

Research



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Sexual violence and associated factors among housemaid's living in Debre-Tabor town, Northwest Ethiopia

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Abstract

Introduction: sexual violence is a serious public health and human rights problem with both short and long term consequences on women's physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health. But no sufficient study about housemaid sexual violence was conducted in Ethiopia. Therefore, this research is expected to identify the prevalence of sexual violence and associated factors among housemaids. **Methods:** a community based cross-sectional study was conducted in Debre-Tabor town northwest Ethiopia from April 1st -30th 2018. About 636 study participants were selected using cluster sampling techniques. Data was entered into Epi info version 7.2.2.6 and analyzed with SPSS version 20. Descriptive statistics and binary logistic regression were used to analyze the data. **Results:** from 636 participants included in the study 27.8% (95% CI: 24.2%-31.4%) housemaids had experienced sexual violence in their life time. Housemaid who had no formal education (AOR=2.1, 95%CI=1.13, 3.76), housemaid coming from rural (AOR=2.73, 95%CI=1.31, 5.69), housemaids whose both parents dead (AOR=2.6, 95%CI=1.47, 4.61), employer who had extended family in the house (AOR=2.9, 95%CI=1.77, 4.75), male employer alcohol consumption (AOR=2.56, 95%CI=1.61, 4.1) and age of female employer \geq 50 years (AOR=4.29, 95%CI=1.95, 9.48) increased the probability of housemaids' sexual violence. **Conclusion:** in this study, a high prevalence of housemaid violence has been reported. Educational status, a previous resident of the housemaid, family live situation, and extended family living with employer house, age of female employer and alcohol consumption of employers had a significant association with housemaid sexual violence. To resolve the problem, it is important to create awareness and bring behavioral change to empower housemaid.

Introduction

Sexual violence can be defined as "any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any

person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work. Sexual violence can include the following threat of rape attempted rape, rape, sexual harassment and sexual contact with force [1]. Violence against women is a public health problem as well as a basic violation of women's human rights [2]. The impact of violence is beyond physical injuries it also accounts for disability, depression, physical and reproductive problems, and risky sexual behavior [3]. Gender-based violence is insidious human right issue of public consequence [4]. The prevalence of gender-based violence is difficult to collect data because of estimates fluctuate depending on how the researcher define violence [1]. In the world 10, up to 50% of women suffered from sexual violence by their intimate partners [5]. In sub-Saharan Africa, the experience of women with physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner ranges from 27-59% [4]. In Ethiopia, 59% of women were exposed to sexual violence [5].

Generally, in the countries where the statuses of women are low, younger women are more likely to suffer from domestic violence. Ethiopia has one of the highest prevalence of both physical and sexual violence by their intimate partner [6]. Most studies conducted on violence against women agreed that lower educational status, abuse of alcohol, kchat, and smoke and younger women are more likely increase the experience of violence against women [7-9]. Gender-based violence affected a significant segment of populations on girls and women across all groups and classes [10]. At worldwide within its informal nature of domestic worker still challenge to regulation and policy implementation lead to limited opportunities of access to social and legal protection [11]. Universally, all types of violence overlap in a relationship and a significant public health problem worldwide but the level and pattern of violence greatly vary between setting, culture, and segment of the population [12]. Even though there are many studies conducted on violence in the globe and also in our country Ethiopia in all segments of girls

and/or women, there is a lack of information about the magnitude and associated factors of sexual violence against housemaids. Therefore, this study aimed to assess the magnitude of sexual violence and also tried to identify factors associated with sexual violence among housemaid. So, this research finding hopes to alleviate scarce of information on housemaids sexual violence in Debre-Tabor town northwest Ethiopia.

Methods

Study design and period: a community-based cross-sectional study was conducted in Debre Tabor town from 1st -30th April 2018. The study was conducted in Debre Tabor town northwest Ethiopia. Debre-Tabor is the capital town of South Gondar zone which is located 666 km far from Addis Ababa the capital city of Ethiopia to northwest Ethiopia. As the data obtained from South Gondar zone city administration the town had 92,530 populations (2010 EPY). From this population 44,305 were males and 48,225 were females. The town is divided into 4 kebeles and it had 28,040 households. All housemaids aged 15 years and above who were living in Debre Tabor town considered as the source population. Housemaids who critically ill and those who physiologically unable to communicate at the time of data collection were excluded.

Sample size and sampling procedure: a sample of 541 study participants was determined using single population proportion formula taking 28.6% prevalence of sexual violence against housemaids [13], considering 95% CI, 5% margin of error, 1.5 design effect and 15% non-respondent rate. Finally, 636 participants were included in the study. Cluster sampling was used to select study participants. In the study area, there are four Kebeles; from those kebeles 50% of ketenas were selected by using simple random sampling, and the sample size was proportionally allocated for each kebele and study participants in the households were selected from all selected ketenas.

Data collection procedures: a structured, pre-tested interviewer administered questionnaire adapted from a WHO multi-country study was used. The questionnaire was translated into the local language Amharic and pretested was administered on 5% of the sample at Woreta town. The data was collected by eight health extension workers and supervised by four master public health professionals. Both the data collectors and supervisors were trained for 3 days on how to approach study subjects and collect data. The supervisors and the principal investigator closely followed the daily completeness and appropriateness of the data collection. Data was reviewed and checked for its completeness before entering for analysis. Sexual violence was taken as the dependent variable while employers' characteristics (age, educational status, marital status, religion and occupation, khat chewing, smoking and drinking alcohols) and housemaids' characteristics (age, previous resident, marital status, educational status, religion, family live situation and salary) were considered as independent variables. Housemaid violence was measured as if a housemaid experience any acts physically forced to have sexual intercourse when she did not want to and/or because she was afraid of what partner might do and/or had unwanted sex position and/or had unwanted warm up for sex was considered as "yes" otherwise "no" [5].

Data processing and analysis: the data was entered into Epi-info version 7.2.2.6 and exported into and analyzed with SPSS version 20.0. It was also cleaned, coded, and analyzed with SPSS. Descriptive analysis was done to describe the different characteristics of the employers and housemaids. Binary logistic regression analysis was done to identify the association between independent and dependent variables. To identify factors significantly associated with the outcome variable adjusted odds ratio (AOR) with 95% confidence interval (CI) was used. Variable having a p-value less than 0.05 was considered as significant predictors. Hosmer and Lemeshow goodness of fit test was used to check the model fitness and that it

has a P-value of 0.15. Multicollinearity is also made to check the multicollinearity among independent variables.

Ethical approval and consent to participate: ethical approval was obtained from the University of Gondar, institute of public health ethical review committee. An Official letter was obtained from Debre Tabor town administration, mayor office. From each participant, whose age 18 years and above verbal informed consent was obtained. For participants who less than 17 years of age verbal assent were obtained from their employers after clearly describing the purpose, benefit, and risk of the study and their right on the decision to participate in the study. Their name was omitted for assurance of confidentiality and privacy. The interview was performed at suitable and secure place to respondents. Finally, the questionnaire was cleaned, stored, and analyzed at a secure place.

Results

Socio-demographic characteristics of housemaids: six hundred thirty six of study participants were participated in the study with 100% response rate. Among the participants, 386 (60.7%) were in the age group of 15-19 years, with the mean age of 19.76 (± 4.63 SD) years. About 319 (50.2%) of study participants had no formal education. Of the study participants, 525 (82.5%) previously resided in the rural area. About 593 (93.2%) of housemaids were orthodox Christian. Of all participants 570 (89.6%) housemaids were single. Regarding housemaid's family situation, about 255 (40.1%) of them had both father and mother. Of those, both father and mother alive 177 (69.4%) of their family were live together. From all study participants, 302 (47.5%) were paid from 301-500 ETB. Concerning work experience 448 (70.4%) of housemaid had 1-4 years of work experience. At about the age of being housemaids, 414 (65.1%) were starting work at the age of 15 years and above (Table 1).

Socio-demographic characteristics of employers: about 405(70.6%) of the female employer were in the age group of 30-49 years with the mean age of 33.64 years (± 13.85 SD). Regarding male employers age 432(67.9%) were in the age group of 30-49 years, their mean age was 43.37 years (± 10.67 SD). The majority, 495 (86.2%), of female employers, and 552 (86.8%) of male employers were orthodox Christians. About the educational status of employers, almost half 295 (51.4%) of female employers and three-fourth 467 (73.4%) of male employers had a certificate and above. The majority, 536 (84.3%), of employers were married. About 451 (70.9%) of employers had 0-3 number of children. Regarding the family size, 412 (64.8%) of employers had 4-6 family size. Five hundred four (79.2%) of employers had no extended family and only 28 (4.4%) of employers had another housemaid. Regarding occupational status, 269(46.9%) of female employers and 387 (60.7%) of male employers were government employees (Table 2).

Behavioral characteristics of employers: from all participant's employers 30 (4.7%) of employer had smoking cigarette and 70 (11%) of employers had chewing khat. Ninety (15.7%) of female employers and 158 (24.8%) of male employers had consumed alcohol (Table 3).

Prevalence of housemaid sexual violence: from all study participants, 177 (27.8%) (95% CI: 24.2%-31.4%) have been experienced at least one type of sexual violence in their life time and 69 (10.8%) (95%CI: 8%-13.2%) experienced in the past 12 months.

Factors associated with housemaid sexual violence: in bi-variable logistic regression analysis educational status, previous resident, family live situation, employer alcohol consumption, marital status of housemaid, marital status of employers, age of female employer and extended family living with employers were significantly associated with housemaid sexual violence. In the final model, educational status, previous resident, family live situation, age of female employer, extended family

living with employers and male employer alcohol consumption were remaining significantly associated with lifetime housemaid sexual violence at a 5% level of significance. The result of the study revealed that housemaids who had no formal education were 2 times (AOR=2.06 95%CI: 1.13, 3.76) more likely to experience sexual violence as compared to those who had secondary education and above

About residents of housemaids, housemaids who previously lived in rural areas were 3 times (AOR=2.73, 95% CI: 1.31, 5.69) more likely to experience sexual violence than those who resided in urban. Housemaid whose both parents dead were 3 times (AOR=2.6, 95% CI: 1.47, 4.61), more likely to experienced sexual violence as compared to those who had both father and mother alive. Housemaids whose employer has extended family living with them were 3 times (AOR=2.9, 95%CI: 1.77, 4.75) more likely experienced sexual violence. Participants whose female employer age ≥ 50 years old were 4 times (AOR=4.29, 95%CI: 1.95, 9.48) more likely experienced than those ≤ 29 years old. Concerning alcohol consumption, housemaid whose male employer drank alcohol were 3 times (AOR=2.56, 95% CI: 1.61, 4.1) more likely to experience sexual violence as compared to those who not drank alcohol (Table 4).

Discussion

This study tried to find the prevalence and factors associated with housemaid sexual violence in Debre Tabor town. The prevalence of sexual violence during their life time was (27.8%) (95% CI=24.2, 31.4) which is in line with the finding from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (28.6%), Bair Dar, northwest Ethiopia (24.3%) and Nekemte town, western Ethiopia (26.1%) [13-15]. The finding was higher as compared to a study conducted in eastern Sudan [16]. This discrepancy could partly be due to socio-demographic differences, the other study conducted on government employees. Women who had better employment status could have access of information about violence and they can

easily protect themselves and lower than the finding from Tanzania (35%) [17]. This could be due to different socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, former study participated all women aged 10-30 years but this finding restricted on housemaids. Housemaids who have no formal education were 2 times more likely to experience sexual violence. A comparable finding was obtained from a study conducted in Eastern Sudan, showed that women less than secondary education were more likely to experience domestic violence [16]. It consistent from a study done in Shimelba refugee camp, northern Ethiopia, showed women who had primary and secondary education were 78% less likely to experience physical violence [8]. This study also in line with a study conducted in Eastern India showed women who had low educational status were to increase the experience of domestic violence [18]. This is because the low educational status of women had no power to protect the violence.

The housemaid who resided in rural areas was 3 times more likely to experience sexual violence as compared to who resided urban area. This finding was consistent with a study conducted in Gondar town northwest Ethiopia, which showed that rural residency was 5 times more likely to experience domestic violence [19]. This result was also similar to the finding of a study conducted from Eastern India showed that women who resided in the rural area increased the experience of domestic violence [18] and a study conducted around Gondar northwest Ethiopia showed that rap is 2 times more likely occur in rural women [20]. Housemaids who came from rural had no information about violence and they couldn't complain to legal bodies. But this finding contradicted a study from Ghana, showed that women who resided in urban areas were 35% more likely to increase the risk of domestic violence [21] this could be due to socio-demographic and socio-cultural difference of the study participants. The housemaids who had no both parents were 3 times more likely to experience lifetime sexual violence when compared to those who had both father and

mother alive respondents. Family support could increase the confidence of housemaid this helps to protect them from any violence.

Participants whose employer had extended family living with them were 3 times more likely to experience sexual violence. An extended family could increase the exposure of sexual violence due to crowded family size and poor follow-up. Housemaids whose female employer aged ≥ 50 years old were 4 times more likely exposed to sexual violence when compared to female employer aged ≤ 29 years old. This is because the increasing age of the wife could decrease the sexual interest of the husband with hers and shifting sexual relation to the housemaid. Participants whose male employer drank alcohol were 3 times more likely to experience lifetime housemaid sexual violence when compared to participants whose employer did not take alcohol. This finding consistent with a study conducted in Mekele town, northern Ethiopia and Addis Ababa showed that housemaid whose employers drink alcohol were more likely to experience housemaid violence than those whose employer did not drink alcohol [9,13]. This result is also similar to a study conducted in Debre Tabor town northwest Ethiopia showed women whose husbands take excess alcohol were 3.5 times more likely experienced with gender based violence than compared to whose husband not take alcohol [22]. This is because alcohol has a depressive mental impairment and which encourages human beings to undertake violence against their housemaids.

Limitation of the study: the limitation of this study was the data collectors interviewed the only housemaid as proxy respondents for their employer that depend on housemaid report only, this lead to bias when they come to reporting employer characteristics. And have been encountered with social desirability bias due to the sensitivity of the information and also exposed to recall bias due to the nature of the cross-sectional design.

Conclusion

In this study, a high prevalence of housemaid sexual violence has been reported. Being a rural resident, no formal education, both parent dead, extended family living with employers, age of female employer and alcohol consumption of male employers were important predictors of housemaid sexual violence. Local government officials like the labor and social affair office and the women and children office need to provide special support and protection to the housemaids. Labor and social affair office need to interfere with the contract of housemaid and employers with regular follow-up. Women and children's affair office need to expand information education communication and behavioral change on housemaid to empower and report violence as a crime and also need to improve community awareness about housemaid violence. Finally, further research needs to address the economical violence of housemaid is very important.

What is known about this topic

- *The prevalence of both gender-based violence is high in Ethiopia;*
- *Gender-based violence affected a significant segment of populations on girls and women across all group and classes;*
- *Studies have been conducted on violence in the globe and also in our country Ethiopia in all segment of the women population.*

What this study adds

- *The study measured the magnitude of sexual violence among the housemaid segment of girls;*
- *It also identified factors associated with sexual violence among housemaid.*

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

KAA designed the study, developed the proposal, participated in the data collection, performed analysis and interpretation of data and drafted the paper. AAG and AML assisted in the design of the study, proposal writing, data analysis, and interpretation of the study. KAA carried out the manuscript preparation. All authors reviewed and approved the final manuscript.

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Tables

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Table 3: the behavior of employer, Debre Tabor town, 2018

Table 4: binary logistic regression analysis of factors associated with a lifetime experience of at least one type of housemaid violence, Debre Tabor town, northwest Ethiopia, 2018

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Table 1: socio-demographic characteristics of housemaid, Debre Tabor town, 2018

Characteristics		Number	Percent
Age in year	15-19	386	60.7
	20-24	166	26.1
	≥25	84	13.2
Educational status	No formal education	319	50.2
	Primary education	177	27.8
	Secondary education and above	140	22.0
Previous resident	Urban	111	17.5
	Rural	525	82.5
Marital status	Married	33	5.2
	Single	570	89.6
	Divorced	18	2.8
	Widowed	15	2.4
Religion	Orthodox	593	93.2
	Protestant	8	1.3
	Muslim	35	5.5
Amount of income per month	100-300	276	43.4
	301-500	302	47.5
	≥501	58	9.1
Work experience	1-4	448	70.4
	5-9	136	21.4
	≥10	52	8.2
Age of being housemaid	5-9	12	1.9
	10-14	210	33
	≥15	414	65.1
Family live situation	Both father and mother alive	255	40.1
	Only father alive	105	16.5
	Only mother alive	131	20.6
	Both father and mother dead	145	22.8
Family marital status (n=278)	Live together	177	69.4
	Divorced	78	30.6

Table 2: socio-demographic characteristics of employers, Debre-Tabor town, 2018

Characteristics	Number	Percent
Age of female employer	≤29	103 17.9
	30-49	405 70.6
	≥50	66 11.5
Age of male employer (n=636)	≤29	14 2.2
	30-49	433 67.9
	≥50	190 29.9
Female employer religion(n=626)	Orthodox	495 86.2
	Protestant	20 3.5
	Muslim	59 10.3
Male employer religion (n=636)	Orthodox	552 86.8
	Protestant	23 3.6
	Muslim	61 9.6
Female employer educational status(n=626)	Not read and write	48 8.4
	Read & write but no formal education	48 8.4
	Grade 1-8	56 9.8
	Grade 9-12	127 22.1
	Certificate and above	295 51.4
Male employer educational status (n=636)	Not read and write	4 0.6
	Read & write but no formal education	40 6.3
	Grade 1-8	42 6.6
	Grade 9-12	83 13.1
	Certificate and above	467 73.4
Marital status of employers	Married	536 84.3
	Single	35 5.5
	Divorced	40 6.3
	Widowed	25 3.9
Number of children employer have	0-3	451 70.9
	4-6	178 28
	≥7	7 1.1
Employer family size	1-3	167 26.3
	4=6	412 64.8
	≥7	57 9
Extended family living with employer	Yes	132 20.8
	No	504 79.2
Another housemaid living with employers	Yes	28 4.4
	No	608 95.6
Female employer occupational	Housewife	142 24
	Student	7 1.1
	Government employer	269 47
	Private employer	59 10.5
	Merchant	89 15.7
	Pensioned	8 1.8
Male employer occupation	Government employer	387 60.7
	Private employer	98 15.4
	Merchant	122 19.2
	Pensioned	29 4.6

Table 3: the behavior of employer, Debre-Tabor town, 2018

Characteristics		Number	Percent (%)
Employer smoking status	Yes	30	4.7
	No	606	95.3
Frequency of employer smoking (n=30)	Sometimes	24	80
	Daily	6	20
Employer khat chewing status	Yes	70	11
	No	566	89
Frequency of chewing khat(n=70)	Sometimes	42	60
	Daily	28	40
Female employer alcohol consumption status	Yes	90	15.7
	No	484	84.3
Female employer intoxication status (n=90)	Yes	3	3.3
	No	87	96.7
Frequency of female intoxication (n=4)	Sometimes	2	66.7
	Daily	1	33.3
Male employer alcohol consumption status	Yes	158	24.8
	No	478	75.2
Male employer intoxication status (n=158)	Yes	118	74.7
	No	40	25.3
Frequency of male employer intoxication(n=118)	Sometimes	36	30.5
	Daily	82	69.5

Table 4: binary logistic regression analysis of factors associated with lifetime experience of at least one type of housemaid violence, Debre Tabor town, northwest Ethiopia, 2018

Variables		Housemaid sexual violence		COR(95%CI)	AOR(95%CI)
		Yes	No		
Educational status	No formal education	109)	210	1.9(1.20,3.03)	2.06(1.13,3.76)*
	Primary education	38	139	0.99(0.85,1.72)	1.20(0.61,2.36)
	Secondary education and above	30	110	1	1
Previous residence	Urban	15	96	1	1
	Rural	162	363	2.86(1.61,5.08)	2.73(1.31,5.69)*
Marital status of housemaid	Married	18	15	1	1
	Single	143	427	0.28(0.14,0.57)	0.48(0.20,1.17)
	Divorce	7	11	0.53(0.17,1.71)	0.27(0.05,1.37)
	Windowed	9	6	1.25(0.36,4.32)	0.72(0.16,3.15)
Family live situation	Both father and mother alive	44	211	1	1
	Only father alive	32	73	2.1(1.24, 3.56)	1.73(0.89,3.34)
	Only mother alive	38)	93	1.96(1.19,3.22)	2.00(1.40,3.69)
	Both father and mother not alive	63	82	3.68(2.32,5.85)	2.6(1.47,4.61)**
Extended family/relative living with employer	Yes	60	72	2.76(1.85,4.11)	2.9(1.77,4.75)**
	No	117)	387	1	1
Age of female employers	≤29	18	85	1	1
	30-49	94	311	1.43(0.82,2.49)	1.33(0.73,2.41)
	≥50	31	35	4.18(2.07,8.44)	4.29(1.95,9.48)**
Employer marital status	Married	133	403	1	1
	Single	17	18	2.86(1.43,5.71)	1.14(0.30,4.33)
	Divorce	19	21	2.74(1.43,5.26)	0.43(0.11,1.74)
	Windowed	8	179	1.42(0.60,3.38)	0.83(0.26,2.69)
Male employers alcohol consumption status	Yes	75	83	3.33(2.28,4.88)	2.56(1.61,4.07)**
	No	102	376	1	1