



January 2009

Intimate partner violence against women in Kersa District, Eastern Hararge, Eastern Ethiopia, January 2008

This policy brief describes the form and type of intimate partner violence against women at Kersa district in 12 selected kebeles of Kersa demographic surveillance and health research center field site. The result is based on baseline health survey conducted in February 2008

Introduction

Studies have shown that violence against women is a common practice in Ethiopia. In some places of the country it is considered as normal tradition. Violence decreases the self esteem of women. It makes them feel inferior and lack of confidence critically think and 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.

they have experienced violence by their intimate partners or friends, out of 850, 166 (19.5%) of the women reported to experienced violence from intimate friends. Majority (70.3%) experienced violence by their husbands and 27.2% experienced violence by their relatives.

The womens were also requested pertaining to ever experience of intimate partner violence. In their life experiences /exposures, 200(30.2%) have experienced verbal insult, 57 (8.6%) and 59 (8.8%) of women have had an experience to non- verbal and both physical- non-verbal violence respectively.

Eight hundred fifty women have responded on whether

Table 1: Ever experience of violence in Kersa District, Eastern Hararge, Eastern Ethiopia ,January 2008

Variable			Frequency	Percentage
Ever Experience and type of violence	Physical Harm (N=659)	Yes	142	21.5
	Verbal insult (N=662)	Yes	200	30.2
	Sexual harassment (N=650)	Yes	25	3.8
	Gesture and non-verbal (N=664)	Yes	57	8.6
	Physical and verbal together (N=667)	Yes	59	8.8
	Other forms (N=637)	Yes	4	0.6

Only 33 (6.6%) women have requested and appeal or dealt with law executors for the violence committed against them.

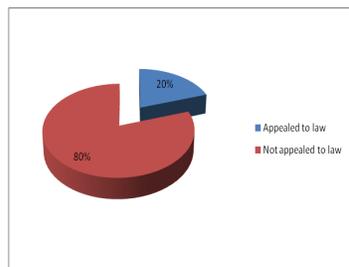


Fig 1: Distribution of women revealing violence to court, Kersa District, Eastern Hararge, Eastern Ethiopia January 2008

Women who do not appealed to the law for violence against them were asked about their reason why they were not appeal to the law and fear to expose the matter is reported by 114 (28.2%) and 38 (9.4%) of women revealed that they did not know where to appeal.

Table 2 Distribution of women concerning request for an appeal if violence occur and reasons not to request among women in Kersa District, Eastern Hararge Eastern Ethiopia ,January 2008 .

Variables		Frequency	Percentage
Reasons for not requesting an appeal to the law for ever violence of violence (n=)	Fear of divorce	36	8.9
	Fear of exposing the issue	114	28.2
	Fear of additional Violence	90	22.3
	I don't know where to go	38	9.4
	it is our cultural to accept it	30	7.4
	others	96	23.8

Conclusion

Intimate partner violence against women is very common in the community, though it seems under reported. Any women who faced the problem do not appeal to court. This is associated with the socio-cultural issues construct in the society which undermine women, which in turn had influenced them not to go to the legal system and struggle for their right.

Recommendation

Woreda female's affairs office should work together with the community in empowering and experiencing women to stand for their right. The community should stand by the women and reports violence case and create a mechanism for women to have easy access to the legal system.

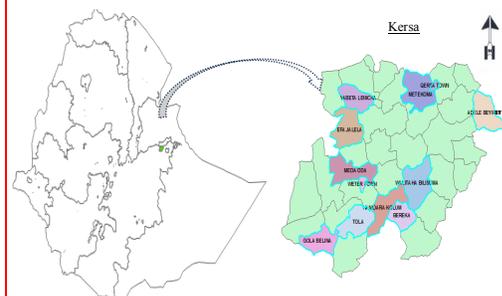
Kersa Demographic Surveillance and Health Research Center (KDS-HRC),

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 lead by a coordinator and a group of six staff members from the College of Health and Medical Sciences.

