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Exploring the Challenges of Marriage among Persons with Disabilities in Wegera Wereda, Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia

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**BAHIR DAR UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL NEEDS AND INCLUSIVE
EDUCATION**

**Exploring the challenges of marriage among persons with
disabilities in Wegera Wereda, Central Gondar Zone, Ethiopia**

By: Tsedalu Muhabaw

Advisor: Dr. Bitew Atnaf (Assistant Professor)

June, 2023

BAHIR DAR, ETHIOPIA

BAHIR DAR UNIVERSITY
College of Education and Behavioral Sciences
Department of Special Needs and Inclusive Education

**Exploring the Challenges of Marriage among Persons with Disabilities in
Wegera Wereda, Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia**

By: Tsedalu Muhabaw

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Special Needs and Inclusive Education,
College of Education at BahirDar University, In Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts in Special Needs and Inclusive
Education

Advisor: Dr. Bitew Atnaf (Assistant Professor)

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June, 2023

Declaration

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “*Exploring the challenges of Marriage among Persons with disabilities in Wegera Wereda, Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia*” submitted in Partial fulfillment of the requirement for degree of Masters of Arts in Special needs and Inclusive Education of Departments of Special Needs and Inclusive Education, Bahir Dar University, is a record of original work carried out by me and has never been submitted to this or any other institution to get any other degree or certificates. The assistance and help I received during the course of this investigation have been duly acknowledged.

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Bahir Dar University
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Approval of Thesis for Defense

I hereby certify that I have supervised, read, and evaluated this thesis titled “*Exploring the Challenges of Marriage among Persons With Disabilities in Wegera Wereda, Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia*” by Tsedalu Muhabaw prepared under my guidance. I recommend the thesis be submitted for oral defense.

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Department Head Signature Date

Bahir Dar University

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Approval of thesis for defense result

As members of the board of examiners; we examined this thesis entitled “*Exploring the Challenges of Marriage among Persons With Disabilities in Wegera Wereda, Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia*” by Tsedalu Muhabaw. We hereby certify that the thesis is accepted for fulfilling the requirements for the award of the degree of “Masters of Art in Special Needs and Inclusive Education”.

Board of Examiners

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Chairperson Name

Signature

Date

DEDICATION

The paper is dedicated to my Father Muhabaw Tizazu and my mother Alemtsehay Molla.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSA	Central Statically Agency
ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
MOLSA	Ministry Of Labor and Social Affair
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
PWID	Person with intellectual disability
PWL&CD	Person with Language and communication disorder
PWHI	Person with hearing impairment
PWPI	Persons with Physical Impairment
PWVI	Persons with Visual Impairments
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nation Children Emergency Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

Abstracts

The main purpose of this study was to explore the challenges of marriage among persons with disabilities in Amhara Regional State, Wegera Wereda. The data was collected from persons with disabilities, their families and care givers through semi structured interview and focus group discussions. Fifteen persons with disabilities and nine family members and caregivers were selected by purposive sampling technique. Hence, as persons with visual impairment and physical impairment meet the criterias of the researcher that those are aged to marry, eight persons with visual impairment and seven persons with physical impairment were selected. The collected data were analyzed by using thematic analysis techniques. In doing so, procedures including organizing, reading the transcribed data, coding, developing themes, representing and reporting themes, and finally interpreting meanings of findings were practiced. The findings of the study reveal that persons with disabilities face varieties of problems when they want to marry. Accordingly, economical, attitudinal, environmental and educational challenges were major challenges for persons with disabilities. In addition, the data shows that females were more challenged than males with disabilities because of poor expectation of communities and having high responsibilities of child rearing and other responsibilities at home. In order to overcome marriage related challenges, those persons with disabilities practiced their coping mechanism like building good relationships with societies, accepting diversity and asking for support from families and others as any human beings seeks such support. The study finding implicates that community's misunderstanding and low expectation towards persons with disabilities affects their participation in marriage. Therefore, the stake holders like social affairs and others such as experts in persons with special needs should give awareness raising trainings for communities and those persons with disabilities for the purpose of creating social inclusion and eliminating challenges to marriage of persons with disabilities.

Key words: Challenges, Marriage, Persons with Disabilities

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

There are an estimated over one billion people live with some form of disability in the world, corresponding to about 15 percent of the world population (WHO, 2020). Among them, 80 percent of people with disabilities live in low and middle-income countries. People with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, and sensory impairments which in the interaction of various barriers that may hinder their participation in the societies on an equal basis with others (UN, 2008; WHO, 2011). In many cases, people with disabilities are not accessing appropriate legal services and support due to organizational barriers and the limited understanding of disability issues and individual needs (Kidus & Bereket, 2016). In the social culture, there is discrimination against persons with disabilities, and there are unfavorable factors for those people to be actively involved in the society. In particular, there is serious discrimination in the process of the marriage of persons with disabilities (Ning, Xiaofeng & Xiaojie G, 2020).

From a health perspective, research links marriage to improved physical and mental health, lower levels of risky sexual behavior, lower levels of substance abuse and reduced morbidity and mortality (Ross, Mirowsky, Goldstein, 1990; Waite, 1995). Single people in comparison to married people report more health problems, poor overall health, higher psychological distress and a shorter life span (Kalmijn, 2017; Robles, 2014). If persons with disabilities remain single, this could mean that they will not enjoy some of the benefits associated with marriage or cohabitation (Ross, 1990; Waite, 1995).

Furthermore, several studies indicate that cohabitation and marriage offer economic advantages such as the ability to accumulate wealth quickly (Ross et al., 1990; Waite, 1995). Some studies

report that being single is associated with delays in establishing independent living, a successful career and having children (Savage & McConnell, 2016; Scott-Marshall, Tompa, Liao, & Fang, 2013). Since partnership is associated with social, psychological, health and economic advantages, it is important to understand the opportunities for partnership formation as this would enhance broad social access to the benefits associated to partnership.

Disability limits the functional status of a spouse and therefore, there is the need for non-disabled partner as well as the entire family to increase support substantially (Rolland, 2005). This support is always lacking because it may demand additional responsibilities on the non-disabled partner leading to work overload. In traditional families where the role of a husband and wife is central in every marriage, the husband serves as a bread winner of the family and the wife is to nurture and care for the family needs. Managing the day to day activities especially for those who acquire their disability after marriage might be confusing especially on how to manage their disabilities and marital issues. This can be very challenging and stressful for couples to fully accept and understand each other and can lead to lack of control over one's life and choices (Acheampongetal. 2018).

Li Rongshi (1990) noted that the marriage problem of persons with disability was relatively serious in China, and there were a large number of unmarried persons with disabilities. In particular, persons with intellectual disability were more difficult to get married, and females were less likely to get married than male ones .Also, Xie Tao (2014); Yu Daoqing (2018) pointed out that persons with disabilities who participated in employment were more likely to get married than unemployed persons with disability. The probability of marriage between high-income families and high-income families is low; The higher the disability level, the lower the life activity ability, the less likely to get married; People with urban household registration are more likely to get

married than people with rural household registration. The more educated they are, the more likely they are to get married (Adhikari, 2020).

The distant desire to marry often remains a dream for many PWDs on account of the PWDs on account of the misconceptions like inability to fulfill the responsibilities associated with the married life including copulation (Adhikari, 2020). This is particularly true for the females than the males with disabilities who are often considered “misfit” and much below the standards of the marriage market. In addition, the persons with disabilities lack the skills and training to attain financial sufficiency which is another hurdle in finding a suitable match. Persons with disabilities also face big question mark with respect to their child-bearing and child-rearing abilities. It is believed that the persons with disabilities have limited parenting abilities and children of such parents are forced to attend to their parents with disability i.e. instead of parenting their children, they are being parentified. In such a scenario, there is an urgent need sensitize people about PWDs and their need for marriage.

The challenges that encounter among persons with disabilities in marriage and love are more complex in various aspects. The demographic characteristics, economic status, physiological status, psychological status, social environment and other factors of persons with disability have more or less impact on their marriage and love (Ning et al., 2020). In terms of love and marriage, the persons with disability think that the biggest difficulty they face is their physical defects, which cause their mobility problems and low self-esteem.

In addition to marriage difficulty, they have high divorce rate, high widowhood rate and the late first marriage time (Ning et al., 2020). They also noted that their different physical defects like mobility problems and limited circle of friends also results marriage difficulty. In addition to

physiological defects, they suffer more or less discrimination in society, which makes it more difficult for them to get married. It can be said that the physical defects of people with disability make the unmarried rate high. Also those scholars investigation found that the different attitudes of persons with disability towards the marriage form and marriage itself also affect the disabled's mate choice and marriage status. It seems that persons with disability are not so active in solving personal marriage problems.

Further studies indicate that, the functional status of an individual is a major factor influencing relationships (Sandhu, Kemp, Ball, Burgess & Perkins, 2013). In the case of marital relationships, when a spouse's functional capacity becomes limited due to a disability the need for a non-disable partner's support may increase substantially. This increase in support could further cause a lack of reciprocity among the married partners (Yorgason, Booth & Johnson, 2008). This lack of reciprocity could also manifest into several other unique challenges depending on the type and severity of the disability as different types of disabilities may demand different types and levels of changes and adjustments (Braithwaite & Thompson, 2000).

Also, there are various factors that affecting marriage besides the type and level of disability such as gender differences (Abou-Gareeb, Lewallen, Bassett & Courtright, 2001), cultural beliefs (Cowen, Underberg & Verrillo, 1958), religious beliefs (Clapton, 1997; Rose, 1997), and societal discrimination and stereotyping (Duckett & Pratt, 2001). However, marriage is one of the most significant aspects of an individual's life has been largely overlooked in the disability literature. Very negligible and piecemeal information is available on how disability translates into the afflicted individual's married life and how the partners cope with it as a couple. Therefore, the researcher would attempt to understand the challenges of marriage among persons with disabilities in Wegera Woreda, Central Gondar Zone.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Marriage is one of the most important as well as most awaited events in an individual's life and it still remains a highly valued goal for most people. As noted by Stevenson and Wolfers (2007), marriage maintains a central role in American life as compared to other countries. However, it's a very complex and delicate relationship that builds on factors such as trust, commitment, mutual understanding and compatibility between partners. Moreover, certain challenges are bound to happen. Particularly, stigmatization and discrimination against people with disabilities in general which affect their participation in society usually practiced by non-disabled peoples. Also, they were concerned about the undesirable comments they receive from community members, family members and friends. This has resulted in labeling, insults, mockery and name calling. This may influence their lives negatively by limiting and making their participation in the society more difficult. The negative attitude, perception, cultural beliefs and traditions about the causes of disability hinder people with disabilities seeking and maintaining relationships (Acheamponget al. 2018). It shows that people with disabilities are restricted from making decisions related to their lives.

In most countries, the cultural beliefs and myths have limited the marriage opportunities for people with disabilities. People with disabilities are perceived as less eligible marriage partners. In view of this, most of them who are into marriage relationships are treated as housekeepers or object of amusement as a result of unwanted or imposed marriages (Salam and Susa, 2014). This often puts people with disabilities in constant pains, anxiety, depression and suffering which affect their physical, mental and emotional well-being (Salam and Susa, 2014). For example in Ghana's traditions, religion, cultural beliefs and myths of the societies, affect the full participation of people with disabilities leading to their isolation in the society. They have limited chances of getting

married as many families reject them because they are perceived to be asexual and unproductive (Mensah, 2008).

Likewise, in Ethiopia such kinds of undesirable practice and negative attitudes towards people with disability are forwarded. This results persons with disabilities are restricted their participation from societal norms, customs and different traditions including marriage. However, little researches have been done in this regard; still the challenges of marriage are facing on persons with disability that I have observed in my living environment. To say this, from my living environment of wegera woreda, there are adults with disabilities who are living with their parents and as single even if they are aged or full grown to marry. Also, some people with disabilities are divorced and living separately after three or two years of their marriage and even after they have one or two children. After that, not only those persons with disabilities but also their children also exposed to different risk factors. As a result, those people are participating in beggaring and other undesirable life situations. Therefore, this study would conduct to ascertain the challenges of persons with disability encounter in their marriage.

However, this title is not well researched in Ethiopian context; the researcher would fill Geographical, conceptual and methodological gaps. Historical evidence indicates that persons with disabilities have a limited chance of entering into marriage compared to persons without disabilities (Haage, Vikström, & Häggström Lundevaller, 2017). Recent studies show that disability affects partnership formation by creating limitations for social interaction, restrict access to potential partners (Rapegno & Ravaud, 2017; Sundar, Brucker, Pollack, & Chang, 2016). Moreover, persons with disabilities report a high prevalence of neighborhood socio-economic disadvantage (Danielewicz, Dos Anjos, Bastos, Boing, & Boing, 2017) and poor socio-economic

status on an individual level (Beckman, Hakansson, Rastam, Lithman, & Merlo, 2006). These factors can limit the likelihood of partnership formation in this population.

The study is the first for the study area that the issue is not researched previously. Hence, the researcher touched this sensitive issue and investigate solutions to overcome such challenges on persons with disabilities. Conceptually, the current study would attempt both in the encounter challenges in marriage and coping mechanisms while other previous studies out of Ethiopian didn't address. Methodologically, the current study was hermeneutic phenomenological study that concerns detail challenge experience and coping mechanisms among persons with disabilities. Also, the study used in-depth interview within the supportive of focus group discussions to highly understand their experiences. To do so, this study would attempts to address the previous research gap by investigating challenges of marriage among persons with disability in Wegera Woreda, Central Gondar Zone.

Based on the above mentioned problems, this study was answering the following research questions:

1. What challenges do face on persons with disabilities to marry and lead their marriage?
2. How does the sex difference aggravate the challenges of marriage among persons with disabilities?
3. What kinds of copying strategies do have among persons with disabilities to alleviate challenges in marriage?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

1.3.1. General objective

The objective of this research is exploring the challenges of marriage among persons with disabilities in wegera woreda, Central Gondar Zone.

1.3.2. Specific objectives

1. To identify challenges on persons with disabilities to marry and lead marriage.
2. To understand challenge aggravation differences in marriage between males and females with disabilities.
3. To investigate coping strategies among persons with disabilities to alleviate challenges in marriage.

1.4. Significances of the study

The study would be focus on exploring the challenges of marriage on persons with disabilities in wegera woreda, Central Gondar Zone. As such this, the study will have much significance for persons with disability as it concerns on challenges and notify challenge overcoming experiences and strategies. Besides detail exploring such challenges, it addresses the issues reality for communities that will help to avoid misconception towards disability. And again, the study will have contributions to build independent life for persons with disabilities. Also, it will minimize challenges and crate comfortable life situations for persons with disabilities by improving attitudes of communities, and removing social and physical. In addition, the study will support persons with disability to have self-confidence and self-value. At community level, as they are a member of community they will have chances to participate any social activities and they will gate opportunities to help communities and help by their community members. Generally the study will

be develop social inclusion and minimize discrimination in many aspects of life among persons with disabilities.

1.5. Delimitation of the Study

The study was conducted in Amhara regional state, Central Gondar Zone in Wegera Woreda. It focused on Challenges of marriage among persons with disabilities. Methodologically, the study was delimited in heremunitic phenomenological research design and qualitative approach as the researcher aims to explore the lived experiences of persons with disability in marriage and to marry. To do so, twenty four participants were included those who have physical and visual impairments. Therefore, this study conceptually addressed: what challenges those persons with disability faced in marriage and to marry, understanding challenges that aggravate differences among males and females with disability in marriage and what kinds of coping mechanisms were practiced to alleviate or reduce their challenges in marriage.

1.6. Definitions of Terms

Challenge: The problem that face on persons with disabilities in marriage due to the case of having disability.

Marriage: It is a relationship between man and women and that is regulated by laws, rules, customs, beliefs and traditions of societies.

Disability: a physical or mental condition that limits a persons movements,senses, or activities.

Persons with disability: a person who has any form of impairment and has limitations to perform tasks which is considered as normal in age, sex and other circumstances.

CHAPTER TWO

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1. Introduction

Under this part of the chapter, the researcher reviewed related literatures which have direct relevance for this particular study. Accordingly, this chapter contains the concept of disability, disability in Ethiopia, the prevalence of disability in Ethiopia, the nature of marriage and persons with disabilities, Evidence about disability and sexuality, the factors that affecting persons with disability in marriage, the rights of persons with disabilities in marriage, Coping strategies of persons with disability in marriage were presented.

2.2. The Concept of Disability

Disability is the outcome of complex interactions between health conditions and features of an individual's physical, social, and attitudinal environment that hinder their full and effective participation in society (International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF, 2001); & the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD, 2006). Traditionally, people with disabilities have been viewed through a medical lens. As a result, disability has been narrowly equated with an individual's health status, impairment, or capacity limitation. This view fails to address the social factors, discrimination, prejudice, and inaccessibility, which prevent full participation and contribute to the overall disability experience. Disability is a social issue and by addressing these barriers, society can provide individuals with disabilities the opportunity to exercise their rights on an equal basis with all others. Removing barriers is not a matter of goodwill or charity, but of human rights. Hence, People with disabilities have the same human rights as everyone else, but these rights have not historically been respected. Instead, they have often been denied the right to education and work, to marry and raise a family,

to participate in community life, to choose to what extent they will use available health-care services, and indeed the right to life itself (Groce, 2009).

2.3. Disability in Ethiopia

Based on the world report on disability with the collaboration of World Bank and world health organization, using survey data from 2015, nearly 7.8 million people in Ethiopia are estimate to live with some form of disability, or 9.3 percent of the country's total population. In addition, 84% disability lives in rural areas where access to basic services there for has limited access to basic services. For instance, the rehabilitation services in the country also limited and focused on only the urban community.

According to Ministry Of Labor and Social Affair (MOLSA), In Ethiopia, 95 percent of disabilities are estimate to live below poverty line. Many of them are dependent on their family support and begging for their livelihoods. Also others conducted research indicates that 55 % of disability participant depend on family, neighbors and friends for their living, whereas the rest generate insufficient income through self-employment, begging and by providing house made services (2019).

2.4. Prevalence of Disability in Ethiopia

According to United Nation Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF), MOLSA and Development Pathways (2019), up to 2.2 million people (2.4 percent) have very profound difficulties. The estimated number of people with severe disabilities in Addis Ababa is around 47,000 and 324,000 in other urban areas of the country. There is a higher risk of disability at older ages. The prevalence of severe disability is around 1 percent among children under 18 and increases to 13 percent among people aged 60 years and above. However, child disability is likely to be under-reported because it is more difficult to measure than disability among adults, and surveys in Ethiopia have not yet

included specific modules on child functioning. In absolute terms, around 30 percent of all disabled people are children and youth under the age of 25.

2.5. The nature of marriage and persons with disability

Marriage is one of the oldest human ties, which has always given satisfaction for people and character development, leading them to choose it at least once in their lives. The importance of marriage cannot be underestimated as it provides social, economic and emotional benefits to partners (Abed et al, 2015). Marriage is expected to promote physical well-being due to a greater availability of emotional, social support and control which are key processes to meaning and purpose in life (Choi and Marks, 2008). Married couples enjoy several benefits with notable ones such as having fewer acute illness; fewer fatal injuries; reduce depression; lower rate of psychological distress, and morbidity risk; lower rate of suicide; better mental and physical health; better chance of living longer; better sex life; and better health and happier life (Liu & Reczek, 2012; Bhoomika, 2014; Warner & Adams, 2015). Other studies have found that, division of Labour, sharing of house chores and effective communication among couples are strongly associated with quality and successful marital satisfaction (Wendy et al, 2015; Yue and Sayer, 2016).

For many years ago, discouraging persons with disabilities from marrying and from being marriage partners has a long-standing history in the world. The eugenics movement reinforced and legitimized false cultural beliefs that led to persons with disability being relegated to the outside of most personal relationships. Further studies conducted by Wells, Hogan, and Sandefur (2003) finds that young women with disabilities are more likely than those without disabilities to form families of their own at a relatively young age, while a latent class analysis by Janus (2009) suggests that having a disabling condition makes individuals less likely to be “married with

children” compared to being in a dependent class marked by not being in school, being unmarried, and not living independently at the age of twenty-six. Moreover, other research has found that adults with disabilities are more likely to be single (Nosek et al. 2001; Taleporos & McCabe 2003; U.S. Census Bureau, 1997), yet such work also presents only a limited insight into the phenomenon. For example, it is possible those individuals with disabilities marry later than those without disabilities or that they are less likely ever to marry.

Individuals with disabilities are often perceived as asexual (Milligan & Neufeldt 2001; Zola 1982). This perception could clearly serve to limit access to potential intimate partners. Other scholars argue that social isolation may play a role; for example, individuals with physical disabilities might be limited in their ability to enter into social spaces where they might meet potential partners due to physical barriers such as staircases (Shakespeare, Gillespie-Sells, and Davies 1996). Further, we might expect a lower hazard of entry into marriage for those with disabilities if we take a life-course perspective. Entry into marriage is one of many transitions into adulthood. While there is considerable variability, a normative ordering of events can be identified: Individuals typically enter into marriage subsequent to making other transitions—in particular, finishing school and holding a job (Hogan 1978; Marini 1984). Insofar as having a disability might limit or slow one’s ability to make these other transitions, we might anticipate a related decrease in the hazard of entry into a first marriage.

According to Nosek et al. (2001) report on the National Study of Women with Physical Disabilities found that 58 percent of the women with physical disabilities in their sample were single compared to 45 percent of women without disabilities. Also, Taleporos and McCabe (2003) found lower rates of marriage among men and women with physical disabilities compared to their peers without disabilities and that among those with disabilities, individuals with more severe

disabilities were less likely to be married than those with less severe disabilities. Likewise, a Census Bureau report (1997) based on data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation indicates that individuals with disabilities are more likely to be single than are their peers who do not experience disabling conditions.

2.6. Evidence about disability and sexuality

Discussions of disability and sexuality almost always highlight the prevailing attitude that disabled people are asexual. This is part of the ludicrous but long-standing prejudice that impairments are incompatible with sexual desire and sexual activity. Negative attitudes are a major part of the problem which disabled people face when they wish to become sexually active or wish to become parents. However, despite the strength of what some people describe as a taboo, it is hard to say that disabled people are desexualized, when there is widespread evidence that disabled people are having sex in great numbers. For example, empirical studies show that young people with disabilities are sexually active in similar ways to people without disabilities (Brunnberg et al 2009). In fact, large Swedish studies report an earlier age of sexual debut for adolescents with modest disabilities than their nondisabled peers: 57% of girls with disabilities, as opposed to 43% of nondisabled girls had had sex, and 39% of disabled boys, versus 37% of nondisabled boys (2007 study of 15-16 year old participants in mainstream education, n=2839): it was even higher for girls (60%) and boys (50%) with two or more disabilities (Brunnberg et al 2009).

2.7. The Factors that affecting persons with disability in Marriage

There are various factors that affecting persons with disabilities in marriage and love. The demographic characteristics, economic status, physiological status, psychological status, social environment, educational level, societal attitudes and other factors of persons with disability have

more or less impact on their marriage and love (Ning, Xiaofeng & Xiaojie, 2020). They think that they face biggest difficulty in their physical defects, which cause their mobility problems and low self-esteem.

2.7.1. Economic Factors

As a vulnerable group, most persons with disabilities have low income, low employment rate and unstable job, so they need to spend a lot of money for rehabilitation training and treatment. What's more, most of the disabled spouses are also low-income people, and thus the economic strength of the whole family is weak. "Hard up" is still a word that goes hand in hand with many persons with disability. Many ordinary people develop disabilities later in life often because they did not receive timely medical treatment when they fell ill at a young age due to poor financial conditions. As an adult, it is inevitable that due to a physical disability, one can barely find a job and get a high salary. However, even for persons with disability who are not well off in life, their parents and families or young person's themselves still want them to start a family. They need, so to speak, no less for emotional gain than they need for the basics of life. However, in the case of long-term unemployment or low wages, they cannot well bear the responsibility and economic pressure brought by starting a family, and therefore they lack confidence in themselves and dare not have the illusion of getting married and having a family. Therefore, the first step for the persons with disability to start a family is to get employed. Otherwise, they can't bring income to the family and can't guarantee the basic life after they get married.

2.7.2. Having a Spouse in Poor Health

Some disabled persons have spouses who are disabled, which makes their family life more difficult. Some practical examples show that parents with both disabilities also at high risk of having children with disabilities, and these families may not be able to keep a close eye on their

children's health due to financial difficulties, physical constraints, mental problems and other reasons. Sometimes, the type of disability affects the marital status of people with disabilities. Among them, the physical disabled are more likely to solve personal love and marriage problems than other disabled people, while the groups with intellectual disabilities face the most serious love and marriage problems. Those persons with intellectual disability are not only unable to have good communication, but also have unstable job. This type of the majority of people with disabilities is live on family support or government support. In addition, many of these disabled people are born with a disability; their offspring have a much higher rate of disability than other disability types. It makes persons with intellectual disability at a serious disadvantage in the mating market position, and they face the most serious marriage problems.

2.7.3. Educational level

According to the dynamic update data of persons with disability in Shandong province in 2018, the number of married persons with disability in Shandong province shows an “inverted U-shaped” change with the improvement of education level, while the number of unmarried disabled people shows a “positive U-shaped” change. Uneducated persons with disability have the lowest marriage rate compared to other disabled people. As education levels rise, the proportion of persons with disability getting married increases. It indicates that education level affects marriage to a certain extent and the higher education level is, the higher the married rate will be. It is not difficult to explain this phenomenon. A person’s education level can be used as an important indicator to measure his family background, whether he can gain an advantage in the labor market competition and whether he can form a good marriage and family .At present, in many studies, education level has become an indispensable variable in the population factor. Today, with the gradual improvement of economic development level, the demand of the country for high-quality talents

is increasing. Higher education basically equals a good job. With the continuous improvement of education level, people's labor level and economic ability are also enhanced, which makes the disabled with education level in high school and technical secondary school have the ability to earn a certain amount of income, increasing their advantages in choosing a spouse and making it easier to set up a family. In addition, this phenomenon is also a feature of marriage matching.

2.7.4. Poor Relationship and Limited ways to meet Their Spouse

People with disabilities believe that there are limited ways to get to know their spouses. Most of the ways for people with disabilities to get to know their spouses are introduced by their relatives and friends. Due to physical reasons and social prejudice, few people participate in matchmaking activities, and matchmaking agencies are also reluctant to accept persons with disabilities. Limited social activities are one of the main obstacles to a marriage. They also still rely on informal support from parents, relatives and friends to solve their love and marriage problems. Although now relevant government departments and public welfare folk organizations in promoting the disabled dating are seeking solutions to organize activities of various dating, but due to the lack of access to information resources, only a small number of persons with disability actually participate in social welfare organizations or participate in the government's blind date activities. Only relying on the help of their parents and friends, the circle of friends is limited.

2.8. The rights of persons with disability in Marriage

The convention on the rights of persons with disability CRPD (2006) states the following legality among persons with disability in marriage and family formation.

Article 23 – Respect for home and the family

1. States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities in all matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, on an equal basis with others, so as to ensure that:

a) The right of all persons with disabilities who are of marriageable age to marry and to found a family on the basis of free and full consent of the intending spouses is recognized;

b) The rights of persons with disabilities to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to age-appropriate information, reproductive and family planning education are recognized, and the means necessary to enable them to exercise these rights are provided;

c) Persons with disabilities, including children, retain their fertility on an equal basis with others.

2. States Parties shall ensure the rights and responsibilities of persons with disabilities, with regard to guardianship, ward ship, trusteeship, adoption of children or similar institutions, where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the best interests of the child shall be paramount. States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to persons with disabilities in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities.

3. States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have equal rights with respect to family life. With a view to realizing these rights, and to prevent concealment, abandonment, neglect and segregation of children with disabilities, States Parties shall undertake to provide early and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families.

4. States Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with

applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child. In no case shall a child be separated from parents on the basis of a disability of either the child or one or both of the parents.

5. States Parties shall, where the immediate family is unable to care for a child with disabilities, undertake every effort to provide alternative care within the wider family, and failing that, within the community in a family setting. Even if there are many legal documents which supports and recognizes the rights of participation in every social aspects, still persons with disability are discriminated and have low perceptions about their marriage and family formation by societies.

2. 9. Coping strategies of persons with disabilities for Marriage

Learning to live with a disability can be a significant transition, and many individuals struggle with the complex challenge of examining how the disability will affect who they are and what their role is in society (Marini, Glover-Graf & Millington, 2012; Smart, 2009). Some individuals learn to cope with restrictions to major life activities within a relatively short amount of time, while others require more time to adjust (Marini et al., 2012; Stuntzner, 2014; Stuntzner & Hartley, 2014). Coping with and adjustment to disability is an individualized process and two people with very similar disabilities are capable of very different outcomes and coping processes (Livneh, 1986). The high prevalence of disability challenges both individuals as they work to adapt to their disabilities, as well as helping professionals as to promote healthy responses for disability (Maki & Tarvydas, 2012). A resilience framework is one approach to assist individuals with disabilities and professionals working with them to cope with disability.

According to Barry S et al. (1991) studies reported that coping strategies of wives with TBI is first on the supports provided by their families, in particular her husband's. Second on their list was the

support they received from others with the same TBI problems. They referred specifically to the guidance they received from members of their association at support group meetings. The use of various memory and organizational aids was ranked third by wives with TBI. Participants provided a long list of such aids and demonstrated their use during the group discussions. The fourth strategy for coping described by wives with TBI was becoming assertive with family members, including their husbands and in-laws. These women also identified rehabilitation programs (broadly defined as any professional activity designed to help them overcome their limitations) as important in helping them sustain hope. Also voted as an important coping strategy was finding spiritual strength, and some of the women described their religious faith as a source of inner strength. Similarly, her husband with traumatic brain injury has coping strategies that were respectively, being included in family decisions and trying to understand the concerns of other family members. The men said that this helped them feel more like they were fulfilling their original family role. Voted third by the men was involvement in productive activities outside the home, especially volunteer work in local community service programs. Another important coping strategy was developing a realistic appraisal of limitations; something the husbands said was achieved only with the help of close family members. The husbands with TBI ranked the use of memory aids fifth and described their importance and use in the same manner as the wives above (Barry S et al., 1991).

Further, Flokman & Lazarus (1980), coping strategies refers to the specific effort of both behavioral and psychological, that people employ to master tolerate, reduce or minimize stressful events. Two general coping strategies distinguished; problem focused strategies are efforts to do something active to alleviate stressful situation. Whereas emotion focused involves efforts to regulate the emotional consequences of potentially stressful events. Coping strategies are significantly associated with well-being. Active coping, denial, use of emotional support, humor,

religion, and self-blame were associated with participants' well-being. Expectedly, participants who had high ratings on active coping, use of emotional support, humor, religion, and low ratings on self-blame were found to have high ratings on well-being. However, denial was found to be associated with high well-being scores in this study (Umucu & Lee, 2020).

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Research Approaches

The study would be exploring challenges of persons with disability in marriage. It focused on what experiences do have during marriage and to marry. Accordingly the study was take qualitative research methods as the researcher aims to explore and makes a detail understanding about the life situations of persons with disability in wegera woreda. Similarly, Creswel (2007) noted that applying qualitative research approach is essential when researcher needs to study a group of population to identify variables that can then be explored, or hear silenced voices. Therefore, it is appropriately important to interpret the experiences of persons with disabilities in wegera woreda.

3.2. Research Design

A research design is the “procedures for collecting, analyzing, interpreting and reporting data in research studies” (Creswell & Plano Clark 2007, p.58). It is the overall plan for connecting the conceptual research problems with the pertinent (and achievable) empirical research. In other words, the research design sets the procedure on the required data, the methods to be applied to collect and analyze this data, and how all of this is going to answer the research question (Grey, 2014). Hence, the study aims to understand and interpret challenges in marriage and their coping mechanisms, hermeneutic phenomenological research design which is appropriate for this study purpose. This design departs from ‘simply raising awareness about a phenomenon’ through simple description in favor of wanting to ‘attain a broader and deeper understanding’ of what the phenomenon means to those who experience it in their own social-cultural contexts and realities, including how the experience alters their entire being (McConnell-Henry et al., 2009). As the research design is a guideline of the research which constitutes the collection, understanding and

analysis of data (Kothari, 2004), the researcher used this research design and interpret the life experiences in marriage among persons with disabilities.

3.3. Research Site

The study would be conduct in Wegera which is found in Amhara Region, Ethiopia. Wegera was later made part of the province of Semen. Part of the Semen Gondar Zone, Wegera is bordered on the south by Mirab Belessa, on the southwest by Gondar Zuria, on the west by Lay Armachiho, on the northwest by Tach Armachiho, on the north by Dabat, on the northeast by Jan Amora, and on the southeast by Misraq Belessa.

According to the data of CSA (2007) Wegera Wereda has a total population of 220,566, an increase of 20.14% over the 1994 census, of whom 112,445 are men and 108,121 women; 18,664 or 8.46% are urban inhabitants. With an area of 1,851.52 square kilometers, Wegera has a population density of 119.13, which is greater than the Zone average of 63.76 persons per square kilometer. A total of 46,731 households were counted in this woreda, resulting in an average of 4.72 persons to a household, and 45,394 housing units. From the total population there are 310 persons with disability. Among this, 166 were males and the remaining 144 were females with disability. For this study purpose, caregivers or families and the aged or matured to marry or those who live in marriage were selected as participant.

3.4. Population, Sample and Sampling Techniques

3.4.1. Population

The population of the study included persons with physical and visual impairment and aged to marry, married, and their caregivers who are living in Wegera Woreda both in rural and urban areas. Hence, the study focused on challenges of marriage among persons with disabilities; there

were the reason for including caregivers that used to triangulate the data gained from persons with disabilities and those caregivers or parents. In this regard, the populations of the study area include 520 in number. Among this 310 were persons with disabilities and others (210) were caregivers or parents. From this total number of persons with disabilities, 166 were males and the other remaining (144) are females with disabilities.

3.4.2. Sample and Sampling Techniques

For this study, I selected 24 participants by using criterion purposive sampling techniques. From the total population of 520 person with disabilities are different kinds of disabilities. These kinds of disability are physical impairments 110, visual impairments 90, hearing impairments 55, language and communication disorder 35 and intellectual disability 20, But the most were not aged to marry. Therefore the researcher selects participants who were meet the criterias. From 24 participants 15 were persons with disabilities and others were their caregivers or families. The most prominent criterion was the participant's experience with the phenomenon under study; however the researcher look for participants who have shared an experience, but vary in characteristics and in their individual experiences (Moser and Korstjens, 2018). Therefore, the researcher predetermined criteria that consider aged to marry but not get chances to marry and or they are divorced, but not include children. Also, Caregivers and parents were selected based on those who had such children or family for the purpose of sharing experience what they observed as a family member.

3.5. Data Gathering instrument

The study utilized semi structured interview and focus group discussions to collect data from the participants.

3.5.1. Interview Guide

Semi structured interview guiding questions were developed by considering the contents of three specific objectives of the study. Therefore, 30 interview guiding question were prepare and I had raise other questions during interview time. From these 30 guiding questions, 20 were for persons with disabilities and others were for caregivers. To develop interview guiding questions, the study had taken related sources regarding the nature of marriageand disability, disability related challenges and copying mechanism experiences among persons with disability.

3.5.2. Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussions were the second data collection instrument for this research study purpose. Hence, I had developed three FGD questions which address the all objectives of the research. Likewise interview guiding question, FGD questions were guided by related sources.

3.6. Data Collection Procedure

I had followed the steps prior to data collection process. Therefore, Firstly the researcher ask consent letters from BahirDar University, department of special needs and inclusive education. After getting the letter, the researcher had communicated and ask permissions from woreda coordinators and participants including their families. Then the study had identify and purposefully selects participants by using predetermined criteria that help to understand the real problem and get relevant data for the study (Creswell, 2014). In doing so, I had conduct interviews which take time from 50 minutes to 1 hour for each interviewee even there were adjusted extra time until I got saturated data. During the interview time, I had taken notes and records. Also, I had taken cares about the culture of a place and participants. Additionally, I had two and more main roles both as a facilitator and note taker at interview session by rising semi structured questions. In this procedure, I used amaric language to ask and write the data and then translated to English language

to analysis such collected data. Finally, I give codes and crates group themes that would have similar responses. Come up with this, the data analysis was continuing.

3.7. Data Analysis Techniques

The study aims to explore challenges of marriage on persons with disabilities. Hence, it was followed qualitative research approaches. To do so, the researcher utilized thematic data analysis technique which data would be collect through semi structured interview and focus group discussion. In line with this, I had emerged themes which have similar concepts and it is more appropriate to analysis. Also, Creswell (2013) noted that researchers should “Develop a list of significant statements” as a foundation to understanding the phenomenon (p. 193). These statements can come from interviews and other relevant research sources that speak to the experience that’s being studied, and that researchers should “treat each statement as having equal worth, and works to develop a list of non-repetitive non-overlapping statements” (p. 193). For instance, the study was utilized this thematic data analysis technique that the researcher categorized and form themes among varieties of data that have common character as it uses to get meaningful relationships of each theme. In addition, I had analyzes and interprets, and triangulates data ware collect from respondents.

3.8. Trustworthiness

In qualitative research, trustworthiness is the degree of confidence in data, interpretation, and methods used to ensure the quality of a study (Pilot & Beck, 2014). Hence, confirmation triangulation was employed for this study. Confirmation is the use of two or more data collection instruments and techniques to overcome the bias of using a single-method, single-observer, or single theory approach (Begley, 1996; Shih). Therefore, I had used multiple data collection

instrument like semistructured interview and focus group discussion. In addition, the data were collected from persons with disability and their families to get multiple data for the purpose of triangulation. Then after, these data were triangulated in each theme according to their similar characteristics.

3.9. Ethical Considerations

In this study, ethical issues like access and participation, anonymity, informed consent, confidentiality and researcher-participants relationships would give high value. As it is advisable to obtain permission early, informing the participants about the possible benefits of research would be the mandate. It helps in achieving good will and cooperation. The essence of anonymity was that information would provide by participants should in no way reveal their identity. The researcher was provided letter of consent for all participants included in the study. It helps them to decide whether they take part or not. Additionally, the researcher was used commonly understandable language based on the context of the participants. All key informants were asking to participate voluntarily that they can withdraw at any time regarding inconvenience. And I inform them that do not publish their names, personal addresses and any issues than their opinion and data are not use for any other purposes.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.1. Introduction

This chapter mainly focuses on the data presentation and analysis which the data obtained from participants by using semi-structured interviews and focus group discussion from persons with disabilities who are not get married but aged to marry, divorced and those who are on the way of leading their family in wegera woreda. To do so, the following contents were included in this

section: Demographic information of respondents, challenges in marriage among persons with disabilities, challenge aggravation differences in marriage between males and females with disabilities and coping mechanisms experiences of persons with disabilities to alleviate challenges in marriage. Hence, Data Analysis and presentation had major themes and sub-themes which were derived from research objectives and the collected data from the study participants.

4.2. Demographic Information of participants

4.2.1. Demographic Information of Persons with disabilities

Demographic information of participants has two categories which include persons with disabilities and their families or caregivers. Accordingly, the first categories of demographic information include fifteen persons who have visual and physical impairments as they fulfill the predetermined criteria of sampling. From the participants, 8 participants with visual impairments and 7 persons with physical disabilities were included under the study. The researcher has used codes or pseudo name instead of their real names of the participants as it also unethical in the research rule. Accordingly, all participants were given individual codes like PWD. So this code is also used not only for data collection purposes, it also used in data analysis and presentation as follows. Therefore, PwVI, Persons with visual impairment; PwPI, Persons with physical impairment and also the other VI and PI indicates the types of disability which includes physical impairment and visual impairment.

Table 1: Demographical Information of Persons with disabilities

No	Code	Sex	Age	Martial Status	Educational Level	Types of Disability	Level of Impairment
1	PwVI 1	M	37	Divorced	Grad -7	VI	Blind
2	PwVI 2	M	35	Married	Grad -10	VI	Partial sighted
3	PwVI 3	F	29	Not get married	Illiterate	VI	Blind

4	PwVI 4	F	30	Not get married	Illiterate	VI	Partial sighted
5	PwVI 5	F	34	Married	BA degree	VI	Blind
6	PwVI 6	M	29	Divorced	Grad -8	VI	Blind
7	PwVI 7	M	30	Not get married	Grad - 4	VI	Partial sighted
8	PwVI 8	M	32	Married	Diploma	VI	Blind
9	PwPI 1	F	40	Divorced	Illiterate	PI	Paraplegia or both legs damaged
10	PwPI 2	F	34	Married	Diploma	PI	Monoplegia or one lags damage
11	PwPI 3	M	32	Not get married	Grad -6	PI	Paraplegia or both legs damaged
12	PwPI 4	F	31	Not get married	Level -2	PI	Monoplegia or one lags damage
13	PwPI 5	M	33	Divorced	Level -3	PI	Paraplegia or both legs damaged
14	PwPI 6	F	34	Married	BA Degree	PI	Paraplegia or both legs damaged
15	PwPI 7	M	33	Divorced	Illiterate	PI	Monoplegia or one lags damage

Source: Wegera woreda administration (2015 E.C)

The above table shows all participants of persons with disabilities. From these participants, some of them have sight problem both in totally blindness and low vision and others have physical impairments including paraplegia and Monoplegia. In educational status, and most participants are under the level of certification or they are not completed their education while some are graduated in degree, diploma and TEVT programs.

Table 2: Demographical Information of Families or Caregivers

Here is the demographic information of Families or Caregivers. In this section, nine families who have children's with disabilities and also their children's being divorced, not get married and on the way of leading their marriage were included for the study purpose. Among the participants, six are mothers and the remaining three are fathers. As it is shown in the first category, for

confidentiality purposes, the participants had their own codes like F1, F2...which represents family one, family two and such on. This code is also used by the researcher during data collection time.

No	Code	Sex	Age	Educational Level	Blood relatives/ relationship
1	F1	F	45	Illiterate	Mother
2	F2	F	50	Illiterate	Mother
3	F3	M	57	Illiterate	Father
4	F4	M	55	Adult education certificate	Father
5	F5	F	42	Grade -4	Mother
6	F6	F	50	Illiterate	Mother
7	F7	F	49	Illiterate	Mother
8	F8	F	47	Illiterate	Mother
9	F9	M	55	Adult education certificate	Father

Source: Wegera Woreda Administration (2015 E.C)

4.3. Major Findings and the Analysis of the Research

Table 3: Major Themes and Sub- Themes

The table here under shows the findings of the research both major and sub-research themes emerged from the collected data from participants.

Research Themes		
No	Major Themes	Sub themes

1	Challenges that encounter among persons with disabilities in marriage and to marry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attitudinal Challenges - Economical Challenges - Environmental Challenges - Educational Challenges
2	Challenge difference between males and females with disabilities in marriage and to marry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low expectation by societies - Frustration by themselves in child rearing practices
3	Coping mechanism experiences of persons with disabilities to marry and leading their family on marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Self Advocacy - Accepting differences - Building positive relationship with societies

4.3.1. Theme one: Challenges that Encounter among Persons with Disabilities in Marriage and to Marry

This section includes challenge related issues among persons with disabilities in their life of marriage and to marry. Hence, it mainly concerns on attitudinal, environmental, educational and economic factors and how such factors affect in their lives are included.

4.3.1.1. Attitudinal challenges

An internal or external attitude factor has its own roles and holds tremendous power over our daily lives and overall life situations. To do so, the study finding tries to discuss both societal attitude and, those individuals with disability themselves attitude regarding their marriage and ready to marry. Accordingly, participant's expression discussed as follows.

Most participants expresses that societies have poor understanding and perception towards persons with disabilities in general and have specific negative attitudes in marriage life situations.

PwVI1 said:

Currently I am divorced person because of negative perceptions of my wife's family regarding my sight problem. Usually, they advise my wife to break our marriages and push to want other husbands. They believe that my vision problem is transmitting to our children. So, instead of living together her family's choice is divorce as a solution of their threat.

The above participants' expression implicates that, the clause families also not understand skills of persons with visual impairment in leading their lives independently and their belief also indicates that they are incapable in forming families and leading their marriage situations.

PwVI2 expressed:

I am married man and I have two children. In some half I strive to lead my families. But, I heard many kinds of miserable thoughts from my living communities. For some community members it is surprising and unbelievable issue that how I lead my families in my marriage and even they guess that there is other external families those support me in overall marriage activities.

PwVI3 stated:

I want to marry and I am on the way in searching my relative and love friends but, there are ill deposed feelings and answers that forwarded from males and their families. In my living environment, including my family members they are not happy when I raise marriage related issues. Especially, when I asked males without visual and other related impairments they saw my question as a joke. As a result, I feel bad andfrightful to ask again.

The above two participants PwVI2 and PwVI3 expression implicates that the communities have not enough awareness about persons with disabilities. Hence, the communities are not hope by persons with disabilities about forming marriage and sustaining their genetics as like as person without disabilities. These kinds of perception are not only affecting the lives of persons with disabilities but also it is a trouble for sustainable and inclusive community development from that specific living environment and as country level at all.

PwVI4 stated that:

I have partial sighted problems but, I need to live like my peers and family members. Also, I have varieties of skills to live independently and to form families in marriage but, I didn't feel happy that I live with these community members because most of them do not clearly understand my identity, skills and performances as I have different abilities. In my living environment, there are different criteria that expected from someone to fulfill when I ask to marry. The one and the main is her or his safety including his or her family backgrounds. Hence, the former is being free from any kinds of disability whatever it is mild or sever. This is very challenging issue in my local environment.

From the above respondent's explanation, the communities have been practice irrational criteria for marriage. This irrational cultural ideology may concerns on selective breeding and it implicates the feelings of self-pity rather than social integration and feeling of wholeness and appreciating the diverse natures of human beings. In line with this, such practice promotes on the marriage of similar characteristics of human beings like persons with disability with other persons with disability and the like. Our families and local community's views and perceptions for the life situation of persons with disabilities characterized as a miserable condition and that is not goal oriented rather than simply seen as a hopeless (PwVI5 & PwVI 6, March, 2015 EC). They also expressed that, they are not feel as the member of these communities because the most societal assumptions and understanding is not as humanitarian based. In addition to persons with disabilities, their families and caregivers were also explained as follows.

The families who have children with physical impairment stated that:

We are happy if our children get marriage and forming their families but, we don't believe that they lead their life and live independently without seeking much of support. Hence, as a family our choice is recommends marrying but they must be live around us because it is simple to provide support services.

Further explanation stated as follows:

Their children are at risk because the local communities understand as they have genetic disorder which relates with the children's physical impairment. Due to this case, communities do not want make marriage with these persons . They understand themselves as beauty genes and not like to integrate with others specially persons with disabilities whatever it is mild or sever impairments. Such kinds of perceptions are usually practiced by in the societies. This perception is not only discriminate persons who varieties of disabilities but also their family members at all.

The above family's thoughts indicate that, there are misperceptions both in family and neighbors regarding disability issue. As a result, families and others also understand that those persons with disabilities are receiving support for their daily living from a family or caregiver. As such, families are continued to be the largest providers of care and support for their children. Therefore, families tend to develop hopeless feeling about their children that they perceived they are burdening all families' members. Accordingly, persons with disabilities are not only facing on discrimination issue, they are exposed to extra problems in their lives.

Other participants who have children with Visual impairment noted that:

Being the families of children with disabilities is very difficult especially as living with this community because no one has real and positive attitude towards our children. For your surprise, they are not happy when our children play with their children. They understand us we are not lucky family that we have such children. They have low expectations of our children even if our children may have different skills, knowledge, and other school performance.

In general, attitudinal based practices are not positively valued persons with disabilities. Instead of providing essential services a like as other community members and making inclusive based

social movements including family formation and sustainable promotion of genes among persons with disabilities, communities have the reverse and negative practices. As such, if persons having disabilities are perceived accordingly by others, they become subject to normative attitudes and stigmatization that can lead to segregation from society. Labeling mechanisms probably add an explanation to many findings on how disability impedes people's possibilities, including life-course comparisons between non-disabled and disabled individuals showing that the latter experienced significant disadvantages concerning work, marriage, and survival of their life.

4.3.1.2. Economic challenges

Money in marriage is not just about numbers but, it represents emotions, beliefs, and behaviors, which are all very personal. However, the economic factors is not the only about persons with disability but also, many peoples without disabilities are facing great challenges in their life both in forming family and to marry. Accordingly, Participant's responses were presented as follows.

The most participant's response indicates that the practice of social exclusion is the major challenge that they are to be or to have economically dependable life situations. Due to this most of persons with disabilities are unemployed even some of them are graduated in different professions and in different educational ranks. Non educated persons also haven't get works that is enough lead their lives and their families due to the case of having disability. As a result some are participated in shoeshine occupation while others are in small shopping activities.

They were presented as follows:

PwPI7 stated:

My occupation is shoeshine as the major daily activities. More or less it is good to lead myself however; there are inflations when the customers are decreased. And as I am aged to marry and aim to form families like our families and peers, I don't feel good confidence what I economically matured or that I have enough. In my living environment especially

males are responsible for economic burden of his marriage and females have responsibilities at home in all activities. As a result, when I ask someone for marriage, I expected to answer that what you have rather than feeling of sharing of economic burdens. This is the big shame to me that I haven't give positive answers that is expected to meet and fulfill what I need in our marriage.

The above expression implicates that the cultural practices in marriage in wegera wereda and lack of job opportunities among persons with disabilities tends to develop low self-value and low self-expectation from persons with disabilities. In this case the fear to get marriage.

PwVI6 explained:

Currently I am divorced or my family was break up because of financial problems. I strive to change our life goes in to the good way but, I did not achieve it. Our source of income is different non-governmental and governmental few fees. The other is our families support. Such source of support is not always continuous as it depends on the varieties of factors. We are at the risks of threat and we don't believe to continue our marriage within this source of income. We always fighting within our familiy and we don't have good communication and love. In this case our last choice is break up.

According to the above idea, especially non educated persons with visual impairment are facing serious challenges in leading their life. The stress of money in their marriage brought with it tension. From those explanations they are challenged to sustain their lives and totally they are on the way of burdening to their families. It is the challenging issue for persons with disabilities as they are cut off in participating social inclusion aspects including in promoting or sustaining their genes.

In addition, it indicates that people with disabilities tend to be disempowered and deprived of economic and social opportunities and security because of social and physical barriers in society rather than their specific problems of unwillingness. The images of people with disabilities in wegera wereda cultures provide the bias for negative attitudes. The assumption combined with historical social portrayals of people with disabilities as “sick and suffering” make it difficult for these individuals to meet the standards of social norms and to be viewed as having independent

skills of living. Moreover, persons with disabilities are the most marginalized groups when it comes to sexual and reproductive health issues. In fact, many persons with disabilities enjoy the experience of marriage and family life. However, because of stigma and discrimination, lack of access to information and services, especially those on sexual and reproductive health, many do not marry and have children.

Family participant's expression regarding economic challenges of their children:

I try to serve our children however they are aged to be family independent. As I have to enough to help them I will continue but, I am on the way of seeking help. The challenging issue is our cultural norms that our societies expectation towards or children's independency. Our economic environment especially wegera wereda is not participatory. There are many persons without disabilities who are unemployed or jobless and live with their family. I feel bad when I think about my children's life.

The children's economic factor also tends to develop the feeling of burdens for their families however this issue is not solved by the only struggle of their families it seeks to support from different of stakeholders. Additionally, the socio-economic origin considered on the father's or mothers occupation backgrounds at the time the spouses married, and the occupational status of the spouses themselves. As a result, such family based background affects their children marriage situations and family formations.

4.3.1. 3. Environmental Challenges

The natural environment may have a major impact on whether a limitation is disabling or enabling. It may also depend on the severity of the problem, the occurrence time and the individual difference which associates with acceptance and experience his or her disability.

All individuals need to live with safe physical environment though having disability tends to need special and inclusive based environmental adjustments. Persons with disabilities and their families were explained their feelings regarding environmental situations and its adverse effect on their

life. Most probably having physical and visual impairment directly attaches with the level of topography and its well acceptances of diversity. Hence, participants explained challenges facing in environment.

PwPI 3 stated:

I am wheelchair user because I cannot move without such services. In my living and work area there is very difficult physical environment. It has up and down topography. Regarding this, no one is struggling to adjust and to create barrier free environment. As such this, I need assistances that push or help the wheelchair. I feel bad that I ask helps usually. In general, I face boring life. My children face similar challenges as I always ask support. This tends limitations in order to lead me and my family's life.

The above feeling of expression indicates that, persons with disability especially those with physical impairments are facing a serious problems. Therefore, such inaccessible and exclusive environment is an uphill task for persons with disabilities. From the above expression, the problem tends to develop inferiority and poor self-value among persons with physical impairment. As such, it is the causes for family break up and other source of conflict between family members.

The others also stated as follows:

The physical environment limits their participations in different aspects of life. Among the whole population, the physical environment had by far the highest impact on people with disability, with transportation, toilet of the dwelling, and the dwelling itself being the most important aspects. Aspects inside one's own home were the most important for persons with severe disability, indicating that for this group accessibility improvements in the public sphere will likely have little effect until the barriers in their homes are addressed. In the absence of such physical improvements, they face sever challenges both at home and out of the home environment.

PwPI4:

I face bad when I want to treat my children. Mostly, my children absent from school and other extra supports as family is not completely provided by my self. The children as to help in reading, writing and other academic related activities but I have limitation to give such kinds of support. So, my choice is simply advising and to ask other friends.

The above expression indicates that parents who are blind are facing in child support practice. This also tends to their children's challenge in their learning and other parenting services they get from families. Under this low level of parental support, children feel helplessness and feeling of complexity when they compare to their friends parental treatment.

4.3.1.4. Educational Challenges

Education has critical roles in fostering easy life situations while its absences tend limitations in overall life managements. In the life of persons with disability, they suffer different challenges due to the causes of lacking educational opportunities. Participant's responses were discussed as follows.

PwVI 4 stated:

I haven't educational opportunities while I want to learn. In my life, many activities need educational experiences even it includes simple life calculations. Due to our educational limitations, communities have low expectations and values. They feel that I am incapable and dependent life situations. I frustrate to share my ideas and feelings whatever it is very necessary for my life. In this regard, I feel discomfort to deal with couples about marriage.

PwVI 8 stated as follows,

I am employed at governmental sectors while I face different challenges to get this chance and currently in our organizations. More or less I lead my families though still I need extra supports from our working and living environment. The most community members do not believe when they observe or work experience at office while our educational experience builds or confidence not only struggle to us but also other community based activities.

The above response reveals that, persons with disabilities are at risk especially in getting jobs or other occupational options because of haven't educational backgrounds while other who have good educational backgrounds have good life experiences comparing to their peers. Further, not only about their financial related burdens, having educational experiences develops self confidence among people with disabilities and builds positive expectations by societies.

The environment affects the lives of persons with physical disabilities even it is so severe for paraplegia or those persons who lost both legs and hands. But, as they have knowledge and awareness how to make self-advocacy in their educational experience, they are in good way in self-help or in leading their family members (PwPI 2 & PwPI 6, April, 2015). In the relative of educated persons with physical disabilities, the other non-educated persons are suffering miserable life while it depends on the level of the severity of the problem (PwPI 1 & PwPI 7, April, 2015).

Additionally, their family's response revealed that, their children have good life experiences when they compare to their uneducated children. In reverse, other family members who has illiterate children have hopeless about their children. The implication is education has empirical change among persons with disability even; it is not true for all individuals.

4.3.2. Theme Two: Challenge difference between males and females with disabilities in marriage and to marry

However, the life challenges are common in marriage but, it is more serious for females with disabilities than the other males with disabilities and non-disabled persons. It may depend on varieties of factors from individual to community base perceptions. In this regard, research participant's expression presented as follows in themes.

4.3.2.1. Low expectation by societies

As like to have responsibilities among males, being females are more responsible especially in household activities. Also, females are highly expected in house wife activities than males especially in child rearing practice. According to this, societies have low expectations in such house wife actives as they have different disabilities. This is due to the traditional definition of household duties such as “breadwinner” and “housewives. The traditional role in the house is hindering people with disabilities especially women in most communities since their disabilities limited their participation. Some participants were threatened with divorce by their mother in-laws due to their inability to fulfill their duties as housewives compelling their husbands to take additional wives(PwVI 3PwVI 4 &PwVI 5, April, 2015). This is consistent with the assertion that even those who have married before their disability especially women have been divorced by their husbands for another wife with the view that women with disabilities are not capable of performing their home chores and bearing children.

However, some men also complained of not being capable of fulfilling their responsibilities. They indicated that they were supposed to be the breadwinner of the family as tradition demands but because of their conditions, they could not fulfill their duties as men which compel their wives to take over their responsibilities making them feel uncomfortable, over burden and overprotected in the house.

In general, societies’ misunderstanding about the nature of disability tends to develop low expectations about the marriage situations of persons with disabilities. In addition to this, those cultures and views about marriage in wegera wereda is most probably affecting specially those females with disability than males.

4.3.2.2. Frustration by themselves in child rearing practices

Being mother hood needs very intelligent skill or character as all mothers are expected to behave such characteristics. Hence, mothers with disabilities frustration come up with in such kinds of predictions. In this regard, they are frustrated in their greatest difficulties involved taking their child to playgrounds, restaurants, and shopping malls and for walks; getting up at night with their child; cleaning and bathing tasks; and picking up after their child. Such kinds of feelings of frustration and helplessness stemmed from physical barriers parents encountered, such as limited aids and adaptations and poor accessibility inside and outside the home that limited their involvement in child care and their opportunity to bond with their child.

Further, the societies feeling of low expectation tends to develop frustration among mothers with disability. The other extra factors like poor self-value and self-confidence are mostly increases their degree of frustration. Also, nature of disability and attitudes toward disability; attitudes toward pregnancy and disability; getting pregnant; reactions of family, friends, and strangers to the pregnancy, labor, and delivery experiences, including complications and clinical care; physical accessibility of health care facilities in wegera wereda as the major indicators of frustration situation among mothers with disabilities.

4.3.3. Theme Three: Coping mechanism

In this section, the experiences of persons with disabilities to overcome challenges in their life those having a kinds of impairment were presented. Accordingly, self-advocating experiences, accepting differences and making parent ship relationship in societies are practiced by those individuals. Here were presented as follows.

4.3.3.1. Self-Advocacy Experiences

However, self-advocating experiences may vary from one individual to the other, there is a little practice among persons with disabilities. Hence, they are on the way of striving to aware about the nature of disability that starts from their family up to the local communities. In doing so, they tell the truth and if necessary forced when they saw irrational practices that abuses the rights of persons with disabilities while some of them are frustrated.

PwVI 8 explained:

One day I am asking the girl that I love and I want to marry but, her feedback is not expected from such kinds of matured girls. I am highly sad when I hear that. Again, I am also request her family not only enough of asking the girl. Similarly, I have got unexpected reactions from the family. Unfortunately, I insult them that because their answers implicates immoral actions or in human behaviors. After a few days, they ask to excuse that they do mistakes. In this, regard I have gets opportunities to discuss about the issue. I told them the reality what people with disabilities have skills and performances if we adjusted environments and positive attitudes with in social environment. Then after, they told me that they haven't enough awareness rather they perceive that we are dependent.

The participant expression implicates that, highly struggling is about their rights is mandatory rather than other advocacy expectations. So, the societies may change their lower expectations when they see real practice and tell truths by individuals with disabilities.

Others also advocating for themselves by practicing, often forced to work in sheltered workshops and to ask permission from support staff members and families in varieties of activities.

4.3.3.2. Accepting Differences

Accepting a disability requires individuals to avoid devaluing a person owing to their disability, hiding it due to shame, and overestimating the disability. It involves recognizing the inconvenience caused by the disability, attempting to recover, and accepting the reality and the restrictions

accompanying it. Acceptance their disability is essential for people with disabilities who experience social prejudice or frustration as it helps them recognize their worth and adapt to living in a society. In this study, some have disability accepting experiences while the little participants did not have such feelings. According to the participant's explanation those the accepting and rejection of having disability depends on the occurrence of the impairment. As a result, those persons have a congenital disability have well acceptance experience than the acquired one. In addition, they have positive self-value and self-concept comparing to persons with disability in later age.

The family expression also tends similar as likes as those persons with disability explained. According to this, their children who have continental disability have good acceptance experiences. Therefore, their life experiences in marriage are more or less good.

4.3.3.3. Build parent ship with societies

The other coping mechanism of persons with disability in their life experience is building positive relationship with communities. As self-isolation is the extra problem for the aggravation of stigmatization and social discrimination, persons with disabilities make friendships and other social activities around their surroundings. According to participant's expression, the positive social intimacy enhances or socio cultural and social economic development like as non-disabled persons. Further, if the societies live together those persons with disabilities, they have get opportunities to know or really understand about disability. This tends to avoid the negative connotation and misunderstandings regarding disability issue. Additionally, such kinds of relationship make positive feelings of memberships or belongingness among persons with disabilities. This includes developing partnerships and forming families, which is an expected milestone to independent adulthood for non-disabled people. However, some people with

impairments, especially lifelong impairments, have not been expected to have romantic partnerships, get married, or form a family.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. DISCUSSIONS OF THE FINDINGS

Under this part of the section, a discussion of the findings was presented and the findings were also compared here with the previous research findings that are presented in the literature review or others that are related to this current study. Therefore, the findings of the discussions here are presented as follows.

5.1.Challenges that Encounter among Persons with Disabilities in Marriage and to Marry

Person with disabilities are facing varieties of challenges that encounter to make marriage and leading their families. As the current study findings indicates, environmental, economical, educational or lack of education and attitudinal are the major challenges. Accordingly, the above listed challenges restrict persons with disabilities from the participation of marriage related activities and other social inclusion issues. Hence, in wegera wereda, because of having misunderstandings about the skills of persons with visual impairment and physical disabilities in leading their lives independently and their belief also indicates that they are incapable in forming families and leading their marriage situations. Additionally, the communities have not hope by persons with disabilities regarding forming marriage and sustaining their genetics as like as person without disabilities. These kinds of perception are not only affecting the lives of persons with disabilities but also it is a trouble for sustainable and inclusive community development from that specific living environment and as country level at all. In this regard, rather than capabilities of those persons with disabilities other societal construction or thoughts are the matter of restriction. Similarly, the previous research stated that the cultural beliefs and myths among communities have limited the marriage opportunities for people with disabilities. People with disabilities are perceived as less eligible marriage partners. In view of this, most of them who are into marriage relationships are treated as housekeepers or object of amusement as a result of unwanted or force marriages (Salam and Susa, 2014). This often puts people with disabilities in constant pains, anxiety, depression and suffering which affect

Further studies by Acheamponget al. (2018) indicates that irrational comments they receive from community members, family members and friends. This has resulted in labeling, insults, mockery and name calling. This may influence their lives negatively by limiting and making their

participation in the society more difficult. The negative attitude, perception, cultural beliefs and traditions about the causes of disability hinder people with disabilities seeking and maintaining relationships. This shows that people with disabilities are restricted from making decisions related to their lives. Where as, other literatures also supported that those persons with disabilities have many individual related weakness.

Most people with disabilities have low income, low employment rate and unstable job, so they need to spend a lot of money for rehabilitation training and treatment (Ning et al., 2020). What's more, most of the disabled spouses are also low-income people, and thus the economic strength of the whole family is weak. Hence, in the case of long-term unemployment or low wages, persons with disabilities cannot well bear the responsibility and economic pressure brought by starting a family, and therefore they lack confidence in themselves and dare not have the illusion of getting married and having a family.

Persons with disabilities are at risk especially in getting jobs or other occupational options because of haven't educational backgrounds while other who have good educational backgrounds have good life experiences comparing to their peers. Further, not only about their financial related burdens, having educational experiences develops self confidence among people with disabilities and builds positive expectations by societies. In line with the other research finding shows that, uneducated persons with disabilities have the lowst marriage rate compared to other person with disabilities (Ning, 2020). So, as education levels rise, the proportion of the disabled people getting married increases.

Person with disabilities believe that there are limited ways to get to know their spouses because rather the ways for people with disabilities to get and to know their spouses are introduced by their relatives and friends (Ning, 2020). Due to physical reasons and social prejudice, few people

participate in matchmaking activities, and matchmaking agencies are also reluctant to accept those persons. And, limited social activities are one of the main obstacles to a marriage.

5.2. Challenge difference between males and females with disabilities in marriage and to marry

However, there are many encounter challenges among all individuals in marriage; specifically being females with disability had extra challenges. As, a culture around wegera wereda and at all Ethiopian societies, females have high burdens special in child rearing and other many activities at home. This perception or view community tends to be a house wife or get marriage; females are expected to completely practicing such skills. In line with this, females with disabilities are not perceived as capable or lowly expected to perform feminist activities at home. Also, because of having lack of comfortable situations at home females with disabilities have frustrations to manage marriage activities. Therefore, they did not have good feelings to marriage in addition to their parent and other communities' poor expectations.

Further studies noted that, mothers with spinal cord injury (SCI) reported that their greatest difficulties involved taking their child to playgrounds, restaurants, and shopping malls and for walks; getting up at night with their child; cleaning and bathing tasks; and picking up after their child (Alexander, Hwang, & Sipski, 2001). According to Kaiser, Reid, and Boschen (2012) looked at the experience of parents with SCI and how they care for their children shows that, feelings of frustration and helplessness stemmed from physical barriers parents encountered, such as limited aids and adaptations and poor accessibility inside and outside the home that limited their involvement in child care and their opportunity to bond with their child (Kaiser et al., 2012).

Compared with families without disabilities, families with disabilities face more difficulties in life, such as the high cost of treatment, the lack of barrier-free social and physical environment, discrimination in job hunting and other. These tends more serious problem for females with disability. Also, most of persons with disabilities have a negative perception of their own existence specially females, have little or no social contact, are more sensitive in dealing with others, and have low self-esteem. In the social culture, there is discrimination against persons with disability, and there are unfavorable factors for disabled people to be actively involved in the society. In particular, there is serious discrimination in the process of the marriage of females with disability.

Devkota et al.(2019) shows that, Positive perceptions about the ability of women with disabilities to give birth and rear their children were minor views, however they did exist. And there was strong variation regarding these perceptions by disability type and the severity of the problem. Mostly, women with intellectual or mental disabilities were often presumed to pose a greater risk to the child than were women with other types of disability. Also, additionally the above study noted that, the families routinely, although not universally, perceived the women with a disability as a burden since they assume this woman would contribute less to family chores and income. Such negative attitudes led to discrimination within families with little or no priority given to the needs of women with disabilities including their treatment, rehabilitation or other essential care required.

Issues related to the ability of women with disabilities to marry and doubts about their ability to give birth and rear children are consistently highlighted by studies conducted in countries such as India and Korea, however, not all research is consistently negative on this. In contrast to our findings, another Nepali study by Simkhada et al. (2003) found positive attitudes towards the rights of women with disabilities to marry and have children.

5.3. Coping mechanism

However, persons with disabilities face many challenges to marry and leading marriagesituations they have their own coping mechanisms that used to alleviate such challenges. In this regard, the current research participant responds self-advocating experiences, building close partnership with families and accepting differences are practicing as the way of challenge overcoming experiences. As such this, they practice positive social intimacy that used to enhances socio cultural and social economic development like as non-disabled persons. Further, as they societies live together those persons with disabilities, they have get opportunities to know or really understand about disability. These trends have positive influence to avoid the negative connotation and misunderstandings regarding disability issue. Likewise, other researches findings support that, majority of adults and persons with disabilities receive support for their daily living from a family caregiver. As such, families are and will continue to be the largest providers of care and support for individuals with disabilities in the United States (Larson et al., 2015). Because family members play an integral role in meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities, promoting family resilience has strong implications for health and wellbeing of all family members.

Despite the widespread acknowledgement of the importance of families in quality of life for people with disabilities, there is a concerning lack of guidance to define and identify best practices and policy for effectively supporting families (Burke, Lulinski, Jones, & Gallus, 2018; Hewitt, Agosta, Heller, Williams, and Reinke, 2013). While some families and relationships of individuals with disabilities develop strong coping strategies to function quite well (Bayat, 2007), research also illustrates that unique challenges can negatively affect the health and wellbeing of many families (Brown, Anand, Alan-Fung, Isaacs, & Baum, 2003; Greenberg, Seltzer, & Greenley 1993; Jokinen & Brown, 2011). Due to the added caregiving responsibilities that are necessary for individuals

with disabilities, members of families affected by disabilities have an increased prevalence of physical, psychological, and relational distress (Brown, Whiting, Kahumoku-Fessler, Banford Witting, & Jensen, 2020; Pilapil, Coletti, Rabey, & DeLaet, 2017).

Further research finding indicates that, some women with disability did not describe receiving any formal support, but were also not specifically asked about this. However, mostly women with disabilities were members of organizational support of people with disability. Some women with disabilities described receiving support and benefits from being a member of this organization (Susanto, D. F et al., 2023). According to Susanto, D. F et al. (2023) studies the major coping strategies of women's those were implemented were silence, venting, religion, positive thinking, humor and acceptance.

In general, both males and females with disabilities are experienced diverse coping experience's which depends on the individuals challenge, perceptions and any individual differences.

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSIONS, LIMITATION, IMPLICATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. Conclusions

The study was aimed to find out the challenges of marriage among persons with disabilities in Wegera Wereda Administration. Therefore, the researcher has made conclusions based on the findings as follows.

- Persons with disabilities face many challenges to marry and leading their families due to economic barriers, having poor educational background, inaccessible physical environment, and attitudinal challenges are major obstacles in their living situations.
- The community's negative perception regarding the cause and the nature of disabilities leads to the restriction on people with disabilities marriage and participations in other social related issues.
- Societal beliefs and perceptions like low expectations of the capability of persons with disability are mainly affected the lives of persons with disabilities.
- Being females and having disabilities had challenges in marriage and leading life situations among persons with disabilities.
- Societies have hope less feelings specifically for females with disabilities as they are lowly expected in having child rearing practices.
- For the purpose of eliminating life challenges in marriage persons with disabilities have their own coping experiences like close intimacy with societies, ask for support and self-advocating experiences.

6.2. Limitations of the study

As the researcher aims to explore the challenges of marriage among persons with disabilities, the study had limitations in data collection methods. However, the researcher was proposed to conduct observations for triangulation of the data and to more convince and show the real life situation or to observe challenges of persons with disability in their family leading situation, it was difficult to manage in data collection time. Therefore, the researcher employed interview and focus group discussions as the major data collection tools.

6.3. Implication

- ✓ As everyone has the human right to marry, give birth and start a family, it should be implemented as per the law.
- ✓ All stakeholders must do their part, But they should know that this is not a donation or a gift, but also an obligation.
- ✓ Anyone with a disability should acknowledge that they have a disability.

6.4. Recommendations

Based on the research findings obtained and conclusions made, the following recommendations are forwarded for responsible bodies.

- ✓ The special needs and inclusive education experts should give awareness raising trainings for communities that the communities to have real understanding skills regarding disability issues.
- ✓ The communities should realize and accept the capability of persons with disabilities as they have equal chances and skills to lead marriage situations.
- ✓ The weredas social affairs should give clear awareness raising programs for persons with disabilities and the whole communities at all.
- ✓ Environmental adjustments and other obstacles of persons with disabilities in marriage situations should be clearly settled by the community members.
- ✓ Those persons with disabilities should develop their self-images and self-perceptions regarding having good leading performances to lead the marriage life situations.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

Bahir Dar University

College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Department of Special Needs and Inclusive Education

Interview guide questions for participants of persons with disabilities

Dear Respondents:

The main purposes of this interview guide questions are to gather the relevant data on the experiences of persons with disabilities in marriage and to marry in wegera wereda as part of master thesis being conducted by Tsedalu Muhabaw post graduate student of Special Needs and Inclusive Education. The aim of the study is to explore the challenges of marriage among persons with disabilities in wegera wereda. Thus your responses are highly significant in determining the success of this study. Therefore you are kindly and honestly requested to objectively and genuinely respond to all items of the interview questions. The data collected will be beneficial for academic propose only. The researcher would like to assure that your responses are strictly confidential.

Thank you in advance!

INTERVIEW GUDING QUESTIONS

Item one:

Challenges in marriage:

1. What is your understanding about marriage?
2. What problems you face when you ask to marry?
3. What problems you face after marriage?
4. How do you explain your living situations with your house wife?
5. How the community understands marriage in your living environment?
6. How the communities understand disability in your living environment?
7. How do you see your social interaction?
8. What kinds of criteria are needed to marry under your community?
9. How do you see your commitment to marry?

Item two:

Sex related issues regarding marriage:

1. How do you explain female's role in marriage under your community?

2. How do you explain male's role in marriage under your community?
3. How do you see society's awareness about females with disability?
4. What did you feel in marriage as you are being female?
5. What did you observe that exceptional practice of marriage between males and females with disability?

Item three:

Coping experiences to alleviate challenges in marriage:

1. How do you solve challenges in marriage and to marry?
2. How do you see your readiness in marriage market?
3. Who is your close family or friend to talk about marriage issue?
4. How do you explain your commitments to show your capability under your community?

Appendix B

Interview guide questions for families of persons with disabilities

Dear Respondents:

The main purposes of this interview guide questions are to gather the relevant data on the experiences of persons with disabilities in marriage and to marry in wegera wereda as part of

master thesis being conducted by Tsedalu Muhabaw post graduate student of Special Needs and Inclusive Education. The aim of the study is to explore the challenges of marriage among persons with disabilities in wegera wereda. Thus your responses are highly significant in determining the success of this study. Therefore you are kindly and honestly requested to objectively and genuinely respond to all items of the interview questions. The data collected will be beneficial for academic propose only. The researcher would like to assure that your responses are strictly confidential.

Thank you in advance!

Interview guiding questions for parents or caregivers:

1. What is your understanding about marriage?
2. How do you express your children’s marriage situation?
3. How do you support your children to marry or to sustain his/her marriage?
4. What do you think that your children’s cause of divorced or unable to marry?
5. In your living environment, how the society understands your children’s disability and capability to marry or to lead his/ her marriage?

Focus group discussion questions with parents

1. As you are the member of wegera wereda community, how do you explain communities understanding about disability and the nature of marriage?
2. As your children is divorced or not able to marry due to the cause of having disability, what is your struggle to alleviate this challenge among your children?
3. What do you recommend that should be done by the community or yourself for persons with disabilities to marry or living with sustainable marriage as like as other community members?

Appendix C

በባህርዳር ዩንቨርሲቲ

ትምህርትና ሥነ-ባህርይ ሳይንስ ኮሌጅ

የልዩ ፍላጎትና አካቶ ትምህርት ትምህርት ክፍል

የአካል ጉዳት ካለባቸው ሰዎች ጋር የሚደረግ የቃለመጥይቅ መሪ ጥያቄዎች:

ዉድ የጥናቱ ተሳታፊዎች

የዚህ መጠይቅ ዋና ዓላማ የአካል ጉዳት ያለባቸው ሰዎች የጋብቻ እና የትዳር ሁኔታ የህይወት ልምድን መሰረት ያደረገ ሲሆን በዋናነት የሚያተኩረው በወገራ ወረዳ አስተዳደር ዉስጥ በሚገኙ ማህበረሰብ ላይ ነው፡ ፡ በመሆኑም እርስዎ የወገራ ወረዳ አስተዳደር ንዋሪ እነደመሆንዎ የሚሰጡኝ መረጃ በባህርዳር ዩንቨርሲ ትምህርትና ሥነ-ባህርይ ሳይንስ ኮሌጅ ስር በልዩ ፍላጎትና አካቶ ትምህርት ትምህርት ክፍል የማስተርስ ዲግሪ ማሟያ ለምሰራዉ ጥናት ለእኔ ለአቶጸዳሉ ሙሀባው እንደ ዋና ግብአት ስለሚያገለግለኝ ለምጠይቀዎት ጥያቄዎች በመመለስ እንዲተባበሩኝ ስል በትህትና እጠይቃለሁ፡ ለዚህ ጥናት የሚሰጡት መረጃ ለምርምር ስራ ብቻ የሚውልና በሚስጥርም የሚያዝ መሆኑን ለማረጋገጥ እወዳለሁ፡፡

ለትብብርዎ ከወዲሁ ምስጋናየን አቀርባለሁ!!

ክፍል አንድ: የተሳታፊዎች የግል መረጃ

1. ያታ _____
2. እድሜ _____
3. የትዳር ሁኔታ _____
4. የትምህርት ደረጃ _____
5. ስራ _____

ክፍል ሁለት: ለማግባት እና አግብተው በትዳር ውስጥ ያሉ ሰዎች ከሚያጋጥማው ችግር ጋር የተያያዙ ጥያቄዎች

1. ትዳርን እንዴት ትገልጭዋለሽ/ህ ወይም ትዳር ምንድን ነው?
2. የጋብቻ/ የትዳር ጥያቄ በምትጠይቁ/ቅ ጊዜ ምን ችግር ገጥሞሽ/ህ ያውቃል?
3. ከጋብቻ በኋላ ምን ችግር አጋጥሞት ያውቃል?
4. በትዳር ውስጥ ስትኖሪ/ር ከባልቤትዎ ጋር ያለውን ግንኙነት እንዴት ትገልጭዋለሽ/ህ?
5. የምትኖሩበት ማህበረሰብ ትዳርን እንዴት ያየዋል?

6. በምትኖሩበት አካባቢ ውስጥ የአካል ጉዳት ላለባቸው ሰዎች ማህበረሰቡ ያለው እይታ እንዴት ነው?
7. ለማግባት/ትዳር ለመያዝ ያለዎት ጥረት እንዴት ነው?
8. ማህበረሰባዊ ግንኙነተዎን እንዴት ይገልጹታል?
9. በምትኖሩበት አካባቢ ውስጥ ትዳር ለመመስረት ያስፈልጋሉ የሚባሉ መሰረታዊ ነገሮች ምን ምን ናቸው?

ክፍል ሶስት:ክጾታ ጋር የተያያዙ ጥያቄዎች

1. በምትኖሩበት አካባቢ ውስጥ ሴት ልጅ በትዳር ላይ ያላትን ሚና እንዴት ይገልጹታል?
2. በምትኖሩበት አካባቢ ውስጥ ወንድ ልጅ በትዳር ላይ ያለውን ሚና እንዴት ይገልጹታል?
3. በምትኖሩበት አካባቢ ውስጥ የአካል ጉዳት ላለባቸው ሴቶች ማህበረሰቡ ያለው እይታ እንዴት ነው?
4. አንተ/ች ካለሽ/ህ ጾታ አንግልለትዳር ያለህ/ሽን እይታ እንዴት ትገልጭላለሽ/ህ?
5. በምትኖሩበት አካባቢ ውስጥ የአካል ጉዳት ባለባቸው ሴቶች እና ወንዶች መካከል ምን የተለየ የጋብቻ ሁኔታ አስተውለው ያውቃሉ ?

ክፍል አራት: ለማግባት እና አግባብተው በትዳር ውስጥ ያሉ የአካል ጉዳት ያለባቸው ሰዎች ከሚያጋጥማው ችግር ሕይወትን ለመቋቋም ካላቸዉ ልምዶች እና ተሞክሮዎች ጋር የተያያዙ ጥያቄዎች

1. በትዳር ውስጥ ስትኖሪ/ር የሚጋጥማችሁን ችግር እንዴት ይፈታሉ?
2. የትዳር ጥያቄ ስትጠይቁ/ቅ የሚጋጥምሽ/ህን ችግር እንዴት ፈተው ያውቃሉ?
3. እራሰዎን ለጋብቻ/ ለመታጨት ያለውን ዝግጁነት እንዴት ይገልጹታል?
4. ስለ ጋብቻ ጉዳይ በቅርበት የሚያማክሩት ሰው ምን አይነት ነው/ምን ይመክረዎታል?
5. በምትኖሩበት አካባቢ ውስጥ የአካል ጉዳት ያለባቸው ሰዎች እንደማንኛውም ሰው ያላቸውን አቅም ለማስረዳት እና ለመግለጽ እርስዎ ያለው ጥረት እንዴት ነው?

Appendix E

የአካል ጉዳት ካለባቸው ሰዎች ቤተሰብ ጋር የሚደረግ የቃለመጥይቅ መሪ ጥያቄዎች:

ዉድ የጥናቱ ተሳታፊዎች

የዚህ መጠይቅ ዋና ዓላማ የአካል ጉዳት ያለባቸው ሰዎች የጋብቻ እና የትዳር ሁኔታ የህይወት ልምድን መሰረት ያደረገ ሲሆን በዋናነት የሚያተኩረው በወገራ ወረዳ አስተዳደር ዉስጥ በሚገኙ ማህበረሰብ ላይ ነው፡ ፡ በመሆኑም እርስዎ የወገራ ወረዳ አስተዳደር ንዋሪ እና ቤተሰብ

እነደመሆንዎ የሚሰጡኝ መረጃ በባህርዳር ዩንቨርሲ ትምህርትና ሥነ-ባህርይ ሳይንስ ኮሌጅ ስር በልዩ ፍላጎትና አካቶ ትምህርት ትምህርት ክፍል የማስተርስ ዲግሪ ማሟያ ለምሰራው ጥናት ለእኔ ለአቶጸዳሉ ሙሀባው እንደ ዋና ግብአት ስለሚያገለግለኝ ለምጠይቀዎት ጥያቄዎች በመመለስ እንዲተባበሩኝ ስል በትህትና እጠይቃለሁ፡፡ ለዚህ ጥናት የሚሰጡት መረጃ ለምርምር ስራ ብቻ የሚውልና በሚስጥርም የሚያዝ መሆኑን ለማረጋገጥ እወዳለሁ፡፡

ለትብብርዎ ከወዲሁ ምስጋናየን አቀርባለሁ!!

ክፍል አንድ፡ የተሳታፊዎች የግል መረጃ

1. የታ _____
2. እድሜ _____
3. የትዳርሁኔታ _____
4. የትምህርትደረጃ _____
5. የሚሰሩበት ሙያ _____
6. የዝምድና ሁኔታ _____

ክፍል ሁለት፡ቤተሰብ ጋር የሚደረግ የቃለመጥይቅ መሪ ጥያቄዎች፡

1. እርስዎ ትዳርን እንዴት ይገልጹታል ወይም ትዳር ምንድን ነው?
2. ልጅዎ ለጋብቻ ያለውን እይታ እንዴት ይገልጹታል?
3. የእርስዎ ልጅ ትዳር እንዲመሰርት ወይምጥሩ ትዳር እንዲኖረው ምን ምን ያግዛሉ?
4. የልጅዎን ትዳርእንዴት ያዩታል?
5. የእርስዎ ልጅ ያላገባበት ወይምትዳርየፈታበት ምክንት ምንድነው ብለው ያስባሉ?
6. በምትኖሩበት አካባቢ ውስጥ ማህበረሰቡ በልጅዎ የአካል ጉዳት እና ትዳር መስርቶ ለመኖር ያለውን አቅም ምን አይነት ግንዛቤ አለው ብለው ያስባሉ?/እንዴት ይገልጹታል?

ክፍል ሶስት፡ከቤተሰብ ጋር የሚደረጉ የመወያያመሪ ጥያቄዎች፡

1. እንደ ወገራ ወረዳ ንዋሪየአካል ጉዳት ያለባቸው ሰዎች እና የትዳር/ ጋብቻ ሁኔታ እንዴት ይታል?

2. የእርስዎ ልጅ የአካል ጉዳት ስላለበት ብቻ ባለማግባታቸው ወይም ትዳር በመፍታታቸው እርስዎ ልጅዎ እንደማንኛውም ሰው ትዳር መስርተው መኖር እንደሚችሉ ያለዎት ጥረት እንዴት ነው?
3. የአካል ጉዳት ያለባቸው ሰዎች እንደማንኛውም ሰው ትዳር መስርተው መኖር እንዲችሉ የሚያስችሉ ምን ምን ስራዎች ቢሰሩ ነው ይላሉ?