Original article

Sexual violence and associated factors among female night college students after joining the college in Debre Markos town, North West Ethiopia, 2019

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ABSTRACT

Background: Violence against women is a significant public health problem as well as a fundamental violation of women's human rights. The magnitude of sexual violence in Africa is higher than in other regions and mostly occurs in school. However, data were limited on sexual violence against female night college students in Ethiopia at large.

Method: Institutional based cross-sectional study was conducted among 422 participants in December 2019. Data were collected using pre-tested, self-administered questionnaire and simple random sampling technique. Each collected data were coded, cleaned and entered into EPI info version 7 and exported into SPSS version 20 for analysis. AOR with 95%CI and p-value of <0.05 were considered for the significant reports.

Results: This research revealed that sexual violence in their lifetime, after joining the college and in the past 12 months were 27.1% (95%CI: 22.8, 31.1), 21.3% (95%CI: 17.4, 25.1) and 17.2% (95%CI: 13.8, 20.8) respectively. Residence being urban [AOR = 1.92 (95%CI: 1.03, 3.60)], more than 20 min taking to reach at the college [AOR = 1.82 (95% CI: 1.07, 3.07)], parents living condition separately [AOR = 1.89(95%CI: 1.08, 3.32)], Witnessed inter partner violence as a childhood [AOR = 2.55(95%CI:1.37,4.75)], alcohol intake sometimes [AOR = 3.24 (95%CI:1.04,10.10)] and having multiple sexual partner [AOR: 6.42 (95CI: 2.27,18.16)] were positive predictors for sexual violence.

Conclusion: The prevalence of sexual violence after joining the college among female night college students in Debre Markos town was high. Community awareness creation may be important to reduce the problem.

1. Introduction

Sexual violence (SV) 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 place.¹

Violence against women is a significant public health problem as well as a fundamental violation of women's human rights.² In order to prevent this, different organizations like world health organization (WHO), central disease control (CDC) and united nation international children's emergency fund (UNICEF) have been working by developing different strategies^{3,4} and also Ethiopian government has set a code of conduct to prevent school related gender based violence.⁵

Worldwide, 35.6%, women have experienced either physical and/sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their

lifetime. In higher-income countries, 32.7% of women experienced physical and/sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. However, it is higher in Africa (45.6%) than any other regions.² Among sub-Saharan Africa countries, the highest 12 month report prevalence of sexual violence in educational institutions was recorded in Ethiopia(57.7%).⁶ A meta-analysis conducted in Ethiopia showed 44.7% of school girls are victim of sexual violence.⁷

Sexual violence is most common in school and higher among college students.^{6,8} Different studies conducted in different part of the world, including Africa, South Asia, and Latin America, showed that substantial proportions of girls report experiencing sexual harassment and abuse on the way to and from school, as well as on school and university premises, including classrooms, laboratories and dormitories, by peers and teachers.⁹

Sexual violence is associated with a wide range of negative outcomes on physical health like physical injury or death, reproductive health like

Abbreviations: AOR, Adjusted odds ratio; CI, Confidence interval; COR, Crude odds ratio; SDG, Sustainable development goals; WHO, World health organization.

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teenage pregnancy, unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion and sexually transmitted disease (STD), and it has also negative impacts on mental health such as shame, guilt, humiliation, depression and post-traumatic stress disorders and it has also negative effect on academic performance. Its negative effect is not limited to the above negative consequences but also on the social wellbeing of the victim as they can be stigmatized and ostracized by their own family and others.^{10,11}

Studies in different countries suggested different factors associated with sexual violence which mainly included: residence, marital status, parents living condition, substance use, educational status of parents and number of lifetime sexual partners.^{11–14}

Even though sexual violence is a serious public health issue, there was no previous study conducted on sexual violence among female night school students in Ethiopia. Therefore, this study was aimed to assess the prevalence and factors associated with sexual violence among female night college students in Debre Markos town, North West Ethiopia, 2019.

2. Methods

Study setting and design: Institutional based cross-sectional study was conducted among female night college students in Debre Markos town from December 2–14/2019. Debre Markos town is the capital city of East Gojjam Administrative zone which is far 295 km from Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. Based on the 2007 population and housing national census, the total population size of the town was estimated to be 62 469 of whom 52.1% were females. According to the department of education of the town report, there are 2 governmental and 17 private colleges in the town of which, both governmental and 5 private colleges giving night educational service. In the study period, there was a total of 2778 students of whom 942 were females following their academics in the night time.

2.1. Sample size determination and sampling techniques

The total sample size required for this study was determined by using single population proportion formula based on the following assumptions: taking the prevalence of sexual violence as 50% since no previous study was conducted on the source population.

$$P = 50\%$$

$$CI = 95\%$$

$$\text{Margin of error} = 5\%$$

$$n = \frac{(Z\alpha/2)^2 \cdot P(1-P)}{W^2(0.05)^2} \quad n = \frac{(1.96)^2(0.50)(0.50)}{W^2(0.05)^2}$$

$$W^2(0.05)^2$$

$$n = 384$$

By considering the non-response rate as 10%, the final sample size became 422.

Simple random sampling technique was employed to reach the study participants using female students list as a sampling frame. First, the sample size was proportionally allocated to each college based on the number of female night students. The sample size from each college was also allocated proportionally to the number of students in the year of the study.

2.2. Data collection instrument and procedures

Data were collected using **semi-structured**, pretested and self-administered questionnaire. The questionnaire was adapted from different literatures. The data collection tool was prepared in English and then translated into local language (Amharic) and back to English for consistency checking. Data collections were done by four BSc

midwives as collectors and one MSc midwife as a supervisor.

2.3. Data quality control

The questionnaire was pretested on 5% of the sample size. Training was given for data collectors and supervisor about the aim of the study, contents of the tool and ways of collecting. During data collection, each data collector was supervised for any difficulties. The questionnaire was distributed to participants and collected on the same day to ensure confidentiality and prevent information contamination. The collected data were checked for their completeness before data entry.

2.4. Data processing and analysis

Data were entered into Epi-info, version –7.1.2, and exported to SPSS, version 20, for analysis. Adjusted odds ratio with 95% CI was computed to determine the presence and strength of association. P-value of less than 0.05 was taken to declare the presence of statistical significance. The analyzed data were presented using texts and tables.

2.5. Operational definitions and measurements

Rape: A female student who experienced any non-consensual penetration of the vagina obtained by physical body harm, by threatening or deception.^{33,37}

Attempted rape: A female student who faced a trial to have sex without consent by coercion, by threatening or deception but without actual penetration of the vagina.^{31,37}

Sexual harassment: A female student who experienced at least one of this; unwelcome jokes and comments unwelcome touching and unwelcome kissing.^{30,37}

Life time Sexual violence: A female student who experienced at least one of this; any sexual harassment, rape and attempted rape ever.^{22,37}

Sexual violence after joining the college: A female student who experienced at least one of this: any sexual harassment, rape and attempted rape after entry to the college.³³

Sexual violence in the past 12 months: A female student experienced at least one of this: any sexual harassment, completed rape and attempted rape in the past 12 months.²²

3. Results

3.1. Socio-demographic result

In this study, a total of 422 individuals were included among whom 413 students completed and returned the questionnaire which makes the response rate 97.8%.

The age of the participants ranged from 18 to 30 years with the median age of 21 years. Three quarter, (76.5%) of the respondents were in the age group of 20–24 years. Nearly half, (48.7%) of the participants were second year in their year of study. More than two third, (68.5%) and majority, (82.8%) of the respondents were single as to their marital status and rural in childhood residence respectively (Table 1).

Parents' living condition and educational statuses: Greater than three quarter, 320 (77.5%) of the study participants reported that their parents were living together. More than half of the participants' fathers, 209(53%) were able to read and write by their educational level and 225 (54.5%) of their mothers couldn't read and write. Regarding the occupation of parents, 350(84.7%) of their fathers and 345(83.5%) of their mothers were farmers. Two third, 269 (65.1%) of the study participants reported that their support was directly from their parents (Table 2).

Substance use of the study participants: Only 2 (0.5%), 5 (1.2%) and 1 (0.2%) of the study participants reported that they were currently chewing khat, smoking cigarettes and using drugs or substances respectively. About two fifth, 180 (43.6%) of the respondents reported

Table 1

Socio-demographic characteristics of female night college students in Debre Markos town, North West Ethiopia, 2019 (n = 413).

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Age(n = 413)		
<20	47	11.4
20–24	316	76.5
≥25	50	12.1
Religion		
Orthodox	413	100
Ethnicity		
Amhara	413	100
Year of study		
First year	41	9.9
Second year	171	41.4
Third year	201	48.7
Residence		
Rural	342	82.8
Urban	71	17.2
Marital status		
Married	72	17.4
Have a boyfriend	58	14
Single	283	68.5
Educational status of Husband/boyfriend (n = 130)		
Unable to read and write	2	1.5
Able to read and write	16	12.3
Primary	10	7.7
Secondary	19	14.6
College and above	83	63.8
Occupational status of Husband/boyfriend (n = 130)		
Unemployed	7	5.4
Student	32	24.6
Governmental employed	65	50
Employed in private sector	15	11.5
Merchant	8	6.2
Others	3	2.3
Current living condition of respondents		
Living with parents	64	15.5
Living with female friends	113	27.4
Living alone	160	38.7
Living with husband/boyfriend	42	10.2
Living with relatives	20	4.8
Others	14	3.4
A job other than studying		
Yes	123	29.8
No	290	70.2
What type of job(n = 123)		
Housemaid	10	8.1
Housewife	9	7.3
Daily laborer	48	39
Employed in formal sector	43	35
Merchant	13	10.6
Time to reach your college		
≤20 min	262	63.4
>20 min	151	36.6
By what you travel To school/home		
On foot	367	88.9
On transportation	46	11.1

that they drank alcohol in their lifetime of whom, 134 (74.4%) were occasional alcohol users. Of those who had a history of alcohol drinking, 156 (86.7%) and 111(71.2%) responded that they started drinking after joining the college and in the current academic year respectively. Greater than three quarter, 318 (77.0%) of respondents reported that there was history of alcohol intake among their families (Table 3).

Sexual intercourse related characteristics: Of the total respondents, One third, 143 (34.6%) reported that they had sexual intercourse in their lifetime. Of them, 22(15.4%) had started sexual intercourse before the age of 18 year old. The mean age at first sexual intercourse was 19 years. Of those who had sexual intercourse history in their lifetime, 124 (83.7%) and 19 (13.3%) experienced one and two or more sexual partners in their lifetime respectively (Table 4).

Table 2

Respondents' Parents living condition and educational statuses in Debre Markos town, North West Ethiopia, 2019 (n = 413).

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Are your parents live together(n = 413)		
Yes	320	77.5
No	93	22.5
If not, what is the reason (n = 93)		
Divorced	21	22.6
Death	57	61.3
Job	15	16.1
Which of parents alive		
Only mother alive	39	9.4
Only father alive	12	2.9
Both are alive	356	86.2
Both are not alive	6	1.5
Educational status of the father		
Unable to read and write	106	25.9
Able to read and write	209	53.0
Primary	51	12.3
Secondary	9	2.2
College and above	11	2.7
I don't know	17	4.1
Educational status of the mother		
Unable to read and write	225	54.5
Able to read and write	147	35.6
Primary	23	5.6
Secondary	6	1.5
College and above	9	2.2
I don't know	3	0.7
Father's occupation		
Farmer	350	84.7
Government employed	25	6.1
Employed in private sector	5	1.2
Private business	33	8.0
Mother's occupation		
Housewife	42	10.2
Farmer	345	83.5
Government employed	12	2.9
Employed in private sector	1	0.2
Private business	13	3.1
Family monthly income		
≤66.7 USA dollars	302	73.1
66.7–133.3 USA dollars	62	15.0
≥133.3 USA dollars	49	11.9
Who support for learning		
Parents	269	65.1
Self-supporting	97	23.5
Husband/boyfriend	45	10.9
Others	2	0.5
Monthly pocket money (n = 413)		
<18.3 USA dollars	223	54.0
18.3–33.3 USA dollars	93	22.5
≥33.3 USA dollars	97	23.5
Mothers being beaten by her husband during childhood		
Yes	69	16.7
No	344	83.3

3.2. Sexual violence among the study participants

Among the total respondents, 112 (27.1%) (95%CI: 22.8, 31.1), **88 (21.3%)** (95%CI: 17.4, 25.1) and 71(17.2%) (95%CI: 13.8, 20.8) experienced any form of sexual violence (rape, attempted rape or sexual harassment) in lifetime, after joining the college and in the past 12 months respectively (Table 5).

3.3. Factors associated with sexual violence after joining the college

In bivariate analysis, the factors found to be significantly associated with sexual violence after joining the college were: **Residence**, **Time taken to reach at college**, **Parental living condition**, **Father's occupation**, **Control of your family**, **Mothers being beaten by her husband**, **Ever drink alcohol**, **Drink after joining the college**, **Ever had sexual intercourse**, **Lifetime sexual partner**.

Table 3

Substance use history of female night college students in Debre Markos town, North West Ethiopia, 2019 (n = 413).

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Chat chewing(n = 413)		
Yes	2	0.5
No	411	99.5
Frequency of chat chewing		
Every day	2	100
Cigarette smoking		
Yes	5	1.2
No	408	98.8
Frequency of Cigarette smoking		
Every day	1	20
Occasionally	4	80
Drug/substance use		
Yes	1	0.2
No	412	99.8
Frequency of Drug/substance use		
Every day	1	100
Drink alcohol		
Yes	180	43.6
No	233	56.4
Frequency of drinking alcohol(n = 180)		
Every day	1	0.6
Once or twice a week	20	11.1
1-3 times a month	25	13.9
Occasionally	134	74.4
Had drunk after joining the college(n = 180)		
Yes	156	86.7
No	24	13.3
Frequency of drinking alcohol(n = 156)		
Every day	1	0.6
Once or twice a week	15	9.6
1-3 times a month	19	12.2
Occasionally	121	77.6
Drunk in this academic year(n = 156)		
Yes	111	71.2
No	45	28.8
Number of drinks (n = 156)		
One	121	77.6
Two	32	20.5
Three	3	1.9
Have friends who drink regularly(n = 156)		
Yes	51	32.7
No	105	67.3
Family drink alcohol(n = 413)		
Yes	318	77.0
No	95	23.0

Residence, Time taken to reach at college, Parents living condition, Mothers being beaten by their husbands, Alcohol drinking after joining the college and Lifetime sexual partner were variables associated with sexual violence in multiple logistic regression (Table 6).

4. Discussion

This institutional based cross-sectional study has attempted to identify the prevalence of sexual violence and associated factors among female night college students in Debre Markos town, North West Ethiopia, 2019. The study results showed that the prevalence of sexual violence among the study participants after joining the college was found to be 21.3% (95%CI: 17.4, 25.1).

This finding is higher than a study done in Gurage zone 15.9%.¹¹ This difference might be due to the difference in defining the outcome variable. A study in Gurage zone did not include “attempted rape” as an outcome variable which we included that might increase the potential cases. But the finding is lower than the study done in Wolaita-sodo university which showed a prevalence of 36.1%.²⁰ The difference might be due to different of the source populations.

The study showed that the prevalence of forced sex (rape) was 2.7%. This is lower than the study's finding in Gurage zone (6.1%), Hadyia zone (28.46%), Mizan-Tepi university (13.5%) and Wolaitasodo

Table 4

Sexual history of female night college students in Debre Markos town, North West Ethiopia, 2019 (n = 413).

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Started sexual intercourse (n = 413)		
Yes	143	34.6
No	270	65.4
Age at first sexual intercourse (n = 143)		
<19	53	37.1
19–21	65	45.5
≥22	25	17.5
With whom doing first sex (n = 143)		
Boyfriend	62	43.4
Husband	64	44.8
Teacher	4	2.8
Student	8	5.6
Others	5	3.5
Number of sexual partner in your lifetime(143)		
One	124	86.7
Two or more	16	13.3
Number of sexual partners currently (n = 123)		
One	119	96.7
Two or more	4	3.3
Discussing reproductive health With parents (n = 413)		
Yes	157	38
No	256	62

university (8%).^{11,20,28,33} Similarly, for attempted rape in this study, it was 8.5% which is lower than the study done at Mizan-Tepi University (19%).³³ The possible explanation for this discrepancy might be due to the cultural and lifestyle differences of the participants and the time gap of the study.

In this study, sexual harassment was 17.9% which is lower than the study conducted in Mizan-Tepi university(66.3%) and Ambo district (35.5%).^{33,38} The difference might be due to variation in the perception of sexual harassment and difference in socio-demographic characteristics of study participants.

The study revealed that the **childhood residence** of the respondents was one of the variables positively associated with sexual violence after joining the college. Students whose childhood residence was **urban** were 1.9 times more likely to experience sexual violence when compared with their counterparts (AOR = 1.92, 95%CI: 1.03, 3.60). This study is supported by studies conducted in Ambo university and South Africa.^{12,14} This could be due to rural communities are more conservative for cultural norms and traditions than urban society. Community awareness creation, specifically for urban community, on the sexual violence may reduce the problem. On the contrary, in studies conducted in Bahirdar and Hawassa, students with rural childhood residence were more likely to experience sexual violence than those with urban residence.^{24,25} This difference might be due to socio-demographic differences of the study participants.

Time taken to reach at the college was also a predictor variable of sexual violence after joining the college. Students who need more than 20 min to reach at the college were 1.8 times more likely to experience sexual violence than their counterparts(AOR = 1.82, 95%CI:1.07,3.07)). This could be due to the fact that the longer their journey was, the more likely they were exposed for the perpetrators. Increasing number of colleges giving night educational service may shorten time taking to reach at the college.

This study also revealed that **parents living condition** was positively associated with sexual violence. Students whose parents live separately were 1.9 times more likely to experience sexual violence than those students whose parents live together (AOR = 1.89, 95%CI: (1.08, 3.32)). Similar findings were reported by the studies done in Wollo University³¹ and Ambo University students.¹⁴ This might be due to lack of family support to protect themselves from risky sexual behavior. Authors recommend parents to live together as much as possible to alleviate their children's sexual violence.

Table 5

Sexual violence, rape, characteristics of rape and form of sexual harassment of female night college students in Debre Markos town, North West Ethiopia, 2019 (n = 413).

Variable	Lifetime, N (%)	After joining the college, N (%)	In the past 12 month, N (%)
Sexual violence(n = 413)			
Yes	112 (27.1)	88(21.3)	71(17.2)
No	301 (72.9)	325(78.7)	342(82.8)
Rape(n = 413)			
Yes	27(6.5)	11(2.7)	8(1.9)
No	386 (93.5)	402(97.3)	405(98.1)
Perpetrator			
Boyfriend	14(51.9)	3(27.3)	3(37.5)
Strange	5(18.5)	4(36.4)	3(37.5)
School boy	3(11.1)	1(9.1)	1(12.5)
Teachers	2(7.4)	—	—
Relatives	1(3.7)	1(9.1)	—
Others	2(7.4)	2(18.2)	1(12.5)
Mechanisms used			
Hit you	8(29.7)	4(36.4)	2(25)
Pointed a knife	1(3.7)	1(9.1)	1(12.5)
Threat of harm	7(25.9)	4(36.4)	2(25)
Made you drunk	7(25.9)	1(9.1)	2(25)
Gave you drug	1(3.7)	—	—
Others	3(11.1)	1(9.1)	1(12.5)
Place			
Classroom	1(3.7)	1(9.1)	1(12.5)
On the road	3(11.1)	2(18.2)	1(12.5)
In the jungle	3(11.1)	2(18.2)	1(12.5)
Hotel	10(37)	1(9.1)	2(25)
Friends home	5(18.5)	3(27.3)	2(25)
Others	5(18.5)	2(18.2)	1(12.5)
Time			
Day	9(33.3)	5(45.5)	4(50)
Night	18(66.7)	6(54.5)	4(50)
Age of perpetrator			
Same age	9(33.3)	3(27.3)	2(25)
Older than me	10(37)	4(36.4)	2(25)
Much older than me	3(11.1)	2(18.2)	1(12.5)
I don't know	5(18.5)	2(18.2)	3(37.5)
How many			
Only once	24(88.9)	9(81.8)	7(87.5)
More than once	3(11.1)	2(18.2)	1(12.5)
Share the event			
Nobody	14(51.9)	4(36.4)	2(25)
Friend	11(40.7)	6(54.5)	5(62.5)
Sister/brother	2(7.4)	1(9.1)	1(12.5)
Why didn't you share?			
Do not know what to do	4(28.6)	—	—
Afraid of parents	6(42.9)	1(25)	2(100)
Afraid of public reaction	1(7.1)	1(25)	—
Afraid of the perpetrator	2(14.3)	1(25)	—
Perceived the legal body not helpful	1(7.1)	1(25)	—
Measurement			
Nothing	24(88.9)	11(100)	8(100)
Imprisonment	1(3.7)	—	—
Financial compensation levied by elderly	1(3.7)	—	—
Forced to marry	1(3.7)	—	—
Unwelcome touching			
Yes	38(9.2)	26(6.3)	14(3.4)
No	375(90.8)	387(93.7)	399(96.6)
Unwelcome kiss			
Yes	38(9.2)	20(4.8)	19(4.6)
No	375 (90.8)	393(95.2)	394(95.4)
Unwelcome Joke			
Yes	51(12.3)	44(10.7)	33(8.0)
No	362 (87.7)	369(99.3)	380(92.0)

Table 6

Bivariate and multivariable logistic regression analysis of factors associated with sexual violence after joining the college in Debre Markos town night female students North West Ethiopia, 2019 (n = 413).

Variable	Sexual violence Yes No	COR(95%CI)	AOR(95%CI)
Residence			
Urban	24 47	2.22(1.27,3.89)	1.92(1.03,3.60)*
Rural	64 278	1	1
Marital status			
Single	54 229	1	1
husband/boyfriend	34 96	1.50(0.92,2.45)	1.03(0.47,2.25)
How many times take to reach college?			
≤20 min	50 212	1	1
>20 min	38 113	1.43(0.88,2.30)	1.82(1.07,3.07)*
Do your parents live together			
Yes	60 260	1	1
No	28 65	1.87(1.11,3.15)	1.89(1.08,3.32)*
Fathers occupation			
Farmer	70 280	1	1
Governmental employee	8 22	1.46(0.62–3.41)	0.81(0.29,2.29)
Private business	10 23	1.74(0.79,3.82)	0.81(0.29,2.26)
Mothers being beaten by her husband			
Yes	24 45	2.33(1.33,4.11)	2.55(1.37–4.75)*
No	64 280	1	1
Ever drink alcohol			
Yes	49 131	1.86(1.16,2.99)	1.01(0.31,3.27)
No	39 194	1	1
Frequency of alcohol drinking after joining college			
Some times	8 8	2.90(1.00,8.39)	3.24(1.04,10.10)*
Usually	6 13	1.34(0.47,3.83)	2.08(0.67,6.47)
Occasionally	31 90	1	1
Started sexual intercourse			
Yes	40 103	1.80(1.11,2.90)	1.16(0.67,2.03)
No	48 222	1	1
Number of lifetime sexual partners			
One	28 96	1	1
Two or more	12 7	5.88 (2.11,16.35)	6.42(2.27,18.16) **

History of mothers being beaten by her partner was also another important factor for sexual violence. Participants whose mothers beaten by their husbands were 2.6 times more likely to report sexual violence than their counterparts (AOR = 2.56, 95%CI: 1.37, 4.75). This finding was supported by the study conducted in Meda-Welabo university,³⁰ Wollo university³¹ and Butajira.²² It could be: children that grew observing her mother being beaten by her partner might be more distressed that could be followed by unhealthy life style that might also expose them to the sexual violence. Domestic violence practiced by husbands/male partners is violence against women (VAW). So, males had better understand that this violence is two in kind, violence's against their wives and children, and they should avoid beating their wives.

Students who **drank alcohol some times** after joining the college were 3.2 times more likely to experience sexual violence when compared with students who drank occasionally (AOR = 3.2, 95% CI:1.04,10.10). This finding is supported by studies conducted in Debre Markos, Nekemt, Gurage zone and Hadiya zone.^{11,28,32,35} This could be due to alcohol intake initiated them to simply experience sexual intercourse and might also be due to sexual violence is likely practiced in settings where alcohol was consumed.³⁹ Students should be aware that their full attention had better be towards their academic performance.

Lifetime sexual partner was also another important predictor for sexual violence after joining college. Students who had multiple sexual partners were 6.4 times more likely to report sexual violence than students who had one sexual partner (AOR = 6.42, 95%CI: 2.27, 18.16). Similar findings were revealed in Mekele, Nekemt and Wollo university.^{31,35,36} This might be due to the perpetrator considered them as they were insolent. The investigators recommend for the female polygamist

to avoid such behavior so that they may reduce their sexual violence.

Limitations: The finding shares the drawback of the cross-sectional study and it might also be exposed to the recall bias.

Conclusion: The prevalence of sexual violence after joining the college among night college students in Debre Markos town was unacceptably high when compared with the national target of violence reduction which is adopted from the Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG) that targets eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres. Urban residence, Greater than 20 min take to reach at the college, Parents living condition separately, History of mothers beaten by her partner, Alcohol intake after joining the college and Number of lifetime sexual partners were risk factors for sexual violence among female night college student after joining the college.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate: Ethical clearance for the study was obtained from University of Gondar institutional review board (IRB). Support letter was submitted to the department of education in Debre Markos town and permission of colleges was obtained from college administrative. Before the data collection, written informed consent was taken from each study participants and each respondent was informed about the objective of the study. Any student who was not willing to participate in the study was rejected. All study participants were assured that all data they would offer us was kept confidential by using codes instead of any personal identifiers and used only for the purpose of the study. No a participant was under age 18 years old.

Consent for publication

Not applicable

Availability of the data

The dataset is available from the corresponding author and can be obtained upon the reasonable request.

Competing interest

We authors declare that we have no competing interest.

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Authors' contribution

WZT, ZME and GLA have been involved in designing of the study, analysis, write up and preparing the manuscript.

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