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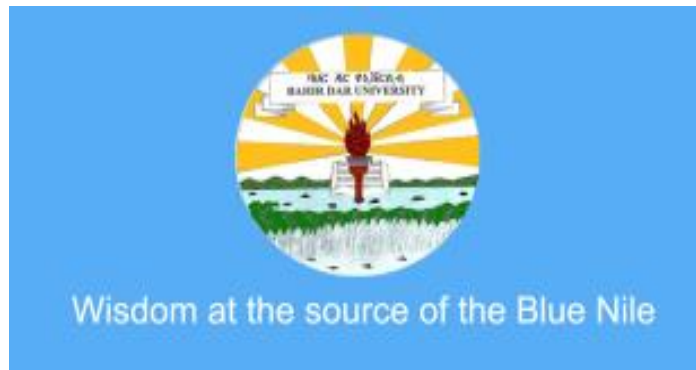
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Lived Experiences of Unmarried Adults in Debre Tabor Town Administration

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Lived Experiences of Unmarried Adults in Debre Tabor Town Administration

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College of Educational and Behavioral Sciences
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Bahir Dar University

August, 2018

Lived Experiences of Unmarried Adults in Debre Tabor Town Administration

A Thesis Submitted to Bahir Dar University, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences,
Department of Psychology, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master
of Social Psychology.

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Approval

The thesis titled “Lived Experience of Unmarried Adults in Debre Tabor Town Administration” by Mr. Alemzerf Bogale Gebiyaw is approved for the degree of Master of Science in Social Psychology (SPSY).

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Declaration

I, the undersigned, declare that the thesis comprises my own work. In compliance with widely accepted practices, I have duly acknowledged and referenced all materials used in this work. I understand that non-adherence to the principles of academic honesty and integrity, misrepresentation/fabrication of any idea/data/fact/source will constitute sufficient ground for disciplinary action by the university and can also evoke criminal sanction from the state and civil action from the sources which have not been properly cited or acknowledged.

Signature

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Acronyms/List of Abbreviations

BA/BSC	Bachelor Degree
BDU	Bahir Dar University
DTU	Debre Tabor University
EDHS	Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey
FBOs	Faith Based Organizations
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
GOs	Government Organizations
MA	Master Degree
MOLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
NGOs	Non- Government Organizations
ORDA	Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
SPSY	Social Psychology

Abstract

Nowadays, one of the choices that adults face is whether to get married. As a result, the number of never-married adults has increased dramatically, reflecting changing social conditions and attitudes. So, the purpose of this study was to uncover lived experiences of unmarried adults on being single in Debre Tabor town administration. To this end, a qualitative research approach compounded by the phenomenological design was employed. The sampling technique utilized in this study was the purposive sampling technique. Using this sampling technique seventeen participants were selected. In-depth interview as a data gathering method and semi-structured interview guide as a data collection instrument were used. Cross-checking questions were employed throughout the data gathering process to guarantee data trustworthiness. Furthermore, the collected data analyzed using thematic content analysis method. The study revealed out that; there are ten possible reasons that well experienced by unmarried adults delayed their marriage and stayed on being single, challenges on being single is an existing reality in unmarried adults, major coping mechanisms of unmarried adults on being single were identified, and three different aspiration of their future life of unmarried adults were reflected. Based on the basic findings of this study; advocating the importance of establishing marriage in the expected matrimonial age, lower down set of partner selection criteria and be active to find partner, the process and length of the will be couple's life span of knowing one another ought to be within appropriate range of time, finding economic collaborative couples and economic empowerment of the dependent family members, different forms of premarital sex should be avoided, and finally, there is a need to carry out further researches so as to verify the existing knowledge about lived experiences of unmarried adults' delayed to establish their marriage in the usual matrimonial age and stayed on being single.

Chapter One: Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

Marriage is the coming together between a man and a woman that are accepted by the society. That means, the joining together of two completely dissimilar persons as husband and wife who agree to plan and establish their own family. Ngozi, Peter, and Stella (2013), noticed marriage as typically the result of joining together among “*an adult male and an adult female*” (p. 320). Similarly, become married is the sacrament of passage that accords with depart from the parental household, formalizing the founding of a new family and pledge to a sexual partner (Allan & Jones, 2003), which is a universal phenomenon all over human creature. Basically, almost all adult men and adult women pursue to marry or establish everlasting unwavering relationship with another person for the determination of bear children and raise a family in a safe, adoring, and satisfying surroundings (Pan, 2004). Furthermore, Kirwen (2005), explained that, marriage is the coming together of two opposite sex individuals for the purpose of having offspring and mutually helping each other. Marriage is an indispensable ritual for enduring and prolonging the heredity, which in turn is the mystical and cultural root of the individual and the public.

On top of these, marriage and family are perhaps society's oldest and most resilient institutions. From the beginning of human life, people have grouped themselves into families to find emotional, physical, and communal support (Olson & DeFrain, 2000). The institution of marriage is found in almost all human societies. This fact obviously reveals the significance of sexual and reproductive functions in human life. Brien and Sheran (2002) as cited in Pan (2004), marriage needs pledge among sexual partners. In relation to these, get married, as Eisenstadt (2002) remarked that, “*the individual, at very moment of his life, not only performs given roles and interacts with other people, but is also obliged to ensure some degree of continuity of the social system through this performance*” (p. 25). Some researchers claim that get married with somebody could, in a sense, get fortification against poor health, financial insecurity, and deviant behaviors (Waite, 1995). Marriage has robust connection to some essential actions taken by individuals, which are highly entwined with other choices; such as transfer, employment and so on (Brien & Sheran, 2002) as cited in (Pan, 2004).

Marriage is the basement affiliation for all of humanity. All other affiliations in society, trunk from the father-mother affiliation, and these other relations flourish most if that father-mother relationship is concurrently a close and a closed husband wife relationship. *“Good marriages are the bedrock of strong societies, for they are the foundations of strong families. One can see this strength manifested at the national and state level”* (Cloud, 2014, p.1). By and large *“marriage is good for societies, for individuals, and especially for children”* (Wilson & Wilson, 2002, p. 1).

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, (FDRE MOLSA) Developmental Social Welfare Policy (1996), explained that:

The family is a vital social institution and the smallest unit of society where in children are reared appreciating their heritage-historical, cultural, and social-so that they will want to pass it on to their children, thereby ensuring that posterity is tied to its ancestry. It is the best arrangement for the proper upbringing of children, too, and has, as such, no substitute what so ever (p.54).

Marriage is an ultimate institution in society. There is plentiful benefits from marriage; researchers have recognized that, compared to single individuals, married individuals have better physical and psychological health (e.g. less substance abuse and less depression) and that they alive longer (Stutzer & Frey, 2006). Furthermore, Sociologists, psychologists and epidemiologists have lately recognized that confirmation of married people’s better physical health, longevity, psychological health, and informed happiness (Wilson & Oswald, 2005). Similarly, married individuals reported that, greater personal well-being than individuals who have never been married or have been divorced, separated or widowed. Married women are happier than spinster, and married men are happier than bachelor. Married women and married men have reported similar levels of personal well-being, which means that marriage does not benefit one gender more than the other (Stutzer & Frey, 2006).

Accordingly, Argyle (1999) as cited in Alois Stutzer and Bruno S. Frey (2006), pointed out that:

In this research, two reasons why marriage contributes to well-being are emphasized: First, marriage provides additional sources of self-esteem, for instance by providing an escape from stress in other parts of one’s life, in particular one’s job. It is advantageous for one’s personal identity to have more than one leg to stand on. Second, married people have a better chance of benefiting from a lasting and supportive intimate relationship, and suffer less from loneliness (p.4).

So, marriage is one of the most vital institutions swaying people's life and well-being. Marital institutions adjust sexual relations and buoy up pledge among partners. This pledge has positive sound effects, for instance on partners' health and their earnings on the labor market (Stutzer & Frey, 2006). And also economists recognize that human beings obtain monetary paybacks from marriage. Even after monitoring for other influences, married individuals earn much more than single people (Reed & Harford, 1989). Traditionally, people were married for economic security, to provide goods and services for one another, to attain social status, to reproduce, and to raise children. Today people marry for love, companionship, and the satisfaction of emotional needs (Gergen & Gergen, 1988). Raising healthy and happy children and having economic security are still important reason for marriage, but love and affection are people's primary expectations in marriage today (Barich & Bielby, 1966).

Raising at conditions for marriage; research findings pointed out a number of important factors in the transition to marriage determine marital readiness (Holman & Li, 1997). Based upon the research information we have, the following considerations may be significant.

Age at the time of marriage, the level of maturity of the couple, the particular time when marriage takes place, motives for getting married, the amount of dating and social experience: indicates that, those who have a number of successful friendship, who participate in a variety of social activities, and who are members of social organizations are better able to establish successful marriages than are those who are social isolates with a minimum of social experience (Grover, Russell, Schumm, & Paff-Bergen, 1985).

The remaining's are, willingness to assume the responsibility of marriage, readiness for sexual exclusiveness, emotional emancipation from parents: that is; individuals who still seek emotional fulfilment primarily from their parents are not yet ready to give their primary loyalty and affection to their spouse, as is necessary for a successful marriage, and level of education and vocational aspirations and the degree of their fulfillment (Rice, 1998). And also according to Ethiopian family law of Proclamation (2007), under section two essential of marriage article-6 consent stated that, *"consent; that is a valid marriage shall take place only when the spouses have given their free and full consent"* (p. 3).

Nowadays, one of the choices that adults face is whether to get married. In previous generations, adults had less choice; society assumed that everyone who could do so would get married. Those who didn't marry faced social disapproval. Today, the number of never-married adults has increased dramatically, reflecting changing social conditions and attitudes (Rice, 1998 & DeGenova & Rice, 2002).

Many factors have contributed to the increase in singlehood today. For one, education and career are delaying the age at which young people are marrying. Linked to this trend is an increasing recognition in our society that singlehood can be a legitimate, healthy, and happy alternative to marriage (Olson & DeFrain, 2000).

Demographic statistical data show that, in majority of the developed countries of the world, the age at which individuals establish their first marriage is becoming increasingly delayed. Of the determinant reasons: an increasing degree of individualization, the lengthy period of education, and growing number of individuals who engaged in higher education, after which women enter the job market with equal opportunities to men. For many individuals this gives rise to the illusion that, come what may, they are able to resist alone, without the security of a family and without everlasting partner and this impression tends to continue into the future (Utasi, 2003).

Over the years, economic reasons and social customs have increasingly made it problematic for adult men in overall to reach early independence (Gicheru, 2013). Sociologists and demographers generalize that other indirect factors are also at work, including increasing numbers of be roomies couples, more highly educated women who have fewer highly educated men of comparable age to companion with, and more choice rights open to women than in previous decades (Shaver & Hazan, 1987).

Delayed in marriage are also associated with unemployment. People today marry later and may experience a period of cohabitation prior to legal marriage (Barich & Bielby, 1996). The reasons for the trend toward marital delay probably include increased opportunities for premarital sexual intercourse and an increase in non-marital cohabitation (Cooney & Hogan, 1991; Miller & Heaton, 1991).

In comparison with aforementioned historic time periods in the United States, growing numbers of individuals are marrying later or not marrying at all. These leanings, joined with high divorce rates, have brought about a growing number of adults who will live a substantial portion of their adult lives as singles (DePaulo & Morris, 2005). Americans now spend more years of their adult lives unmarried than married. Given such fashions, it seems reasonable to guess that stigma close to being single would be minimal or absent.

The delay of marriage also has resulted in a marked increase in unmarried young adults in the population. One half of the men and over one-third of the women in the country still have not married by 30 years of age (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1996/1997). This is due partly to a decline in negative attitudes toward remaining single (Thornton, 1989).

As the whole world's changing situations of politics, economics and social community have influenced the conception of marriage as well. As a result, the benefits from marriage shifted from the family level to the individual's level, leads to a further decrease in percentage of arranged and forced marriage. Later on individuals had puzzled on who, when, and how to get married. Consequently, marriage is not the appropriate way to establish sexual and other domestic pledge, individuals have quite a few rights to other life-style choices (Pan, 2004).

Similarly, in Debre Tabor of Ethiopia, on wards the pushed away of family arranged marriage and the expansion of pre-marital sex; a number of individuals have exceeded the normal marital age however left behind unmarried. Consequently, the issue fascinated people's thoughtfulness that whether being single is existed as a positive social category for both woman and men.

Societies might posed questions like: How it arises delayed marriage? What single adult's pursue and expect of relationships? Is there any gender variance of remaining being single? Are they relishing the lives of being single? What are the single adults' plans and anticipations about the future of their individual life? Because of these reasons to know the realities of lived experience of unmarried adults on being single in Debre Tabor town were became crucial.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Unmarried individuals vary from their married counterparts in daily practices, living provisions, social and emotional experiences (Kessler & Essex, 1982). Being single might have pervasive and persistent effect on various facets of life, including financial resources, social integration, and physical and mental wellbeing (Ross, 1995).

Researcher's findings indicate that marriage has a much larger effect in our lives than many have expected. This is particularly true in the area of adult health and well-being. Couples who are in their first marriages, on average, enjoy meaningfully higher levels of physical and mental health than those who are either single, divorced or living together (Stanton, 1996).

Regarding this the research is very strong. A study issued in the journal of marriage and the family examined the relationship between individual happiness and marital status in 17 industrialized countries that had diverse social and institutional frameworks. This study found that: independent of financial and health-oriented protections offered by marriage and was also independent of other control variables including ones for sociodemographic conditions and national character, unmarried individuals do not have a significantly higher level of happiness than individuals who are married (Stack & Eshleman, 1998). In relation to this, expectations associated with "singlism" are that a romantic, sexual partnership is the only way to attain intimacy, and thus, individuals who have a spouse are cheerier, more adjusted, and lead more satisfying lives than do single people (DePaulo & Morris, 2005).

Similarly to this, the leading social scientist, James (2002), as cited in explained that, in the United States, and also at least seventeen other countries research results showed that, Unmarried people are unhappier than married ones of the same age. And there seems to be good reasons for that unhappiness. Individuals who are unmarried not only have lower incomes and not enjoy greater emotional support, they tend to be unhealthier. Unmarried individuals live shorter than married ones, not only in the United States but also abroad.

According to Riessman and Gerstel (1985), one of the most consistent observations in health research conducted at the University of Massachusetts concludes that, unmarried individuals do not enjoy better health than those of the married individuals. Resembling to this, one of the most consistent and more recent research findings in psychiatric epidemiology conducted jointly at Yale

University and University of California reported that, unmarried individuals not enjoy better health than their married counterparts. Shapiro and Keyes (2008), indicated that never married and previously married adults report higher rates of mental illness and lower rates of indicators of mental health than married adults. Similarly, Palner and Mittelmark (2002) stated that, at all levels of perceived physical health, unmarried individuals reported significantly not have better mental health than married individuals. And also researchers have consistently found the highest rates of mental disorder among the divorced and separated, the lowest rates among the married and intermediate rates among the single and widowed. They also found that a cohabiting partner could not replicate these benefits of marriage (Williams, Takeuchi, & Adair, 1992). In relation to this;

Cohabiting couples are far more likely to divorce when they do marry than couples who did not cohabit before marriage. Moreover, children of cohabiting couples are likely to be as poor as children in single-parent families. Child abuse is also much higher in these families. The homicide rate for children in such families is seventy times higher than for those living with both biological parents. The evidence merely confirms what common sense has always told us: "people care for their own children more than for those of others". (Wilson & Wilson, 2002, p. 1).

Additional research findings showed that, marriage: offers the uppermost levels of sexual pleasure and contentment for men and women (Michael, Gagnon, Laumann, & Kolata, 1994); whereas, according to Page and Cole (1991), pointed out that, marriage safeguards against feelings of loneliness. In addition, Stets (1991), documented that, marriage care for women from domestic and wide-ranging ferocity; whereas, Angel and Angel (1993) stated that, marriage enriches a parent's ability to parent. Moreover, marriage helps produce better more trustworthy workers (Wilmoth & Koso, 2002), and upsurges individual earnings and savings (Stanton, 1996).

Moreover, research conducted at the University of Colorado point out that why marriage is so useful to adults: By and large, compared with those who are not married, married individuals eat better, take better caution of themselves, and live a more stable, safe and programmed lifestyle (Rogers, 1995). Undoubtedly, married men and women provide better things for society than their unmarried peers. Despite growing numbers of singles, the idealization of marriage and child rearing remains strong, pervasive, and largely unquestioned (Sharp & Ganong, 2011).

Regarding to the researched issue, in trying to find out researches conducted on lived experience of unmarried adults on being single, all over the outside world a limited number of studies had been conducted. Likely, in Ethiopia not only too limited but also even more difficult to get it.

In connection with the studies conducted in the outside world, countries like, USA, Malaysia and Palestine largely focused on unmarried women, whereas, in Kenya targeted on bachelors and in Chania focused on both genders. However, in relation to this thesis; the demographic data /age & gender/, the selected type of methodology, educational & social status of participants, and largely the cultural context of the targeted town are totally unlike from the aforementioned research sites.

The very reason that motivated the researcher to conduct this study is that, since 2003 the researcher has been living in Debre Tabor and was working in South Gondar Administrative Zone Labor and Social Affairs Department for the position of family affairs expert. Right there, the researcher have had a number of unmarried adult close friends and other staff members with whom have regular and close contact. Every time we meet each other they talk about their singlehood life or what we call in Amharic ‘Latie’ and their desire to establish marriage. Because they always talk me about their ‘Latie’ life through time it click my mind about why I didn’t understand the issue to have scientific understanding of it. Then when I get the chance to conduct a thesis as a student in department of social psychology (SPYS); I decided to make it the focus of my study.

To provide the reader some notion of what to anticipate in the next pages, the main concern of this thesis is linked to the likely causations of being single and the challenges, coping mechanisms, and unmarried adults aspiration of their future life; who are a bit in the shadow of marriage were to be touched.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

1.3.1. General objective

The general objective of this study is to uncover the lived experiences of unmarried adults on being single in Debre Tabor town.

1.3.2. Specific objectives

Hence, this thesis has the following specific objectives that best-suited with the general objective:

- ☒ To investigate possible reasons of unmarried adults on being single.
- ☒ To explore challenges of unmarried adults on being single.
- ☒ To examine coping mechanisms of unmarried adults on being single.
- ☒ To identify unmarried adults aspiration of their future life.

1.4. Research questions

Thus, the following research questions are formulated to be addressed.

1. What are possible reasons of unmarried adults on being single?
2. What are challenges of unmarried adults on being single?
3. What are coping mechanisms of unmarried adults on being single?
4. What are unmarried adults' aspiration of their future life?

1.5. Significance of the study

The forthcoming results of this study will have the following theoretical and practical contributions: The prospective result from this study will be an advantage for practitioners and researchers alike to capture an in-depth awareness of the general circumstance of being single. Most importantly, this study will provide inputs for the concerned bodies to design a definite program of actions for the future development of unmarried adults' personal life.

Furthermore, it may influence unmarried adults to be aware and sensitive about the negative impacts of being single on health, economy, and social interaction. Moreover, this study will also fill the existing literature gap of the problem, it will be an opportunity for professors and interested researchers of Bahir Dar University (BDU) to use it as a resource document if they want to conduct further studies on this least researched psychosocial problem.

Therefore, this research may also inspire policy makers and other researchers in Ethiopia to adopt the findings of researches in those developed countries on this social problem into the social policies of Ethiopia so as to solve the problems of unmarried adults.

1.6. Scope of the study

The content scope of this study was mainly delimited on, to investigate possible reasons of unmarried adults' on being single; challenges and coping mechanisms of being single, and aspiration of their future life. As of familiarity and communities blaming of the issue, the geographic scope of the research was conducted in Debre Tabor town administration, to understand a little more about the unmarried adult's single life in particular their conception on marriage. Whereas the methodology scope of the study, a qualitative research approach was employed to explore the lived experiences of unmarried adults in Debre Tabor Town.

1.7. Limitations of the study

One of the major limitation of the study is that, some individuals might regard marriage as private and confidential issue; they would shy and unwilling to share it with others. In turn this might hide the unique lived experience of unmarried adults on being single and consequently might influence the result of the study to a certain extent.

1.8. Definitions of terms

In practice or in use, a few terms related to matters dealing with the research may lack precision or exactness. It is, therefore necessary to define terms in the context of their use.

Unmarried Adults- in this study, this concept is operationalized to be represent those bachelors` and unmarried women whose age is between 35-45 years old.

Bachelor- A man who has remained unmarried beyond the usual age.

Unmarried woman- A woman who has remained unmarried beyond the usual age.

Chapter Two: Review of Related Literature

2.1. The Concept of Marital Delay

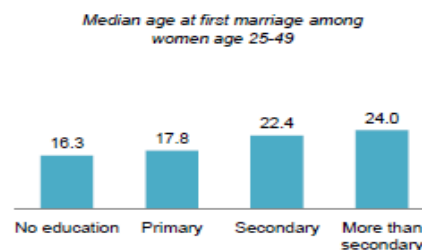
In this study marital delay denotes those a male and a female who have remained unmarried out there the usual matrimonial age of 35-45 year old. In Connection with the usual matrimonial age, in most countries and regions, males and females may marry without parent’s agreement at age 18 (Rice, 1998). Regarding age at marriage; one of the most important fashions in the changing family has been the increase in the median age at first marriage (Sporakowski, 1988). Regarding to this, he pointed out that: The average age at first marriage in 1993 was 26.5 years for male and 23.9 years for female. This average age was greater than any formerly chronicled. At the opening of the twentieth century, the average age at first marriage underway a decline that ended in the mid-1950s, getting a low of 22.5 years for men and 20.1 years for women. Meanwhile then, the projected average age has been increasing, with especially fast rises since 1980.

According to the 2016 Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS), concerning the median age at first marriage stated that:

In Ethiopia, women tend to marry considerably earlier than men. The median age at first marriage is 17.1 years among women age 25-49 and 23.8 years among men age 25-59. Fifty-eight percent of women and only 9% of men age 25-49 marry before their 18th birthday (p.67).

In relation to this, the 2016 Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS), also stated the patterns by background characteristics; “*Women living in urban areas marry later than women living in rural areas. Median age at first marriage is 2.6 years older among urban women than rural women (19.3 years versus 16.7 years)*” (p.67). Whereas, “*Median age at first marriage increases with increasing education, from 16.3 years among women with no education to 24.0 years among women with more than a secondary education*” (p.67).

Figure 2.2. Women’s median age at marriage by education



Here in our context, the family law of Ethiopia allowed to get married and established family at the age of 18. That is, Proclamation (2007), under section two essential of marriage article-7 age stated that, “*Neither a man nor a woman who has not attained the full age of eighteen years shall conclude marriage*” (p.3). However, in the educated people`s environment largely difficult to establish it. Due to this fact depending on their field of study most individuals expected to complete their first degree program between the ages of 23-to-25. So, the remaining 10 years supposed to be preparation age. Beyond the age of 35 is presumed to be delayed to their first marriage. That is why this study focused on those unmarried adults whose age is between 35-45 years old.

2.2. Reasons for Being Single

The reason for delay in marriage and being single are social, economic, and personal (Rice, 1998). He pointed out that, the particular reasons are:

2.2.1. The changing attitude towards single life

The prevailing prejudices against unmarried individuals are diminishing. It is no longer unacceptable for those in their thirties to be unmarried, especially if they have a booming career, an energetic social life, and an outgoing personality. However, both family and friends continue to anticipate that ultimately they will marry. Nevertheless, if they opt to remain single because this is their chosen life-style, family and friends usually agree to take their decision finally (Rice, 1998).

2.2.2. Circumstances

For numerous bachelor and spinster adults` diverse conditions such as: family circumstances, geography, social isolation, financial situation, and the like were a determining factor for being single (Rice, 1998). Of those family condition have had a substantial effect to be single; for instance, widowed father were tightfisted and defensive to their spinster child. Although spinsters get numerous opportunities to marry but always discouraged by their father (Rice, 1998).

Pan, (2004) documented that, unmarried adults explained the reason for being single; getting establish in career or their hectic job left them very little time for a relationship. Career is the first priority, then family. Majority of this unmarried adults would transcend once on top of the job or recognized in their career before settling down for marriage. Being single, however, is perceived as a provisional stage for them before they have sufficient possessions for a blameless life.

2.2.3. Fear of marriage

Fear of marriage is a powerful deterrent. Some bachelors and spinsters who are fearful of marriage were carried up in ill-fated homes where their parents clashed all the time. Others have been disappointed in love and are frightened to attempt another time (Rice, 1998). Similarly, Pan (2004), recognized that many unmarried adults fear marriage is due to loss of their engaged woman in different social, economic, personal and the like problems. As a result, they were suspicious of whether she really loves or not and they feared to hear the word ‘marriage’, so they refused her and were need time for recovery. Lutwak (1985), in his findings added that, numerous unmarried adults had a profound sense of insecurity about the result of caring. Many believed that marriage was a deception, a farce, a trap. In addition to these a significant percentage of unmarred adults being single is because of unresolved conflicts or difficulties with parents (Cargan, 1982). The majority of findings indicated that, unmarried adults may have been discouraged by unpleasant family conditions (Rice, 1998).

Moreover, some individuals, especially those from the one-child family who were dependent on their parents were horrified of likely problems and errands that they could not consider of marriage (Pan, 2004). And also, Pan (2004) pointed out that, in terms of being single, as the findings of the study showed that, individuals stayed single because of the reasons as; fear of marriage.

2.2.4. Lack of Opportunity and Waiting for the Right Person

According to Malhotra and Tsui (1996), the shift from arranged to love marriage due to changes in socio-cultural setting obliterates parental roles in making decisions on the timing of marriage and child bearing. According to their view, marriage that is based on self-selection of a partner takes longer time to search for “appropriate” mate, which involves trial and error.

At the other extreme are unmarried adults who would prefer to marry but have never had the chance. In particular, some women are caught in the “marriage squeeze”; that is, they have difficulty finding eligible/appropriate male partners (Rice, 1998). Both the number of eligible men and their employment and education affect women`s opportunity to select a mate (South & Lloyd, 1992).

Additionally, Pan (2004) pointed out that, in terms of being single, as the findings of the study showed that, individuals stayed single because of the reasons as; wait for the right one. Likewise,

Pan (2004), recognized that, the notion of “Right Person” is the idyllic person that individuals desire to find as a partner. In the study, some female respondents highlighted that, they had become quite fussy and there were not many appropriate candidates. They presented themselves as persistently open to a relationship, whereas the idyllic men were nowhere to be found.

2.2.5. Conjuring up advantages of being single

According to Rice, (1998) Unmarried adults delayed their marriage expecting the advantageous life of being single that includes: firstly, countless opportunity for self-development and personal growth and fulfilment. If singles want to take a course, go on to graduate school, or travel, they are unrestricted or freer to do so than are married people, who must consider their spouse`s own school and career plans and interests. Secondly, opportunities to meet different people and to develop and enjoy different friendships. Singles are free to pursue friendships with either men or women, according to their own preferences.

The third and fourth important advantage were economic independence and self-sufficiency. As one women said, “I don`t have to depend on a husband for money. I earn it myself and I can spend it as I want.” (Rice, 1998). And more varied sexual experience. Singles are free to pursue experiences with more than one partner.

The last two crucial advantageous life of being single were, freedom to control one`s own life. Singles are unrestricted to do what they need without being conquered by a spouse; they enjoy more psychological and social autonomy. And more opportunities for career change, development and expansion. Singles are not locked and sealed in by family responsibilities and so can be more mobile and flexible in the climb up the career ladder.

At last but not least, not all of these advantages apply to all singles. For instance, not all singles have opportunities to meet different people. No all are economically well off, nor are all free of family responsibilities. Nevertheless, some singles would list some or even all of these items as advantageous for them (Rice, 1998).

Moreover, Pan (2004), pointed out that in terms of being single, individuals stayed on being single because of the reasons as; “*get establish in career; enjoy freedoms*” (p.15).

2.2.6. The length of the period of education and economic dependency

The duration or length of the period of education and economic dependence has significantly influenced the delay of marriage. Women who have occupational ambition marry far ahead in life than do those who intended to be house wives. Lower socioeconomic positioned individuals, with lower educational and vocational aspirations, are more probable to marry at early ages (Rice, 1998).

2.2.7. The Sexual Revolution

Modernization theory argues that socio-economic development affects age at first marriage through self-selection of spouses. The shift from arranged to love marriage due to changes in socio-cultural setting obliterates parental roles in making decisions on the timing of marriage and child bearing. According to their view, marriage that is based on self-selection of a partner takes longer time to search for “appropriate” mate, which involves trial and error. Moreover, marriage that is based on free selection of mates involves premarital sexual relations (Malhotra & Tsui 1996).

There is a vital connection amongst sex, marriage, and child-bearing. And until the last part of the twentieth century, sex, marriage, and child-bearing were as a decree firmly bound together in widely held cognizance (Kierman, Land, & Lewis, 1998). However, sexual revolution has transformed people’s perception of sexual activities, it becomes socially acceptable of the non-marital sexual intercourse (DeGenova & Rice, 2002). That is, sexual revolution has also influenced the age at first marriage. Couples began delaying marriage, and cohabiting unions became more common (McLanahan, Donahue, & Haskins, 2005).

What makes cohabitation so significant is not only its prevalence but also its widespread popular acceptance (Popenoe & Whitehead, 2002). According to Althaus (1991) as cited in Rice (1998), the growing getting ground of premarital sexual intercourse has made sexual manifestation possible at young ages without demanding marriage. The augmented recognition of non-marital cohabitation also delivers some benefits of marriage without the commitment—for example, companionship, sex, shared housing and shared living experiences (Rice, 1998). Hence, the increasing getting ground of non-marital sexual intercourse has made marriage itself no longer carries the moral force as it once did (Kierman, Land, & Lewis, 1998). The possible manifestation of sexual activities at adult ages without demanding marriage (DeGenova & Rice, 2002), effused more and more cohabiting couples than married couples (Grossbard-Shehtman, 1993).

Furthermore, people today may experience a period of cohabitation prior to marriage (Barich & Bielby, 1996).

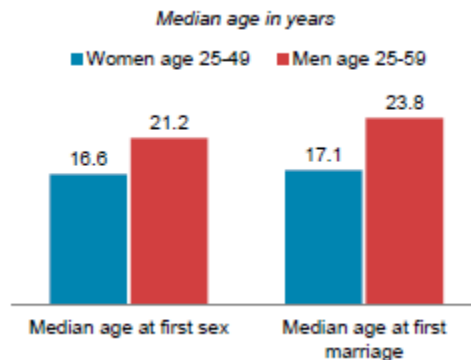
By and large, the increased opportunities for non-marital sexual intercourse and the increase acceptance of non-marital cohabitation are the reasons for the adults to be married at older ages than they used to (Cooney & Hogen, 1991).

In Ethiopian context, the 2016 Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS), concerning the median age at first sex stated that:

In Ethiopia, the median age at first sexual intercourse among women age 25-49 is 16.6 years. One in four (24%) women have first sexual intercourse before age 15 and 62% before age 18. By age 20, 76% of women have had sexual intercourse. Whereas, on average, men in Ethiopia initiate sexual intercourse at older ages than women. The median age at first intercourse among men age 25-49 is 21.2 years. Only 2% of men have first sex before age 15, while 17% have initiated sexual intercourse by age 18. By age 20, 36% of men have had sexual intercourse (p.67).

Accordingly, age at first marriage is broadly considered a proxy pointer for the age at which women start to be exposed to the risks inherent in sexual activity. A comparison of the median age at first intercourse with the median age at first marriage can be used as a measure of whether respondents engage in sex before marriage. Among women age 25-49 in Ethiopia, the median age at first intercourse is 0.5 years younger than the median age at first marriage (16.6 years versus 17.1 years). This shows that many women involve in sex before marriage. Whereas, the median age at first intercourse among men age 25-49 is 21.2 years. By contrast, the median age at first marriage among men age 25-49 is 23.8 years. Thus, on average, men in Ethiopia initiate sexual intercourse 2.5 years before marriage (edhs, 2016).

Figure 2.1. Median age at first sex and first marriage



2.2.8. The Women's Movement

According to a historic and sociological viewpoint, some scholars perceived that women's movement is also an quintessence of delayed marriage. The old-fashioned role for women, looks like in china and the rest of the world that is termed housewife (Pan, 2004).

The women's movement has influenced outlooks of marriage. Women are stimulated to seek their own identity, apart from marital identity, and to find career fulfillment and economic self-sufficiency. Feminists are not opposed to marriage, but women are encouraged to explore opportunities in addition to or as alternatives to family fulfillment (Rice, 1998). Likewise, modernization theory also argues that socio-economic development affects age at first marriage through self-selection of spouses and economic independence of women (Malhotra & Tsui 1996).

It should be noted that the prevailing sway women are having on the transformation of culture and society, the factors like enlarged economic activity, professionalization of the job market, countless education access and triumph, a deterioration in domestic responsibilities (Chatterton & Hollands, 2003) have had notable on women's likelihood of the delays in getting married and starting a family.

On top of these, now a days' getting married is one of the big decisions in a woman's life. Historically, women have not had access to the same opportunities as men which stimulated them to marry just to make a better life for themselves. Today woman have more option, among which one of them is the right to be single (Beri & Beri, 2013).

In connection with these, they explained that:

Throughout history, a very different picture has been painted when it comes to the Single Woman vs. the Single Man. Single men are seen as "bachelors" - independent, having fun, and enjoying life to its fullest before getting "chained down" by a woman. Single women on the other hand, have long been seen as less than whole if they're not attached, lonely spinsters, and cat ladies. Hopefully by now in the age of human equality, we all know these archaic views is just that - out of date, and untrue? Over the past decades, there have been many changes in the attitude toward marriage among the women and other society members. These attitudes are caused by today society and woman being more focused on their career then getting married. It has been observed that increased options outside marriage are more influential in a women's decision not to marry, than the increased barriers to marriage."

At the least, this attitude has led to marital postponement as women explore other options.

2.3. Challenges of Unmarried Adults on Being Single.

Many research findings indicated that, we live in a couples-oriented society where the usual status is to be married. There is often a stigma attached to be single-many people seem to think that if a person is single there must be something wrong with that person. In fact, Sharp & Ganong (2011), pointed out that indeed, stigma single individuals face may vary based on their age. That is, at certain times in the life course, being single is more or less acceptable than at other times.

Furthermore, The person living alone, or without a mate, has special problems to deal with, such as greater loneliness, depression, fear, facing decisions alone, the need for love and affection, and sexual desires that must be kept under control (Sharp & Ganong, 2011). And also Rice (1998) pointed out that, one of the disadvantages of being single is sexual frustration for some individuals and also fear of not having children, or lack of a family in which to bring up children.

Moreover, those who are not in favor of remaining single describe a number of disadvantages:

2.3.1. Loneliness and lack of companionship

Loneliness and lack of companionship is a pressing problem for some singles (Ponzetti, 1990).

2.3.2. Economic hardship

Rice (1998), documented that, economic hardship, especially for single women earn less than single or married men and, because they do not have access to a husband's income, have a lower standard of living than do married women. Also, top positions are more often given to married men than to single men or to women.

2.3.3. Feeling embarrassed, fear, and prejudices

Fleeing out of place in many social gatherings because social life is organized around married couples. In addition, singles may not be invited to some social events, Sexual frustration for some people, and not having children, or lack of a family in which to bring up children were the other disadvantages (Rice, 1998).

Rice (1998), also contented that, prejudices against single people in our society and social disapproval of their life-style was the other disadvantage. This creates problems for singles if

society considers them a threat to the established social order or to other people's marriages. Much pressure is put upon them to get married.

2.3.4. Influence on health and well-being

For years researchers have been investigating the effects of marriage and singlehood on people's health and sense of well-being (Mastekaasa, 1992). In sum, single people are less healthy than married people and have higher mortality rates (Trovato & Lauris, 1989). Overall, the studies seem to indicate that married people are healthier and happier than single people, so marriage may have a beneficial effect on well-being (Lee, Seccombe, & Shehan, 1991).

2.4. Coping Mechanisms of Unmarried Adults on Being Single

One of the coping mechanisms of unmarried adults for different interrelated challenges is premarital sexual intercourse. This coping mechanism solves multidimensional challenges of unmarried adults' single life problems. The increased acceptance of non-marital cohabitation provides some benefits of marriage without the commitment—for example, companionship, sex, shared housing and shared living experiences (Rice, 1998).

On top of this, Stutzer and Frey (2006), pointed out that, among the unmarried individuals who cohabit with a partner are significantly happier than those who live alone. But this effect is dependent on the culture one lives in. It turns out that people living together in individualistic societies report higher life satisfaction than single, and sometimes even married, persons. The opposite holds for collectivist societies.

2.5. Aspiration of Unmarried Adults to their Future Life

In this study context aspiration of unmarried adults to their future life on the issue of getting married focus on; are unmarried adults get married in the near future? Or waiting for further additional years? Or left being single throughout their entire life. Accordingly, DePaulo and Morris (2005), have contended that singles face a specific form of stigma and discrimination, named *singlism*. Singlism echoes a pervasive philosophy or ideology of marriage and family, demonstrated in daily thoughts, interactions, laws, and social policies that favor couples over singles. He argued that, "The ideology of marriage and family has been described as the unquestioned belief that everyone wants to (and will) get married." Rulebooks accompanying

“singlism” are that a romantic, sexual partnership is the only means to succeed intimacy, and thus, individuals who have a partner are cheerier, more attuned, and lead more satisfying lives than do single people.

The above developed theoretical framework and conceptions make reference for understanding the issue of being single.

Chapter Three: Research Method

3.1. Setting of the Study

The research on lived experience of unmarried adults on being single was conducted in Debre Tabor Town, which is located in Amhara National Regional state, South Gondar Zone, 666 km away from Addis Ababa and 96 km away from the North of Bahir Dar. Because of more familiarities of the town; that is, over a decade of has been living as a resident and working in this 682 years old great ancient town and communities blaming of the issue could be intentionally selected as a research site.

Most prominently, Debre Tabor is weigh up as a vivacious, thrilling and recurrently changing town, following its improvement & conducive natural environment many individuals joined as new inhabitants. In addition to the single indigenous inhabitants, a number of these individuals are also single, and the question of being single has become to arise people's apprehension. So, this research actually simply want to get a better understanding on the authenticities of the town and to understand a little more about the people's single life, in particular their conception on being single.

3.2. Research Design

A qualitative research approach was employed to explore the lived experiences of unmarried adults in Debre Tabor Town. As Domholdt (1993) explained that, instead of probing for generalizations, qualitative research focus on "a deep understanding of the particular". It also encourages interaction with the respondents which in turn enables to gather a rich data out of observations in line with discovering meanings attribute to events and activities (Porta & Keating, 2008). And the widely held data is a word for word record of the participants' responses (McNeil, et al., 2005).

Kvale (1996) and Maxwell (1996) also pointed out that, qualitative research has more advantages in conducting research on sensitive social issues; like: awareness, experience, individual behaviors, and social situations to answer the question why and how these behaviors or actions occur. Due to this fact, as specified by Kvale (1996), qualitative research technique has gained a robust place within being single research issue; because it provided the likelihoods for societies to apprehend the real situation of the adult individuals and being thoughtful is a means for altering the situation being studied.

Accordingly, the phenomenological study approach was employed to explore the lived experiences of unmarried individuals. “The purpose of phenomenology is to capture the “essence” of individual’s experience germane to a particular phenomenon.” (Husserl, 1962 & Porter, 1998). And this approach focus on “*describing what all participants have in common as they experience a phenomenon*” (Creswell, et al., 2007; p. 57).

The aim of the phenomenological strategy in the human context is to gather in-depth information through inductive, qualitative methods such as interviews, discussions and participant observation, and representing it from the perspective of the research participants. The inductive approach involves analyzing data with little or no predetermined theory, structure or framework and uses the actual data itself to derive the structure of analysis (Burnard, et al., 2008). Therefore, phenomenological study approach was employed in this study; because it is believed that this approach is more appropriate to investigate the lived experience of unmarried adults in depth.

3.3. Participants of the Study

The main target group for the study was unmarried adults who has been living in Debre Tabor town; who have had university degree & above and have decent jobs in government and non-government institutions. The reason why participants having university degree and above with decent job are purposefully chosen in this study is because education and quality of jobs have paramount influence in determining individual’s decision to get married. The unmarried adults involved in the research were aged from 35 to 45 the one supposedly should be married but actually they are still single.

The range of participant’s age is decided to be from 35 to 45, because in the contemporary Ethiopian context the availability of jobs and the economic situation didn’t allow individuals’ immediately to get married after graduation. So, after graduation for a certain year’s individuals spend searching a job, after they get the job they need to equip him/her self and also help their parents and other relatives, and upgrading their education. Doing all these takes a number of years before deciding to get married. Because of this, now a days to get married before 35 years is becoming hardly possible. But it is expected to get married after 35 years of age and if individuals didn’t get married on this age, it is considered as delayed. That is why we take 35 years as the lower limit in selecting the participants of the study.

Whereas, the upper limit of participant's age is decided to be 45; because, above this age it is difficult to get someone who will fit with them and also it is almost menopause period for women. Thus, it is less likely to get married after 45 years old.

Based on these, seventeen participants were included in the study, because let alone the level of data saturation and limited time for the analysis to each interview, smaller samples or the ample small number of interviews made it possible to understand each story in the results of general, precise and trustworthy level and considered to be adequate for phenomenological research (Porter, 1998). Due to this fact, 10 males and 7 females a total of 17 unmarried adults were participants of the study who had responded the one-to-one interview on being single.

Table 1- Detail Profile of the interview participants

Ser.No	Pseudonyms or Nicknames of participants	Variables					Remark
		Sex	Age	Educational Level	Organization		
					GOs	NGOs	
1	א-Alep	M	36	BA Degree	√		
2	ב-Bet/Vet	M	35	BA Degree	√		Attending on MA Degree
3	ג-Gmail	M	44	BA Degree	√		
4	ד-Daleth	F	37	BA Degree	√		
5	ה-Hey	M	36	MA Degree	√		
6	ו-WawVav	M	38	BA Degree	√		
7	ז-Zayin	F	38	BA Degree	√		
8	ח-Chet	M	37	MA Degree		√	
9	ט-Tet	F	35	BA Degree	√		
10	י-Yod	M	37	BA Degree	√		Attending on MA Degree
11	כ-Kaf	F	44	BA Degree	√		
12	ל-Lamed	F	40	BA Degree	√		
13	מ-Mem	F	45	BA Degree	√		
14	נ-Nun	M	37	BA Degree	√		Attending on MA Degree
15	ס-Samech	M	40	BA Degree	√		
16	ע-Ayin	M	41	BA Degree	√		
17	פ-Pe/Fe	F	35	BA Degree	√		

Table 2- Summative Profile of the interview participants

Variables	Interviewees	Number	percentage
Sex	Male	10	58.82 %
	Female	7	41.18 %
Ages	35-40 years old	13	76.47 %
	41-45 years old	4	23.53 %
Educational status	BA Degree	15	88.24 %
	MA Degree	2	11.76 %
	Attending on MA Degree	3	17.65 %
Organization	Government Organization	16	94.12 %
	Non-Government Organization	1	05.88 %

3.4. Sampling Method

Purposeful sampling technique was employed to conduct the research. Using this sampling technique, the interview participants of the research who are unmarried adults and has been working in different organizations in Debre Tabor town were selected. These participants were selected using purposeful sampling technique on account of their experience on being single in the study area.

Accordingly, Creswell (2007) pointed out that, *“The concept of purposive sampling is used in qualitative research. This means that individuals were selected and sit for study because they can purposefully inform an understanding of the research problem and central phenomenon in the study”* (p. 125).

Firstly, contacted a few of individuals who are in the intended age group and stayed single and with their rough guide and support, got the opportunities to come across and got to know the other unmarried adults. Some of these unmarried adults, in turn, familiarized to their friends. In view of that, it would not individually designated the interviewees; it was so called the purposive sampling selection method that lend a hand to arrange different interview junctures. That is, after being interviewed, these respondents are asked to identify others who belong to the target population of interest and subsequent respondents are selected based on the referrals.

3.5. Data Collecting Instruments

In the study, in-depth interview in association with field note will primarily develop and adopt to collect data.

3.5.1. In-depth interview

A face to face one-to-one semi-structured in-depth interview were conducted to gather the primary data from the study participants; because, semi-structured in-depth interviews would be a better instrument collecting the data and gain an understanding of these adult people's lived experiences.

On top of this, in order to carry out the in-depth interview with the selected seventeen participants ensuring as a full freedom, according to the interest of the research participants a confidential place was able to secure. This method helped the participants to recount the situations from their own perspective and in their own words. This method is very useful to produce rich data in the exploration of lived experience of unmarried adults'.

The semi-structured in-depth interview guide with open ended questions which consisted of different items that comprised of demographic variables (including gender, level of education, and age); of the total seventeen participants related to the aforementioned objectives of the study, would apply.

As this is a phenomenological study, we have used the interview guide only to keep the flow of the interview in the right direction. Upon some indicators of additional explanation from the informant, we used to go further to obtain detail responses for the questions. Because phenomenology enables researchers to gather relevant information regarding the lived experience from the perspective of the subject. In phenomenological studies, the researcher includes taken-for-granted assumptions and usual ways of perceiving by using 'bracketing'. The data that were obtained from the word for word responses of the research interviewee were recorded first with in note book based on participant's prior consent.

Moreover, field notes regarding observation of the participants' feeling and impression of their lived experiences during and after the interview period were taken. Taking field notes was aimed to prove the information obtained from the in-depth interview.

Their emotions in response to some of the questions in the interview, their body languages to express either their acceptance or their refusal of ideas, especially for the tag questions, and so on are the contents of the field notes.

3.6. Data Collection Procedures

Firstly, the interview guides were prepared in English. Then, for some modification and approval of the data gathering task, these interview guides were submitted to the research advisor. Later on these guides were translated into Amharic, which is the official language of the respondents. Onwards the final approval response of the advisor, a letter were taken from the Psychology department of the college to the research site explaining the aim of the research to the participant. Prior to the beginning of the data collection process, a brief introduction was given to the respondents regarding the objectives of the study and their role in the study. Furthermore, establishment of good relationship with the study participants, guaranteeing confidentiality of their responses, and securing their permission of participation in the study were tried.

Next to these data collection procedures, carrying out the interview in Amharic were begun and the entire data of the interview as well as the translation were done. An ample experience of data collection and more familiar to the culture of the town particularly for those respondents who are indigenous to Debre Tabor were opportunities of the research.

In collecting the data, cautious about the convenience interview place and time were considered. Based on the interest of the participants, the interview was conducted when the office hour is off at safe private and confidential room. Accordingly, dutifully waiting for the convenient time of the participants were used. Furthermore, the research work was not so simple soon after the beginning of the research. In truth, people are still regard marriage as private issue; they are shy and unwilling to share it with others especially to record the data in audio recording. As a result, the interview was recorded using note book only with the consent of the participants.

3.7. Guaranteeing Data Trustworthiness

One of the strong points of a qualitative research is data trustworthiness. Guaranteeing data trustworthiness is very essential to determine whether the findings are accurate from the perspective of the participants, from the perspective of the researcher himself, or from the perspective of other third party readers.

To this effect, asking cross-checking questions time and again for a better clarification were done. In this way, the internal consistency of the participants' descriptions about their lived experiences were confirmed.

The other way, the internal consistency of the participants' descriptions were proved through the exertion of a rich and deep explanation of the findings with reference to a variety of sources. By doing so, a reasonable explanation for the themes of the research topic were constructed.

3.8. Techniques of data analysis

As indicated earlier, the purpose of the research is to explore the lived experiences of unmarried adults on being single in Debre Tabor Town. To this effect, the inductive approach to analyze those qualitative data were employed. Particularly, the thematic content analysis method, which is most appropriate to analyze lived experiences, was used. Burnard, et al (2008), clarifies the process of thematic content analysis's follows:

The process of thematic content analysis involves identifying themes and categories that 'emerge from the data'. This involves discovering themes in the interview transcripts and attempting to verify, confirm and qualify them by searching through the data and repeating the process to identify further themes and categories (p. 431).

So, soon after all the data were collected, studying each and every response of the participants were began so as to enhance the intellectual engagement in the analysis process. This task was accomplished by reading repeatedly note book of the interview records. Burnard, et al, (2008) described,

In qualitative research, data analysis often begins during, or immediately after, the first data are collected, although this process continues and is modified throughout the study. Initial analysis of the data may also further inform subsequent data collection (p. 430).

By applying the thematic content analysis approach of data analysis, then all the Amharic words of the participants into paper were copied. Putting the words of the study participants into paper helped to employ repeated readings on the note and to get well acquainted with the data. Close acquaintance with the detail of the data, in turn, helped to transcribe the written information into some meaningful sub categories.

Next to the transcription of the data, the Amharic version of the transcribed data to English were translated and begin the thematic coding process based on the objectives and questions of the study. And based on prior consent agreement, to guarantee confidentiality for the research participants and to keep their anonymity coding them were accomplished.

By using the descriptive and interpretive thematic content analysis method, the data were analyzed and interpreted carefully against the issue of being single experienced by unmarried adults, which

was discussed in the review of the literature. As described by Miles and Huberman (1984), data analysis proceeds from noting patterns and themes to arriving at comparisons and contrasts to determining conceptual explanations.

3.9. Ethical Concerns

Regarding to the ethical concerns of the study, knowingly that no activity or process in a purely qualitative research like this, is allowed to be carried out by anyone other. To this end, all the activities were carried out carefully. This is the first ethical issue that could be proud of. Because nothing is better than honesty for the rules of doing something.

Furthermore, procedurally a letter from the Psychology department of the college were taken, to explain the aim of the research in order to build trustworthy of the respondent. And dutifully wait for the convenient time and active listening during interview and instantly after interview writing on the note book were accomplished only with the consent of the participants.

Moreover, people might regard marriage as private issue; most of the time they were shy and unwilling to share it with others. For the sake of human protection as well, responsible for the peace and security of the study participants were also considered; providing them a very special care and sensitivity. For instance, coded the research participants with nick names/pseudonyms in the analysis part to keep their anonymity as per the consent to guarantee confidentiality.

Chapter Four: Result and Discussion

4.1. Results

This section contains a thematic analysis and presentation of the findings depending on the main results from the interview in the research area. So, this phenomenological study primarily aimed at exploring and revealing much about the lifelong lived experience of unmarried adults in Debre Tabor Town. The thesis is based on the stories of unmarried adults that acknowledge the characteristic of their lived experiences and their perceptions on being single.

The most important data and facts from the seventeen participants have been systemized into four main themes for the sake of responding the four research questions: the reasons for why adult people stayed being single, the challenges on being single, coping mechanisms on being single, and aspiration of their future life. Therefore, in this section, the self-report of interview participants about the reasons, challenges, coping mechanisms of being single and aspiration of their future life were briefly presented in order to show the depth of the situations they were experiencing.

Data analysis began after the first interview. Each idea was a data analysis unit. In the analysis first read through interviews and broadly distinguishing amongst; irrelevant data, life world context data, and lived experience data. Irrelevant data are not connected to the experience on being single and not analyzed. Life world context refers to data reflecting participants' insights/perceptions of their social environment, comprising both micro and macro levels. Like, family members, friends, and coworkers' comments, societal messages, and norms, reactions, and behaviors as well as broader messages/assumptions in culture like, media, holidays about being single are all considered life world context data. Whereas, data about the lived experience were taken from the participant's thoughts, actions, and intentions (Porter, 1998). For the sake of this thesis, we examined life context data only and findings related to their lived experiences on being single are also reported as well.

Pseudonyms were given to keep the anonymity of participants. The pseudonyms/nicknames given to the participants were the ancient Hebrew letters Aleph, Bet, Gimel, Daleth...that is directly related to the ancient Geez Letters of Ethiopia አ ቤ ገ ደ... This letters also found in holy bible Amharic version Psalm No-118 and English version No-119 and also found in Lamentations the whole chapter sub-numbers names were written in Hebrew letters.

Moreover, one of my mother's uncle name was Aleph. For a long period of time I were surprised in this name. Particularly I quest frequently what is the meaning of it. Thanks to our forefathers' documentation and also information technology, I have got the secret of the truth. So, in order to resurrect our respected Geez language and to show its relation with Hebrew language, I have used this Hebrew Letters as nicknames for the participants of the research. These were, include Aleph, Bet, Gimel, Daleth, Hey, Wawvav, Zayin, Heth, Tet, Yod, Kaph, Lamed, Mem, Nun, Samech, Ayin, and Pefe.

Furthermore, the participants had the right not to talk about what they don't want to talk and these self-reports were not inclusive of all of their backgrounds. In the finding, the self-report of participants were also presented in both first and third person narration techniques and the participants described all as follows:

4.1.1. Findings of the study participants' reasons for being single.

This section investigates and reports reasons of subjects on being single including their noteworthy remarks they made during the interview. So, these case stories and remarks are classified under the most notable 10 category and other sub-category reasons of delayed in marriage and stayed on being single, which have been experienced by the study participants. That is, unmarried adults' reasons of being single, which are categorized as per the experience of the study participants, are used as themes for the overall analysis of the case stories.

4.1.1.1. The influence of urban life and the changing attitude towards single life.

Concerning this issue, for the sake of avoiding conjecting of items and creating clarity to the study, we classify into two categories; that is, the influence of urban life and the changing attitude towards single life. Based on this we analyzed and interpreted the data as follows.

4.1.1.1.1. The influence of urban life.

In this reasons of being single the research participants mainly focused on the urban modernization. As we know generally in comparison with the rural life, the urban life is more conducive to and made to ease the complexity of life. Because it has good electric and pure water supply as well as other life safer infrastructure. That is why among the many reasons that the rural people migrated to urban areas. Due to this fact unmarried adults can live easily without horrible life. So, this

research participants raised as a contributing reason for not to established marriage on the usual time.

One of the research participants Aleph explained that,

The last important factor that hindered myself to establish marriage on time were the astonishing part of urban life; i.e. urban modernization. After the revival of my economic capacity the hardship less urban life influenced me to establish marriage on time. That is, in urban life in comparison with rural life almost every human need is more accessible to it. For instance, if I need food I can purchase it or make it easily through electric supply and if I need sex, I have also many opportunity/option to acquire it from female sex workers or through cohabitation. However, in rural environment it is too difficult to stay long year without a mate, the hardship life by itself obliged to establish marriage on the usual time.

4.1.1.1.2. The changing attitude towards single life.

Similarly, following the onset of modernization as well as globalization in urban environment living in a singlehood life or establishing marriage above the usual time is acceptable and not many of them too much blamed to it in comparison with in rural areas. So that, the changing attitude towards single life also become a reason for unmarried adults to establish marriage in the usual time. As Aleph said that, “.....*being single is not too much a shameful life like that of in the rural community.*”

Furthermore, the changing attitude towards single life particularly in urban areas allowed unmarried adults to live in a cohabitation life. That is, it is not shameful and condemned like that of rural areas. As a result this become a reason for unmarried adults to delay to establish their marriage on the usual time. As Gmail put one of his reasons of being single is, “.....*After a while I have got another one and I requested her to begin in a cohabitation life but she was not voluntary and failed to it*”.

Generally speaking this shows that the influence of urban life and the changing attitude towards single life become one reason for unmarried adults to delay their marriage and being single or not to establish their marriage in the expected usual time.

4.1.1.2. Economic and other related circumstances.

Regarding to the issue of economic and other related circumstances there are many interwoven ideas that can be noted to it by the participants of the study. That is, economic and other related circumstance reasons of unmarried adults on being single comprises different interrelated issues.

For the sake of avoiding conjecting of items and creating clear understanding for readers we categorize under two broad categories; that is, economic and other related circumstance. After a while we categorize the economic aspect under four major sub-categories and also the other related circumstances under ten main sub-categories. Based on these categories we described in the following way.

4.1.1.2.1. Economic

Findings of the study indicated that, economic related reasons like, economic dependency syndrome of parents or lack of interest of family to establish marriage right now due to need of further economic support, parents' long period bedridden health problem and its excessive medical cost as well as long year loan and credit for investment, prolonged years of construction of residence and its related cost, providing economic support for needy relatives as well as extended family and educating them in paying back of someone previous good deeds. Similarly, weakness of economic capacity due to court decision for guarantee credit to repay for a long period and low income by itself were reasons of unmarried adults delayed to establish their marriage in the expected matrimonial age.

4.1.1.2.1.1. Economic dependency syndrome of parents

In some localities, particularly in the rural areas, the purpose of parents to educate their children is for the sake of fortification in later years of their age. Now a days, once their children graduate and get employed parents expect to get financial support from their children and also children accepted that it is must to provide financial support for their parents even in a condition when they are not able to cover their day to day life expenses. This trend became a culture and failing to do so will result in negative social rewards; like neglect and lack of acceptance in the community.

Because of their level of understanding, parents even did not understand the income level of their children. They think that, being employed in government office is being high paid. Parents' main thinking is to get support only and become proud of by their support. As a result children obliged to do so even if they are not able to do that and this situation in turn weakens and negatively affect the economic capacity of the helper and became a reason for them to delay to establish their marriage in the right matrimonial age. Regarding to this economic dependency syndrome of parents one of the participants of the study Aleph uncovered his lived experience that;

Beside to this, because of the traditional myth of our kebele, I was helping my parents' economically for a long period of time. That myth is, in our homeland kebele whether our parents were economically poor or rich unless we support them, we will be out casted in that community; that is, and there is severe economic dependency syndrome there. In one way or another this situation severely affected the economic capacity of myself and become an impediment to establish marriage on time.

Similarly, because of their economic dependency syndrome many families did not want to see their children get married early. Due to this fact, by fearing the influence of their families as well as the surrounding community they stayed with their family for an extended period of time. Accordingly, the research participant Hey also stated his lived experience that:

I guessed that in many directions, directly or indirectly, the whole family might not want to establish marriage right now. That is, the changing attitude towards single life. When I hypothesis their reasons, they may need to get further economic support or..... Due to this fact, I consider to myself thinking marriage is a shameful and degraded act. In relation to this, in our family the issue of marriage is seemed to be taboo and totally locked. No one raised as an issue. This influenced me not to give a due attention for the issue.

4.1.1.2.1.2. Moral obliged financial support to parents and other relatives

In other dimension, in the collective society, a country's like Ethiopia one of the societal norm of employed children were providing financial related care and support activities for parents and other nearest relative family. That is to say when parents' face long period bedridden health problem medicating them, educating children, and the like activities were expected from them without any enough economic capacity. Consequently, this leads unmarried adults extremely fluctuate their economy and become a reason for them not to establish their marriage in the expected matrimonial age.

Accordingly Bet explained his lived experience that:

One of the reasons were the death of my elder brother and my parents' long period bedridden health problem. The Death of my elder brother creates many crisis in our family. Because of his death the whole family especially my parents' were in deep grief. This grief later on creates prolonged health problem on them. I have strived more and more to medicate them in different private and government hospitals and religious holy water sites but I couldn't and become died consecutively. In connection with this one of my sister spent her life providing care for them up until they died. She didn't get any basic education and later on she married in rural area and born many children. For the sake of helping her I have been educating her children and caring up of them in different economic aspect for a long period of time. Both of these events made me to degrade economically & enslaved

for many private and institutional loan. Later on the economic issue become additional impediment for me to push singlehood life.

4.1.1.2.1.3. Paying back of someone previous good deeds and long year loan

On top of these, on the one hand by thinking for tomorrow individuals involved in long year loan and credit for investment, prolonged years of construction of residence, and other similar related cost incur investment activities. On the other hand to repay the previous good deeds of their family within their little economy they obliged to provide endless multidimensional financial and other in kind support for their needy relatives as well as extended family. In turn this become a reason for them not to establish marriage in the expected time.

Concerning to this one female participant of the research Mem also pointed out that,

My elder brother, after he completed his assignment, lately he established marriage and have produced a number of children. Because his low income amount later on the yolk of caring up of these children put on me. Onwards my graduation I have been caring up and supporting of four of his children totally as well as the whole family occasionally. This giant and prolonged economic burden has been a big impediment for me to establish marriage right now. Moreover I was self-sponsored student to endorse my first degree in order to become self-reliant and not to see the hands of males in later years and constructing of my residence through long year loan, for a long period of time for the purpose of proclaiming my later year's freedom also degraded my economic capacity. These also another reason to delay to establish marriage on time.

From this we can conclude that, different aspect of family situation i.e. divorce of parents, prolonged consecutive grief due to loss of significant others deteriorates the psychological power of individuals and the low income of the individual by itself also too. In relation to this economic need of one's own family/ living for family for the sake of different things like when families face severe economic crisis, the yolk/ burden of caring up of the whole family as well as extended family puts on the individual. In turn this giant and prolonged economic burden leads to weaken the economic capacity of the helper. On top of this, if parents and families of unmarried adults did not want to enhance the marriage relationship or interfere the relationship negatively, the progress of the relationship become blocked. As a whole, the sum of these problems become a reason for unmarried adults to delay their marriage to establish in the expected usual matrimonial age.

4.1.1.2.1.4. Guarantee Obligation

Furthermore, the culture of our society to care each other in the case of loan as a credit guarantee and in the case of employment as guarantee employment. That is to say, a formal promise by one person to take responsibility for the debts or obligations of another person if that person fails to meet them. In case the primary receiver of the loan failed to repay it back, the guarantee person is obliged legally to pay it back. Because of this individuals who face such kind of problems continue paying it back for a long year and it is difficult to establish one's own life because of economic challenges and will not get partner unless they become clear from the credit because they can't fulfill the daily needs of their partners if they get engaged. Regarding to this, another participant of the research Wawvav uncovered his sorrowful lived experience that,

.....I have faced another challengeable legal related problem that cannot withstand it and to darken my best future marriage dream. One up on a time I was a legal responsible person for my younger brother when he was working as a position of cashier in government organization. Unfortunately, he spoiled 80,000.00 Ethiopian birr and he became imprisoned and out from his formal work. In between he became upset and lost his life. Later on the legal issue shifted towards to me and became responsible and the court judged on me to repay the money from my little monthly salary. Right now, I have been repaying the money from my monthly salary started before two years. Due to this fact I have been severely affected economically. So my dream of marriage became not only ceased and vanquished but also engraved to it. Because of these interrelated reasons still I am being single.

4.1.1.2.2. Other related circumstances

Regarding to other related circumstances, the following reasons become the findings of the study experienced by the research participants. That is, lately joining/enrollment of formal educational program or in modern education in spending many years in attending religious education and helping of once agricultural family in different activities and also interruption of modern education or drop out from school due to unstable political system, i.e. civil war of the nation and other related factors was one indirect contributing reasons for unmarried adults to delay their marriage and stayed as a single.

In addition to this, job related reasons that hinder unmarried adults to establish marriage in the expected usual time; such as, unstable job duty station and job security problem as well as the nature of the job, remote and uncondusive location of job employment and placement, search of a

job in one's own locality, lack of comfortable and sustainable job and place of work, spending in job searching for a certain years, and lack of accessibility of time and place like, hectic rural project work/job and site were the major one.

Furthermore, different circumstances in our culture like strengthening social relationship in different aspects left for individuals little time and also become hectic. As a result divert their focus of attention; i.e., lack of focus due to wide range of hectic and time consuming social relationship in the community and no time for the issue. Similarly, prolonged victim of different addiction leads us out caste by the community since addiction is blamed by religious leaders, a problem of genital impotent for many years that discriminates us from the larger society, physical appearance especially the shortness of height especially for male also not accepted by the society; there is Amharic saying that, 'yeset achir yeset wozero, yewond achir awura doro', prolonged years of imprisonment due to different reasons makes an individual to deteriorate his life course for instance, loss of job, after released from prison excessive fear of revenge and flee away from one's own locality in search of a job, conflict, and the like.

Moreover, if one has a collection of classrooms in genealogy and near relative's engagement of girls not to be accepted by once family and also condemned by the religion as well as by the culture, family interference by itself not allowed to establish marriage with somebody and also lack of interest of family to establish marriage right now due to considering the level of maturity, and not to separate from them, families lack of focus and not to give a due attention to the issue of marriage as well as considering as a taboo, loss/death of significant others consecutively and become involved in deep prolonged grief, prolonged or long year bed ridden health problem and loss of job and again searching of job, believing that not Gods well, the age factor by itself diverts the focus of attention towards some other issues, and the influence of geographical isolation between the will be couple were the other major reasons for unmarried adults to be single for a long period of time without establishing marriage in the expected matrimonial age. Regarding to these main issues a selective of participants of the study uncovered their lived experience in the following way.

4.1.1.2.2.1. Late enrolment and drop out of education

In addition, other related circumstance reasons that hinder indirectly to establish marriage on the expected matrimonial age were, lately joining/enrollment of formal educational program or in

modern education in spending many years in attending religious education and helping of once agricultural family in different activities and also interruption of modern education or drop out from school due to unstable political system, i.e. civil war of the nation and other related factors was one indirect contributing reasons for unmarried adults to delay their marriage and stayed on being single.

Accordingly one of the research participant WawVav explained this issue that,

I have reasons for the delay of my marriage. Firstly, there were indirect factors that contribute for the delay of my marriage. Of those, I have spent my childhood life experience in religious education in different monastery and church for many years. Later on, when I joined and onset in modern education, the previous unstable political system that is civil war of the nation between Derg and other opponent party that hinder to endorse my education, was also a reason to join university lately and became my indirect reasons to delay to establish marriage on time.

4.1.1.2.2.2. Location, security, and nature of job

Furthermore, almost all the participants of the research described that, job related reasons that hinder to establish marriage in the expected matrimonial age. According to them, unstable job duty station and job security problem as well as the nature of the job, remote and uncondusive location of job employment and placement, search of a job in their own locality, lack of comfortable and sustainable job and place of work, spending in job searching for a certain years, and lack of accessibility of time and place like, hectic rural project work/job and site were the major one.

Regarding to this issue one of the participant Cheth described that,

Another reason to delay to establish marriage on the expected and appropriate matrimonial age is the rural project in which I have been working. I spend most of my time here in the farmer community. This is not ideal for a woman I want because of the character of my work. When I have the best of conditions, I have to be careful and forget about the girl I was planning on finding and choosing because of the stress of the job; that is to say, my hectic job left me very little time for a relationship.

From this commonly we understood that, to have sufficient possessions for a blameless life, getting and establishing sustainable job opportunity as well as job security, job nature and site were a determinant factor to establish one`s own family. As a result, in order to secure this issue it becomes one reasons for unmarried adults stayed as a single for a long period of time beyond the expected matrimonial age.

4.1.1.2.2.3. Addiction

Generally speaking, in order to establish marriage, society expects that, the personality of the individual become good and well. That is, he/she become free from bad things that are not accepted by the society like any type of addiction and the like. Because, this is a basic thing for them in order to make them to lead their future life appropriately.

Accordingly, one of the participants of the study WawVav uncovered his lived experience that, *“The prolonged victim of different addiction become my indirect reasons to delay to establish marriage on time.”*

4.1.1.2.2.4. Genital impotency

Similarly, of the main purpose of marriage or one of the basic thing to establish marriage is for sexual and reproductive function in human life. However, if individuals face genital impotency, he/she will regret to establish marriage up until they become heal and in between many years became elapsed and enslaved to delay to establish marriage in the right matrimonial age.

In this regard, one of the participants of the study WawVav explained his lived experience that,

On top of these, there were also direct circumstances reason to delay my marriage; the first one is, almost in my entire years of youth hood, I have had a problem of genital impotency for many years. This affects my psychological makeup as well as personality for many years; not to think, talk, and discuss the issue of marriage up until I treated and cured by cultural medication.

4.1.1.2.2.5. Physical appearance

Physical appearance especially the shortness of height especially for male also not accepted by the society; there is Amharic saying that, ‘yeset achir yeset wozero, yewond achir awura doro’,

Concerning this issue, a participant of the study WawVav described his lived experience that,

Later on, after the resolve of the problem through cultural medication I have faced another impediment to establish marriage on time. That is, in the past a number of girls explicitly explain that, my physical appearance especially the shortness of my height made them to flee away from myself.

4.1.1.2.2.6. Prolonged imprisonment

On top of these, in one way or another individual’s committed crime, as a result become requested by the law. Depending on the weight of the crime the law passed to spend many years in prison.

Consequently; onwards they completed their prison life, they displaced from their job and village and push many years in singlehood apprehension life.

Accordingly, one of the participants of the study WawVav stated his lived experience that,

In between within this condition, I have faced another circumstance that hinder to establish marriage on time. Because of my own personal and political reasons, I encountered a conflict and clashed with someone and I made a stabbing attack on him but fortunately he was not died. As a result I imprisoned for prolonged years and a number of years were elapsed in prison life. Then, after I released because of the fear of revenge I flee away from my locality. As a result, the focus of my attention become searching a job in a place where far away from my locality and the motivation of establishing marriage become domed. This also another reason for not to establish my marriage in the right time.

4.1.1.2.2.7. Family interference

In Ethiopia, particularly in Amhara culture consulting once family in selection of a mate is common and fundamental. In turn the family assess the background of the engaged one including his/her genealogy. If they get unmatchable thing their interference will continue up until to stop his/her relationship. As a result family interference especially parental interference become a reason for them to delay to establish their marriage in the expected matrimonial age.

In relation to this, the study participant Cheth uncovered his lived experience bitterly that:

On top of these, those of my relatives and intimate friends who know the problem very well strived to engage a girl that meet the criteria. Later on, one of my best intimate friend engaged a girl that fit with my criteria. Based on our agreement we have marched a long year journey without any sexual relationship. Then after we have reached on decision to establish our honey moon marriage; we told the family that it was important to introduce family. Then, as parents began to study our genealogy, not only we became a collection of classrooms but also I heard that one of my near relatives engaged her one up on a time. As a result, both parents refused to join us. So we agreed that we would have to wait for the wrath of our parents for a few years. That is until our parents let them. However, our parents didn't want to change their state of mind. As a result we have obliged to reach a final agreement to stop our long term journey. And I'm still traveling on loneliness until I get my own eve.

The other male participant of the study Hey similarly sated his experience that:

.....the whole family might not want to establish marriage right now. That is, the changing attitude towards single life. When I hypothesis their reasons, they consider the level of my maturity, or not to separate from them. I think so their reason is might be among one of the three. Due to this fact, I consider to myself thinking marriage is a shameful and degraded act. In relation to this, in our family the issue of marriage is seemed to be taboo

and totally locked. No one raised as an issue. This influenced me not to give a due attention for the issue.

4.1.1.2.2.8. Persistent grief

Another research participant Kaph stated her lived experience sorrowfully that,

But after that, I was overwhelmed with my deepest hope and the shadow of death hovered on me. I was suddenly succumbed to the death of my younger and older sisters. When I forget one sadness, the other one overlooks and my longevity become full of sadness. At the moment, I have been living with my sister who is the remnants of this catastrophic death in the home of our parents by caring up of our sister`s orphan younger daughter. Then I relinquished the idea of a marriage of this false world. Living for a family and over a lot of sadness were a reason to forget my marriage.

From this we can understand that, on the one hand, family grievance or loss of family parents puts one in deep psychological disorder and traumatic experience which hinder individuals from thinking about one`s own life and coming to engage in marriage. On the other hand, since marriage is considered as happiness in life, if people get ready to marry in short period of time instantly their family loss, the surrounding community will show negative attitude towards them and even exclude. Hence, because of their post-traumatic experience of family loss and in fear of gossiping from the surrounding community, people who lost their family member keep alone for extended time.

4.1.1.2.2.9. Bed ridden health problem

Similarly, another research participant Lamed described her lived experience sorrowfully that,

In the meantime, I suffered from a disorder of the health problem and become bed ridden; and had been moving in different holy water sites for more than two years by the help of my family. As a result, my life was spared, and I had to abandon it. After my health returned, it was another complicated problem. After some years of searching job, I started working as a job worker. This also another contributing factor to delay my marriage.

The participant statement saying above clearly shows that health is one of the basic determinant of life as well as getting married. To be engaged, people should have to be in a good mental as well as physical health condition unless and other wise neither the individual himself/herself nor the one who is to be married needs to be involved.

4.1.1.2.2.10. Geographic isolation

Furthermore, Ayin a participant of the study described his lived experience that,

After many years elapsed, I began a new relationship with other employed girl far away from my work place Debre Tabor town. When we start our relation, she put a precondition idea, that she needs a few years to study with each other. Because the geographical isolation has its own impact on us. That is why she need extra time to study with each other. After few years, day after day our strong relationship become weaken/loosen gradually. Later on, silently she denounce everything and established her own marriage with someone else. This became one reason that delayed to establish my own marriage on time.

This shows that geographic isolation negatively affect ones desire to get engaged with whom he/she wants to marry. Because of this people stay unmarried for extended time even if he/she is ready and happy to get married and live together with the one whom they wants to marry because they have no physical proximity. Physical proximity is very essential to get married on the right matrimonial age.

As whole, these were the reasons of them to delay to establish their marriage in the appropriate and expected matrimonial age.

4.1.1.3. Fear of marriage and lack of motivation to negotiate girls.

The third most import things that raised by participants of the study that hindered them not to established marriage in the usual expected matrimonial age were fear of marriage and lack of motivation to negotiate girls. According to the respondents they raised three interrelated things here; that is based on their criteria they select someone that become the will be mate of oneself; however, in between after many years elapsed they betrayed and flee away from oneself. This creates long term pain for them and needs time to heal from their wound. Even after they heal from their pain they hasty generalizing the other girls also and become hesitating to them. In relation to this they do not exert more effort to negotiate them and become negligent enough and not want to give more time for them. Similarly, the other unmarried adults also learn vicariously from them and act the same like the victim one.

Concerning fear of marriage and lack of motivation to negotiate girls as a reason for unmarried adults delay their marriage and stayed being single of the many participants three of them and others replied that,

Firstly Bet uncovered his lived experience on reasons of delayed to get married that:

.....the betrayal of my girlfriend and horrific model of my closest couples made me to fright marriage. Before five years I have engaged a lovely girl. However, after many years elapsed I have got one confidential sever bad things from her and instantly I canceled her

totally. Similarly when I observe the divorce of many couples, my wound relapsed and frightened more and flee away from this category.

Secondly Wawvav stated one of his reasons on being single that:

After the healing of my dual wound I have engaged a college student girl. We have agreed and endorse in cohabitation life for 5 years. After the following day of her graduation she betrayed me and went abroad to live her own life. This action imposed the most severe pain on me.

And Yod described his lived experience reasons of not to establish marriage in the right matrimonial age that, “.....*In addition to these I have had a problem of strong motivation and effort to negotiate girls when they refused to it, I turn my face soon*”.

By and large, the remaining participants of the study Aleph, Gimel, Daleth, Hey, Zayin, Heth, Tet, Kaph, Lamed, Mem, Nun, Samech, Ayin, and Pefe raised other related reasons such as;

dishonest and rude characteristics of girls, dishonesties' or rude habit of the engaged male; i.e. having sex with other females, the fear/danger of overcoming marriage, the bad model of others marriage life, problem of motivation and encouragement to finalize the issue, bad sexual habit of girls and interference of family as well as best intimate friends in the issue, silent denounce and betrayal of the engaged girl, and fear of marriage due to modeling of the worst marriage life of my prior intimate friends and seeing of some rude married men, establishing job with my own parents locality and living together with parents in a conducive environment for a long year; so, there is no pushing or pulling factors to establish marriage; were become a reason not to establish marriage in the expected usual time.

4.1.1.4. Lack of opportunity and waiting for the right one.

Related to lack of opportunity and waiting for the right one as reason for being single, exceptionally three of them Daleth, Lamed, Pe, and other majority of the participants of the study explained that;

Firstly, Daleth uncovered her reasons of being single that:

But still there were a miracle mate selection criteria, even for me it was not concrete and that couldn't be conjure up by myself. I cannot or be able to say this is my criteria. But it is intrinsic mate selection criteria. Based on my intrinsic mate selection criteria, I approach and study many individuals for a certain period of time. Later on their personality might not fitted with myself. Gradually I will loosen and end up my relationship with them. Because of this reason more than a decade has elapsed and the right time of year establishing marriage has elapsed. And by now I am pushing the worst singlehood life.

Additionally, Lamed described her reasons of being single that:

.....At the same time, my choice of marriage was strong. What I long believed in was what I wanted to do in everything - religious, academically, economically, and physically-

as well as a better mate. But I could not find a real partner who did what was best for me. Because of my stubbornness, I spent a lot of time.

Furthermore, Pefe explained her reasons of being single that:

.....So it was my choice of marriage, a practical religious person that is not from Muslim or other Christianity family. I need not only the follower of orthodox Tewahido Christian but also real honest, committed, and devoted to his religion. Similarly who is not from declassified society that is his genealogy is not from blacksmith, waver, slave, tanner, wizard, and 'bale Zar'. And not from our closest classroom genealogy that is our kinship relationship is above seven generation. As well as who was not engaged my kinship. This issue is the firm stand of whole family as well as myself. On top of these good personality of respecting my parents as well as the whole family, free from any addiction, faithful, believing in reason and communicating easily is another criteria. Furthermore, physically handsome, educated, and who have had his own sufficient income or good economic status is my mate selection criteria. So, within my long term journey, individuals who want to engage me were opposite and contradict to my personality. Still I haven't get a mate to fulfill a single one criteria of it. As a result, this become a first reason to delay my marriage and being single.

In relation to the above, Gimel, Hey, Zayin, Yod, Kaph, and Samech also added that,

Setting of hardly possible various mate selection criteria, like a mate who are and have holds religious i.e. virgin and living in Eucharist life, academically have had master degree, economically well equipped, and physically handsome mate. Strong and strict mate selection criteria due to family interference and influence i.e. a practical religious, good genealogy not from declassified society and waiting for a long period of time the abroad engaged fiancé. Similarly, incompatibility of the culture of the community to choose the right mate of oneself were become reasons not to establish marriage in the usual and expected matrimonial age.

As whole, as we know generally fearing of the future divorce disaster, getting the right and appropriate mate of oneself is the most challenging one to establish marriage. Because of this reason many unmarried adults not only to set a dozen of mate selection criteria that can't be fulfilled and achieved by almost all individuals but also they set a number of vague, unclear, difficult & an attainable mate selection criteria that couldn't be even understood by themselves also. Consequently for the sake of these reason that is absence of a mate who meet the criteria or frightens of marriage due to if do not get the right one, they stayed as being single for a long period of time above the usual and expected matrimonial age because of lack of opportunity to get the right one and waiting for the right one.

4.1.1.5. Perception of the advantages of being single.

Generally speaking being single mean neglected from many social relationship in turn this narrow up their economic and social burdens. As a result, unmarried adults consider this as an advantageous life. For instance, enjoy freedoms or freedom of control one's own life, more opportunities for career or career change, development and expansion, economic independence and self-sufficiency, greater opportunity for self-development, opportunities to meet different people and to develop and enjoy different friendships, and more varied sexual experience because no one controls and follows them. Consequently they delay their marriage and stayed as a single for a long period of time.

Participants of the study Samech, Ayin, Pefe and some others mentioned a number of ideas about the benefits & opportunities of singleness.

Accordingly, Samech stated his lived experience that,

I spent non-working hours and days with my parents and the whole family. As of this reason, I didn't give a due attention and place for marriage issue. In relation to this, there is not any driving forces to push or a pulling factors to pull towards the issue of marriage. Let alone the other, washing cloth and other similar activities fulfilled by my family just like the life of childhood. Usually I didn't think weather marriage is attractive or not. Occasionally I thought that, if I were employed somewhere else that far away from my family, I would establish marriage still. Because there are more difficult affairs that cannot be achieved by a bachelor only. If so I would obliged to establish marriage. So, still living with my parents for a long period of time is one reason for me delayed to establish marriage on time and being single.

Similarly, Ayin uncovered his lived experience that:

On top of these, living together with my parents' have had its own influence to establish marriage on time. Because the conducive environment of my parents' house made me not to give a due attention for the issue more and more. Everything what I need I got there easily and became a reason for delayed to establish my honeymoon marriage in the appropriate time.

In relation to this Pefe also explained her lived experience that

After employment also I have been living with my parents for many years. Everything what I need have been providing by my parents just as of my childhood experience. In turn this is not only to influences to neglect or not to give a due attention and place the marriage issue but also I thought that a big impediment for those individuals to engaged me freely. By and large these are the reasons to delay my marriage and being single.

Moreover, the remaining participants` of the study stated that, giving more focus on or prior attention for marriage prerequisite/precondition things, focus on the economy, not see the full

extent of freedom, thinking marriage is a shameful and degraded act, urban's hardship less living standard or conducive environment, and adjusting oneself in different things with urban life and forgetting to focus on marriage issue were a reason for them not to establish marriage in the appropriate matrimonial age.

As a result, directly or indirectly these ideas showed that unmarried adults delayed their marriage and stayed as a single for the purpose of perceiving the advantageous life of being single.

4.1.1.6. The length of the period of education and economic dependency.

Commonly known that the length of the period of education and its related economic dependency become a hindrance factor for unmarried adults delayed their marriage and stayed being single for a long period of time. Because these individuals were self-sponsored students and have had a problem of low economic capacity to establish marriage hand in hand with their education.

As many of the participants of the study explained that, by giving priority to education, upgrading their education status to first and second degree level and the length of the period of education and its related high cost of education fee become a reason for them to establish marriage in the usual and expected matrimonial age.

Accordingly Mem explained her lived experience that,

Moreover I was self-sponsored student to endorse my first degree in order to become self-reliant and not to see the hands of males in later years and construction of my residence for a long period of time for the purpose of proclaiming my later year's freedom also degraded my economic capacity. These also another reason to delay to establish marriage on time.

Similarly, Nun added his experience that

Besides, I thought that I would not be able to run from a diploma course to a degree, as I tried to explain. Because of the high cost of schooling, I did not have enough economic/income-generating capacity to build a marriage, so it was my second reason for not marrying because I did always care about education.

Furthermore; Samech also explained his lived experience that

.....the other reason were the issue of the length of the period of education and its related cost. My first education level was diploma. In order to upgrade to a degree level. I have spent a long period of time to achieve my education. This in turn alters or diverts my focus of attention and weakens my economic capacity. As a result it became a reason for delaying my marriage and living as a single hood life.

4.1.1.7. The Sexual revolution.

Many years before, in the Ethiopian context and culture particularly in the rural areas still premarital sex as well as cohabitation life is strictly forbidden, condemned, taboo, and religious sinful too. However in now a days because of the expansion of urbanization and the influence of globalization this trend of culture become changed from time to time. As a result premarital sexual relationship and cohabitation particularly in the urban areas get acceptance and unmarried adults exercising to it without demanding marriage. Because of these reason one of the pushing factor i.e. libidinal energy of erotic sexual desire, for unmarried adults to establish marriage in the usual and expected matrimonial age become collapsed. Consequently, in collaboration with the other reasons the sexual revolution become an impediment reason for unmarried adults to delay their marriage and styed being single.

Majority of the research participants exercise premarital sexual relationship. As Aleph sated that, “.....*if I need sex, I have also opportunity/option to purchase it or cohabitation it.*” Similarly, Gimel explained his lived experience that, “.....*After a while I have got another one and I requested her to begin in a cohabitation life but she was not voluntary and failed to it.*” Furthermore, Cheth also uncovered his experience that,

Besides that, I believe that the girls I choose is the other reasons why I am delayed not to get married. Most of the time the girls I choose other than that of seasonal sexual relationship, they were not committed enough to push me to enter marriage.

4.1.1.8. The globalization effect of women’s movement.

In my interpretation to the idea of majority of the participants, in our country Ethiopia, before the introduction of modern education the only fate of girls were establishing marriage early before the age of eighteen years through family arranged marriage. However, exceptionally in Amhara rural areas if girls were not married at the expected age of eighteen years, the neighborhood community would insult her saying in Amharic ‘Kumo ker’ and her family’s particularly her parents also hear nagging and flattering words from the surrounding community. Then, her parents and other more concerned relatives obliged to arrange and establish marriage with more aged males for the sake of naming what we have been called in Amharic ‘Titkwan Tifta’. As a result in either of the two ways she gave birth early and become the owner of many children at early years. And the fertility rate become increase in alarming rate. As a whole before the onset of modern education the fate

of girls were early marriage or unbalanced marriage and caring up of their children and become the slavery of household tasks.

Later on, thanks to the launching of modern education, the system changed radically and the focus of the nation become towards girls' education. There is a Mahtem Gandi's saying that, if we teach girls, we teach families too. Even though there are a few remnants, the majority of girls enrolled in modern education. As a result they strive more and more to their education for the sake of self-sufficiency economically and to live a better way of life. Because of this reason another difficulties coming a head. That is, they forget to establish marriage on the typical and appropriate matrimonial age.

When we come to the female participants of this research majority of them explained that, firstly they strived more and more to establish and upgrade their education, later on they dashed from one corner to another in search of a job to sustain their economic self-sufficiency in order to become autonomous and liberated from male spouses seeing of his hands in the later years. As a result they mentioned this issues become a reason for them to delay their marriage and waited to be single to establish marriage in the expected usual matrimonial age.

Accordingly Daleth stated that,

“.....I continued attending my education for many years and hold my BA Degree in management and then I spend two years searching for job. After two years of my graduation I got my own job and have been working for 15 years but still I didn't get married because I believe I should have to save and have something to say mine before marrying since I don't want to be dependent on the income of my husband for the fulfillment of my basic needs.

Also Mem, another participants of the study uncovered her experience that,

Moreover I was self-sponsored student to endorse my first degree in order to become self-reliant and not to see the hands of males in later years and constructing of my residence for a long period of time for the purpose of proclaiming my later year's freedom also degraded my economic capacity. These also another reason to delay to establish marriage on time.

4.1.1.9. The issue of Eucharist life.

Among the research participants, Lamed stated that, “*Lack of opportunity to get true Eucharist male* and similarly Ayin uncovered that;

The first reason of myself delayed to get married is, the issue of sacrament. That is to say that, prior after many years were elapsed, my engaged employed girl was eagerly and

mincingly interested to establish our marriage in Eucharist life. At that time, even though, there was not any problem that prevented me to establish our marriage in Eucharist life, I was fearful and not voluntary enough to establish our marriage in this life. Both of us were very reluctant, to change our state of mind and in between many years were passed. Because of this reason the already prepared marriage were collapsed and our relationship were stooped and right now became a reasons for my singlehood life.

In the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church context, living in sainted life is the recommended dogma of the religion; that is, our heavenly father Elohim said that, *“those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have had longevity of life.”* Based on this word, the followers of the religion in order to flee away from sinful thing and living as a true Christian they prefer to live in Eucharist life is the better way for them. What is difficult to here is, getting the true voluntary Eucharist individual is the most challenging thing. The life by itself is respected and have had the focus of the people. As a result choosing this individual takes long period of time and in between unmarried adults become enslaved with the delayed marriage and become a reason for them not to establish their marriage in the right and appropriate matrimonial age.

4.1.1.10. The request of pride gift and ceremony.

In now a days, particularly in the urban areas of Ethiopia providing exaggerated gift and preparing ceremony beyond ones economic capacity for everything increasing in alarming rate and become a culture now. For instance, gift and ceremony for; when one enters a new home, when gave birth, baptize day, wedding day, when one separated from this world forever, and the like. Among these the most challenging one for unmarried adults were the precondition request of exaggerated pride gift and ceremony by spinsters. Then like the other reasons of being single, in turn this also become an issue or a reason for unmarried adults not to establish their marriage in the right and appropriate matrimonial age and enslaved them the horrible life of singlehood.

According to this, of the participants of the study Gmail described that,

Later on, based on the revised action plan with the effort of myself and significant others, I have got a girl to establish marriage with me and everything had been safely gone. Unfortunately, in between the engaged girl requested me to provide costly pride gift and to prepare huge marriage ceremony but I couldn't afford to it and she couldn't convinced to it. As a result, she changed her state of mind and refused to marry and the plan was failed and became a reason for my single hood life.

Similarly, another participant of the study Yod uncovered his lived experience that: *“.....one upon a time after I engaged a girl and agreed in many things later on as the modeling of her elder*

sister she requested high amount of pride gift as a result the already process become blocked”. Could be a reason for him not to establish marriage yet.

4.1.2. Findings of the study participants’ challenges on being single.

This section explore and reports challenges that participants’ face on being single including their noteworthy remarks they made during the interview. And these case stories and remarks are classified under the most notable six category challenges of delayed in marriage and being single, which have been experienced by the study participants. That is, unmarried adults’ challenges of being single, which are categorized as per the experience of the study participants, are used as themes for the overall analysis of the case stories. Accordingly:

4.1.2.1. Biopsychosocial challenges.

One of the challenges that unmarried adults experience on being single were the biopsychosocial challenges. This challenges of unmarried adults on being single comprises both the biological, psychological and social aspect of the problem. In turn this focused on the natural biological erotic sexual desire and different forms of sexual harassment.

According to the participants of the study, majority of bachelors especially, extrovertly uncovered that during their long period singlehood life experienced that the erotic sexual drive and also largely spinsters and to some extent bachelors have had an experience of both different forms of non-violent and to a limited degree of violent sexual harassment challenges of being single.

In terms of erotic sexual drive the majority of bachelor participants of the study stated that, erotic sexual desire and frightens of myself what will happen next, the high sex drive, toughest sexual desire, the natural desire of sexuality, and erotic sexual desire were one type of their challenges of not to establish their marriage in the usual and expected matrimonial age and stayed on being single. Accordingly Hey stated his challenges that: “.....*The other challenge is erotic sexual desire and frightens of myself what will happen next”.*

Whereas in terms of sexual harassment, almost all unmarried women participants of the research and two bachelor participants of the study Bet and WawVav have encountered obligatory request of a cheap sexually suggestive sexual relationship and different forms of sexual harassment from disloyal individuals.

Accordingly Pefe explained her challenges that, *“During my singlehood lived experience I have faced interrelated trails. Of these the most upset and challenging one is; the frequent sexual harassment of male individuals who established their marriage in Eucharist life”*. Became the other biopsychosocial challenges of unmarried adults who delayed their marriage in different reasons and stayed on being single.

4.1.2.2. Economic crisis challenges.

Generally speaking, economy is the basic thing for everything as well as for everyone. However, unless we use wisely and efficiently difficulties coming a head. According to this research participants, one of their basic challenges’ of their singlehood life is economic wastefulness. As lack of thinking tomorrow, especially most bachelors’ of the study described that because of the high cost of hotel food and lack of skill to cook and diet themselves since our cultural gender role prohibited males to involve in house made tasks; due to this fact they lack skill to cook for themselves, sexual payment for sex workers to get a sigh of breath in sexual desire and absence of relatively cheap and affordable recreation area in order to flee away from loneliness, leads them to become finically extravagant.

Accordingly, one of the participants of the study Nun uncovered that, *“.....The high cost of hotel food and lack of skill to cook and diet myself leads myself to a huge economic fall.....”*

4.1.2.3. Health challenges.

As we know commonly, when one bachelor went out far away from his natural parents’ home in search of a job and establishing a job somewhere, particularly for bachelors’ dieting himself is a challenging problem. So that, they will chose one among the two alternatives. If he were skillful to cook to himself is the best alternative to get non hesitated purified diet. If not, dieting himself in hotel area is the only alternative one. This in turn have many dietary health problems particularly the type and quality of oil and other spices they used it have its own influence on health related problems.

Accordingly a participant of this research Nun stated that,

Because I often stay in a hotel that I eat, so that I am exposed to high cholesterol and high blood pressure. Many doctor's counselled me to change my diet. But I cannot do this by eating in a hotel. I have neither the capacity nor the ability to cook & nourished myself. I did not think that would have happened if I had married.

As a result being single especially for bachelors' most of the time obliged them to nourish in hotel and this in turn exposed them for different health problems and become one of the challenges of unmarried adults.

4.1.2.4. Psychological challenges

According to the issue of psychological related challenges of unmarried adults on being single except seven participants of this research, Zayin, Heth, Tet, Yod, Kaph, Nun, and Pefe; the rest of them explained that,

social and emotional stress, lack of self-confidence, negligent, visionless, unhappiness, depression, occasional hopelessness, spiritual jealousy on those intimate friends who were married and have children, moral degradation, lack of caring up of themselves, sever stress by itself and due to fear of not having a child, anxiety, frustration and hopelessness, sever psychological problem due to the treat and insult of rude males, fleeing of loneliness, lack of meaning in their life, lack of commitment, psychological influence of customer of the organization, lack of skill to communicate thee, and lack of sleep were the major challenges of them that they experienced to it in their singlehood journeys.

Exceptionally one of the participants of the study Ayin added and uncovered his experience that,

Occasional depression, anxiety, poor concentration, lonely, don't feel connected, lack self-confidence, irritable, angry, difficulty making decisions, feeling sad or blue, having problems with sleep, lack meaning in my life, feeling overwhelmed, and bothered by troublesome thoughts are the major challenges of my singlehood life.

By and large if there is a basic unfinished assignment in one's own mind, when the insight of the community as well as by himself or herself, later on it become changed into different forms of psychological problems. As a result this can be one major challenges of unmarried adults on being single.

4.1.2.5. Psycho-social challenges

The fifth important challenges of unmarried adults on being single to uncover in their experience is the psycho-social challenge. This item composes the two important things of psychological and social challenges of unmarried adults on being single. From the beginning if there is a psychological problem in ones thought, later on in one way or another it turned in to social problem and become vice versa.

Accordingly, the study participants explained that some of their basic psycho-social challenges' of their lived experience. Of the major trails the first one is; loneliness, for a certain number of individuals greater and endless salivary of loneliness' as well as for some of them occasional

loneliness, particularly loneliness during holy days' time, facing decisions alone, the need for love and affection, lack of individuals to share one's own confidential ideas/thoughts, and lack of care giver when one was ill. Accordingly Gimel stated that, *"Being single have had many challenges, but the most sever one is the day that I spent in holy days lonely"*.

Feeling of embarrassed, fear, and prejudices is the other psycho-social challenges of being single. Fear of marriage because of once previous wound, and a stigma attached to be single i.e. think that there must be something wrong with that person. As Aleph stated that, *"We live in a couple's oriented society where the usual status is to be married. There is often a stigma and embarrassment attached to be single-many people seem to think that if a person is single there must be something wrong with that person"*. Furthermore; the third psychosocial tests of being single is victim of different addiction that is the unnecessary burden of 'chat', alcohol, and cigarette addiction. Regarding to this WawVav explained that, *"the unnecessary burden of 'chat', alcohol, and cigarette addiction are my challenges"*.

Moreover, bad feeling and anxiety when one saw intimate friends of him who have married and have had a child and also quest of spiritual jealousy' of oneself when one saw honeymoon marriage life, the sorrowful and frequent marriage request of ordinary men who cannot fit totally as well as the quest of marriage issue in the side of once family were the major challenges of unmarried adults on being single. Accordingly of the participants Pefe stated that, *".....quest of spiritual jealousy of myself when I saw honeymoon marriage life, sorrowful marriage request of ordinary person, frequent quest of marriage issue in the side of my family were my singlehood challenges of delayed to establish marriage on time"*.

4.1.2.6. Social challenges

The other challenge of unmarried adults' on being single were the social challenges. According to cross-cultural psychologist's view each and every individual were the image and the segment of the society. So that, respecting the value of the community become the expected thing. If not, as of the saying of social psychologists, the influence of the community; that is, challenges of community grip and distraction coming a head. Consequently, as unmarried adults delayed their marriage and stayed being single, the community consider there must be something wrong with that person and later on not only becomes the common and massive challenges of unmarried adults' singlehood life but also a difficult social challenges of unmarried adults too.

Accordingly, one of the participants of the study Mem uncovered her experience that,

Another test is the community. They said that, have you a problem with marriage and child? Still some others are hesitating my health condition, that I have a health problem that prevented me to establish marriage. Furthermore, when customers of the organization came for service and someone called me ‘wozerit’, they become surprised and gazed at me considering my age. Then everybody is again surprised to see me all the way upside down. In turn these creates a psychological problem on me. Because I'm not feeling well for the moment. This are one of the challenges I have faced while not married.

4.1.3. Findings of the Study Participants Coping Mechanisms on being single

This section examine and reports coping mechanisms of participants or unmarried adults on being single including their noteworthy remarks they made during the interview. And these case stories and remarks are classified under the most notable 6 category coping mechanisms of challenges of delayed in marriage and being single, which have been experienced by the study participants. That is, unmarried adults’ coping mechanisms of being single, which are categorized as per the experience of the study participants, are used as themes for the overall analysis of the case stories. Accordingly:

4.1.3.1. Biopsychosocial Challenges Coping Mechanisms

In this sphere of coping mechanisms for challenges of unmarried adults on being single focus on the coping mechanisms of challenges of erotic sexual desire and the awful sexual harassment. According to many psychologists view like Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of needs and many others among the many human needs sexual desire is one of it. As a result in order to cope up this need, every human being use different gratification coping mechanisms. Whereas for sexual harassment as we know generally especially spinsters depending of the nature, time, place and condition of the harassment uses unstable and usually new coping mechanisms.

Accordingly, the study participants, in order to suppress or eliminate this sexual libidinal energy, tremendous praying and continuous fasting were the coping mechanism for religious individuals. Whereas, for others continuous physical exercise especially habituating occasional athletics, reading essential books, making busy oneself through in attention seeking tasks, and communicating with one`s family were the best mechanism to withstand the challenge. Similarly, for some others also naturally establishing cohabitation life, setting a girl friend to become the

future mate, having heterosexual relationships with interested one and female sex workers, and also occasional and usual self sex/masturbation become their coping mechanism for to desensitizing, avoiding, and demolishing a great deal of erotic sexual desire. In terms of coping the challenges of sexual desire, Aleph one of the participants of the study uncovered his experience that, “..... *In addition to these, continuous physical exercise, heterosexual relationship with those interested girls, and occasional self sex- of course it has religious bad feelings, was my coping mechanisms for to demolish a great deal of sexual desire*”.

Whereas, generally unmarried adults more especially spinsters' encountered different patterns of sexual harassment challenges in different time, place, and condition. As a result in order to cope this challenge participants of the study described that, providing clear information about the situation what they have faced for those individuals who attempt unnecessary non-violent sexual harassment. Also notifying that have no interest on the issue as well as unhelpful to the individual by saying I do not want to be and diverting their attention through different systems like disgusting not to understand their saying and inversely imposed hot topic to change their state of mind and abscond from them.

Furthermore, in order to combat both violent and non-violent sexual harassment attempt and action female participants of the study described that, not to show good facial expression and block down the road, being strict, using psychological as well as moral hitting words, and keeping themselves locked in all the streets. Similarly, in order to save and avoid themselves from being sexually abusive as well as violent sexual assaults, they care to themselves from awful time, hazardous place, and dangerous condition. Regarding to this Lamed uncovered her lived experience that, “.....*And in order to save myself from violent sexual assaults I care to myself from awful time, hazardous place, and dangerous condition*”.

Moreover, praying to the Lord God, believing and faithful in God as well as visiting monastery fathers and mothers, continuous fasting, and doing other religious tasks helps them to keep themselves from different patterns of sexual harassment problems. Accordingly Lamed stated that, “.....*usually I pray to the Lord God and believing in God to keep myself from bad things*”.

On top of this, female participants of the study Daleth examined her coping mechanisms of fear of menopause or not having a child sated that, “.....*Leaving or providing to God is my best coping mechanism for fear of menopause.*”

4.1.3.2. Economic Hardship Challenges Coping Mechanisms

There is a saying that, to live tomorrow, save today and also the difference between the poor and rich is very simple; the poor save what is left after spending whereas the rich spend what is left after saving. Based on this, one of the basic challenges of unmarried adults is loneliness. In order to win this problem most of the time they spent their leisure time in costly recreation areas. Similarly, they feed also in hotel and restaurant that incur them too much cost.

Accordingly, participants' of the study used different coping mechanisms to cope the challenges of economic wastefulness. Aleph explained that, *".....in weekends spending in cost-effective recreation areas, like enjoying with my intimate friends in the street also makes my heart grow fonder and in turn this helps me to avoid wastefulness"*.

Additionally Nun described that, *".....Moving non exhaustible walk and admiring nature, studying my course subject and reading books, has been an excellent weapon for to liberate myself from loneliness and financial deprivation"*.

Furthermore, some other participants of the study explained that, spending my precious leisure time in watching important television programs, video films, and reading very important local, abroad books and spent with my family become best mechanisms. Similarly, cooking and dieting myself, converting money into a fixed asset to save money, and moving non exhaustible walk and admiring nature were not only their coping mechanisms for avoiding economic wastefulness but also an excellent weapon for to liberate themselves from financial crisis and deprivation.

4.1.3.3. Health Challenges Coping Mechanisms

As we know, in now a day's majority of unmarried adults especially bachelors become get their basic food from hotels and restaurants'. However, the quality as well as the hygiene is not favorable in each individuals. In turn this become a causative factor of unmarried adults' different types of health problem and leads them the most challenging problem. And many of them because of their loneliness they faced also stress related health problem. As a result unmarried adults designed their own proactive, curative, and developmental coping mechanisms to alleviate the problem.

Accordingly, to cope this challenges Nun and a number of other participants' of the study explained that, *".....For health problem, going to a health clinic, going to parents, and going to a maiden house, were best alternatives, and eating prescribed type of food."*

4.1.3.4. Psychological Challenges Coping Mechanisms

Unmarried adults have had their own coping mechanisms in order to win the interwoven psychological challenges of being single.

According to Lamed, Samech, and a number of other participants of the study stated that,

Praying to the Lord God, believing and faithful in God, Providing everything for the lord God, acknowledged that God is the maker of all things as well as visiting monastery fathers and mothers, continuous fasting, and doing other religious tasks, spending leisure time within once family and spending a dozen of time in dormitory, physical exercise, and similarly making myself too busy in different essential tasks and the like.

All these helped them to combat and avoid bad fleeing's, social and emotional stress, lack of self-confidence, negligent, visionless, unhappiness, depression, occasional hopelessness, spiritual jealousy on those married and who have children, moral degradation, lack of caring up of themselves, sever stress by itself and due to fear of not having a child, sever anxiety, frustration and hopelessness, sever psychological problem due to the treat and insult of rude males, fleeing of loneliness, lack of meaning in their life, lack of commitment, psychological influence of customer of the organization, lack of sleep and many other similar interrelated psychological problems of being single.

4.1.3.5. Psycho-social Challenges Coping Mechanisms

The other coping mechanisms of unmarried adults on being single is coping mechanisms for psycho-social challenges. That is to say it comprises both the interwoven psychological and social challenges. This is mainly focus on the pressing challenges of unmarried adults' loneliness and lack of companionship as well as ordinary spinster's engager's problem.

Accordingly, in order to avoid the psycho-social challenges of loneliness and its related problems, one of the participants of the study Gimel explained that, "*.....During holyday times, most of the time I spent in hotel and other public recreation center to avoid loneliness*". In addition Nun described that, "*.....Moving non exhaustible walk and admiring nature, studying my subject and reading books, has been an excellent weapon for to liberate myself from loneliness*". Similarly, Cheth stated that "*.....I have been able to defend my loneliness problems by spending most of my time with other bachelor peers in order to overcome social isolation*". Also Pefe uncovered that, "*.....to combat the feeling of loneliness usually I design hot and debatable agenda with my parents and friends*".

Whereas for ordinary spinster's engager's challenges Kaph a spinster participant of the study uncovered her experience that,

To cope with ordinary men engager's, on the one hand for those individuals who understood me, I told them in detail the realities what happened on me. On the other hand, for those individuals who didn't understood me, I told them pretext reasons, just like having had a boyfriend whom I'm waiting for. Also neglecting and diverting the topic of the issue were and are my prolonged coping mechanisms to conquer the aforementioned tests.

Similarly, in order to cope from ordinary engager's challenge, other female participants' also stated that, providing pretext reason and making different flattering things to cope with for the sorrowful and frequent marriage request of ordinary men who cannot fit totally and systematic retreat or asymptotically flee away from inappropriate men. Also not to give an ear for the quest of marriage issue in the side of their family became their coping mechanisms of unmarried adults on being single for the aforementioned challenges.

4.1.3.6. Social Challenges Coping Mechanisms

Most of the time human beings to be called us a social animal. Relationship with others is not only very essential but also it is crucial. During our relationship not only respecting, but also practicing the culture, values, norms, assets, traditions, and other similar things of the society is very mandatory. One of the society norms of our culture is, except other religious related things unmarried adults should establish marriage in the usual and expected matrimonial age, if not society consider that individual there is something wrong with that person. Later on this become a big and formidable challenge for unmarried adults on being single and the whole participants of the study become the victim of this challenge. As a result unmarried adults designed their own coping mechanisms for social challenges of the community; like community grip, neglect trauma and the like challenges of being single.

Accordingly, to combat this social challenge, the whole participants of the study exceptionally two of them explained that,

To keep myself from the community neglect trauma, I spent my precious leisure time in watching important television programs, video films, and reading very important local and abroad books. Similarly, in weekends spending in cost-effective recreation areas, like enjoying with my intimate friends in the street also makes my heart grow fonder.

Furthermore, one of the other female participants of the study Daleth stated her coping mechanism that,

In relation to this in order to combat community grip & distraction and lack of respect as well as the married female grip, I consider as meaningless and most of the time I did not give a due attention for them.

On top of these, the other unmarried adults who participated in the study explained that,

In order to cope the psychological impact of the community grip, usually I have been made flattering but fantastic things, like responding to them; already I have finished everything and you will see in the nearest future and sometimes with a positive response to the society's demands. So, I did whatever I could and was not afraid to make any traditions. I was satisfied with my addiction or doing something else in my dormitory, reading about different books, Besides, I am still doing everything I can to make sure I have not heard of the stress of the community; such as, flattering and the like. As well as In order to cope the recurrent negative comment and sympathetic advice of the community; to change their state of mind, I often used systematic raising of another hot topic/issue, funny laughing were helpful to divert their attention.

Similarly they added that,

To combat the community grip I made to pass over and reshuffling the topic to another topic were one remedy, making different flattering things to cope the community grip & distraction, cope with the community noise, through just forget it and not pay much attention, and spending a dozen of time in dormitory for coping with family and community noise challenges.

Moreover, a female participant of the study Kaph described that,

For those individuals who understood me, I told them in detail the realities what happened on me. On the other hand, for those individuals who didn't understood me, I told them pretext reasons, just like having had a boyfriend whom I'm waiting for. Also neglecting and diverting the topic of the issue were and are my prolonged coping mechanisms to conquer the aforementioned community grip/noise tests.

At last but not least, a female participants of the study PeFe described her community grip challenges that *".....For negative comments and criticisms from the community through ignoring, reacting to a situation, diverting the topic, clarifying the issue for those who understand easily, and fabling as well as joking."*

By and large, all these are social challenges coping mechanisms of unmarried adults on being single.

4.1.4. Findings of the study participants' aspiration of their future life.

This section uncover and reports study participants' aspiration of their future life including their noteworthy remarks they made during the interview. These case stories and remarks are classified under the most notable three category of aspiration of their future life, which have been experienced by the study participants. That is, unmarried adults' aspiration of their future life, which are categorized as per the experience of the study participants, are used as themes for the overall analysis of the case stories.

Accordingly, the first group participants of the study indicated aspiration of their future life, they have had not only strong motivation and interest but also they were ready enough to establish honeymoon marriage in the near future. A male and female participants of the study Aleph and Daleth respectively stated that,

I have got the right mate of myself and if other things being equal, I have had a near future plan to establish marriage. Likely to this I have been in process to establish marriage, if everything is ok, I will marry in this 2010 Ethiopian year.

Whereas, the second group indicated aspiration of their future life that in the issue of to be married or not, they have not intrinsic interest and motivation to establish marriage within a short period of time, i.e. they have not any ideal plan to establish it rather they need some other additional years to wait in order to heal from their previous harmful wound; that is, betrayal of the engaged girls and up until to get the indefinite right one.

Accordingly; of the male participants of the study Bet and Samech respectively stated that,

I need additional years to heal from my wound and later on if I get the right girl that to respect the whole of my gust family, I will establish fruitful marriage in the near future. Similarly, right now I have no any movement at all to establish marriage within this short period of time. I think so because of my age, still I didn't have time for it and I am negligent enough and have not strong motivation to pursue the issue to establish marriage on time. However, as the lord God said, It is not good a man to live alone, I would like to make a suitable helper partner for him. So, I am not quite sure of it when I establish marriage, but one up on a time when everything will safe I have a dream to establish a favorite marriage.

The remaining group, exceptionally a number of female participants' have not any remained hope or vision to establish marriage after this age; rather they prefer to live being single throughout their life. Two of the participant of the study Kaph and Mem stated aspiration of their future life in the issue of marriage that, Kaph; "*.....I did not need marriage anymore rather live in the house of*

God without establishing marriage was my choice.” Whereas Mem stated her lived experience that,

I do not dream of marriage after this, because of the complex social, psychological, and economic problems of the day I have. I only think that after finishing my own job season, I just want to spend the rest of my pension life in the Lord's house.

4.2. Discussion

This section presents the similarities and differences of major findings of the study in comparison with literatures on the issue of lived experience of unmarried adults on being single. Based on the study objectives, major findings of the study discussed in four themes: reasons of unmarried adults on being single, challenges of unmarried adults on being single, coping mechanisms of unmarried adults on being single, and aspiration of unmarried adults to their future life.

4.2.1. Reasons for being single

In terms of reasons of being single, as the findings of these interviews showed that, individuals stayed being single because of the following reasons:

4.2.1.1. The influence of urban life and the changing attitude towards single life

In order to avoid conjecting of items and creating clarity on the study, we split this item into two sub-division. Firstly we discuss the influence of urban life. Later on, the changing attitude towards single life become addressed.

4.2.1.1.1. The influence of urban life.

In terms of this type of reasons of being single, findings of the study showed that, hardship less urban life, living being single and also live in a cohabitation life in urban life is not too much a shameful, wrong, and condemned act unlike that of the rural environment. As a result these become a reason for unmarried adults to delay to establish their marriage in the usual and expected matrimonial age.

Hence, what is new findings of the study regarding to the aforementioned reasons of being single is that, the issue of urban versus rural view of towards being single and more explicitly the hardship less life of the urban life. In the literature as much of our effort we didn't get this idea. And in our cultural context become a reason for unmarried adults to delay to establish their marriage in the expected and appropriate matrimonial age.

One of the research participants Aleph explained that,

The last important factor that hindered myself to establish marriage on time were the astonishing part of urban life; i.e. urban modernization. After the revival of my economic capacity the hardship less urban life influenced me to establish marriage on time. That is, in urban life in comparison with rural life almost every human need is more accessible to it. For instance, if I need food I can purchase it or make it easily through electric supply and if I need sex, I have also many opportunity/option to get it from female sex workers or through cohabitation. However, in rural environment it is too difficult to stay long year without a mate, the hardship life by itself obliged to establish marriage on the usual time.

Therefore, hardship less urban life is the new finding item of the reason of being single that couldn't be addressed in the previous literature as of our effort in finding of different sources and this also provide input for the literature.

Whereas, regarding to the issue of the influence of urban life, the remaining finding items are consistent with the previous research findings that documented by Rice, (1998) found out that, the prevailing prejudices against unmarried individuals are diminishing. It is no longer unacceptable for those in their thirties to be unmarried, rather family and friends usually agree to take their decision finally.

4.2.1.1.2. The changing attitude towards single life.

Similarly, following the onset of modernization as well as globalization in urban environment living in a singlehood life or establishing marriage above the usual time is acceptable and not many of them too much blamed to it in comparison with in rural areas. Furthermore, the changing attitude towards single life particularly in urban areas allowed unmarried adults to live in a cohabitation life. That is, it is not shameful and condemned like that of rural areas. Generally speaking, in both cases this shows that the influence of urban life and the changing attitude towards single life become one reason for unmarried adults to delay to establish their marriage and being single or not to establish their marriage in the expected usual matrimonial age.

As a result this finding of the study is directly related with the previous research findings that pointed out by Rice, (1998) found out that, the prevailing prejudices against unmarried individuals are diminishing. It is no longer unacceptable for those in their thirties to be unmarried, rather family and friends usually agree to take their decision finally.

4.2.1.2. Economic and other related circumstances

For the sake of avoiding conjecting of items and creating understanding and clarity for the reader, we split the two items and described separately. Intern we categorize the economic aspect in to four major items and also the other related circumstances in to ten sub-categories and discussed in depth below, based on the principle of qualitative research approach.

4.2.1.2.1.Economic

In the economic aspect the following four major findings of the study, economic dependency syndrome of parents, moral obliged financial support to parents and other relatives, legal obliged payback of credit for loss of employee guarantee, and paying back of someone previous good deeds and long year loan discussed and addressed thoroughly below.

4.2.1.2.1.1. Economic dependency syndrome of parents

Of the findings of this study, one of the result of the research that hindered unmarried adults not to established marriage in the usual expected matrimonial age were economic dependency syndrome of parents.

According to the participants of the study, they raised the following ideas; i.e. in some localities, particularly in the rural areas, the purpose of parents to educate their children is for the sake of fortification in later years of their age. Now a days, once their children graduate and get employed parents expect to get financial support from their children and also children accepted that it is must to provide financial support for their parents even in a condition when they are not able to cover their day to day life expenses. This trend became a culture and failing to do so will result in negative social rewards; like neglect and lack of acceptance in the community.

In relation to this, because of their level of understanding, parents even did not consider the income level of their children. They think that, being employed in government office is being high paid. Parents' main thinking is to get support only and become proud of by their support. As a result children obliged to do so even if they are not able to do that and this situation in turn weakens and negatively affect the economic capacity of the helper and became a reason for them to delay to establish their marriage in the right matrimonial age.

Similarly, because of their economic dependency syndrome many families also did not want to see their children get married early. Due to this fact, by fearing the influence of their families as well as the surrounding community they stayed with their family for an extended period of time.

As a result, this finding of the study is consistent with previous study that stated by Rice, (1998) documented that, diverse conditions such as: family circumstances, financial situation, and the like were a determining factor for numerous unmarried adults become being single.

4.2.1.2.1.2. Moral obliged financial support to parents and other relatives

Similar to the above mentioned findings of the study, the other result of this research that hindered unmarried adults not to established marriage in the usual expected matrimonial age were moral obliged financial support to parents and other relatives. In this dimension, in the collective society, a country's like Ethiopia one of the societal norm of employed children were providing financial related care and support activities for parents and other nearest relative family. That is to say when parents' face long period bedridden health problem medicating them, educating children, and the like activities were expected from them without any enough economic capacity. Consequently, this leads unmarried adults extremely fluctuate their economy and become a reason for them not to establish their marriage in the expected matrimonial age.

So, this finding of the study is directly related with previous study that stated by Rice, (1998) documented that, diverse conditions such as: family circumstances, financial situation, and the like were a determining factor for a number of unmarried adults to delay to establish their marriage in the expected matrimonial age.

4.2.1.2.1.3. Guarantee Obligation

Furthermore, the third economic related findings of the study that hindered unmarried adults to delay to establish marriage on the usual matrimonial age is legal obliged payback of credit for loss of employee guarantee. In this regard, the culture of our society to care each other in the case of loan as a credit guarantee and in the case of employment as guarantee employment become common. In case the primary receiver of the loan failed to repay it back the guarantee person is obliged legally to pay it back. Because of this individuals who face such kind of problems continue paying it back for a long year and it is difficult to establish one's own life because of economic

challenges and will not get partner unless they become clear from the credit because they can't fulfill the daily needs of their partners if they get engaged and married.

Therefore, this finding of the study is consistent with previous study that stated by Rice, (1998) documented that, diverse conditions such as: family circumstances and financial situation, and the like were a determining factor for numerous unmarried adults become being single.

4.2.1.2.1.4. Paying back of someone previous good deeds and long year loan

On top of these, on the one hand by thinking for tomorrow individuals involved in long year loan and credit for investment, prolonged years of construction of residence, and other similar related cost incur investment activities. On the other hand to repay the previous good deeds of their family within their little economy they obliged to provide endless multidimensional financial and other in kind support for their needy relatives as well as extended family. In turn this become a reason for them not to establish marriage in the expected time.

From this we can conclude that, different aspect of family situation i.e. divorce of parents, prolonged consecutive grief due to loss of significant others deteriorates the psychological power of individuals and the low income of the individual by itself also too. In relation to this economic need of one`s own family/ living for family for the sake of different things like when families face severe economic crisis, the yolk/ burden of caring up of the whole family as well as extended family puts on the individual. In turn this giant and prolonged economic burden leads to weaken the economic capacity of the helper. On top of this, if parents and families of unmarried adults did not want to enhance the marriage relationship or interfere the relationship negatively, the progress of the relationship become blocked. As a whole, the sum of these problems become a reason for unmarried adults to delay their marriage to establish in the expected usual matrimonial age.

Hence, these finding is directly related with previous studies that stated by Rice, (1998) pointed out that, diverse conditions such as: family circumstances, financial situation, and the like were a determining factor for numerous bachelor and unmarried women adults become being single.

4.2.1.2.2. Other related circumstances

Regarding to other related circumstances, the following ten listed findings of the study, that is; late enrolment and drop out of education, location, security, and nature of job, addiction, genital impotency, physical appearance, prolonged imprisonment, family interference, persistent grief,

bed ridden health problem, and geographic isolation are discussed in detail below in relation to the previous research findings.

4.2.1.2.2.1. Late enrolment and drop out of education

In our context, this findings of the study is the new finding that couldn't be addressed in previous studies as of in our effort in browsing of references. And as a result this findings of the study will add input for the literature.

Accordingly the findings of the study indicated that, one of the participants of the study WawVav uncovered his lived experience that,

I have reasons for the delay of my marriage. Firstly, there were indirect factors that contribute for the delay of my marriage. Of those, I have spent my childhood life experience in religious education in different monastery and church for many years. Later on, when I joined and onset in modern education, the previous unstable political system that is civil war of the nation between Derg and other opponent party that hinder to endorse my education, was also a reason to join university lately and became my indirect reasons to delay to establish marriage on time.

Thus, one of the other related circumstance reasons that hinder indirectly to establish marriage on the expected matrimonial age were, lately joining/enrollment of formal educational program or in modern education in spending many years in attending religious education and helping of once agricultural family in different activities and also interruption of modern education or drop out from school due to unstable political system, i.e. civil war of the nation and other related factors was one indirect contributing reasons for unmarried adults to delay their marriage and stayed on being single.

4.2.1.2.2.2. Location, security, and nature of job

Furthermore, almost all the participants of the research described that, job related reasons that hinder to establish marriage in the expected matrimonial age. According to them, unstable job duty station and job security problem as well as the nature of the job, remote and unconducive location of job employment and placement, search of a job in their own locality, lack of comfortable and sustainable job and place of work, spending in job searching for a certain years, and lack of accessibility of time and place like, hectic rural project work/job and site were the major one.

From this commonly we understood that, to have sufficient possessions for a blameless life, getting and establishing sustainable job opportunity as well as job security, job nature and site were a determinant factor to establish one`s own family. As a result, in order to secure this issue it becomes one reasons for unmarried adults stayed as a single for a long period of time beyond the expected matrimonial age.

Thus, this finding of the research is consistent with previous studies that stated by Pan, (2004) found out that, unmarried adults explained the reason for being single; getting establish in career or their hectic job left them very little time for a relationship.

4.2.1.2.2.3. Addiction

In our context, this findings of the study is the new finding that couldn`t be addressed in previous studies as of in our effort in browsing of references. And as a result this findings of the study will add input for the literature.

Accordingly the findings of the study indicated that, one of the participants of the study WawVav uncovered his lived experience that, *“The prolonged victim of different addiction become my indirect reasons to delay to establish marriage on time.”*

Generally speaking, in order to establish marriage, society expects that, the personality of the individual become good and well. That is, he/she become free from bad things that are not accepted by the society like any type of addiction and the like. Because, this is a basic thing for the will be partner to lead their future life appropriately.

4.2.1.2.2.4. Genital impotency

Another new finding of the study that couldn`t be noted in the previous literature and that add input for literature were genital impotency of unmarried adult males.

In this regard, one of the participants of the study WawVav explained his lived experience that,

On top of these, there were also direct circumstances reason to delay my marriage; the first one is, almost in my entire years of youth hood, I have had a problem of genital impotency for many years. This affects my psychological makeup as well as personality for many years; not to think, talk, and discuss the issue of marriage up until I treated and cured by cultural medication.

So, the main purpose of marriage or one of the basic thing to establish marriage is for sexual and reproductive function in human life. However, if individuals face genital impotency, he/she will regret to establish marriage up until they become heal and in between many years became elapsed and enslaved to delay to establish marriage in the right matrimonial age.

4.2.1.2.2.5. Physical appearance

The other amusing new findings of the study that were not explicitly noted in the literature based up on our effort were physical appearance of bachelors, especially shortness of height; that hinder them to establish marriage in the right matrimonial age.

That is, in our cultural context, particularly in the Amhara culture, the physical appearance especially the shortness of height especially for male were not accepted by the society; there is Amharic saying that, ‘yeset achir yeset wozero, yewond achir awura doru’.

Concerning this issue, a participant of the study WawVav described his lived experience that,

Later on, after the resolve of the problem through cultural medication I have faced another impediment to establish marriage on time. That is, in the past a number of girls explicitly explain that, my physical appearance especially the shortness of my height made them to flee away from myself.

4.2.1.2.2.6. Prolonged imprisonment

In our context, this findings of the study is the new finding that couldn’t be addressed in previous studies as of in our effort in browsing of references. And as a result this findings of the study will add input for the literature.

Regarding to this, in one way or another individual’s committed crime, as a result become requested by the law. Depending on the weight of the crime the law passed to spend many years in prison. Consequently; onwards they released from prison, they displaced from their job and village and push many years in singlehood timorousness life.

Accordingly, one of the participants of the study WawVav stated his lived experience that,

In between within this condition, I have faced another circumstance that hinder to establish marriage on time. Because of my own personal and political reasons, I encountered a conflict and clashed with someone and I made a stabbing attack on him but fortunately he was not died. As a result I imprisoned for prolonged years and a number of years were elapsed in prison life. Then, after I released because of the fear of revenge I flee away from my locality. As a result,

the focus of my attention become searching a job in a place where far away from my locality and the motivation of establishing marriage become domed. This also another reason for not to establish my marriage in the right time.

4.2.1.2.2.7. Family interference

In Ethiopia, particularly in Amhara culture consulting once family in selection of a mate is common and fundamental. In turn the family assess the background of the engaged one including his/her genealogy. If they get unmatchable thing their interference will continue up until to stop his/her relationship. Furthermore, lack of interest of family to establish marriage right now due to considering the level of maturity, and not to separate from them, families lack of focus and not to give a due attention to the issue of marriage as well as considering as a taboo makes them to hinder them to establish it on time. As a result family interference especially parental interference become a reason for them to delay to establish their marriage in the expected matrimonial age.

So, these findings are consistent with previous studies that stated by Rice, (1998) documented that, diverse conditions such as: family circumstances were a determining factor for numerous bachelor and unmarried women adults become being single.

4.2.1.2.2.8. Persistent grief

Persistent grief were one of the other related circumstance reasons of being single and become the new findings of the study experienced by the research participants. So, it will add basic input for the literature.

Accordingly the findings of the study indicated that, among the research participants, Kaph stated her lived experience sorrowfully that,

But after that, I was overwhelmed with my deepest hope and the shadow of death hovered on me. I was suddenly succumbed to the death of my younger and older sisters. When I forget one sadness, the other one overlooks and my longevity become full of sadness. At the moment, I have been living with my sister who is the remnants of this catastrophic death in the home of our parents by caring up of our sister`s orphan younger daughter. Then I relinquished the idea of a marriage of this false world. Living for a family and over a lot of sadness were a reason to forget my marriage.

From this we can understand that, on the one hand, family grievance or loss of family parents puts one in deep psychological disorder and traumatic experience which hinder individuals from thinking about one`s own life and coming to engage in marriage. On the other hand, since marriage

is considered as happiness in life, if people get ready to marry in short period of time instantly their family loss, the surrounding community will show negative attitude towards them and even exclude. Hence, because of their post-traumatic experience of family loss and in fear of gossiping from the surrounding community, people who lost their family member keep alone for extended time.

4.2.1.2.2.9. Bed ridden health problem

Bed ridden health problem is the last new finding of the study that couldn't be addressed in previous studies as of in our effort in browsing of references. And as a result this findings of the study will add input for the literature.

Accordingly the findings of the study indicated that, one of the participants of the study Lamed uncovered and described her lived experience sorrowfully that,

In the meantime, I suffered from a disorder of the health problem and become bed ridden; and had been moving in different holy water sites for more than two years by the help of my family. As a result, my life was spared, and I had to abandon it. After my health returned, it was another complicated problem. After some years of searching job, I started working as a job worker. This also another contributing factor to delay my marriage.

The participant statement saying above clearly shows that health is one of the basic determinant of life as well as getting married. To be engaged, people should have to be in a good mental as well as physical health condition unless and other wise neither the individual himself/herself nor the one who is to be married needs to be involved.

4.2.1.2.2.10. Geographic isolation

The findings of the study shows that, geographic isolation negatively affect ones desire to get engaged with whom he/she wants to marry. Because of this people stay unmarried for extended time even if he/she is ready and happy to get married and live together with the one whom they wants to marry because they have no physical proximity. Physical proximity is very essential to get married on the right matrimonial age.

As a result, this findings of the study are consistent with previous studies that showed by Rice, (1998) documented that, diverse conditions such as: geography, social isolation, and the like were a determining factor for numerous unmarried adults become being single.

As whole, all of the above reasons of being single were the reasons of them to delay to establish their marriage in the appropriate and expected matrimonial age.

4.2.1.3. Fear of marriage and lack of motivation to negotiate girls

The third most import findings of the study that hindered unmarried adults not to established marriage in the usual expected matrimonial age were fear of marriage and lack of motivation to negotiate girls. According to the participants of the study, they raised three interrelated things here; that is based on their criteria they select someone that become the will be mate of oneself; however, in between after many years elapsed they betrayed and flee away from oneself. This creates long term pain for them and needs time to heal from their wound. Even after they heal from their pain they hasty generalizing the other also and become hesitating to them.

In relation to this they do not exert more effort to negotiate them and become negligent enough and they do not want to give more time for them. Similarly, the other unmarried adults also learn vicariously from them and act the same like the victim one and also if their parents have not good relationship throughout their marriage life and divorced, they fear even the word of marriage far away from and become a reason for them to delay to establish their marriage. Furthermore, establishing job with one`s own parents locality and living together with parents in a conducive environment for a long year; so, there is no pushing or pulling factors to establish marriage.

As a result, these findings are consistent with previous studies that stated by Rice (1998), fear of marriage is a powerful deterrent. Some bachelors and spinsters who are fearful of marriage were carried up in ill-fated homes where their parents clashed all the time. Others have been disappointed in love and are frightened to attempt another time (Rice, 1998). Similarly, Pan (2004), recognized that many unmarried adults fear marriage is due to loss of their engaged woman in different social, economic, personal and the like problems. As a result, they were suspicious of whether she really loves or not and they feared to hear the word ‘marriage’, so they refused her and were need time for recovery.

Lutwak (1985), in his findings added that, numerous unmarried adults had a profound sense of insecurity about the result of caring. Many believed that marriage was a deception, a farce, a trap. In addition to these a significant percentage of unmarred adults being single is because of unresolved conflicts or difficulties with parents (Cargan, 1982). The majority of findings indicated

that, unmarried adults may have been discouraged by unpleasant family conditions (Rice, 1998). Moreover, some individuals, especially those from the one-child family who were dependent on their parents were horrified of likely problems and errands that they could not consider of marriage (Pan, 2004). Moreover, Pan (2004) pointed out that, in terms of being single, as the findings of the study showed that, individuals stayed single because of the reasons as; fear of marriage.

What is new here in our finding of the study is that, in the previous study unmarried adults from one-child family were dependent to their family and horrified to establish marriage on time. Whereas, in our cultural context a children of a certain family were to live with their family for a long period of time in their adulthood age. Intern this conducive environment of their family made them to become frightened to establish marriage in their expected matrimonial age.

4.2.1.4. Lack of opportunity and waiting for the right one

The other important findings of the study that unmarried adults delayed to establish their marriage is lack of opportunity to get the right and appropriate mate of oneself and also waiting for the right one is the most challenging one to establish marriage. This is because in fearing of the future divorce disaster. Because of this reason many unmarried adults not only to set a dozen of mate selection criteria that can't be fulfilled and achieved by almost all individuals but also they set a number of vague, unclear, difficult & an attainable mate selection criteria that couldn't be even understood by themselves also.

Consequently for the sake of these reason that, absence of a mate who meet the criteria or frightens of marriage due to if do not get the right one, they stayed as being single for a long period of time above the usual and expected matrimonial age because of lack of opportunity to get the right one and waiting for the right one.

So, this finding of the study is exact replica of the study result of Malhotra and Tsui (1996) found out that, the shift from arranged to love marriage due to changes in socio-cultural setting obliterates parental roles in making decisions on the timing of marriage and child bearing. According to their view, marriage that is based on self-selection of a partner takes longer time to search for "appropriate" mate, which involves trial and error. Likewise, Rice (1998) pointed out that, at the other extreme are unmarried adults who would prefer to marry but have never had the chance.

Likewise South and Lloyd (1992) documented that, both the number of eligible men and their employment and education affect women`s opportunity to select a mate.

Similarly, Pan (2004) recognized that, the notion of “Right Person” is the idyllic person that individuals desire to find as a partner. In the study, some female respondents highlighted that, they had become quite fussy and there were not many appropriate candidates. They presented themselves as persistently open to a relationship, whereas the idyllic men were nowhere to be found. Moreover, Pan (2004) pointed out that, in terms of being single, as the findings of the study showed that, individuals stayed single because of the reasons as; *wait for the right one* (p.15).

4.2.1.5. Perception of the advantages of being single

This finding of the study shows that, of the reasons of bachelors and spinsters delayed to establish their marriage and stayed being single were their perception of the advantages of being single. Generally speaking being single mean neglected from many social relationship intern this narrow up their economic and social burdens. As a result unmarried adults consider this as an advantageous life. For instance, enjoy freedoms or freedom of control one`s own life, more opportunities for career or career change, development and expansion, economic independence and self-sufficiency, greater opportunity for self-development, opportunities to meet different people and to develop and enjoy different friendships, and more varied sexual experience because no one control and follow-up them. Consequently they delay their marriage and stayed as a single for a long period of time.

As a result this findings of the study were more similar with the study of Rice (1998) found out that, unmarried adults delayed their marriage expecting the advantageous life of being single that includes: firstly, countless opportunity for self-development and personal growth and fulfilment. If singles want to take a course, go on to graduate school, or travel, they are unrestricted or freer to do so than are married people, who must consider their spouse`s own school and career plans and interests. Secondly, opportunities to meet different people and to develop and enjoy different friendships. Singles are free to pursue friendships with either men or women, according to their own preferences.

The third and fourth important advantage were economic independence and self-sufficiency. As one women said, “*I don`t have to depend on a husband for money. I earn it myself and I can spend*

it as I want.” (Rice, 1998, P. 83). And more varied sexual experience. Singles are free to pursue experiences with more than one partner.

The last two crucial advantageous life of being single were, freedom to control one’s own life. Singles are unrestricted to do what they need without being conquered by a spouse; they enjoy more psychological and social autonomy. And more opportunities for career change, development and expansion. Singles are not locked and sealed in by family responsibilities and so can be more mobile and flexible in the climb up the career ladder.

At last but not least, not all of these advantages apply to all singles. For instance, not all singles have opportunities to meet different people. No all are economically well off, nor are all free of family responsibilities. Nevertheless, some singles would list some or even all of these items as advantageous for them (Rice, 1998).

Moreover, Pan (2004) pointed out that, in terms of being single, as the findings of the study showed that, individuals stayed single because of the reasons as; *get establish in career and enjoy freedoms* (p.15).

4.2.1.6. The length of the period of education and economic dependency

The other important finding of the study indicated that, of the reasons of unmarried adults delayed to establish their marriage and stayed being single were the length of the period of education and economic dependency. Commonly known that the length of the period of education and its related economic dependency become a hindrance factor for unmarried adults delayed their marriage and stayed being single for a long period of time. Because these individuals were self-sponsor students and have had a problem of low economic capacity to establish marriage hand in hand with their education.

So, this findings of the study is directly related to the previous study of Rice (1998) showed that, the duration or length of the period of education and economic dependence has significantly influenced the delay of marriage.

4.2.1.7. The sexual revolution

This result of the study pointed out that the sexual revolution by itself became a reason for unmarried adults to delay their marriage and stayed being single. Many years before, in the

Ethiopian context and culture particularly in the rural areas still premarital sex as well as cohabitation life is strictly forbidden, condemned, taboo, and religious sinful too. However in now a days because of the expansion of urbanization and the influence of globalization this trend of culture become changed from time to time. As a result premarital sexual relationship and cohabitation particularly in the urban areas get acceptance and unmarried adults exercising to it without demanding marriage. Because of this reason one of the pushing factor i.e. libidinal energy of erotic sexual desire, for unmarried adults to establish marriage in the usual and expected matrimonial age become collapsed. Consequently, in collaboration with the other reasons the sexual revolution become an impediment reason for unmarried adults to delay their marriage and styed being single.

Consequently, this findings of the study is consistent with study documented by Malhotra and Tsui (1996) found out that, Modernization theory argues that socio-economic development affects age at first marriage through self-selection of spouses. The shift from arranged to love marriage due to changes in socio-cultural setting obliterates parental roles in making decisions on the timing of marriage and child bearing. According to their view, marriage that is based on self-selection of a partner takes longer time to search for “appropriate” mate, which involves trial and error. Moreover, marriage that is based on free selection of mates involves premarital sexual relations.

Likewise, DeGenova and Rice (2002), Kierman, Land, and Lewis (1998), and DeGenova and Rice (2002), found out that, the increased opportunities for non-marital sexual intercourse and similarly McLanahan, Donahue, and Haskins (2005), Popenoe and Whitehead (2002), Grossbard-Shehtman (1993), Althaus (1991) as cited in Rice (1998), Barich and Bielby (1996), and Cooney and Hogen, (1991) indicated that, the increase acceptance of non-marital cohabitation are the reasons for the adults to be married at older ages than they used to.

4.2.1.8. The globalization effect of women’s movement

Another important findings of the study that unmarried adults delayed their marriage and stayed being single were the women`s movement. This finding of the study pointed out that, generally speaking in Ethiopia, especially in Amharan culture, before the introduction of modern education the only fate of girls were establishing marriage early before the age of eighteen years through family arranged marriage. However, exceptionally in Amhara rural areas if girls were not married at the expected age of eighteen years, the neighborhood community would insulted her saying in

Amharic 'Kumo ker' and her family's particularly her parents also hear nagging and flattering words from the surrounding community. Then, her parents and other more concerned relatives of the girl obliged to arrange and established marriage with more aged males for the sake of naming what called in Amharic 'Titkwan Tifta'. As a result in either of the two ways she gave birth early and become the owner of many children at early years. And the fertility rate become increase in alarming rate. As a whole before the onset of modern education the fate of girls were early marriage or unbalanced marriage to be a house wife and caring up of their children and become the slavery of household tasks.

Later on, thanks to the launching of modern education, the system can be changed dramatically and the focus of the nation become towards girls' education. There is a saying that if we teach girls, we teach families too. Even though there are a few remnants, the majority of girls enrolled in modern education. As a result they strive more and more to their education for the sake of self-sufficiency economically and to live a better way of life. Because of this reason another difficulties coming a head. That is, they forget to establish marriage on the typical and appropriate matrimonial age.

When we come to the female participants of this research majority of them were explained that, firstly they strived more and more to establish and upgrade their education, later on they dashed from one corner to another in search of a job to sustain their economic self-sufficiency in order to become autonomous and liberated from male spouses seeing of their hands in the later years. As a result they mentioned this issues become a reason for them to delay their marriage and waited to be single to establish marriage in the expected usual matrimonial age.

By and large this result of the study become directly related to the study of Pan (2004), Rice (1998), and Chatterton and Hollands (2003) found out that, the women's movement has influenced outlooks of marriage. Women are stimulated to seek their own identity, apart from marital identity, and to find career fulfillment and economic self-sufficiency. It should be noted that the prevailing sway women are having on the transformation of culture and society, the factors like enlarged economic activity, professionalization of the job market, countless education access and triumph, a deterioration in domestic responsibilities and have had notable on women's likelihood of the delays in getting married and starting a family.

Likewise, Malhotra and Tsui (1996) found out that, modernization theory also argues that socio-economic development affects age at first marriage through self-selection of spouses and economic independence of women.

On top of these, Beri and Beri (2013) added that, now a days' getting married is one of the big decisions in a woman's life. Historically, women have not had access to the same opportunities as men which stimulated them to marry just to make a better life for themselves. Today woman have more option, among which one of them is the right to be single. At the least, this attitude has led to marital postponement as women explore other options.

4.2.1.9. The issue of Eucharist life

In our context, this findings of the study is the new findings of the study that couldn't be addressed by in previous studies as of in our effort of browsing of references. And as a result this findings of the study will add input for the literature.

Accordingly the findings of the study indicated that, among the research participants, Lamed stated that, "*Lack of opportunity to get true Eucharist male*" and similarly Ayin stated that,

involuntariness' of the engaged girl to establish marriage without Eucharist life, involuntariness of myself to establish marriage in Eucharist life due to fearfulness of the life as well as both of us were reluctant to change our own state of mind in the issue of Eucharist life.

Became their reasons to delay to establish their marriage in the right matrimonial age and stayed on being single.

In the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church context, living in sainted life is the recommended dogma of the religion; that is, our heavenly father Elohim said that, "*those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have had longevity of life.*" Based on this word, the followers of the religion in order to flee away from sinful thing and living as a true Christian they prefer to live in Eucharist life is the better way for them. What is difficult to here is, getting the true voluntary Eucharist individual is the most challenging thing. The life by itself is respected and have had the focus of the people. As a result choosing this individual takes long period of time and in between unmarried adults become enslaved with the delayed marriage and become a reason for them not to establish their marriage in the right and appropriate matrimonial age.

4.2.1.10. The request of pride gift and ceremony

Similar to the above mentioned reason and as of in our effort of browsing of references, the request of pride gift and ceremony also the new findings of the study that couldn't be addressed by in previous studies and become a reason for marital dalliance. And as a result this findings of the study will add input for the literature.

So, this findings of the study become one reason for unmarried adults delayed to establish their marriage and stayed to be single. The findings of the study showed that, in now a days, particularly in the urban areas of Ethiopia providing exaggerated gift and preparing ceremony beyond ones capacity for everything increasing in alarming rate and become a culture now. For instance, gift and ceremony for; when one enter a new home, when give birth, baptize day, wedding day, when one separated from this world forever, and the like. Among these the most challenging one for unmarried adults were the precondition request of exaggerated pride gift and ceremony by unmarried adult women. Then like the other reasons of being single, intern this also become an issue or a reason for unmarried adults not to establish their marriage in the right and appropriate matrimonial age and enslaved them the horrible life of singlehood.

According to this, a number of respondents of the study particularly Gmail and Yod described that,

The engaged girl request of costly pride gift and need of huge marriage ceremony and the related low capacity of enough money to afford this marriage related cost and similarly the Strong firm stand of girls not to marry without pride gift and huge ceremony that cannot be afford.

Became a reason for them not to establish marriage yet and stayed on being single.

4.2.2. Challenges of Unmarried Adults on Being Single

The second findings of the study were addressed and pointed out that, the challenges of unmarried adults on being single. So, in this section we would like to discuss the findings of the study in relation to the previous studies that mentioned in the aforementioned chapter two; that is, in the literature review. For the sake of simplicity of understanding these challenges were classified under the most notable 6 category challenges of delayed in marriage and being single in relation with prior studies or if it is new by itself in the following way.

4.2.2.1. Biopsychosocial challenges

The findings of the study pointed out that, one of the challenges that unmarried adults experience on being single were the biopsychosocial challenges. This challenges of unmarried adults on being single comprises both the biological, psychological and social aspect of the problem. Intern this focus on the natural biological erotic sexual desire and different forms of sexual harassment.

According to the respondents of the study, especially majority of bachelors, extrovertly uncovered that during their long period singlehood life experienced that the erotic sexual drive and also largely spinsters and to some extent bachelors have had an experience of both different forms of non-violent and to a limited degree of violent sexual harassment challenges of being single. And all become the biopsychosocial challenges of unmarried adults who delayed their marriage in different reasons or not to establish their marriage in the usual and expected matrimonial age and stayed on being single.

Of these two findings of the study, erotic sexual desire become consistent with previous studies of Sharp and Ganong (2011) found out that, the person living alone, or without a mate, has special problems to deal with, such as sexual desires that must be kept under control.

What is new findings of the study in this point is that, the issue of different forms of sexual harassment. Truly speaking that, following the erotic sexual desire, it is a fact that in order to gratify this natural biological desire sexual harassment become the expected thing.

4.2.2.2. Economic hardship challenges

Generally speaking, economy hardship challenges in previous as well as in this study is one of the challenges of being single. However, the context of economic hardship challenges in between the two study findings were dissimilar and totally different.

According to this research participants, one of their basic challenges' of their singlehood life is economic wastefulness. Especially most bachelors' of the study described that because of the high cost of hotel food and lack of skill to cook and diet themselves, and absence of relatively cheap and affordable recreation area, leads them to become finically extravagant. And as a result it becomes one of their singlehood challenges.

Where as in previous study that mentioned in Rice (1998), documented that, economic hardship, especially for single women earn less than single or married men and, because they do not have

access to a husband's income, have a lower standard of living than do married women. Also, top positions are more often given to married men than to single men or to women. Consequently, this patterns of economic hardship challenges become a challenge for unmarried adults in their singlehood life.

4.2.2.3. Health Challenges

Even though the context of health challenges in literature review and in this study findings were not similar to it, in both of the research findings showed that there is health challenges among unmarried adults in their singlehood journey.

According to this research findings, commonly known that, when one bachelor went out far away from his natural parents' home in search of a job and establishing a job somewhere, particularly for bachelors' dieting himself is a challenging problem. So that, they will chose one among the two alternatives. If he were skillful to cook to himself is the best alternative to get non hesitated purified diet. If not, dieting himself in hotel area is the only alternative one. This intern have had many dietary health problems particularly the type and quality of oil and other spices they used it have had its own influence on health related problems. As a result being single especially for bachelors' most of the time obliged them to nourish in hotel and this intern exposed them for different health problems and become one of the challenges of unmarried adults.

Whereas in the previous study, Trovato and Lauris (1989) found out that, single people are less healthy than married people and have higher mortality rates. Similarly, Lee, Seccombe, and Shehan (1991), indirectly in their studies seem to indicate that, married people are healthier and happier than single people, so marriage may have a beneficial effect on well-being.

4.2.2.4. Psychological challenges

The result of this study pointed out that of the challenges of unmarried adults on being single, psychological challenges were one of the challenges of unmarried adults on being single. According to the issue of psychological related challenges of unmarried adults on being single the majority of respondents of this research explained that, social and emotional stress, lack of self-confidence, negligent, visionless, unhappiness, depression, occasional hopelessness, spiritual jealousy on those married and who have children, moral degradation, lack of caring up of themselves, sever stress by itself and due to fear of not having a child, anxiety, frustration and

hopelessness, severe psychological problem due to the treat and insult of rude males, fleeing of loneliness, lack of meaning in their life, lack of commitment, psychological influence of customer of the organization, lack of skill to communicate thee, and lack of sleep were the major challenges of them that they experienced to it in their singlehood journeys.

By and large if there is a basic unfinished assignment in one's mind, later on as the insight of the community as well as by himself or herself, later on it become changed into different forms of psychological problems. As a result this can be one major challenges of unmarried adults on being single.

Consequently, this findings of the study is consistent with study conducted by Sharp and Ganong, (2011) found out that, the person living alone, or without a mate, has special problems to deal with, such as greater loneliness, depression, and fear that must be kept under control. And also Rice (1998) pointed out that, one of the disadvantages of being single is sexual frustration for some individuals and also fear of not having children, or lack of a family in which to bring up children.

4.2.2.5. Psycho-social challenges

The fifth important challenges of unmarried adults on being single to uncover in their experience is the psycho-social challenge. This item composes the two important things of psychological and social challenges of unmarried adults on being single. From the beginning if there is a psychological problem in ones thought, later on in one way or another it turned in to social problem and become vice versa.

Accordingly, the study participants explained that some of their basic psycho-social challenges' of their lived experience. Of the major trails the first one is; loneliness, for a certain number of individuals greater and endless salivary of loneliness' as well as for some of them occasional loneliness, particularly loneliness during holy days' time, facing decisions alone, the need for love and affection, lack of individuals to share one's own confidential ideas/thoughts, and lack of care giver when one was ill.

As a result, these psycho-social challenges findings of the study were consistent with the study of Ponzetti (1990) documented that, loneliness and lack of companionship is a pressing problem for some singles and this findings of the study is also consistent with study conducted by Sharp and Ganong (2011) found out that, the person living alone, or without a mate, has special problems to

deal with, such as greater loneliness, facing decisions alone, and the need for love and affection that must be kept under control.

Whereas the other psycho-social challenges findings of the study; feeling of embarrassed, fear of marriage far away from, prejudices, fear of marriage because of once previous wound, a stigma attached to be single i.e. think that there must be something wrong with that person, becoming victim of different addiction that is the unnecessary burden of 'chat', alcohol, and cigarette addiction, bad feeling and anxiety when one saw intimate friends of him who have married and have had a child and also quest of spiritual jealousy' of oneself when one saw honeymoon marriage life, the sorrowful and frequent marriage request of ordinary men who cannot fit totally as well as the quest of marriage issue in the side of once family were new and different psycho-social challenges of being single findings of the study that were not mentioned in the literature review.

4.2.2.6. Social challenges

The other challenge of unmarried adults' on being single were the social challenges. According to cross-cultural psychologist's view each and every individual were the image and the segment of the society. So that, respecting the value of the community become the expected thing. If not, as of the saying of social psychologists, the influence of the community; that is, challenges of community grip, prejudices against single people in the society and social disapproval of their life-style, stigma, discrimination, and distraction coming a head. Consequently, as unmarried adults delayed their marriage and stayed being single, the community consider there must be something wrong with that person and later on it becomes a difficult social challenges of unmarried adults and also become the common and massive challenges of unmarried adults' singlehood life.

So, these social challenges findings of the study were similar with the study of Sharp and Ganong (2011) pointed out that, we live in a couples-oriented society where the usual status is to be married. There is often a stigma attached to be single-many people seem to think that if a person is single there must be something wrong with that person. They also added that, in fact indeed, stigma single individuals face may vary based on their age. That is, at certain times in the life course, being single is more or less acceptable than at other times.

4.2.3. Coping Mechanisms of Unmarried Adults on Being Single

4.2.3.1. Biopsychosocial challenges coping mechanisms

In this sphere of coping mechanisms for challenges of unmarried adults on being single focus on the coping mechanisms of challenges of erotic sexual desire and the awful sexual harassment. According to many psychologists view like Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs and many others among the many human needs sexual desire is one of it. As a result in order to cope up this need, every human being use different gratification coping mechanisms. Whereas for sexual harassment as we know generally, especially spinsters depending of the nature, time, place and condition of the harassment uses unstable and usually new coping mechanisms.

Accordingly, the study participants, in order to suppress or eliminate this sexual libidinal energy, Similarly, for some others also naturally establishing cohabitation life, setting a girl friend to become the future mate, having heterosexual relationships with interested one and female sex workers, and also occasional and usual self sex/masturbation become their coping mechanisms for to desensitizing, avoiding, and demolishing a great deal of erotic sexual desire.

So, in terms of this point, except the new findings of occasional and frequent self sex or masturbation coping mechanisms of sexual desire, the above mentioned findings of the study were directly related to the earlier study conducted by Rice (1998) pointed out that, one of the coping mechanisms of unmarried adults for different interrelated challenges is premarital sexual intercourse. This coping mechanisms solves multidimensional challenges of unmarried adults' single life problems. The increased acceptance of non-marital cohabitation provides some benefits of marriage without the commitment—for example, sex.

Contrary with the above coping mechanism, tremendous praying and continuous fasting were the coping mechanism for religious individuals. Whereas, for others continuous physical exercise especially habituating occasional athletics, reading essential books, making busy oneself through in attention seeking tasks, and communicating with one's family were the best mechanism to withstand the challenge.

In addition to these, generally unmarried adults more especially spinsters' encountered different patterns of sexual harassment challenges in different time, place, and condition. As a result in order to cope this challenge respondents of the study described that, providing clear information about

the situation what they have faced for those individuals who attempt unnecessary non-violent sexual harassment. And also notifying that have no interest on the issue as well as unhelpful to the individual by saying I do not want to be and diverting their attention through different systems like disgusting not to understand their saying and inversely imposed hot topic to change their state of mind and abscond from them.

Furthermore, in order to combat both violent and non-violent sexual harassment attempt and action spinster respondents of the study described that, not to show good facial expression and block down the road, being strict, using psychological as well as moral hitting words, and keeping themselves locked in all the streets. Similarly, in order to save and avoid themselves from being sexually abusive as well as violent sexual assaults, they care to themselves from awful time, hazardous place, and dangerous condition.

Moreover, praying to the Lord God, believing and faithful in God as well as visiting monastery fathers and mothers, continuous fasting, and doing other religious tasks helps them to keep themselves from different patterns of sexual harassment problems.

On top of this, female participants of the study uncovered their experience that, leaving or providing to God were their best coping mechanism for fear of menopause or not having children become the new findings of this study that unmarried adults used to cope up the challenges what they had been facing.

4.2.3.2. Economic hardship challenges coping mechanisms

There is a saying that, to live tomorrow, save today and also the difference between the poor and the rich is very simple; the poor save what is left after spending whereas the rich spend what is left after saving. Based on this, one of the basic challenges of unmarried adults is loneliness. In order to win this problem most of the time they spent their leisure time in costly recreation areas. Similarly, they feed also in hotel and restaurant that incur them too much cost.

Accordingly, participants' of the study used different coping mechanisms to cope the challenges of economic wastefulness. These coping mechanisms were: spending their precious leisure time in watching important television programs, video films, and reading very important local, abroad books and spent with their family become best mechanisms. Similarly, in weekends spending in cost-effective recreation areas, like enjoying with their intimate friends in the street and habituating

volleyball and football also makes them to become economical. Furthermore, cooking and dieting themselves, converting money into a fixed asset to save money, moving non exhaustible walk and admiring nature, studying course subject and reading books has been an excellent weapon for them to liberate themselves from financial crisis and deprivation.

As a result, this findings of the study were indirectly consistent with the study showed by Rice (1998) found out that, one of the coping mechanisms of unmarried adults for different interrelated challenges is premarital sexual intercourse. This coping mechanisms solves multidimensional challenges of unmarried adults' single life problems. The increased acceptance of non-marital cohabitation provides some benefits of marriage without the commitment—for example, companionship, sex, shared housing and shared living experiences. So, this in turn make unmarried adults to cope the challenges of economic hardship.

4.2.3.3. Health challenges coping mechanisms

As we know, in now a day's majority of unmarried adults especially bachelors become get their basic food from hotels and restaurants'. However, the quality as well as the hygiene is not favorable in each individuals. Intern this become a causative factor of unmarried adults' different types of health problem and leads them the most challenging problem. As a result unmarried adults designed their own proactive, curative, and developmental coping mechanisms to alleviate the problem.

Accordingly, to cope up this health problem challenges a number of participants' of the study indicated that, attending to a health clinic, spending with their parents up until to heal, and going to a maiden house, and eating prescribed type of food by cooking themselves were best alternatives. This findings of the study is general truth, if someone face a health problem, he/she will take such kind of measurement. As a result, we couldn't said consistent with previous study or new findings of the study.

4.2.3.4. Psychological challenges coping mechanisms

Unmarried adults have had their own coping mechanisms in order to win the interwoven psychological challenges of being single.

According to a number of respondents of the study, praying to the Lord God, believing and faithful in God, providing everything for the lord God, acknowledged that God is the maker of all things as well as visiting monastery fathers and mothers, continuous fasting, and doing other religious tasks, spending leisure time within once family and spending a dozen of time in dormitory, and similarly making oneself too busy in different essential tasks and living in a cohabitation life were the major one.

This mechanisms helped them to combat and avoid bad fleeing's, social and emotional stress, lack of self-confidence, negligent, visionless, unhappiness, depression, occasional hopelessness, spiritual jealousy on those married and who have children, moral degradation, lack of caring up of themselves, sever stress by itself and due to fear of not having a child, sever anxiety, frustration and hopelessness, sever psychological problem due to the treat and insult of rude males, fleeing of loneliness, lack of meaning in their life, lack of commitment, psychological influence of customer of the organization, lack of sleep and many other similar interrelated psychological problems of being single.

Consequently, of the psychological challenges coping mechanisms, living in a cohabitation life findings of the study were directly or indirectly related with the study conducted by Stutzer and Frey (2006) pointed out that, among the unmarried individuals who cohabit with a partner are significantly happier than those who live alone.

Whereas, the remaining will be the new findings of the study that unmarried adults used to cope the psychological challenges of singlehood life.

4.2.3.5. Psycho-social challenges coping mechanisms

The other coping mechanisms of unmarried adults on being single is coping mechanisms for psycho-social challenges. That is to say it comprises both the interwoven psychological and social challenges. This is mainly focus on the pressing challenges of unmarried adults' loneliness and lack of companionship as well as ordinary spinster's engager's problem.

Accordingly, in order to avoid the psycho-social challenges of loneliness and its related problems, almost all the respondents of the study explained that, during holyday times most of the time they spent in hotel and other public recreation center, based on the nature of the problem they shared their confidential idea to significant others and usually make appropriate solutions for it, coping

for loneliness they have been spending their spare time in reading essential books, communicating with their family, doing something else in their own dormitory, and strived more to join costless recreation areas, like habituating volleyball and football were coping mechanism for their singlehood trails. Similarly, moving non exhaustible walk and admiring nature, studying course subject and reading books, and usually they design hot and debatable agenda with their parents and friends has been an excellent weapon for them to liberate themselves from loneliness.

So, this findings of the study became directly and indirectly consistent with the study of Rice (1998) indicated that, one of the coping mechanisms of unmarried adults for different interrelated challenges is premarital sexual intercourse. This coping mechanisms solves multidimensional challenges of unmarried adults' single life problems. The increased acceptance of non-marital cohabitation provides some benefits of marriage without the commitment—for example, companionship and shared living experiences.

Whereas for spinster's ordinary men engager's challenges spinster participants of the study uncovered their experience of coping mechanisms that, providing pretext reason, making different flattering things, pretext responding, and systematic retreat or asymptotically flee away became their mechanisms to cope the quest of unmatched, inappropriate, and ordinary engagers men. And this kinds of psychosocial challenges coping mechanisms were new findings of this study that couldn't be addressed in previous research findings.

4.2.3.6. Social challenges coping mechanisms

Most of the time human beings to be called as a social animal. Relationship with others is not only very essential but also it is crucial. During our relationship not only respecting, but also practicing the culture, values, norms, assets, traditions, and other similar things of the society is very mandatory. One of the society norms of our culture is, except other religious related things unmarried adults should establish marriage in the usual and expected matrimonial age, if not society consider that individual as there is something wrong with that person. Later on this become a big and formidable challenge for unmarried adults on being single and the whole participants of the study become the victim of this challenge. As a result unmarried adults designed their own coping mechanisms for social challenges of the community; like community grip, neglect trauma and the like challenges of being single.

Accordingly, to combat this social challenge of community distraction and noise, the whole participants of the study explained that, spending a dozen of their precious leisure time in dormitory in watching important television programs, video films, and reading very important local and abroad books. Similarly, in weekends spending in cost-effective recreation areas, like enjoying with their intimate friends in the street also makes their heart grow fonder. And also spending most of their time with other bachelor peers in order to overcome social isolation.

Furthermore, for these negative noise, comments, grip, distraction, and criticisms challenges from the family and community, they consider as meaningless and most of the time they did not give a due attention for them or just forget it, ignoring, reacting to a situation, and not pay much attention or neglecting it.

On top of these, usually they have been made flattering but fantastic things, like responding to them; already I have finished everything and you will see in the nearest future. In relation to this, they often used systematic raising of another hot topic/issue or they made to pass over and reshuffling the topic to another topic or diverting the topic of the issue, making different flattering things, funny laughing were helpful to divert their attention.

Moreover, for those individuals who understood them, they told them in detail the realities what happened on them or clarifying the issue for those who understand easily, and. On the other hand, for those individuals who didn't understood them, they told them pretext reasons, just like having had a boyfriend whom they are waiting for, fabling as well as joking, became unmarried adults prolonged social challenges coping mechanisms to conquer the aforementioned community grip/noise tests on being single.

As a result, this findings of the study became directly and indirectly consistent with the study of Rice (1998) found out that, one of the coping mechanisms of unmarried adults for different interrelated challenges is premarital sexual intercourse. This coping mechanisms solves multidimensional challenges of unmarried adults' single life problems. The increased acceptance of non-marital cohabitation provides some benefits of marriage without the commitment—for example, companionship and shared living experiences.

4.2.4. Unmarried adults aspiration of their future life

This section classified under the most notable three categories of aspiration of unmarried adults to their future life, which have been experienced by the study participants. That is, unmarried adults' aspiration of their future life, which are categorized as per the experience of the study participants, are used as themes for the overall analysis of the case stories.

Accordingly, the first group participants of the study indicated their future aspiration of life, they have not only strong motivation and interest but also they were ready enough to establish honeymoon marriage in the near future.

Whereas, the second group indicated their future aspiration of life that in the issue of to be married or not, they have not intrinsic interest and motivation to establish marriage within a short period of time, i.e. they have not any ideal plan to establish it rather they need some other additional years to wait in order to heal from their previous harmful wound and up until to get the indefinite right one.

So, these the above mentioned two category findings of the study were more or less directly related with the study conducted by DePaulo and Morris (2005) have contended that, singles face a specific form of stigma and discrimination, named *singlism*. Singlism echoes a pervasive philosophy or ideology of marriage and family, demonstrated in daily thoughts, interactions, laws, and social policies that favor couples over singles. He argued that, "The ideology of marriage and family has been described as the unquestioned belief that everyone wants to (and will) get married."

Whereas, the remaining group, exceptionally a number of unmarried women have not any remained hope or vision to establish marriage after this age; rather they prefer to live being single throughout their life. They did not need marriage anymore rather live in the house of God without establishing marriage was their choice. They do not dream of marriage after this, because of the complex social, psychological, and economic problems of the day they have. They only think that after finishing their own job season, they just want to spend the rest of their pension life in the Lord's house. And this findings became the new findings of the study.

Chapter Five: Summary, Conclusion, and Recommendation

This chapter presents the summary, conclusions and recommendations that are emerged from the study findings.

5.1. Summary

All the efforts in this study were streamlined with the purpose of its leading questions. This means, the study attempted to investigate the possible reasons, to explore challenges and to examine coping mechanisms of unmarried adults on being single, and to uncover aspiration of their future life in the study area, which are well experienced by unmarried adults. In general, the purpose of this study was to uncover the lived experiences of unmarried adults on being single in Debre Tabor town administration.

The research approach, employed in this study was the qualitative research approach. Qualitative approach was found to be the right-fit method to this study because it provides a descriptive account of the study from the viewpoint of the participants. This approach was further accompanied by the phenomenological design. Because this research strategy was also found the other right-fit method to the topic for it helps to describe the lived experience of unmarried adult's reasons, challenges, coping mechanisms of being single and aspiration of their future life in the study for the entire participants in common. By and large, more cautiousness was needed in selecting the study participants. Discovered that, the research work was not so simple soon after the beginning of the research. In reality, individuals are still considered marriage as private issue; they are afraid and reluctant to share it with others. As a result, purposeful sampling technique was used for it gives the inquirer a chance to select individuals and sites for the study in question and confidentiality had been kept through pseudonyms. Besides, it was believed that participant unmarried adults, who are selected through this purposeful sampling technique can confidently inform their lived experiences of reasons, challenges, coping mechanisms of being single and aspiration of their future life in the study.

Accordingly, ten males and seven females a total of seventeen interviewees for the in-depth interview were selected in Debre Tabor town administration. The in-depth interview were carried out using semi-structured guidelines in a safer environment. And side by side from the beginning

of the data collection activity onwards, thematic content analysis was undertaken. By doing so, supplementing intellectual engagement in the analysis process were attempted.

In this way, the study discovered four key findings in terms of the proposed research questions. The first finding of the study indicated that there are possible reasons that well experienced by unmarried adults on being single, who live in Debre Tabor town administration. These were, the changing attitude towards single life and the influence of urban life, economic and other related circumstances, fear of marriage and lack of motivation to negotiate girls, lack of opportunity and waiting for the right one, perception of the advantages of being single, the length of the period of education and economic dependency, the sexual revolution, the globalization effect of women's movement, the issue of Eucharist life, and the request of pride gift and ceremony were found.

The second finding discovered the fact that challenges of unmarried adults' on being single. These challenges were biopsychosocial, economic hardship, health, psychological, psychosocial, and sociocultural challenges were found to be a common experience of almost all of the participant who participated in the study. And the third finding revealed that the biopsychosocial, economic hardship, health, psychological, psychosocial, and sociocultural challenges coping mechanisms of unmarried adults on being single was found out.

As a final point, the fourth finding revealed that unmarried adults' aspiration of their future life, which are categorized as per the experience of the study participants. All unmarried adults who participated in the study have adopted their own personal options to overcome this problem. In this regard, the finding shows that, the first group participants of the study indicated aspiration of their future life, they have not only strong motivation and interest but also they were ready enough to establish honeymoon marriage in the near future. Whereas, the second group indicated aspiration of their future life that in the issue of to be married or not, they have not intrinsic interest and motivation to establish marriage within a short period of time, i.e. they have not any ideal plan to establish it rather they need some other additional years to wait in order to heal from their previous harmful wound and up until to get the indefinite right one. The remaining group, exceptionally two of female participants have not any remained hope or vision to establish marriage after this age; rather they prefer to live being single throughout their life.

5.2. Conclusion

This study yielded many relevant data concerning this social psychological phenomenon and the associated issues. In line with the first research question, the study found out that, the multidimensional effect of economic hardship, the widely acceptance of any form of premarital sexual practice, and waiting for the right one due to excessive and in some cases hardly possible and intangible mate selection criteria predominantly were the possible reason of unmarried adults on being single.

Whereas, regarding to the second research question as well, the study clearly showed that, the natural erotic sexual desire, the communities persistent marriage request, grip, neglect, and distraction trauma and the feeling of loneliness were the predominant challenges of unmarried adults' on being single and these challenges made their life more miserable.

Similarly, the finding in line with the third research question exposed the coping mechanisms of unmarried adults on being single was found out. Some of these coping mechanisms were, for erotic sexual desire habituating different forms of premarital sexual practice, physical exercise, and spending their leisure time in attention seeking environment; for community noise, not to give a due attention/payoff and responding to them flattering ideas, and for the feeling of loneliness spending their leisure time in attention seeking environment.

In line with the last and the fourth research question, it was found that most of the participants of the study indicated their aspiration of future life, they have had not only strong motivation and interest but also they were ready enough to establish honeymoon marriage in the near future.

5.3. Recommendation

Seven recommendations have been proposed in this study based on the basic findings.

1. Lack of opportunity & waiting for the right one, perception of the advantages of being single, sexual revolution, and other related findings of the study shows that, advocacy and proactive counseling intervention activities needs to be provided in line with the importance and value of marriage and also establishing marriage in the usual and appropriate matrimonial age as well as specifically on the disadvantageous aspect of the exaggerated unmarried women request of pride gift and ceremony. For this effect, government organizations (GOs) like, Labor and Social

Affairs and Women affairs and non-government organizations (NGOs) like, Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara (ORDA), which are working in the area as well as the faith based organizations (FBO`s) should coordinate their resources to conduct this advocacy activities in order to bring the expected behavioral change.

2. For the hardships of finding mate, unmarried adults ought to lower down their extra ordinary and hardly possible set of partner selection criteria, extending social networks, and be active to find partner in using multidimensional approach; like, using of religious institution, cultural trend, and other means of searching partner; in this regard, GO`s like, labor and social affairs, universities community service branch, and FBO`s right to take the responsibility.
3. The length of the will be couple`s life span of dating that helps them to know each other need to have with appropriate range of time. Neither too short months nor too long year`s duration; because the finding of the study shows that, spending extended time in friendship before marriage diminish and domed their motivation and eagerness to get married that is in their stay they get in advance all what they should have to get after they get married. Similarly, when it is short period of time, it creates hesitation and lack of confidence to be sure whether the proposed one is appropriate to him/her. In this regard, universities community service branch and FBO`s right to take the responsibility.
4. For the length of the period of education and economic dependency, needs to have economic collaborative couples and also used family planning up until economically safe in their own context. Similarly, the economic dependency syndrome of related and extended family needs to be reduced with means of adjusting the existing or the prevailing family system and with economic empowering of the dependent family members by government organizations like Micro and Small Scale Enterprise institution and non-government organizations like ORDA in both sides. That is; helping them to help themselves and other family members.
5. The globalization effect of women`s movement ought to be cultural context and should be evolutionary. That is, drastic change and paradigm shift is impossible to achieve overnight. The movement should be in line with the socio-economic movement of the society they live. Because unless they act locally, attempting to practice modernization effects of different women`s movement thinking they get from different mass media which is locally inappropriate with the socio-economic setting of the community they live in, will result in social

disconformity and absence of right one to be their partner. In this area Women Affairs ought to take the leading role.

6. The study found out that, premarital sexual relationship is one of the reason for unmarried adults to delay to establish their marriage on the expected usual matrimonial age; on the other hand it has neither scientific nor religious base; so that, religious institutions should strongly condemn and regularly preach about the negative effects of the sexual revolution of different forms of premarital sex, like cohabitation and self sex in order to enhance establishing marriage in the appropriate matrimonial age through preserving libidinal energy that agitate unmarried adults to establish marriage on time. In this regard, universities community services wing and FBO`s ought to take also the leading role.
7. There is also a strong need for further research to be conducted to fill the information gap on the lived experience of unmarried adult`s possible reasons of delayed their marriage and stayed being single and other related issues in other similar towns and large cities of Ethiopia. It may help to dry up the root causes of delayed in marriage. The College of Education and Behavioral Science of BDU should take the lion share.

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Appendices

Annex-I: Participant's Consent:

I have voluntarily agreed to take part in this research. I have read and understood the informed consent and the conditions of this research. I hereby give my voluntary consent for participation in this research by signing my name on the line below. I understand that I may refuse to participate or stop participation at any time without any penalty.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Annex-II: Interview Guide

Bahir Dar University

College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Department of Psychology

Field of Study Social Psychology

Introduction

The objective of this interview guide is only for the fulfillment of a Master's degree in Social Psychology. It is designed to collect data so as to explore the lived experiences of unmarried adults on being single in Debre Tabor town.

You, as a participant are selected cautiously. Your participation is really valuable, and as an individual, your contribution to the study output is very significant. You are requested to provide authentic information regarding your lived experiences on being single. Your honest and genuine response will be highly appreciated and credited, as it will help us to make trustworthy analysis and to propose very practical recommendations. The interview may take from one up to two hours, be sure that the information you provide will be kept ethically and will be used only for this research purpose. It will never be shared with anyone else without your consent. Your participation is voluntary and you have the right not to participate in the interview for any reason you don't want to participate. Therefore, I request you to be honest while responding so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

Thank you

Respondent's ID Number: _____

Section I: Personal Information of the study participants

☞ Would you tell me about yourself, please?

☆ Your sex _____?

☆ Your age _____?

☆ Your educational level _____?

☆ Your organization _____? Government- Non-Government-

Section II: Information on the Lived Experiences of unmarried adults

1. What are your social, economic, personal, and the like possible reasons of stayed on being single? Explain in terms of:
 - The changing attitudes towards single life,
 - Circumstances: family situation, geography, social isolation, financial condition,
 - Fear of marriage,
 - Lack of opportunity and waiting for the right one,
 - Perception of the advantageous life of being single,
 - The length of the period of education,
 - Sexual revolution, i.e. premarital sex,
 - Globalization effect of women's movement, and
 - **Other reasons you experience.**
2. What are your social, economic, personal, and the like challenges of stayed on being single? Explain.
3. What are your coping mechanisms for these social, economic, personal, and the like challenges of being single? Explain.
4. What is your future aspiration of life on being single? Explain.

Section III: Closing

☞ Please, if you have any additional idea/concern to say before closing this interview?

☞ Thank you very much for your cooperation!

Annex-III: Participants' Self-Report

1. Participants' Self-Report on their Reasons for Being Single.

In terms of being single, as the findings of these interviews showed that, individuals stayed being single because of the following reasons:

⌘-Aleph

Aleph was a 36 years old bachelor, after having his first degree he spent a few months in searching a job and later on he get employed and have been working in government organization for consecutive 7 years. Aleph recounts his beginning & reasons of being singleness as follows:

Well, I was born and raised from the indigenous society of Ethiopia. Firstly, there were precondition factors that contribute for the delay of my marriage. Of those, the dream of upgrading my diploma level in to first degree level obliged me to spent prolonged years in attending education. In connection with this, I was self-sponsored student; so that, its cost was high. Beside to this, because of the traditional myth of our kebele, I was helping my parents' economically for a long period of time. That myth is, in our homeland kebele weather our parents were economically poor or rich unless we were support them, we will be out casted in that community; that is, there is severe economic dependency syndrome there. In one way or another this situation severely affected the economic capacity of myself and become an impediment to establish marriage on time.

The last important factor that hindered myself to establish marriage on time were the astonishing part of urban life; i.e. urban modernization. After the revival of my economic capacity the hardship less urban life influenced me to establish marriage on time. That is, in urban life in comparison with rural life almost every human need is more accessible to it. For instance, if I need food I can purchase it or make it easily through electric supply and if I need sex, I have also opportunity/option to obtain it from female sex workers or cohabitation it. Furthermore, in urban community being single is not too much a shameful life like that of in the rural community. Because of these reasons still I have been pushing the singlehood life.

⌘ - Beth

A 35 years old bachelor Beth, after he have had his first degree in management he get employed in government organization and have been working there for many years. Beth describes the reasons of his being singleness as follows:

Okay! I'm thirty five years old, but I have not married yet. There are reasons. One of the reasons were the death of my elder brother and my parents' long period bedridden health problem. The Death of my elder brother creates many crisis in our family. Because of his death the whole family especially my parents' were in deep grief. This grief later on creates prolonged health problem on them. I have strived more and more to medicate them in different private and government hospitals and religious holy water sites but I couldn't and

become died consecutively. In connection with this one of my sister spent her life providing care for them up until they died. She didn't get any basic education and later on she married in rural area and born many children. For the sake of helping her I have been educating her children and caring up of them in different economic aspect for a long period of time. Both of these events made me to degrade economically & enslaved for many private and institutional loan. Later on the economic issue become additional impediment for me to push singlehood life.

Moreover the above reasons after the elapse of consecutive grief and the revival of my economy the betrayal of my girlfriend and horrific model of my closest couples made me to fright marriage. Before five years I have engaged a lovely girl. However, after many years elapsed I have got on confidential sever bad things from her and instantly I canceled her totally. Similarly when I observe the divorce of many couples, my wound relapsed and frightened more and flee away from this category. In addition to this by now I have been attending my second degree in extension program and my social relationship in the community is more widen and intern this made me to reshuffle my focus of attention to this issue; that is, I have had a crowded time. By and large these are the reasons that imprisoned me to establish marriage on time.

3 - Gimel

A 44 years old bachelor Gimel have had first degree and have been working in government organization. And he recounts his reasons of being singleness as follows:

When I was in youth years of age, I have set difficult mate selection criteria this is the first reason of my singleness. These criterion included physical beauty, virgin, honest to her marriage, who have had/hold first degree, and not having bad names in the community were the major once. In searching of a girl who fulfill these criterion, I have spent many years in singlehood life. Later on I have assessed and evaluated the already set mate selection criterion of myself, however, I recognized that it was not right and revised it totally. Unfortunately almost all my age level girls were established their own marriage. Those who left were the problematic one. I was severely confused to it. This was the first reason of myself not to establish marriage on time.

Later on, based on the revised action plan with the effort of myself and significant others, I have got a girl to establish marriage with me and everything had been safely gone. Unfortunately, in between the engaged girl requested me to provide costly pride gift and to prepare huge marriage ceremony but I couldn't afford to it and she couldn't convinced to it. As a result, she changed her state of mind and refused to marry and the plan was failed. After a while I have got another one and I requested her to begin in a cohabitation life but she was not voluntary and failed to it. At last in the near past my intimate friend engaged a woman who have had a child but later on when I follow up her she was to rude and cancelled her immediately. Frankly speaking, I had been tried so long to get the right one

but still it is unsuccessful. Because of these multiple reasons still I couldn't established marriage in the right time.

7 - Daleth

Daleth was a 37 years old female participant and have had first degree in management. After spending of two years in searching a job, she get employed and have been working in government organization for consecutive 15 years. And as she explains her reasons of being singleness as follows:

My first reason is, I continued attending my education for many years and hold my BA Degree in management and then I spend two years searching for job. After two years of my graduation I got my own job and have been working for 15 years but still I didn't get married because I believe I should have to save and have something to say mine before marrying since I don't want to be dependent on the income of my husband for the fulfillment of my basic needs.

Right before, there was not concrete social and economic problems that to halt establishing marriage on time. But still there were a miracle mate selection criteria, even for me it was not concrete and that couldn't be conjure up by myself. I cannot or be able to say this is my criteria. But it is intrinsic mate selection criteria. Based on my intrinsic mate selection criteria, I approach and study many individuals for a certain period of time. Later on their personality might not be fit with myself. Gradually I will loosen and end up my relationship with them. Because of this reason more than a decade has elapsed and the right time of year establishing marriage has elapsed. And by now I am pushing the worst singlehood life.

8 - Hey

Hey was a 36 years old bachelor, after having his first degree he spent a few months in searching a job and later on he get employed and have been working in government organization for consecutive 11 years. By now he have had second degree also. Hey recounts his reasons of being singleness as follows:

I have reasons for the delay of my marriage. Because of my complicated life, I have been living with my grand. The first one is as I have guised that in many directions, directly or indirectly, the whole family might not want to establish marriage right now. That is, the changing attitude towards single life. When I hypothesis their reasons, they may need to get further economic support or they consider the level of my maturity, or not to separate from them. I think so their reason is might be among one of the three. Due to this fact, I consider to myself thinking marriage is a shameful and degraded act. In relation to this, in our family the issue of marriage is seemed to be taboo and totally locked. No one raised as an issue. This influenced me not to give a due attention for the issue.

The other important reason for my being singleness is frightens of marriage. What I meant to frightens is that, what kind of girl to marry is always puzzled on me. That is to say that, is the coming girl personality will accepted or neglected by my family? This idea always created question in my mind. This belief usually retreated/hanged me not to endorse the process of marriage. Because of these two main reasons still I am facing singlehood life.

1 – WawVav

The six one participant of this research WawVav was a 38 years old bachelor, after having his first degree he spent a few months in searching a job and later on he get employed and have been working in government organization for consecutive years. WawVav recounts his reasons of being singleness as follows:

I have reasons for the delay of my marriage. Firstly, there were indirect factors that contribute for the delay of my marriage. Of those, I have spent my childhood life experience in religious education in different monastery and church for many years. Later on, when I joined and onset in modern education, the previous unstable political system, that is civil war of the nation that hinder to endorse my education, was also a reason to join university lately, and prolonged victim of different addiction become my indirect reasons to delay to establish marriage on time.

On top of these, there were also direct circumstances reason to delay my marriage; the first one is, almost in my entire years of youth hood, I have had a problem of genital impotency for many years. This affects my psychological makeup as well as personality for many years; not to think, talk, and discuss the issue of marriage up until I treated and cured by cultural medication. Later on, after the resolve of the problem through cultural medication I have faced another impediment to establish marriage on time. That is, in the past a number of girls explicitly explains that, my physical appearance especially the shortness of my height made them to flee away from myself.

The other circumstance reason were because of the irrelevant case, the dispute between myself and my lovely girlfriend father made everything worst. He send her to abroad and my morality of marriage severely crashed and spoiled more than a decade of years in order to heal from my wound.

In between within this condition, because of personal and political reasons, I encountered a conflict and clashed with someone and I made a stabbing attack on him but fortunately he was not died. As a result I imprisoned for prolonged years and a number of years were elapsed in prison life. Then, after I released because of the fear of revenge I flee away from my locality. Thus, the focus of my attention become searching a job a place where far away from my locality and the motivation of establishing marriage become domed. This also another reason for not to establish my marriage in the right time.

Similarly, after the healing of my dual wound I have engaged a college student girl. We have agreed and endorse in cohabitation life for 5 years. After the following day of her graduation she betrayed me and went abroad to live her own life. This action imposed the most severe pain on me.

On top of these I have faced another challengeable legal related problem that cannot withstand it and to darken my best future marriage dream. One up on a time I was a legal responsible person for my young brother when he was working as a position of cashier in government organization. Unfortunately, he spoiled 80, 000.00 Ethiopian birr and he became imprisoned and oust from his formal work. In between he became upset and lost his life. Later on the legal issue shifted towards to me and became responsible and the court judged on me to repay the money from my little monthly salary. Right now, I have been repaying the money from my monthly salary started before two years. Due to this fact I have been severely affected economically. So my dream of marriage became not only ceased and vanquished but also engraved to it. Because of these interrelated reasons still I am being single.

፲ – Zayin

The other participant of this research Zayin was a 38 years old unmarried woman, after having her first degree she spent a year in searching a job and later on she get employed and have been working in government organization for consecutive years. Zayin recounts her reasons of being singleness as follows:

First of all, I grabbed a friend who I thought would be marriage, but for a long time, I insisted that I would accompany other women with me. I tried to advise him, but I did not find him back. So I discovered that if I continue in this condition, I will be disrupted by HIV / AIDS and I will end my relationship with it for a year. After that I had a difficult time in life. I made another fiancé from the outside world and decided to go abroad and I agreed. But he could not take me according to the idea. I slew so many times every year. Finally, after waiting for four years, I canceled my relationship and realized that it was not. After that I felt that I had a foreigner who would understand and know. And no one will get to you if you have a fiancée. Some years later, when the relationship ended, people began to listen. I do not find those who come to know it to be a good fit for a couple who are divorced and have children, who are from many women, who are very addicted to immorality. I have not married yet for these reasons.

7 -Cheth

Cheth was a 37 years old bachelor. He have had second degree and have been working in non-government organization. Cheth recounts his reasons of being singleness as follows:

I still have reasons to believe that I have stayed in being single. There is a precedent for taking the first step to citing. When it comes to marriage, it does not seem so easy, so there is a tendency for children to become more pre-occupied, to give priority to education, to focus on the economy. The other is that I cannot see the full extent of my freedom and the lack of fulfillment of the criteria, and the fear of overcoming a marriage and the danger of overcoming a marriage.

Another reason is the rural project in which I have been working. I spend most of my time here in this farmer community. This is not ideal for a woman I want because of the character of my work. When I have the best of conditions, I have to be careful and forget about the girl I was planning on finding and choosing because of the stress of the job; that is to say, my hectic job left me very little time for a relationship. Besides that, I believe that the girls I choose is the other reasons why I am delayed not to get married. Most of the time the girls I choose other than that of seasonal sexual relationship, they were not committed enough to push me to enter marriage.

On top of these, those of my relatives and intimate friends who know the problem very well strived to engage a girl that meet the criteria. Later on, one of my best intimate friend engaged a girl that fit with my criteria. Based on our agreement we have marched a long year journey without any sexual relationship. Then after we have reached on decision to establish our honey moon marriage; we told the family that it was important to introduce family. Then, as parents began to study our genealogy, not only we became a collection of classrooms but also I heard that one of my near relatives engaged her one up on a time. As a result, both parents refused to join us. So we agreed that we would have to wait for the wrath of our parents for a few years. That is until our parents let them. However, our parents didn't want to change their state of mind. As a result we have obliged to reach a final agreement to stop our long term journey. And I'm still traveling on loneliness until I get my own eve. Overall, I have not been married for so long because of the reasons I have listed above.

8 -Tet

Tet was the other female participant of this research. She was a 35 year's old unmarried woman, have had first degree and have been working in government organization. Tet recounts her reasons of being single as follows:

I was born from the urban community of poor family. Reasons of my being singleness are interrelated. The first reason were, of the family two of my younger sisters who established

marriage were died suddenly consecutively. During their stay they were not happy enough in their marriage life. Later on the yolk of caring up of the whole family that is, my parents as well as three of my younger brothers put on me. So the prolonged grief of my sister, the bad model of their marriage life, and sever economic crisis my family become one category to flee away from marriage.

Furthermore, for the sake of helping my family, right before I established my job duty station far away from my home town Debre Tabor. At that time the job by itself was not sustainable and have had many trails that makes to hinder and retreat to establish marriage there on time. As a whole because of the above reasons still I am pushing my adulthood single life.

ጎ -Yod

A 37 years old bachelor Yod have had first degree and have been working in government organization. Right now he is attending his second degree. Yod recounts his reasons of being single as follows:

I have reasons to stay tuned in so far. Firstly, there were indirect factors that hinder to endorse my education on time and later on contribute for the delay of my marriage. Of those, since I was born and raised in the farming community, at the beginning I joined to the formal educational program lately. Similarly, the previous unstable political system, that is civil war of the nation that hinder to endorse my education are main ones. Intern many years were elapsed wastefully.

Secondly, after my graduation my job employment and placement were the remote rural district of the zone. On wards that day changing my place of work was my long dream. The place by itself was not my choice and interest that a place where to establish marriage there. Let alone my long dream and interest, the environment by itself was not conducive enough to me think the issue and more difficult to choose the right mate of myself. As a result because of my place of work additionally many years were elapsed there.

Later on before six years as I had changed my work place and joined to Debre Tabor town, adjusting myself in different things with urban life has been my tension and forgetting to focus on marriage issue become a problem. In relation to this giving prior attention for marriage precondition things was also additional reason for it; like, having residence house and fulfilling household equipment become major concern. Furthermore, on the one hand when I involved to the issue, absence of a mate who meet the criteria is one reason, on the other hand when I got the assumed right one, because of miscellaneous fruitless reasons become blocked. For instance, one upon a time after I engaged a girl and agreed in many things later on as the modeling of her elder sister she requested high amount of pride gift as a result the already process become blocked.

On top of these, following the failure of the establishment of marriage, I have changed my state of mind towards to continue my second degree. Right now I have been attending my master`s degree in self-sponsor and similarly, I have had long term credit to construct my residence house. Intern this affects my economic capacity. So in this state of condition it is

impossible to establish marriage but I don't know what will happen. In addition to these I have had a problem of strong motivation and effort to negotiate girls when they refused to it, I turn my face soon. On the whole because of these reasons, still I didn't establish my marriage on time.

➤ -Kaph

The other female participant of this research was Kaph. She was a 44 year's old unmarried woman, have had first degree and have been working in government organization. Kaph recounts her reasons of being single as follows:

I was born and grew up in the city of Debre Tabor where I was working since the very beginning. I am now 44 years old. I have a first degree. I think there are two main reasons why I am not married yet. That is, my family is a good family. At that time, my parents nurtured and raised me properly. I was not a female galah but I was a girl of stature and religion. Later on, when I was a teenager, my parents divorced so much that they did not get along. At the time, the yoke of care for my father and my sisters were put on me. Even after my graduation, I spent more than seven years in search of a job in Debre Tabor for the sake of my parents and the whole family. Moving to another place by leaving, my parents and the whole family were bustling. They always pulls my heart back. Until my dad left this world, I spent all my life in caring for them. After my dying father, I came to see more and more love for my family. Then I waited until my mother died.

But after that, I was overwhelmed with my deepest hope and the shadow of death hovered on me. I was suddenly succumbed to the death of my younger and older sisters. When I forget one sadness, the other one overlooks and my longevity become full of sadness. At the moment, I have been living with my sister who is the remnants of this catastrophic death in the home of our parents by caring up of our sister's orphan younger daughter. Then I relinquished the idea of a marriage of this false world. Living for a family and over a lot of sadness were a reason to forget my marriage.

Besides, my other reason, as a girl, I was asked by a lot of men. However, most of them were not honest and told me untruth things. For instance, on the one hand, they would pick another one as if they were not another. They say also they have no children but they have their own children. These combined with the above family grievances, made me to flee away from marriage.

↳ -Lamed

Lamed, another participant of this research was a 40 year's old unmarried woman, have had first degree in management and have been working in government organization. Lamed, recounts her reasons of being single as follows:

I was born and raised in this same town of Debre Tabor. It is in a very good sense that I am in a good family environment compared to the community. My growth and my life are centered in the church. I believe there are two important reasons why I am not married yet.

At first, I have a religious purpose for myself. As I have stated, I am determined to live in the life of the sacrament because I do want to become religious and want to be a strong person. At the same time, my choice of marriage was strong. What I long believed in was what I wanted to do in everything - religious, academically, economically, and physically- as well as a better mate. But I could not find a real partner who did what was best for me. Because of my stubbornness, I spent a lot of time.

In the meantime, I suffered from a disorder of the health problem and become bed ridden; and had been moving in different holy water sites for more than two years by the help of my family. As a result, my life was spared, and I had to abandon it. After my health returned, it was another complicated problem. After some years of searching job, I started working as a job worker. This also another contributing factor to delay my marriage.

And when I look at my married friends, having their lives were battered by their marriage, I ignore the issue for not having anything to look forward. In relation to this, I believe that everything else is God-given, because the lord God were intentional pend to it to establish marriage earlier, thinking that it will not good for me. By and large, I have not married yet, because I explained why I did.

72 -Mem

A 45 years old unmarried woman Mem was another female participant of this research. She have had first degree in management and have been working in government organization. Mem recounts her reasons of being single as follows:

It was born at Fogera district in the agricultural community. I am now 44 years old. I have an undergraduate degree in management. When I was a child my parents were divorced because of unclear reasons. My oldest brother took me and my mother, who was separated from my father to the nearest town and started a small business there in order to caring up us. I also began my education there. My father did not have anything to do with it at that time, just as I was a child and as a father. He did not help me. With my brother's support, I completed my college education. After two years of job searching, I employed in and started to work as a government worker. So far, I believe that this is one main root reason for me not to establish marriage on time.

My elder brother, after he completed his assignment, lately he established marriage and have produced a number of children. Because his low income amount later on the yolk of caring up of these children put on me. Onwards my graduation I have been caring up and supporting of four of his children totally as well as the whole family occasionally. This giant and prolonged economic burden has been a big impediment for me to establish marriage right now.

So when I am in this situation, it is more difficult to build a marriage. Also I do not even have the assumption that the one who becomes my partner can tolerate all these burdens, and cannot tolerate them until they can become self-sufficient. If not so, what a guarantee

I have? And how can I be free in my inner moral sense? Also, in this situation, we're going to have children, and then it's time for my children's and siblings, then my family and my family only by leaving these needy family. It's a great challenge. So because I am determined to pay my brother's debt, I continue to educate his children over a period of high school graduation to the level of education. This is not only my inexhaustible inner joy but also my everlasting dream and Vision.

Moreover I was self-sponsored student to endorse my first degree in order to become self-reliant and not to see the hands of males in later years and constructing of my residence through log year loan, for a long period of time for the purpose of proclaiming my later year's freedom also degraded my economic capacity. These also another reason to delay to establish marriage on time.

1 -Nun

Nun is the other male participant of this research. He was 37 years old bachelor. Nun have had first degree in accounting and have been working as a professional in government organization. Currently, he is attending his second degree in the extension program. Nun recounts his reasons of being single as follows:

I am the urban dweller of Ethiopia. Why I'm not married yet were I think there are two main reasons. The first thing I found was the lack of a comfortable place of work. I started working as a diploma far away from my home town, in South Wollo Zone, in the Wagdi district. The district did not have a complete infrastructure at that time relatively the place I was born. It was a great sight to be in a more cosmopolitan city and to find the most comfortable and lasting place to live in. Thinking that, establishing marriage there mean separating from my beloved homeland and not to continue my education. After I worked 4 years, I decided to go to the local area, and then I started to work in the rural village of Andabet district, South Gondar Zone, thinking that the district was close to the area, but that the infrastructure was not a compromise. Later on, I came to the town of Debre Tabor. So, lack of earning near comfortable and sustainable working as well as living place is one reason why I was delayed to establish marriage on time.

Besides, I thought that I would not be able to run from a diploma course to a degree, as I tried to explain. Because of the high cost of schooling, I did not have enough economic / income-generating capacity to build a marriage, so it was my second reason for not marrying because I did always care about education.

2 -Samech

A 40 years old bachelor Samech was also the other male participant of this research. Samech have had first degree in Laboratory Technology and have been working as a professional in government health organization. Samech recounts his reasons of being single as follows:

I was born, educated, and employed here in Debre Tabor town. Due to this fact I have been living with my parents' so as too. As a result I spent non-working hours and days with my parents and the whole family. As of this reason, I didn't give a due attention and place for marriage issue. In relation to this, there is not any driving forces to push or a pulling factors to pull towards the issue of marriage. Let alone the other, washing cloth and other similar activities fulfilled by my family just like the life of childhood. Usually I didn't think weather marriage is attractive or not. Occasionally I thought that, if I were employed somewhere else that far away from my family, I would establish marriage still. Because there are more difficult affairs that cannot be achieved by a bachelor only. If so I would obliged to establish marriage. So, still living with my parents for a long period of time is one reason for me delayed to establish marriage on time and being single.

On top of this, when the quest of marriage raised up on me, I rushed to search suitable partner but still I couldn't get/find the right one that could meet my mate selection criteria. Similarly, I have had also a problem of motivation and encouragement to finalize the issue. Furthermore, when we are in adulthood age, the focus of our attention also diverted towards some other issues, as a result the issue of marriage become forgotten. That is to say and I thought that, end years of youth hood age were appropriate time to provide a due attention and place for the issue of marriage. However, if this appropriate time were elapsed, the marriage issue didn't have a place and become neglected.

In addition to these, the other reason were the issue of the length of the period of education. My first education level was diploma. In order to upgrade to a degree level. I have spent a long period of time to achieve my education. This intern alters or diverts my focus of attention and weakens my economic capacity. As a result it become a reason for delaying my marriage and living as a single hood life. As a whole these are the reason for my being singleness.

☞ –Ayin

The last male participant of this research Ayin is a 40 years old bachelor. Ayin have had first degree in Law and have been working as a professional in government organization. Ayin recounts his reasons of being single as follows:

I was born, nurtured, and completed my secondary school in old curriculum her in Debre Tabor town. The first reason of myself delayed to get married is, the issue of sacrament. That is to say that, prior after many years were elapsed, my engaged employed girl was eagerly and mincingly interested to establish our marriage in Eucharist life. At that time, even though, there was not any problem that prevented me to establish our marriage in Eucharist life, I was fearful and not voluntary enough to establish our marriage in this life. Both of us were very reluctant, to change our state of mind and in between many years were passed. Because of this reason the already prepared marriage were collapsed and our relationship were stooped.

Later on, I began to establish relationship with a job seeker girl. We have agreed in many things and strengthen our relationship more and more. After we have gone many journey, my family as well as my best intimate friend diagnosed many bad things on her. And totally they complained our relationship and decided to cease our journey instantly. In the meantime I was not agreed to them, but later on they provide many concrete evidence of her bad habits. Of these habits the bold one is, she established many sexual relationship with many males along with me. After a while I obliged to stop my relationship with her.

After many years elapsed, I began a new relationship with other employed girl far away from my work place Debre Tabor town. When we start our relation, she put a precondition idea, that she needs a few years to study with each other. Because the geographical isolation has its own impact on us. That is why she need extra time to study with each other. After few years day after day our smooth relationship become weaken gradually. Later on, silently she denounce everything and established her own marriage with someone else. As a whole these interwoven reasons were my first reasons that delayed to establish my own marriage on time.

On top of these, living together with my parents' have had its own influence to establish marriage on time. Because the conducive environment of my parents' house made me not to give a due attention for the issue more and more. Everything what I need I got there easily. These are the major reasons for delayed to establish my honeymoon marriage in the appropriate time.

D -Pefe

Pefe is the last female participant of this research. She was 35 years old unmarried woman. Pefe have had first degree in management and have been working as a professional in government organization. Pefe recounts her reasons of being single as follows:

Even though I do not think I'm a religious person, I think it's forbidden for people to do something that is uncomfortable and that the community does not like. That is, strictly I respect the values and norms of the community. So it was my choice of marriage, a practical religious person that is not from Muslim or other Christianity family. I need not only the follower of orthodox Tewahido Christian but also real honest, committed, and devoted to his religion. Similarly who is not from declassified society that is his genealogy is not from blacksmith, waver, slave, tanner, wizard, and 'bale Zar'. And not from our closest classroom genealogy that is our kinship relationship is above seven generation. As well as who was not engaged my kinship. This issue is the firm stand of whole family as well as myself. On top of these good personality of respecting my parents as well as the whole family, free from any addiction, faithful, believing in reason and communicating easily is another criteria. Furthermore, physically handsome, educated, and who have had his own sufficient income or good economic status is my mate selection criteria. So, within my long term journey, individuals who want to engage me were opposite and contradict to my

personality. Still I haven't get a mate to fulfill a single one criteria of it. As a result, this become a first reason to delay my marriage and being single.

Modeling of the worst marriage life of my prior intimate friends and seeing of some rude married men were another reason to fear marriage from far away. On the one hand, I have many married intimate friends who were embittered by their marriage and pushing horrible marriage life and on the other hand I know a dozen of males who establish their marriage in Eucharist life but they discarded their sainted life and having sex with some other else and even with commercial sex workers. These is also another reason to delay my marriage to establish on time.

After employment also I have been living with my parents for many years. Everything what I need have been providing by my parents just as of my childhood experience. Intern this is not only to influences to neglect or not to give a due attention and place the marriage issue but also I thought that a big impediment for those individuals to engaged me freely. By and large these are the reasons to delay my marriage and being single.

2. Participants' Self-Report on their Challenges for Being Single.

Participants of the study pointed out that a number of challenges of being singleness that devastates their day to day life.

⌘ –Aleph explained his challenges on being singleness as follows:

We live in a couples-oriented society where the usual status is to be married. There is often a stigma attached to be single-many people seem to think that if a person is single there must be something wrong with that person. Due to this fact, while a man is not expected to get married during his usual lifetime, he may face with many tests. If I briefly describe what happened to me, I am experiencing a lot of social and emotional stress, sexual desire, greater loneliness, lack of self-confidence, economic recession, negligent, visionless, lack of respect in the society, facing decisions alone, the need for love and affection are the major ones.

⌘ –Bet explained his challenges on being singleness as follows:

The person living alone/ singlehood, or without a mate, has special problems to deal with; I'm surprised ... I have faced a great deal of trials. Of the major ones are; non-violent sexual harassment among girls is a major concern. I also experienced greater loneliness, widespread financial loss or wastefulness, community grip & distraction, lack of respect/prestige and disappointment in the community, unhappiness, depression, fear of marriage because of my previous wound, and occasional hopelessness are the major once.

⌘ –Gimel explained his challenges on being singleness as follows:

Being single have had many challenges, but the most sever one is the day that I spent in holy days lonely. Furthermore, spiritual jealousy' those who have children, moral degradation,

sexual desire, affecting myself in diet, wastefulness, lack of caring up of myself, community grip & distraction, lack of respect/prestige and disappointment in the community are my singlehood challenges.

7 –Daleth stated her challenges on being singleness as follows:

As a whole, spinster life have had a great deal of trails. Of the many trails, the most challenging one in my life is lack of individuals to share my confidential ideas/thoughts. Furthermore community grip & distraction and lack of respect. Especially married females they consider themselves as respected and prestigious individual and intern they degraded my personality in flattering saying/words. In addition to this, sever stress due to fear of not having child, persistent and non-violent sexual harassment from some individuals are the challenging issues of my singlehood life.

7 –Hey stated his challenges on being singleness as follows:

Because of my singleness, I have been facing two basic challenges. On the one hand my family do not want to establish marriage right now, on the other hand the community needs and advise me to establish marriage on time. In between I have been facing severe stress, anxiety, community grip, and conflict of interest. The other challenge is erotic sexual desire and frightens of myself what will happen next. Indirectly this makes me to flee away from my friends and significant others and exposed myself the salivary of loneliness. This act prevented myself from the community knowledge.

7 –WawVav explained his challenges on being singleness as follows:

In short, I came across many tests: the endless loneliness, the high sex drive, the unwanted sexual desire of the women who did not, the broader psychological pressure of the society, the excessive amount of money spent, the unnecessary burden of ‘chat’, alcohol, and cigarette addiction, the lack of civility in society, unhappiness, frustration and hopelessness are the main challenges.

7 –Zayin stated her challenges on being singleness as follows:

As a girl keeps her unmarried, she faces a great deal of challenges. The first one is the name of the community that is so widespread..... She does not get married when she chooses to live forever. Also, both at work and in my neighborhood, I have a daily trials of sexual harassment. They're not only soliciting, but also challenging, which is a great test for girls.

7 –Cheth explained his challenges on being single as follows:

I have come to experience many complex tests. Most of these are social networking and the like in the social network that the majority of the married people make. I am isolated on various social issues, including Christianity, weddings, and so on. This is the biggest challenge in my life. I also have a widespread economic collapse, I am so sorry to myself. The reason why I am so sorry to myself is that, I have seen a family of very small monthly

income who fulfil everything what they want. In the meantime, as a human being, sexual desire is another of the toughest challenges. The three basic issues I explained were the tests I had just met while I was still married.

☞ –Tet stated her challenges on being single as follows:

To be married is the usual status in a couples-oriented society. One of the challenges I have faced was the social impact. There is often a stigma attached to be single. Many people think that there must be something wrong with me. On top of this, the marriage request of ordinary men who were not fit with me was another trails. Similarly I am very disappointed when they ask me for a cheap, sexually suggestive sexual relationship. These are just some of the challenges I have encountered.

☞ –Yod explained his challenges on being single as follows:

When I come up with the tests that I'm facing unmarried, the first and the most dangerous one were the impact of the community. They said that, the right time to establish marriage and having children is now. To the extreme they consider me that I have not sex organ. Intern this impose a psychological impact on me. Furthermore a long-term economic vacuum and a loneliness challenge are also often the main challenges.

☞ –Kaph stated her challenges on being single as follows:

There are tests as I have been not yet married. One of these is community noise. It's just that I'm having problems with my disorder. When I'm unmarried, they usually think of my health problem, and occasionally they consider that I have had a particular problem to get married. Also when they see that they have given more and more honor to those who have been married, they will lessen me and look at me with dignity. This was my biggest challenge. There are too many people who say that you do not have to do anything either. Overall, these are the biggest challenges I have faced over the years.

☞ –Lamed stated her challenges on being single as follows:

Generally speaking being single has many challenges especially for spinsters. So far as I have mentioned earlier, living in religious life in relation to the other community have had many challenges. My Eucharist spinster life challenges me in different ways. On the one hand some disloyal males tried to oblige me to demolish this sainted life and establish marriage and on the other hand a few individuals attempt to harass sexually. Furthermore, Eucharist life is a confidential life and do not exposed to the other communities. Due to this fact because of their innocent thinking some individuals did not understand me and they didn't gave me human value. That is, community grip & distraction, lack of respect/prestige and disappointment in the community. For instance, they said that, why don't you get married? You become lonely forever, give value for time, why don't you minimize your mate selection criteria, and the like.

In the meantime, those who asked me to marry and had negative responses were tried to attack me in various forms, such as using those of my close friends. Besides that, these

men also insulted me in different ways in front of many people. This intern leads me to sever psychological problem. Furthermore, what I am experiencing now is, those who are unconnected to my previous standards and want to marry me. Not only that, but even now, divorced aged adults and those who have many children quest me for marriage. Even though not always, intern these leads and crate unhappiness, depression, fleeing of loneliness, anxiety, lack of meaning in my life, lack of commitment, and occasional hopelessness to me. By and large, finding the true Eucharist bachelor is the challengeable life of Eucharist spinster. And all are the challenges I have experienced through loneliness.

72 –Mem elaborated her challenges on being single as follows:

I have been through many trials, First of all, many ordinary people quest for me for marriage that cannot fit totally. And some are engaged me for the sake of looking for the treasures of the background. Another test is the community. They said that, have you a problem with marriage and child? Still some others are hesitating my health condition, that I have a health problem that prevented me to establish marriage. Furthermore, when customers of the organization came for service and someone called me ‘wozerit’, they become surprised and gazed at me considering my age. Then everybody is again surprised to see me all the way upside down. Intern these creates a psychological problem on me. Because I'm not feeling well for the moment. These are the challenges I have faced while not married.

73 –Nun explained his challenges on being single as follows:

I experienced trials because I was single and unmarried. These include the natural desire of sexuality, because I often stay in a hotel that I eat, so that I am exposed to high cholesterol and high blood pressure. Many doctor's counsel me to change my diet. But I cannot do this by eating in a hotel. I have neither the capacity nor the ability to Cooke & nourished myself. I did not think that would have happened if I had married. Similarly, lack of care giver when I was ill, loneliness, lack of sleep, and a great deal of cost for hotel and catering, a huge economic fall, and lack of skill to communicate thee. It seems to me that I am in my care because of the shyness and the lack of experience. Here are some of my tests of living alone without marrying altogether.

74 –Samech explained his challenges on being single as follows:

Generally speaking delayed in marriage and living as being single for a long period of time have had many challenges at all. I have spent conducive environment as a result erotic sexual desire is one trail. Community grip, bad feeling and anxiety when I saw intimate friends of mine who have married and have a child. Moreover, extreme extravagance and lack of thinking tomorrow, and occasional hopelessness were major challenges of my singlehood life experience.

⚡ –Ayin explained his challenges on being single as follows:

Commonly when unmarried adults delay their marriage and live singlehood life have had many challenges. Just like that of the other, the noise of my family and the whole community is the sever one. Let alone the community my family called me usually as female name. Furthermore, the erotic sexual desire is also another trail. Intern this have had a psychological effect on me. That is to say, there is occasional depression, anxiety, poor concentration, lonely, don't feel connected, lack self-confidence, irritable, angry, difficulty making decisions, feeling sad or blue, having problems with sleep, lack meaning in my life, feeling overwhelmed, and bothered by troublesome thoughts are the major ones.

⚡ –Pefe described her challenges on being single as follows:

During my singlehood lived experience I have faced interrelated trails. Of these the most upset and challenging one is; the frequent sexual harassment of individuals who established their marriage in Eucharist life, quest of spiritual jealousy of myself when I saw honeymoon marriage life, sorrowful marriage request of ordinary person, frequent quest of marriage issue in the side of my family and tremendous community grip like considering something wrong with myself and repeatedly boring advice, and occasional loneliness were my singlehood challenges of delayed to establish marriage on time.

3. Self-Report of Participants' their Coping Mechanisms on Being Single.

⚡ –Aleph described his coping mechanisms that:

In order to keep myself from the community neglect trauma, I spent my precious leisure time in watching important television programs, video films, and reading very important local and abroad books. Similarly, in weekends spending in cost-effective recreation areas, like enjoying with my intimate friends in the street also makes my heart grow fonder. Intern this helps me to avoid wastefulness and preventing myself from the forgotten feel guilt. In addition to these, continuous physical exercise, heterosexual relationship with those interested girls, and occasional self sex- of course it has religious bad feelings, was my coping mechanisms for to demolish a great deal of sexual desire. By and large these coping mechanism are the major ones of myself to combat for the challenging life of singlehood.

⚡ –Bet explained his coping mechanisms as follows:

I have been practicing multiple coping mechanisms that best suit to my personality for the challenges that I have faced. Always I prayed to the lord God to solve the problem. This act gave me great pleasure in every sphere. On top of this, providing clear information about the situation what I have faced for those girls who attempt unnecessary non-violent sexual harassment is another mechanism to tackle the challenges of my singlehood life.

⚡ –Gimel described his coping mechanisms of his challenges on being single as follows:

During holyday times, most of the time I spent in hotel and other public recreation center. Similarly, in order to keep myself from the community neglect trauma, I spent my precious

leisure time in watching important television programs, video films, and reading very important local and abroad books. Intern this helped me to avoid wastefulness and preventing myself from the forgotten feel guilt and negligently caring up of myself. Cooking and dieting myself in order to combat dietary challenges. In addition to these, having sex with sex workers and occasional self sex: of course these two things have religious bad feelings, are my coping mechanisms for to demolish a great deal of sexual desire. These coping mechanism are the major ones of myself to combat for the challenging life of singlehood.

7 –Daleth explained her coping mechanisms of challenges on being singleness as follows:

Based on the nature of the problem, I shared to significant others and usually make appropriate solutions for it. In relation to this in order to combat community grip & distraction and lack of respect as well as the married female grip, I consider as meaningless and most of the time I did not give a due attention for them. Leaving or providing to God is my best coping mechanism for fear of menopause. Furthermore, for the sake of tackling non-violent sexual harassment; in order to divert their attention and notifying them, have no interest on that, I made discussion not to understand their saying and inversely I imposed hot topic to change their state of mind and abscond from them.

7 –Hey explained his coping mechanisms of challenges on being singleness as follows:

In order to cope the psychological impact of the community grip, usually I have been made flattering but fantastic things, like responding to them; already I have finished everything and you will see in the nearest future. Whereas coping for erotic sexual desire and the interwoven loneliness I have been spending my spare time in reading essential books and communicating with my family are my basic coping mechanisms for the challenges that have been facing.

1 –WawVav described his coping mechanisms for the challenges of being single as follows:

In order to cope with these challenges of singleness, I often go out with sexually explicit motives and sexually explicit ways of dealing with sexually explicit behavior; i.e. self-sex and having sex with sex workers, and sometimes with a positive response to the society's demands. Also I did whatever I could and was not afraid to make any traditions, I was satisfied with my addiction or doing something else in my dormitory, reading about different books, and meeting the challenges I faced at the expense of the women I did not want to that is to say I'm unhelpful to the women I do not want to be.

1 –Zayin explained her coping mechanisms of challenges on being singleness as follows:

I use the strategies I use to help me cope with these challenges. On the one hand, in the face of unbridled marital blunder, how did you feel about being treated with dignity in the face of indignant married couples? That is using psychological as well as moral hitting words. On the other hand, if boys are unmarried as they are looking for a lasting thing, I would keep myself locked in all the streets and avoid being sexually abusive. Besides, I

am still doing everything I can to make sure I have not heard of the stress of the community; such as, flattering and the like.

¶ –Cheth stated his coping mechanisms of challenges on being single as follows:

I have my own solutions to the challenges I have described above. I have been able to defend my psychological problems by spending most of my time with other bachelor peers in order to overcome social isolation. On the other hand, by thinking about the future, by consulting with my close friends and thinking thoroughly, I have been trying to solve the problem of wastefulness by converting money into a fixed asset to save money. Besides, I have been able to cope with my immoral sexual desires, by establishing sexual relationship with women who want to establish sexual relationship. I have been able to cope with the challenges I have faced during my staying unmarried.

¶ –Tet explained her coping mechanisms of challenges on being singleness as follows:

I have some strategies to cope with trials. In order to cope the recurrent negative comment and sympathetic advice of the community; to change their state of mind, I often used systematic raising of another hot topic/issue, funny laughing were helpful to divert their attention. In relation to this, providing pretext reason for those ordinary engagers and being strict for those males who attempt for sexual harassment were also my coping mechanisms. As a whole, these are the measures that I have been taking to cope the challenges of my singlehood adult life.

¶ –Yod stated his coping mechanisms of challenges on being single as follows:

To face the challenges, I have my own strategies. To combat the community grip I made to pass over and reshuffling the topic to another topic were one remedy. Whereas, coping for economic wastefulness and loneliness challenge, I strived more to join costless recreation areas, like habituating volleyball and football were coping mechanism for my singlehood trails.

¶ –Kaph explained her coping mechanisms of challenges on being singleness as follows:

I have had my own strategies to cope with the already mentioned trails. On the one hand for those individuals who understood me, I told them in detail the realities what happened on me. On the other hand, for those individuals who didn't understood me, I told them pretext reasons, just like having had a boyfriend whom I'm waiting for. Also neglecting and diverting the topic of the issue were and are my prolonged coping mechanisms to conquer the aforementioned tests.

¶ –Lamed explained her coping mechanisms of challenges on being singleness as follows:

The first thing what I have been doing is usually praying to the Lord God and believing in God to keep myself from bad things. Hence, faithful in God have gained me so much in his power. Even though the commentary of the community gives me a bit of a hint of

opinion on the day, I realize that I think of myself as a self-assured, and also I made fun for them by saying expect to see the next day and ready for the wedding. Similarly, visiting monastery fathers and mothers, continuous fasting, and doing other religious tasks also gives me strong energy and great hope and my feeling of loneliness were poured out. In the meantime, I come with new strength and new hope by constantly adopting and following the counsel of the great fathers of various monasteries. Furthermore, I win the marriage quest of unmatched individuals by replying for them not a bit of stupid answers. Moreover, in order to save myself from violent sexual assaults I care to myself from awful time, hazardous place, and dangerous condition. By doing so, I am still coping the challenges of loneliness.

72 –Mem stated her coping mechanisms of challenges on being singleness as follows:

In the solutions, I am trying to cope with the community noise, through just forget it and not pay much attention. Also I replied pretext for those ordinary person quest, that I have a husband somewhere and have a child. This is because I have my own long-term plan, and goals and decisions I have made to achieve myself. In addition, I am prepared to face the many challenges that I have faced since I was not married. These are my coping mechanisms to cope the life of singlehood.

73 –Nun stated his coping mechanisms of challenges on being single as follows:

I take the alternative solution for the challenges I face. For a natural sexual desire, currently I have a girl friend to become the future of mate. For my health problem, going to a health clinic, going to my parents, and going to a maiden house when I was in Wogdi district. Moving non exhaustible walk and admiring nature, studying my subject and reading books, has been an excellent weapon for to liberate myself from loneliness and financial deprivation. By and large, these were my coping mechanisms to defeat the challenges of singlehood life.

74 –Samech stated his coping mechanisms of challenges on being single as follows:

In order to win the above mentioned trials, making myself too busy in different essential tasks were one strategy to flee away from erotic sexual desire and many interwoven bad feelings. On top of these spending my leisure time within my family were another mechanism for avoiding wastefulness and sever anxiety, and forgetting erotic sexual desire as well. Moreover, providing everything for the lord God were my best sigh of breath and coping mechanisms of challenges on being single.

75 –Ayin stated his coping mechanisms of challenges on being single as follows:

In order to cope up the already mentioned challenges, most of the time establishing my own world of absence that is in my leisure time spending a dozen of time in dormitory by reading books and watching films are the best remedy for coping with family and community noise and for the other interwoven psychological challenges. Similarly,

habituating occasional athletics is the best remedy for coping erotic sexual desire. By and large, these are coping mechanisms for the challenges of my singlehood life.

☞ –Pefe stated her coping mechanisms of challenges on being single as follows:

I have some tactics I can use to cope with these trials. As it is known, the majority of human behavior, especially men's, are likely to closer or flee away were based on our facial expression. First of all, I know the behavior of men who are ready for a chat, and they quickly flee as I quickly turn them down and block down the road. On the other hand, related to my spiritual jealous I acknowledge that God is the maker of all things, and that he can make everything for the sake of good well. So, at the moment my anxiety fills with hope. Also, asymptotically flee away far from those the un right one mate engager and I resisted the test of negative comments and criticisms from the community through ignoring, reacting to a situation, diverting the topic, clarifying the issue for those who understand easily, and fabling as well as joking. In the end, to combat the feeling of loneliness usually I design hot and debatable agenda with my parents and friends. By using these mechanisms, I have been coping the challenges of being single.

4. Self-Report of Participants' aspiration of their Future Life

☞ –Aleph described his aspiration of future life as follows:

I am the segment of the society, so that when living in this world accepting and respecting the norm and values of the society is very essential. On top of this, for the sake of continuing the generation of a nation as well as to keep the personal wellbeing of the individual, establishing marriage is very useful. Totally I have embittered singlehood life. Right now, I have got the right mate of myself, if our ending is excellent, we will establish our flourished marriage life in this 2010 Ethiopian year. Then, my singlehood life will end up.

☞ –Bet described his aspiration of future life as follows:

Right now, because of the above interwoven problems, I need additional years to heal from my wound in order to establish a bright marriage. On top of this, if I get the right girl that to respect the whole of my gust family, I will establish fruitful marriage in the near future.

☞ –Gimel sated his aspiration of future life as follows:

Just Like my previous philosophy, my future philosophy also to end up my singlehood life and establish marriage, and lead righteous family life. I have eliminate the majority of my mate selection criteria. What is left is, if I get an honest girl and not to believe in marriage ceremony, I am ready and will establish flourished marriage instantly.

7 –Daleth described her aspiration of future life as follows:

As time goes on, questioning myself coming on. I question myself who am I? Also I decided to myself to discard all of my irrelevant mate selection criteria. Right now what I need is to marry only whatever he is and having children. Based on this, I am in process to establish marriage, if everything is ok, I will marry in this 2010 Ethiopian year and the life of singlehood will end up. This is my philosophy of future life and all about it.

7 –Hey described his aspiration of future life as follows:

Inspecting of my philosophy of future life, I myself and one of my aunt among the family, and even the community urges to establish marriage on time. Right before I have not any ideal plan to establish it but by now I have given a due attention to establish it. I have not any complicated mate selection criteria, so what I need is only a girl who have had excellent conduct. If this will achieve, I will prepare myself to establish honeymoon marriage on time in order to evacuate from the singlehood life.

1 –WawVav described his aspiration of future life as follows:

I often check myself out and look at any marriage dream. I do not think I'll ever find it. But I really believe that I have a baby, but I really need it. When I think of this, I feel like I have to be married to the person I'm supposed to be. Although I do not want my heart to wander, I think that if I do not mind, then I'll marry a pretty nice woman who wants to live with me and live with me in marriage.

1 –Zayin described her aspiration of future life as follows:

One of the best people I have attempted to describe above is the time table. So because of the background in my situation, it's going to be a long way off. Moreover, if I find my Adam who wants to live with me without a lot of addiction, I always wish to have a wonderful marriage. But I cannot find a perfect mate to date so far, but I'm waiting.

7 –Cheth described his aspiration of future life as follows:

Concerning with my future philosophy of life. I have debated with myself for a long period of time to evacuate from singlehood life. Finally I have made basic decisions to discard some of my mate selection criteria. Right now, many things have been resolving and I have engaged a girl who meet the basic criteria. If other things being equal and my heavenly father let to be, I will rushing to establish astonishing marriage life in the near future. Consequently, the world of loneliness become to end. By and large this is the lived experience of my bachelorhood life.

2 –Tet described her aspiration of future life as follows:

Related to my future philosophy of life, in my current thinking I have no dream that to establish marriage. Even though I have attempted to establish marriage many times, when

everything come to the eve of a final, instantly I illusive the situation of my mother and soon I changed my state of mind and disqualified totally what I have started to it. Sometimes when I thought with myself, I hesitated that there might be bad spirit that hinder to establish marriage on time. Because usually it fails when it to reach the final point and later on I didn't remind it up until I assimilate with the other. After working hours end, usually I eager to attend my mother but nothing else. Overall, I don't know what will happen if but I do not think that I should spend so much time experimenting with it. I think I can live alone because of my parents, especially my mother.

☞ –Yod described his aspiration of future life as follows:

I think that I will marry a short while later in my life. At first, I wanted to be with her, but at the same time she asked me to stay with her darling. If I get caught up in the next year and find her okay, I think I will marry her, or else I want a woman you can be. Although I'm not sure about this, I believe I will get married through 2012. Thankfully, this is my life around this subject.

☞ –Kaph described her aspiration of future life as follows:

Concerning about my aspiration of future life, memorizing the religious saying of “for everything has a time” is best lesson for us. All of this is beautiful when it comes to youthfulness because it is a season of it. Weather we are agreed or not was beautiful at that time. Right now if I conduct the idea, I will face individuals who have had a lot of personal stories. Most of the time I thought and quest to myself, what is the important thing to get married within this falsified generation. Similarly, even I would quietly look at my niece and say what would happening to her, if I were not alive. In the same way, in this unpredictable future bearing a child for the suffering and the deceit world is not important and my heart become melancholic. Because there is no any guarantee for him/her. If God had allowed it, I would have instituted it so far, but it was not because of my reasons. If I do not know what this will be about, right now I want to make sure that my decision is abstaining from any sinful act as of so far and to live in the house of God without establishing marriage. I did not need a marriage anymore. Overall, thank you very much for your generosity.

☞ –Lamed described her aspiration of future life as follows:

After I recaptured a health problem, I leave everything for God. Almost all my mate selection criteria are discarded, except that of to share my Eucharist or sacrament of life. So I have a marriage plan, but I do not have much to envy. Because I now have the expectation of God will only because I have found that there is no better option than waiting for God's approval. That is, the only way is His doing and His will. This is all my future philosophy of marriage.

7 –Mem described her aspiration of future life as follows:

Even though, educating my nephews reached in the aftermath, they will need my continuous support as long as they still take up employment. This will require additional years. Therefore, I do not dream of marriage after this, because of the complex social, psychological, and economic problems of the day I have. I only think that after finishing my own job season, I just want to spend the rest of my life in the Lord's house.

1 –Nun described his aspiration of future life as follows:

Concerning my aspiration of future life, here in my organization I established a girlfriend for more than a year. I have sent elderly arbitrators to her parents and they were voluntary enough to establish our marriage. I have arranged everything that expected from me. I think not so long time, in the near future, I will be out of the loneliness as soon as my creator wishes to be. This is all about what I have in the issue of lived experience of being single.

2 –Samech described his aspiration of future life as follows:

Concerning with my own aspiration of future life of marriage, right now I have no any movement at all to establish marriage within this short period of time. I think so because of my age, still I didn't budget time for the issue and I am negligent enough and have not strong motivation to pursue the issue to establish marriage on time. However, as the lord God said, It is not good a man to live alone, I would like to make a helper suitable partner for him. So, I am not quite sure of it when I establish marriage, but one up on a time when everything will safe I have a dream to establish a favorite marriage. This is all about my lived experience concerning the issue of delayed in marriage and being single.

3 –Ayin described his aspiration of future life as follows:

In my journey of life I have strived more things to get the right one mate of myself. Except the first attempt the remaining had got the right decision on time without any wastage. Right now I have engaged the right mate and have gone many journey. If ending is safe, I will establish wonderful marriage in the near future without any hesitation. This is my aspiration of future life on being single. As whole these is my lived experience of being single on delayed marriage.

4 –Pefe explained her aspiration of future life as follows:

So far as I have attempted to mention earlier, If I get the right mate of myself who meets the already set criteria, I didn't hastate to establish marriage soon. This may be the well and obey of God. But I have not started any single process in the present situation. So if I get the compatible one I'm ready to go to the marriage and become get rid of singlehood life.