

Sexual Violence and Associated Factors Against Housemaid's Living in Debre-Tabor Town, Northwest Ethiopia.

Kefyalew Amogne Azanaw (✉ kefyalewamogne@gmail.com)

debretabor health science college <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9760-4841>

Abebaw Addis Gelagay

university of gondar

Ayene Molla Lakew

university of gondar

Research

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Abstract

Objectives: Sexual violence is a serious public health and human rights problem with both short and long term consequence on women's physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health. But no sufficient study about housemaid sexual violence conducted in Ethiopia. Therefore, the aim of this study is to assess the magnitude of sexual violence and its associated factors among housemaids living in Debre Tabor town, North West Ethiopia 2018.

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) were increase the probability of housemaids' sexual violence. In conclusion this study, high prevalence of housemaid violence has been reported. To resolve the problem, it is important to create awareness and bring behavioral change to empower housemaid.

Plain English Summary

Sexual violence is a serious public health and human right problems with sort and long term health consequences. Impression of sexual violence accounts disability, depression, physical and reproductive problems and risky sexual behavior.

However, there are many study conducted on sexual violence in the world and also in Ethiopia, there is lake of documents about violence against housemaids.

A community based cross-sectional study design was conducted for 636 study participants with a structured, pre-tested interviewer administered questionnaires' adopted from world health organization multi country study.

From 636 study participants, 177(27.8%) and 69(10.8%) have been experienced sexual violence in their life time and the past 12 months respectively. Participants who had no formal education, resided from countryside, whose parents dead, employers who had extended family living in the house, male employers alcohol consumption, and female employers age \geq 50 years were important predictors of housemaid sexual violence.

In conclusion, local government officials like, labor and social affair office and women and children affair office need to provide special support and protection to housemaids. Further research need to address the economical violence of housemaid is very important.

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 disability, depression, physical and reproductive problem, and risky sexual behavior[3].

In the world 10 up to 50% of women suffered with sexual violence by their intimate partners[4]. in sub-Saharan Africa the experience of women with physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner ranges from 27–59%[5]. In Ethiopia 59% of women were exposed to sexual violence[4].

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 study conducted on violence against women agreed that lower educational status, abuse of (alcohol, kchat, and smoke) and younger women are more likely increase experience of violence against women [7–9].

Gender based violence affected the significant segment of populations on girls and women across all group and classes[10]. At worldwide with in 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 type of violence overlap in relationship and a significant public health problem worldwide but the level and pattern of violence greatly varies 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 segment of girls and/or women, there is lack of information about magnitude and associated factors of sexual violence against housemaids.

Therefore, this study amide to assess the magnitude of sexual violence and also tried to identify factors associated with sexual violence among housemaid. So, this research finding hope to alleviate scarce of information on housemaids sexual violence in Debre-Tabor town northwest Ethiopia.

Methods

Study design and period

Community based cross- sectional study was conducted in Debre-Tabor town northwest Ethiopia from April, 1–30/ 2018. 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).

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 was 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 until achieving the required number of respondents.

Data collection procedures

A structured, pre-tested Interviewer administered questionnaire adopted from WHO multi country study was used. The questionnaire was translated in to the local language Amharic and pretested was administered on 5% of the sample at Woreta town. Four MPH for supervisors and 8 health extension workers for data collectors were recruited and training was provided for 3 days. Sexual violence was taken as the dependent variable while employers' characteristics and housemaids' characteristics 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"[4].

Data quality control

Data were collected by well-trained data collectors using pretested questionnaires. Training was given to supervisors and data collectors. Data were reviewed and checked for its completeness before entering for analysis.

Data processing and analysis:

Data were entered into Epi- info version 7.2.2.6 and exported into SPSS version 20.0. The data were 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 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 p-value less than 0.05 were considered as significant predictors.

Results

Socio-demographic characteristics of housemaids

About 636 of were participated in the study, among the participants 386(60.7%) were in the age group of 15–19 years, with the mean age of 19.76 (\pm 4.63 SD) years. About 319(50.2%) of participants had no formal education. Majority 525(82.5%) of were previously resided in rural area. About 593(93.2%) of were orthodox Christian. Around 570(89.6%) of housemaid were single. About 255(40.1%) of them had both father and mother. 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. About 414(65.1%) were start work at the age of 15 years and above. (Table1)

Table 1
Socio-demographic characteristics of housemaid, 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

Characteristics		Number	Percent
	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

Socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics of employers

The mean ages of female and male employers were 33.64 and 43.37 years respectively. Majority, 495(86.2%), of female employer and 552(86.8%) of male employer were orthodox Christians. About 295(51.4%) of female employers and 467(73.4%) of male employers had certificate and above. Majority, 536(84.3%), of employers were married. About 451(70.9%) of employers had 0-3 number of children and 412(64.8%) of employers had 4–6 family size. About 504 (79.2%) of employers had no extended family and only 28(4.4%) of employers had another housemaid. About 269(46.9%) of female employers and

387(60.7%) of male employers were government employee. about 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 2)

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)		
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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 and write but no formal education	40	6.3
Grade 1–8	42	6.6
Grade 9–12	83	13.1

Characteristics	Number	Percent (%)
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		

Characteristics	Number	Percent (%)
Government employer	387	60.7
Private employer	98	15.4
Merchant	122	19.2
Pensioned	29	4.6

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 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 experienced sexual violence as compared to those who had secondary education and above.

Pertaining to resident of housemaids, housemaids who previously lived at rural areas were 3 times (AOR = 2.73, 95% CI: 1.31, 5.69) more likely to experience sexual violence than those who resided at 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 have extended family living with them were 3 times (AOR = 2.9, 95%CI: 1.77, 4.75) more likely experienced sexual violence.

Participants whose their female employer age \geq 50 years old were 4 times (AOR = 4.29, 95%CI: 1.95, 9.48) more likely experienced than those \leq 29 years old.

With regard to 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 3).

Table 3

Factors associated with lifetime experience of housemaid sexual violence, Debre Tabor town, 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

Keys: 1 = reference *= significant with $p < 0.005$, **=significant with $p < 0.001$

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(17%)[16]. This discrepancy could partly be due to socio-demographic difference, 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.

Housemaids who have no formal education were 2 times more likely to experience sexual violence. Comparable finding was obtained from a study conducted in shimelba refugee camp, northern Ethiopia, Eastern Sudan, and Eastern India showed that women less than secondary education were more likely experience violence[8, 16, 17]. This is due to the fact that low educational status of women had no power to protect the violence.

Housemaid who resided in rural areas was 3 times more likely to experienced sexual violence as compared to who resided urban area. This finding was consistent with a study conducted in Eastern India, Gondar town northwest Ethiopia and around Gondar northwest Ethiopia showed that rural residency were more likely experience violence where compared to urban residence[17–19]. Housemaids who came from rural had no information about violence and they couldn't complain to legal bodies. But this finding contradicted with a study from Ghana, showed that women who resided urban areas were 35% more likely increase risk of domestic violence[20] this could be due to socio-demographic and socio-cultural difference of the study participants.

Housemaid who had no both parents were 3 times more likely 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 help to protect them from any violence.

Participants whose employer had extended family living with them were 3 times more likely experienced with sexual violence. Extended family could be 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 due to the fact that increase

age of the wife could be decrease sexual interest of the husband with hers and shifting sexual relation to housemaid.

Participants whose male employer drank alcohol were 3 times more likely experience life time housemaid sexual violence when compared to participants whose employer not take alcohol. This finding consistent with a study conducted in Mekele town, northern Ethiopia, Addis Ababa and Debre Tabor town northwest Ethiopia showed that housemaid whose employer drink alcohol were more likely experience violence than those whose employer not drink alcohol[9, 13, 21]. This is due to the fact that alcohol has depressive mental impairment and which encourages human beings to undertake violence against their house maids.

Conclusion

In this study, high prevalence of housemaid sexual violence has been reported. Being 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, labor and social affair office and women and children office need to expand of 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.

Limitation Of The Study

The limitation of this study was the data collectors interviewed only housemaid as a 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 sensitivity of the information and also exposed with recall bias due to the nature of cross-sectional design.

Abbreviations

AOR

Adjusted Odds Ratio, CI:Confidence Interval, COR:Crude Odds Ratio,

ETB

Ethiopian Birr, OR:Odds Ratio, SD:Standard Deviation, SPSS:Statistical Package for Social Sciences, WHO:World Health Organization.

Declarations

Ethical approval and consent to participate:

Ethical approval was obtained from university of Gondar, institute of public health ethical review committee. Official letter was obtained from Debre Tabor town administration, mayor office. From each participant, whose age 18 years and above written informed consent was obtained. Participants who

less than 18 years age written assent was obtained from their employers after clearly describing the purpose, benefit, and risk of the study and their right on decision of participation in the study. Their name was omitted for assurance of confidentiality and privacy. Interview was performed at suitable and secure place to respondents. Finally questionnaire was cleaned, stored and analyzed at secured place.

Consent to publish

Not applicable

Availability of Data and Materials

The datasets analyzed during this study are available from the authors on reasonable request.

Competing interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interest.

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There was no external funding source for this study.

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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