

**Factors Associated with Attitudes of Men towards Gender and Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in Eastern Ethiopia: A Multinomial Logistic Regression Analysis**

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Abstract	Article Information
<p>Intimate partner violence against women can occur between people in an intimate relationship mostly in gender inequitable society. The attitudes of men towards gender and violence against women is receiving increasing attention. Thus, this study was aimed at determining the attitudes and experiences of men towards gender and violence against women in Boset Wereda, East Ethiopia. A cross-sectional population based household survey was conducted between April, 1 and May, 15, 2015 using quantitative data collection method. Systematic random sampling was used to select a sample of 420 ever partnered men. The collected data was principally analyzed using Multinomial Logistic Regression by SPSS version 21. Overall, childhood experience for any form of violence was witnessed by 87.6% of men. The vast majorities (98.8%) of men ever perpetrated any form of violence against their wife. Almost all (99.1%) men agreed to at least one of the gender inequitable statements and few (1.0%) agreed to non of the gender inequitable statement. Higher age of men (RRR, 2.56; 95%CI, 1.39-4.71 and RRR, 2.09; 95%CI, 1.18-3.71), higher income (RRR, 2.63; 95%CI, 1.00-6.93), witnessing childhood sexual violence (RRR, 3.03; 95%CI, 1.32-6.96 and RRR, 3.14; 95%CI, 1.45-6.82), and ever perpetrated physical intimate partner violence (RRR, 1.60; 95%CI, 1.21-7.01 and RRR, 1.56; 95%CI, 1.12-19.79 were associated with gender equitable men in both first and second fertiles. High prevalence of witnessing childhood violence and ever perpetration of any form of violence against wife/partners were observed. Nearly all of the men agreed to at least one of the gender inequitable statements. Higher age and higher income, witnessing sexual violence during childhood and ever perpetrated physical violence against their wife increases the risk of having lower gender equitable men. Interventions targeting parents or guardians should be instituted, and education should target to shape children during their early.</p>	<p><b>Article History:</b></p> <p><b>Received</b> : 16-10-2015</p> <p><b>Revised</b> : 30-11-2015</p> <p><b>Accepted</b> : 10-12-2015</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b></p> <p>Attitudes</p> <p>Gender</p> <p>Violence</p> <p>Childhood</p> <p>Men</p> <p><b>*Corresponding Author:</b></p> <p><b>Sileshi Garoma Abeya</b></p> <p><b>E-mail:</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:garomaabe@gmail.com">garomaabe@gmail.com</a></p>

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**INTRODUCTION**

Intimate partner violence occurs between people in an intimate relationship (Hoff, 2012). Intimate partner violence against women can take many forms, including emotional, sexual and physical abuse and threats of abuse (Heise and Nahid, 1995). Intimate partner violence against women has emerged as one of the world's most pressing issues (Michael, 2002), and is a common problem in both developed and developing countries recognized as a serious public health problem (Bandura, 1973; Kimberly and Mahafy, 2002; Pulerwitz and Barker, 2008). It remains one of the most pervasive yet least recognized epidemic human rights abuses in the world (Koenig *et al.*, 2006; Hoff, 2012). The World Bank tells us that the health burden from gender based victimization among women aged 15 to 44 is comparable to that posed by other risk factors and diseases high on the world agenda, including HIV, tuberculosis, sepsis during childbirth, cancer and cardiovascular disease (Barker *et al.*, 2011; Kress *et al.*, 2012). Most of the violence is perpetrated by a man with whom the woman is having a relationship or has had a relationship (intimate partner

violence). It leads to physical and mental suffering and often affects the woman's life as a whole (Flood and Pease, 2006).

In the International Conference on Population and Development eliminating violence against women, a necessary step was noted by empowering women and eradicating gender inequalities (Bandura, 1973; Barker *et al.*, 2011; Hoff, 2012). Basically, the attitude of an individual in a community contributes to violence against women as its influence expectations of what is acceptable behavior or not (Flood and Pease 2006; Flood and Pease 2009). The attitude on gender equality is often shaped by the world around us, for instance, through how we see gender roles and relationships in families and organizations, and how women and men are portrayed in their culture (Flood and Pease 2009). Moreover, the rates of men's violence against women are higher in societies in which manhood is culturally defined in terms of dominance, toughness, or male honour (Flood and Pease, 2009).

According to different concepts of gender, the attitudes of men and women are classified as traditional and egalitarian roles (UN, 2013). Roles attributed to women in traditional roles consist of non-egalitarian accountabilities such as being responsible for domestic affairs and not being active in professional life. Roles attributed to men in traditional roles consist of accountabilities such as being the head of the house and also responsible for breadwinning. Egalitarian roles, however, are equal sharing of accountabilities in family, professional, social and educational life (Kimberly and Mahafy, 2002; Akin and Demirel, 2003). In developing countries the traditional male gender roles are widespread contributing for having gender inequitable attitudes and perpetrating violence against their intimate partners (Abeya *et al.*, 2012; Contreras *et al.*, 2012).

One of the most systematic findings from previous studies relates to the intergenerational transmission of violence, with the witnessing of violence between parents as a child emerging as a strong predictor of subsequent domestic violence (Koenig *et al.*, 2006). Also, research has documented an important negative effect of domestic violence on children, even if the children are not themselves abused: male children who see their mother being abused by their father are at a higher risk of becoming abusers in their intimate relationships as adults (Jeyaseelan *et al.*, 2007; Contreras *et al.*, 2012). Similarly, Children, and especially boys, who either witness violence or are subjected to violence themselves are more likely as adults to have violence supportive attitudes and to perpetrate violence (Stith *et al.*, 2000). In Ethiopia, for example, women who were victims of physical or sexual partner violence were more likely to report that their own mothers and their husband's mothers had been physically abused, and that their husbands had been physically abused in childhood than women who had not been victims of physical violence (Abeya *et al.*, 2011).

Reviews and studies with men across the globe have offered tremendous insights into how inequitable gender norms influence the way men interact with their female partners including the perpetration of violence (Barker, 2000). Violence against women hurts men when it results in women being afraid of or suspicious of men due to fear of potential victimization and when it perpetuates negative stereotypes of men based on the actions of a few (Barker, Contreras *et al.*, 2011). A community-based survey on women of reproductive age group in Ethiopian indicated the lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence against women ranged from 50 to 76.5% (Berhane, 2004; Abeya *et al.*, 2011). Similarly, the survey on attitudes about women's towards gender relations and violence against women revealed about 87% believed that beating is justified under any conditions if the woman was sexually unfaithful and not obeying her husband (Abeya *et al.*, 2012). However, none community based studies on men's attitude and experiences of intimate partner violence against women has been conducted in Ethiopia in general and study area in particular. Thus, this study aimed at determining the men's childhood experiences of violence, attitude towards gender and violence against women, and associated factors as well.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Study Area and Period

The study was conducted in the Boset Woreda, East Showa Zone, Oromia Region, Ethiopia. Based on the

2007 Census conducted by the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia, the 2015 projected population of the wereda was 179, 524 of which 87,967 were men and 91, 557 were female. Welenchiti town is the capital of the Wereda located at 25 km from Adama town to the east, along the road from Addis Ababa (the capital of Ethiopia) to Dire Dawa. It is one of the community attachment sites for students of the Adama Hospital Medical College, where they are conducting community diagnosis and interventions. Afan Oromo is the official and working language in the region (Boset 2006). The study was conducted between April, 1 and May, 15, 2015

### Study Design and Population

A descriptive cross sectional study was used to collect data from the individual interviews with ever married or ever partnered men between the ages of 18-60 currently residing in a household with their wife/partner. In this context a wife/partner is defined as a woman living with a man in a non-casual relationship which is accepted within the local culture.

Adequate sample size was computed using single population proportion sample size calculation formula with the inputs of 95% confidence level ( $Z_{\alpha/2}=1.96$ ), 5% margin of error, and a non-response rate of 15% due to the sensitive nature of the study. Since no study was found in the assessment of the proportion of men who perpetrated violence on their wife/partner around the area a proportion of 50% was used. Accordingly, a sample size of 442 men was calculated.

Initially stratification was used to select one from two *Kebeles* of Welenchiti town and four from the total of thirty seven rural *Kebeles* of the Wereda by the simple random sampling method. Household census and numbering was carried out prior to data collection. After identifying the households that have the target groups, the probability proportional to sample size allocation of households to each selected *Kebele* was carried out based on the total number of the selected households they have. Systematic random sampling was used to identify the target from the selected households as a study unit and one eligible was expected from each household. To control for potential intra household correlation, one ever partnered or cohabited men aged 18- 60 year was selected by lottery method if a household has two or more eligible.

### Data Collection

A total of 10 household enumerators and data collectors (HEWs) and two field supervisors (Medical Officers) recruited from the respective study areas based on qualification, previous experience in data collection and fluency in the local language. They were trained for three consecutive days. Data was collected using a pretested questionnaire partially adopted from International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES), the WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women, and the South Africa Study of Men, Masculinities, Violence and HIV (WHO, 2005; Pulerwitz and Barker, 2008; Barker *et al.*, 2011). The final version of the questionnaire was translated to the regional working language (*Afan Oromo*) by experts.

Field work manual (the standard manual developed by the WHO for the Multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence) was adopted and used by all research teams (WHO, 2005). The manual includes

briefing the general objective of the study, discussing the questions one by one, explaining the techniques of interviewing and how to approach the respondents, particularly concerning the sensitive issues during data collection and how to keep the confidentiality later.

#### Measurement

*Physical violence* was determined from the response to a question asking whether the respondents had physically hit, slapped, kicked, or tried to hurt his wife/partner during lifetime or the year preceding the survey. *Sexual violence* was determined from the response to a question asking whether the respondents had physically forced or attempted to force his wife/partner to have sexual relations during the lifetime or the year preceding the survey. *Emotional violence* was determined from the response to a question asking whether the respondents preventing a woman from seeing family and friends, ongoing belittlement or humiliation, threats against cherished objects, and other forms of controlling behaviors.

Attitudes of the respondents about intimate partner violence against women and gender relations were explored from the questions regarding gender equality; women's ability to refuse sex with her husband or partner and rape. A series of gender related statements were read out to the study participants and they were asked whether they agree, kept quiet or disagree with the statements. For the purpose of the analysis all the responses were coded in a way disagreeing with the statements implied Gender Equitable Men (GEM) and otherwise.

#### Data Management (Processing and Analysis)

With regard to data management, all completed interview forms were reviewed by a field supervisor and inspected/checked by the principal researcher. Forms with missing data or inconsistencies were returned to the interviewers for correction. Besides, dummy tables that consider the main research questions were drafted after designing the questionnaires; the data were categorized and coded on a well drafted coding sheet. On top of this, the pre coded responses were entered into an IBM SPSS statistical software for windows version 21 for data checking, cleaning, and bi-variable and multivariable analysis. Data transformations such as recoding and re-categorization of variables were performed based on the objectives of the analysis. Responses to any questions coded as "missing," "don't know," or "refused to answer" were excluded from the analyses.

For the analysis of the attitudes, the gender equitable index was constructed with response for the items. Each statement was assigned a weight (factor score) generated through principal component analysis, and the resulting score was standardized in relation to a normal distribution with mean of zero and standard deviation of one. Each individual was then assigned a score for each statements, and the scores were summed up for each individual. In this assignment, the response was ranked according to the score of the individual. For analytic purposes, the weighted scores were trichotomized into three separate and equal categories (tertiles). Thereafter, the men scoring in the lowest third were placed in the "least equity" category, those in the middle third in the "moderate

equity" category and those in the highest third in the "higher equity" category. Based on these a single statement/attitude scale was developed for the whole sample (Barker *et al.*, 2011). Factors such as age, education, Occupation, estimated family income, witnessing childhood emotional, physical and sexual violence and ever perpetrating intimate partner violence against women were treated as independent variables in the models.

To determine the associations between explanatory and outcome variables, those that show significant association at bi-variable analysis ( $P < 0.05$ ) were selected and entered one at a time into the model for further multivariable regression analysis. In this case, Multinomial logistic regression analysis was applied to control potential confounders and predict population parameters. The strengths and directions of the associated factors were explained (reported) using Relative Risk Ratio (RRR) to estimate the odds ratios, at the statistical significance of 95% confidence level and  $p$ -value of  $\leq 0.05$ . The assumptions of the analysis were checked to be satisfied (Glantz and Slinker, 2001).

#### Ethical Consideration

Ethical Clearance to conduct this study was obtained from an Ethical Committee of the Adama Hospital Medical College. To this effect, a letter with a green light to carry out the study was issued and an official letter was written to the local authorities by the department of Social and Population Health. Formal permission and consent was secured from administrative officials at different levels. Moreover, World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on ethical issues related to violence research was strictly adhered to ensure the confidentiality (Heise *et al.*, 1995; Ellsberg *et al.*, 2001). Before the interview, participants were informed that they have full right to agree or disagree to participate in the study and also withdraw any time during the interview. All interviews took place in complete privacy except for children under two years of age. In this regard, the interviewers were equipped with several strategies of maintaining privacy such as by using dummy questions and interrupting interviews about the health condition of the community. This was developed by the principal investigator for use in the case of someone arriving at the place or entering the room while a man is being interviewed (WHO, 2000; Ellsberg *et al.*, 2001).

## RESULTS

### Socio-demographic Characteristics

A total of 420 study subjects were attended the interview making a response rate of 95%. The majority of the respondent (68.1%) were rural residents and about three in four (59.8%) were within the age group of 35 years and above. Oromo constitutes the majority (73.6%). More than quarter (26.9%) had never attended their education and 309 (73.6%) were farmer by their occupation. The vast majority (92.1%) was currently married at the time of data collection. Most of the respondents, 172 (41%) have four and above living children. More than half (55%) reported to have five and above household member. When asked about their estimated household income per month almost one in three, 129 (30.7%) earn 600 or less ETB (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, Boset wereda, Oromia region, Ethiopia, April 2015

Variables	Response Category	Number	Percent
Area of Residence	Urban	134	31.9
	Rural	286	68.1
Age group	18-24 years	23	5.5
	25-34 years	146	34.8
	35 years and above	251	59.8
Ethnicity	Oromo	309	73.6
	Amhara	100	23.8
	Others *	11	2.6
Education	None (Illiterate)	113	26.9
	Read and Write	72	17.1
	Primary (1-6 grade)	128	30.5
	Secondary (7-12 grade)	87	20.7
Occupation	College and above	20	4.8
	Farmer	309	73.6
	Trade/Private Business	26	6.2
	Government Employee	25	6.0
	day Labourer	46	11.0
Marital Status	Others †	14	3.3
	Currently Married	387	92.1
	Living with partner (Cohabited)	17	4.0
	Have a regular Partner (Separated)	9	2.1
Estimated House Hold Income per month	Others ‡	7	1.7
	600 or less ETB	129	30.7
	601- 1000 ETB	129	30.7
	1001- 1500	49	11.7
	1501 and above ETB	113	26.9

NB- \* Gurage, Tigire, Wolayita, † Students, work in private sector, no work, ‡ Divorced and widowed

### Men's Experience of being Abused During Childhood

About nine in ten (87.6%) of the respondents witnessed any form of violence during their childhood. The majorities (71.7%) of the men witnessed any time of emotional violence during their childhood. Half (50.5%) saw or heard their mother being beaten by husband/boy friend when they were children. One in four (25.0%) was being told he was lazy or stupid or ugly by someone in his family. Similar proportions, 28.1% and 27.9% were also reported that they were insulted or humiliated in public and teased or bullied as a child by someone in the family, respectively.

Moreover, more than two in three (76.4%) reported witnessing some form of physical abuse during their

childhood. The most commonly reported physical violence experienced by men during childhood was being beaten at home with a belt or a stick or whip or something else which was hard (64%) and 151 (36%) were beaten so hard at home that it felt a mark or bruise. Similarly, 33.8% were beaten or physically punished at school by a teacher or others. A remarkable proportion (13.8%) of the respondents witnessed some form of sexual abuse during childhood. About one in ten reported being touched in their thighs, buttocks, or genitals, or being made to touch a male's private parts when they did not want to. In the same vein, due to the threat, force or out of fear, about 6.4% had sex with someone who was not their girlfriend or boyfriend (Table 2).

**Table 2:** Men's experience of being abused during childhood, Boset wereda, Oromia region, Ethiopia, April, 2015

Variables (n=420)	Number	%
<b>Ever witnessed violence during childhood</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>87.6</b>
<b>Any type of Emotional Violence</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>71.7</b>
• Saw or heard his mother being beaten by her husband	212	50.5
• Was told he was lazy or stupid by someone in the family	105	25.0
• Was insulted or humiliated in public by someone in the family	118	28.1
• Was teased and bullied as a child	117	27.9
<b>Any type of Physical Violence</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>76.4</b>
• Was beaten at home with a belt or a stick or whip or something else	269	64.0
• Was beaten so hard at home that it felt a mark or bruise	151	36.0
• Was beaten or physically punished at school by a teacher or others	142	33.8
<b>Any type of Sexual Violence</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>13.8</b>
• Someone touched his thighs, buttocks or genitals when he did not want	45	10.7
• Had sex with someone who was not his friend because he was threatened or frightened or forced	27	6.4

**Men’s Perpetration of Intimate Partner Violence against Women**

In the study area nearly all (98.8%) of men's were perpetrating any form of violence against their wife. The vast majority (95.2%) of the respondents ever perpetrating emotional intimate partner violence against their spouses, and more than one in four (28.5%) were emotionally perpetrating within the last 12 months prior to the survey. Most, 90.5%, 69.3%, 73.1%, and 41.9% ever insulted, belittled or humiliated, scared or intimidated and threatened or harm their spouses, respectively. Similar trends were seen in the experiences on emotional intimate partner violence during the last 12 months prior to the survey.

In the respective manner, nearly, all (97.4%) and half (44.4%) of the respondents reported perpetrating any form of physical violence on their intimate partners in their lifetime and past 12 months before the survey. The

majority (84.5%) had ever slapped or shoved their intimate partners followed by either pushing or shoving (78.1%). Even, about two in five (39.3%) of the respondents had threatened or used Gun or other weapon against their intimate partner. However, a decreasing trend; slapping (4.2%), pushing or shoving (3.7%), hitting with fist (8.7%) and using weapons (8.8%) were seen for their perpetration during one year before the survey.

Similarly, about nine in ten (90.5%) ever perpetrated some forms of sexual violence against their female partners. About four out of five (80.5%) had experienced sexual intercourse with their female partner by making her afraid or threatening and 53.3% had sex by degrading or shaming their intimate partners. A noticeable proportion of all forms of sexual violence were perpetrated by men on their intimate partners in the past one year prior to the survey (Table 3).

**Table 3:** Men’s lifetime Perpetration of Intimate Partner Violence against Women, Boset wereda, Oromia region, Ethiopia, April to May, 2015

Variables (n=420)	Number	Percent
<b>Ever perpetration of any of intimate partner violence</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>98.8</b>
<b>Any type of Emotional Violence perpetrated</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>95.2</b>
• Ever Insulted	380	90.5
• Ever belittled/humiliated	291	69.3
• Ever Scared or intimidated	307	73.1
• Ever Threatened or harm	176	41.9
<b>Any type of Physical Violence Perpetrated</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>97.4</b>
• Had Slapped	355	84.5
• Had Pushed/shoved	328	78.1
• Had ever hit with a fist	288	68.6
• Had Ever Chocked, dragged, bitten	288	68.6
• Had threatened or used Gun or other weapon	165	39.3
<b>Any type of Sexual violence perpetrated</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>90.5</b>
• Had Sex by force or rape	338	80.5
• Had Sex by making her afraid or threatening	269	64.0
• Had Sex by degrading or shaming	224	53.3

**Attitudes of Men on Gender, IPVAW and Gender Equitable Men scale**

More than half (56.4%) of men agreed with the statement that "a woman's most important role is to take care of her home and cook for her". About 42.6% of men believed that men need sex more than women do. About two in five (18.8%) men believed that on the idea of woman's responsibility to avoid getting pregnant. Most, (59.5%) believe a woman should tolerate violence in order to keep her family together. Moreover, the majority (63.1%) of the men had an opinion on woman to obey her husband under any circumstances. About one third (34.3%) of men believe that they could outraged if the wife asked the husband to use a condom or FP methods. About 63.8% of men held that a man should have the final say in all family matters. Similarly, 38.6% of men believe that if a wife does something wrong here husband has the right to punish her. About 44.5% of men had opinion that a wife cannot refuse to have sex with her husband at every time. A significant proportion (27.1%) of men also believes when a woman is raped, she is usually to blame for putting herself in that situation. Almost similar proportion (33.3%) of men believes if a woman does not fight back it is not a rape. Almost all (99.1%) of the men agreed to at least one of the gender inequitable statements and a negligible number 4 (1.0%) agreed to

non of the gender inequitable statement. Based on the output of PCA, the proportion of Gender Equitable Men (GEM) Scale is depicted in the table (Table 4).

**Factors Associated With Gender Equitable Men (GEM)**

The multinomial logistic regression model was used for identifying factors associated with men’s attitudes regarding gender and violence against women. The result showed a higher age of men is associated with increased the relative risk ratios (RRR) of having lower gender equitable attitudes (RRR 2.56, 95%CI 1.39-4.71 and RRR 2.09, 95%CI 1.18- 3.71, correspondingly) in both tertiles. In the first tertile category having higher income is associated with an increased likelihood of having the least gender equitable attitude compared to the highest gender equitable attitude men (RRR, 2.63; 95%CI, 1.00- 6.93). Those men who witnessed sexual violence during their childhood were more likely to have least (RRR, 3.03; 95%CI, 1.32- 6.96) and moderate (RRR, 3.14; 95%CI, 1.45- 6.82) gender equitable attitudes compared to the higher gender equitable men. In the same manner, men having ever perpetrated physical intimate violence against women were more likely to be least and moderate gender equitable (RRR, 1.60; 95%CI, 1.21- 7.01 and RRR, 1.56; 95%CI, 1.12- 19.79) compared to those with highest gender equitable men (Table 5 and 6).

**Table 4:** Attitudes of men towards Gender, violence against women and Gender Equitable Men Scale, Boset Wereda, Oromiya Region, Ethiopia, April to May, 2015

No	Items	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)
1.	A woman's most important role is to take care of her home and cook for her	237 (56.4)	10 (2.4)	173 (41.2)
2.	Men need sex more than women do	179 (42.6)	88 (21.0)	153 (36.4)
3.	It is the woman's responsibility to avoid getting pregnant	79 (18.8)	67 (16.0)	274 (65.2)
4.	A woman should tolerate violence in order to keep her family together	250 (59.5)	27 (6.4)	143 (34.0)
5.	A woman should obey her husband	265 (63.1)	23 (5.5)	132 (31.4)
6.	Would be outraged if his wife asked him to use a condom or FP methods	144 (34.3)	69 (16.4)	207 (49.3)
7.	To be a man, one needs to be tough	255 (60.7)	55 (13.1)	110 (26.2)
8.	A man should have a final say in all family matters	268 (63.8)	31 (7.4)	121 (28.8)
9.	A woman cannot refuse to have sex with her husband	187 (44.5)	53 (12.6)	180 (42.9)
10.	If a wife does something wrong here husband has the right to punish her	162 (38.6)	27 (6.4)	231 (55.0)
11.	When a woman is raped, she is usually to blame for putting in that situation	114 (27.1)	71 (16.9)	235 (56.0)
12.	If a woman doesn't physically fight back, it is not rape	140 (33.3)	73 (17.4)	207 (49.3)
The proportion of men agreeing to at least one of the statement		416 (99.05)		
The proportion of men agreeing to all of the statements		3 (0.7)		
The proportion of men agreeing to non of the statement		4 (1.0)		
<b>Gender Equitable Men (GEM) Scale</b>				
Least gender equitable attitude				140 (33.3)
Moderately gender equitable attitude				140 (33.3)
Highly gender equitable attitude				140 (33.3)

**Table 5:** Multinomial logistic regression model for exploring factors associated with men's least equitable attitude compared to highly equitable attitudes regarding gender

Independent Variables	P value	RRR	95% CI	
<b>Age group</b>				
• 18- 24 years	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Ref</i>
• 25- 34 years	0.22	2.41	0.59	9.84
• 35 years and above	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2.56</b>	<b>1.39</b>	<b>4.71</b>
<b>Education</b>				
• None (Illiterate)	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Ref</i>
• Read and Write	0.52	0.39	0.02	7.14
• Primary (1-6 grade)	0.32	0.23	0.01	4.33
• Secondary (7-12 grade)	0.65	0.51	0.03	9.29
• College and above	0.90	1.00	0.06	17.00
<b>Occupation</b>				
• Farmer	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Ref</i>
• Trade/Private Business	0.05	0.19	0.03	1.02
• Government Employee	0.42	2.49	0.27	23.24
• Day laborer	0.82	1.44	0.06	35.12
• Others*	0.96	0.95	0.15	5.98
<b>Income Category</b>				
• 600 or less ETB	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Ref</i>
• 601- 1000 ETB	0.28	0.64	0.29	1.44
• 1001- 1500	0.21	1.63	0.77	3.46
• 1501 and above ETB	0.05	2.63	1.00	6.93
<b>Childhood experience of violence</b>				
• Emotional	0.29	0.70	0.36	1.35
• Physical	0.88	0.95	0.49	1.85
• Sexual	<b>0.01</b>	<b>3.03</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>6.96</b>
<b>Ever perpetrating IPVAV</b>				
• Emotional	0.80	1.21	0.29	5.02
• Physical	<b>0.03</b>	<b>1.60</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>7.01</b>
• Sexual	0.28	1.73	0.64	4.69

NB \* Others- Students, work in the private sector, no work

**Table 6:** Multinomial logistic regression model for exploring factors associated with men's moderately equitable attitude compared to highly equitable attitudes regarding gender

Independent Variables	P value	RRR	95% CI	
<b>Age group</b>				
• 18- 24 years	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
• 25- 34 years	0.05	3.57	0.98	13.02
• 35 years and above	<b>0.01</b>	<b>2.09</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>3.71</b>
<b>Education</b>				
• None (Illiterate)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
• Read and Write	0.86	1.29	0.08	20.93
• Primary (1-6 grade)	0.64	0.51	0.03	8.57
• Secondary (7-12 grade)	0.86	1.28	0.08	20.89
• College and above	0.62	1.98	0.13	30.42
<b>Occupation</b>				
• Farmer	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
• Trade/Private Business	0.38	0.46	0.08	2.64
• Government Employee	0.87	1.23	0.11	13.25
• Day Laborer	0.54	2.68	0.12	59.87
• Others*	0.39	0.42	0.06	3.03
<b>Income Category</b>				
• 600 or less ETB	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
• 601- 1000 ETB	0.34	1.41	0.70	2.86
• 1001- 1500	0.96	0.98	0.48	2.01
• 1501 and above ETB	0.29	1.65	0.65	4.20
<b>Childhood experience of violence</b>				
• Emotional	0.18	0.66	0.36	1.21
• Physical	0.59	0.84	0.46	1.56
• Sexual	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3.14</b>	<b>1.45</b>	<b>6.82</b>
<b>Ever perpetrating IPVAV</b>				
• Emotional	0.85	0.87	0.21	3.69
• Physical	<b>0.02</b>	<b>1.56</b>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>19.79</b>
• Sexual	0.48	0.68	0.23	1.98

NB \* Others- Students, work in the private sector, no work

## DISCUSSION

The childhood experiences of any form of violence were witnessed by 87.6% of men. The majorities (71.7%) experienced emotional violence and about 76.4% experienced physical abuse during their childhood. Moreover, a remarkable proportion (13.8%) experienced any form of sexual abuse during childhood. These findings goes with the findings from recent analysis indicating adult men who were victims or witnesses of domestic violence as children were more likely to accept violence as a conflict resolving tactic not only in intimate partnerships but also in their wider lives (Contreras *et al.*, 2012). During childhood, violence can take different forms and can occur in different settings.

Mostly, violence by parents and other close family members is a serious problem that happens in every country and society and across all social groups (Pinheiro, 2006). Witnessing violence can include hearing violent acts, witnessing actual violent behaviors toward a parent or guardian, or being used as a shield against violence in the midst of a quarrel, among other experiences (Pinheiro, 2006). There are also a clear connection between children's experience of violence (as victims or witnesses) and their likelihood as adults to perpetrate or experience intimate partner violence (Contreras *et al.*, 2012). This dynamic, where children from violent homes enact or experience violent acts themselves as adults, is known as the "intergenerational transmission of violence" according to the Social Learning Theory (Contreras *et al.*, 2012).

Similarly, in the present study nearly all (98.8%) men ever perpetrated any form of violence against their wife indicating the universal nature of violence against intimate partner in the study area. The vast majorities (95.2%) ever perpetrated emotional intimate partner violence against their spouses, and 97.4% perpetrated any form of physical violence on their wife at one point in their lifetime. About nine in ten (90.5%) ever perpetrated some forms of sexual violence. These findings are much higher than the previous studies indicated the proportion of ever partnered men who reported physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetime varied from 26% in rural Indonesia to 80% in Papua New Guinea (Fulu *et al.*, 2013). Also, the same study indicated the lifetime prevalence of physical partner violence ranged from 12% to 62%. Indeed, these findings are also much higher than the findings from the women's report in Ethiopia showed the lifetime experience of emotional, physical and sexual violence at 66.9%, 62% and 59%, respectively (Abeya *et al.*, 2011). The variations might be attributed to the culture of silence for women to disclose this sensitive family issues and the tendency of lower reporting of intimate partner violence compared to men.

In this study, none of the respondents reported for not disagreeing to at least one of the gender equitable statements and they almost universally supporting at least one gender inequitable statement. These findings are in agreement with previous studies elsewhere as the proportion of men with gender inequitable attitudes related to decision making, violence against women and traditional gender roles was higher among those who

suffered violence than among those who did not (Contreras *et al.*, 2012). Corroborating this idea, study from Mexico showed 28% of men who witnessed violence during childhood agreed on the statement of "man should have a final say about the decision in his home" compared to 21% who did not experience it as a child agreed with the same statement (Contreras *et al.*, 2012).

Moreover, there was an overwhelming agreement with all of the statements of gender inequality and intimate violence among men. Only, (34.0%) of men disagreed on a statement of "a woman should tolerate violence in order to keep her family together" which is far below the findings from another country showed over 70% of younger men did not agree on the same statement (Wigglesworth *et al.*, 2015). Also, insignificant number (28.8%) of men disagreed on the statement of "a man should have a final say in all family matters" in contrast to 80% of young men from another study (Wigglesworth *et al.*, 2015). It is important to note that nearly half (44.5%) of men had opinion on wife obligation to have sex with her husband at every time. The fact that Ethiopia is a patriarchal society in which most men believes to have a power and control within their marital relationship that are strongly linked to levels of gender based violence and gender inequality (Abeya *et al.*, 2011).

In this study, about 38.6% of men still think for the husband to have a right to punish his wife if there is something wrong and a noticeable proportion (27.1%) believe in putting the blame on women for rape. This supports finding from similar study showed 31% of men do not think forced sex is violence and even more, 42%, believe that a woman cannot refuse to have sex with her husband (Wigglesworth *et al.*, 2015). Similar opinions were also mentioned in qualitative studies conducted in Western Ethiopia (Abeya *et al.*, 2012). In this regard, men did not have any concerns or reactions after committing the violence, suggesting sexual violence as a normative behavior without fear of any repercussion, indicating the needs for the legal framework in addressing sexual violence within marriage to be developed and laws must be passed and implemented. At the same time, awareness regarding women's sexual and reproductive rights and an enabling environment for accessing these rights needs to be created.

In this study, GEM Scale can be anticipated to be significantly associated with age, estimated household monthly income, childhood experiences and violent behaviors of men. Accordingly, gender equitable attitudes increased with age, though the GEM scale was developed for the young men aged 18-29 years of low and middle income countries, it has been successfully adapted to different age groups ranging from 10 years to 59 years in various settings (UN, 2013). This points to the fact that as the age of an individual is increasing, he/she can be matured and have a chance to be exposed to education, media or meetings that might change the attitudes of their traditional gender norms. The same concept might apply for the increasing income of men positively influencing their attitudes towards gender and violence against women.

Men who witnessed childhood sexual violence and ever perpetrated physical violence on their partner were less likely to have higher GEM. These are in agreement with other study showed respondents who reported

greater support for inequitable gender norms by agreeing with statements of gender inequality are significantly more likely to use physical and sexual violence against their partners than their counterparts (Pulerwitz and Barker, 2008). These are corroborating the findings from Chile and Croatia, around two third of men who were low equitable reported physical violence towards any partner, and men who least supported gender equitable norms, were most likely to report both physical and sexual violence (UN 2013). Moreover, the negative associations between gender equitable attitudes and men's experience of violence during childhood support findings from other studies (Barker *et al.*, 2011). These suggest that positively changing gender related attitudes actually matters for prevention of violence against women.

The GEM scale has been used mostly in countries where the gender equality "agenda" is fairly recent and where inequitable norms are still quite prevalent. The fact that men from the same social context can report such a range of attitudes, provides insight into opportunities to promote change (UN, 2013). Influencing men's attitudes to gender equity and intimate partner relationships through programs in schools and other arenas is a priority and the measurement of attitudes of men using GEM Scale can be a useful resource for decision makers seeking evidence that gender norms than can be influenced, and that doing so makes a difference in the well being of both women and men.

As to the limitation of this study, First, being a cross-sectional nature, the causal inference cannot be drawn from these study findings. Second, it is important to note that the data on childhood experiences of violence comes from retrospective questions. That is adult men are asked to recall events that may have happened many years in the past. Furthermore, no specific age range was specified to denote childhood and it is also obvious that, methodological research suggests that retrospective data like these are less reliable than prospective or longitudinal data (UN 2013). Third, although having a quantitative measure is useful for the challenging nature of developing a quantitative scale, the use of qualitative methods to "triangulate" findings related to the complex notion of gender norms was not considered for possible variation in gender related attitudes. Despite these possible limitations, the study is the first of its kind in the study area to collect data on men's attitudes and practices regarding gender and violence against women. Findings from this study contribute to a better understanding of men's attitudes regarding gender and violence against women and their practices in relation to violence.

## CONCLUSIONS

This research finds very high prevalence (87.6%) of witnessing childhood experiences of violence in the study area. A significant number, 71.7%, 76.4% and 13.8% of men witnessed emotional, physical and sexual violence during childhood, respectively. Nearly all (98.8%) men ever perpetrated any form of violence against their wife in their life. The vast majorities had a lifetime prevalence of perpetration of emotional (95.2%), physically (97.4%) and sexual (90.5%) violence on their wife/intimate partners.

Almost all (99.1%) men agreed to at least one of the gender inequitable statements and only 4 (1.0%) agreed to non of the gender inequitable statement indicating the pervasive nature of traditional gender norms and male

dominance in the study area. Higher age and higher income increase likelihood of Gender Equitable Men. In the mean time, childhood experiences of sexual violence and ever perpetrated physical violence against their intimate partner decreases the likelihood of Gender Equitable Men.

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made to draw on evidence for the prevention and intervention of the problem under study.

- As the high prevalence of witnessing childhood violence is observed in the study area, interventions targeting parents or guardians should be instituted, and education should target to shape children during their early age. This needs an urgent attention at all levels of societal organization, including policymakers, stakeholders, professionals and other concerned body.
- School-based prevention programs to address social norms, perceptions and attitudes among men and women, boys and girls, where sex is considered a husband's entitlement and wives feel unable to refuse sex could be implemented.
- A significant number of men's ever perpetrated violence against their wife/partner, as men's violence against women is about men's power and control over women, this issue should be addressed at every level of society.
- Priority should be given in influencing young men's attitudes to gender equity and intimate partner relationships through programs in schools and other arenas.
- To ensure gender equality involving men in the interventions targeting incompatible domestic power and men's control in intimate partner relationships should be considered.
- Since the study shows greater gender equitable attitudes are negatively associated with men's childhood experience and perpetration of intimate partner sexual violence against women, a positively changing gender related attitudes for the prevention of violence against women should be targeted.
- Finally, further research using qualitative method should be considered to explore more on the men's opinion towards gender and violence against women.

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### Conflict of Interest

Conflict of Interest none declared.

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