

Gender-based Violence and Associated Factors among Private College Female Students in Harar City, Ethiopia, Jan 2023

Authors : Taju Abdela Mohammed

Abstract : Introduction: There has been a rise in awareness of violence against young women and girls, particularly when it occurs in educational environments. Gender-based violence in schools is a significant barrier. Therefore, it would be a threat to the achievement of the sustainable development goals, strive for gender equality in all our programs, right from the planning stages, to make sure we are as equitable as possible. Research on the causes, attitudes, and perceptions of gender-based violence was scant. Furthermore, there aren't many studies done on female students attending private colleges. Thus, the purpose of this study is to evaluate the frequency of gender-based violence and related variables among female students attending private colleges in Harar City, Ethiopia. Methodology: A facility-based mixed method concurrent triangulation study design was conducted among 500 randomly selected Private college female students in Harar City. Self-administered questionnaire and an in-depth interview were used to collect the data. The collected data were cleaned and analyzed using a statistical package for social science. Descriptive statistics were conducted and the results were reported using frequency, and percentile. Bivariate logistic regression was performed to identify associated factors. Adjusted odds ratios with 95% confidence intervals and p values < 0.05 were used to explain statistically significant associations. Thematic analysis was used to manually translate, transcribe, and analyze qualitative data. Result: The study showed the prevalence of gender-based violence was 338 (67.6%) (CI 0.432-0.721) Private college female students in Harar city Administration. Age less than 20 years and 20-24 years, [AOR = 0.21, 95% CI (0.03-0.81)] and [AOR = 0.12, 95% CI (0.03-0.51)], tight family control, [AOR = 5.12, 95% CI (1.43-6.9)], Witnessed father abuse mother at childhood; [AOR = 4.04, 95% CI (1.36-12.1)], had drunkenness female or boyfriend; [AOR = 2.12, 95% CI (1.60-14.05)] had significant association with gender-based violence. Conclusion: Our study shows the prevalence of gender-based violence among Private college female students is significant. This is due to the fact that gender-based violence, such as school dropout, unintended pregnancy, abortion, STDs, and psychological disorders, is abandoning young girls' lives and lowering their productivity.

Keywords : female students, gender-violence, harar, Ethiopia

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