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**RURAL WOMEN LIVED EXPERIENCES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: THE
CASE OF KONTA SPECIAL WOREDA, SOUTHERN NATIONS, NATIONALITIES
AND PEOPLES REGIONAL STATE, ETHIOPIA**

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THESIS ON

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BOFED	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
	Domestic Violence
DV	Domestic Violence Against Women
DVAW	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FDRE	Focus Group Discussion
FGD	Female Genital Mutilation
FGM	Intimate Partner Violence
IPV	Konta Special Woreda Agriculture and Rural Development Office
KSWARDO	National Violence Against Women
NVAW	Southern Nations, Nationalities & Peoples Regional State
SNNPRS	United Nation Population Fund
UNFPA	United Nation Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women
UNDEVAW	World Health Organization
W H O	

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Abstract

Domestic Violence Against Women (DVAW) is a global problem that crosses cultural, geographic, religious, social and economic boundaries and is a violation of human rights. Domestic Violence against women deprives women's right to fully take part in social and economic life. Many empirical works on domestic violence conducted in Ethiopia have been explained by quantitatively, it usually fails to contribute much to the understanding of why and how women themselves experience domestic violence and it does not provide sufficient rigor since it is inextricably linked with socio-cultural contexts, norms, beliefs and practices from subjective point of view by phenomenological. Moreover, no studies have been done rural women lived experience of domestic violence in study area, in Konta Special Woreda SNNPR. The objective of this study is to describe the rural women lived experience of domestic violence. The study used qualitative phenomenological research designs and various data gathering tools including in-depth interview, focus group discussions, key informant and case study on issues. An in-depth interview was carried out with ten women who were survivors of domestic violence, two focus group discussions (which contained 6 study participants) and three key informant and two case study were qualify the study findings. The finding of the study shows that women who are living in rural area have suffered a great deal from different acts of domestic violence because of lack of awareness, negative attitudes and economic dependency. Beating, insulting, kicking, punching, undermining, lack of employment and educational opportunities are among the dominant types of violence that affect women physically, psychologically and economically. The study also confirmed that physical and psychological violence are seen as far worse than other form of violence, because they leads to other form of violence. Furthermore, the study identified various techniques or strategies used by women survivors to deal with the domestic violence that they encounter in the hands of their husband. Some of them include keeping silence, reporting to responsible bodies, and spending the night outside. Their actions also aimed to rehabilitate from that injury. Based on the findings of the study, it can be suggested that violence was a common and serious problem and have negative impact on women and children. Therefore, it is recommended that domestic violence needs due attention and remedial actions and Programs from government, non-governmental organization, crating community's awareness and religious institution given time to preach gospel on criminal activities

Keywords: Domestic violence, lived experience, Phenomenology, Patriarchy, women and Konta special woreda

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Domestic violence against women in the home has been part of human history and human societies have lived with it without feeling that it was anything wrong (Akpan & Inyang, 2005). Domestic Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women. Domestic Violence against women is most prevalent in every part of society, but gets less public concern and recognition. It is usually expressed in physical, sexual and psychological abuse inflicted by close partners. (World Health Organization, 2010). It continues to be a global challenge that kills, tortures, and disfigures women- physically, psychologically, sexually and economically. It exists in every country, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income; ethnicity and age (Azhar, 2015).

Domestic violence has probably always been part of the human experience. Its impact can be seen in various forms and in all parts of the world. Each year, more than a million people lose their lives and many more suffer non-fatal injuries, as a result of self-inflicted, interpersonal or collective violence. In most cases, domestic violence against women occurs within the context of a relationship of a married couple and includes physical, sexual, emotional abuse as well as controlling behaviors (Basile & Saltzman, 2002).

According to United Nation Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (2015) Domestic violence against women is defined as “any act of gender based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or private life.”

Victims of domestic violence can be of any age, race, or gender. Even though study results from the developed world emphasize also on the abusive role of women against their male partners, women are more frequently targets of both physical and sexual assault, not only by strangers, but also by partners and acquaintances (United Nations Children’s Fund, 2000).

Domestic violence against women is predominantly perpetrated by men against women, although it can also be perpetrated by women against men. However it is very different from the violence men perpetrate towards women, given that it is usually far less harmful, frequently carried out in self-defenses and much less likely to be motivated by an attempt to control, dominate or terrorize (Michael, 2014). Domestic violence against women is a serious cause of death and incapacity among women of reproductive age; it causes more ill health than traffic accidents and malaria combined (World Health Organization, 2005).

In the domestic sphere it is usually committed by husband who is, or who has been, in positions of trust and intimacy and power; husbands, boyfriends, father, fathers-in-law and other close relatives residing under same shelter. Domestic Violence against women is often a cycle of abuse that manifests itself in many forms throughout their lives. During childhood, domestic violence against girls may include lack of access to education, incest, female genital mutilation, early marriage, and forced prostitution. Some go on to suffer throughout their adult lives battered, raped and even murdered at the hands of intimate partners(United Nations Children's Fund, 2000).

The prevalence rate of domestic violence against women in the world increasing knows a day. The World Health Organization collected data from over 24, 000 women between the ages of 15 and 49 in both rural and urban areas in ten different countries show that 13% – 61% of women experienced domestic violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lives and 6% – 59% of participants had experienced sexual violence by a partner (Garcia-Moreno, 2005).

Another Study conducted indicates that an average of 35 % of the female population aged 16 and above had experienced domestic violence, with between 20 and 60 % of this population reporting at least one incident of physical or sexual violence since the age of 16 (Diksha , 2016)

Women in Africa, like their counter parts of the world over, suffer domestic violence respective of class, age, religion/social status. Though the reality of domestic violence against women is global phenomenon, socio-economic, cultural and ideological setting. In this regard, the African continent provides an interesting set of realities with its unique historical and ideological setting. Domestic violence in Africa is situated in particular context .this is evidenced on the fact that it has its own unique evolution and turn of events with regard to familial structure, the emphasis on collective way of living, the influence of communities leaders which disrupt the societal structure in many African countries (Hamm, 2000).

The prevalence rates in sub-Saharan countries high even relative to other developing regions of the world. For instance, 49% of Ugandan women, 63% of Tanzanian women, 45% of Kenyan women and 47% of Zambian women report regular physical abuse by their husbands (Collymore, 2012).

In Ethiopia domestic violence against women is highly prevalent and widely socially tolerated. A study conducted by the World Bank concluded that 88 % of rural women and 69 % of urban women believed their husbands had the right to beat them. Moreover the courts do not tend to consider domestic violence against women as a serious justification for granting a divorce in rural communities (Jonna, 2009)

According to Semeahegn & Mengistie (2015) Study conducted in Ethiopia from 2000 to 2014 indicated that, the prevalence rate of domestic violence against women, physical and sexual violence were 46% and 39.6% respectively. Among the type of physical violence slapping was the commonest type account 32.8 %. Exercising of smoking, drinking alcohol, educational level of and monthly income were remaining significantly predictors of domestic violence in both rural and urban.

The tolerance of domestic violence against women and the experience in every societies increasing. When a society tolerates and accepts domestic violence against women, its eradication is more difficult. Many rural women in Ethiopia embrace various types of domestic violence and even claim to have women who go to the point of saying: If my husband does not beat me, it means that he does not love me and similar other sayings that justify domestic violence are common in all societies (Prashant, 2015).

The eradication of domestic violence at the international and regional levels, states around the world have adopted numerous instruments to address the problem. These instruments can broadly be divided into legal and policy documents. The major instruments are the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and Beijing Platform for Action. At the national level, too states have domesticated these frameworks and have further adopted instruments that address their country specific contexts (Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, 2013).

Ethiopia has ratified several human right instruments including instruments specifically dealing with the rights of women such as CEDAW. Ethiopia is also a signatory but not ratified the

Protocol for the African Human and Peoples right on the rights of women (Prime Minister Office, 2004).

The Ethiopian Society is quiet conservative and traditional society. For this reason, several women's right violations such as physical, sexual, psychological, economical violence, FGM, rape, abduction and early marriage are quiet common particularly in the rural areas. Domestic violence have been widely practiced for the last several decades and still continued to be practiced (Medhanit & Sofanit, 2014). It has affected 80% of the country's women out of which most of them are endorsed by women themselves.

Domestic Violence against in Ethiopia is also quiet common despite the fact that it is criminalized and recognized as women's human right violations under the national legislations of the country (United Nation, 2003). Recently, we are hearing several shocking cases dealing with physical violence, sexual violence and mental violence against women in Ethiopia. This has an implication of either the problem gets worse every day or domestic violence against women these days are getting attention and publicized because of governmental and non-governmental actors.

Abduction and rape are also the major challenges that Ethiopia is facing in implementation of women's right in the country. Deep-rooted traditions and cultures are usually cited as main reasons for such extensive violation of women's right (Abebe, 2011).

Ethiopia, after ratification of several international human right instruments took legislative and other important measures in order to respect the rights of women in general. However, such measures are remained to be insufficient. Several women rights abuses continued to persist, perpetrators remained unpunished or punished with fines or quiet few years of imprisonment for gross violations of Women's rights. Fundamental rights of women are recognized under the constitution and family code of Ethiopia. The revised criminal code, on the other hand, criminalized several harmful traditional practices. The study shows the rural women lived experience of domestic violence and measures are either effective or not to combat domestic violence of women's right.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Domestic violence against women continues to be a global challenge that kills, tortures and injures physically, psychologically and sexually of human being. It is one of the most pervasive

of human rights violation denying women equality, securities, dignity, self-worth and their right to enjoy fundamental freedoms. It also present in every class, education, income, ethnicity and age. Moreover, when domestic violence against women takes place within the home, as it very often the case, the abuse is affectivity condoned by the state and the law-passivity displayed by the state and the law enforcing machinery (Kemboi, 2010).

In Ethiopia, the problem of domestic violence against women experience in their marriage life is severe and different studies have shown the prevalence. Physical, sexual, economical and psychological assaults occur at alarming rate. No societies can claim to be free of such violence the only variation is in the patterns and trends that exist in regions (Alhabib, Nur & Jones, 2009).

According to Berhane, Ethiopia is one of the countries with the highest prevalence of both physical and sexual violence 60%- 70% of ever-partnered Ethiopian women experienced one or the other forms of domestic violence, or both over their lifetime. In spite of its high prevalence rate in the country, it has been under reported and not well documented in rural area. In rural part of Ethiopia, many women live constantly with the threat of domestic violence and there are interrelated factors that aggravated the problem. The root cause of problem lie in the society's attitude towards, patriarch system and practice of gender discrimination, which place women in the subordination position in relation to men. (Berhane, 2004).

Hence, domestic violence is the most common form of violence in women's lives, and yet remained largely hidden. It has been mitigated in most societies as a private family matter, as its occurrence behind closed doors and drawn curtains kept it out of sight, making many women to suffer in silence.

The study done by Mohamed (2007) among pastoral communities in Oromia region, Ethiopia showed that girls are usually beaten by their fathers, mothers, and their brothers and even by their relatives, with the intention to make them submissive for their future husbands. Women are also usually beaten by their husbands in the name of punishment and correction.

According Fozia (2014) the magnitude of intimate partner violence against women was 54.9%.The proportion of women who ever experienced physical and sexual violence in life time was 63.9%. Forty seven percent of ever-married women reported that they had been physically forced by their husbands to have sex even if they did not want to. Multivariate

analysis showed, husband occupation and alcohol consumption, marital status, woman's aggressiveness, and talking to husband about money matter were independent factors for intimate partner violence against women.

Another study conducted by Regassa (2012) in Siddama Zone in SNNPR of Ethiopia, shown that intimate partner violence is very high and that there are certain risk factors aggravating its occurrence. While the main factors that are rooted in the socio-cultural practices and attitudes of the community and certain individual and household level variables which significantly affect its occurrence. The most common improvements involve criminalizing physical, sexual and psychological violence by intimate partners, public education on intimate partner violence and its criminality using intensive behavioral change strategies.

Women's subjective experience that can better describe women's own experiences of domestic violence living in a particular socio-cultural context. Understanding the experiences of domestic violence from women's subjective point of view may also greatly help to show the implementation of policy and improving the effects of domestic violence against women (Vranda, 2013).

More of empirical works on domestic violence conducted in Ethiopia have been explained the magnitude, cause and consequences on women's health and well-being in quantifying, it usually fails to contribute much to the understanding of why and how women themselves experience domestic violence.

Quantifying domestic violence does not provide sufficient rigor since it is inextricably linked with socio-cultural contexts, norms, beliefs and practices from subjective point of view.

Even though violence against women in different aspects are well recognized, few studies have been done on domestic violence against women in Ethiopia. Even the researches that have been done previously in Ethiopia more focused on intimate partner violence against women & girls.

Moreover, there is a clear gap of knowledge regarding domestic violence by phenomenological design in Ethiopia and still no studies have been done in study area, in Konta Special Woreda SNNPR. Hence, the study at hand attempts to investigate rural women lived experience of domestic violence from subjective point of view by using phenomenological methods.

1.3. Objectives of the study

1.3.1. General objectives

The major objective of this phenomenological study to describe the rural women lived experiences of domestic violence in konta special woreda

1.3.2. Specific objectives

The achievement of the following Sub-objectives will contribute to the fulfillment of the primary objective stated above. So, the specific objectives of the study are:

- To identify the conditions that contribute to rural women in being at risk for domestic violence in the study area.
- To explain different forms of domestic violence that experienced by rural women in the study area.
- To identify the consequences of domestic violence against women in the study area
- To identify gaps on the laws aimed at tackling domestic violence against women in the study area
- To identify coping strategy of the problems that rural women have experienced in the study area

1.4. Significance of the study

Domestic violence against women is home-based violence, which disproportionately affects women than men. This includes physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence. In the Konta context domestic violence stems from the assumption that once a man marriage a women he has absolute control over her. It is usually due to the right to domination of females. This is principally owing to influence of the tradition idea of men which favors "Men are senior to women" It has severe effect on human rights and dignity of women.

In fact, the family should be the safest place for women in time of trouble. The family is an institution where one should get emotional support, comfort, care, food and shelter. Yet this institution can be the unsafe place for women. It can be a battle zone, full of conflicts and strife. Because it is perceived as a closed and private space, the home allows for atrocities to continue undetected and sanctioned by the community.

No research has been conducted on this issue in the study areas of both urban and rural communities. The issue of the problem has not been given the warranted attention. The Governmental Organizations working in the study areas have been mainly targeting on the

provision of social services that help women in their domestic workloads. Therefore, the researcher of this study believes that this thesis will fill the gap in our knowledge of the situation of women in the rural communities in Ethiopia. It is assumed that this research will show the reality of women in the rural areas, which will help to call attention for further research and urgent involvement of policy to protect them. The expected outcomes from the study are as follows:

- ❖ Increase knowledge about the impact of domestic violence on the abused women in konta.
- ❖ Increase understanding of the factors that lead to domestic violence and suggest some practical solutions to overcome this problem in the study area.
- ❖ Increase the understanding of the resources that are perceived as being helpful to the women while dealing with the domestic violence problem.
- ❖ Raise awareness of the damage caused by domestic violence at a societal level.
- ❖ Influence future policy development and practices concerning the problem of domestic violence in konta.
- ❖ Finally, it will be further aimed at offering some practical suggestions on how to solve the dilemma of women being battered, beaten, raped in Konta by their spouses or intimate partners.

1.5. Scope of the Study

This study was focused on rural women lived experiences of domestic violence in konta special woreda. It was likely that domestic violence occurs to a greater extent in the rural setting than in urban setting in research study area. This is because the majority of women are not educated and dependent on their husbands. Even though both men and women can be victim of domestic violence, the research only targeted victim women as evidence in Ethiopia, suggests that, more women than men are victimized by domestic violence.

Moreover, the domestic violence women suffer from in the hands of their partners is more sever. Among the women, the research was targeted only women who experienced domestic violence and women above the age of 18 because investigatory can got rich data with little work and could helped us understand how people viewed certain subject matters from their experiences.

1.6. Conceptualization of Core Concepts

Physical violence; physical violence is an assault that causes physical injury or the use of the body to threaten injury. There are ranges of behaviors that can constitute physical abuse including hitting, choking, burning, and restraining.

Sexual violence; Sexual violence understood as any behavior that forces the woman to participate in sexual intercourse, by means of intimidation, threat, coercion. Her sexuality, includes unwanted kissing or touching or making a woman do something that she doesn't want to do or enforcing them to watch like pornography without their willing (Healey, 2013:18)

Psychological violence; emotional or psychological violence constitutes behavior that torments, intimidates, harasses or is offensive. Examples of this behavior range from yelling abuse and name calling, to mind games, and threats to kill/to harm and/or to commit suicide. (Healey, 2013:19).

Economic violence; controlling their access to all of the family resources: time, transportation, food, clothing, shelter, and money.

Lived experiences: -are part of the life-world presented as feelings, happenings and accomplishments that are lived and experienced by human beings. They are realities of life for those persons involved in different experiences.

Phenomenology may be broadly defined as the study of lived experience with an aim toward gaining a deeper understanding of the nature or meaning of our everyday experiences (Van Manen, 1990).

Patriarchy is defined as the system which dominates women through its social, economic and political institutions (Sultana, 2010)

1.7. Organization of the Study

This study is organized in to five chapters. Chapter one discussed about the introductory part, which covers the background to the study, statement of problem, and objectives of the study, scope of the study and concept of definition. Chapter two includes overview of domestic violence, theoretical explanation, type of domestic violence, Factors that contributing for domestic violence, magnitude of domestic violence, impact of domestic violence and legal framework.

Chapter three were focus on research method, Description of the study area, research design, sampling technique, data collection instruments, methods of data analysis and, validity and reliability of research instruments, respondent recruitment procures, interview procures, ethical issues and limitation of the study. Chapter four presents finding and discussion and Chapter five conclusion and recommendation

CHAPTER TWO

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter looks at various aspects, including Perceptions on Domestic Violence, global overview of domestic violence, Domestic Violence in Ethiopia, theoretical explanation, domestic violence and its typologies, societal attitudes toward domestic violence against women, magnitude of domestic violence, impacts of domestic violence, legal and institutional frameworks on domestic violence against women and abused women management strategies of domestic violence.

2.2. Perceptions on domestic violence

There is no clear-cut definition of domestic violence. However, there are various perceptions of domestic violence. Every individual defines domestic violence in his or her own way according to his or her life experiences. Domestic violence is complex and can encompass a wide range of behaviors, relationships and it has been mitigated in most societies as a private family matter, as its occurrence behind closed doors and drawn curtains kept it out of sight, making many women to suffer in silence (United Nations Fund for Population Activities, 2005).

Domestic violence takes place in the home and involves an informal or intimate relationship between abused women and the abusers. The study of United Nation Children Fund (2000) confirmed that in most cases women violence takes place in the domestic setting. Examples of perpetrators of women violence in the domestic setting are spouse, relatives, friends, and neighbors.

It is interchangeably with other terms such as intimate partner violence, family violence and spousal abuse, among others, each with their own nuances and variations. Nevertheless, there are several themes in common between most definitions, including physical violence, sexual violence and emotional/psychological violence (Dhattarwal, 2013).

Domestic Violence, also known as Interpersonal Violence (IPV), is violence that occurs between two individuals involved in a close relationship (i.e., married, divorced, engaged, dating, etc.) and involves the use of violence to intimidate, control and/or cause harm to one's partner. Include; punching, kicking, burning, slapping and/or any other use of physical force (General, 2011).

Despite the threat domestic violence against women poses to millions of women, serious attempts to determine the prevalence of domestic violence have been made only within the last 15 years. Until recently, it has been depicted as a minor social problem by most governments and policy makers. It goes beyond actual physical violence and can also involve emotional violence, the destruction of property, isolation from friends, family and other potential sources of support; threats to others including children; stalking; and control over access to money, personal items, food, transport and the telephone (Oluremi, 2015)

The nature and extent of domestic violence against women in society surfaced as a powerful issue on the international agenda during the 1990s. During this time that it was recognized to be a major health and human right issue. Following these efforts, declarations were put in place in order to give a stronger legal framework for prevention of domestic violence against women (Gallagher, 1998).

At least one out of every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime, according to a study based on 50 surveys from around the world. Usually, the abuser is a member of her own family or someone known to her (Amnesty International, 2004). Those who abuser can be of any gender, as can their victims; their relationships are varied, and not limited to just intimate partners. However, it is generally thought that the relationship should be a close one, based around a domestic or intimate connection (Amnesty International, 2004:57).

2.2 Global overview of domestic violence

A National Survey of domestic violence against women in Canada had shown that one third of all women had been physically assaulted by their partners. It is also mentioned that the weapon used by perpetrators develops upon their cultural factors and availability of weapons. In the United Nations, more murder of women is committed by guns where as in India, guns are used but beating and death by fire are common. Then perpetrators of the crime claimed that she died in a kitchen accident (World Health Organization, 2004).

A National Survey by women's aid organizations of Malaysia has conducted in-depth interview with 60 women in 2005/2006. The report shows that among 60 women, 92% were kicked, punched or slapped, 22% had suffered attempts of strangulation and 10% had been stabbed or threatened with knife or instrument. Furthermore, 68% had reported being beaten when

pregnant and 50% experienced sexual coercion in the form of physical force during sexual intercourse (Campbell, 2004).

Domestic violence prevails globally. WHO indicated that, in Peru 70% of all crimes reported to police are of women beaten by their husband. A study in a Bangkok slum found that 50% of married women were beaten regularly. In the United States, every 15 seconds a woman is beaten and four battered women die each day. Each year more than 1.5 million women seek medical care for injuries resulting from domestic violence. 40% of Chilean women reported that abuse against them increased during pregnancy (World Health Organization, 2012).

2.3. Domestic Violence in Ethiopia

Women in Ethiopia suffer domestic violence irrespective of class, religion, age, or social status. Population-level surveys based on reports from victims provide the most accurate estimates of the prevalence of intimate partner violence and sexual violence in non-conflict settings. The first report of the WHO Multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women in 10 mainly developing countries found that, among women aged 15-49, about 71% of women in Ethiopia reported to be victims of physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime (Sintayehu, 2015).

In traditional society, when a woman once married she is considered as a property of her counterpart. Hence in any regard when a married woman face any kinds of harassment from her partner, the community even the closest family of her are reluctant to intervene in any manner. It is noticed that women in rural areas are facing more hurdles than women in urban areas in seeking legal protection (Berihun & Harald, 2009).

The practice of early marriage is common in northern Ethiopia in Amhara Region. WHO Multi-Country Study shows that about 48% of the women are married below the age of 15 years and 27% of the women are married below the age of 19 years. Even though polygamy is prohibited, it is also there in rural part of Ethiopia. A Study conducted by the World Bank shows that 88% of the rural women and 69% of the urban women believe that their husbands have the right to beat them. Domestic violence is widely condoned and the court didn't consider domestic violence as a ground for divorce (Pathfinder International/Ethiopia, 2006).

To this regard, Bowman explained that the impact of polygamy, the acceptance of male promiscuity, and the power of extended family over the married couple and the almost universal institutions of bride price as underlying the widespread violence of wives (Bowman,

2003). The payment of bride price to the wife's family at the time of their marriage makes it difficult for women to leave abusive husbands, unless their families of origin are willing to return the amount paid. Apart from the traditional ways of marriage; however, most of people who are in modern segment of the community, are still reluctant to act earnestly against domestic violence.

In modern, in Ethiopia DV though a lot was not said about it, it has debilitating socio-economic consequences. In Ethiopia, the magnitude of intimate partner physical violence against women varies place to place. Research findings showed that the highest and the lowest prevalence of intimate partner violence against women founded in Western Ethiopia 68.6% and in Northern Ethiopia 31% (Abeya, 2011).

In Ethiopia domestic violence prevention strategies is very low. Rather, it is focused on gender equality and gender based violence outside the door. Regarding to this the government of Ethiopia addresses domestic violence within its nine-year national reproductive health strategies (2006-2015). One of the strategy's targets is to ensure that all new law enforcement recruits are trained in the protection of women's rights, especially those pertaining to gender-based violence with revisions made in the family code (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, 2006).

It is noticed that women in rural areas are facing more hurdles than women in urban areas in seeking legal protection. Even though the Ethiopian Constitution and Ethiopian Criminal Code prohibit discrimination of all forms, it exists in the Ethiopian community, and is against women.

Ethiopia is a patriarchal society that keeps women at a subordinate position, using religion and culture as an excuse. These excuses have for many years been supported by laws and legislations, that uphold patriarchy and women's subordination. This has brought about and maintained disparities between men and women, in division of labor, share of benefits, in law and state, in how households are organized, and how these are interrelated (Jebessa, 2015)

Ethiopia is one of the highest prevalent intimate partner physical violence against women, but the prevalence is varying place to place. Women have lower status in the society in many aspects. Most women are economically dependent on men and are less educated with only

limited professional job opportunities. The male adult literacy rate for age 15 and above is 49.2 % and the adult female literacy rate, age 15 and above is 33.8 % (Samia, Ula & Roger, 2009).

Most girls are forced to drop out of school due to pressure from the society and the gap in education widens in higher education institutes. The prevailing gender inequality and the lower status of women have made women to have no decision-making power both in households and in the society. This can both be a cause and a consequence of domestic violence against women in the society (Cherinet & Mulugeta, 2003).

In Southern Nation nationality of Ethiopian, women are victims of physical, sexual and psychological abuse both in the family and in the community. The most common form of violence exerted include beating, rape, FGM, abduction, early marriage and unregulated fertility which are well-established traditions that adversely affect the health and wellbeing of the victims. These acts are major violations of human rights, but not considered so by the societies that take it as a normal feature of life (Regassa, 2012).

The prevalence rate of domestic violence against women and girls increasing now a day. The study conducted by Nigatu, in Sidama Zone indicate that the magnitude of IPV based on a representative sample of 1094 households is understood from the analysis that a significant proportion of women had faced the full scale of domestic violence by their partner during the past twelve months. Among the list of violence indicators used to collect the data being insulted and beaten by the husband accounted for the highest rate of IPV at 61.2 and 34%, respectively. Slapping of women, a widespread practice in the study area, accounted for about 32.9%. The different rates for beating (beating by stick, leg, stone, or any other material) slapping and physical damages reported and agreed by the couple. So the above study indicate that in southern nation nationality of people the problem of domestic violence against women is increasing in alarm rate (Regassa, 2012:14).

Moreover, there is a widely held belief in SNNPR that beating a wife or a girl friend is a way of expressing love. This belief causes some women to endure the beatings especially at an early stage of their relationship. Moreover, it causes members of the society not to sympathize with them and not to be agitated by the occurrence, which is supposedly a crime if exerted on a stranger.

2.4. Theoretical Explanations

Many theories have evolved in an attempt to explain the reasons for domestic violence against women in social research. Just as no single act of domestic violence is an accurate reflection of all violence that occurs within a relationship, no one theory fully explains what lived experience of domestic violence against women. The study selected feminist theories from the socio-cultural theories to understanding the nature and consequences of domestic violence in this study.

2.4.1. Feminist Theory

This theory assumes that the cause of domestic violence lies on patriarchy system. At the core of this theory is unequal balance of power between men and women that is institutionalized within patriarchal family (Heise, 1998). The feminist model mainly focuses upon the male-dominated culture (patriarchy) and the cultural institutions, which support the structure of relationships in a patriarchal culture. Major contributing factors to violence against women include the historically male-dominated social structure, socialization teaching males and female gender-specific roles and women's limited access to resources (Bograd, 1988).

Patriarchy is a contested term among feminists. They have been spent considerable time trying to define and analyze but overall, the movement is united in its opposition to what it sees as patriarchy and women oppression by men. Feminist scholars argue that the cause of domestic violence is based in gender and power and represents men's active attempts to maintain dominance and control over women (Yllo, 2005). Feminist scholars focus on the interplay between cultural constructs of femininity and structural conditions in the environment (Walker, 2008).

Dobash and Dobash (2004) explained violence against women in term of coercive control, which focused on the power and control that males exert over females of the subordinate position of women in society. This power and control occurs at both societal level and in the context of power and control in government, religious organization and society in general. Dobash and Dobash (2004) argued that just as male's dominant females at the society level, this also occurs in the context of the home and family. From this perspective, the main situation that contribute to violence between husbands and wives include the historically male – dominated social structure and socialization practices that teach men and women gender specific roles. During the previous centuries men control the political, social and economic as well as cultural spheres within the community and to maintain the existing powers, various

obstacles and barriers are put in place against women. Currently, feminist ideology takes various forms depending on several factors such as one's own beliefs, history, culture and attitudes. The major feminist ideologies are radical feminism and liberal feminism.

2.4.1.1. Radical Feminism

Radical feminism promotes the basic ideas and concepts of feminism. They argue that oppression of women is the cruelest oppression around the world without distinction to race, culture, tradition and religion. They also argue that there is a need for societal change hence legislation measure is not enough by itself to eradicate patriarchy. They completely reject societal roles and patriarchy to the extent of forming distinct groups of women excluding men. They claim that men have the potential to use physical violence against women such as rape, sexual harassment and forced marriage. Domestic violence not always takes form of overt physical cruelty. It can be hidden in more complex practice of exploitation and control (Dutton & Nicholls, 2005).

According to Ritzer (2008), radical feminism was based on two central beliefs, namely firstly, that women are of absolute positive value as women and secondly, that women are oppressed everywhere, and violently so, by the system of patriarchy. The author further argued that domestic violence is not always associated with physical cruelty, but can be hidden in other practices of exploitation and control, such as in standards of fashion and beauty; monogamy, heterosexuality and sexual harassment in the workplace, obstetrics and psychotherapy; and unpaid household drudgery and underpaid wage work. Moreover, radical feminism is an important conceptual tool for understanding harmful practices in times of internal unrest or global change. It focus mainly on the oppression in the private sphere, which manifests itself for most in the form of domestic violence, male control over women in the family and male control over women's sexuality (Mauricio & Gormley, 2001).

They suggest that the domination of women is the oldest and worst kind of oppression in the world. It is the rigid gender role system that has created oppression, and the mission is to overthrow this system by any possible means. They completely reject these roles and all aspects of patriarchy. The ultimate aim is to change gender relations fundamentally by eliminating male power and values (Hague & Malos, 2005).

2.4.1.2. Liberal feminism

Liberal feminism was most popular during the civil right movement in the 1950's and the 1960's. They argue that both men and women are equally created by God and they deserve equal protection of their rights. According to this theory, Patriarchy and oppression of women existed because of the socialization of men not because there is a mental capacity difference between men and women. Supporters of this theory argue that women should live a life they choose not a life chosen by others and women should be accorded equal political, economic, social and cultural opportunities with men (Rosemarie, 2009). It asserts that patriarchal system denies the equal rights of women in every sphere of life and the existing attitudes of societies towards women sustain the inequality. For them patriarchy provides the system of control in which law and order are maintained to satisfy the existing cultural belief on gender relation. In addition, they support acts of legislation and legal reforms meant to eradicate oppression of women as well as legislation designed to create equal opportunities (Rosemarie, 2009:11).

In general, feminist ideology holds that gender determines women's role and status in society and shapes their social relationship; consequently, it is impossible to apply theory, practice or to explain social issue without taking gender in to consideration. Feminist explanations are frequent in the domestic violence literature in Ethiopia. It is difficult to avoid interpreting domestic violence in the countries in terms of pervasive gender inequality. Almost every traditional Africa society is patriarchal and a women's place with this schema is subordinate.

Feminist theory lays suitable condition to the current study through showing the way how male become dominate over women. From those radical and liberal feminism theories explain more about male domination and the same is true in the study area male become dominant over women in domestic settings.

So, the writer believed that the above two theoretical assumptions are important and related to the purpose of the study. In most parts of the discussion radical and liberal feminism ideologies of feminism theory are employed in order to deal with the various women right abuses and existed cultural system in study area. The patriarchy system that existed around the study area is the result of how boys and girls are socialized within the society. Therefore, gender roles ascribed to men and women are not inherent. In order to transform the status of women not only legislation should be enacted, but also patriarchal system, societal and community attitude change is needed. For these reasons, these theories are selected to be applied in most of the discussions throughout this study.

2.5. Domestic Violence and its Typologies

Domestic violence according to Yllo (2005) and Krug (2002) occur in many different forms including physical, psychological sexual violence, economical violence, rape, forced marriage and marital rape. Since they occur in intimate relationships, many forms of abuse are often not recognized as violence.

- i. **Physical violence** it can be either controlled or impulsive and consists of physical assaults. These assaults result in injuries ranging from bruising, scalding, burning and stabbing to internal injuries, cracked ribs or broken bones. Persistent blows to the head may cause serious head injuries that often go undetected and untreated. Some abusers will make sure that they inflict the physical injury to parts of the body not normally seen, such as the torso, rather than risk leaving marks on the face or limbs (Makofane, 2002).

Another kind of physical abuse leaves no physical evidence, as when a head is forced into the toilet, or ice cold baths and locking up is used. Physical neglect, such as withholding or eliminating food, shelter and clothing may also form part of physical abuse. Physical abuse includes throwing things, kicking, slapping hitting, pushing, shoving, grabbing, choking, strangling and inflicting head injuries, to name but a few. Death resulting from physical injuries is the horrible outcome for some women who are in an abusive relationship (Sanderson, 2008).

- ii. **Sexual violence** it includes actions such as forced sexual intercourse, and unwanted sexual comment. It is categorized into three groups, which include the use of physical force to compel a person to engage in a sexual act against his/her will whether or not the act is completed. Also an attempt or completed sex act involving a person who is unable to understand the nature of the act and participation unwillingness in the sexual act for example a person who is ill, disabled, under the influence of alcohol or other drugs or due to intimidation or pressure. Together with abusive contact defined as intentional touching directly or through the cloth of the genitals, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh or buttocks of any person against their will (Brown, 2000).
- iii. **Psychological or Emotional violence** is any kind of violence that affects the mind rather than the body. It may systematically wear away at the victim's self-confidence, sense of self-worth and trust in her own preconception and self-concept or exposing another to behavior that may result in psychological trauma, including anxiety, chronic

depression, or post-traumatic stress disorder, Name-calling, criticism, social isolation, intimidating or exploitation to dominate, routinely making unreasonable demand, terrorizing a person verbally or physically and exposing a child to violence. (National Domestic Violence Hotline, 2003)

Psychological violence does not always lead to physical violence, but physical violence in intimate partner relationships is nearly always preceded and accompanied by psychological violence (Pankaj, 2013) .

iv. Economic violence it implies the withholding of economic support and keeping tight control over the family's economic resources, such as money and transport The false perception often is that the woman in the relationship is solely responsible for all the housekeeping and child-rearing tasks with the minimum financial assistance, and that she must also work a full day to provide for the family's financial needs.

Financial control keeps one dependent, isolated, and without power. Not power in the sense of authority, but power as it relates to the ability to choose, make decisions, and maintain self-esteem. Often the needs of all family members go unmet when an abusive partner holds control of all household finances. It is a manipulative tactic of power and control aimed at demeaning those from whom money is being withheld (Davhana, 2009).Economic violence includes stealing from or defrauding a loved one, withholding money for essential things like food and medical treatment, manipulating or exploiting family member for financial gain, preventing a loved one from working or controlling his/he choice of occupation.

v. Forced Marriage is believed that those who marry very young are likely to bear more children. In rural Ethiopia, individual status is closely linked to family strength and success. Traditionally if a daughter never marries, it is taken as a shame to the family. As pathfinder statistics, more than 85 percent of Ethiopians live in rural areas. The study conducted by Kerebih and Mulunesh in Amhara Region indicate, 48 percent of women are married before the age of 15 the highest early marriage rate in the country (Kerebih & Mulunesh, 2014).

The average Ethiopian woman bears 5.4 children during her lifetime. For many families, marrying a daughter at a young age is understood as the best way to protect her from sexual advances and an unwanted pregnancy (Bogalech, 2007).

Many development professionals consider early marriage to be the most significant harmful traditional practice for women in Ethiopia. It harms women's physical and psychological well-being. It also makes them lose their opportunity to education and future income earning potential. A woman who married early will bear more children over time. To manage a household the young mother may be less prepared to care for her children. Study shows on the causes and consequences of early marriage found that more than half of young marriages were arranged with a man at least a decade older than the girl, usually someone she had never met. This age difference by itself represents a huge power imbalance and invites abuse (Boyden, 2012).

A woman with obstetric fistula usually rejected by her husband or her parents. This is really a twofold hurt. According to Article 648 any person concludes marriage with a minor of mentioned the relevant family code would be punishable (The new Ethiopian criminal code article 648).

Many young wives are subject to sexual violence and exposure to sexually-transmitted infections pregnancy is an obvious risk and dangerous for young wives. This is because a young girl's body may not be mature enough to support a pregnancy or a successful delivery. This may even cause the woman to have obstetric fistula (Richensa, 2005).

2.6. Societal attitudes toward domestic violence against women

Attitudes have been of central concern in relation to domestic violence against women. Attitudes play a role in the perpetration of this violence, in victims' responses to victimization, and in community responses to domestic violence against women. With good reason, attitudes have been a key target of community education campaigns aimed at preventing domestic violence against women. However, there has been relatively little coordinated examination of the factors that shape attitudes toward violence against women (Ferreira & Lindgren, 2008).

Attitudes have a fundamental and causal relationship to the perpetration of domestic violence against women. There is consistent evidence of an association between violence-supportive beliefs and values and the perpetration of violent behavior, at both individual and community levels. For example, men with more traditional, rigid, and misogynistic gender-role attitudes are more likely to practice marital violence (Michael, 2009)

Domestic Violence against women is so much a part of society that those who experience it sometimes feel that it is their own fault. Many perpetrators of violence feel that their actions are justified by strong societal messages, which suggest that rape, battering, sexual harassment, child abuse, and other forms of violence are acceptable. Everyday images of men and boys perpetrating violence against women are shown in the news, on television, at the cinema, in advertising and in our homes and workplaces. Violence is often depicted as an inevitable fact of life for women of all ages, races and classes (African Children Policy Forum, 2006).

Such attitudes make women and girls more vulnerable to violence, and mean that they are less protected by society's structures and support systems. In many cases, it is precisely these structures and support systems that make them more vulnerable.

2.7. The factors that contributing for domestic violence

- a) **Socio-demographic Factors:** there are numerous socio-demographic factors identified by the National Violence against Women survey (NVAW) as putting a woman at risk of domestic violence. These include lower income, less educated women, couples with income, education, or occupational status disparities and person with a disability.

The NVAW is a national phone survey consisting of telephone interviews of a sample of 8000 women and men in the US. Another study done among low income African American women documented the same factors predicting DV with additional considerations such as being young and living in urban areas as a greater risk for domestic violence as well as HIV infection (Moses, 2010).

- b) **Patriarchal definitions of masculinity:** having a more dominant husband serves as a negative component and may lead to violence in a marital relationship. A study done in Cambodia defines "husband control" as the exercise of power or control by the husbands over the wives' social activities, such as meeting with female friends, and through the husbands' accusations of wives' unfaithfulness. Husband control is also a factor leading to violence in marital relationships. Men are expected to be controlling in their relationships in Cambodia, as it is a male dominated society. Cambodian women themselves are known to support dominant roles for males (Sothy, 2009).

Husband control is a significant factor in a relationship because power is concentrated in the hands of the husband where he makes most of the decisions and controls his wife. Women's

lack of power in relationships and in society is a factor in marital relationships leading to violence directed to them by their intimate partners.

- c) **Social Support:** Some studies conducted among African American women showed social support as a minimizing factor between experiences of child maltreatment and intimate partner violence. If there is social support from family before or after the first experience of domestic violence among women, there will be less chances of victimization (Women often seek help from formal and informal sources in response to domestic violence. Formal sources include police, medical, legal and shelter. Informal sources include family or neighbors).

Parental support is one such familial factor that is a determinant of domestic violence. For example, the presence of members of the wife's family was associated with lower rates of reported domestic violence in South India and Cambodia (Ann, 2004).

2.8. Magnitude of domestic violence against women

Statistics indicate that one of five women will be a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime. One in three will have been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise violated, usually by a family member or an acquaintance. In nearly 50 population-based surveys from around the world, 10% to over 50% of women report being hit or otherwise physically harmed by an intimate male partner at some point in their lives (Krim, 2016).

International research consistently demonstrates that a woman is more likely to be assaulted, injured, raped, or killed by a current or former partner than by any other person. Findings from nearly 80 population-based studies carried out in more than 50 countries indicate that between 10 percent and 60 percent of women who have ever been married or partnered have experienced at least one incident of physical violence from a current or former intimate partner. Most studies estimate a lifetime prevalence of partner violence between 20 percent and 50 percent. Although women can also be violent, and abuse exists in some same-sex relationships, the vast majority of partner abuse is perpetrated by men against their female partners (Steeves, 2012) .

Physical violence in intimate relationships almost always is accompanied by psychological violence and, in one-third to over one-half of cases, by sexual violence. Most women who suffer any physical aggression generally experience multiple acts over time. Women often say that the psychological violence and degradation are even more difficult to bear than the physical violence (World Health Organization, 2013).

2.9. Legal frameworks on domestic violence against women

2.9.1. The International Conventions

Ethiopia is signatory to many international conventions for the promotion and protection of women's rights. The convention to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) is one of the major ones among these. The convention focuses specifically on women's human rights and contains detailed provisions on gender discrimination. This convention was signed by Ethiopia in 1981 and contains guarantees of equality and freedom from discrimination both by the state and the private sectors in all areas and public and private life (Messele, 1996).

Other international conventions signed by Ethiopia that have direct bearing on the rights of women are: The Optional Protocol to CEDAW; the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages; the Convention on the Political Rights of Women; the Convention for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons; the Convention on Discrimination in Employment and the International Labor Organizations' Equal Remuneration Convention (Brems, 2007).

At the regional level Ethiopia is signatory to the African charter on human and people's rights, which contains provisions that protect women. In order to domesticate these international conventions signed by the Ethiopian government, the 1995 constitution of Ethiopia provides in Article 9(4) that "all international agreements ratified by Ethiopia are integral part of the law of the land. It also provides in Article 13 (2) the fundamental right and freedoms recognized by the constitution shall be interpreted in a manner conforming to the principles of the universal declaration of human rights, International conventions on human right and international instruments adopted by Ethiopia (Federal Republic of Ethiopia, 1995)

2.9.2. The National Policy on Ethiopian Women

The National policy on Ethiopian women was formulated in 1993 by the Transitional Government of Ethiopia. Policy has the following contents:

- ✚ Ensuring the full development and advancement of women and guaranteeing them the enjoyment of their democratic and human rights so that they can participate in the economic, social and political life of their country on equal basis with men.

- ✚ Modifying or abolishing existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which aggravates discrimination against women and facilitating conditions conducive to their participation in the decision making process at all levels.
- ✚ Creating a situation where by societies discriminatory attitude towards women and women's complacency about it are eliminated through elevated awareness.
- ✚ Making sure that women participate in the formulation of government policies, laws, regulations, programmes, plans and projects that directly or indirectly benefits and concern women as well as in the implementation there of
- ✚ Encouraging research work on ways and means of lightening the work- load of women as well as increasing their income and compiling the results thereof for use by others, too

Regarding the scope of coverage of laws dealing with domestic violence, the Ethiopian legal framework falls short of the internationally accepted standards in some respects. Although the law addresses the major types of domestic violence against women: physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence, the coverage is not done in a comprehensive manner.

A) Physical violence: the Constitution and subsidiary legislation mainly the criminal law and family law address instances of physical violence. Art. 16 of the Constitution state that everyone has the right to protection against bodily harm. As most acts of domestic violence result in physical harm, this article can be utilized to look into cases of violence against women when the act of violence results in bodily harm (Article. 16).

B) Sexual violence: sexual assault including rape and sexual harassment are addressed with in the criminal law. The provision on rape clearly excludes instances of marital rape. Similarly, in cases of sexual harassment, it is only the circumstances whereby a person in a position of authority is demanding sexual favors in return for other benefits that are covered. This clearly excludes the majority of cases where by hostile working, living and learning environments are created due to the threat caused by demands of sexual favors.

C) Psychological violence: It includes behavior that is intended to intimidate and persecute women, and takes the form of insult, belittling, threats of abandonment or abuse, confinement to the home, surveillance, and threats to take away custody of children, destruction of objects, isolation, verbal aggression and constant humiliation. These and similar forms of

acts are covered under the various sections of the criminal code of the country (Ministry of women, Children and youth Affairs, 2013).

D) Economic violence: involves acts that aim at disempowering women by denying them access to and control over basic resources needed for physical and psychological wellbeing.

Moreover, the constitution has recognized the fundamental rights directly related with the right to protection from domestic violence against women like that of security of persons and prohibition against inhuman treatment (Article18).From the above explanation of Ethiopian laws and policies on the rights of women, it can generally be said that Ethiopia has a very conducive environment with regard to the legal framework protecting and guaranteeing women's rights. The Constitution, the National Women's Policy, the Revised Family Code, the Amended Criminal Code and Ratification of the International Conventions are the positive measures taken by the government of Ethiopia.

These laws and policies show the commitment of Ethiopian Government to change the lives of Ethiopian women. I can conclude that the country has beautiful laws with regard to the rights of women. These laws are strong enough to protect the rights of Ethiopian women if they are correctly and effectively translated in to action. But, the problem is related to the implementation of these laws and policies. When these efforts are brought to the ground, they face various implementation related problems. The societal negative attitude towards women is the primary barrier for the implementation of the laws and the policies. This country has been male dominated society where male superiority and female inferiority is accepted as a norm. Women are considered as if they were created only to serve the interests of men and they are expected to be submissive and docile.

CHAPTER THREE

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter describes the research method used to carry out the study. The discussion starts with description of study area, research design, data source, sampling method, data collection tools, data analysis, data validity & reliability, informant's recruitment procedures, interview procedure, Data Saturation point, ethical consideration and limitation of the study.

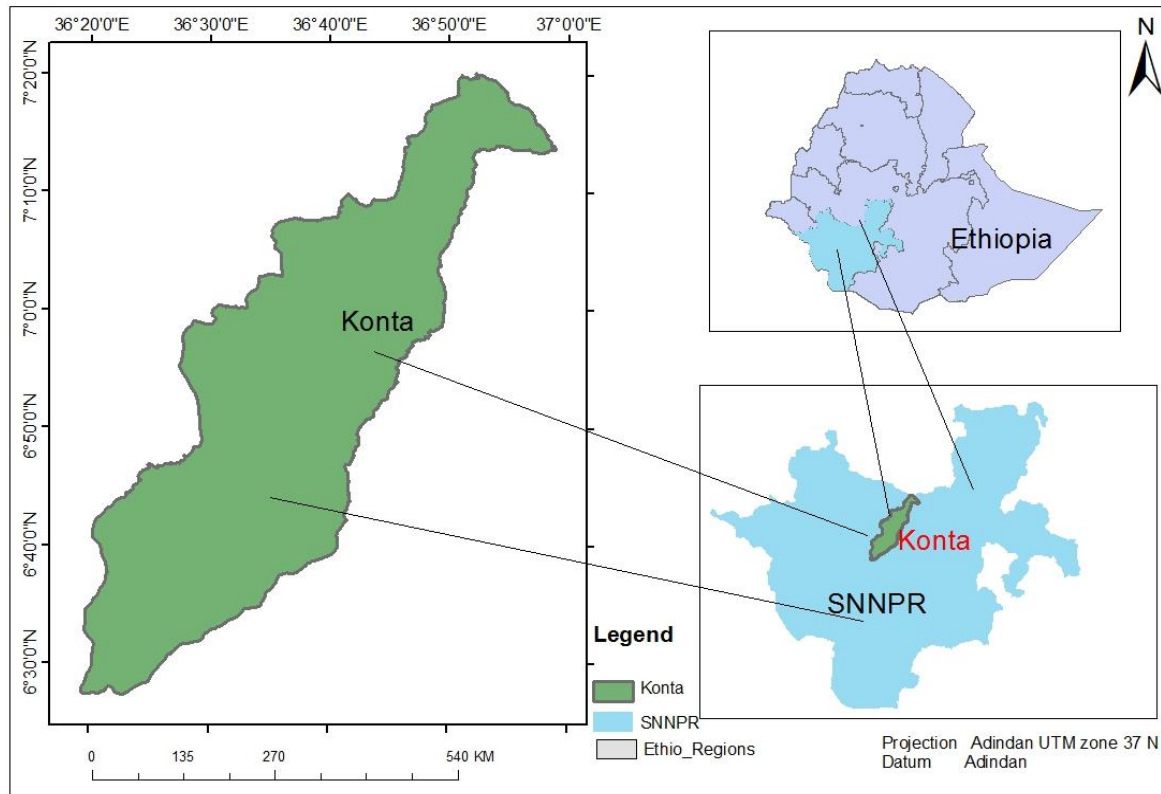
3.1. Description of the study area

Konta special Woreda is among the four special Woreda found in SNNPRS, composed of 4 urban and 42 rural Kebele. Its capital city Ameya is 457km from Addis Ababa and 369 km from Hawassa. Estimated total area of 2381.6km². The Woreda has total area of 250376 hectare and altitude of the ranges from 870 to 2859 m. above sea level, with the proportion of 40% lowland, 54% midland and 6% highland. Accordingly, its climatic condition mean annual rainfall ranges from 500mm-2200mm and annual temperature is 22°C to 29°C (Migbaru &Desta, 2015).

The special Woreda is one of the most surplus producer area in agricultural product like annual (seasonal) crops, coffee & spices, honey and wax, fruits & vegetables (horticulture) livestock are the dominant products produced by rural farmers (KSWARDO) this implies that, the study area is highly potential agricultural marketing. The area of the Special Woreda Shares boundaries with Kaffa Zone in the west, Gamo Gofa Zone in the south, from Oromia Regional State, Jimma Zone in north and Dawro Zone in east. The population of the Special Woreda according to the Population and Development Statistics of SNNPRS of BOFED in July 2010 is 103,196 of which 50,923 are male and 52, 273 are female, respectively (Awoke, 2007).

It has large forest coverage areas such as Genji, Medi and Koda Maji and with a tourist attraction such as, Chebera Churchura National Park and Shokela cave and waterfall (sees also SNNPRS Nationalities' Profile, 2009:159). The major crops produced in Konta are maize, sorghum, wheat, 'teff', beans, peas, among others. The area is also known for its fruit-bearing trees such as avocado, papaya, banana, orange and so forth. Spices, forest coffee, linseed, sesame, cardamom 'enset', cotton, sweat potato and honey are also well produced in Konta Special woreda. Besides, the Konta depend on animal husbandry such as cattle, sheep and goats; pack animals (equines) such as horse, mule and donkey. It is also common to observe that some Konta people make their living on craft works like weaving. From 42 rural kebele

the study gathered data from 3 kebeles, these are Dufa kechikecha, womba yamala and Kecha Oroba kebele.



Source: Ethio GIS

3.2. Research Designs

To achieve the objectives of the research, the study would rely on qualitative approach since its principles were appropriate to describe the lived experiences of domestic violence against women. Lived experiences are the subject of qualitative research methods. Qualitative research is interpretive in nature and follows a holistic approach to understand the issue in detail.

The focus of qualitative research is on investigating personal experiences and their meanings in their natural and context-specific settings explained the nature of qualitative research. Accordingly, qualitative research is informed by social constructivist ontology, reality is seen as complex, dynamic, and socially constructed, and the social world is bounded with layers of meanings originating from the diversities in the contexts of human experiences and interpretations (Larsson & Holmstrom, 2007).

Phenomenology is one of the approaches in qualitative research design. It is an ideal research approach to study the phenomenon of violated women in depth, to gather rich accounts to produce detailed descriptions of experiences that can be a lesson for others. Phenomenology describes and interprets various aspects of phenomenon, including perceptions, attitudes, beliefs, feelings and emotions experienced by people (Reiners, 2012).

Phenomenology assumes that people observe, define, interpret and construct meanings to events that have value in their lives. Understanding the essence of experiences comprehensively by situational, and social contexts is the concern of phenomenology.

3.3. Data sources

Primary data was collected through actual field research using interview questions and interview guides. This data constituted the main source of information for the study. The question that were used were open ended questions. Open ended questions were used in order to leave informants free to express their answers as they wished.

3.4. Sampling Methods

A sample is a smaller number of a population that is used to make conclusion regarding the whole population. This study used purposeful sampling method and it was applicable for phenomenological study.

The researcher selected individuals and sites that can purposefully inform an understanding of the research problem and central phenomenon of the study (Creswell, 2007). Purposive sampling was used to select persons who have the knowledge and experience about the phenomenon to address the topic.

Among the forty-six kebele of rural area in Konta special woreda, the investigator selected three kebeles by purposively. These are Womba Yamala, Dufa kechikecha and Kecha Oroba kebele. To select kebele and research participants in these kebele, researcher have contacted with Konta Town Administration of Women and Children Office, Kebele administration and community leaders. They helped the researcher to get further information about potential kebele and research participants based on the criteria set.

The sample was drawn from a population that had to meet the following criteria for in- depth interview:

- ✚ They were women

- ✚ Those who have experienced violence in the domestic setting
- ✚ Belong to from rural kebele and willingness and ability to provide relevant descriptions of their lived experiences of abuse

A total of 25 participants were purposely selected for this study. From those, 10 women are victims of domestic violence and three are key informants who are selected from government organization for in depth interviews. After the researcher has conducted interview with women who were victims of domestic violence and key informants, additional focused group discussion were selected (two FGD were selected for discussions which contains total 12 participants). Each focus group discussion contains six individuals who has knowledge about the issues and have the same background. Accordingly FGD1members, all participants were from Dufa kechikecha kebele and the remaining FGD2participants were from womba yamala kebele. Lastly, 2case study were conducted from kecha oroba kebele. All participants were from rural kebele except three key informants were from urban because they are working in government office.

3.5. Data Collection Tools

➤ Interview guides:

In-depth interviews are the key data collection method for phenomenological study to understand participants' experiences. Interviews are useful to get a complete picture of the context and to understand the experiences of participants (Lewis, 2003). In qualitative study, the investigator does not put exact number of informants before data collection because the nature of phenomenological study collects data until data saturation points.

The interactive nature of in-depth interviews allows flexibility to cover issues under discussion, describe the participants' reasons, personal issues, attitudes, intentions, emotions, feelings, opinions and beliefs. Open-ended interview guides framed based on the literature and research questions. Interview schedule was prepared in English version and translated into kontegn that is the local working language in order to collect the data. Along the side of in-depth interviews, case informants, and focus group discussion were used in data collection.

Regarding data quality, the study was take certain measures to ensure their quality. Interview question was formulated by considering different sources and consulting experts in the area of the study. Its English version was translated into kontegn version (i.e. using words, almost all, can communicate easily) and again back to English version so as to ensure its consistency. As

to the procedures for data collection in the study area, the kontegn version of the depth interview schedule design was used during the collection of the primary data by holding interviews with the respondents in a face to face situation.

➤ **Key Informant Interviews**

Key informant interviews were aimed at obtaining special knowledge on a given issue (Zucker, 2009). In this study, the konta special woreda women & child office expert were contacted as key informants. Key informant interviews are conducted with three persons (the first two with women & child office expert and the second was conducted with an expert of policy office.

➤ **Focus Group Discussions**

Focused group discussions were held to elicit information from survivors of domestic violence. A focus group discussion (FGD) is a good way to gather together people from similar backgrounds or experiences to discuss a specific topic of interest. The group of participants is guided by a group facilitator who introduces topics for discussion and helps the group to participate in a lively and natural discussion amongst themselves. The strength of FGD relies on allowing the participants to agree or disagree with each other so that it provides an insight into how a group thinks about an issue, about the range of opinion and ideas, and the inconsistencies and variation that exists in a particular community in terms of beliefs and their lived experiences and practices (Krueger, 1988).

Sarantakos (1999) explained that making a discussion among individuals more than two may provoke individuals mind to generate more ideas and to make an exhaustive argumentation among each other. Therefore, in addition to the interview, a focus group discussion among small group has been considered as a good instrument to capture information that is versatile. This study was used focus group discussion, since it helps to understand issues with consensus and variation among the participants of the discussion.

➤ **Case study**

Case study provides the most flexibility for researchers conducting everything from program evaluations to describe people's perceptions of their problem in specific situations. To illustrate, case studies have been used to examine the development of cultures (Doron & Rehay, 2011), to describe effective reporting of results to audiences (Greere, 2010).

Case study was employed, as it would permit in depth description of the lives of abused wives. Merriam (1988) states that such approach as preferable strategy when “how” and “why” questions are posed. She considered such approach as a best way to get in depth understanding of implementation situation and its meaning for those involved highly related to the purpose of this study. In this study, case study was employed so as make a detail investigation on the impact of domestic violence against women who has more victimized by domestic violence in rural area.

3.6. Data Analysis

Data analysis in qualitative research is the process of systematically examining and organizing the interview transcripts, field notes and other relevant materials which the researcher accumulates. It is through this process that the researcher can increase her own understanding of the data and ensure clear presentation of what is discovered from the data to others. In this phenomenological study, several important processes took place prior to and during the actual analyses of data (Hatch, 2002).

Qualitative data was collected through note taking in-depth interview and focus group discussions based on open ended questions. All field notes was read, audio tapes was listened and transcript by the investigator. Next, data was reread and coded into similar categories, the coding system called open coding. Open coding is the part of analysis that pertains specifically to the naming and categorizing of phenomena through close examination of data. The data was analyzed manually using thematic analysis. Qualitative thematic analysis was involved because analysis where communication content (speech, written texts, interviews images etc.) is categorized and classified by investigator.

3.7. Trustworthiness

Validity and reliability in qualitative research is naturalistic in nature. These concepts are viewed differently to quantitative studies in which there is no statistical procedure involved and there is no generalization of findings sought by the investigator. Therefore, although engaging in qualitative research, the criterion for establishing the scientific rigour of a study is essential.

Yin (2011) developed the concept of trustworthiness or rigour to test the quality of research design in qualitative study. It is obvious that these issue concerns of trustworthiness.

As a qualitative study in order to ensure trustworthiness in this research the researcher triangulated the information gathered from the in-depth interviews with key informant and Focus Group Discussions (Krueger, 1988). To this end, utmost effort was made to avoid mistakes during transcription, coding, and categorizing.

Trustworthiness refers to the criterion that is used to evaluate the truth value of qualitative studies. In this study, trustworthiness was met by tape recording conversations with the participants and assisting them to provide clear, bright descriptions of their experiences. Participants were selected on their ability to articulate the phenomenon under this study. During the conversational interviews with the participants, an atmosphere of trust was created so that they could share their lived experience in an open, honest manner. Lastly, the study determined how many participants were need to interview, FGD and case study, the investigation was continue to gathered information until the study was reach the point of data saturation.

3.8. Informants recruitment procedures

When conducting research on sensitive issues, one limitation is recruitment of participants (Lee, 1993). This study was a phenomenological study on the issue of domestic violence, which is a taboo issue among the community, it was not viable to identify a large group of participants. Therefore, the researcher employed recruitment strategies in the present study. First the researcher contacted kebele administration and communities elder to solicit their support in the recruitment of potential participants. Then the kebele manager pointed out block leader and gate keeper who know about the victim women in the community. Gate-keeper is a person who know about victims women and their way of living in the communities .After potential participants were identified and the initial contact was made in this process, the researcher spent time to conducting the interview.

During this process, the researcher also provided brief introduction to the research, and explained the procedures of participation, and the ethical considerations such as confidentiality, anonymity, and the voluntary nature of participation. Before start the interview, participants were asked to agree the informed consent form. Then the researcher began the interview with an interest in learning more about the participant's experiences of lived experience of domestic violence.

3.9. Interview procedure

Individual, face to face interviews were conducted with 13 women who have lived experience and deep knowledge about domestic violence. Ten of these interviews took place at the informant's home, the remaining three informants at a quiet and convenient office of government and lastly FGD discussions took place in convenient environments. Most of face-to-face interviews were audio recorded using tap.

The length of interviews ranged from 50-70minutes for in-depth interview and 2:15-2:30 for FGD discussions. All interviews and discussion were conducted in a setting that was most convenient and comfortable for the participant. All the interviews were conducted in person by the researcher and all interviews were conducted in kontegn.

Prior to the interview with the participant, the researcher spent some time engaging in casual conversation with the participants so as to establish a rapport and to make them feel at ease and comfortable. The researcher then briefly explained the nature and purpose of the research. Participants were also informed that interview could be audiotaped so as to ensure that the interviewer could fully attend to the women during the interview, rather than being distracted by taking notes. All participants agreed to the audiotaping of the interview except one women. The researcher therefore had to rely on notes taken during the interview. The researcher also wrote down notes as soon as each interview was conducted.

3.10. Data Saturation point

The point in data collection when new data no longer bring additional insights or new relevant information to the research questions is known as data saturation (Mack, Wood song, Macqueen, Guest, & Namely, 2005). At this stage in the research, the investigator discontinued data collection and ensured that there were no gaps or unexplained phenomena in the data. In this study, saturation was achieved when participant interviews revealed no new and emergent themes (i.e., there appeared to be a consistency of experiences). Interviews were transcribed following each interview. This enabled the researcher to identify emergent themes and effectively evaluate for saturation.

3.11. Ethical considerations

Researching domestic violence implies dealing with sensitive issue. If adequate precautions are not taken, the safety and psychological wellbeing of respondents and the research team can be put in jeopardy. By disclosing domestic violence lived experiences of woman may be

exposed to retaliation by her abusive partner. Furthermore, the interview may remind the informants of her painful and frightening experiences, and this in itself can be distressing if she does not have a supportive social environment. Similarly the investigator may also be placed at risk of physical harm by abusive partners and of psychological harm by listening to painful events of abused women.

To address the ethical and safety issues in domestic violence research, the World Health Organization (2001) published guideline. Based on this guideline, the following ethical and safety measures were followed.

- ✚ Before initiating the interview informed consent was obtained. At this stage the sensitivity of the research topic and confidentiality of the responses were raised and discussed.
- ✚ Interviews were conducted only in a private setting. The participant was allowed to reschedule (or relocate) the interview to a time (or place) that may be more safe or convenient for her.
- ✚ To ensure safety of the interviewers, a trusted male escort (selected by the kebele office) was assigned to accompany the interviewer team.
- ✚ All interviewers were receive strict instructions about the importance of maintaining confidentiality during their training. To make it firm, no interviewers were conduct interviews in their own community.

3.12. Limitation of the study

When conducting on sensitive issues of domestic violence, first limitation of the study was recruitment of participants, individuals may hastate to disclose information about such incidents, which makes it difficult to identify a large number of participant for studies of such nature. The information gathered on domestic violence was based on self-reports by informants. This kind of information may often be subjected to recall bias. Such findings are likely to grossly underestimate the problem.

Second limitation of this study, the study design is a phenomenological which prohibits the ability to establish the phenomena of domestic violence. The results of the study do not allow drawing generalizations. This is because of the small sample size and participants being selected purposively, thus they do not represent the entire women population who have experience of domestic violence.

The third limitation of the study was, translation of language may be one of the limitations of this study. For instance, the interviews were conducted in kontgna and reinterpreted to English for analysis; hence, they may lose their exact meanings in this process. The process of transcription was time-consuming. To tackle this problem both direct and contextual meanings are used based on the context to make the message more meaningful in English.

Fourthly, this study had impact on conclusions, involves the relationship of the author with the participants. During the initial presentation of this study, the author shared his own experience with the participants of this study, with the intent of creating an environment in which these women felt able and comfortable to share their domestic violence experiences with author. In doing so, although unlikely, this may have influenced the participants' responses because they may have presumed the author's opinions on the topic of lived experience of domestic violence.

Last limitation of the study was, getting secondary data in the research sites regarding domestic violence and geographical location (the way to move researcher to informants house) are very critical limitation for this study. Meanwhile, this does not compromise the credibility of the data. In order to write the lived experiences of study participants attempts have been made to encourage them to describe their experiences broadly and frankly.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. FINDING AND DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY

This chapter present an in-depth analysis and interpretation of the responses to the research questions based on themes. The findings of the study are presented mainly in line with the specific objectives and presented in different parts. The first part focused on the background information of the participants, the second part presented type of domestic violence faced by participants, the third part focused on conditions that contributing to the risk of domestic violence; the fourth part about the consequences of domestic violence, the fifth part of the study was gaps within the justice system and lastly the coping strategy of domestic violence against women.

4.1. Background Information of Research participants

This part contains profiles of interviewee's who were victims of domestic violence, an expert of women and policy affair office and discussants who have a depth knowledge about lived experience of domestic violence in their communities. Profiles of all participants and interviewees were presented in aggregated form and shared more about their background. Components of profiles included age, marital status, level of education, religion, ethnicity and source of income.

4.1.1. Age distribution of participants

In terms of the age distribution, most of the research participants were survivors of domestic violence between the age ranges of 23 to 56 at Konta Special Woreda in rural area except three key informant who were from governmental office. Most of victim of domestic violence were between ages 40-49 years. At the age of 40-49, women practice of domestic violence is high prevalent in the country so, women 40-49 were victimized extremely by domestic violence in their husband in study area. The root cause of this domestic violence Cultural definitions of appropriate sex roles, expectations of roles within relationships, belief in the inherent superiority of males, Values that give men proprietary rights over women and drinking alcohol by the husband. From the above finding, we can conclude that domestic violence against women high at age of 40-49 in rural communities in konta special woreda.

4.1.2. Educational level of participants

Concerning the educational status of the informants, most are illiterate and rest are educated higher level. From those informants 10 women were Illiterate and they are unable to read and write. Reaming 3 key informants were learned bachelor degree. From the discussant, most of them described that previously they were able to read and write their names but this day they have forgotten what they have learned. This indicates that lack of education can increases vulnerability to domestic violence and exploitation of resource by their intimate partner. Some of the participants had attended higher education from the study informants. Educated women becomes less vulnerable to domestic violence or no more educated victims refused to be identified due to fear of loss of social prestige. The lack of education is also reflective of the poor economic status of the victim's family in the communities.

4.1.3. Religion of Informants

Among my informants, more than half of them in the study area were protestant religion follower while the rest of some were orthodox follower. Among protestant Christianity followers 5 women were leaders in the church and the remaining are followers.

Religion play important role to reduce the bad system which lived for long period of time with society. From those patriarchal system/male superior over women lived in the society without any questions. The Predominant patriarchal values decreased by religion stipulate the dominance and superior status of men in the communities. According to protestant and orthodox religions, there are a significant principal that associates the husband and wife relationship. Wife respect their husbands and husband also respect their wives. But most of interviewees in this study concurred that they have to be patient while enduring the partner's abusive behaviors because women accepted the dominance of their husband in their live. Not only that, religion also not support stereotypical behaviors, i.e. aggression, power, control in men, and tolerance and silence in women. These, stereotypical roles also influence that has controls over whom and who can explicit whom in a given social context. In additional the Study finding revealed that most of participants were protestant and less than half were orthodox.

4.1.4. Ethnicity of Informants

All the research informants & discussants were Konta ethnic origin except two informants (one woman and one man) who were from Dawuro.

4.1.5. Marital Status of Informants

Concerning marital status of the informants, 10 women from depth interview were married and living together with their husband. From FGD participants, 3 women were widower, 2 women were divorced and the remaining seven women are living with marital relationship. From key informants one woman and one man was in marriage relationship and one man never married.

Type of marriage, most of the participants married without of love and abduction. The remaining of some marriages were arranged by the parents, Most of the research informants are homogenous in the fact that all have children from their marriage and from same ethnic origins.

Women married without of love had higher degree of domestic violence than who married love because they married family pressure. In terms of the length of marriage for interviewee, the length of stay ranges from 4 years to 32 years. Most of the research informants were still in marriage relationship, some were widowed, divorced and one person not married. All of the married informants were married once. In relation to the type of marriage, most of informant married one husband or monogamy but most of their husband marriage more than one wives it is a type of polygamy.

4.1.6. Occupation of Informants

The following table indicated that more attacked women by domestic violence and pseudonyms were assigned to replace their true identities and protect their confidentiality with their income source. In relation to the source of income and role in the household, many of the research informants were engaged in small scale business activity and remaining some were engaged in agricultural activities and dependent on the husband income sources. Most of the research informants were responsible for all household activities like cleaning, cooking and bringing up and caring their children.

Table 1: Income source of informants.

Pseudonyms	Age	Gender	Responsibility	Source of income
Zewuditu	48	F	Cleaning house, cooking food	Making and selling local tella, begging injera and farming land
Alemitu	41	F	Bringing up and caring their children.	selling local drinks (areke and tella) selling cereals and farming land
Atsede	45	F	Caring children cooking & washing clothes	Collecting and selling firewood and farming land
Azalech	46	F	Cleaning house, cooking food	Making injera, preparing and selling tella and farmer
Makuria	37	F	Cooking food & caring children	Farming lands, Selling food, drinks and selling charcoal
Sanime	39	F	Cleaning house, cooking food	Selling fruit and Charcoal selling Farmer and brewing tella.
Kawutishe	43	F	Cooking food & caring children	Collecting and selling firewood and making food
Dasite	56	F	Cleaning house & cooking food	wood selling, farming land and charcoal selling
Kasech	54	F	Cooking food & caring children	farming land and rearing cow
Balote	51	F	Cleaning house, cooking food	Selling areke and borde & farming land

Source. Findings from interview (2017)

Informants engaged in various occupations to earn income such as farming the land, Selling food and drinks, selling charcoal, selling wood, selling fruit. Not only that they are working in some business activities, agricultural and other income-generating such as: selling cereal, food, local drinks *areke*, *tella* and firewood. In terms of the occupational distribution of the informants, most women were working two or more jobs in daily lives but not sustain their live and some informants completely dependent on their husband's job. According to ecological

model theory husband employment status affect the family life which means that if the husband has good income source to manage their family the tendency to domestic violence less. Additional, most of informants they explained that they are less productive in their work this also factors for domestic violence.

4.1.7. Children of informants

In Ethiopia children are considered as assets for their parents. They are highly expected to give support to their parents. This is one of the reasons why parents want to have more children from their formal wife or from another women. On the basis of this expectation, data was collected on the number of children born to each informants.

Most of the informants had more than three children and some have less than two children. My informants stated that children are very important asset for them because in their culture children are considered as asset, they help their parents and even society respect different between who have child and without children. However, there are variety circumstances lead to the death of the children of informants, the main factor for this is economic situation. When their children are sick they haven't money to medical service, so they lost their children by death.

For instance, Zawuditu was 48 years old women, she had seven children, and unfortunately two of them passed away because of sickness, Zewuditu and her husband felt deep sorrow. She thought that if all of my children were alive they would support me and we could live a better life. Another informant called Atsede, she was 45 years old, and she lost one child to death because of diseases. She had only five surviving son and daughter. During their lifetimes Atsede's children were providing support to their mother.

Most of the informants have children and many are living with their mother .The surviving sons and daughters were aged between 3-27. Among the surviving children, most are like a father working farm land but they not work enough for their mother.

4.2. Themes of lived experience of domestic violence

Themes from the analysis of the participant interviews highlight the individual lived experiences of domestic violence as well as bring to light the police gap of domestic violence in the context of married women. The study themes include (a) condition that contributed to

domestic violence, (b) forms of domestic violence, (c) consequence of domestic violence, (d) laws aimed at tackling domestic violence and (e) coping strategy of domestic violence.

4.2.1. Type of domestic violence faced by participants

There were different types of domestic violence experienced by research participants. It divided in to subthemes include physical, sexual, economical, and psychological violence.

4.2.1.1. Physical violence

This subtheme captures the kind of physical violence indicated by most informants were kicking, beating, hitting by using different materials including throwing stone and hitting different parts of the victims body, slapping, putting scar on the face, punching, and making them to fallen out, and piercing with blade. Out of the thirteen informants, most of them reported as being physically violated by their husband and the remaining some have not faced physical violence.

Most of informants experienced physical violence compared to psychological, economic and sexual violence. As presented in (table3in appendix A) 10 women who participated in depth interview, Zewuditu, Alemitu, Atsede, Azalech, Makuria, Sanime, Kawutishe , Dasite, kasech and Balote- reported that physical violence perpetrated by husband. In order to understand the context, the lived experiences of some informants bellow.

Zewuditu was too exhausted to engage in agricultural activities, she could not subsidize the household, and she had a sexual problem that brought her conflict with her husband. She had no enough financial, household property, food and related things to sustain the life of their children. Zewuditu's husband set off an attack on her under the pretext of her delay in getting home. In addition, his drunkenness initiated their conflicts to the point that he resorted to physical violence. Zewuditu said that her husband became aggressive after she abstained from having sexual intercourse with him. She has been beaten, kicked and insulted by her husband from long period of times. Zewuditu's husband insulted her, saying "you are not a Woman, and you are not my wife because you are not voluntary to take my commands". She was abused by her husband for many times. Her husband hit her with a stick, hands and feet on her head during the night. He pushed her against the wall and slapped her and bit her body.

Alemitu was another informant. She was physically violated by her husband. She married him at age of 16 and they lived without conflict for certain years with her. Later he start drinking alcohol and abusing her. She stated that he had a secret aim to sell my sheep by any means. I

was heard from neighbor and asked him. He was slapped and hated my back and chest by material. Not only that, one night he closed the door and prepared a big stick to beat me. He was grabbed me and I was cried loudly for help to neighbors. The neighbors rushed in, broke the door, and entered the house to save my life.

Most participants gave justification for the lived experience of physical violence. In focus group discussion women stated that domestic violence by husband was domesticated practice in communities, which is the result of perceiving men as owner/head of the house and women are his wife. They said that wife beating was acceptable because conflicts were expected in marriage and a man could beat his wife when he is angry and this kind of practice was common in every families.

Matafe, 55 years old, from FGD1 stated that:

Male wants to beat his wife for minor things. Man's has limited patience and they were not understand about inside work rather they see it is simple than outside work. Even when he came from outside ever things not papered in good manner he was kick her. My husband beat me many times because of this.

The Study found that the kind of physical violence women experienced in the hands of their husband ranges from small injury to high physical impairments in study area. Women were beaten, kicked, and hated with an object by their husbands.

The response of the women told us domestic violence is a norm accepted by the men. Sometimes they believed that disobedient of wife deserves punishment by their husband. The demographic and health survey of Ethiopia indicated that the majority of women said a husband is justified in beating his wife at least for one reason (Central Statistical Authority, 2011). Justification of wife abuse is a reflection of gender power relation with most societies. Even women internalized they are subordinate to men and the duties of a wives are first and for most to please and obey their husbands.

People appear to make distinctions regarding the circumstances under which wife-beating may or may not be acceptable. They legitimize domestic violence by suggesting to make wife a mistake, which is the result of perceiving men as corrector and women make fault. On population report on ending of violence against women, Heise (2011) note that societies often develop distinctions between reasons for domestic violence against women, defining some

violence as just, or acceptable, and other violence as unjust or unacceptable. The attitude of women towards wife-beating may influence women's experiences of domestic violence and, women who believe that women deserve violence in certain circumstances may be less likely to challenge male authority and therefore be protected from domestic violence.

4.2.1.2. Sexual violence

The second subtheme of domestic violence reported by interviewees was sexual violence. Women explained on their own behavior and on the behaviors of the abusers that contributed to sexual violence. Accordingly, drunkenness, delinquent acts, anger, intolerance and lack of openness were identified as abusive behaviors in this study. Atsede was one of an interviewee and she was sexual abused by her husband. For Atsede besides poverty and alcoholism of her husband created abusive situations.

Atsede, 45 years old, states:

My husband drank alcohol and he became badly behaved. He stared at me and showered insulting words. I am not agree with him to do sex and I had the problem of sexual feeling when he come with drinks. Because he was not work and thought about his family. Probably it was hunger caused me to be sexually inactive & not only that when went to sleep with him his smelling like bad. I had no sexual engagement with my husband still. I believed that it was because of my sexual feeling that my husband hated and abused me.

Women experienced physically forced sex in the context of a battering relationship. Women are not willing to call their experiences as rape, which could be a sign that the concept of marital rape is rather absent in the Ethiopian culture. For these women, sex is the result of threatening behavior on the part of the husband. In these cases, unwanted sex occurred due to fear of some negative reactions from the husband.

Azalech, 46 years old, states:

He would ask me to have sexual intercourse with him after he had beaten me in a very bad way. I was so scared that I allowed him to do everything he wanted. Another occasions, when he was drunk, he used to tell me that he had been with another woman.

Most of the participant's incident of sexual violence happened without their consent husband violate their wife. The most of FGD members and key informants argued that sexual violence in the form of forced sexual intercourse is often taken for granted by the husband who see their wives as their property and that she should be willing to sleep with him at all times.

Additionally, Sexual dissatisfaction of the husband was also reported as the cause of domestic violence among women. The misunderstanding was started between husband and wife due to sexual dissatisfaction when husband drunk alcohol. The women with menstruation period were mostly victimized from their husband as marital rape. As per the demand of the husband, they could not tolerate. As result, husband started to scold them. Some time they used to beat also. By force and coercion too, husbands performed the sexual intercourse, which was very much painful.

Kehame, 41 years old, FGD1 member and she said that:

When my husband comes to sleep with me, he is like an enemy. If I refuse him, he will kick, punch and beat me up. At one time, he left me and my children for a year and a half. When he came back, I thought that he had changed, but no. He only came back to me because the second woman he was living with was pregnant. I know that if I get pregnant too, he will leave me again to find a woman who is not pregnant so that he could satisfy his needs.

Sexual violence has been associated with a number of mental health and behavioral problems in women life and sexual abused women at significantly greater risk of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder than non-abused Women (Creamer, Burgess and McFarlane, 2001).

Most of response obtained from the FGD participants stated that, frequent sexual abuse is created in our communities for the purpose to know the status of wife fertility (to get more children preferring females). Concerning forceful sexual intercourse, they asserted that to check the fertility of the newlywed bride and to get more sons, in rural area women are extremely abused by their husbands. In this case, one of the FGD2 participant stated that:

From my first day I sleep with my husband until he recognized that I was pregnant, he has been enforcing me to have sex with him every day. Actually sexual intercourse is not new for him because I am his third wife and he want to do sex daily with me. One day I asked him why you want sex daily with me,

he told me that because his earlier wives could not give him son. Therefore, at that time without any complain to his acts I had been tested for months whether I could conceive male offspring or not and fortunately, I gave him a son last year.

4.2.1.3. Economic violence

The third subtheme of violence reported was economical violence. Women were also victims of economic violence or material exploitation. Among the interviewee's women, almost all women experienced financial violence or material exploitation (see table2 blow). According to the study participants, they became vulnerable to financial violence because of their lack of power to control their goods and services, due to their lack of power to manage, own, and utilize their properties.

Practices of material exploitation involved stealing, denial of money, misuse of properties, insulting customer when she was selling *tella & arake*. Women gave brief accounts of their experiences that explained practices of financial abuse. Balote, Azalech and Makuria are an informants and they shared their lived experience of economic violence as follows.

Balote used to earn income by selling *areke and borde* to villagers. Her husband did not want her to proceed with her business. He suspects that she was having an affair with some of the customers. He comes to her house got drunk to insult and threaten her and here's customers. Azalech had ear ring gold that she decorated herself years ago. In her age she put it in a hiding place in the house for the purposes of enjoyment and even to use the when she get problem. Suddenly her husband stole her gold and sold it in market.

Makuria was another victim of economic violence. She narrated her violence as follow,

My husband stole my money. I lost two quintal of maize which cost 350 birr. I have the problem of forgetting many things including my property after I became mental patient. When I was seriously sick my husband came to house from the field and he stole my money and again took cereals to next wife. Nearly I lost minimum 500 birr.

Survivors engaged in small income generation activities indicated that the economic violence by their husband has resulted in the reduction of their income. In most of the cases the reason for reduced income was due to the negative attitude of their husbands towards their business.

According to the participants their husbands suspect them of having special attachments with their customers and activities. Therefore, they purposely get drunk to insult and threaten their customers and steal their money. As a result, the number of small business activities and customers coming to their house to drink local *tella* decreased and resulted in reduced income.

The economic violence ranges from preventing the women from being employed outside to taking their money by the use of force. Since most of the participants in this study are house wives and do not work, they are dependent on their husband income but, husband not gave enough necessity for the family. The economic violence indicated by interviewees include not providing money to fulfill household needs, preventing victims from engaging in income generating activity, prohibiting victims from getting their share, taking victims money and material by force, and hiding the amount of money that she makes.

Most of the informants mentioned that they had experienced economic violence by their husband. They stated that their husbands have forcefully taken the money that they used it for their personal purposes. In addition, some participants indicated that their husbands have prevented them from engaging in any business activities like selling *tella*, *arake* and *injera* through using various strategies including beating and getting drunk and threatening customers. The reaming have reported that their husbands do not tell them the amount of money that they make and do not provide money to fulfill household necessities.

4.2.1.4. Psychological violence

The fourth subtheme of violence reported was psychological violence. Some of the participants shared that they had been ignored by their husband, which they considered to be the most hurtful, as it hurts their feelings and makes them feel unloved, making them feel hopeless. Some shared that their husbands called them names, or use degrading words. Thus, for these women, their opinion of domestic violence was related to being ignored by their husbands and emotional abuse. Being ignored here refers to the feeling of being excluded from the husband's life as if the wife were invisible. Some of the participants from FGD1 shared their feelings:

My husband had forced me to get out of my house during my pregnancy because he wants to be with another women. This issue made me to feel hopeless and lose my confidence.

Being ignored by my husband is the worst violence, the feeling is very bad the feeling is worse than being hit by him. He is out of the house every day, and comes home late at night. He does not want to spend time with me and the children, and is more interested to spend time outside with his friends.

Similarly, another informant pointed out that her husband has left her during holidays without offering any help and support which made her very angry and hopeless.

Dasite, 56 years old, she elaborated:

I celebrated the holidays in my house together with my children and neighbors preparing Easter. Celebration of the holidays was interrupted since 2015 after he married another wife. I stayed in the house alone during the holidays. My husband has already ignored me. From the last 5 years my husband did not buy any things to celebrate the holidays in the New-year.

It is ordinary that as of day before of the holiday family members (father, mother, children and related by kin who were celebrate the ceremony together enjoying the feast. Before the holiday father buy clothes and other material for their children. During the holiday's children take different gifts like money from their parents. Gifts are considered as an expression of concern and a way of bonding emotional attachment to their family. But Dasite's husband did not bought and present gifts to their children in holiday. Dasite and her children deeply felt that they were emotionally abused by her husband.

The study findings indicate that women experienced harassing, shouting, threatening, insulting and ignorance in by their husband. As a result of the emotional violence victim women were facing problems like lack of sleep, short term stress, and anxiety and health complication. Similarly, studies show that women victims of emotional abuse are more likely to experience poor physical health, difficulty in concentration, poor work performance (Straight, 2003).

Additional, psychological violence is manifested based on freedom of movement, in which husbands want to show their power over their wives. It does not always lead to physical violence, but physical violence in intimate partner relationships is nearly always lead by psychological violence (pankaji, 2013). Although the causes of the psychological violence varies from victim to victim all of the interviewees and participants shared similar opinion on the different types of emotional or psychological violence practiced in study area.

Case 1

My name is Dasite. I am a 38 years old woman, I live in Dufa kechikecha kebele. My husband is a farmer and he has three wives including me. I am his first wife and the other two wives live in other village far away from my residence. When he married them he couldn't tell me about the marriage and I heard along after the marriage was carried out from my neighbors. As soon as I heard this bad new I become depressed and even I choose to suicide myself. But my neighbors told me to gone to women and children affairs office and accuse my husband. I refrain to gone to women and child office fear of social exclusion that results. Since, polygamy is normal behavior in our society I seen no worth to tell to the elders. When I asked my husband about the situation, he started to beaten me and so that I choose to remain silent. As a time gone I forgotten the situation and began to live with him. But now at this time my former farm land is divided to the next two wives and I remain with the small plot of land. The product I get from such a small plot of land is not enough to feed my five children's. I am unable to feed my children's. Now my husband rarely comes to my home and even he cannot even visit his children's when ill. I am always facing difficulty in feeding my children's and myself.

This case clearly indicates how the polygamous marriage pattern of the society produce and reproduce the system of patriarchy which places men's in the position of power over women's. Not only that more than one wife marriage affect the life of women because the existing resource divide to the others and family fail to poverty.

Case 2

My name is Makuriya. I am 33 years old women of Womba yamala kebele. I am frequently beaten by my husband but to tell you what is happened before my husband and approximately after an hour my husband also woke up and gone to the field in order to plough the farm land. As soon as I woke up I fetch water, clean home and I began to prepare food to local dish called Otto. In doing such and such domestic activities the time has gone. Then after I have prepared the food or the Otto have taken with a local drink Borde to the farmland to my husband. As soon as I reached the farm land by walking approximately three kilometer far from village, my husband waited me with anger and saying that

'where were you been until this time/was it a time for lunch?' And then he beaten me with a wooden material. I shouted, but no one was around.

Women were experienced domestic violence for long time in rural area. Hitting, kicking and beating are the most common act of physical violence identified in domestic violence (DV) research. When ranking the severity of the act according to its likelihood of causing physical injuries, researchers considered moderate acts to include being hatted, pushed and severe acts to include being hit with a fist, kicked, threatened with a stone, or having a stone used against the wife in study area. (See more about types of domestic violence faced by informants in table 2 below).

Table 2. Summary of type of domestic violence faced by informants

Type of domestic violence faced by the informants						
			Subthemes of domestic violence experienced by women			
Pseudonyms	Age	Religion	Physical	Sexual	Emotional	Economical
Zewuditu	48	Protestant	Kicking, hitting with a stick	Forced sexual intercourse without her consent	Insulting and humiliated in front of others	Taking her money
Alemitu	41	Protestant	Slapping and hitting with object	having sex against her will	Insulting	steal agricultural product
Atsedie	45	Orthodox	Slapping, Kicking her with his leg and broke her hand.	forced to do something sexual that is humiliating or degrading	Threatening, Insulting	Doesn't provide necessary things for his children
Azalech	46	Protestant	Hitting her with an object & broke her leg once	sexual intimidation	Neglect & Insulting	He doesn't provide her money to fulfill household needs

Makuria	37	Orthodox	Hitting, kicking and pulled her hair	Sex without her filling.	Neglect, insulting	He steal money and cereals
Sani me	39	Protestant	Hitting and biting		Insulting, dating other women	He doesn't want her to work and earn income
Kawutishe	43	Protestant	He hit her on the stomach during her pregnancy		Forced her to leave with him and Practicing polygamy	Forcefully taking her money.
Dasite	52	Orthodox	Hitting her with an object, broke her leg once.	Forced sexual intercourse	Making her feel lonely, threatening, and insulting	Destroying assets He takes her money away.
Kasech	54	Protestant	Threw something at her that could hurt her	Sex without her agreement	Humiliated her in front of others	When she gives him money to buy things he drink alcohol
Balote	51	Protestant	Kicking, punching		Insulting	Take her money

Source. Findings from field interview (2017)

4.2.2. Conditions that Contributing to the Risk of Domestic Violence

This second theme describes conditions that contributing to the risk of domestic violence from the perspective of the women themselves. Women explained their perceptions of DV from the point of view of their lived experiences. Women' responds are organized by the following subthemes: poverty/ economic situations, Alcoholism, Extra-marital affairs, culture system and living arrangement.

4.2.2.1. Economic Situation/Poverty

Many women living in poverty are at high risk for different types of domestic violence, for severe and life threatening assaults. The women I interviewed faced severe economic problems

in Konta Special Woreda. Women who were considered to be better off were still at the subsistence economic level. Many women had inadequate food and their housing condition was poor.

Women had economically dependent on their husband and children who lived with them. Manifestations of economic issues as a contributing factor to domestic violence included: lack of resources; misuse of property; lack of power to own and making decisions over property. In relation to these contributing factors, women were abused by their husband. Women complained of a lack of financial and material resources and the high cost of living and inflation that severely affected their living conditions.

The most common contributing factor of domestic violence against women is perceived as the inevitable break-up of the family due to financial hardship. Often this occurs when the husband not work enough and give money to support his family. According to radical feminist theory the factor that contribute to domestic violence is economic hardship. Economy play a vital role to male domination over women. The same is true in my study economic hardship is the major factors for husband domination over women. Smith (2009) states financial dependency among women may create a number of psychological violence such as low self-confidence to live independently and this often leads to isolation.

According to Alemitu her husband was farmer, he work in second wife farm land, he would send back home about minimum product and some money in a month and this would be not sufficient for the family's needs but as time progresses, he sends home less and less product and money. Most of discussants stated that men do not interest to work enough product for the families because they lost most of time by drinking with friends. The wife and children have now lost the main source of livelihood and are now forced to find other means to survive their life like selling wood and charcoal.

4.2.2.2. Alcoholism

The second most common contributing factor to domestic violence was perceived as excessive use of alcohol. In most reported cases of domestic violence against a woman were alcohol consumption. Most commonly, the man was drunk when he inflicted physical violence on his wife. The results showed that the most shocking cases of domestic violence occurred while the man was drunk. Most of these cases were preceded by extreme emotional and physical stress

leading up to the domestic violence and afterwards. This included verbal abuse and in some cases complaints would be lodged to police and other family members. However, it was also common to find that shortly after the complaints were made and after talking to other family members, the victim would drop the charges and forgive her husband. The cycle of abuse would subsequently be repeated and was almost always associated with drunkenness.

Walker (2008) suggests that women with violent partners tend to believe that the violence is more related to internal factors in the man rather than to events in the external environment. Descriptions of male violence often include reports of heavy drinking on the part of the abuser. Informants believed that without the use of alcohol consumption most of the time domestic violence would not occur. Consequently, most respondents of women believe that the domestic violence will stop if their partners stop drinking. In Konta Special Woreda, husband's violence against women seems to indicate a strong association alcohol drinking.

A most disturbing finding from this study was the frequent reported cases of domestic violence against children. In most extreme cases, children were psychological abused at the same time as the mother. This involved children being thrown against the wall and beaten until they bled. Although there were many cases that described physical beatings as routine 'discipline', there were also extreme cases of domestic violence being committed against children at the same time as their mother, one mother responded that psychological damage was inflicted on the child.

Kasech, 54years old, narrated:

My husband always drinks alcohol. Hence, when he come to home drunk, he sends out me and my children from our home and he lived alone at home throughout the night. He also hated and kicked me to have sex with him.

The participants result indicated that women are more vulnerable when their husbands are an alcoholic. In order to examine the link between alcohol and domestic violence against women, the discussants were asked about their husbands' drinking habit and when the extent of violence increases. The finding indicated that, most of the participants' husbands drinking alcohol and abuse their wife and children.

The extent of the domestic violence has increased in market and holidays days. Market and holidays are usually the days that women in domestic setting face physical, economically and

emotional violence because male easily get drunk. According to most in depth interview informants, the worst domestic violence occurs during market days and holidays when their husbands got drunk. Whenever the husbands had local drinks like *areke* and *tella* their behavior changes and becomes very abusive.

According to ecological theory, personal history of substance abuse characteristics the main factors for violence against women. The study shows that clearly the most shocking reported domestic violence against women and children occurred while the man is drunk. So this study show that alcohol drinking has direct relation with domestic violence against women.

4.2.2.3. Extra-Marital Affairs

The third most commonly perceived contributing factor of domestic violence by interviewee was extra-marital affairs. Finding of this study showed that domestic violence occurred as a result of extra-marital activities. It was more common to find the husband to be the one involved in the affair. According to my participants, husbands were often exercised extra-marital activities with other women. This was a common accusation when women not give birth to her husband. There were many cases husband admitted to having extra-marital activities. These men often justified their actions by stating that they were angry with their wives; and therefore had the matter to spite their wives.

The most cases of extra-marital affairs occurred, as a result of the wives not gave child to their husband. It was common to find that people who are living long period without children made husband to extra-marital activities with other women. Not only that, the opinion of women towards gender role expectation is also aggravated the occurrence of domestic violence. The widespread acceptability of circumstances where wife beating is justified highlights the extent to which, domestic violence is conceptualized as a form of chastisement for female behavior that transgresses certain expectation. For example, by acceptability of wife beating, Bekelech, 39 years old, FGD1 member, she elaborate that:

My husband was disagree with me for two years because of having relationships with a number of women, some of those women were my friends and my neighbors. I knew that he had no any tangible reason rather to cover his extra marital affairs. one day I asked him why you did this extra marital relationship

with other women, I am your wife. He said that still you were not give child for me.so I want another wife to get child. However I am living with this problem.

Some of the participants in this study reported that their husbands had affairs with other women, and when the wives found out about these relationships and confronted the husband to end the relationship and to focus on the family, marital conflict would usually arise. Often the husband would resort to domestic violence when their wives asked them to end the affair or to spend more time at home. Bekelech, one of the FGD1 participants, she shared that her husband was having an affair and that he would spend most of his time outside, usually came home late, and did not spend enough time with the family. When she asked him to stop seeing the other woman or to end the affair, this would result in arguments and he would get angry and hit her.

Ayelech, 45 years old, FGD2 member, narrated:

I have been married for 18 years. My husband was found to be strong man but since two years back interaction between my husband and me is less and misunderstanding was started due to his extramarital relation with another women. Mostly our conflict arises regarding that woman with whom he had marital relation

In extramarital affairs of husband, wives were neglected and mistreated. Even in the minor mistakes of wife, husbands used to threaten to them. The never given love and affection to the wife, instead scold them as worthlessness and uselessness women. Some of my informants reported this type of reason for domestic violence.

4.2.2.4. Cultural Practices

Cultural practice has great impact on women life. The superiority and inferiority that exist between men and women in study area are said to be rooted in the society for long time. The head of the family is the man and holds the central position in the family. Society is therefore described as patriarchal, which means superiority and power for the man and women live under control of husband. This often results in powerlessness for the women due to this practice.

These patriarchal system have continued through history and are also visible in property and divorce laws that favors men but, also in the economic, social and sexual realm within the household. Thus, it could imply then that gender discrimination is perpetuated by patriarchy and prohibits women to be equal with men. Women not only dominated by private but also

public under unfair circumstances. Women are contributing in the workplace, and in state and cultural institutions, but remain inferior. Women are specifically subordinate in terms of domestic work distribution, sexual practices, and resource distribution and as being the target of men's violence.

Domestic Violence against women is one of the key means through which male control over women's economic resource and sexuality. The informants pointed out that domestic violence occurs without any reason or for a minor reason. Some participants said that they could not reach an understanding of domestic violence.

Kebebus was FGD2 discussant, she was 43years old, and she describes her confusion:

I have often asked myself this question, but never found answer. I think it has more to do with his nature. He is a violent person, there is no other reason. We live with our four kids and nobody interferes with our life. We have a normal financial situation, he has a job but he is still abuse.

In this regard the major contributing factors as reported by the participants was the traditional notions of male honor, felling of supremacy and control over women. In every activity they used to show their control. Even in the minor family matter, they used to scold them as if wife is a contracted servant for obeying the order as favor of them. Husbands usually behave them as second class citizen. So most of participants reported that the root cause of domestic violence was the supremacy complex of men.

Kasa, 55years old, He was an expert of women and child office. He stated that:

I think culture plays a great role; the women do not want to come out and seek help because they do not want to betray their family. For them it is taboo subject, they avoided not to shame. Women already separated/divorced are more open to share their abuse to us rather not divorced.

Dobash & Dobash (2004) stated that domestic violence against women in term of coercive control (economically, socially, and politically), which focused on the power and control that women subordinate position in society. This power and control occurs at both societal level and in the context of power and control in government, religious organization and society in general. Secondly, being under great fear, stress and mental agony, her performance, naturally, suffers resulting in the possibility of loss of job.

Another expert from Police Office further stressed that even when some women share about the problems in their marriage, it is not for seeking help, but rather to share and talk with someone. He mentioned that:

Women are afraid that if they speak out, people will look down upon them if they know in the community. Usually they feel relief just sharing just to talk and share to me, but not to seek help.

This might be explained by the prevalent tradition that masculinity to aggressiveness, being powerful and seeking to ensure dominance. Some men want to do everything according to their wishes and they need to feel to be superior to their wives.

More than half of informants believed that more than one wife marriage, acceptance of male superiority and acceptance of wife beating are the common cultural practices perpetuating domestic violence in the rural community in study area. Most of them argued that cultural practices perpetuate men dominance over women. The traditional norm that women should be faithful to the domestic sphere, taking care of household and children and be obedient to male authority is still pervasive in rural parts of Konta special Woreda. Based on this it could be implied that the traditional patriarchal norms have not weakened even though social changes have occurred because of historically unequal power relations between men and women and pervasive discrimination against women in both the public and private spheres. According to liberal feminism theory, patriarchal disparities of power, discriminatory cultural norms, and economic inequalities serve to deny women's human rights and perpetuate domestic violence against women.

In relation this, Sothy (2009) stated that the exercise of power or control by the husbands over the wives' social activities, such as meeting with female friends, and through the husbands' accusations of wives' unfaithfulness. Husband control is also a factor leading to domestic violence in marital relationships because power is concentrated in the hand where he makes the most of the decision in the house.

4.2.2.5. Living Arrangement of Women

Geographic distance and living arrangement also contributed to the risk of domestic violence against women. Sometimes absence of children in the area increased the women's risk of

violence. Children who lived in distant places were unable to visit not easily support their family regularly and they could not protect family from violence.

Ayelech & Senayit were FGD2 members and they shared the following:

I was not happy with the dispersal of my children in different place to look for jobs. If their residential area was near my home they would protect from different violence from their father and other intimate partner and I would get more respect from neighbors and the community.

Women who lived alone with husband were vulnerable to domestic violence of their husband and another intimate partner violence. However, women who lived with other persons were not necessarily safe from domestic violence because there are multiple factors for violence.

Senayit talked about the problem of living with her husband as follow,

Living only with my husband caused humiliation on my life. He insulted and kick me for long time. But before two years our two elder boys living with us, the severity of the violence minimum compared to current violence.

Living parent with children and Living close to each other solve the conflict between privacy, independent and family support. They also rival that living close to parents has become an important way of providing children support while at the same time maintain independence or privacy for both parents and children. It has been found that children residing near their parents tend to visit more frequently than those living further away and provide more financial support to parents minimize the family dispute (Lei, Strauss, Tilan&Zhao, 2011)

4.2.3. Consequence of Domestic Violence on Women

This theme captures three subthemes of participant's description of the physical, reproductive and mental health consequence of domestic violence. Most of the women described suffering from physical health difficulties as a result of the injuries inflicted on them by their husband. The majority of participants reported that their experiences had a lasting psychological impact on them, including negatively influencing their perceptions of men, as well as their perceptions of relationships.

The consequences of domestic violence are different kinds and it affect the physical healthy, reproductive, mental growth, survival and development of women and children. Women who

had experienced frequent physical violence in the hands of their husband had encountered physical and emotional problems. WHO (2006) reports on the domestic violence against women also confirms by stating that women survivors of domestic violence experience a direct consequence of violence which includes life-long emotional distress, physical pain, and health problems and overwhelming mental and emotional distress.

4.2.3.1. Physical health problem on women

Domestic Violence committed by an intimate partner has numerous and sometimes devastating consequences for the victim. It has a major cause of injury to women ranging from relatively minor cuts to permanent death. The WHO multi-country study found that 19% to 55% physically abused women sustain injury from the abuse at some point in their life and among this over 20% of ever injured women reported that they had been injured many times (World Health Organization, 2013). More commonly in this finding most of abused women have significantly more than average self-reported shortness of breath, head ache, braking hand & legs and hearing problem.

Dasite, 56years old, she narrated that:

My husband was a farmer. One day morning I took coffee and breakfast to farmland late. He stopped his working and hatted by stick my hand and my left hand still not work normal any activities.

Meselech, 39 years old, she was FGD2 member and she narrated that:

There was no problem on my hearing before. From one year back it is quite difficult for me to listen. My one ear (right ear) is severely affected due to beating.

Domestic violence has been linked to many serious physical health problems. These include such as injury, hearing problem and chronic pain .Domestic Violence also undermines physical health by increasing a variety of negative behaviors, such as smoking, alcohol and drug abuse. Because most early studies on abuse and physical health involved woman seeking medical treatment, their finding could have over stated the relationship between violence and poor physical health. But links between victimization and ill physical health have been confirmed in recent studies among more representative groups (Heise, 2002).

4.2.3.2. Reproductive health problem on women

Not only physical health problem also domestic violence limits the women's right to reproductive decisions. The sexual coercion or male control affects the woman choice

regarding conception, frequently leading to unplanned/ unwanted pregnancies (Valladares, 2005). Kebebush was one of FGD2 member and she shared her concern for her health and how she tried to make her husband understand her situation.

My husband wants to have sex almost every days and most of the time I do not want to because I am afraid for my health. The last time I got pregnant, my baby was not yet one year old and when I gave birth to my other child, I lost a lot of blood and the nurse advised me to stop having babies if not, to use contraceptives. I told my husband this and he did not hear me, he saying that word to me is like don't use contraceptive methods I find children.

Researchers have long assumed that the impact of domestic violence on women health, showing that domestic violence not only impacts women physically and mentally, but is also linked closely to negative reproductive health outcomes. The focus group discussion show that women who lived in a violent situation ran an increased risk of unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, and were unable to negotiate safer sex or contraception.

4.2.3. 3. Mental health problem on women

A growing body of research evidence is revealing that sharing her life with an abusive partner can have a profound impact on woman's mental health. Battered women are more likely to suffer from depression, anxiety, eating problems, and sexual dysfunction (WHO, 2002).

WHO study reported significantly higher levels of emotional distress and suicidal ideation or attempted suicide among abused women as compared to women who had never experienced domestic violence. Women who had experienced domestic violence were more likely to report poor or very poor health. They also more likely to have had recent problems with walking and carrying out daily activities, pain and emotional distress (WHO, 2005).

Zewuditu, 48 years old, she narrated that

My husband insult me always in front of my friends. I felt demoralized and I am always frightened not only didn't that even he respect my family when come to our house. From this I am living with frustration

Most of the informants stated that domestic violence has been associated with mental health problems. The most common mental health impacts are headache, sleep disorders, eating disorders, substance dependence, antisocial personality disorders and psychosis.

Makuria, 37years old, she said that:

I have headache problem. Because when my husband think to abuse me, he catch my hair hit and kick me. Not only had that he insulted me in front of my neighbors. From his abuse even society has no positive attitude towards me.

Victims of domestic violence over time experiences more serious consequences than of one-time incidents. Husband abuse again and again by physical their wife they easily affect by another problem. Domestic violence against women where husband as the perpetrator can lead psychological consequences for the victim.

Table 3. Consequences of domestic violence on informants

Consequence on health	Number of informants
Physical health concern	4
Mental health concern	2
Reproductive health concern	1
Total	7

Source. Findings from interview (2017)

As indicated in table above, most of informants who experiences domestic violence have the physical health problem and some has reproductive health problem in study area. The consequence of this problem was shocking women from any development activities.

According Mitchell (2014) stated that the abused women often experience life-long emotional distress, mental health problems and poor reproductive health. Not only had that they are also at higher risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS. Additionally, they lose their job, firstly, because their abuser may restrict their freedom to work in order to make their financially dependent on them which gives them an opportunity to show their authority and keep their well under their control. Not only that domestic violence has been identified as a major public health issue with an adverse impact on the health of the abused women (UNFPA, 2005) .On the WHO country study undertaken in 10 countries, one quarter to one half of all women who had been physically assaulted by their partners said that they had suffered physical injuries as a direct result. The

abused women were also twice as likely to have poor health and physical and mental problems (World Health Organization, 2006).

Additional to direct impact to mother, domestic violence may cause the bad retaliation between parents & children. Many participants highlighted the negative effects of domestic violence on their children, particularly on young children. The mothers claimed to suffer a sense of powerlessness and feelings of being overwhelmed which had contributed to their inability to respond appropriately to their children's needs. The results of this study indicate that domestic violence affects parent-child bonding, active performance on their activities.

Jaffe reports that children who live witnessed higher frequencies and intensities of domestic violence family, performed significantly less well on a measure of interpersonal sensitivity (the ability to understand social situations and the thoughts and feelings of persons involved in those situations) than did those children exposed to less frequent and intense family born children behaviors (Devaney, 2015).

Some of my informants stated the reactions of the children towards their abusive father. When fathers abuse mother children either directly or in directly affect by domestic violence.

Balote, 51 years old, she stated that:

My children still remember until today of how my husband used to kick and hit me. From that day my children and my husband have no positive relationship.

According to Morrison & Orlando (2008) explained that when mother affects by domestic violence, children also victim several. It affects children in various ways including their health; their educational performance; and their use of violent conduct in their own relationships. Even the unborn and newborns can be affected by domestic violence, as abused women are exposed to abortions. Children, who may be direct witnesses to abuse, stand high risk of suffering harm incidental to the domestic violence. Their lives get disrupted in many ways such as by moving or being separated from parents, by being used by the batterer to manipulate or gain control over the victim, or sometimes they themselves maybe abused.

4.2.4. The measure taken by the women after they faced domestic violence

This theme captures the strategies and techniques that the women employed in order to help themselves cope with their lived experiences of DV. Women described employing a range of strategies over the course of their relationship in order to help themselves cope with the DV.

Their actions aimed to rehabilitate from that injury. Their responses against the incidence of domestic assault could be related with the existed socio-cultural and legal constraints. From these mechanism the participants have been taken to prevent themselves from injures are: keeping the problem in silent, reporting problem to responsible body, running away, spending the night outside in the neighbors, calling for help and religious faith & internal strength.

4.2.4.1. Keeping the Problems in Silent

Predominant reasons to keeping in silence the problem of domestic violence against women in abusive relationships include fear, especially that violence will escalate if they leave, or that threats of retributive violence against themselves or their loved ones will be carried out, lack of alternative means of economic support, concern for the effects on children, feeling sorry for the abuser, and an abiding hope that the man will change (Fleury, Sullivan & Bybee, 2000).

Azalech and Sanime are informants and they respond to the question they were asked about their measure after they faced domestic violence. Their response is presented as follows.

Azalech;

When I faced domestic violence like physical, economical and psychological problem I did not tell to any person because I believe that fought will be solved when I become cool and ask by smoothly.

Some women stated that they cool behaviors that might aggravate their husband's violent reaction, women begin to make concessions by thinking over their habits and behavior pattern and by carefully controlling their own angers.

Sanime also responded as;

When I faced any problem, I am not telling to any person, the reason is I thought it domestic violence happened because of my situation and I don't think I will find solution.

Keeping the problem in silence bring another problem on women life. Most of interviewees in study area talked about keeping the domestic violence to themselves because they felt in fault for their situation. Gillig, Sitaker, Malloy & Grigsby (2003) have suggested that the internalization of blame makes it difficult to escape, as the victim takes responsibility for repairing the damage. Some informants stated that they did not tell anyone about the abuse because they believed that they should have known better then to stay in that kind of relationship. Another woman stated that she was unwilling to admit to her husband that the

relationship with her husband was abusive because she wanted to maintain some of her self-importance.

Each woman talked about keeping silence the problem to themselves because they felt at fault for their situation. Anderson & Saunders (2003) have suggested that the internalization of silence makes it difficult to escape, as the victim takes responsibility for repairing the damage. Most of the woman stated that they did not tell anyone about the abuse because they believed that they should have known better then to stay in that kind of relationship.

The research offers several insights as to why women do not initially report or discuss this type of violence against women. Discussants have been suggested that women do not see the domestic violence as serious, they have a fear of being blamed, a fear of retaliation by their partner, or they have fallen into the societal practice of minimization. Many researchers have documented the fact that many victims do not identify themselves as victim of violence because of cultural way influence women as property of husband and as he like do ever thing on his wife (Bornstein, 2006). Another scholar noted several reasons why victim women do not leave, including, a need to care for the abuser, religion or tradition, believing that the abuser could not control his behavior, believing that their injuries were not real, or that they were not blameless victims, and the inability to see alternatives (Ferraro & Johnson, 2009).

4.2.4.2. Reports to the Police, Local Court and Women & Children office

Describe to the police in detail what has happened so that the relevant measures can be implemented to protect domestic violence and prosecute the perpetrator. It also tell them about any injuries that are not visible or that have happened in the past. In this finding, women after they faced domestic violence not occasional reported the case to the police, court and women & children affair office. Rather they kept silent especially psychological violence happened. The data gathered from interviewees & discussants confirms this.

Women who are not informing the violence they faced, they feared to report and even when they reported they do it late so that evidences will be lost to take action against the abuser.

The response of women tell us domestic violence cases are not reported, especially when the domestic violence is committed by husband, it is not reported and only small cases are reported and done. There is a problem among women even to share for their intimate partner. Even in small cases the reported was late to women & child affair office. The reasons economic and

social factors affecting women decisions to go back to partners, such as lack of transport, alternative support, and money/independent income (Griffing, Ragin, Sage, Madry& Primm, 2002)

In the world, less than half of all victims of domestic violence at the hands of spouses or other family members report their abuse to the police. There are three reasons for concern about this. First, when domestic violence (DV) goes unreported, offenders go undetected and unpunished, thereby robbing the law of any deterrent effect it might have had. Second, failure to report may mean that victims do not receive the mental and physical support they need or would benefit from receiving and third, inaccurate information on the actual number of incidents may lead to the misallocation of funds for DV management (Bosick, Rennison, Gover & Dodge, 2012).

In this finding, women interviewed to find justice for the domestic violence that happened to them. Some of abused women I interviewed in this study, two women took their cases to the police and to the kebele administration but they didn't get enough solution.

Azalech, 46 years old). She narrated shared her experience in the following way;

I reported to the police office that my husband was stolen my property. I accused him and he believed that off curse I have taken the property but it is not only her both of us. So I had taken to marry another wife because she did not give a birth to me. I did not get my property but he arrested for two months. That is not enough to compare with my properties

Most of my informants said that Community people have no faith in legal provision, because there is no strong legal act to punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girl. Even the victims reported to court, perpetrators are not getting enough punishment. They further explained that legal interventions are too weak and punishment for the perpetrators is very minimum as comparison to his crime.

Zewuditu disagreed with her husband when she insulted and humiliated by him repeatedly. She begged him to stop doing such abusive acts but he refused. Eventually Zewuditu appealed to and took the case to the kebele. The kebele warned her husband to save himself from abusive behaviors and sent both persons to finish by negotiation in local elder.

Women lived experience will largely influence the actions taken toward crime. It will also examine the woman's stage of willingness to address the problem. This requires a woman to

assess her situation, including her protection and her children's security as well as available resources. This study also focused on the personal lived experience of abused women. Demographic factors include the educational level of the woman and employment status, source of income (whether she has currently occupation or not) influences victim.

Most of interviewees were not familiarized to taking cases of abuse to the court because they were not aware of the legal proceedings to prosecute the defendant, it was time consuming and expensive to follow up the processes and women feared revenge from the defendants.

Matafe was one of FGD1 member and she stated that,

*My husband steal my property from my house, he insulted and threatened me.
But I did not appeal to the police or to the kebele due to fear of revenge, I lived
alone and no one protected me at night. He kill me.*

Domestic violence always becomes the hidden issue. Almost all of the victims are unwilling to report the police because wife still depends on financial on husband, wife still loves her husband, and many reason else. Participants stated that many the victim is always silent toward violence perpetrated by her husband, never resists the abuser and never tells anyone.

In Ethiopia, police have the power and authority to enter a home and speak to women they believe may be victims of violence but in study area not enough measure still taken. The police may further have the authority to seize weapons, force a batterer to arrest him even without the support of the victim. In some jurisdictions, the police automatically charge any person suspected of having assaulted or abused a woman. (United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime, 2010).

In this finding legal responses and protections to domestic violence against women in study area not completely protected women from traditional practices. Despite this, many victims are reluctant to report domestic violence to the police. Because they still have feelings for their partner, or they were afraid of what their partner did to them when they find out. Having children with the perpetrator can also be a reason for not reporting the crime.

Another reason is that it feels too private or personal, or that they feel guilty, ashamed or blame themselves for what has been done to them. They may also not think this kind of crime is serious enough to report to the police or that the police will not take it seriously. It can be

difficult for people who are the victims of honor crimes to go against the norms and values of their entire family all by themselves.

4.2.4.3. Support from neighbors, parents and taking protections

The remaining response of participants including shouting loudly to neighbors, and taking protections. Women who encountered strikes by the perpetrators tried to protect themselves to reduce severe injury. But they could not inflict counter physical attacks against the perpetrators because they were not strong. In this regard the cases of Maselech, Gojebe and Worke they are FGD2discussants. They stated that:-

Maselech, 58years olds, She stated that:

My husband harassed me and attempted to beat me frequently. On Saturday at night he took me while I slept on the bed. I was very tired working the whole day at home. My husband twisted my left arm. I caught his hands and cried to neighbors protect myself from further injury. The neighbors heard my cry and arrived soon and protected me.

Social supports have a direct relationship on health and wellbeing in human life. People with high levels of social support experience less stress when in stressful situations and are able to cope with stress more successfully. It provides individuals with security, worthiness, and a sense of identity during times of crisis and decreases feelings of hopelessness.

Gojebe, 54years old, said that:-

My husband strongly fight with me. I have four children. For two weak he refused any food and other things. My children crying always because they are very hungry. Then I get some support from neighbors. I was in a critical condition with my children. For time being neighbors brought me food for a couple of days that helped my children to regain physical strength.

Parental support is one such familial factor that is a determinant of domestic violence. For example, the presence of members and economical support of family was associated with lower rates of domestic violence in South India and Cambodia (Ann, 2004). The same true in study area domestic violence more related with economic situations. Radical feminist theory stated parental support are important to minimize domestic violence. It is important to focus on women's access to power and resources in communities. It is assumed that if women hold some

degree of power or access to resources such as strong social support from community, family and friends and domestic violence will be less, compared to those without such supports

Another coping mechanism taken was necessary defenses from abuser. In this regard, Worke, 47 years old, she pointed out that:

My house near to my lagate house/second wife house/. Always I am living with my lagate in disagreement. Following increase of disputes I was suspicious that my /lagate/second wife has planned to kill me through poisoning. I became aware and refused to receive food and drinks from her house and I shortened the duration of stay in her house because I knew from experience that as I stayed longer in her house I would face ongoing violence.

If there is social support from family or outside the family after the experience of domestic violence among women there will be less chances to victim. Heise was feminism theory and he elaborated that informal supports like family, neighbors and friends are important response to minimize the domestic violence against women. Domestic violence against women was associated with lack of perceived support, which was defined as the number of people to whom the women could talk or get together with. Women who had less perceived support associated with high domestic violence & more negative life event. Feminist believe that the safety of women and therefore their children can only be achieved through supporting their rights. This including not blaming women for the DV they are subjected to and providing them with option and resources that respect their human rights as well as make them and their children safe.

4.2.4.4. Spirituality

Another utilized coping mechanism for women dealing with domestic violence in study area was religious – faith that is, prayers and seeking peace in their faith. Even in the most extreme cases of domestic violence, participants believed that praying and going to church helped them process the hurts and pains of domestic violence by their husband and ultimately find some resolution. It is significant to note that out of the women who mentioned ‘religious ‘as a coping strategy.

Atsede, 45 years old, she narrated:

I am protestant religious follower, but my husband not want to church, he drank alcohol and abuse me at all night. He was not voluntary when I went to church

on Sunday. Sometimes I went to church & I'm precious to God my faith, certainly gives me that strength because I know that I'm precious to God and my husband was saved from abusive behaviors.

Faith played great role in human life in the abusive relationship and in maintaining abuse free life. The most of participants believed that their Christian faith held the key to maintaining peaceful and harmonious relationships with their husbands. Women in study area believe that when a person lives the life of a true Christianity and praying is honest in their lives, there should not be any relational problems.

4.2.4.5. Leaving abusive relationships, running away, spending the night outside

Running away from a relationship can be a painful and difficult choice for anyone. Regardless of the type of relationship (e.g., healthy/unfulfilling, abusive/non abusive) there are factors that play a role in staying (e.g., commitment, personal values) and factors that contribute to and facilitate the decision to eventually leave the relationship (e.g., unmet needs, support systems). As with most major life choices, leaving a relationship is a process and is likely not immediate, as it may take days, weeks, months, or years to come to a final decision to permanently end the relationship (Burman & Chantler, 2005).

Andushe, 48 years old, she was one of FGD1 member. She stated that:

Most of the time my husband want to hit me, but when he try to abuse me I leave house and stay at neighbor house to cool his aggressiveness.

The studies conducted by Anderson and Saunders indicated that, there may exist several phases to the leaving process, which include multiple leaving and returning events. These attempts were described as episodes that may afford individuals opportunities to learn new coping skills. As part of these events, cognitive and emotional leaving may be involved prior to physically leaving the abuse (Anderson & Saunders, 2003).

Individuals in abusive relationships likely share similar values or possibly similar views about commitment a fact that is often overlooked from the outside, leading others to question why women stay in abusive relationships. The process of ending an abusive relationship can be described as complex and nonlinear; since it can involve many leaving attempts for various reasons (Karim, 2011) and leaving does not always end the woman's problems or interactions with her abuser, nor does it guarantee her safety and wellbeing and that of her children (Kernic & Holt, 2006).

Some research finding stated that abused persons may encounter factors that serve as obstacles to leaving abusive relationships (e.g., emotional attachment/commitment, family, lack of financial resources, lack of support/resources, fear of retaliation/lack of safety (Lacey, 2010) and yet others that may encourage leaving (presence of children, having social supports, material resources to become independent, internal resources such as confidence and control, increase in emotional abuse, and so forth ((Kim & Gray, 2008).

According to Worke, when she sometimes calls for help her neighbors, they were unwilling to help her and cool the fight. This is mainly because they do not want to interfere in their private matters of wife and husband issues. In addition, after she reported to the police her neighbors who have tried to release her were called as a witness and during that time some were afraid to give their words on what they have seen or heard.

Gojobe and Meselech are FGD2 members and they have used strategies like reporting to Woman and Children office, asking people that are close to their husbands to give advice to husband about abusive behavior and their husbands some reduced some extent about abuse.

Another measurement indicated by FGD1 participants was hiding the properties what they have in good place.

Damench, 55 years old, she stated that:

I earn some amount of money from my small business activities like selling wood and charcoal. However my husband forcefully takes the money that I have earned. So I decided to hide the some of the money that I have made each day so this strategy has enabled me to save some money to sustain my business.

Most of the time domestic violence within the home is usually associated with a range of controlling the properties and intimidating behaviors. The women in this study reported a wide range of coercive acts and most of these occurred on a frequent basis in their relationships.

Feminist theorist argue that the use of domestic violence for control in marriage is perpetuated through the norms about a man's rights in marriage and through women's continued economic dependence on their husbands. This view is supported by (Walker, 2016), who explains that battered women develop a mentality of helplessness which increases because of financial dependency. Cheung, Leung, & Tsui, (2009) also admits that women's socioeconomic and psychological dependency makes it difficult for them to leave situations of domestic violence.

Thus women cope by enduring their violence – they do not leave because they see their situations as that of the typical woman (often, married woman) in a subservient relationship with a man.

Both the in-depth interview and focus group discussion participants argued that they used different measures all the time. However, those mentioned in the above are what they usually use. Not only that the informants suffered in silence for long period of time with domestic violence by their relationships because of they were conditioned to obey their husbands and were afraid to act independently and cultural beliefs that the wife must silently tolerate the assaults.

Women who experienced repeated domestic violence during their life-time are afraid of their partners. Three women in this study who described themselves as fearful displayed to women and children office for help. They hoped that their abusive husband would be punished. Over time, women accrue shifts in thinking, changes in their feelings towards their abusers, and opportunities to learn effective coping strategies; the iterative attempts at leaving that abused women undergo serve to demonstrate that this is an active process in which women engage in multiple efforts for survival when dealing with the abuse and goes against existing myths that women experiencing abuse are passive, self-defeating, and unlikely to leave (Gortner , 2007)

Women began to believe that they had the right to a life without violence particularly in this democratic time when social and political changes have occurred. The abused women also understood that they were not alone; they had seen too many women like themselves in their own community talk about the effects of domestic violence and what they could do. At such moments the decision was taken to report of domestic violence and the women felt encouraged on by what they believed was the larger number of women also reporting domestic violence. Domestic violence has become a common problem for public debate in kanta special woreda. Most of the women in this study argue that domestic violence against women is increasing because, alcoholism and economic situation.

Generally some of the participants who reported to have experienced different forms of domestic violence not taken action. There are various reasons for this tendency and the most reported reasons included limited financial options, feared the husband, shame, a belief that violence among women is a normal thing.

4.2.5. Gaps within the Justice System Indicated by Informants

According to this theme, Ethiopia took various forms of legislative measures regarding to violence against women, as we have seen literature parts, the practical situation of Ethiopia indicated that domestic violence against women is still continue to be a huge problem. Apart from taking appropriate legal measures as well as bringing attitudinal change within the community in rural part, the way the national justice system of domestic violence against women is quiet important to ensure effective implementation of the law. If the justice system is strong and in a way it respond to victim's demand and there would be a high possibility that perpetrators got to save themselves from criminal activities.

4.2.5.1. Insufficiencies measure of combating domestic violence against women

Despite the legal measures taken by Ethiopian government, domestic violence against women has still continued in a shocking manner. Rosemarie (2009) was liberal feminist, he stated that women should live a life they choose not a life chosen by others and women should be accorded equal political, economic, social and cultural opportunities with men and patriarchal system denies the equal rights of women in every sphere of life.

The women felt that the police did not take our problem seriously, that they did not truly comprehend the abuse of women experience. Balote was 51 years old women she elaborated her argument as follow:

I went to the police, the police said just usual husband wife issues. You are one, even if we ask your complaint when you back to your home you are one. They no longer wanted to get involved. The police did not take my complaint & told me to go home.

From the above statement most of the time law enforcement bodies do not take appropriate measures on abusers. They tend to neglect cases of violence considering it as private matter. Some even reflect the prevalent tradition siding with offenders. This indicated that women are not only discouraged by informal groups but also by legal enforcers. Some women asserted that reporting to the police has no value and does not give solutions when they seeking help. According to Dobash and Dobash (2004) violated women face obstacles from the police, lack of legal support and responses of various social agencies which often demonstrate direct or indirect support for the husband's authority and his use of violence.

Another focus group discussion and key informant interview, police coverage of the problem apart from the fact that most women who are victims of domestic violence (particularly those who are living in the rural parts of the country) do not know which specific police station is responsible to receive a report in relation to violence against women cases and interrogations by the police officers about the private and personal issues of the victims which are not reposed to victim are found to be the major problems.

The case of Tabech, she was a victim of domestic violence attack by her husband. He injured her body even twice a week in last years, as a result her body was blemished and she slept for two months without any question. She habilitated from such kind of injure & she reported to kebele court. According to Aregash, her husband abuse her always. He was scare her body because he was attempt with a wooden material by her body in 2015, both cases are good examples out of the various domestic violence against women. Both women stated that we reported repeatedly our problem to policy but we didn't get any solution still. Women were still being subjected to various forms of physical as well as economical violence without their voice are being heard.

The key informant from police office narrated,

Problem of law implementation is, blaming the victim or the perpetrator do not bring a long lasting solution. Rather it requires understanding of the problem and understanding that the solution is within the society itself. Investing on women to empower them and involving them in every aspect of decision making process could be one important solution. Government should also give the necessary attention on empowerment of women and gender equality in its social, political and economic equality. Furthermore, the acts that constitute domestic violence failed to encompass all forms of domestic violence such as economic abuse. In rural area, failure to provide institutional mechanism for protection, report and control of domestic violence is the other major gap of police in konta special woreda.

According to liberal feminist theory on police intervention addressed that police attitudes and underlying values which showed protection of the men at the expense of women and children's safety. Whilst it has been found that arrest reduces the number of repeated assaults on women. The problem of putting the law into practice is regarded as the major problem in study area, kept the function of the law is not sufficient and criminalizing domestic violence is not enough by itself because of society dominated by patriarchal system. So criminal arrest the abuser is the best way to reduce domestic violence in study area.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study was conducted to describe the lived experiences of women survivors of domestic violence in Konta Special Woreda in rural district. This area is identified by the researcher as the issue of domestic violence in particular the experience of victims is under studied in the area.

5.1. CONCLUSION

Domestic violence has evolved as a part of a system of gender relations which point out that men are superior to women. This idea of male supremacy and dominance over women is often reflected by the customs of societies and is considered as private matter.

Domestic violence against women is not only a deep rooted but also an unchallenged problem. Women who are victim of domestic violence are unable to lead their life and perform well in their jobs. The investigator tried to identify the condition that contribute to domestic violence, form of domestic violence, its consequences among married women and the police accomplishments in the communities.

The lived experience of domestic violence against women in the land, women are abused for long period indicates that a decline of women equality in the society's cultural values and norms. Cultural values which denigrate women coupled with the harmful traditional practices and system have militated against the victims of domestic violence. This show that still lack of proper legal protection makes the situation especially catastrophic. Despite the existing national and legal policy frame works women are exposed to different type of domestic violence at the hands of their husbands.

Women suffer from physical, sexual, economical and emotional violence without making their voices heard. They are not getting the proper protection and support which they deserve as citizens of the country. On the basis of this findings, it is possible to infer that domestic violence is a challenging problem in konta that lacks attention. Most of women are in a miserable condition and they are attacked by husband in rural parts. They are dependent on their husband, their existence is hand-to mouth, and they encounter different form of domestic violence in domestic setting. They encountered physical, psychological economical and sexual violence by their husband at extreme point in their lives.

There is no one single condition to account for domestic violence against women in study area. Multiple factors contributed to domestic violence against women; these are economic situation, alcoholism, cultural practice, extra-marital and living arrangement place women at risk of domestic violence. The consequences of domestic violence are different kinds and it affect the physical healthy, reproductive, mental growth of survival and development of women.

After the women faced domestic violence, most of the time access to justice is limited. This is a result of a combination of lack of knowledge inside of victim and court/police not taking appropriate punishment for crime. Most of the time women in study area do not go to the police station and women and children affairs to report the violence rather they prefer to hide their problem because women who went to court are rare to get redress due to lack of evidence, economic dependence on husbands and not taken active punishment for the crime. Not only that when women victim by violence they feared being judged negatively by their intimate partner and others, which was a significant barrier to accessing help from police and court.

Survivors of domestic violence used various methods to cope with the physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence they encounter in the hands of their husbands. They used different coping strategy or measures including religious faith, reporting to responsible bodies, leaving abusive relationships, keeping silence, spending the night outside and the like to cope with the domestic violence they encounter. Moreover, the victims indicated the kind of coping mechanism that they used to deal with the domestic violence. Although these women found some of the coping strategies used by them to be effective in some way other times it may not bring the desired outcome.

The information collected under this particular study will contribute for increased understanding of the situation victim women among various development actors and enable them to carry out intervention and design workable strategies. This in turn will bring positive outcome for the women who are suffering from intimate partner violence. Moreover, the findings will enable development actors to work in a coordinated manner so that they can address the problems that women encounter in study area.

5.3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of phenomenological study was to highlight the lived experiences of informants themselves; therefore, generalizations cannot be made. However, even if generalizations are

not made with respect to this phenomenon, there was dependability of themes across women's lived experiences similarities that women who experienced domestic violence share, yet each experience was unique and reflective of the individual survivor. However, based on the information gathered from these data. The following recommendations are forwarded for policy, media, religious institutions and other responsible body in study area.

Firstly, the results of this study indicate that most of the abused women interviewed admitted that they lacked knowledge about domestic violence, help-seeking procedures as well as options pertinent to legislation, social welfare and supportive network mechanisms available for victims and survivors of domestic violence in Konta Special Woreda. Due to these reasons, many of the abused women seem to be locked in abusive relationships and feel unable to escape from the problem. Increasing the community's awareness about the bad practicing of domestic violence over women is necessary. Most of the participants believe that the major cause of domestic violence against women is lack of awareness. To this regard, teaching must be made to creating awareness in the community that they should be considered women equal with men.

Secondly, governments and other development actors should draw up integrated programs to combat domestic violence against women. Subordination of women starts develops and perpetuated in the family. Therefore, changing the positive attitude of domestic violence in the families is important. For this to happen, religious and community leaders, grass root level administrations (woreda and kebele), should be organized at woreda and kebele levels.

Thirdly, As Ethiopia is one of the countries that adopted the United Nations' Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the government should follow on its commitment by identifying ways to challenge the societal norms that are identified to be the major causes of domestic violence- one way through effective communication programs. It has sponge laws and policies on the rights of women. But this laws and policies face various implementation related problems. Domestic violence should strictly be treated as a crime. More ever stiffer measures should be taken to perpetrators of domestic violence to prevent others from practicing. The police need to follow reported cases of violence strictly and with concern. Therefore, the country should critically evaluate the effectiveness of its laws and policies on women and remove the barriers for implementing them.

Fourthly, the study also recommends that the religious institution be given time to preach gospel on violence against women and girls, how it is viewed by the bible as the majority of

community people believe that there is someone up there who controls our lives. Religious leaders should give talks to their members on effects of domestic violence and its negative consequences on women and girls and they should try to discourage domestic violence against among.

Fifthly, media should play its pertinent role in the society by addressing domestic violence, which is a threat to many families in the society and it should promote the new domestic violence law in order to increase awareness among the society. It also needs to pressure the law enforcing bodies for its effective implementation.

Lastly but not least, this study focused on married women in domestic setting. In order to fill the lack of researches and to understand the real problem behind domestic violence against women within the country, educational institutions, women & child affairs and other non-government institution should give particular attention for conducting depth research in area of intimate partner violence and focus on the effectiveness of service provision provided by mainstream domestic violence services and the cultural competency of staff in serving the needs of ethnic minority women in the study area.

Undertaking research in these future research directions can also help to provide more information around which to form the base for the development of policies that might impact social change. More research on triangulation of two methods on this issue could also help to further enhance the level of professional training and understanding in developing more adaptive and responsive services for victim women in Konta Special Woreda.

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Appendix A: Interview Guide

Title: The Rural Women Lived Experiences of domestic violence: The case of konta special woreda

Appendix: 1 interview questions (adapted from different reviewed literatures)

Questionnaire for women who are victim of domestic violence.

Dear Respondent:

My name is Temesgen Bikamo. I am a graduate student in sociology and Family study program in the Jimma University. Currently I am working on my MA thesis in the area of rural women lived experience of domestic violence in konta special woreda of SNNPR. Currently; I am working on data collection in Konta Special Woreda in SNNPRS. This research is for academic purpose only. And I hereby assure that all information obtained through these questions will be used for academic purpose only and will be handled and stored with the highest level of confidentiality.

I will keep your records private to the extent allowed by law. I will use a pseudonym (fake names) rather than your name on study records. The information you provide will be stored on a password protected computer. The audio recordings will be destroyed once the research is complete. I will not ask for your real name or other information that might point to you. Your honest answer to these questions will help me better understand the present situation of domestic violence in this Woreda. I appreciate your help in responding to this study. I therefore request your kindness to provide me reliable and valid information.

I thank you very much for your support in advance!

Temesgenbikamo

Graduate Student at JU- main campus

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Part one. In-depth interview questions

I. Questions on background of research participant

1. Can you tell me about yourself?

Date of interview -----

Age -----

Current marital status-----

Educational level-----

Length of marriage-----

Religion-----

Number of children-----

Ethnicity-----

Source of income-----

Place of birth-----

Role in the household-----

II. Lived Experience of domestic violence

Here each participant will be asked more questions to describe her lived experiences of domestic violence pertaining to physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence and economic violence .

1. How do you describe domestic violence?

2. Have you had any experience of domestic violence?

3. How long have you experienced the abuse by your intimate partner?

4. Would you tell me what exactly did you experience and the context in which the experience took place?

6. What forms of domestic violence did you experience in the hands of your intimate partner?

7. What are the condition that contributing to domestic violence in your family?

8. How would you describe the impact you have experienced on your life? On your family?

Type of domestic violence they faced

I. Physical violence

1. Is there any person at home that you are afraid of? Why?

2. How often your husband physical abused you? What are?

3. Do you remember the situation that you have faced physical violence in the family?

4 please explain forms of physical violence that you have experienced?

II. Sexual violence

1. Have you encountered sexual violence?

2. Your husband physically force you to have sexual intercourse without your consents/when you did not want? -----

3. Did your husband ever threaten you that if you didn't have sex with him he would go to another woman? -----

III Emotional or psychological violence

1. Have you been emotionally or psychologically abused? What?

2. How often your husband insult you, make you feel bad, humiliate you in front of others?

IV Economical violence

1. Have you been economically abused?

2. Did your husband forceful take your property?

Interview guide in relation to policy protection

1. If you have lived experience of domestic violence what kind of action do you take?
In case you did not take any action what were the reasons for not taking any action?

2. When you reported to the police what actions were taken?

3. Do you think is there policy gap to protect domestic violence?

Interview guide in relation to coping strategies used by research respondents

1. How do you cope with those problems of domestic violence that you have experienced?

2. What were the responses of family members?

3. Will you please describe the measures that you have taken after domestic violence incidence?

VIII. Closing question

Do you want to add some points before closing of this interview session?

Table 4: Summary of interview participants

Pseudonym of women	Age	Kebele	Responsibility	Duration of interview(in minutes)
Zewuditu	48	Dufa-kechikecha	Preparing food & rearing children	65
Alemitu	41	Kecha Oroba	Preparing food & rearing children	63
Atsede	45	Womba-yamala	Preparing food & rearing children	69
Azalech	48	Kecha Oroba	Preparing food & rearing children	57
Makuria	37	Womba yamala	Preparing food & rearing children	59
Dasite	56	Dufa kechikecha	Preparing food & rearing children	53
Kasech	54	Kecha Oroba	Preparing food & rearing children	51
Sanime	39	Dufa kechikecha	Preparing food & rearing children	58
Kawutishe	43	Womba yamala	Preparing food & rearing children	60
Balote	51	Womba yamala	Preparing food & rearing children	53
Kasa	55	02	Women children office	69
Azebi	42	02	Head of Women &Children office	65
Tesfaye	38	01	Policy office	70

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Appendix B: Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussion guide for victims and skilled leader in the communities

We are here today to discuss about issues related domestic violence against women (violence on wives by husbands). Please feel free to disagree one with another. We would like to have many point of view and experiences. All comments are confidential and used for research purposes only. Your names will not record to protect your confidentiality.

Thank you very much!

Group number-----

Number of participant-----

Date of discussion -----

1. Why do think domestic violence happens?
2. What was the main reason for domestic violence?
3. What are the physical violence that women experienced in your communities?
4. What are the emotional experiences of women affected by domestic violence?
5. What are the economical experiences of women affected by domestic violence?
6. What are the sexual experiences of women affected by domestic violence?
7. What do you think is needed to help abused women to cope with domestic violence, within the family and the community?
8. What need to be change to prevent domestic violence in the community?
9. What kind of message should be conveyed to increase community awareness or understanding about domestic abuse?

Table.5. Summary of focus group discussion participants

Name of FGD1 members	Age	Kebele	Responsibility	Duration time for discussion
Bekelech	39	Dufa kechikecha	Child rearing &cooking	
Matafe	55	Dufa kechikecha	Child rearing &cooking	

Kehame	41	Dufa kechikecha	Child rearing &cooking	2:30 min
Damenech	47	Dufa kechikecha	Block leader	
Andushe	48	Dufa kechikecha	Victim	
Tabech	46	Dufa kechikecha	victim	

Name of FGD2 members	Age	Kebele	Responsibility	Duration time for discussion
kebebush	43	Womba yamala	Blok leader	2:15 min
Ayelech	45	Womba yamala	Leader in church	
Senayit	50	Womba yamala	Child rearing &cooking	
Meselech	39	Womba yamala	Child rearing &cooking	
Gojobe	54	Womba yamala	Blok leader	
Worke	47	Womba yamala	Child rearing &cooking	

Translated interview and focus group discussion question to kontegn

Huphe itentho oshata. (A)

Wanna ketha gido naqoti gakiya asatan kumiya oshata

Bonchetida ha oshasi zaro imiya asato :-

Tani jimma univerestian sociology ne family timmirte golen naentho-digiria tamarade de aiyse.

Hai wode maraqetiya philiqetha xafuha "ketha gidoni maccata bolla gakido qohata" bollan konta dumma woredan othayda de77ias. Philqetha xapoti timmirte go77as xalala gido gishas lo77etethane amanetusan hinte imiya markatethay zaroti ha timirtiya murutas wanna gidigishas tumatethani hinte zariya oshati gujan ha maraqisia xafuwa gido harrasi muruta immese.

Gido gishas tuma zaro imusan tababaretanada ochase.

Haga othiya gido gishas loythada wozanape gallatase.

Temesgen bikamo

Jimma university sociology timmirte ketha masteretiya tamariya

Xiliqetha Oshata

Ha xinatey shiqia huphe yewoy bessiyagi maccata ketha gidon morusa ne etta bollan gakiya mettota watted billane giya yewon ixinnatey ossetess. Hinte ha huphe yewotta maye wagiddiko hinte mallisey ha mettota billanassi michia hannotta gigisiya giddo gishatawu ha oshshata ayne baynan tas zarruwa immmanassi qoppite. Ha oshsata tani hinteta ochanaw di77iaget hinte gahetethay hinte giddone hinte qarqbetia asata gidon de77ia naqota ne balata billanisi loythid maddiga erridi hinte kumentha erra tassi yotite.

Galataysse hintte uffayeted zarranassi shiqida gishassi.

I. Dommetha Oshshatta

1. Hinte ba oddanassi danddayitee?

Laythay -----

Timirtia dethay -----

Ammanoy-----

Yelletido bittay-----

Ayyide hinte assina shirr gellidagi-----

Neni de77ia hannotay-----

Ha77i wodde hinte gello hannotay-----

Assinana woysa kena gam77idete-----

Appunati de77i nessi-----

Demisha pultoy-----

Ketha gidon de77ia matay-----

Bini ossoyi -----

Ha77i ossoy-----

II. Mezetido ketha qohata

Hagape garssan de77ia oshatani oshetiya asati mezetido ketha qohata (bolla naquwa, asho gahetetha, huphiya qoffane misha naqotaq onccisossana.

1. Wattidi ketha gido naqqo qonccisanas danddayitte?

2. Nena gakida ketha gido naqqoyi de77anassi dandayi?

3. Ayyi gallassi nenna ketha giddo naqqoy gakkide?

4. woysa laytha gakanashin nenane dabotappe/ne azinapenaqqoygakkide?

5. Neni tassi tumma mettoy gakida gallassa ne ayyi hanottan mettoti gakkidako oddanassi danday? Ha mettottassi gassoy ayyibe?

6. Appuni qommo mettoti nena ne dabo assatapee/azinape gakkide?

7. Ayyi malla hanottati hinte bolla mettoti medhetana mall medi?
8. Wottada ne boolla gakido mettata qonccisanassi dandaya?
9. Wottada ne ketha assata gakido mettata qonccisanassi dandaya? (hewantapeka. nanata, awuwaa, h.h.)?

Bollangakiyamettota

1. ketha giddoni neni yayia assati de77i? aybis?
2. Ayyi kena ne azzinay kushian, xam77an, shuchan dechi ne de77o laythani?
- 3 Ne ketha assape .nena gakido mettota hannota qoffanassi dandayay?
4. Ne bollan gakida qohatta yotta?

Asho gahetetha qoha

1. Asho gahetethan gakido metota yottanassi dandayay?
2. Ne asinay ne koyena asho gahetetha othanasi wolqati?
3. Ne azinay neni asho gahetetha othanasi koyena woden hara maca asako bana gidi yashisi eri?

Qofa bolla medhetiya metota

1. Ne qofabollangakidametoy de77i? Aybe?
2. Ayi kena ne asinay nena borri, yilloyi, lapethi nena harrata sinthan?

Shaloni bola NaqoHanota

- 1 Ayi hanotani shalo ne mishane kethani aysay?
2. Misha go77etetha bagaranaqoy de77ess gadaqofay?
3. Ne dossenani ne misha go77etanawu assay qopi?
4. Ne misha wogay baynani go77etiya assay de77i?
5. Ne tal77ido misha zarsanasi xonida assay de77i?

Policiya nago bagara de77ia oshata

1. Nen agakido metotas neni akkido tangoy aybe ? nena gakido metotasi tango ekabena bagidiko gasoy aybe ?
2. Neni polise kethasi immido kusha marrada ne ketido tangoy aybe?
3. Nena gakiya metotta teqanasi ayso marra bagara metoy de77ess gada qoffay?
Qofiko ayba mala facay de77eesa gada qofayi?

Nago bagara gahetida Xiliqeoshata

1. Watade nena gakido metotta teqanassi dandayay?
2. Ne azzina itta tangosineni immido zaroy de77i?de77iko yota?
3. Ketha naqoti gaki simminade neni ekkido teqetha ogetti de77osona?

4. Hera metota bagara ne dabotape gakido metotta teqanasi neni ekkido tangoyi de77i?
Harayi de77opeka?

VIII. Wursetha oshata

Ne ha oshata gordanape sinthara negujiya qoffay de77i?

Huphe Naenthotho oshata. (B) Isipetethan zaretiya oshata.

Ha oshataka zariya asati qoheteda maccatane heran ha yewota lothidi eria asatan zaretiya qofata.

Hachi nuni hagani de77ia gasoy hintena hasayisanasi koyido yewatika azinape maccata bola gakiya ketha gido qohatane. Hayanako hinte zaroy ha philqethas baso gido gishas hinte qoffa qossenashin issoy issuwara tobetana malla errisayse. Hinte uba qoffataka ayba yashatethay baynani qoncisana malla errisayse. Hinte sunthay ha philqetha xafuwan xaffetenaga erridi hite qoffa qonccisite.

Gallatayse _____

Shiqo faydo _____

Shiqo gidon de77iya asat faydoy_____

1. Aysi ketha gido naqoy gakesse gidi qopite?
2. Gole gido qohatas wana wana gasoti aybe?
- 3 Ayyi mala ketha gido qohati hinte kethan darrid medhetona? gassoyika?
4. Ayba ayba kare бага qohati maccata gakise gidi qopite hinte heren?
5. Ayba ayba angoliya qohatida maccata gakise gidi qopite hinte heren?
6. Ayba ayba shalo qohati maccata gakise gidi qopite hinte kethanine shoruwan?
7. Ayba ayba asho gahetetha metoti maccata gakise gidi qopite hinte heren?
8. Ayba gada qoffayi qohetida macca assay banta naquwa teqanasi ekiya tanguwa hinte heran?
9. Herani ketha qohati gakanape Kasen eketanawu koshiya bati aybe?
10. Hinte heran macca asata gakiya qohata era gujanasi hinte athiya qofaya ybe?
11. Ayso maran ketha qohata teqanas mettoy de77eess gada qofay?