



January 2009

Domestic violence among women in Kersa District, Eastern Hararge, Eastern Ethiopia, January 2008

This brief describes the form and type of violence against women at Kersa district in 12 selected kebeles of Kersa demographic surveillance and health research center field site.

The result is based baseline health survey conducted in February 2008

Introduction

Violence against women is a common practice in Ethiopia. In some places it is considered as a tradition. Violence decreases the self esteem of women. It makes them feel inferior and lack of confidence to do something. The commonest form of violence are beating, pinching, slumping, verbal assault, and sexual violence .

The study was conducted on 858 females of reproductive age group (15-49) selected from 12 Kebeles of the field research center using proportion to size.

and related issues. Among these, 337 (39.7%) and 512 (60.3%) of them knew what violence against women means and the rest did not know respectively. According to the respondents perception, violence against women is expressed, and realized in various ways. From those women interviewed to respond on common incidents of violence against women, 281 (81%) of women, realized that physical harm was most incident being practiced whereas 220 (64%) of women reported that verbal insult is common and the least reported were 5 (1.7%) was unexplained violence against women

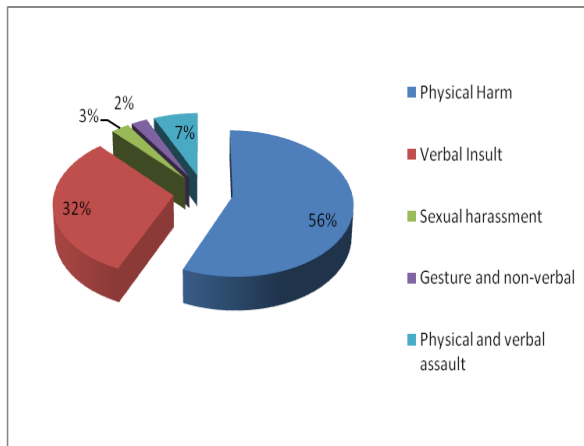
A total of 849 women were interviewed concerning violence

Table 1 Women's' perception about violence against women in Kersa District, Eastern Hararghe, Eastern Ethiopia , January 2008

Variables		Frequency	Percentage
Physical harm (n=347)	Yes	281	81.0
Verbal Insult (n=344)	Yes	220	64.0
Sexual harassment/Violence (n=339)	Yes	140	41.3
Gesture and non-verbal (n=342)	Yes	124	36.3
Physical forced violence (n=341)	Yes	152	44.6
Other forms (n=294)	Yes	5	1.7

Among 329 mothers who were interviewed and responded about the most common violence against women in their community, 186 (56.5%) have reported that physical harm /beating/ women is the most common in kersa district followed by verbal insult which accounts for 104 (31.6%)

Fig 1: Most common violence forms of violence against women in Kersa District, Eastern Hararge, Eastern Ethiopia, January 2008



Conclusion

Violence against women undermines a woman's right of dignity and degrades their self-esteem. It reduced productivity of the women. In this study majority of the women didn't know what violence means. Yet, it is known that this is a common practice in Ethiopia, especially in rural setting. Those reported to explain the form of violence; physical harm like beating is the commonest followed by verbal and physical violence.

Recommendation

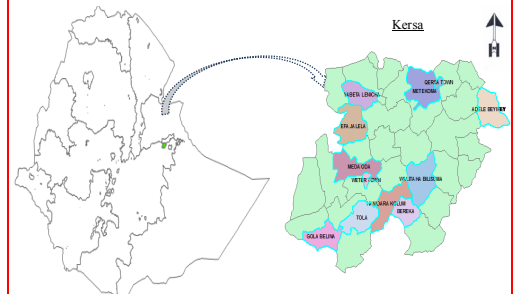
Woreda female's affairs office should work together with the community to empower women to make them aware of their rights. The community should insist women need to be respected and treated in dignity. Ways in avoiding violence, such as discussion on issues that lead to violence should be encouraged.

Kersa Demographic Surveillance and Health Research Center (KDS-HRC), Haramaya University:

The surveillance site was established in September 2007 in Kersa district, Eastern Hararge of Oromia region, East Ethiopia with aim of tracking demographic changes like death, birth, migration and marital status change. The surveillance activities further extended by adding surveys in Nutrition, Reproductive Health, Environmental Health, HIV/AIDS, Morbidity/health seeking behavior and health care utilization during the month of January-March 2008.

The surveillance activity is instituted in 12 kebeles (the smallest administrative unit in Ethiopia with approximate population size of 4-5 thousand). Two of the kebeles are semi urban and the remaining 10 are rural kebeles.

According to the first census there were 10,256



households and 53,482 people in the study site with an average household size of 5.2 and sex ratio of 104.5. In the study area the crude birth and death rates were 26.8 and 9.2 per 1000 population. Infant and under five mortality rates were 44.9 and 108.2 per 1000 live births respectively.

The activities of the surveillance are led by a coordinator and a group of six staff members from the College of Health and Medical Sciences.

