

# Determinants of Health Facility Delivery in Northwest Ethiopia: A Community-Based Case-Control Study

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**Background:** Although Ethiopia has developed many strategies to promote health facility delivery, more than half of the women gave birth at home contributing to high maternal and neonatal mortality. Therefore, this study aimed to identify the determinants of health facility delivery in Northwest Ethiopia.

**Methods:** A community-based unmatched case-control study was conducted in selected districts in Northwest Ethiopia. The sample included 885 infant mothers (295 cases and 590 controls) from April 6–16, 2019. Data were collected using a pretested interviewer-administered structured questionnaire. A multivariable logistic regression model was used to identify predictors, and STATA 14 statistical software was used to analyze the data.

**Results:** The mean maternal age was 26.4 years (SD±6.7) for cases and 28.1 years (SD±6.8) for controls. The overall good newborn care qualities were 95.8% (206) for cases and 40.8% (262) for controls. Attending a formal education (AOR=2.1 (95% CI: 1.5, 2.9)), having first pregnancy from 18 to 25 (AOR=1.5 (95% CI: 1.1, 2.1)), living within 1 km distance from the nearest health center (AOR=2.5 (95% CI: 1.5, 4.0)), having ANC visits (AOR=3.9 (95% CI: 2.4, 6.5)), having a mobile (AOR=1.7 (95% CI: 1.3, 2.4)) were the determinants of health facility delivery.

**Conclusion:** Maternal education, not having pregnancy at early age, accessing health facilities to the nearby residents, attending antenatal care, and having a mobile were the determinants of health facility delivery. Therefore, strengthening education and health-seeking behavior of the mothers using a locally contextualized strategy is essential. Reaching mothers who are still far from health facility also deserves needs due attention.

**Keywords:** essential newborn care, delivery place, Northwest Ethiopia

## Plain Language Summary

Although Ethiopia has developed many strategies to promote health facility delivery, most women gave birth at home leading to high maternal and neonatal mortality. This study aimed to identify the determinants of health facility delivery in Northwest Ethiopia. A community-based unmatched case-control study was conducted in selected districts among 885 infant mothers (295 cases and 590 controls) in April, 2019. Data were collected using a pretested interviewer-administered structured questionnaire. A multivariable logistic regression model was used to identify predictors. The mean maternal age was 26.4 years (SD±6.7) for cases and 28.1 years (SD±6.8) for controls. The overall good newborn care qualities were 95.8% (206) for cases and 40.8% (262) for controls. Attending a formal education, having first pregnancy from 18 to 25, living within 1 km distance, having ANC visits, having a mobile were the determinants. Strengthening education and health-seeking behavior of the mothers

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using a locally contextualized strategy is essential. Reaching mothers who are still far from health facility needs due attention.

## Background

Regardless of the great achievements in reducing maternal and neonatal deaths in the last two decades, Ethiopia keeps to have high maternal mortality with 412 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births and neonatal mortality with 29 neonatal deaths per 1000 live births.<sup>1</sup> Currently, neonatal mortality rate in Ethiopia is higher (30) than the African estimation (26.7) and the overall global estimation (18) per 1000 live births.<sup>2,3</sup> Ethiopia Mini-Demographic Health Survey 2019 indicated that there is a slight increase in neonatal mortality compared to the 2016 survey finding, and a large proportion of maternal and neonatal deaths occur during the 48 hours after delivery.<sup>1</sup> Promoting health facility delivery is one strategy for improving maternal and newborn health outcomes.<sup>4</sup> The World Health Organization (WHO) recommended health facility delivery to appropriately utilize the maternal and newborn care services to reduce the major causes of maternal and neonatal deaths.<sup>5</sup> It is a strategic approach rendered during the time of pregnancy, during, delivery, and soon after birth and during the postnatal period.<sup>3</sup> For all newborns, clean delivery and cord care, thermal protection, early and exclusive breastfeeding, and immunization are recommended by the WHO.<sup>6,7</sup>

To improve health facility delivery, the Ethiopian government did various health interventions by implementing a health extension program, training midwives, enhancing the referral system, integrating health services, and routine immunization. The second Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTP) of Ethiopia highlighted as newborn health was amongst the key priorities of the government and the ultimate goal of this reproductive health program was to reduce the neonatal mortality rate to 10 per 1000 live births by 2020.<sup>8</sup> Nonetheless, health facility delivery is still remained low (48%) and neonatal death is high (30/1000 live births), and its 41/1000 live births in the study area (Northwest Ethiopia).<sup>2,9</sup>

Health facility delivery service utilization has been encouraged to improve maternal health and newborn survival.<sup>10</sup> However, most mothers in Ethiopia deliver at home in the presence of traditional birth attendants, which has resulted in many harmful traditional practices applied to the newborn.<sup>11,12</sup> Even though some women gave birth by skilled birth attendants in a health facility, newborn care practice may be affected by traditional practices after discharge at home by

the family and community. In low and middle-income countries, there are different cultural newborn care practices at home which are in contrast to WHO recommendations. Culturally sensitive maternal and newborn care practice is important to assure the well-being of mothers and newborns.<sup>7,13</sup>

Different studies identified various factors associated with health facility delivery service utilization including maternal education, attending antenatal care, counseling about essential newborn care (ENBC), postnatal care (PNC) visits, place of residence, household wealth index, and partner's educational level.<sup>14–16</sup> Health facility delivery service utilization could also be affected by a multitude of factors including availability and readiness of health care services, distance, cost, and quality of service, personal health beliefs and socioeconomic factors.<sup>17–20</sup>

The readiness of health institutions for facility delivery is vital for increasing the utilization of maternal and newborn care services,<sup>21</sup> and ultimately reducing maternal and neonatal deaths.<sup>3</sup> The presence of good essential newborn care services indicates health system readiness to manage delivery and childbirth complications.<sup>22</sup> Studies have shown that proper essential newborn care services would reduce up to 60% of maternal deaths and 85% of intrapartum related neonatal deaths annually.<sup>23</sup> However, the reason for low utilization of health facility delivery was not well addressed, few of these studies which were cross-sectional by its design have methodological limitations, and did not address the causal relationship between the outcome and explanatory variables. Therefore, this study aimed to identify the determinants of health facility delivery in Northwest Ethiopia.

## Methods

### Study Area and Design

A community-based unmatched case-control study was conducted from April 6–16, 2019. This study was conducted in Gondar, which is found in the Northwestern part of Ethiopia encompasses the North and Central Gondar administrative zones. Dabat and Debarq districts from the North Gondar, and Wogera district from the Central Gondar administrative zones were included. The total population of this area was projected to be 3.7 million in 2017. Of this population, 1.8 million (49%) were females. The study area has three government hospitals and 50 health centers.<sup>1</sup>

## Source and Study Population

The source population for the study was all women aged 15–49 years who gave birth in the last six months in North and Central Gondar zones, while the study population was women who were residing in the selected districts (Dabat, Debark, and Wogera). Cases were women who gave birth to their last child in health institutions in the six months. Controls were women who give birth to their last child at home in the six months in the selected districts.

## Sample Size Determination and Sampling Strategy

The sample size was determined using a proportional difference approach for case-control study using Epi Info version 7 considering the following assumptions: 95% confidence level, 80% power, case to control ratio of 1:2, the proportion of illiterate mothers or caretakers among cases was 42.6%.<sup>24</sup> Assuming a 10% difference (increase) in illiteracy level among controls in advance, the proportion of controls with exposure becomes 52.6% producing an odds ratio of 2.01 to be detected. Accordingly, after adding a 10% non-response rate to each and a design effect of 2, the total sample size was 885 (295 cases and 590 controls).

A multistage-stratified random sampling technique was employed to identify each respondent. Initially, Northwest Ethiopia was stratified as North Gondar and Central Gondar zones. Then, 2 districts (Dabat and Debark) were randomly selected from the 6 districts in the North Gondar zone and, Wogera district was conveniently selected from Central Gondar zone. At the second stage, 10, 6, and 8 kebeles (the smallest administrative unit) were randomly selected from Dabat, Debark, and Wogera districts, respectively. The number of kebeles was selected proportional to its size in each district. The study participants were mothers who deliver in health facility (cases) and at home (controls) in the last six months. The list of deliveries were obtained from health extension workers record sheets in each kebele. Finally, the cases and controls fulfilling the inclusion criteria were selected by employing a systematic random sampling technique.

## Data Collection Methods and Tools

Data were collected by using pretested interviewer-administered structured questionnaires, which were adapted from the WHO minimum neonatal care package.<sup>3</sup> The questionnaire was prepared in English,

then translated into the local language “Amharic” and used to collect data using a tablet-based data collection application software called Open Data Kit (ODK) software. Face to face interview was conducted by six trained data collectors who are first-degree female midwives and nurses. A one-day training was given to data collectors and supervisors on how to extract information from respondents, ethical aspects, and ways of communication before data collection commencement.

## Variables

### Dependent Variable

Place of delivery.

### Independent Variables

Sociodemographic characteristics (age, residence, marital status, occupation, education, household income, religion, and media use), reproductive and obstetric characteristics of the mother's (age at first marriage and pregnancy, number of children, and gravidity, parity, the experience of neonatal death, ANC visits, obstetric danger signs, plan for last pregnancy, gestational age, knowledge, and experience on neonatal danger signs).

## Data Processing and Analysis

The data were entered and cleaned using the Epi-Info version 7.1.5.0 software. Cleaning was made by running frequencies, proportions, and summary statistics. The Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was employed to generate a wealth asset. The cleaned data were exported to STATA version 14 software for analysis. Bivariate analysis was done to identify candidate variables using  $p \leq 0.25$ . Multi-collinearity between the candidate variables was checked. Then, multivariable analysis using a backward stepwise selection method was carried out to control for possible confounding variables and to determine the presence of statistical significance between explanatory variables and the outcome variable. Finally, statistical significance was declared at a  $p$ -value of  $<0.05$ , and odds ratio with 95% CI was used to measure the degree of association between independent variables and place of delivery. Model fitness was also checked using Hosmer and Lemeshow goodness of a fit test.

## Results

### Sociodemographic Characteristics

A total of 859 mothers (215 cases and 644 controls) were included in the analysis making the response rate of

97.1%. The mean maternal age was 26.4 years (SD±6.7) for cases and 28.1 years (SD±6.8) for controls. The largest proportion, 200 (93%) of the mothers among the cases and 621 (96.4%) among controls were married, and 159 (74%) of mothers among cases and 540 (83.8%) among controls live beyond a kilometer distance from the nearest health center. Moreover, 109 (50.7%) of the mothers among the cases and 464 (72.1%) among controls had no formal education, and 93 (43.3%) of mothers among the cases and 394 (61.2%) among controls did not have a mobile (Table 1).

## Reproductive and Obstetric Characteristics

The majority of the controls 506 (78.6%) and 149 (69.3%) cases group had a marriage before 18 years of age. More than a quarter 62 (28.8%) of the cases and 256 (3.8%) of the controls had their first pregnancy before 18 years of age. A higher proportion, 194 (90.2%) of the cases and 456 (70.8%) of the controls had ANC attendance, while 82 (42.2%) of the cases and 141 (30.9%) of the controls had four ANC visits. The majorities of deliveries, 211 (98.1%) of the cases and 632 (98.3%) of the controls had term gestational age, and 188 (87.4%) of the cases and 542 (84.2%) of the controls were from planned pregnancies (Table 2).

## Determinant of Health Facility Delivery

From all the variables included in the multivariable logistic regression model using backward elimination stepwise likelihood ratio method; maternal education, age at first pregnancy, home distance from the nearest health center, having a mobile, parity, and ANC visits were found to be significant determinants of health facility delivery. Among the newborn care services utilized; the level of thermal care, cord care, breastfeeding, immunization, safety practice, team-work, delivery service quality, and overall newborn care quality during delivery were significantly associated with health facility delivery in the study area.

The study showed that mothers who attended a formal education were two times (AOR=2.1 (95% CI: 1.5, 2.9)) more likely to deliver in health facility as compared to mothers who did not attend a formal education. Mothers whose age range from 18 to 25 years of age at first pregnancy were two times (AOR=1.5 (95% CI: 1.1, 2.1)) higher odds of health facility delivery as compared to those mothers whose age was less than 18 years of age.

**Table 1** Sociodemographic Characteristics Among Mothers of Cases and Controls in Northwest Ethiopia, 2019 (N=859)

Variables	Cases, n (%)	Controls, n (%)	Total, n (%)
Maternal age (years)			
≤ 19	31 (14.4)	49 (7.6)	80 (9.3)
20–29	114 (53.0)	318 (49.4)	432 (50.3)
30–39	60 (27.9)	232 (36.0)	292 (34.0)
≥ 40	10 (4.7)	45 (7.0)	55 (6.4)
Residence			
Urban	55 (25.6)	102 (15.8)	157 (18.3)
Rural	160 (74.4)	542 (84.2)	702 (81.7)
Marital status			
Married	200 (93.0)	621 (96.4)	821 (95.6)
Not married*	15 (7.0)	23 (3.6)	38 (4.4)
Mothers occupation			
Housewife	93 (43.2)	256 (39.7)	349 (40.6)
Farmer	104 (48.4)	374 (58.1)	478 (55.7)
Others**	18 (8.4)	14 (2.2)	32 (3.7)
Father occupation			
Farmer	186 (86.5)	611 (94.9)	797 (92.8)
Merchant	17 (7.9)	22 (3.4)	39 (4.5)
Others***	12 (5.6)	11 (1.7)	23 (2.7)
Education status of the mother			
No formal education	109 (50.7)	464 (72.1)	573 (66.7)
Formal education	106 (49.3)	180 (27.9)	286 (33.3)
Education status of the father			
No formal education	102 (47.4)	393 (61.0)	495 (57.6)
Formal education	113 (52.6)	251 (39.0)	364 (42.4)
Religion			
Orthodox Christian	212 (98.6)	627 (97.4)	839 (97.7)
Muslim	03 (1.4)	17 (2.6)	20 (2.3)
Distance to the nearest health center			
≤1 km	56 (26.0)	104 (16.2)	160 (18.6)
1.1–5 km	67 (31.2)	163 (25.3)	230 (26.8)
5.1–10 km	55 (25.6)	195 (30.3)	250 (29.1)
11.0–20 km	37 (17.2)	182 (28.2)	219 (25.5)
Household income			
Poor	70 (32.6)	255 (39.6)	325 (37.8)
Medium	69 (32.1)	211 (32.8)	280 (32.6)
Rich	76 (35.3)	178 (27.6)	254 (29.6)
Have a mobile			
Yes	122 (56.7)	250 (38.8)	372 (43.3)
No	93 (43.3)	394 (61.2)	487 (56.7)

(Continued)

**Table 1** (Continued).

Variables	Cases, n (%)	Controls, n (%)	Total, n (%)
Have a radio or TV			
Yes	15 (7.0)	26 (4.0)	41 (4.8)
No	200 (93.0)	618 (96.0)	818 (95.2)

**Notes:** \*Single, divorced, separated and living together. \*\*Daily laborer, private employ and student. \*\*\*Daily laborer and student.

Similarly, mothers living within 1 km distance from a health center were three times (AOR=2.5 (95% CI: 1.5, 4.0)) higher odds of health facility delivery as compared to those mothers living beyond 11 km.

Likewise, mothers who had ANC visits were four times (AOR=3.9 (95% CI: 2.4, 6.5)) more likely to deliver in health facility as compared to those who did not have ANC visits. Mothers who have a mobile were two times (AOR=1.7 (95% CI: 1.3, 2.4)) more likely to deliver in health facility as compared to their counterparts. A unit increase in the birth order of mothers showed a 15% decrease in the odds of health facility delivery (AOR=0.85 (95% CI: 0.8, 0.9)) (Table 3).

## Discussion

This study attempts to identify the determinant factors of health facility delivery in Northwest Ethiopia. This study showed that maternal education, age at first pregnancy, home distance from the nearest health center, having a mobile, parity, and ANC visits were the determinants of health facility delivery.

Mothers who had ANC visits were four times more likely to deliver in a health facility as compared to those who did not have ANC visits. This positive association is due to the fact that women who seek care for their pregnancy are more likely to seek care for their delivery. This finding is comparable with other previous studies done in Ethiopia and Tanzania.<sup>25–28</sup> Antenatal care is the most promising entry point for mothers to get counseling about the risks and problems that they may encounter during delivery. Mothers who attended ANC already won the challenges of visiting health facility and hence, more likely to have a better understanding of ANC and possibly deliver in a health facility.

The odds of health facility delivery were two times higher among mothers having a formal education as

**Table 2** Reproductive and Obstetric Characteristics Among Mothers of Cases and Controls in Northwest Ethiopia, 2019 (N=859)

Variables	Cases, n (%)	Controls, n (%)	Total, n (%)
Mather's age at first marriage			
7–14 years	63 (29.3)	211 (32.8)	274 (31.9)
15–17 years	86 (40.0)	295 (45.8)	381 (44.4)
≥ 18 years	66 (30.7)	138 (21.4)	204 (23.7)
Mather's age at first pregnancy			
12–17 years	62 (28.8)	256 (3.8)	318 (37.0)
18–25 years	145 (67.4)	378 (58.7)	523 (60.9)
26–38 years	08 (3.7)	10 (1.5)	18 (2.1)
Number of pregnancies/ gravidity/			
1–3 Pregnancies	141 (65.6)	325 (50.5)	466 (54.3)
4–6 Pregnancies	58 (27.0)	263 (40.8)	321 (37.4)
7–12 Pregnancies	16 (7.4)	56 (8.7)	72 (8.3)
Birth order/parity/	215 (25.0)	644 (75.0)	859 (100.0)
ANC attendance			
Yes	194 (90.2)	456 (70.8)	650 (75.7)
No	21 (9.8)	188 (29.2)	209 (24.3)
Number of ANC visits (n=650)			
One	14 (7.2)	53 (11.6)	67 (10.3)
Two	29 (15.0)	83 (18.2)	112 (17.2)
Three	69 (35.6)	179 (39.3)	248 (38.2)
Four	82 (42.2)	141 (30.9)	223 (34.3)
Time of ANC follow-up (n=650)			
< 12 weeks	52 (26.8)	75 (16.5)	127 (19.5)
12–24 weeks	119 (61.3)	316 (69.3)	435 (67.0)
> 24 weeks	23 (11.9)	65 (14.2)	88 (13.5)
Place of ANC visit (n=650)			
Health post	29 (14.9)	111 (24.3)	140 (21.5)
Health center	146 (75.3)	310 (68.0)	456 (70.2)
Hospital	19 (9.8)	35 (7.7)	54 (8.3)
Obstetric danger sign			
At least one danger sign	31 (14.4)	98 (15.2)	129 (15.0)
No danger sign at all	184 (85.6)	546 (84.8)	730 (85.0)
Last pregnancy planned			
Yes	188 (87.4)	542 (84.2)	730 (85.0)
No	27 (12.6)	102 (15.8)	129 (15.0)
Gestational age			
Term	211 (98.1)	632 (98.1)	843 (98.3)
Pre or post-term	4 (1.9)	12 (1.9)	15 (1.7)



**Table 3** Determinant of Health Facility Delivery in Northwest Ethiopia, 2019

Variables	Cases N (%)	Controls N (%)	COR (95% CI)	AOR (95% CI)
Residence				
Urban	55 (25.6)	102 (15.8)	1.83 (1.3, 2.7)	
Rural	160 (74.4)	542 (84.2)	1	
Mothers occupation				
Farmer	104 (48.4)	374 (58.1)	1	
Housewife	93 (43.2)	256 (39.7)	1.3 (1.1, 1.8)	
Others+	18 (8.4)	14 (2.2)	4.6 (2.2, 9.6)	
Mothers education status				
No formal education	109 (50.7)	464 (72.1)	1	1
Formal education	106 (49.3)	180 (27.9)	2.5 (1.8, 3.4)	2.1 (1.5, 2.9)***
Education status of the father				
No formal education	102 (47.4)	393 (61.0)	1	
Formal education	113 (52.6)	251 (39.0)	1.7 (1.3, 2.4)	
Distance from the health center				
≤1 km	56 (26.0)	104 (16.2)	2.6 (1.6, 4.2)	2.5 (1.5, 4.0)***
1.1–5 km	67 (31.2)	163 (25.3)	2.1 (1.3, 3.2)	1.9 (1.2, 3.0)**
5.1–10 km	55 (25.6)	195 (30.3)	1.4 (1.1, 2.2)	1.3 (0.8, 2.0)
11.0–20 km	37 (17.2)	182 (28.2)	1	1
Have a mobile				
Yes	122 (56.7)	250 (38.8)	2.1 (1.5, 2.8)	1.7 (1.3, 2.4)**
No	93 (43.3)	394 (61.2)	1	
Mather's age at first pregnancy				
12–17 years	62 (28.8)	256 (3.8)	1	1
18–25 years	145 (67.4)	378 (58.7)	1.6 (1.1, 2.2)	1.5 (1.1, 2.1)*
26–38 years	8 (3.7)	10 (1.5)	3.3 (1.3, 8.7)	2.1 (0.8, 5.6)
Birth order/parity/	215 (25.0)	644 (75.0)	0.8 (0.7, 0.9)	0.85 (0.8, 0.9)***
ANC attendance				
Yes	194 (90.2)	456 (70.8)	3.8 (2.4, 6.2)	3.9 (2.4, 6.5)***
No	21 (9.8)	188 (29.2)	1	1

Notes: \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , and \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ . +=Government employee, private business and merchant.

compared to their counterparts. This finding is in agreement with other studies conducted in Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Nepal.<sup>29–35</sup> Education improves the mother's information processing skills and cognitive skills. This could again exert mothers to seek better health services, including health facility delivery.

Mothers who have a mobile were two times more likely to deliver in a health facilities as compared to their counterparts. This finding is supported by studies done in Ethiopia and Pakistan.<sup>36,37</sup> However, few local studies revealed a non-significant relationship between health facility delivery and possession of mobile.<sup>38</sup> The variability might be attributed to the fact that more than three-fourth of the mothers included in this study had no formal

education. These mothers might have limited skills to interact through their mobile regarding the benefits of health facility delivery.

Increasing parity was negatively associated with the odds of health facility delivery. A unit increase in the birth order of mothers showed a 15% decrease in the odds of health facility delivery. This result is supported by other studies done in Ethiopia and abroad.<sup>29,39–42</sup> Mothers whose age range from 18 to 25 years at first pregnancy were two times more likely to use health facility delivery as compared to those mothers whose age was less than 18 years of age. This finding is not supported by other local studies done in Ethiopia<sup>43–45</sup> and Nepal<sup>46</sup> which revealed that younger

women tended to deliver at a health facilities compared to older ones. Usually, younger mothers who had no previous experiences in giving birth might have a great fear of complications relating to pregnancy, labor, and childbirth. On the other hand, getting pregnancy before 18 years of age might limit their awareness to utilize health care services including health facility delivery.

This study also found that distance from the health center was a problem for health facility delivery. Mothers living within 1 km distance from a health center were three times higher odds of health facility delivery as compared to those mothers living beyond 11 km. This finding is consistent with other studies conducted in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya and Nigeria.<sup>47–50</sup> This may be attributed to the fact that the longer the distance to reach health facility the accessibility to transport and affordability to cover the cost might be in question, which favors home delivery.

## Limitation of the Study

The study identified the determinants of health facility delivery among women who gave birth in the last six months, which might have introduced recall bias. Second, a similar tool was employed for both facility and home-delivered mothers to collect data from the mothers' perspective through interviews by using trained midwives and nurses. Thus, the findings of this study should be interpreted with consideration of these limitations.

## Conclusion

Maternal education, increasing age at first pregnancy, shorter home distance from the nearest health center, and attending ANC visits were the determinants of health facility delivery. Therefore, strengthening education and health-seeking behavior of the mothers using a locally contextualized strategy is essential. Reaching mothers who are still far from health facility needs due attention to benefit them from newborn health services during delivery.

## Abbreviations

ANC, Antenatal care; AOR, Adjusted odds ratio; BCG, Bacillus Calmette–Guérin; CI, Confidence interval; COR, Crude odds ratio; ENBC, Essential newborn care; HSDP, Health sector development program; IRB, Institutional review board; ODK, Open data kit; OPV, Oral polio vaccine; PCA, Principal component analysis; PNC, Postnatal care; SD, Standard deviation; WHO, World health organization.

## Data Sharing Statement

We declare that the dataset supporting the conclusions of this article is available from the corresponding author and will be provided upon a reasonable request.

## Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate

Ethical clearance was obtained from the University of Gondar Institutional Review Board (IRB) (reference No. O/V/P/RCS/05/1818/2018). Permission letter was obtained from all administrative districts and kebeles. Written informed consent was secured from the study participants, study participants under the age of 18 years were approved by the ethics committee to provide informed consent on their own behalf, and that this study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. Also, they were informed about the potential benefits, confidentiality, and the possibility of withdrawing from the interview even without giving reasons. All interviews were conducted in private settings.

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## Author Contributions

All authors made a significant contribution to the work reported, whether that is in the conception, study design, execution, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation, or in all these areas; took part in drafting, revising or critically reviewing the article; gave final approval of the version to be published; have agreed on the journal to which the article has been submitted; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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## Disclosure

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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