmly raised it as a major cause of the abusive behavior of the child. It was expressed by watching movies which negatively shape the behavior of the children.

Regarding other causes, some studies like Gallager (2004) and Cottrell and Monk (2004), conclude that socio economic status is the main cause of CPA. While Gallager (2004) in his study argues that parent abuse by their children may occurs in middle and upper class families but stressed that low socio economic status as a risk factor of CPA. However, contrary to that of the literatures socio economic status of the family is not a major cause for CPA according to the findings of this study. It is inferred from the interview with study

participants that, even in those families with low income protect and respect the abusive Childs' needs. The parents used their highest potential to raise the child in a conferrable life no matter the degree differs. However it can be discussed in relation to this that, the children's desire of dependency on the family has been raised as a major source of CPA in this study. Four out of ten parents have revealed that their abusive child is not willing to go out and work while even they have arranged them the chance to have a job.

Parenting Style was raised by literatures, Cottrell (2001); Gallagher (2004) and Kennair and Mellor (2007) as the other cause of CPA. However, it was not able to be identified as one through the discussion with the participants. Therefore, it requires following other forms of methods and further study to find out the issue.

Effect of Child-Parent Abuse on the Parent

The data collected for this particular study shows that CPA has an impact on the life of the participants and also on the children who are perpetrators of CPA. Though since the scope of this study is limited to the experience of the victims or the parents only, the issue mentioned can be another area which needs deep study. The major consequences of CPA according to the findings of this study are isolation from the neighbours and from the society, physical injuries and emotional and psychological problems.

Like that of other studies (Bobic, 2004; and Haw, 2010), social isolation or isolation from their neighbourhood/stigma and neglect are identified by this study as consequences of CPA. These actions are taken on parents due to the actions of the abusive children on them and in some cases on the people outside the family. In fear of the abusive child's neighbour the community members isolate the parent from any close relationships.

Due to this fact and effects related with the shock and disbelief that their own child is using violence against them, participants have reported the intense and long lasting impact of CPA on their emotional and psychological health too. The depression the participants are

being experiencing was easily observed during the process. Sleeping problems in relation to this topic has been also raised repeatedly by them as an effect of the phenomena (Cottrell, 2001; Holt, 2013).

Not only on the parent, but mostly also on other family members especially siblings, physical injuries are explored as an effect of CPA. This is done by the child, as it is discussed above, in order to annoy and create irritations on the targeted parent.

Coping Strategies of Parents in Child-Parent Abuse

Parents' response to CPA is often limited by the options available to them. All the participants of the study have suffered a great deal before seeking support. All of them are parents who have reported the abuse to the police; though they all have revealed that it was the last measure they take after trying various methods to avoid the problem. Among the major measures they took before reporting to the police and the most mentioned coping methods taken by them, tolerance for a long time, praying or express their grievances to God, and asking for help from extended family, friends and spiritual fathers are the majors. They have reported that they tried measures they found available around them hoping that their abusive child will be changed and stop the abuse. None of them except one parent, who took the child to a mental hospital, had tried to council or consults a professional on the problem.

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION FOR SOCIAL WORK

6.1. Conclusion

This research has explored the experiences and challenges of parents who are victims of an abuse by their own children. As it is outlined in the methodology section, it has four major research questions which guide to explore the phenomenon in detail which are exploring the nature, cause and effects of CPA based on the actual experience of the parents. To this result, qualitative data was collected through interview from purposively selected parents in Gulele sub city of Addis Ababa.

It was identified that verbal abuse (constant insults; humiliation and demeaning reactions; and threatening to harm them and other family members), physical abuse (serious incident from choking to graver bodily injury), and financial or material exploitations (stealing money or parents' belongings, Selling possessions of theirs or their parents', destroying the home or parents' belongings; and demanding parents buy things they don't feel they can afford) are the major forms of CPA.

The major causes of CPA according to this study are the children's addiction (of alcohol and khat; and in some cases substance abuse); economic dependency or unemployment of the abusive child, past abusive experience of the parent, and negative peer and movie influence.

Due to CPA parents expressed that they are facing isolation from the neighbours and from the society, suffering from physical injuries and emotional and psychological problems. And parents according to this study have suffered a great deal because of CPA before seeking support. They took reporting the abuse to the police as a last resort after trying to cope with the situation with tolerance for long time, praying, and asking support from extended family

members, friends and spiritual fathers. In addition, though not a major point of the study, this research also revealed that, not only mothers but also fathers are almost equally susceptible to CPA and sons or male children are the major perpetrators of CPA.

Generally, based on the qualitative method of study, the data gathered and analysed shows that there is high prevalence of CPA which is incomparable to the attention it is given. Therefore it is essential to give the due concern and create awareness to solve the problem. Because like that of other types of abuse in the family, Child-Parent abuse is a very complex area as the act is a sign of a number of interpersonal situations with very different meanings, causes, outcomes, seriousness and implications for practice; and due to the negative effect it creates within a single family and the society in large.

6.2. Implications for Social Work

The above presented findings and discussions have many implications for future research, social work practice, and policy formulation.

Implications for future research

Despite the little attention given and almost no research on the subject has been conducted, CPA is now becoming a major societal problem. Therefore social workers with their skills of social work research can carry out further relevant studies which at least can create awareness to concerned bodies and thereby can bring a solution to the victims of the problem; and in advance to solve it from its root. Further researches should focus both on the perpetrators and victims in studying CPA; and what interventions should be taken before or after families experiencing the problem.

Implications for Social Work Practice

Beginning to all, social workers recognition that there are families who are suffering and seeking for appropriate help to solve CPA and understand that it has a long term crises is

crucial. To bring this end, as stated above, it is necessity to conduct a detailed and qualified study on the issue and should be equipped with adequate knowledge and apply integrated practice to help the victims of CPA.

Social workers and other professionals should generally aware that, working with the family as a whole is an effective way of addressing CPA. And an intervention to bring the already involved families in to the problem is important. To bring so, social workers should systematically link and work with various organizations like the police, religious institutions and the media to help the victims of CPA.

According to the findings of this study, one of the major causes of CPA is the engagement of children in addiction of substances and stimulants. In this regard, social workers are expected to create awareness about the root causes of the problem to the society and government bodies in order for the government take strict measures on the area. And since it is not the responsibility of the government organs only, but mainly of the society too, the awareness should also be created to the society in taking the responsibility to create productive citizens by saving the children from getting involved in such behavior.

Again, negative peer and movie influence are the other cause of CPA as it is discussed in the findings. Accordingly, social workers in this regard are expected to work on the education policies and cooperate with schools in building children with good character. Because, schools are the appropriate places where it is easily accessible to contact children and give various educations and trainings that can enable to create productive citizens.

Finally, to alleviate CPA from its root, the role of religious organizations is vital in our society because religion and religious practices are given higher values. These institutions also have a great value in positively shaping the behaviour of children as well as in counselling the parents as it is discussed in the findings that parents use them as one coping

mechanism. Therefore social workers need to have a link of working with them and help the victims using their professional skills to alleviate the problem of CPA from its root.

Implications for policy formulation

With respect to the policy formulation implications, based on the findings of this particular study, the only institutional remedy given to the parents is legal sanctions and punishment to the children from the police. Parents report the problem to the police as a last resort of solving it. In some cases, this arrest or temporary removal may be the appropriate response. But in most, this really does not give a relief to the parents especially since the children in most cases return back to them and inflict an abuse of graver level. It has to be also understandable that parents do not want to end their relationship with their children but rather to end the abuse. They do not want a prosecution or criminal action to be taken on their children rather they are in need of someone in authority to speak with the child.

Though this is the experience, the police are often engaged in punishment. So regardless of their need to report, parents go to this institution since there is limited access and availability of any other professional services given to solve such kind of issues. And even if there are services, there is lack of knowledge and information about them and the services they give. For example mental or other health hospitals are viewed by the society and are also serving to those people with graver health condition.

Therefore it is important to have specific policy and legal formulations to solve this kind of cases. The government and other concerned bodies in addition to police actions need to consider the establishment and expansion of social affairs counselling services. Professional measures including but not limited to medical/psychiatric supports should be included and formulated in prevention of CPA. And the legal actors, specifically the police, should also be aware of considering the abusive children's complex needs and trying of taking other measures of solving the issue before punishment. Because, when these types of

family disagreements and conflicts rise to a graver level and are intended towards hurting one another, it can lead to an appalling problem which requires attention before it gradually opens a way to dysfunctional social structure.

Reference

- Agnew, R. & Huguley, S. (1989). *Adolescent violence toward parents. Journal of Marriage and the Family*. Vol. 51(3), 699–711.
- Amir, B. (2004). *Qualitative Research in Sociology*. Sage publications
- Ashleigh L Haw.2014. Adolescent Violence towards Parents in New South Wales: *The Challenges and Perspectives of Secondary Education Professionals*. The University of Sydney press
- Bandura, A. (1973). *Aggression: A social learning analysis*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ:Prentice-Hall.
- Bobic, N. (2004). *Adolescent Violence towards Parents*. Rosemount Youth & Family Services. Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse.
- Browne, K.D. & Hamilton, C.E. (1998). *Physical violence between young adults and their parents: associations with a history of child maltreatment*. *Journal of Family Violence*, 13, 59–79.
- Clement, S. (2014). *Parental Abuse: available remedies and interventions for victims in the Netherlands*. Tilburg University, Netherlands. July 3, 2014.
- Cornell, C. P., & Gelles, R.J. (1982). Adolescent to parent violence. *Urban and Social Change Review*, 15, 8-14. Retrieved from http://www.researchgate.net/journal/0042-0832_The_Urban_social_change_review
- Correll, R. (2014). *Long-Term Effects of the Step-Up Program on Parent Participants*. University of Washington.2014.
- Cottrell, B. (2001). *Parent abuse: The abuse of parents by their teenage children*. Ottawa, ON, Canada: Health Canada.

- Cottrell, B. (2003). Parent abuse: The abuse of parents by their teenage children: Overview paper. Ottawa, Canada: Health Canada, Family Violence Prevention Unit. Accessed at December 2, 2015 available at http://www.canadiancrc.com/PDFs/Parent_AbuseAbuse_of_Parents_by_Their_Teenage_Children_2001.pdf
- Cotterel, B. and P. Monk (2004). "Adolescent-to-parent abuse: A qualitative overview of common themes." *J. of Family Issues* **25**(8)
- Creswell, W. (2014). *Research design: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* / John W. Creswell. — 4th Ed.
- Envision counselling and support center INC. (2014). Accessed on November 2, 2015 available at http://www.envisioncounsellingcentre.com/resources/parent_abuse.html
- Evans, D. & Warren-Sohlberg, L. (1988). *A Pattern Analysis of Adolescent Abusive Behaviour toward Parents. Journal of adolescent research*. University of Washington College of Education.
- Gallagher, E. (2004). *Parents Victimized by their Children*. Australian & N.Z.J of Family Therapy. Vol., 1-12.
- Gallagher, E. (2008). *Children's Violence to Parents: A Critical Literature Review*. Monash University
- Holt, A. (2009). *Parent abuse: Some reflections on the adequacy of a youth justice response. Internet Journal of Criminology*. University of Portsmouth, Ravelin House, Museum Road, Portsmouth PO1 2QQ,UK
- Holt, A. (2011). *The terrorist in my home: Teenagers Violence towards Parents- constrictions of parent experiences in public online messages boards*. *Child and family social work*, 16(4), 454-463.

Running Head: An Exploratory Study on Child- Parent Abuse

- Holt, A. (2013). *Adolescent-to- parent abuse: current understanding in research, policy and practice*. Bristol, Great Britain: The Policy Press.
- Holt, A. and Retford, S. (2013). *Practitioner accounts of responding to parent abuse – a case study in ad hoc delivery, perverse outcomes and a policy silence*. *Child & Family Social Work*, 18: 365–374.
- Horsburgh, A. (2012). *Adolescent Violence in the Home*. A Scoping Study and Mapping of Victorian Services.
- Howard, J. (2011). *Adolescent Violence in the Home –The Missing Link in Family Violence Prevention and Response*. Peninsula Health Drug and Alcohol Program & Youth Service
- Kennair, N. & Mellor, D. (2007). *Parent abuse: A review*. *Child Psychology and Human Development*. 38, 203-219.
- Lester, S. (1999). *An introduction to phenomenological research*. Stan Lester Developments. Accessed at January 16, 2016 available at <http://www.s.lester@devmts.co.uk>
- Marin, L. (2014). *The dark side of parenting: the victim experience of parent abuse*. Massey University, New Zealand.
- Marin, B. (2010). *Parent Abused by Teens*. 26 May 2012.
- National Association of Social Workers (1999). *Code of Ethics of the national Association of social workers*. Washington, DC. NASW press.
- Neuman, W.L (2014). *Social Work Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Applications*. Seventh edition. Edinburgh Gate: Pearson Education, Inc
- Parentline Plus (2010). *When Family Life Hurts: Family Experience of Aggression in Children*. Parentline Plus. Accessed on November 19,2015 available at <http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk/default.aspx?page=articles&module=articles> --

- Patuleia, N., Alberto, I. & Pereira, R. (2013). *(De) constructing Child-to-Parent Violence- Therapeutic Intervention in Child-to-Parent Violence, featuring an Adolescent in Institutional care*. Évora, Portugal. Volume 15
- Paterson, R., & Luntz, H. (2002). *Adolescent violence towards parents: maintaining family connections when the going gets tough*. A. & N.Z. J. of Family Therapy.
- Patton, M. (1990). *Qualitative evaluation and research methods*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage. 169-186
- Pietkiewics, I. & Smith, J.A. (2012). *A practical guide to using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis in qualitative research psychology*. Psychological Journal, 20, 1, 2014, 7-14
- Robinson, W., Davidson, J. & Drebot, E. (2004). *Parent Abuse on the Rise: A Historical Review* in the American Association of Behavioural Social Science Online Journal Brigham Young University
- Routt, G. & Anderson, L. (2011). *Adolescent Violence towards Parents*. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*. volume 20:1-19, 2011. King County Superior Court, Seattle, Washington, USA.
- Samson Chane Kassa (2014). *Domestic Elder Abuse: A Phenomenological Study of the Lived Experiences of Abused Elders in Dangila Town Administration, Ethiopia*. School of Social Work, Addis Ababa University. June, 2014
- Strasburg, P. A. (1978). *Violent delinquents*. New York: Monarch Books.
- Ulman, A. & Straus, M. (2003). *Violence by children against mothers in relation to violence between parents and corporal punishment by parents*. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*. Vol. 34(1): 41-60.

Walsh, J A & Krienert, J L (2007). *Child-Parent Violence: An Empirical Analysis of Offender, Victim and Event Characteristics in a National Sample of Reported Incidents*.
Journal of Family Violence. Vol. 22: 563-574.

World Health Organization (2000). *What about boys? : A Literature Review on the Health and Development of Adolescent Boys*. Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development. WHO, 2000.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Introduction and Consent Statements for Interview Participants

Addis Ababa University

School of Social Work

Code

Date of Interview

Introduction and Consent Statements

I am Helen Tesfaye, and a student of Master of Social Work in the School of Social Work, Addis Ababa University. Currently, I am conducting a research in partial fulfilment of the degree of Masters of Social Work with the title "*Exploratory Study on the Nature, Cause and Effect of an Abuse on Parents by their own Children in Gulele Sub-city*".

For this study, I propose you as a source of information and it is your cooperation that helps the researcher to accomplish the research objectives. So, I am kindly requesting you to share your experience and perception.

In the course of your participation I want to assured you that, the information you will share, will be kept confidential and will be used only for educational purpose. Nothing has the objective beyond this and the data is fully confidential for the purpose of this thesis only. You have also the right to refuse or not to answer any question, and also quit; if you feel discomfort with the questions. If you are willing to participate in this research, the information you will provide will be recorded by code with. And the finding of this study will be presented and reported to the school of social work, Addis Ababa University.

Thank you very much for your participation!!

Appendix B: Structured Interview Questions/ Interview Guide for the Participants of the Study

1. What is your name? Sex? Age? Educational background? Occupation?
2. What is the structure of your family?
 - The number of your house holds?
 - Marital status?
 - How many children do you have?
 - What is the gender and age of each member of the family?
 - What is their economical and academics status?
3. Who is the abusive child? /you do not have to tell their name if you do not want to/.
You can just use the gender and age.
4. At what age did this child begin to be abusive? / real or estimated age/
5. At what age did the abusive behaviour peak?
6. What forms of abuse did he/she use? (Probing questions will be used to hear the views of the victim on their experiences of being yelled at, verbally threatened, humiliated, insulted, harassed, physical injury, financial or property abuse, etc).
7. On what kind of conditions or situations does the abuse started? Do you think there is a reason as to why your child begins to behave like this in the first place? (mental health issue, substance use, peer pressure, ...)
8. Do you think there's anything about your specific situation or your family's characteristics that created this? What family issue do you think motivate the child to be abusive?
9. Is the abuse only towards you? What about other family members?
10. Please describe any specific occasions of events? What is the frequency of this situation?

11. Are there conditions when the abuse stopped? If yes, How and when?
12. Has the abuse changed your view towards your child or the kind of parent you are?
13. Please explain to me your current feeling towards the abusive child and how it makes you feel? (some people say they have a hard time between the loving and caring for the child and struggling with the abuse)
14. How do you think this abuse affects you? (Economically, socially, psychologically...)
 - considering the impact of the abuse on self/others
 - Impact on relationship with the child
 - Impact on relationships with other family members
 - Impact on social life
 - The ways others have been affected by the child's behaviour
15. What happens when your child acts this way? How do you respond? How does the situation end? Are there any safety issues?
16. What do you do to control your feeling? (Associated thoughts, feelings, behaviours)
17. Do you think the measures you have taken changed the condition? Or was effective?
18. How do the other family members react towards the abuse?
19. How do people around you react? Neighbours, extended family members, friends, ...
20. At what stage do you sought for help? How and why?
21. And have you previously sought for help? (Factors that influence disclosure and Factors that influence help-seeking)
22. If there is anything else you think is important for me to know about your experience/ anything you want to conclude?

Appendix C: Introduction and Consent Statements (Amharic)

መረጃ መሰብሰቢያ ቅጽ

የአዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ
ማህበራዊ ሳይንስ ኮሌጅ
ሶሻል ወርክ ትምህርት ቤት

ቀን

መለያ ቁጥር

መግቢያ እና የስምምነት አንቀጽ

ሔለን ተስፋዬ እባላለሁ። እኔ በአዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ሶሻል ወርክ ትምህርት ክፍል የድረ-ምረቃ ተማሪ ስሆን፤ በአሁኑ ሰዓት በልጆቻቸው የተለያዩ ጥቃት በደረሰባቸው ወላጆች ላይ በማተኮር፤ በወላጆች ላይ የሚፈጽሙት ጥቃት አይነቶች ፤ምክንያት፤ እና የሚያስከትለው ውጤት በሚል ርዕስ በጉለሌ ክፍለ ከተማ ላይ ጥናት ለማድረግ ስለፈለኩኝ የእናንተ ቀና ትብብር ለዚህ ጥናት ዓላማ ስኬት ዋና ስለሆነ ያላችሁን ልምድና እውቀት እንድታከፍሉኝ ስል በትህትና እጠይቃለሁ።

ይህን መጠይቅ በምናደርግበት ጊዜ ማንኛውም ሰው ለዚህ ጥናት የሚሰጠው መረጃ ለዚህ ጥናት ለገልግሎት ብቻ የሚውል ነው። በተነሱት ጥያቄዎች ላይ መልስ ያለመስጠት፤ በመሀል ቋርጦ የመሄድ (የማቆም) ወይም እስከ ጥናቱ መጨረሻ ያለመቆየት መብታችሁ እንደተጠበቁ ሆነው ከእናንተ ያገኘኋቸውን መረጃዎች ለሌላ ሰነተኛ ወገን ተላልፈው የማይሰጡ ስለመሆኑ እንዲሁም ማንኛውንም ሚስጢር በታማኝነት ለመጠበቅ ቃል መግባቴን ጭምር አሳውቃለሁ። ስለዚህ እናንተ በዚህ ጥናት ለመሳተፍ ፍቃደኛ ከሆናችሁ የምትሰጡኝን መረጃ በልዩ መለያ(ኮድ) በመመዘገብ የማቀምጥ መሆኑን እገልጻለሁ። በመጨረሻም የዚህ ጥናት ውጤት ለአዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ሶሻል ወርክ ትምህርት ክፍል የሚቀርብ ና ሪፖርት የሚደረግ መሆኑን እገልጻለሁ። ለመሳተፍ በመወሰንዎ በቅድሚያ አመሰግናለሁ!

Appendix D: Structured Interview Questions/ Interview Guide for the Participants of the Study (Amharic)

ቃለ መጠይቅ ጥያቄዎች

ግላዊ መረጃ: ስም?; ስጦታ?; ዕድሜ? የትምህርት ደረጃ? እና ስራ?

1. የቤተሰብ በአጠቃላይ ሁኔታ ምን ይመስላል?
(ስንት የቤተሰብ አካባቢ አለው? የጋብቻ ሁኔታ የቤተሰብ አባላት እድሜ እና ስጦታ የቤተሰብ አባላት የስራ እና የትምህርት ሁኔታ፤
2. ጉዳት (ጥቃት) እየደረሰ ያለው ልጅ ስጦታ እድሜ እና የትምህርት ሁኔታ
3. ከመቼ ጀምሮ እርሶ ላይ ጉዳት ማድረስ ጀመረ? ከየትኛው እድሜ ጀምሮ? (ትክክለኛውን እድሜ ካለወቁ በግምት ሊነግሩኝ ይችላሉ)
4. በየትኛው እድሜ ይህ ጉዳት ማድረስ ባህሪው ከፍተኛ ደረጃ ላይ ደረሰ?
5. ምን ምን አይነት ጉዳቶችን ወይም ጥቃቶችን ይፈፀማል? በቃል የሚፈፀም ስድብ ዛቻ እና ማስፈራራት ፣ ቀላልም ሆነ ከባድ የአካል ጉዳቶች፣ ንብረት ላይ የሚፈፀሙ ጉዳቶች ማለት መሰበር እና ከጥቅም ውጪ ማድረግ ፣ ስርቆት እና የመሳሰሉት
6. በምን አይነት ሁኔታዎች ወይም ምክንያቶች ጥቃቶችን ወይም ጉዳትን መፈፀም ይጀምራል? ይህን ባህሪ ለማሳየት ልዩ የሆነ ምክንያት አለው ብለው ያስባሉ? (እንጅ የመጠጥ ችግር፣ አደንዛዥ ዕድገት መጠቀም፣ የጓደኛ ተፅዕኖ፣ የመሳሰሉት)
7. ጉዳቱ ወይም ጥቃቱ በእርሶ ላይ ብቻ ነው የሚፈፀመው? ካልሆነ በእነማን ላይ? ምንምን አይነት?
8. ከቤተሰባችሁ ሁኔታ ጋር በተያያዘ ይህን የተለየ ባህሪ ልጁ እንዲያሳይ ምክንያት የሚሆን ጉዳይ አለብለው ያስባሉ? ይህን ባህሪ እንዲያሳይ ምክንያት የሆነው ሰው አለ ብለው ያስባሉ?
9. ልጅ ጉዳት የሚደርሰው እርሶ ላይ ብቻ ነው? እስኪ የሚያስታውሱት ልዩ የሆነ የተፈፀመ ጉዳት ወይም ጥቃት ካለ ይግለፁልን
10. ይህ ጉዳት የማድረስ ባህሪ የተቋረጠባቸው ጊዜያት አሉ? አዎ ከሆነ መቼ እና እንዴት?
11. የልጅ ባህሪ ለልጁ ያሉትን አመለካከት ወይም የእርሶ የወላጅነት ሁኔታ ላይ ያሉትን አመለካከት ቀይሮታል?
12. ይህ በልጅ የሚደርስበት ጉዳት ወይም ጥቃት ምን አይነት ችግር አስከትሎታል? (በእርሶ ላይ ፣ ከልጅ ጋር ባለዎት ግንኙነት፣ በማህበራዊ ህይወትም ላይ፣ በሌሎች የቤተሰብ አባላት ላይ፣...)
13. ልጅዎ ጉዳትን ወይም ጥቃትን መፈፀም ሲጀምር ምን አይነት እርምጃዎችን ይወስዳሉ? ምን አይነት ምላሽ ይሰጣሉ?

14. በዚህ ሁኔታ ላይ የሚፈጠረውን መረበሽ ለመቆጣጠር ወይም ለማስቀረት ምን ያደርጋሉ?
15. ሌሎች የቤተሰቡ አባላት ስለጉዳዩ ምን ይላሉ? ምን አይነት እርምጃ ስ ይወስዳሉ?
16. ጉዳዩ ወይም ጥቃቱ ምን ደረጃ ላይ ሲደርስ እርዳታ መጠየቅ ጀመሩ?
17. ከዚህ በፊትስ እርዳታ ጠይቀው አያውቁም? አዎ ከሆነ ለምን ?
18. ጉዳዩን ለማቆም ወይም ለማስቀረት የወሰዱቸው እርምጃዎች ጥሩ መፍትሄ ሆነው አግኝተዋቸዋል? እንዴት? ለምን?
19. ሌላ መጨመር አለበት ብለው የሚያስቡት ነገር ካለ?

Appendix E Table: Summery Profile of Research Participants

General background of the victim parents / research participant								Background of the children perpetrators of CPA				
	Age	Sex	Educational Background	No. Of Children	Current Family Size	Marital Status	Employment	Age	Sex	Education Background	marital status	Current Employment
Interviewee 1	57	F	Not educated	5	4	Widow	Small business	31	M	Grade 12	Not Married	Unemployed
Interviewee 2	47	F	1 st degree	6	4	Widow	Government Office	30	M	Grade 10	Not Married	Unemployed
Interviewee 3	52	F	Not educated	5	3	Married	Wavering	35	M	Grade 9	Not Married	Daily labourer
Interviewee 4	58	M	Diploma	7	5	Married	Government Office	32	M	Level 2 Diploma	Not Married	Unwilling to work
Interviewee 5	51	F	Grade 10	4	3	Divorced	House wife	35	M	Terminated from university	Not Married	Unemployed

Running Head: An Exploratory Study on Child- Parent Abuse

Appendix E Table: Summery Profile of Research Participants

Interviewee 6	69	M	Basic education	7	5	Widow	Retired		30	M	First degree	Not Married	Governmental Office
Interviewee 7	49	F	Grade 12	4	3	Widow	Small business		21	M	Terminated from grade 11	Not Married	Unemployed
Interviewee 8	47	M	Masters degree	10	9	Married	Director in NGO		22	M	Technical and Vocational Training Education	Not Married	Unwilling to work
Interviewee 9	50	F	Not educated	6	5	Married	House wife		30	M	Grade 8	Not Married	Unwilling to work
Interviewee 10	80	M	Basic education	10	7	Divorced	Business man		38	M	Grade 6	Not Married	Unwilling to work