

# **MEKELLE UNIVERSITY**



**COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF CIVIC AND ETHICAL STUDIES**

**ASSESSING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:**

**THE CASE STUDY OF HINTALLO WOREDA, TIGRAY, ETHIOPIA**

**A THESIS PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIC  
AND ETHICAL STUDIES. FULFILLMENT FOR DEGREE OF MASTER  
OF ARTS IN CIVIC AND ETHICAL STUDIES.**

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MEKELLE UNIVERSITY AUGUST, 2025.

## DECLARATION

I declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted for any degree or diploma in any other university and that all sources of material used for this thesis have been duly acknowledged.

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August, 2025

The thesis has been presented for examination with my approval as a university advisor.

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August, 2025

The thesis has been submitted for examination with my approval as a university co-advisor. Etsay Hagos

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August 2025

Mekelle University CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this thesis entitled “Gender-based violence against women (in the case of Hintallo Woreda, Tigray, Ethiopia),” submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of MA in Civic and Ethics to the College of Law and Governance, Mekelle University, through the Department of Civic and Ethical Studies, done by Mehari Abadi, ID No. clg/ps/018/11, is an authentic work carried out by myself.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

First and foremost, I would like to praise my almighty God, who gave me the insight, strength, and courage to begin and complete this study in the long run.

Secondly, I would like to express my sincere heartfelt gratitude to my senior paper advisor, Teodros Selomon, for his valuable advice, critical comments, and guidance in the course of writing this paper essay. I am grateful to him for his unwavering help; without him the completion would not have been possible.

I equally wish to convey my lovely and heartfelt appreciation to my wife, Meresiet Redae, and my mother and the rest of my brothers and sisters (thank you also to all of you) for your constant encouragement and material and financial assistance and for enabling me to accomplish my study.

I am very grateful to all the study participants and particularly those women who disclosed or let us know their painful violence experiences. I also thank the Hintalo Woreda women, children, and youth sector and the Hintalo Woreda Women's Association; they support me.

Finally, I gratefully thank several people who contributed their valuable information, especially the Hintallo Woreda Child and Women Affairs Office, W/roFreweyni Gebru (Head of the Office).

## **Acronym and Abbreviations**

AIDS -	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.
CSA -	Central Statistical Agency.
FGM -	Female Genital Mutilation.
GBV -	Gender Based Violence.
HIV -	Human Immune Deficiency Virus.
STDs -	Sexual Transmitted Disease.
WHO -	World Health Organization.
UN-	United Nation.
UNICEF-	United Nations international children's emergency fund.
UNHCR-	United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees.
POTSO-	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

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## ABSTRACT

*Gender-based violence against women is one of the most common human rights, social and health problems. However, studies on these issues are recent phenomena, especially in developing countries such as Ethiopia; there is still a lack of basic information on the scope, understanding of its challenge, the root causes and how to prevent it. Despite the limited research, there are few studies, police and media reports indicate the prevalence and severity of the problem in the country. The study was conducted to explore and understand the experiences of women's violence in their own words about gender-based violence. Therefore, the researcher used a qualitative research method. women who had been married or in relationship and engaged in sexual violence, hintallo Women, Children and Youth Sector, and hintallo woreda Police Department. Interviews were applied on selected topic for 10 participants. The result of study is described as a complex phenomenon because of the various forms of abuse, intimidation, and social exclusion of those violated women's rights, including rape and battering. Violence against women occurs ranging from simple to serious acts which brought different forms of psychological, economic, social, mental, health and effects to victim women. Additionally, the findings show that men who are physically abusive are also more likely to be psychologically, economically, and sexually abusive. In this study, lack of awareness and transgressions were identified as the main causes of gender-based violence. Alcoholism, and jealousy have also been linked to dominance factors of violence. In fact, all causes are interrelated and manifestations of unequal power relationship between women and men has a significant impact on women's overall well-being. Regarding to response of gender-based violence, the study found that most abused women are not passive victims but develop active strategies to improve the safety of their children and themselves. It includes avoiding, enduring, and some fighting back while others try to keep their peace by fulfilling their husbands or partners needs even though they don't want to. The response to women's abuse is often limited by the options available to them. Where women need help, they have primarily turned to informal sources of support than formal sources. As the study shows, they often don't get the necessary support from the concerned bodies. Despite many obstacles, there were women who were determined to leave their husbands or intimate partner considering as divorce is one of the most effective strategy to deal with abused women. But after a divorce, they face many social and economic problems. Generally, although gender-based violence is a serious problem, it is still viewed as 'normal' private or family matter due to lack of awareness.*

# CHAPTER ONE

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Gender-based violence (GBV) is sexual abuse. It is a fundamental violation of life, liberty, security, and dignity; inequality of men and women; non-discrimination; and physical and mental integrity (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2010). In the current global context, conflict, displacement, climate change, and digital technologies have further complicated the dynamics of GBV. For instance, in conflict zones, sexual violence is often used as a weapon of war (UN Women, 2023). Similarly, the rise of digital platforms has led to an increase in online harassment and cyberstalking, particularly targeting women and LGBTQ+ individuals (UNHCR, 2023).

The COVID-19 pandemic also contributed to a significant spike in GBV cases globally. Lockdowns and restrictions isolated victims with their abusers, reduced access to support services, and increased stress and economic instability—all of which exacerbated violence in the home (WHO, 2021). In many countries, emergency hotlines and shelters reported a dramatic increase in calls and requests for help during the pandemic. Moreover, systemic inequalities—such as limited access to education, economic dependency, and discriminatory laws—continue to enable and perpetuate GBV. These inequalities are particularly pronounced in marginalized communities, including refugees, indigenous populations, and people with disabilities.

Efforts to combat GBV have intensified through legal reforms, awareness campaigns, and survivor-centered support systems. However, progress remains uneven, and the need for comprehensive prevention strategies, strong legal frameworks, and cultural transformation is more urgent than ever (UNFPA, 2024).

Women, especially girls, who have been sexually abused possess Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms. According to a World Health Organization (2010) study in Mbwambo, up to 36 percent of women in Namibia, 56 percent in Tanzania, and 72 percent in Ethiopia are sexually assaulted by their lifetime partners. The newest statistics from the Rwandan National Institute of Statistics indicate that 31 percent of women experience domestic violence after the age of 15, mostly by their husbands or partners. In 10.2 percent of cases, violence occurs during pregnancy. In Kenya, one of the most serious consequences of sexual violence in neighborhoods is that it can affect girls' school performance. In 2003, Kenya's Demographic and Health Survey found that 44

percent of married couples between the ages of 15 and 49 reported being physically or sexually abused by their husbands or partners a minimum of once.

Although violence against women is an established fact, its pattern and causes may differ from society to society. It is not unfair to state that society has developed mechanisms by which violence against women is legitimized. Particularly, in a society where private affairs are not applied because mainly women create fertile ground for inhuman acts for such traditions. Moreover, religion and socialization play an important role in shaping our expectations about how men and women treat each other. As a result, the society considers women as subordinate to men and believes they should accept or tolerate men's violent behavior (UN, 2003).

Gender-based violence (GBV) is violence that is directed against a person on the basis of gender (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2014). Gender-based violence includes acts that inflict physical, mental, or sexual harm or suffering; threats of such acts; coercion; and other deprivations of liberty (UN WOMEN, 2009).

The expanded definition of sexual and gender-based violence used by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Implementing Partners shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following (UNHCR, 2003): Physical, sexual, and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse of children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence, and violence related to exploitation (USAID, 2014).

Physical, sexual, and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women, and forced prostitution. Physical, sexual, and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the state and institutions, wherever it occurs.

Domestic violence is one of the most aggressive forms of gender-based violence. In 2013 a report of the World Health Organization (WHO) found that intimate partner violence affects about a third of women worldwide. Therefore, it is the most prevalent type of violence against women. Moreover, it reports that about 42% of women who had been sexually or physically abused by their partner were injured as well. Human trafficking is a complicated phenomenon. Perhaps the strongest factor is a desperate economic situation, which impacts the availability of satisfactory employment in many countries for women more severely than men. Women may become victims of trafficking when they seek assistance to obtain employment, work permits, visas, and other travel documents. Traffickers prey on women's vulnerable circumstances and may lure them into crime networks through deceit and false promises of decent working conditions and fair pay.

The Tigray War, which began in November 2020 in Ethiopia's Tigray region, has been marked by severe humanitarian crises, including widespread reports of gender-based violence (GBV). Women and girls have been particularly affected, facing sexual violence and other forms of abuse amidst

the conflict. Numerous organizations, including the United Nations and various human rights NGOs, have documented the instances of GBV in Tigray, highlighting the systemic use of sexual violence as a weapon of war. Reports have indicated that many women have been subjected to rape, sexual slavery, and other forms of violence, often with impunity for perpetrators. For academic references and detailed reports, sources like: United Nations and its specialized agencies (such as UN Women and the UN Human Rights Council)

More than 829 cases of sexual assault have been officially reported since the conflict began, and the conservative estimated number of survivors of rape in Tigray is 10,000. Nearly a quarter of reports received by one agency involve gang rape with victims as young as eight years old. In May 2021, more than 500 cases of gender-based violence, including rape, were officially reported. Although interventions and responses to violence against women are now widespread and varied, there is still relatively little evidence to show the results of these initiatives. This is because tackling violence against women requires changes in values, attitudes, and behaviors that are difficult to measure or quantify in a short period of time. This study, therefore, examines the effects of gender-based violence and its management in Hintallo Woreda from the aforementioned perspectives.

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

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a critical issue globally and locally, with ignorance being one of the primary contributing factors to its persistence and escalation. A lack of awareness and understanding about human rights—particularly women's rights has led to the continued violation of those rights in various forms, including physical, emotional, and psychological abuse. GBV encompasses a range of harmful acts such as domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and harmful traditional practices, all rooted in deeply entrenched gender inequality and discrimination.

Despite international and national legal frameworks established to protect women and promote gender equality, GBV continues to rise. According to the World Health Organization (2021), approximately one in three women globally has experienced physical or sexual violence in her lifetime. These acts of violence have devastating consequences, not only for the individual victims but also for the health, safety, and overall development of society. Victims often suffer from physical injuries, mental health issues, and an increased vulnerability to diseases.

In the context of Hintallo Woreda, GBV is a particularly pressing issue. Reports from the Hintallo Woreda Police Department indicate a steady increase in GBV-related cases between 2020 and 2025. However, these figures likely represent only a fraction of the actual problem, as many cases go unreported. Women and girls often remain silent due to fear of retaliation, hope that the abusive relationship will improve, or a lack of knowledge about how and where to seek help (Shipway, 2004).

Additionally, societal attitudes and norms in Hintallo Woreda tend to discourage victims from speaking out, and community members often fail to support or acknowledge victims' rights, even when legal protections exist. Men and boys also face challenges related to gender identity and conflict with societal gender norms (USAID, 2014), further complicating the landscape of gender-based violence.

Therefore, this study seeks to assess the nature and prevalence of gender-based violence in Hintallo Woreda. It aims to identify the root causes—especially the role of ignorance and lack of awareness—and provide evidence-based recommendations and strategies to mitigate and ultimately eradicate GBV in the community. Promoting awareness and education around gender equality and human rights is essential for creating a safer and more just society for all.

### **1.3. Research Questions**

The study tries to answer the following basic questions:

- What is the prevalence and most common forms of gender-based violence experienced by women and girls in Hintallo Woreda?
- How do community members in Hintallo Woreda perceive gender-based violence, and what barriers exist to reporting it?
- What are the psychological and social impacts of gender-based violence on survivors in Hintallo Woreda?
- How effective are local institutions and community-based interventions in addressing gender-based violence in Hintallo Woreda?

### **1.4. Objectives of the study**

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

The general objective of this study is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the effects of gender-based violence in Hintallo Woreda. The study describes violence as a system of control and oppression that can include emotional, social, or economic force; coercion; or sexual or physical harm. In particular, the study will aim to show effects of gender-based violence against women by exploring the root cause and effects of gender-based violence. To reduce the incidence and impact of gender-based violence in Hintallo Woreda through prevention, response services, community awareness, and capacity building of local institutions, thereby promoting the rights, safety, and dignity of all individuals—especially women and girls.

#### **1.4.2. Specific Objectives**

- To investigate the underlying causes of gender-based violence in Hintallo Woreda.
- To examine the key challenges and impacts associated with gender-based violence in Hintallo Woreda.
- To analyze the primary factors contributing to the persistence of gender-based violence in the study area.
- To explore the coping mechanisms and response strategies employed by survivors of gender-based violence in Hintallo Woreda.

### **1.5 The Significance of the Study**

The purpose of the study is to assist the concerned body in providing GBV awareness within the community. The study also provides an opportunity for the community, educators, and management to understand why most men and women are physically, emotionally, and psychologically abused and how to avoid GBV problems.

The study will be important for community workers, psychologists, social workers, and social educators to understand the cultural factors related to GBV and help them decide what proportion of their efforts are affecting the community and what they should still do. It also helps to evaluate the contributions of stakeholders like I Choose Life Africa (ICL) in raising awareness of GBV in children in the community.

The findings of the study are useful for those organizations that have an interest in community involvement in combating child sexual abuse and developing programs to assist victims. The study is vital because it adds to the body of knowledge needed to further develop research on GBV for interested scholars and researchers.

### **1.6. Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study is limited to examining Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in four areas: physical, psychological, sexual, and economic. Additionally, the sample of the study is limited to women in Hintalo woreda. Therefore, general research will be conducted only for this area of study. The proposed source of information includes support provider groups like women's associations and courts; other service givers, such as relatives, friends, police, religious leaders, and psychologists; and victims.

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

The research study is delimited to some victims of married women or female in relationships who are dwellers of Hintalo Woreda. It is believed that the research setting was convenient for

identifying the potential participants to address the research questions. Moreover, due to time and resource constraints, the study was based on small samples and limited information. It would have been better if different institutional players, men and women from different social statuses, had been included. These include shortage of finance, unavailability of reference material, and time constraints. Due to a shortage of time, the collection of information from each female or woman is difficult.

## **1.8. Definition of the Important Terms**

**Violence against women** is defined as any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical or psychological harm or suffering to women (Author, Year).

**Complete rape** involves non-consensual vaginal penetration through physical force, threat of harm, or when the victim is incapable of consent (Author, Year).

**Sexual harassment** includes repeated, unwanted sexual advances ranging from inappropriate comments and touching to coercive acts (Author, Year).

**Sexual abuse** can be described as a gender-based, emotional, or physical violation by someone in a position of power over a vulnerable person (Author, Year).

**Rape** is generally defined as sexual intercourse without the woman's consent, often through force, deception, or coercion (Author, Year).

**Violence operates** as a system of control and oppression, potentially using emotional, social, economic, or physical coercion (Author, Year).

A **perpetrator** is an individual, group, or institution that directly engages in or supports acts of violence or oppression, often under perceived or real authority (Author, Year).

**Poverty** may reflect economic hardship of a husband or partner with low or insufficient income, which can increase vulnerability to violence (Author, Year).

**Gender-based violence** constitutes a violation of fundamental human rights, reinforcing dominance of one sex over another through physical, sexual, or psychological harm (Author, Year).

**Coercion** refers to the use of threats, verbal abuse, deception, or manipulation—often rooted in economic or cultural control—to force someone into unethical acts (Author, Year).

# CHAPTER TWO

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1. Introduction

This chapter presents a review of existing literature on the effects of gender-based violence (GBV) against women and the approaches used to manage it. The discussion draws on various sources, including books, academic journals, research reports, and credible online resources. Key areas covered in this chapter include an empirical review of GBV, the magnitude and causes of GBV against women, its effects, and the strategies implemented to combat this issue.

### 2.2. Empirical Review

In 1993, the United Nations issued a declaration to end violence against women, defining it as “acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” According to the declaration, gender-based violence encompasses a wide range of abusive behaviors. These include, but are not limited to, physical, sexual, and psychological abuse within the family or domestic environment, sexual abuse of girls, rape, female genital mutilation (FGM), and other harmful traditional practices. Additionally, GBV extends to non-marital and societal violence, including sexual assault, harassment in workplaces and educational institutions, and other forms of abuse.

GBV also manifests in intimate or familial relationships, such as marriage, cohabitation, or other forms of close personal relationships. It can take many forms, including physical assault (such as hitting, slapping, biting, kicking, restraining, or battery), threats of violence, sexual abuse, economic deprivation, psychological control or intimidation, and even passive forms of abuse such as neglect or emotional withdrawal. Scholars and mental health professionals have noted that gender-based violence often leads to long-term psychological consequences. Research indicates that exposure to GBV can result in trauma-related mental health conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), especially among survivors of chronic or severe abuse. According to Rieker and Carmen (1986), anxiety symptoms arising from traumatic experiences can evolve over time and manifest as complex mental health challenges in adulthood. Their model emphasizes that early exposure to sexual abuse and trauma disrupts the psychological development of children, which can lead to difficulties in adult life, including impaired emotional and sexual functioning. The PTSD model has been widely supported by clinical observations and is recognized as a critical framework for understanding the long-term impacts of gender-based violence. It helps to highlight the profound effects such experiences can have on victims’ mental health, particularly in relation

to memory, self-esteem, and interpersonal relationships. Moreover, when girls are exposed to GBV at a young age, their cognitive and emotional development can be severely affected. This may result in poor academic performance, social withdrawal, and challenges in forming healthy relationships later in life.

The empirical literature clearly shows that gender-based violence has far-reaching effects, not only on women's physical health but also on their emotional, psychological, and social well-being. The need for early intervention, psychological support, and preventive strategies is therefore crucial in managing and mitigating the long-term effects of GBV.

### **2.3. The Magnitude of Gender Based Violence Against Women**

Gender-based violence against women occurs in all societies, regardless of race, class, creed, status, or education. As a major social problem, accurate and relevant information on GBV is needed to strengthen advocacy efforts, to help policymakers understand the problem, and to guide the design of preventive interventions (WHO, 1997). However, studies on the issues are recent developments, especially in developing countries; there is still a lack of basic information about the size, the root causes, and the possible protections.

Much of the information provided by the police and other formal institutions is also believed to be incredible because of underreporting. The scale of the problem is contradicted by the fact that GBV is recorded and reported as a crime (UNICEF, 2000). Abane (1997) argues in his study of violence against women in Kenya that women should fight with untrained police and health officials to respond adequately to reports and requests for treatment. Victims, on the other hand, are often unwilling to report because they are being intimidated by their boyfriends or husbands, afraid of their boyfriends or husband's reaction, and fear family respect and, above all, social and economic dependence. It prevents those who abuse them from reporting their abuse. Due to the current socio-economic situation in Ethiopia, cultural and religious barriers continue to be reported, with numerous reports of violence against women (Original et al., 2005). However, a small number of statistics from around the world indicate the seriousness of the problem.

Ellsberg (2000) analyzes the extent of violence, noting that GBV is a widespread phenomenon. A recent survey of 50 demographics from 36 countries found that 10% to 60% of women had experienced violence at least once or more in their lifetime from their current or former partners. Physical abuse is almost always accompanied by psychological violence in one-third to one-half of cases including sexual abuse (Baghshaw, others, 2000). This is also found in the study: most women living with physical abuse report psychological and sexual abuse. Community-based studies in Ethiopia indicate that 50-60% of women have experienced GBV during their lifetime (Negussie, 1998; Tegbar *et al.*, 2004).

International studies have identified a series of violent incidents: disobedience to her boyfriend or husband, reciprocity, poor preparation of food, inadequate care for children and home, and abstinence from sex (Heise et al., 1999). All of these mentioned are violations of gender norms.

### **2.3. Causes of Gender Based Violence against women**

It is important to understand the causes of social problems, such as GBV. Researchers from different parts of the world have come up with different theories to explain the causes of GBV. They try to explain different disciplines, including psychology, social work, sociology, criminal justice, and public health. Competitive concepts, in turn, come with a variety of solutions. Many focus on individual and socio-structural approaches but do not provide a complete explanation. They are able to focus on single causes to explain the occurrence of violence.

#### **2.3.1. Individual Approach**

For more than two decades, researchers, policymakers, and service providers have applied a variety of models and conceptual frameworks to abuse women. Much of the definition of abuse focuses solely on the behavior of the victim and the victim or between the two. Factors related to the offenders observed include anxiety, psychological and behavioral disorders, alcoholism, and drug or gambling addiction. Likewise, factors related to victims incorporate physical disability, economic dependence, and unemployment (Davis, 1994). The causes are generally personal problems, such as stress, poverty, unemployment, or a biological, psychological, or social origin. The following are some individual approaches that focus on the individuals involved in the abuse.

##### ***Biological Theory***

Biological concepts that explain family or parental violence based on biological variables. This model suggests that male sexual jealousy, which is common in men, has improved their reproductive capacity (Burgess & Draper, 1989). The researchers also found that childhood attention deficits, brain damage, and various biochemical factors, such as testosterone and serotonin, can affect relationships. The link between head trauma and violence can be caused by damage to various parts of the brain, resulting in stress. Biological models, however, give no reason for social issues and reduce the guilt of the offender for their actions. There is no solid evidence for these controversies, but most researchers agree that biological factors may play a role in some situations. In addition; attempts to predict GBV using biological variables are accurate only when other non-biological factors are added to the host. Therefore, they have limited application (Cunningham, Al, 1998).

##### ***Psychopathological Theory***

Psychopathology also states that individuals who engage in violence against women are more likely to be physically or mentally abused. Violent people are viewed as sick individuals and isolated from others (Pagelow, 1984). Dutton (1987) found that male abusers were more interested in power than men who were not abusive. According to one explanation, events in their life make them feel powerless because of their low self-esteem, because they have little control over others, or because they have a strong desire for power.

Dutton (1994) found that abusive men have narcissistic traits. Innocent men and violent men have a higher level of dependency than men who take longer to enter into relationships compared to non-violent men (Ryan, 1995). Criticism of this theory alone can reduce the importance of social structure and reduce the perpetrator's responsibility for the action, which can lead to consequences (Cunningham et al., 1998).

### ***Social Learning Theory***

From the perspectives of violence against women, the theory of social education, and the so-called transmission from generation to generation, it can be traced back to violence in the family, which is the main agent of society (Straus et al., 1986). Particularly those who are violent or watchful for violence in their own family learn that violence is a means to an end. Dumas, Margolin, and John (1994) found that men who were victims of violence were more likely to be victims of GBV, and women who observed violence were more likely to be exposed to their partners' aggression. Straus et al. (1986) feel that every generation is involved in a violent family. The family is a training ground for violence, with the idea that you are being hit by the people you love the most. Evidence or support for this view comes from an evaluation of the Cognitive Behavior Program, where the researcher reported high levels of GBV by men who were exposed to violence as children.

However, it differs from other concepts in explaining why social transmission is not universal and why some beatings do not inform stories of violence against their families. According to sociology critics, the rate of violence from generation to generation is only 30%, so 70% of those who witness violence do not commit violence (Kaufman & Ziegler, 1987). Proponents of the theory of social education argue that although their theory does not explain all forms of violence, individuals who cause violence to children are more likely to behave violently as adults (Strauss, 1991).

Although violence against women is linked to individual causes, violence occurs in all socio-economic, educational, and environmental conditions, and therefore, this explanation is incomplete. In recent years, many scholars and researchers have suggested that these cultural expressions are not enough to justify the importance of gender and that it occurs in all socioeconomic, racial, and class groups.

### **2.3.2. Socio-Structural Approach**

This approach determines the cause of GBV in a structured society. Central to this approach is the establishment of an inequitable balance between men and women in the patriarchal family (Heise, 1998). Criticism of patriarchs as a cause of violence against women can be categorized into socio-structural approaches (Sweetman, 1998).

The feminist model focuses primarily on cultural institutions that support the structure of relationships in the patriarchal culture and patriarchal culture (Bograd, 1988). Major contributions to violence against women have historically been dominated by men, gender-based roles for men and women, and socialization of women's limited resources. (Johnson, 1995). This view is supported by cultural studies that show less violence in more equitable societies. Feminism includes diversity in the context of GBV. The theory of feminism is not the same. It often represents the widespread conflicting views and where political affiliation is dynamic and practical. However, feminism holds some central judgment about the position of men and women. Theories acknowledge that society is fraught with patriarchal and unequal power relations or that gender is between women and men (Cunningham et al., 1998).

In fact, patriarchalism is a contested term for women. They have spent a lot of time trying to explain and analyze, but in general the movement is united as a patriarchy and against the oppression of women. For example, for the Marxist feminist concept, the patriarch is derived from the structure of economic production. According to them, economic exploitation in one part of the world is the main manifestation of the social structure and determines the nature of gender relations (Mitchell, 1980).

Liberal feminism focused on the oppression of women in the legal system. The patriarchal system denies women's equality in all spheres of life and ensures that societies' attitudes toward women reinforce their differences. For them, the patriarch provides a low-level and orderly control system to satisfy the traditional belief in sexuality. Extremist feminists who have emphasized human relations have been corrected by male oppression or patriarchy (Walyby, 1990).

In the patriarchal social order, men occupy a special place in the dominance of women and the sole dominance of the social institution. Women are kept in a social order by men and primarily by men in institutions that ensure their obedience and sustainability. GBV is socially tolerant of women's submission. The attack is defined as structural rather than isolated by individual relationships, as it is within the framework of cultural, socio-economic, and political power relations, focusing on the social norms that contribute to domestic, community, and GBV.

Cultural values that are the values of fathers in most societies. They believe that men have the right to control the behavior of their wives and that those who challenge this right by questioning the right to housing or even expressing the needs of children are punished. Violence in various countries, such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, has always been a form of punishment, and husbands have the right to correct a

wrong wife. Approval of the right roles and responsibilities of women and men often changes from gender norms (Heise et al. 1999).

In countries like Ethiopia, which have traditional societies, the beating of a wife is considered a natural expression of love or affection. The survey found that 37% of respondents in Ethiopia described violence as "normal" or "not serious" (WHO, 2005). On the other hand, data collected by the Ethiopian CSA (2000) on violence against women shows that the majority of women (85%) believe that it is right for a husband to beat his wife for at least one reason.

Cultural values emphasize another type of hatred that interferes with family autonomy (Connor, 1992). Patriarchy values also support the inferiority complex of women, with men often having the highest decision-making power in the family (Heise, 1998). Women are marginalized in the family structure and are allowed, as men's rights, to control those who are considered victims of GBV. The acceptance of the family as an appropriate and typical structure as a center of such power should raise the question of its appropriateness as a social institution. However, although the extent of violence is eventually becoming apparent, the family is still considered a model of social improvement (Kevin et al., 1996).

The community reinforces family structure and the position of women in it, and as is customary, it submits to gender-based violence. It also supports low support by devaluing and low valuing women's effort. This makes women vulnerable to violence by maintaining their social and economic dependence on men (Carrillo, 1992). Low economic status of women is associated with low power in the state. This inadequacy allowed the state to continue the family rebellion, leaving it with an agenda. Because women do not have the time or opportunity to participate in political power, the region has ignored issues that concern women. The state also provides local support for GBV and supports the violence (Bewley et al., 2000).

The feminist attitudes also emphasize that inequality over domination and marital power is the root cause of violence against women (Yllo, 1993). In a society with strong patriarchal traditions or patriarchal ideologies and social institutions, husbands control their wives and use violence to maintain that control when necessary (Levinson 1989 cited in Richters, 1994).

Maintenance of patriarchal institutions contributed to the abuse of women. Many men believe that marriage is their patriarchal right to have unrestricted control over their wives and believe that violence is an acceptable way to establish such control (Dobash and Dobash 1988 cited in Eliot 1996). Similarly, in societies such as Ethiopia, where there is a strong patriarchal culture or patriarchal values and social institutions, boyfriends or husbands control their girlfriends or wives and use violence to maintain that control when necessary. Religious and legal enforcement agencies, the main patriarchal institutions, play a major role in the existence of GBV.

Religion in the country violates and intensifies violence against women. Christian and Islamic marriages in particular are often criticized for asking for higher moral reasons. In addition, men

who abuse many women justify violence on religious grounds, and many cultural practices that abuse women are justified in the name of religion (Alemmaya, 2002).

Legal enforcement agencies are also reasons and conspire to continue violence against women. In Ethiopia, there is a tendency among legal enforcement officers to view the act as a crime unless the woman's battery is severely damaged. GBV has even been officially ignored (Original et al., 2005). This can be seen in Article 589 of the Federal Democratic Republic (FDRE) Constitution, which provides for a maximum penalty of up to ten years in prison for rape. However, marital rape (i.e., rape by husband) is not included in the article.

More recently, cross-cultural research has focused on the structural and cultural foundations of violence, particularly on the relationship between violence and the patriarchal institution. Levinson's study identified four strong cultural factors of wife abuse, such as economic disparities, physical violence in conflict resolution, men's power and in-home decision-making, and women not being allowed to divorce (Richters, 1994).

The traditional norms and values that promote the patriarchal system are socially learned for every section of society. The norms and social values that contribute to tolerance and expression of GBV are major issues. Both men and women grew up in a patriarchal society, so they learned to behave more aggressively in other social media agencies and institutions (Margaret, 1993). Women have grown up believing that they are inferior to men. It is widely believed that a good husband should control his wife and that his family should keep order.

Socialization takes place everywhere. However, many studies show that the family is the first and foremost social institution. The values and institutional practices of boys and girls in the family are seen as the basis for future relationships with friends and family. Individuals accept or internalize the rules and definitions of the social group as internal. Male and female identity in cultural femininity and masculinity are largely the result of social norms derived from social laws, values, and moral promises (Walby, 1990).

### **2.3.3. Multi-Casual Approach**

General descriptions of violence against women may include social issues similar as race, class, gender, and culture, as well as particular or relationship characteristics, similar as social support, relationship variability, alcohol/ medicine use. To illustrate GBV, Anderson( 1997) combines perspectives on violence against women and families. The conception of gender is used to indicate that men and women view violence else and that violence is a way of erecting virility. Aspects of the social system are designed to maintain the patriarchal system, which in turn influences the structure of power between intimate connections and increases the threat of violence against women in connections where men have a advanced status than women. Proponents of ecology also believe that relations between individual circumstances, particular, situational, social, political,

and artistic factors can do. numerous experimenters have used the " ecological frame" to look at the particular, situational, and socio-artistic connections that undermine Heise( 1998).

Violence against women in this model stems from interactions between different levels of social environment. The model can best be seen as four central circles. The inner circle represents the biological and personal history that each individual brings to the character in relationships. It highlights three persistent vulnerabilities assessed in personal history (Heise, 1998): witnessing marital violence in childhood, physical or sexual abuse of children, and loss of consistent paternity.

The second circle represents the immediate context of the abuse, usually with family or another close friend. It covers issues such as abuse, men's dominance in decision-making and men's economic control in relationships, marital conflict and alcohol use. The third circle represents formal and informal institutions and social structures, including neighborhoods, workplaces, social networks, and peer groups. This model explores issues within formal and informal social structures and institutions, including those related to legal issues such as unemployment / low-socio-economic status, social exclusion and "guilty peers" association. According to some authors, low-income women are nine times more likely to be sexually assaulted than those in high-income groups. Poverty also exacerbates violence by undermining women's ability to quit violence (Buheler, 1998).

Fourth, most circles represent socio-structural elements. It includes social and economic policies, laws, and institutions as well as cultural norms. Many levels agree on a number of issues at each stage that increase the likelihood of a male partner being abused. Heise (1998) defines the macro system as "a broad set of cultural values and beliefs that conveys and communicates the three other social ecosystems."

"Women's Punishment," and Cultural Support for the Use of Violence in Conflict Resolution. Ecological advocates have found that the key risk factors found in GBV literature and the interactions between them are more important than any other cause to explain partner violence.

Combining individual vulnerability issues with the findings of traditional studies, the ecological model contributes to understanding why some societies and individuals are more aggressive than others and why women are more often victims. Therefore, this study uses an ecological framework to examine the individual, situational, and social structural risk indicators in the study environment.

## **2.4. Effects of Gender Based Violence Against Women**

Gender-grounded violence against women is a complex and multifaceted problem. In addition, there are numerous ways in which violence promotes self-determination. Violence promotes

inequality and, in turn, promotes perpetrators' inequality. GBV, for illustration, is associated with poverty by reducing women's access to work, mobility, and access to information. It affects women's capability to watch for themselves and their children and is associated with suicidal actions similar to alcohol and medicine dependence. In addition, violence determines women's tone of confidence, their sense of tone of determination, and their capability to be and be like independent, able women (Garcia, 1999).

Gender-grounded violence has very short- and long-term consequences. Among the worst consequences of violence are physical and sexual abuse of women that have numerous negative effects on women's health. These include unwanted pregnancy and HIV threat, other sexually transmitted conditions, and gestation complications (Watts, 2002). A recent study from the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that for numerous women, the threat of contracting HIV comes from a regular mate and makes it delicate to negotiate safe coitus through unstable connections. Coitus isn't a matter of choice for these women. (UNICEF, 2000).

Reports from colorful countries indicate that mate violence has resulted in a significant number of deaths. Studies in Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa, and the United States show that 40 to 70% of women who are boggled are more likely to be killed by their misters or fellows in posterior sexual assaults. Gender-grounded violence is a retired handicap to social life and profitable development. It saves women's energy, undermines their tone of confidence, undermines their health, and undermines the full participation of women in society. Partner abuse has a significant negative impact on victims and their families and society as a whole. This is incomplete because of its impact on health care, internal health, and the felonious justice system. Linn: According to the National Crime Victims Survey of Canada, between 1992 and 1996, it's estimated that women who are victims of unattached violence can earn up to \$150 million a year. These costs include medical charges (40 percent), property losses (44 percent), and stipend. In addition to the impact on the victim, intimate violence puts a heavy burden on the health system in Baghdad (Al, 2000).

The study also set up that women who were victims of GBV in Chile can earn up to an estimated \$56 billion, which was lost in 1996. It has become clear that GBV has a negative impact on the stability of marriage, the quality of family life, and the social well-being of children. Above all, women are given limited openings for growth and development, which has a significant impact on the development of society as a whole, as womanish members are denied access to their introductory rights and creativity (WHO, 2005). Real and life-changing violence creates a climate of fear that restricts women's lives, limits their freedom of movement, and affects their decision-making and living norms.

## **2.5. Management of Gender-Based Violence Against Women**

Fighting gender-based violence (GBV) means stopping it before it happens and dealing with it when it does occur. But some people believe that stopping GBV starts with preventing it. This is because GBV happens because of differences in gender and power between men and women. Most prevention efforts are focused on creating a fairer society where everyone is treated equally. So instead of seeing GBV as a separate issue, it should be understood as part of the bigger picture of Gender equality (Sida,2015).

The global community has worked hard to find ways to stop and deal with GBV. Most of these efforts start by changing the attitudes and behaviors in communities. Here are some steps taken to prevent GBV.

- Shifting in attitude from seeing women as victims to survivors, actors, and agents of change, with a strong focus on women's and girls' empowerment and the Agency (Ibid).
- Efforts to increase women's political participation and influence in the context of peace, conflict, and other humanitarian crises. Women have the right to participate equally in politics at all levels of society, including in the peace process.
- In many countries, women's political representation is very little, and women are often isolated from formal peace negotiations. This has dire consequences for sustainable development, peace, and human well-being (Not, 2013).
- Efforts to increase women's economic empowerment by strengthening women's bargaining power and resilience. This includes promoting women's entrepreneurship and employment opportunities, improving access to women's land and property rights, promoting equal access to unpaid care for women and men, and promoting universal access to quality education. While such efforts may contribute to increased gender-based violence against women in the short term due to gender stereotypes associated with gender roles, gender growth is still important for long-term prevention of genital warts. Women's economic empowerment interventions as well as gender norms can reduce such risks to couples and communities (ibid).
- In terms of intimate relationships, sexual and reproductive health and rights are crucial to prevent sexual intercourse. Such efforts include the promotion and protection of women's sexual and reproductive health, family planning opportunities, HIV/AIDS prevention, and control of sexual freedom (UNHCR, 2011).
- Incorporating men and women as criminals, as victims/survivors, and as agents of change. Boys and boys are ignored as GBV survivors. Therefore, it is important to understand and address the specific vulnerabilities and needs of men and women, especially in the context of military conflict. Instead of simply 'bringing people'

- To prevent violence against women, it is important to adhere to the rules on sexuality and masculinity. Such an approach acknowledges that boys and girls are bound by promiscuity as well as by violence.
- Lack of awareness and lack of solutions can contribute to the continuity of the GBV cycle. Successfully, however, such approaches allow boys and girls to become agents of change (ibid.).
- Changing or transforming GBV-based depends on principles and characteristics. The logic of GBV is based on gender stereotypes, for example, the connection of masculinity with the role of provider. Macho's behavior and violence, as well as ideas about femininity, chastity, subjugation, and exploitation. Defensive efforts should start early in your life and lead to girls and boys. Both informal and formal education are important areas for formal change and have the potential to address gender differences and prevent GBV (ibid.).

It is important to respond to GBV before the attack, both activities are interrelated. Just defend, and ignore the rest of your life in front of you (USAID, 2016). Action against the GBV following the attack includes medical and psychological support for the victims, legal assistance, and a rehabilitation center to provide them with a stable environment. One of the responses to GBV: Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Centers or shelters play an important role in providing safe accommodation for vulnerable and vulnerable women and girls. Shelters are the basis for Providing protection services and resources to help women and girls who are victims of violence and sexual abuse, etc. Take steps to recover from traumatic experiences, to rebuild self-esteem, and to regain self-determination and independence (Gierman, 2013).

## **Summary**

Gender-based violence is a complex problem that requires a rigorous effort to reduce the mental and emotional changes of women, including the development of positive points. This is especially true for women who have low economic income that makes it difficult to get access to basic health care and other necessary services. They may not even have enough money to travel to receive the assistance. In some cases, women find it difficult to reach the media or concerned bodies where assistance is rendered. The analysis in this chapter clearly differs from the magnitude of GBV in factors in the home, community, psychological, society, and different approaches. The causes and explanations of the effects of GBV as a whole play an important role in perpetuating or reducing gender-based violence, stating the way of managing GBV. suggesting the possible ways of fighting GBV involving preventing and responding to the attack, taking into consideration the controversy forwarded by different scholars, and suggesting the possible ways of responding to and preventing GBV by citing the device designed by the international community. As can be seen from this chapter, gender-based violence issues are complex and entrenched in patriarchal communities, and to address this, women's literacy, empowerment, and poverty alleviation; their decision-making; and the participation of men everywhere will be involved. Partners and agents of change to combat

gender-based violence as mentioned under its management. Chapter 3 discusses a broader context and the concept of research methodology used.

# CHAPTER THREE

## 3. METHODOLOGY

### 3.1. Introduction

This chapter focuses on the research design and methods used to answer the study questions. It explains the study settings, population, sample size and sampling procedures, methods, and data collection tools.

### 3.2. Research Design

Research design serves as the foundational blueprint for any study, guiding how the research is conducted from start to finish. It outlines the overall strategy, detailing the methods and procedures used to collect, analyze, and interpret data in a logical and coherent manner. A well-structured research design ensures that the research questions are effectively addressed, and the study produces valid, reliable, and meaningful results. It acts as a roadmap that supports the systematic exploration of a research problem, helping researchers stay focused, minimize bias, and make informed methodological decisions.

In this particular study, the primary objective was to explore and understand women's lived experiences of gender-based violence (GBV) through their own voices, perspectives, and attitudes. To authentically capture these experiences, the study adopted a qualitative research methodology grounded in feminist epistemological perspectives. As Reinharz (1992) emphasized, feminist research approaches prioritize women's empirical experiences, treating them not merely as data points but as central indicators of social realities and truths. This feminist lens aims to empower women by recognizing their narratives and situating their lived experiences at the heart of the research process.

Qualitative research methods are particularly well-suited to exploring complex social phenomena such as gender-based violence. Unlike quantitative research, which focuses on numerical data and statistical generalization, qualitative research is interpretative and exploratory, seeking to understand how individuals perceive, experience, and make meaning of their realities. In this context, the qualitative approach allowed for a deeper examination of GBV from the standpoint of those directly affected by it women themselves.

The study was designed to explore not just the overt aspects of violence but also the subtle, hidden, and often silenced dimensions of women's experiences. Through in-depth interviews, personal narratives, and open-ended questions, the research provided space for women to articulate their realities in their own terms. As Sarantakos (1997) noted, qualitative research is a process of

understanding that relies on contextual and interpretive approaches to human problems. Thus, the researcher prioritized the analysis of participants' words and responses to provide a rich, nuanced, and detailed account of their lives. The naturalistic setting of the research further enhanced the authenticity and reliability of the data, ensuring that the findings remained grounded in the actual experiences of the participants.

**Descriptive Research Design** In addition to qualitative methods, the study employed a descriptive research design, which is commonly used to systematically and accurately describe characteristics of a population, phenomenon, or event. Descriptive research focuses on addressing the what, where, when, and how of a subject, without necessarily probing into the why. According to Kothari (2004), descriptive studies are instrumental in identifying patterns, trends, and relationships among variables as they exist in their natural context.

This design was particularly appropriate for capturing the lived realities of women who have experienced GBV, as it facilitated the detailed documentation of their personal, social, and situational characteristics. It also helped uncover how women's experiences are shaped by broader social structures, including family dynamics, community norms, institutional practices, and cultural beliefs. As Jeane (1999) observed, descriptive research is crucial for documenting changing conditions and for understanding how individuals articulate their experiences in response to these dynamics.

Moreover, the descriptive framework allowed for the examination of individual, situational, and structural risk factors associated with gender-based violence. These included factors such as economic dependence, lack of legal support, patriarchal attitudes, and inadequate access to education or healthcare services. By mapping out these variables, the study was able to highlight how different layers of social reality intersect to perpetuate cycles of violence.

**Quantitative Methodology** core methodology of the study was qualitative, quantitative research methods were also integrated as a supplementary approach, particularly in the form of structured surveys. Quantitative research involves the systematic collection and analysis of numerical data to test hypotheses, identify statistical relationships, and draw generalizable conclusions. It is characterized by objectivity, measurement, and the use of standardized tools.

In this study, the quantitative component was valuable for gathering demographic data and measuring the prevalence of different forms of gender-based violence across the participant population. This helped provide a broader context for the qualitative findings, offering a clearer picture of the scope and patterns of GBV. By combining both qualitative and quantitative methods, the study adopted a mixed-methods approach, enhancing the overall robustness and credibility of the research. The statistical data gathered helped triangulate the qualitative insights, ensuring a more comprehensive understanding of the issue. The use of structured questionnaires enabled the researcher to gather uniform data across a larger sample, which was then analyzed using appropriate statistical techniques to identify trends, correlations, and disparities.

### **3.3. Target Population**

The target population refers to the specific group of individuals or entities that researchers aim to study and to whom they intend to generalize the findings. This group is defined by particular characteristics relevant to the research question and represents the primary focus of the study. In this study, the target population consisted of female victims of violence—those who had experienced violence once, multiple times, or throughout their lives. Additionally, the study targeted concerned government bodies, police officers, and lawyers affiliated with the Hintallo Woreda Women Lawyers Association (HWLA), who are involved in responding to and addressing issues related to violence against women.

### **3.4. Sampling Method**

A sampling method refers to the technique used to select a subset of individuals or items from a larger population for study. This approach is necessary because studying an entire population is often impractical due to constraints such as time, cost, and available resources. The primary objective of sampling is to choose a subset that accurately reflects the characteristics of the broader population. This allows researchers to make valid inferences and draw conclusions about the entire group based on the data gathered from the sample.

In this study, the snowball sampling technique was employed. Snowball sampling is a non-probability sampling method where initial participants help recruit additional participants from their personal or social networks. This technique is especially useful when researching hidden or hard-to-reach populations, such as individuals involved in illegal activities, people with rare conditions, or survivors of sensitive issues like gender-based violence. Traditional sampling methods may be ineffective in such cases due to the difficulty of identifying and accessing potential participants.

The research adopted the snowball sampling method both to identify the study participants and to determine the location of the study. According to Stephanie Glen, snowball sampling is beneficial when potential participants are not easily accessible. Based on this principle, the researcher initially approached the Women, Children, and Youth Affairs Sector to identify potential participants. From the information obtained, Hintallo Woreda was selected as the study area because it was reported to have one of the highest rates of gender-based violence (GBV) against women. The woreda has an estimated female population of 95,284.

Once the study area was selected, both victims of gender-based violence and key informants were identified using the snowball method. Given the qualitative nature of this research, the objective was not to generalize the findings to the broader population but to gain deep, contextual insights into the issue under investigation. As Flick (2002) emphasizes, qualitative research prioritizes

depth over breadth and seeks to uncover nuanced understanding rather than generalized truths. Similarly, Merriam (1988) argues that participants in qualitative studies should be selected based on their potential to contribute meaningful, insightful, and relevant information to the topic under study. Therefore, the researcher purposefully selected individuals who could provide rich, detailed, and fresh perspectives on the issue, often with the assistance of those already participating in the study.

Due to time and financial constraints, the researcher included 123 female respondents to support the qualitative data. Additionally, 10 participants were deliberately selected for in-depth interviews: 5 were women who had experienced gender-based violence, and

5 were key informants (such as local officials, social workers, or community leaders).

The initial interviews were conducted with survivors of gender-based violence. These interviews served as a foundation for identifying and approaching the key informants, thereby continuing the snowball sampling process. This approach ensured that the researcher could build trust with participants and access valuable information from those directly or indirectly affected by the issue.

**Yamane's** formula is a method for determining the appropriate sample size for a survey or study, particularly when dealing with a finite population. It provides a simplified way to calculate sample size based on the population size and desired margin of error. The formula is  $n = N / (1 + Ne^2)$ , where 'n' is the sample size, 'N' is the population size, and 'e' is the margin of error.

Yemana's using the formula

$$n = N / (1 + Ne^2).$$

$$n = 95284 / (1 + 95284(0.09)^2)$$

$$n = 95284 / (1 + 771)$$

$$n = 123$$

*n=sample size, N=population size, e=level of precision. This formula assumes a degree of variability (proportion) of 0.09 and a confidence level of 92% (Yamane 1967). In this study, the Yamane formula was employed due to the margin of error.*

## **3.5. Data collection tools**

### **3.5.1. Interview**

In all five interviews conducted with lawyers' and women's associations, the first step involved engaging with female victims of gender-based violence (GBV). These interviews covered a broad range of topics, including personal experiences of violence, perceived causes and consequences, decision-making processes, and the availability and effectiveness of both formal and informal support systems. The interviews followed a structured and semi-structured format to ensure in-depth exploration of the issues. Initially, the interview guide was developed in English and later translated into Tigrinya to facilitate effective communication during data collection. The translated version was reviewed by a language expert for accuracy, and necessary corrections were made through continuous discussions between the expert and the researcher. The research instrument enabled the researcher to explore not only the visible experiences of the victims but also the invisible phenomena such as emotions, perceptions, thoughts, and future plans. This approach provided deeper insight into the lived realities of the women, which is considered a significant contribution to the study.

Support for identifying potential interviewees was received from the Hintallo Woreda Women, Children, and Youth Sector. In addition, the researcher independently consulted with key informants who provided valuable information relevant to the research topic. Among these informants were a male and a female police officer from the Hintallo Woreda Police Department and a legal aid coordinator from the Hintallo Woreda Women's Association. Before each interview, the researcher read a detailed description of the study, including its purpose and the types of questions to be asked. Participants were informed of the voluntary nature of their involvement and assured that they could withdraw from the study at any time. The researcher emphasized anonymity and confidentiality throughout the process to ensure the privacy and comfort of each participant.

To ensure a safe and supportive environment, interviews were scheduled at times and locations deemed most appropriate by the participants. Given the sensitive nature of the topic, the researcher made every effort to make participants feel secure and respected. Although research on GBV is often considered emotionally challenging, participants were encouraged to speak openly about their experiences. Each interview lasted between 45 minutes to one hour. While some informants consented to audio recording, the majority preferred not to be recorded. In those cases, the researcher took detailed notes. Recorded interviews were later transcribed into Tigrinya and then translated into English with careful attention to accuracy and meaning.

### **3.5.2. Questionnaires**

Following an interview, the researcher prepared a questionnaire for 123 women using a non-probability sampling technique. These questionnaires are believed to provide comparative quantitative data to complete the qualitative data and to compute the information obtained from the interview.

A questionnaire is used to collect data from a specific geographic area. As Anastas (1994) states, the questionnaires, like interviews, are a form of oral reports. Questionnaires are often sent for attitude, opinions, and beliefs. They are also used to inquire about behavior, especially behavior that occurred in the past when behavior or direct observation is difficult or impossible. In fact, the questionnaires helped to spot out the burden of the issue. It is believed that they do not provide in-depth data on gender-based violence. Due to this reason, both close- and open-ended questionnaires were used, giving respondents the opportunity to express themselves freely without being restricted by the researcher's proposed responses. The basic premise was that the respondents were free to answer the questions in their own comfort and honesty.

The purpose of this approach was to ensure that each interviewee was presented exactly the same questions in the same order. These responses can be safely mixed, and comparisons can ensure confidence within the sample subgroup or between different study periods.

English was the language used in the preparation of questionnaires, but the researcher, with the help of language experts, was able to interpret it into the Tigrigna language so as to understand and examine women's experiences, attitudes, and responses towards gender-based violence. However, because of the limited time allotted for the study, the researcher decided to interview only the victim women since women's opinions were by far better than men's.

### **3.5.3. Document Review**

*Primary* sources of data are demonstrated as original in character and fresh and are collected for the first time by distinct methods like the interview method, questionnaires, schedules, and other methods, which include warranty cards, distributor audits, pantry audits, consumer panels, using mechanical devices, projective techniques, depth interviews, and content analysis, particularly in surveys and descriptive research.

The secondary sources of data are referred to as the figures, which are already available or accessible, analyzed, and collected by anyone else from published and unpublished sources of data such as journals, books, magazines, newspapers, historical documents, official reports, and other sources of published and unpublished information (Kothari, 1990). Based on this, the secondary sources of data in this study were gathered or assembled from books, journals, articles, magazines,

newspapers, historical and legal documents, official reports, the internet or websites, training manuals, and the like.

### **3.6. Method of Data Analysis**

Qualitative data were analyzed using descriptive research design in the form of interpretational analysis, which was collected using snowball sampling techniques, which Gal *et al.* (1996) explains, saying that interpretational analysis is the way of examining data to find constructive ideas, themes, and patterns that would explain the events being studied. Thus, the researcher was able to use the interpretational analysis approach for this study. The most important step in interpretive data analysis is to develop a set of categories that adequately and concisely summarizes the information.

Accordingly, the information obtained from the interview is divided into different categories of effects of GBV, causes of GBV, response to GBV, and GBV intervention mechanism. Quantitative data was also analyzed using simple statistical percentages.

### **3.7. Validity**

Validity of GBV research is multifaceted, relying on rigorous methodology, ethical considerations, and contextual understanding. This ensures that the findings can effectively inform policy, practice, and further research in addressing gender-based violence. The best way to focus on strengths and minimize weaknesses is to use more than one method in a study. By choosing complementary methods, the researcher covered the weaknesses of one method with the strength of another. For this reason, good research involves a number of methods, often called triangular data collection techniques. The triangulation of data allows verification for data.

### **3.8. Ethical Consideration**

Because the study of gender-based violence is an emotional issue, raising ethical issues is important. With this in mind, the researcher applied ethical observations in accordance with the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on ethical issues related to gender-based violence research to ensure the safety and quality of information of respondents. First and foremost, the willingness of participants was asked, and the purpose of the study was also explained to them.

They were also informed that the study benefited them and all women. Privacy was encouraged, and respondents were told that any information they provided was kept confidential.

Mobile was recorded, taking into account each participant's consent. Therefore, some of them asked not to be recorded; their wishes were properly respected. Pseudonyms or false names (codes) were also used by the researcher to protect all participants and their privacy.

# CHAPTER FOUR

## 4. Data Interpretation and Analysis

### 4.1. Introduction

This chapter deals mainly with the interpretation and analysis of information obtained from sampled respondents. The analysis and data interpretation is presented in two ways. In the first part, data collected from 123 female respondents is presented; while the second part deals with information obtained from institutional actors and their activities.

### 4.2. Background of the respondents

**Table 1** Age and Marital Status.

Age	Respondent		Marital status	Respondent	
	Frequency	Percent		Frequency	Percent
15-24	34	27.64%	Single	38	30.89%
25-34	45	36.59%	Married	56	45.53%
35-44	33	26.83%	Divorced	17	13.82%
45-54	11	8.94%	Separated	6	4.88%
55 <sup>+</sup>	-	-	Widowed	6	4.88%
Total	123	100%	Total	123	100%

Source: from survey data, 2025.

According to the table, 27.64% of the respondents are between the ages of 15 and 24. The largest age group represented is 25 to 34 years, making up 36.59% of the total respondents. This is followed by 26.83% in the 35 to 44 age range, and 8.94% are between 45 and 54 years old.

In terms of marital status, the table indicates that 8.94% of respondents are married, 30.89% are single, and 13.82% are divorced. Notably, the data suggest that some divorced women may have been victims of gender-based violence inflicted by their husbands, which ultimately led to divorce. However, these women are not legally separated, meaning they are not formally recognized by law as separated, despite living independently.

The high percentage of respondents aged 25–34 may reflect a trend where individuals in this age group are seeking independence—leaving their families in search of employment or freedom from parental control. This transitional phase often leaves young women particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence due to lack of social protection or support systems. The prevalence of gender-based violence among married women also appears significant. This may be attributed to the fact that many marriages are not based on mutual consent or free will, which can result in unstable or abusive relationships. To clarify marital status terms Separated refers to couples who are legally recognized as living apart, though not officially divorced. Widowed applies to individuals who have lost their spouses due to death.

**Table 2. Distribution of respondents by educational level.**

Educational level	Respondent	
	Frequency	Percent
Cannot read and write	25	20.33%
Read and Write	33	26.83%
Primary (1-8)	27	21.95%
Secondary (9-12)	24	19.51%
Diploma	7	5.69%
Degree	7	5.69%
Total	123	100%

Source: From survey data, 2025..

As the table shows, educational attainment is strictly encouraging, in which 21.95 percent of the respondents attained primary education and 19.51 percent are at the secondary level. 20.23 percent cannot read and write, 26.83 percent can read and write, and 5.69 percent obtained a diploma and degree. For each of them, the report of violence to the legal offices is highly likely if supported by sensitization endeavors.

Girls who experience GBV are less likely to complete their education, contributing to gender gaps in educational attainment. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) continues to be a significant barrier to educational attainment for girls and young women. Girls who experience GBV, whether within educational institutions or in their communities, are considerably less likely to complete their education. This contributes to persistent gender disparities in academic achievement and limits the social and economic opportunities available to women later in life.

Violence occurring outside of school—such as in the home or community—also disrupts students’ academic journeys. These forms of violence often create a climate of fear, anxiety, and insecurity that severely affects students’ ability to concentrate, engage in class, or even attend school regularly. For many, school ceases to be a safe space for learning and growth. Cases have been documented where students, particularly girls, were forced to abandon their education after suffering from various forms of violence, especially physical and sexual abuse. These experiences not only inflict trauma but also lead to social stigmatization. In many cases, victims are blamed or shamed, rather than supported, which further isolates them from their peers and educators. Higher education institutions are not immune to this problem. In fact, the negative pressure associated with stigma in universities and colleges can be even more pronounced. Survivors of GBV often find it extremely difficult to recover in environments where their trauma is either dismissed or sensationalized. The lack of institutional support systems, such as counseling and reporting mechanisms, means that many victims face their struggles alone. As a result, a significant number of female students choose to withdraw from their studies entirely, while others request transfers to different institutions in an attempt to escape the toxic environments and start a new.

**Table 3. Distribution of Respondents by Monthly Income and Occupation.**

Occupation	Respondent		Monthly income	Respondent	
	Frequency	Percent		Frequency	Percent
Student	18	14.63%	Below 2000 birr	36	29.27
Petty –trade	37	30.08%	3000-4000birr	24	19.51
House wife	20	16.26%	1000-2000birr	22	17.89
Vocational	24	19.52%	4500-6000birr	25	20.33
Civil- servant	14	11.38%	6500-7000birr	16	13.00
Unemployed	10	8.13%	-	-	-
Total	123	100%		123	100%

Source: From survey data, 2025

As table show,30.08 percent of the respondent depend on petty trade while,16.26 percent of house wife, 14.63 percent are student,19.52 percent on vocational jobs like skill based like working tantal, marking basket, embroidery etc.11.38 The is civil servant they worked in different officials. They worked in hospital, in school and police station.

Other,8.13 percent of the respondents are unemployed they had not any permanent work they lived with their families or parents and did sometime daily work to gain money.

The same table also indicates that, 29.27 percent of respondents in this study earn below 2000 birr monthly. While 19.51 percent 17.89 percent and 20.33 percent 11.38 percent of the respondents respectively earn between 3000-4000 birr, 1000-2000 birr 4500 -6000 birr and from 6500-7000 birr per month. The above table also show that the role of income in relation to gender based violence decrease then income increases and when income decrease this shows that economically weak, women are opening to gender based violence than economically strong ones.

The above table mention, student income generation means their free time/out of learning time/ they were take training and the make income generation that means by informal trade, vocational jobs and the like, while house wife is not separated or divorced from her husband, but she was make income generate by petty-trade, make contract (daily) jobs and small trade to support of her family.

Unemployment means they were does not have permanent jobs but it is the option of their temporary jobs. Civil servant means works kebele health and in different offices extension they were as their experience their income or salaries were differing year to year and they were permanent governmental employed. The respondent said, that they are gender-based violence like political, emotional, and economic and social gender-based violence is parent is asked about the excessive work load at home to women this is to affect women from social and political affair active participation.

Emotional violence includes threats of violence, insult and name calling humiliation in front of others, blackmail, cruel and degrading treatment, placing restrictions on liberty and affect from freedom of movement and the threat of abandonment. Economic violence, the constitution ensures the right of women to acquire, administer, control, and transfer property. Unfortunately, rural and urban women were not equally owner of the land, property and other economically with her husband. This implies that more or less rural women were affected by economically. This follows undermine of the women and patriarchy of the man. Gender based violence is one of the problems of the society separation of man and women, man as very clever and women as poor. In this case many respondent women were talk about gender separation is problem of rural area and urban area.

**Table 4. Religious Composition of the Respondent.**

Religion	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percent
Orthodox	90	73.17%
Muslim	28	22.76%
Protestant	3	2.44
Other	2	1.63
Total	123	100%

Source: From survey 2025.

The table shows the religious composition of repliers. The majority are Orthodox followers, which is 73.17 percent, followed by Muslim (22.76 percent); 1.63 percent are other, and Protestants are 2.44 percent. In Hintallo Woreda it has a religious composition. They're Orthodox, Muslim, Protestant, and other artistic beliefs. So gender-grounded violence is the problem of the whole religion. It implies that it isn't only a religious problem. So I studied this exploration, and this time a Muslim replier said that gender-grounded violence is common. Because it isn't separated by age, sex, or religion. While Protestant repliers said that gender-grounded violence is one of the problems in social, political, and provident areas. It was mentioned above that the orthodox repliers are to show the figure between them. The most followed religion in the woreda was Orthodox, but the religious didn't admire women or gender- with men. Thus, all the religious people mentioned above said that they were problems of gender-grounded violence. The table shows the religious composition of the replier. The maturity is orthodox, which is 73.17. The replier said that the religion allowed early marriage due to these girls being affected by fistula. Women are inferior to men. The men are decision-makers.

**Table 5. Forms of the Various Type of Gender Based Violence.**

Forms of gender violence	Distribution	
Attempted rape or abduction	34	27.64%
Female genital mutilation	33	26.83%
Sexual harassment	25	20.33%
Early marriage	31	25.20%
Total	123	100%

Source: From survey data, 2025

As shown in the below table, information has been gathered on the cause of the various forms of gender-grounded violence. 27.64 percent of those who tried rape or hijacking said the repliers, ahead of and after the other gender in grounded violence. Endured womanish genital mutilation 26.83 percent, sexual importunity 20.33 percent, and early marriage 25.20 percent. The Woreda police department office also verified this fact by saying the practice of gender-based violence, especially hijacking, womanish genital mutilation, and rape, is pervasive in the pastoral and civic areas of the Woreda, especially five times ago in the Hintallo Woreda felonious justice system.

She was cutting her clitter and has no health benefit and can lead to serious, long-term complication, even death. Bring immediate health risk include shock, infection, HIV transmission and severe pain this is one the problem of gender-based violence. Rap of married women was considered adultery and she was not held in equal response the victim's husband had the option of rescuing his wife by pulling her without her interest. The victim was required to cry out, but not required to have evidence of strong resistance.

As the respondents said that she marriage without the consent of her by force or all the parents intervened she participated in early marriage and create many obstacles like fistula and HIV. Most of the time, the prevalence of womanish genital mutilation and rape isn't indeed reported; rather, the community tries to resolve the situation through admired community elders and traditional leaders with some compensation paid by rape/hijacking. Those are gender-grounded violence against women. The children are also profoundly affected by living in a terrain of violence and fear, losing their attention, or having problems in different areas, and most of them are traumatized. Most women victims of GBV are more concerned for the sake of their children about whether to stay or leave the vituperative relationship. This shows the frequency of multiple gender-grounded violence that the repliers faced in their lifetime. This is again analogous to the findings of scholars made in Chicago, California, and the USA, in which the bushwhackers were known to the victim in 30 percent to 40 percent of the cases (Rulenge, 2000).

**Table 6. The Reported of Causes Gender Based Violence.**

Types of causes	Frequency	Percent
Physiological outcomes	30	24.39%
Unwanted pregnancy	22	17.89%
Physical violence	21	17.07%
scaring	26	21.14%
Gynecological (fistula problem)	18	14.63%
STDS including HIV/AIDS	6	4.88%
Total	123	100%

Source: From survey data, 2025

In this study 24.39 percent were psychological outcomes, 17.89 percent unwanted pregnancy, 17.07 percent physical violence, and 21.14 percent intimidation/scarring. 14.63 percent Gynecological/fistula problem 10 percent and 4.88, percent sexual transmitted disease or HIV/AIDS affected. Thus, such reproductive health outcomes—particularly the risk of HIV/AIDS transmission during rape—must be treated as serious public health and human rights concerns. The gravity of these outcomes cannot be overstated. In addition to the information gathered directly from the sample population, the researcher also consulted with local authorities and convened bodies within the Hintallo woreda to better understand the broader context and institutional responses to the issue.

Despite awareness efforts, the researcher believes that numerous challenges remain unaddressed. Gender-based violence (GBV) continues to manifest in various harmful forms, including physical and sexual assault, unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as HIV/AIDS, and long-term reproductive health problems like obstetric fistula. These acts of violence against women are systemic and deeply rooted in gender inequality, cultural norms, and power imbalances.

Children are also significantly affected by the presence of violence in their homes and communities. Living in an environment characterized by fear, intimidation, or physical abuse leaves lasting psychological impacts. Many children exposed to such trauma exhibit emotional and behavioral issues, struggle with concentration, underperform in school, and face difficulties in social development. The long-term effects can be devastating, potentially shaping the course of their entire lives.

Moreover, many women who experience GBV face agonizing decisions, especially when children are involved. For many, concern for their children’s well-being influences whether they choose to remain in or leave abusive relationships. This situation often traps them in cycles of violence, due to fears of economic insecurity, social stigma, or lack of support systems. The scars left by GBV are both visible and invisible. Physical injuries may heal with time, but the psychological wounds—such as anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and feelings of shame or worthlessness—can persist for years. These emotional and mental scars can be even more debilitating than the physical ones, affecting the survivors’ sense of self-worth, relationships, and ability to function in daily life.

**Table 7. Types of psychological violence.**

<b>Psychological violence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Physiological outcomes demoralize)	20	16.26%
Insult	27	21.95%
Threat of harm	20	16.26.%
Intimidation	26	21.14%
Isolation	18	14.63%
Humiliation	12	9.76%
Total	123	100%

Source: from survey data, 2025

As table indicates, all most of respondents claimed that they experienced psychological violence. They had been insulted, humiliated, intimidated/ scared and threatened of harm by their current husbands or intimate partners. A considerable overlap was found between psychological and other forms of violence. This indicates all of the women living with threat of harm violence reported psychological violence. Research suggests that physical violence in intimate relationships is often accompanied by psychological abuse and in one-third to over one-half of cases by sexual abuse. For instance, in Nicaragua, among 188 women who were physically abused by their partners, only 5 were not abused sexually, psychologically, or both (Ellsberg, 2000).

### **Isolation**

*He does not want me to use make up, nor to wear nice clothes. Besides, he wants me to be an isolated person. He always tried to isolate me from society. He knows my work schedule and I am expected to be sharp. If I would be only one minute late, he would start beating, kicking, and hitting me. I don't have any social life since I met him.*

*He calls me idiot, stupid. I feel really upset, embarrassed. I am often told that as I am not physically good-looking, Worthless, inferior or lacking ability, cannot cope or succeed on my own, and am not good cooker, or housekeeper. He has tried all possible ways to humiliate me. involve acts of betrayal, like infidelity or excessive criticism. These actions can lead to a power imbalance and feelings of shame, anxiety, and depression for the person being humiliated.*

### **Psychological violence**

Psychological Violence, the utmost trouble of detriment abuse, occurs in the environment of other forms of abuse, similar to verbal, emotional, or profitable abuse and social insulation. All the women in the study experience a high position of both trouble of detriment and cerebral abuse. This finding suggests that men who are troublesome, detrimental, and vituperative are also psychologically vituperative. Women frequently say that the cerebral abuse and declination are indeed more delicate to bear than physical abuse. Verbal demotion, similar to being called names, sworn at, or put down, was bandied and reported. They constantly described violence in terms of emotional or cerebral abuse, pertaining to situations in which a man might constantly affront or undermine a woman. This revealed how women are perceived as inferior to men cognitively. In relationship to this, Eshetu *et al.* (1999) stated that women in Ethiopia are considered as weak both physically and mentally. Consequently, their idea isn't considered as important as men's, and they are anticipated to be amenable, biddable, and regardful of their hubby or intimate mate. They also reported that ongoing cerebral violence—emotional torture and living under terrorism—is frequently more unsupportable than the physical violence, with internal stress leading to a high prevalence of self-murder and self-murder attempts. In relation to this, a close association between GBV and self-murder has been established, grounded on studies in the United States, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Peru, India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Self-murder is numerous times as likely to have been tried by a woman who has been abused than by one who has not (UNICEF, 2000).

**Table 8. Reason for violence as identified by women.**

<b>Reason for violence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Jealousy	30	24.39%
Drunkenness	27	21.95%
Transgression of gender role	26	21.14%
Nothing known to the wife	13	10.57%
Financial issue	18	14.63%
Others	9	7.32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: From survey data, 2025.

The table reveals that 24.39% of respondents indicated jealousy is the main cause of GBV, 21.95% of respondents reported drunkenness, 21.14% claimed transgression of gender roles, 10.57% of respondents said that nothing known to them is the reason for GBV, and 14.63% mentioned financial issues as reasons. Wives identified more than one reason that reinforces violence, and all of them are interrelated. For example, a husband's drinking habits were mostly linked to violence and poverty. It is believed that poor men might drink to forget their problems and that a husband's use of his family's limited income on alcohol may lead to increased marital tension. Furthermore, during the interview, participants mentioned factors that trigger GBV.

### **Alcohol and Gender-Based Violence**

Drinking was the other consistently mentioned reason for GBV. Excessive consumption of alcohol has also been noted as a factor in provoking aggressive and violent male behavior towards women. The finding revealed that most cases of abuse are associated with the husband's excessive alcohol consumption. In the above anecdote, it is apparent that the participants consider alcoholism to play a role in abuse, but it is certainly not a simple cause. Although a causal relationship between drinking and GBV has not been established, their association has been consistently shown by various studies across the world. Population-based surveys from Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Nicaragua, South Africa, Spain, and Venezuela found a relationship between a woman's risk of suffering violence and her partner's drinking habits (Heise *et al.* 1999).

There is, however, a great debate about the nature of the relationship between alcohol use and violence and whether it is truly causal. Cole *et al.* (1999) argued that the link between violence and alcohol is culturally dependent and exists only in settings where the collective expectation is that drinking causes or excuses certain behaviors. This is also supported by this research; it was said that men might come home drunk when they have some misunderstanding with their wives or intimate partners; thereby, they would get the courage to say what they want and even assault their wives or girlfriends physically as well as sexually.

Furthermore, most people believe that a woman should not react to her husband or intimate partner if he is drunk. This indicates that men use the drink to get courage to vent their feelings and do whatever they want. A drunken man can ascribe his misbehavior to the drink he took, thereby projecting the blame. Their wives or intimate partners also recognize the need for not reacting when he is drunk, and if she reacts, the society will blame her.

### **Jealousy**

It was also revealed that jealousy on the part of the aggressor can provoke violent behavior too. Both the survey and qualitative information showed that jealousy can lead to the occurrence of violence, especially for women who are at a young age. They said that their husband's or intimate

partner's jealousy demands and accusations justify their attitude in isolating themselves from friends, neighbors, and family.

### **The Transgression of Gender Role**

The transgression of gender roles was also mentioned as a cause of gender-based violence. It was said most violent incidents are preceded by arguments, which could as well stem from differences of opinions and disobedience. Disagreement could also arise from disobedience, not fulfilling the demands of a husband or intimate partner. For instance, refusing sex, which is construed as transgression, was often mentioned as a reason for physical as well as sexual violence. Conflicts also arise when a man sees that a woman is not discharging her expected roles, like getting food ready on time, child care, and housekeeping. He would blame her for the failure, and they might exchange words, culminating in a beating.

In many settings women are expected to look after their homes and children and show their husbands' or intimate partners' obedience and respect. If a man feels that his wife or intimate partner has failed in her role or overstepped her limits—even, for instance, by asking for household money or stressing the needs of the children—then violence may be his response.

It is also stated that most men do not let the woman take decisions. They do not admit that a woman can have a better perspective and take her perspective into consideration when deciding. Men do not like when their wives or intimate partners make suggestions that oppose their views or answer them.

They get angry when women raise questions on resources and decisions. UNICEF (2010). It is rightly stated by the woman that in most cases men do not want to accept women's ideas, and it is also considered a challenge to their gender role.

In Ethiopia, there are a number of proverbs that put down women's nature and capabilities in order to justify the social predominance of men over them. For example, “Women are children with long legs” or “The thought of women and the light of a star do not take one far.” Thus, women are thought and expected to be submissive, passive, dependent, and obedient to men. If they are disobedient, men will use violence to discipline and maintain control. Ellsberg (2000) asserted that numerous studies around the world have suggested that violence against women is most common in societies where gender roles are rigidly defined and enforced and where the concept of masculinity is linked to toughness and male dominance. The opinion of women towards gender role expectations has also aggravated the occurrence of GBV.

The widespread acceptability of circumstances where wife-beating is justified highlights the extent to which partner violence is conceptualized as a form of chastisement for female behavior that transgresses certain expectations. For example, by supporting the acceptability of wife beating.

**Table 9. consequences of Gender Based Violence.**

Negative consequences	Respondents	
	frequency	Percent
Physical injury	34	27.64%
Mental instability	29	23.58%
Lost job	26	21.14%
Lack of self confidence	34	27.64%
Total	123	100%

Source: From survey data, 2025

As indicated in the table, respondents who experienced violence pointed out the consequences of violence as a result of physical, economic, and sexual factors and the current war, like drones. Women's emotional abuse by their current husband or intimate partner. While physical injury happened to 27.64% of women, mental instability and job loss from society were for 23.58% and 21.14%, respectively. A significant proportion of respondents—27.64%—reported a lack of self-confidence as a direct consequence of their experiences. In addition to emotional and psychological impacts, many women lost their jobs due to the violence they experienced, leading to financial dependence on their husbands, intimate partners, or other individuals. This economic dependence often compounded their vulnerability and made it more difficult for them to escape abusive situations.

Physical injuries, in combination with emotional, sexual, and economic abuse, have far-reaching and devastating effects on women. Across the various forms of abuse and the different contexts in which women are victimized, a common pattern emerges: abusive partners often use violence as a tool to strip women of their physical safety, psychological stability, and social well-being. This systemic and deliberate use of violence serves to erode women's sense of identity, autonomy, and security. Many of the women interviewed reported multiple and overlapping consequences of violence. Several participants recounted incidents where physical assaults by their partners resulted in serious injuries, such as fractures and internal wounds, which required urgent medical attention and long-term treatment. A few respondents emphasized the severity of the violence, noting that the assaults could have been fatal. While life-threatening injuries were less frequently reported, more common were bruises, cuts, and lesions—visible reminders of the abuse they endured.

Additionally, several respondents linked their traumatic experiences to the broader context of conflict, specifically the Tigray War that occurred between 2020 and 2025. They reported that during this period, violence escalated dramatically due to the widespread use of drones, heavy weaponry, and firearms. As a result, many women and girls suffered not only from domestic and intimate partner violence but also from conflict-related injuries and trauma. The war created an environment of fear, instability, and heightened vulnerability, particularly for women and girls, who were disproportionately affected by both physical violence and its long-term psychological repercussions. These testimonies highlight the multi-layered impact of violence on women's lives—ranging from physical harm and emotional trauma to economic insecurity and social isolation. The compounded nature of their suffering underscores the urgent need for comprehensive interventions that address not only the immediate effects of violence but also its lasting consequences on survivors' lives.

### **4.3. Response to Gender Based Violence**

This section presents the response to GBV, which includes women's coping mechanisms for violence while they are in abusive relationships. It was also discussed the main reason why women stay in and leave the abusive relationship. Moreover, this section presents the response of formal (legal bodies) and informal groups (family, friends, neighbors, and elders) how GBV is managed and what they are doing to combat it.

#### **4.3.1. Women's Individual Responses to GBV**

A woman's response to abuse is often limited by the options available to her in-depth interviews, women consistently mentioned the main reasons why they remain in abusive relationships or endure abuse for many years before leaving and even seeking help. Some of the reasons were economic hardship, concern for the children, emotional dependence, lack of support from family and friends, lack of knowledge and information about available services, and stigmatization of being divorced. The emotional attachment of women to their husbands or intimate partners is yet another deterring factor.

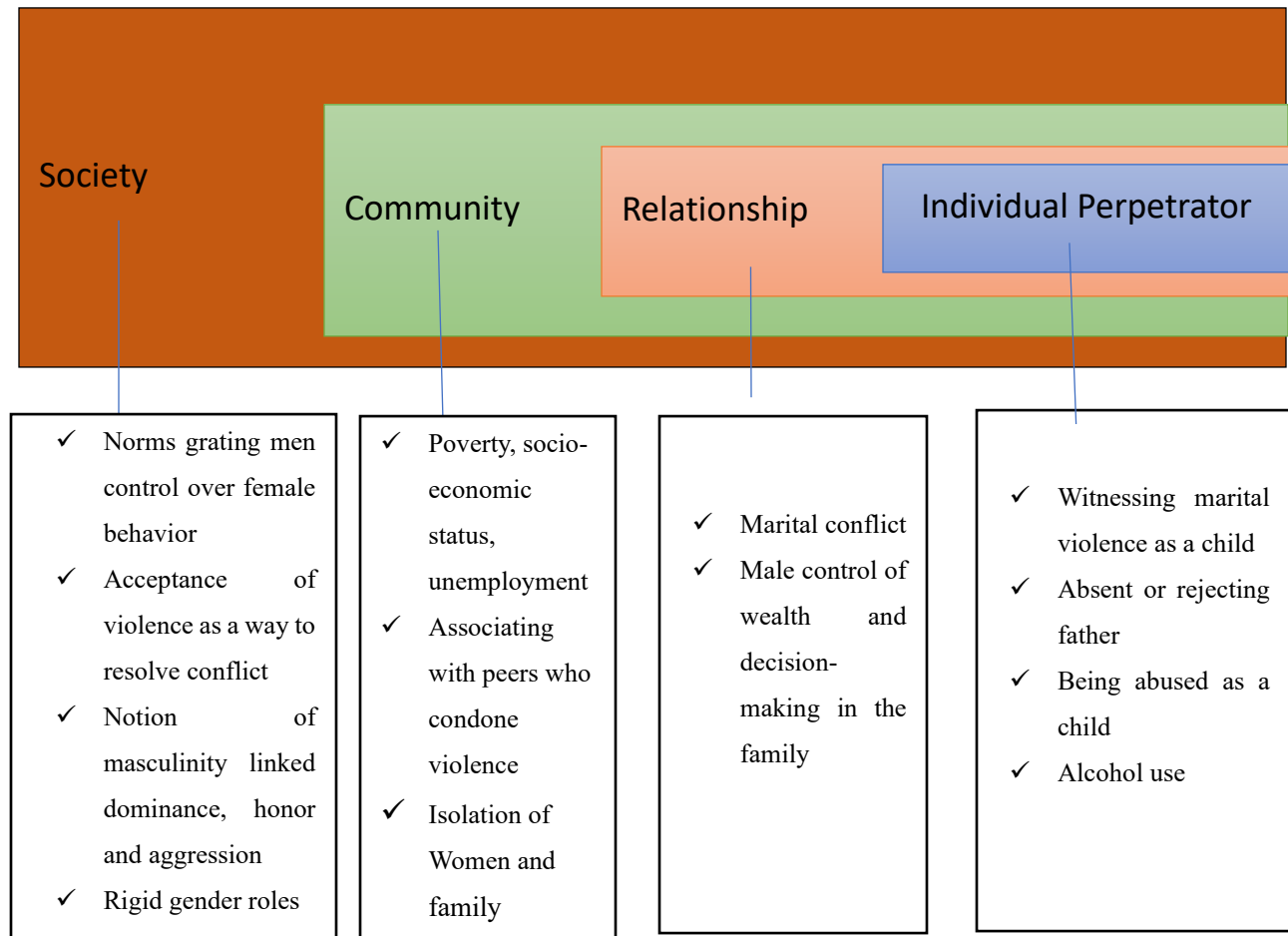
It was said that women's lack of resources or insufficient resources prevents them from leaving the violent relationship. As mentioned in the previous section, most women are economically dependent on men, which would hinder them from leaving their violent husbands. Many women found it difficult leaving their violent partner due to lack of resources. Gelles et al. (1988) described women who stay in the abusive relationship as tending to have less education and fewer job skills and being unemployed when compared to women who actively seek help and leave the relationship because those women may have fewer resources that they can utilize.

#### 4.3.2. Societal and Institutional Responses to GBV

Despite the many barriers to women disclosing violence, the results reveal that women in violent relationships did actively seek ways to reduce or end the violence in their lives. Where women sought help, they primarily turn to informal sources of support, particularly family, friends, and neighbors rather than to formal sources. Some mentioned that friends and family members listened to their fears, intervened to calm down the abusive husband or intimate partner, sheltered women, helped them leave, took them to hospitals, and accompanied them. It was also pointed out that neighbors are very important actors in stopping cases of GBV. However, they are often only aware of serious cases that cause a disturbance in the neighborhood.

It is clear that in many social groups of Tigray GBV dispute have to be primarily dealt with by the elders. This system provides powerful communal ways of keeping women seeking help from formal institutions. When women consult their family, they are frequently advised to reconcile with their husbands. Standards of femininity as nurturing, caring and reconciliatory are there by reinforced. A study by Armstrong (1998) also reveals GBV as a major problem affecting women and that not many women report such cases. This is because society plays a significant role in determining the options that a woman in an abusive relationship can exercise. Whether she leaves, remains or reports the perpetrator to the police and pursues the case, has more to do with how society has always treated the issue of GBV. As the result of the nature of the circumstances in which GBV occurs, women who found themselves in this situation are forced to deal with the problem at the personal and private level within the family or in the community.

#### 4.4 The ecological model of factors associated with gender-based violence. participants to explaining the model



**Figure 1. 4.4.The ecological model of factors associated with gender-based violence**

- ❖ At the individual level these factors include the perpetrator as a child or witnessing marital violence in the home having an absent or rejecting father and frequent use alcohol.
- ❖ At the family level and relationship cross-cultural studies have cited male control of wealth and decision-making within the family and marital conflict as strong predictors of abuse.
- ❖ At the community level women's isolation and lack of social support, together with male peer group that condone and legitimize men's violence predict higher rate of violence.

- ❖ At the societal level studies around the woreda have found that violence against women is the most common where gender role are rigidly defined and enforced and where the concept of masculinity is linked to toughness, male honor, or dominant. Other culture norms associated with abuse include tolerate of physical punishment of women and children, acceptance of violence as a means to settle interpersonal disputes, the perception that men have "ownership" of women.

# CHAPTER FIVE:

## 5. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

### 5.1. Summary of the Findings

GBV is multi-dimensional, involving physical, psychological, economic, and sexual violence. Many women do not consider forced sex within marriage as rape, due to cultural, religious, and legal influences. Alcohol abuse, jealousy, and violation of gender roles are key triggers of violence.

The ecological framework used in this study showed that GBV stems from the interaction of personal, social, political, and cultural factors.

Culture plays a major role in justifying and perpetuating GBV, often viewing abuse as a private family matter.

GBV leads to serious physical and mental health consequences, including increased risk of HIV/AIDS, depression, and social isolation.

Women often do not leave abusive relationships due to:

- Economic dependence
- Social stigma
- Hope that their partner will change
- Lack of access to support services

Some survivors adopt survival strategies, such as avoiding conflict or leaving the home temporarily. Others eventually resort to divorce when the violence becomes life-threatening or affects children.

Post-divorce, women often face economic and social challenges.

There is also a lack of funding and institutional support from government bodies, making GBV prevention and response inadequate.

By giving voice to survivors, this study highlights the need for cultural understanding and structural intervention. Including men's perspectives in future studies is also recommended to broaden the approach to tackling GBV.

Violence leads to both immediate and long-term physical and psychological harm. Many victims lose their jobs and become dependent on their abuser, perpetuating a cycle of control, poverty, and trauma. Coping mechanisms and responses many women remain in abusive relationships due to economic dependence, concern for children. Emotional attachment, social stigma. Women

primarily seek help from informal networks family, neighbors, elders, rather than from formal legal or institutional systems. These informal systems often promote reconciliation rather than justice, further trapping women in abusive situations. Institutional Challenges The study found that formal institutions (police, legal bodies, social services) were underutilized or ineffective. Barriers include Lack of awareness Fear of stigma Poor institutional response Traditional norms favoring private resolution.

The Ecological Model of GBV the study utilized the ecological model to understand GBV's complexity: Individual level: alcohol abuse, childhood trauma Family/relationship level: male dominance, marital conflict community level social isolation, peer reinforcement of violence Societal level cultural norms, rigid gender roles, systemic patriarchy This model emphasizes that GBV is rooted in multiple, interrelated factors, requiring a multilevel intervention approach—from individual behavior change to cultural transformation and legal reform.

Likewise, women who stay in abusive connections develop different managing chops or survival strategies, which include keeping out of the husband's sight, refusing to engage in an argument initiated by the husband or boyfriend simply leaving the home to avoid a probable violent incident, enduring. Women considered themselves amenable and tolerant while men are perceived as aggressive, intolerant.

Despite these situations, there were women who decided to leave permanently the violent husband or boyfriend. Divorce is one of the active managing strategies for women in abusive connections, but is only taken when women realize that the abuse is getting advanced in frequency or inflexibility, that their abusive mate won't change, and when violence begins to take effect on the children as well as emotional and provident support of family and friends, still, after divorce they face a lot of social and profitable problem.

By giving voice to abused women, this study represents a step forward. The experimenter anticipates that this process of understanding artistic meanings of GBV and individual comprehensions, stations and responses is an important base for developing applicable interventions for violence reduction and forestallment Hintallo Woreda. also, farther studies including men station perception and gestures in GBV would give a wider view on these issues.

## **5.2. Conclusion**

As it has been discussed in the previous chapters, the research used a qualitative method. As a result, ten women who were the victims of GBV were interviewed. Additionally, five key informants were interviewed. The research has explored gender-based violence against women in Hintallo woreda.

The research identified different forms of indicators, which gave priority to the need for protecting the women from GBV. The interviewed women experienced different types of violence, which adversely affect their social well-being. This includes physical, sexual, economic, and

psychological violence. While the majority of participants of the study explained that they had suffered sexual violence, it indirectly affected their psychological and social health. Inception of all forms of violence begins at home by their husbands or other rapes. Perpetrators in the society treat their wives or intimate partners illicitly because of their poor economic power. Husbands or intimate partners also block them from pursuing education and employment. Hence, it is understood that discrimination is the prime reason for inequality and injustice towards women who are victims of GBV. The negative attitude of the society towards victim women with GBV restricts their access to resources. This necessitates the need for a change in the attitude of people in society, and such a change should affect the rights of abused women in a positive manner.

Several causes of GBV are linked, wherein the impact of GBV was largely mentioned. Some responses gathered from actors are apparent from former sections and show the majority of them, as they stated that they're physically, psychologically, economically, and sexually abused due to drunkenness, covetousness, or jealous thinking of unfaithful, and refusing coitus, as well as the hierarchical structure and traditional outlook of the society. This displays as there's a lack of mindfulness in the society regarding GBV, which challenged women. The lack of mindfulness could be considered as a generic term that is applicable in all sectors of the society since victimized women are violently handled at home and considered as a private family issue.

Mindfulness can be spread across the woreda with the horizon of guarding the GBV victim women. The responsible government, community service provider associations, and non-government organizations should concentrate more on spreading mindfulness to the society in securing women from GBV in all circumstances to mitigate and exclude GBV. Accordingly, a few representatives of governmental organization had stated that the laws and policy for securing sexually abused women are enforced successfully; still, this doesn't alleviate or reduced the number of harassment cases associated with GBV towards women. This necessitates the need to fill the gaps in the implementation of programs to guard abused women.

### **5.3. Recommendations**

To summarize the study, the findings of this research appear to be promising in the fight against GBV, focusing on its management. As a recommendation, the researcher highly believes a lot has to be done towards combating GBV.

- ❖ Using different media, fresh awareness creation trainings should be organized to involve a number of people from different kebeles with different cultural and religious backgrounds
- ❖ By organizing different symposiums and campaign, educating young people about gender equality and GBV can be useful in fighting future violence against women.

- ❖ By dealing with the concerned bodies, if possible, additional funding is needed to establish more facility providing centers in Hintallo woreda is still a long way to go to respond to violence against women.
- ❖ By arranging either weekly, monthly, and annually a program women, children and youth sector has to announce its project and activities through different medias such as radio, Television shows most important, social medias to attract international and local donors.
- ❖ Collaboratively with health sector, providing adequate information to women regarding the health and social implications of the violence and abuse.
- ❖ With the help of police, initiating an exploration as to what all forms of violence that all abused women experience so that the exploits of these women can be more understood.
- ❖ People should be aware the existence of the problems and its serious consequences. Since the practice gender-based violence is deeply on the cultural value of people; modifying peoples view and unquestioning values of tradition are areas for actions. But it requires concrete effort and the commitments of the whole society to eliminate such harmful practice.
- ❖ Improving law enforcement on issues related to gender-based violence. This should include improving the speed and sensitivity of the processing of cases by the court as well as identifying mechanisms to encourage victims to report in clients of gender-based violence to the police. This also requires giving sensitization training to court personals, police officers, the adolescents, the media and other related groups.
- ❖ Adoption of policies and legislation is required to recognize the different acts that violate the right of women and abused women.
- ❖ The involvement of a diverse set of individuals so as to develop more comprehensive solution in the combat of violence against women. This the form of policies and protocols followed by law enforcement, healthcare providers, service provider and all other personnel who are involvement betterment process.
- ❖ Giving training to stake holders such as police in prevention and response to GBV against women.
- ❖ Strengthening the magnitude of GBV management apart from creating awareness and emphasizing implementation of possible solution and measurement.
- ❖ Finally, noting that is difficult to meet the needs of many individuals, the researcher suggest that the organization will work harder to meet needs of abused women in line with filling the gap mentioned in the chapter four.

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## **Appendix-A**

### **Mekelle University**

#### **Department of civic and ethical studies**

#### **Interview Questions for Subjects of the Study**

This study is being conducted to gather information and data on gender-based violence against women. The information you provide will be kept confidential and used for the research purpose only. If you are willing to participate in this interview, I would like to ask you about the relationship between you and your boyfriend or husband. I hope you will participate in this interview as your personal view and life experience are very crucial to the study.

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Education status \_\_\_\_\_

1. Are you in relationship or get married?
2. How is your relationship or marriage life?
3. Have you quarreled with your boyfriend or husband? How often?
4. What is the psychological and physical violence?
5. Would you describe the abuse you experienced?
6. What are the main causes of violence?
7. Would you tell me the consequences of violence on you?
8. How do you think about the attitude of society towards gender-based violence?
9. In your opinion, what is the role of gender and cultural value in the occurrence of gender-based violence?
10. What things did you do to cope with your abusive situation?
11. Did you try to leave the abusive relationship?
12. What are the barriers to leave the abusive relationship?
13. Did you seek assistance? If yes where, who and what assistance?
14. Did the assistance meet your expectations
15. Did you report to the police?
16. What was the response of the police?
17. What do you think should be done about gender-based violence?

## **Appendix- B**

### **Mekelle University**

**Department of civic and ethical studies**

### **Structured Questionnaire for the participants**

The questionnaire is designed for women or females. The purpose of this questionnaire is to observe and investigate the experience, causes, consequences, and responses of effects of gender-based violence against women and its management. Since this questionnaire is not for the assessment of an individual's personality, writing your name is not necessary. However, your personal information very important to the study.

The information you feel and the answers you give are used only for the research purpose only. Therefore, if you are willing to take part in this survey, I would like to ask you about your relationship with your boyfriend or husband. Therefore, you are kindly asked to answer the questionnaire precisely and honestly. Your personal information is critical to the study.

**Thank you in advance for your Cooperation!!**

1. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_ ( write in complete year)
2. What is your religion?
  - A. Orthodox                      C. Muslim      E. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. protestant                      D. Catholic
3. What is the higher grade you have complete?
  - A. No formal education      C. Secondary (9-12 grade)
  - B. Primary (1-8 grade)      D. Above secondary level
4. Are you working? A. Yes      B. No
5. What is your occupation?
  - A. Civil- servant    B. Vocational    C. Unemployed    D. House wife
6. What kind of your occupation you have?
  - A. Teacher    B. Labor    C. House wife    D. No

7. How long have you been in relationship with your current boyfriend or husband?  
 A. Always B. Rarely C. sometimes D. Often
8. What is your boyfriend or husband educational level?  
 A. Illiterate C. Secondary  
 B. Primary D. Above secondary
9. Does your boyfriend or husband have job? A. Yes B. No
10. What is his occupation?  
 A. Governmental B. Non-governmental C. Daily works D. Other
11. How often your husband or boyfriends drink alcohol?  
 A. Rarely B. Sometimes C. Always D. Usually
- 12 Do you think your husband or other violence on you? A. Yes B. No
13. Have you ever experienced violence by your current husband or other people?  
 A. No B. Yes
14. What was the main reason for violence?
- I. Rape or abduction A. Yes B. No
- II. Female genital mutilations A. Yes B. No
- III. Sexual harassment A. Yes B. No
- IV. Early marriage A. Yes B. No
- V. Transgression of gender role (refusing sex, taking back. Not accomplishing house chore, disobedient, etc. A. Yes B. No
- VI. Jealous A. Yes B. No
- VII. Drunkenness A. Yes B. No
15. Which factors affect gender -based violence against women?  
 A. Rape or abduction C. Female genital mutilation E. All  
 B. Sexual harassment D. Early marriage
16. What kind of problem is affect gender- based violence against women?

- A. Physical violence                      C. Socio logical violence
- B. Intimidation or scaring              D. Fistula problem

17. Has your boyfriend or husband done the following to you?

- I. Insulted    A. Rarely    B. Sometime    C. Often
- II. Humiliation    A. Often    B. Rarely    C. Sometime
- III. Intimidation    A. Rarely    B. Sometime    C. Often
- IV. Isolation    A. Rarely    B. Sometime    C. Often

18. Does your husband or other ignore or put down your opinion or contribution?

- A. Yes              B. No

19. Did you husband limit your access to money and other resources in the house?

- A. Yes              B. No

20. Has your husband or others forced you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want?

- A. Yes              B.NO

21. Which of the following acts occurred to you the following physical, sexual, economical and psychological violence you experienced?

- I. Get pregnant                      A. Yes              B. No
- II. Physical injury                      A. Yes              B. No
- III. Isolated from family and society    A. Yes              B. No
- IV. Lack of self- confidence              A. Yes              B. No

V. Lost job              A. Yes              B. No

22. Women have equal right with their husband or other male

- A. Agree              B. Disagree

23. Men are superior to women. A. Agree              B. Disagree