



HCD EXCHANGE

Needs and challenges of young girls living in AWSAD women's shelter (safe house) — Insights Deck

Prepared by: Eden Befekadu

Adolescents' participation in SRH

Problem statement

Sexual and Gender-based violence (SGBV) is common in low-resource countries like Ethiopia. A 2016 Health and Demographic survey conducted by the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia suggested that nearly a third of women aged between 15 and 49 had experienced either physical or sexual violence. Survivors of SGBV are also at an increased risk of experiencing psychological and physical health effects such as stress, worry, sadness, unsafe abortion, unexpected pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections.

Sexual assault or violence has physical and psychological implications that are not restricted to the survivors, but can have negative consequences for society and communities. Survivors of SGBV require a variety of services to facilitate their recovery, including medical treatment, counseling, and legal assistance, as well as training in life skills and employability.

In Ethiopia, safe houses take a holistic approach, providing survivors and their children with housing, health care, food, and clothing, as well as individual and group counseling, self-defense and life skills training, and professional skills training like computer literacy, hairdressing, sewing and embroidery skills.

Problem statement

Although it has capacity for around 60, the safe house in Addis is supporting around 93 young women and 25 children. The current number of safe houses in Ethiopia is few in number, there are a total of 7 organisations that provide shelter and services mentioned on the previous slide. The demand for the services is enormous, with the police receiving new allegations of women being beaten or raped on a regular basis. Due to a lack of capacity and resources, the Safe House is unable to accommodate all of them. There is an information gap within the community regarding safehouses and the services they provide. A lot of people are not aware of the services available for young women.

Proposed solution

Through this project I focused on generating an insights deck with the information on the needs and challenges of young women living at women's shelter. The aim is to use this deck to raise awareness to different stakeholders that can support them or collaboratively work with the shelter. The target population of this project are young women aged from 15-24.

For assessment I chose one safe house called AWSAD (The Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development).

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT?

To reduce violence against women and girls, a community-based, cross sectional approach is required, as well as ongoing engagement with many stakeholders. We should be working hard in reducing if possible eliminating gender based violence and everyone has a role to play in this. We should all be working on the prevention side but unfortunately there are young women who have gone through violence and they need our support for them to get back on their feet. Organisations like AWSAD are doing an amazing job in building the capacities of these girls and providing them with different services that can enable the young women to become resilient and, become detached from the trauma and focus on their own dreams and aspirations.

This insight deck I believe has the information that can help raise awareness within the community and stakeholders can help and support in areas they can.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

1. To identify the basic areas the shelter needs help with in order to give a holistic and quality service.
1. To identify the challenges and needs of girls living in safe house.
1. Generate an insights deck that can help create awareness with in the community and different stakeholders about the safe house.



RESEARCH APPROACH/METHODS

I used the human centered design approach to conduct this project

- I collected data through interviews and referred to AWSAD's website.
- Had guiding questions, but we were having conversations not just random question and answer session
 - I tried to incorporate an ice breaker to gain their trust by asking them to guess my age
- Interviewed young girls at the shelter
 - 9 young girls
 - Age 15-23
 - 6 out of 9 have babies
- Interviewed service givers at the shelter
 - 2 counselors
 - 1 documentation personnel
- Used the HCD approach in generating the insights (Synthesis)

The findings are organized in seven different themes where each theme has insight statements that are generated from the data collected. The findings will be presented as follows

Theme 1: Holistic Service

Findings

Theme 1: Holistic Service

Insight statement: Safe house is a place where girls get a holistic service like:

- The basics (food & shelter)
- Health service
- Counseling
- Basic skills trainings
- Self defense training (Taekwondo)
- Health education
- Empowerment training
- Basic business skills training

“When I first came here I had lost hope. But through the counseling I have learned how to be strong, how to raise my child and that my child is my happiness”

– Interview participant

Theme 2: Sense of belongingness

Findings

Theme 2: Sense of belongingness

Insight statement: Most girls at the safe house feel more loved and valued compared to their own home.

“Everything is nice here. We get love and support that we did not get at our mother’s house”

– Interview participant

Theme 3: Space limitation

Findings

Theme 3: Space limitation

Insight statement: Living and service providing space is a very huge issue for the safe house.

Sub insights:

- The shelter needs a larger space to provide all the services stated on the previous slide.
- The shelter is currently accommodating extra young girls than intended.
- The bedrooms are overcrowded due to this young girls are staying there on floor mattresses.
- The organization has recieved land from the government and they need help in fundraising and building the shelter.

Theme 4: Art therapy

Findings

Theme 4: Art therapy

Insight statement: Art therapy is a very essential element in the safe house and that's the most important thing the girls enjoy.

Sub insights:

- Art therapy includes activities like drawing and dancing.
- The shelter needs volunteers working in this area to come and support.

Theme 5: Training

Findings

Theme 5: Training

Insight statement: Every girl living at the safe house gets trained with a specific skill before moving out.

- Vocational skill training
- Empowerment training
- Business skill training
- Self defense training



Theme 6: Fear/worry after moving out

Findings

Theme 6: Fear/worry after moving out

Insight statement: For young girls with babies a huge challenge or issue is finding a place/ day care for their babies to stay at while they go out and work, after moving out.

“We have everything here; what worries me most is what will happen when I leave this place”

– Interview participant

Theme 7: Dreams and Aspirations

Findings

Theme 7: Dreams and Aspirations

Insight statement: Every girl at the shelter has dreams and aspirations she wants to accomplish for the future.

Some of these dreams and aspirations stated by the girls are:

- Finishing school
- Becoming a teacher
- Becoming an Attorney
- Hairdresser
- Owning their own small business (based on the skill they learned)
- Providing a better future for her child
- Cultural dancer
- Fashion model



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Thank you!