

# Exploring Types And Prevalence Of Elder Abuse In Kellem Wollega Zone, Oromia. Ethiopia

<sup>1</sup>Yirgalem Bekele Tasisa, <sup>2</sup>Tekle Alemu Yigezu

<sup>1</sup>Lecturer, Department of Psychology, School of Education and Behavioral Sciences, Dambi Dollo University, Oromia, Ethiopia, <sup>2</sup>Lecturer, Department of Psychology, School of Education and Behavioral Sciences, Dambi Dollo University, Oromia, Ethiopia,

Corresponding Author:

Yirgalem Bekele, Lecturer Department of Psychology School of Education & Behavioral Science  
Dambi Dollo University, E-mail: [yirgbeke2016@gmail.com](mailto:yirgbeke2016@gmail.com)

## Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine types and prevalence of elder abuse in Kellem Wollega Zone, Oromia, Ethiopia. A Cross-sectional survey study design was employed for the study. Simple random sampling technique used to select a sample size of 175 retiree people. So as to get reliable data, survey questionnaire and Focus group desiccation were used for data collection. Validity of the study was checked through respondent validation. Data collected was analyzed using both descriptive (frequency, percentages, mean and standard deviation) and inferential statistics (independent t-test and one-way ANOVA). The finding of this study revealed that, different types of abuse were practiced by elders with high prevalence types of elder abuse. Although elder abuse is common among men and women, it is more prevalent among women. Psychological abuse was the most common form of abuse closely followed by economic and social abuse; while sexual and physical abuses were not common. Among different variables, economical type of elders' abuse is influenced by monthly income, psychological abuse is highly influenced by marital status of the respondents, and sexual abuse is highly influenced by age of respondent; from those three different age groups of old age young odds are more abused, then old-old and oldest-old are the secondly and thirdly abused respectively by rank order.

**Keywords:** Abuse, Elderly, Old Age.

## Introduction

The term 'elder' has different connotation in different countries; it is mostly explained and is associated to chronological age, functional age as well as retirement age. According to the United Nations (2007), people age 60 and older are identified as elders. In the same way the Ethiopian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs fixed age 60 as the beginning of old age and as the retirement age for government employees

(MoLSA, 2006). The definition has gained acceptance in Ethiopian context as it coincides with the country's official retirement age.

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or a person often includes behavior that is abusive in one or more of psychological, physical, sexual, neglect, financial and institutional. Indicators of an abusive relationship often include the misuse of power by one person over another and are most

likely to be found in situations where one person has power over another.

According to WHO (2010), in many parts of the world, elder abuse happens with minor recognition and till recently, this serious problem was hidden from the public view and considered mostly a private matter. However, evidence is gathering to show that elder abuse is an important public and social problem. Likewise, with the increase of elders in the past decades a number of elders suffering different types of abuse. Consequently, these situations make the problem as one of the research areas around the world. Elder abuse could take many forms, including physical, financial, psychological, sexual abuse and neglect (WHO, 2010).

Elder abuse may comprise all miss treatments of the elderly by young people and family members, such as verbal abuse, name calling, locking up in a room, treatment as a child, and not maintaining or supporting with money to eat. It may also include outright beatings, indecent touching, extortion of money, non-visiting, denying access to grandchildren and cases of children declaring their parent's witches amongst others (Ekot, 2012).

However, it has been considered a hidden phenomenon because within the family structures where abuse occurs the key to keeping abusive relationships is to regard the abuse as a "private family concern" and keep it hidden from those outside the family. As a result, elders in the study area were exposed for different types of abuse that affect the wellbeing of elders such as psychological abuse, economical abuse, social abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse which is broadly disturbing the safety of aged peoples. In line with this case elder abuse in Kellem Wollega Zone is critical problem. No matter how the case is adverse in the study area most elders take their own mechanisms of solving the problem.

However, in Kellem Wollega Zone the problem of elder abuse was normally considered as an unmentionable and non-existence specifically regarding retiree people. Many People believed that the retiree people are loved in the society and well cared for in the family situation; and therefore, they not exposed to abuse. Besides that, there was no study conducted regarding elder abuse and coping mechanisms beforehand in the study area among retiree people. Thus, elder abuse in the study area is the sensitive issue and it needs to conduct research on it. Basically, the topic was selected because of elder abuse about retiree people doesn't get attention by the community and the researches who mostly give attention on other abuse by neglecting elder abuse in human development. Therefore, there is a need of coming up within evidenced-based way by which elders can overcome abuse condition by applying effective strategies and the study tried to address gaps related to examine types and prevalence of elder abuse in Kellem Wollega Zone.

## **Objectives of the Study**

### **General Objective**

The main objective of the study is to examine types and prevalence of elder abuse in Kellem Wollega Zone.

### **Specific Objectives**

#### **The specific objectives of the study were;**

1. To identify the prevalence and types of elder abuse in Kellem Wollega Zone among retiree.
2. To identify the most common abuse type in study area among retiree people.
3. To explore gender difference in elder abuse in the study area among retiree people.
4. To check the difference in elder abuse among age, marital status and income.

## Materials and Methods

Cross-sectional descriptive survey study design was used in this study by combined both qualitative and quantitative research methods in order to achieve the objective of the study. The purpose of using Cross-sectional descriptive survey study design has a powerful to analyze realistic condition. Creswell (200) states survey design provides numeric description of trends or opinion of a population by studying a sample of that population. It is also relatively cost effective way of gathering information from a large number of people. Thus, in order to provide a clear understanding about elder abuse and coping mechanisms among retiree elder in Kellem Wollega Zone the design was preferred on this reason.

Creswell (2007) noted that both qualitative and quantitative methods design can test the consistency of findings obtained through different forms of data collection. The quantitative approach was employed because it had strength in dealing with large number of participants which involved in this study and the mainly focuses on gathering numerical data and generalizing it across groups of people or to explain a particular phenomenon (Creswell, 2003).

On the other hand, Creswell (2007) state that qualitative research method will enable the researcher to relay as much as possible on their informant's point of view about the issue under study since qualitative approach uses open ended question. Because qualitative research is more demanding and Labor-intensive, a small sample was invited for the interview. This mixed approach design triangulation of the data collected by questionnaire and interview question on elder abuse and coping mechanisms among retiree elderly.

The researcher, therefore, choose both approaches to gather information in relation to elder abuse and coping mechanisms of elder

among retiree people which is helpful to fill the gap of providing insightful data concerning the topic of the study.

### Sample and sampling technique

There are several approaches to determine the sample size of the study. The sample size was determined by the formula developed by Yamane (1967). His sample determination formula found to suitable due to the fact that it is the simplified one in the case large population. The formula considers 95% of confidence, and 5% of margin of error.

According to Corbetta (2003), simple random sampling techniques recommended when the list of components studied are available. In simple random sampling technique, each number of the population under the study has an equal chance of being selected from a list of population. Such qualities marked simple random sampling technique as the appropriate techniques to be used. Therefore, from the total population of 330 retirees elder 175 respondents were selected by simple random sampling techniques for the study.

According to Kumar (1999) in purposive sampling the researcher judges as to who can provide the best evidence to accomplish the objective of the study. Therefore, purposive sampling techniques was employed to select the five respondents from social security and public servant agency office of all district in Kellem Wollega zone experts and elderly public wing based on their willingness and their knowledge about the issues.

### Data Collection procedures

The study employed both quantitative and qualitative data. Both types of data were gathered by using appropriate data collection tools in order to obtain relevant information from respondents. Thus, the main instruments used for data collection in this study were

questionnaire and Focus group desiccation as supplementary.

The first part of the questionnaires describes the respondent's background information; categories include gender, age, qualification, income, marital status and experience. The second part of questionnaire which was developed by reviewing the relevant literature and previously used instruments based on the research questions were assesses the types and prevalence of elder abuse is composed of a five-point Likert scale that asks elderly to rate the observed degree of an item on their overall abuse experience in the study area.

The data collection procedures begin by giving letter of cooperation to Kellem Wollega Zone administration office which was obtained from Jimma university psychology department to get consent and collect relevant data from the concerned body in the study area. Following this, the data gathering process was started by administered questionnaires personally to selected elderly. Most of elders are interested to read the questioner and answer they fill it properly. However, a few elders are not interested to read due to age related problem, for those elders the researcher's assistant read the questioner with serious follow-up collaboratively with the researcher.

With regard to the FGD, two groups of interviews were formed based on their experience each having five participants. The desiccation was started by brain storming question followed by research question. Group desiccation was conducted in order to respect participant's freedom and participant's responses were writing on papers carefully.

The data is processed and analyzed by using statistical package software for social science (SPSS) version 25. To analyze data both descriptive and inferential statistics employed according to the objective of the research which is; frequency, percentage, mean difference and standard deviation used to determine the prevalence, types of elder abuse, the most common types of elder abuse and coping mechanisms among elder where as independent t-test and one-way ANOVA were used to compute the data relating to types of elder abuse, gender differences in types of abuse and differences in elders abuse among age, marital status and income.

## Results

### Socio Demographic Data of the Respondents

Concerning Demographic data of respondents, out of the 175 elder 154(%) male and 21 (%) were female which shows the in balance of gender, and regarding age 93(%) were young old age, 66(%) were old, old16(%) were oldest old, concerning educational status 35(%) were 12 completed, 40(%) were certificate holde,52(%) were Diploma holder,44(%) were degree holde,4(%) were MA holder. With regard to marital status as it shown in table 1 out of 175 respondents,93(%) were married,66(%) were single,16(%) were divorced, and regarding respondents' income level 46(%) were between 750-1500birr/month 76 were 1501-2500 birr/month,32 was 2501-3500birr/month and 20 were above 3500 birr/month.

### Prevalence and types of elder abuse

**Table.1. Prevalence of elder abuse**

Types of abuse	Agreed	Disagreed
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	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Psychological Abuse	52	29.7	123	70.3
Physical abuse	14	8.3	161	91.7
Economical abuse	36	20.6	139	79.4
Social abuse	33	18.9	142	81.1
Sexual abuse	29	16.6	146	83.4
Overall	27	15.4	148	84.6

Table 2, Show that the prevalence of different types elder abuse in the study area with psychological abuse is the most frequent (29%), followed by economical abuse (20.6%), Sexual abuse (18.9%), and social abuse (16.6%) and lastly, Physical abuse (8.3%) is the least frequent abuse in the study area. The overall prevalence of elder abuse in the study area is 15.4%. This shows that there is the existence of all forms of abuse in the study area with high prevalence.

In line with this data of GD of elder public wing and experts also supports the existence of five types of elder abuse which include

psychological abuse, economic abuse, social abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse with high prevalence.

### The most common types of elder abuse

With research question two, the researcher asked, "What types of abuse are the most common among the elderly in Kellem Wollega Zone? Respondents were responded to each of the statements according to a five-point Likert scale (a higher value indicated more frequently happened). Group means were, then, calculated for each of the five elderly abuses from the overall scale for each variable.

Table.3. **Distribution of elder abuse by types**

Types of abuse	Mean	Std.	Rank
Psychological Abuse	2.742	0.535	1
Economical abuse	2.648	0.413	2
Social abuse	2.385	0.561	3
Sexual abuse	2.08	0.766	4
Physical abuse	2.079	0.584	5

As indicated in the Table 3, the five most commonly elderly abuses were ordered from 1 to 5 using mean scores. The means and corresponding standard deviations of the sample respondents show that psychological abuse was the most common types of elderly abuse with the mean 2.742 corresponding standard deviation of 0.535 followed by economic abuse 2.648, standard deviation of 0.413 and social abuse with the mean 2.385, standard deviation of 0.561 and the Contrary, the means and corresponding standard deviations of the sample

respondents show that physical abuse was the least common elderly abuse with the mean 2.079 and the corresponding standard deviation 0.584 in Kellem Wollega Zone. Thus, the most top types of elderly abuse were psychological abuse, economic abuse and social abuse in the study area.

In line with these, from my FGD with social security agency and social support agency office experts and elder public wing they added that regarding types and prevalence of elder abuse, five forms of elder abuse are existing in the

study area with high prevalence which is including psychological abuse, economic abuse, social abuse, sexual abuse and physical abuse. In addition to this the data obtained from FGD revealed that the top most common types of elder abuse. Thus, psychological abuse is the top most common followed by economic abuse and social abuse respectively. Contrary, sexual and

physical abuse is the least once. Hence there is high prevalence of elder abuse in five forms of elder abuse in the study area.

In line with, FGD revealed that psychological abuse is the most top common followed by economic and social abuse in the study area.

#### Gender difference in elder abuse

**Table.4.** summary of t-test comparison of gender difference on elder abuse

Types of abuse	Sex of respondent	Mean	Std.	T	DF	Sig.
Psychological Abuse	Male	2.708	0.545	-2.299	173	0.023
	Female	2.991	0.379			
Physical abuse	Male	2.645	0.431	-0.197	173	0.844
	Female	2.664	0.249			
Economical abuse	Male	2.045	0.606	-2.078	173	0.039
	Female	2.325	0.3			
Sexual abuse	Male	2.349	0.555	-2.335	173	0.021
	Female	2.65	0.544			
Social abuse	Male	2.138	0.793	2.763	173	0.006
	Female	1.654	0.29			
Ground mean	Male	2.499	0.422	-3.615	173	0.00
	Female	2.858	0.458			

In order to determine the difference in elder abuse among gender (Male and Female), an independent- sample t-test was conducted to compare whether there is a statistically significant difference in elder abuse among gender. As indicated in Table 4.8 above, there is a significant difference in scores of male and female on psychological Abuse. Male (M=2.708, SD=.545) and Female (M= 2.991, SD= 0.718);  $t = -2.299$ ,  $p=0.023$  (two-tailed). The mean difference in male and female regarding psychological abuse is 0.283, which is large. This shows that there is a different regarding Psychological Abuse between male and female elders. This indicates female elders are highly affected by psychological abuse as compared to male elders.

Regarding to physical abuse, the result shows. Male (M=2.645, SD=.431) and Female (M= 2.664, SD= 0.249);  $t = -197$ ,  $p=0.844$  (two-

tailed). The mean difference in male and female regarding physical abuse is 0.019, which is small. This shows that there is no statistically significant different regarding to physical abuse between male and female elders. This indicates female and male elders are equally affected by physical abuse. On the other hand, there is a statistically significant difference between male and female elders with regard to economical abuse, Male (M=2.045, SD=.606) and Female (M= 2.325, SD= .300);  $t = -2.078$ ,  $p=0.039$  (two-tailed). The mean difference in male and female regarding economical abuse is 0.280, which is large. This indicates female elders are highly affected by economical abuse as compared to male elders.

Regarding to sexual abuse, the result shows. Male (M=2.349, SD=.555) and Female (M= 2.650, SD= .544);  $t = -2.335$ ,  $p=0.021$  (two-tailed). The mean difference in male and female

regarding sexual abuse is 0.301, which is large. This shows that there is a statistically significant difference regarding to sexual abuse between male and female elders. This indicates female elders are highly affected by sexual abuse as compared to male elders. Similarly, there is a statistically significant difference between male and female elders with regard to social abuse, Male (M=2.138, SD=.793) and Female (M=

1.654, SD= .290);  $t=2.763$ ,  $p=.006$  (two-tailed). The mean difference in male and female regarding economical abuse is 0.625, which is large. This indicates female elders are highly affected by social abuse as compared to male elders

#### **The deference in abuse among age, marital status and income**

**Table 5.** One-Way ANOVA Result Difference in Elder Abuse across Age

Types of abuse		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Physical abuse	Between Groups	0.767	2	0.384	1.124	0.327
	Within Groups	58.722	172	0.341		
	Total	59.49	174			
Economical abuse	Between Groups	0.725	2	0.362	2.146	0.12
	Within Groups	29.045	172	0.169		
	Total	29.77	174			
Social abuse	Between Groups	4.463	2	2.231	3.922	0.022
	Within Groups	97.864	172	0.569		
	Total	102.326	174			
Psychological Abuse	Between Groups	0.406	2	0.203	0.706	0.495
	Within Groups	49.513	172	0.288		
	Total	49.919	174			
Sexual abuse	Between Groups	2.421	2	1.21	3.969	0.021
	Within Groups	52.46	172	0.305		
	Total	54.881	174			

Significant at  $\alpha$  0.05

In order to determine the difference in elder abuse among age group (60-69, 70-79, and 80&above), one-way ANOVA was used to compare whether there is a statistically significant difference in elder abuse among age group. As a result, table 4.9 shows, there is a statistical age group significant difference on social abuse (F (2,172), P-value=0.022) and sexual abuse (F (2,172), p-value=0.021), but there is no statistical age group difference on Physical abuse (F (2,172), P-value=.327), Economical abuse (F (2,172), P-value=.120), and psychological abuse (F (2,172), P-value=0.495). This indicates sexual and social abuses highly depend on age groups difference.

Further in order to determine which age group differs significantly one another the Tukey post hoc multiple comparisons methods were employed to show where the significant differences exist. The result indicated that, there is social abuse difference between 60-69 and 80&above age group with mean difference 0.543, and p-value=0.022 and also there is social abuse statistically significant difference between 70-79 and 80&above with mean difference 0.566, and p-value=.022. Similarly, there is sexual abuse difference between 70-79 and 80&above age group with mean difference 0.436, and p-value=0.015. Therefore, this result show that age of respondents above 80 years old

were highly affected by social type of elderly abuse as compared to the other age groups.

**Table 6. One-Way ANOVA Result difference in Elder Abuse across Marital status**

Types of abuse		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Physical abuse	Between Groups	0.855	2	0.428	1.255	0.288
	Within Groups	58.634	172	0.341		
	Total	59.49	174			
Economical abuse	Between Groups	0.144	2	0.072	0.417	0.66
	Within Groups	29.626	172	0.172		
	Total	29.77	174			
Social abuse	Between Groups	4.549	2	2.275	4.001	0.02
	Within Groups	97.777	172	0.568		
	Total	102.326	174			
Psychological Abuse	Between Groups	1.915	2	0.957	3.431	0.035
	Within Groups	48.004	172	0.279		
	Total	49.919	174			
Sexual abuse	Between Groups	0.059	2	0.03	0.093	0.911
	Within Groups	54.822	172	0.319		
	Total	54.881	174			

Significant at  $\alpha$  0.05

In order to determine the difference in elder abuse among Marital status (Married, Window, and Divorced), one-way ANOVA was conducted to compare whether there is a statistically significant difference in elder abuse among their marital status. As a result, table 4.10 shows, there is a statistically significant difference among their marital status on social abuse (F (2,172), P-value=0.020) and psychological abuse (F (2,172), P-value=0.035), but there is no statistical difference among their marital status on Physical abuse (F (2,172), P-value=.288), Economical abuse (F (2,172), P-value=.660), and sexual abuse (F (2,172), P-value=0.911). This indicates social and psychological elderly abuses were highly depending on marital status.

Further in order to determine which marital status differs significantly one another the Tukey post hoc multiple comparisons methods were employed to show where the significant difference exist. The result indicated that, there is social abuse difference between Married and Window with mean difference 0.378, and p-value=0.027. Similarly, there is psychological abuse difference between Married and Window with mean difference 0.235, and p-value=0.047. Therefore, this result shows that window respondents were highly affected by social and psychological elderly abuse as compared to married respondents.

**Table 7: One-Way ANOVA Result Difference in Elder Abuse across Income**

Types of abuse		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Physical abuse	Between Groups	5.383	3	1.794	5.671	0.001



	Within Groups	54.107	171	0.316		
	Total	59.49	174			
Economical abuse	Between Groups	1.671	3	0.557	3.389	0.019
	Within Groups	28.099	171	0.164		
	Total	29.77	174			
Social abuse	Between Groups	5.792	3	1.931	3.42	0.019
	Within Groups	96.534	171	0.565		
	Total	102.326	174			
Psychological Abuse	Between Groups	3.958	3	1.319	4.909	0.003
	Within Groups	45.961	171	0.269		
	Total	49.919	174			
Sexual abuse	Between Groups	15.592	3	5.197	22.621	.000
	Within Groups	39.289	171	0.23		
	Total	54.881	174			

### Significant at $\alpha$ 0.05

In order to determine the difference in elder abuse among income categories (750-1500birr, 1501–2500-birr, 2501-3500 birr, 3501&above birr), one-way ANOVA was conducted to compare whether there is a statistically significant difference in elder abuse among different income categories of the respondents. As a result, table 4.11 shows, there is a statistically significant difference among different category of incomes with social abuse (F (2,172), P-value=0.019), psychological abuse (F (2,172), P-value=0.003), Physical abuse (F (2,172), P-value=.001), Economical abuse (F (2,172), P-value=.019), and sexual abuse (F (2,172), P-value=0.000). This indicates social, sexual, economical, physical and psychological elderly abuses were highly depending on different categories of income.

Further in order to determine which income differs significantly one another the Tukey post hoc multiple comparisons methods were employed to show where the significant differences exist. The result indicated that, there is physical abuse difference between 1501-2500 and 3501&above

### Discussions and interpretation of the data

In this section, discussion and possible explanation of the results would be discussed based on the themes of basic research questions.

#### Prevalence of elder abuse

As the result of quantitative study revealed there is high prevalence of elder abuse based on the results obtained from descriptive analysis of elders abuse among retiree. Overall, the prevalence of elder abuse in the Kellem Wollega Zone was found to be high. Table 2 shows that although the prevalence of elder abuse; Psychological abuse (29.7%), economic abuse (26.6%), social abuse (18.9%) sexual (16.6 %) and social abuse (8.3%) of elder were abused in the study area. Although elder abuse is common among men and women, it is more prevalent among women. According to the World Health Organization, the prevalence of elder abuse ranged widely from 1% to 35%, depending on the populations, settings, definitions, and research methods. Recent national estimates show that at least 1 in 10 older adults suffers some form of elder abuse, and many in repeated forms (Government Accountability Office, 2011). At the same time, only a small fraction of elder abuse is reported to the Adult Protective Services (APS). The U.S. National Elder

Mistreatment Study, conducted with a representative sample of 5,777 adults aged 60 years and older, reports that approximately more than 10% of community-dwelling elderly adults experienced abuse or potential neglect in the past year (Acierno et al., 2010). Recent studies in a large-population-based study indicate that prevalence of elder psychological is about 9% (Dong, Simon, Mosquera, & Evans, 2012), although the extent of overlap between psychological abuse and other forms of elder abuse is unclear. Like that finding in this study psychological abuse is the highest prevalent type.

### **Types of elder abuse**

The finding of quantitative data shows that all types of abuse were recounted in the study area which is characterized by psychological, economic, social, physical and sexual abuses (Phakathi 2011). Elder abuse, also called elder mistreatment or elder maltreatment, includes psychological, physical, and sexual abuse, neglect (caregiver neglect and self-neglect), and financial exploitation. (National research council 2003), in this study the researcher also founded those types of elder's abuse with high prevalence.

The finding of the study revealed that the five types of elder abuse in the study area. These are:

Psychological abuses are like insulting, undermining, warning, neglect, avoid respecting elders, bored to treat them, rejecting their idea, making decision about elders' own life, giggling on them and others are investigated.

The other investigated type is abuse is economical abuse like theft bank account book, robbing, paying above price when buying things, paying salary inappropriately for elders, borrowing or take money from elders for the sake of donation.

The third type of elders' abuse is social abuse and it consists acts like avoid giving direction,

avoid giving equal social access to elders as compare to youngsters and other symptoms are discovered. The fourth type of elders' abuse explored by this research is physical abuse like physically harming, punching, hygiene, forcing them to do beyond their capacity, forcing them to take drug and food without their interest. The last types of elder's abuse that investigated in this research is sexual abuse like touching their body without consent, trying to have sexual intercourse with them whispering and others.

### **What are the most common forms of elder abuse?**

The finding of quantitative data show that among different types of elders abuse psychological abuse is the top most top common followed by economic and social type of abuse. In contrast to this study the previous quantitative study shows prevalence and correlates of emotional, physical, sexual, and financial abuse. Potential neglect in the US (Ron Asierno, Meliba A, Hernandez, Ananda B, Amstadter, Heidi, Heidi S, Resnick) states that social types of abuse are the most prevalent but, in this research, social abuse is the third type of abuse as indicated above by percent and mean.

In addition, evidence from previous quantitative study suggests that 1 out of 10 older adults' experiences some form of elder abuse, and only a fraction of cases is actually reported to social services agencies. At the same time, elder abuse is independently associated with significant morbidity and premature mortality. Evidence suggests that prevalence of financial exploitation is almost three times higher and psychological abuse is two times higher in African American older adults than white older adults (Beach, Schulz, Castle, & Rosen, 2010).

A recent study in a low-income Latino community indicates that 40% of older adults have experienced abuse in the last year, yet only 2% were reported to authorities (De Liema, Gassoumis, Homeier, & Wilber, 2012). In the

Chinese population, despite the high cultural expectations of filial piety from older adults, 35% Chinese older adults have self-reported elder abuse (Dong, Simon, & Gorbien, 2007). Like that psychological abuse was the most common type of elder abuse followed by economic abuse and social abuse respectively.

### **The difference in elder abuse among age, marital status, and income**

Those types of elder abuse are highly related with different variables, economic type of elder abuse is influenced by monthly income, psychological abuse is highly influenced by marital status of the respondents, and sexual abuse is highly influenced by age of respondent; from those three different age groups of old age young odds are more abused, then old-old and oldest-old are the secondly and thirdly abused respectively by rank order.

Previous studies indicate that a significant relationship occur between age and abuse (Soneja, 2001; Tsukada, Saito, & Tataru, 2001; Jamuna, 2003; Iborra, 2009). Kosberg (1988) discovered that the older the person is, the higher the risk of abusive and the study Biggs et al. (2009) confirmed a high prevalence of abuse among the older age group.

Marital status may also be an influence elder abuse with widows/widowers suffering more cases of abuse, than their married counterparts. Madhurima (2008) observed that elderly widows are often denied access to or control over resources since women's inheritance rights are poorly established. Biggs et al. (2009) also found that overall abuse varied by marital status.

Income level of the elderly has been establishing to influence some elderly persons to abuse. A study by Biggs et al. (2009) establish that socioeconomic situation was connected to maltreatment, and Dong et al. (2007) in a study in China also supported that lower income was related with elder abuse. However, Acierno et al.

(2009) found that lower income was predictive of physical and sexual mistreatment and neglect, but that income was not predictive of emotional abuse.

### **Conclusions**

This study concludes that there is high prevalence of elders' abuse in Kellem Wollega Zone among retiree people. Although elder abuse is common among men and women, it is more prevalent among women. The most common types of elder abuse are psychological abuse which covers (29%), economical abuse covers (16.53), and social types of elders abuse that covers (12.36). Although the study has identified some types of elder abuse are highly related with different variables, economical type of elders' abuse is influenced by monthly income, psychological abuse is highly influenced by marital status of the respondents, and sexual abuse is highly influenced by age of respondent; from those three different age groups of old age young odds are more abused, then old-old and oldest-old are the secondly and thirdly abused respectively by rank order. Besides this, among presented option of coping strategy categories seeking for social support is the most frequently used followed by distancing and accepting responsibilities among elders particularly retiree people.

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