

**PROBLEMS AND SURVIVAL STRATEGIES OF FEMALE
STREET CHILDREN IN ADDIS ABABA**

BY:

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DECLARATION

I Hereby declare that the dissertation entitled” **PROBLMS AND SURVIVAL STRATEGIES OF FEMALE STREET CHILDREN IN ADDIS ABABA**” submitted by me for the partial fulfillment of MSW to Indira Gandhi Open University, (IGNOU) New Delhi is my own original work and has not been submitted earlier, either to IGNOU or to any other institution for the fulfillment of the requirement of any other program of study.

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Acronyms

ACRWC-African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
AIDS- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BoFED- Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
BoSCA- Bureau of Social and Civil Authority
RSVACSA - Regional study on Violence against Children in South Asia
CBO-Community-Based Organization
CRC- Convention on the Right of the Child
CFDRE- Constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
CYAO- Children and Youth Affairs Organization
Epi Info- Database and statistics software for public health professionals
FGD- Focus Group Discussion
FSCE- Forum on Street Children- Ethiopia
HIV- Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRW- Human Right Watch
ILO-International Labor Organization
IPEC-International Program on Elimination of Child Labor
JJPO- Juvenile Justice Project Office
MOLSA- Ministry of Labor and Social Affair
NGO- Non Governmental Organizations
OVC- Orphans and Vulnerable Children
SAP-Structural Adjustment Policies
SD- Standard Deviation
SPSS-Statistical Package for Social Sciences
STI- Sexually Transmitted Infection
UN- United Nations
UNICEF- United Nation Children Fund
WHO- World Health Organizations

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ABSTRACT

Street children are without proper parental protection, opportunities for schooling, health care, growth (both physical and mental), development of any kind, nutrition, shelter and even their right to a decent and human existence itself. Some drift into begging or petty crimes. In addition to the above mentioned problems, street children face the danger of getting into accidents and different kinds of health problems in street life. Girls who are living on the streets are even more vulnerable than boys. In addition to the health risks experienced by street boys, adolescent girls are at risk of early, unplanned pregnancies with minimal, if any, antenatal care.

The study examines reasons of joining street life, problems and survival strategies of female street children in Addis Ababa. The study was conducted in five selected places (“Mexico”, “Merkato”, “Piazza”, “Bole” and “Arat Killo”) in Addis Ababa. To address the research objective, both quantitative and qualitative methods were used. The survey consisted of 100 female street children purposely selected in such selected places. The qualitative method consisted of three focus group discussions with female street children, ten in-depth interviews with selected female street children and five selected key informants from relevant stakeholders who are responsible on street children.

The study revealed that female children drifted away from home and school to street way of life was due to interrelated and complex reasons and problems. The major problems identified as a reason for being in street were: poverty, violence and abuse by others, family breakdown, change of female child behavior, peer pressure, and harmful traditional practice like early marriage. They engaged in doing different activities on the street that make them vulnerable and victims of problems including various forms of sexual abuse by diverse categories of people. Rape, prostitution, unwanted kissing, breast fondling were reported as some of the forms of sexual abuse among female street children. To avoid different problems in the street, most female street children reported that they solved their problems by themselves.

This study shows that the living condition of female street children remains “horrible” and they are exposed to different kinds of problems. As a consequence of their involvement on street life

which in turn makes them available for easy prey by different abusers, they were victims of various forms of sexual abuse. Female street children were also found to engage in high-risk behaviors, including unsafe sex, which increased their risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. The study also showed that the support they get from different stakeholders was very scarce or almost nil. As a result they are exposed to a variety of problems and forced to solve their problems by themselves. Hence multilateral collaboration is essential to solve the immediate and long term needs of female street children in Addis Ababa. This study has its own implication to social work. Thus, concerned government departments and NGOs should enhance job opportunities and reunification of female street children.

CHAPTER ONE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Background

The term 'street child' has raised controversy particularly in labeling a certain group of disadvantaged children to fall under the category of street children. This is because street children's needs, problems, aspiration, and level of deprivations are similar with other disadvantaged children who come from similar socio-economic background. Therefore, it should be noted that this group of children are not different from their counterparts and have all rights like the other children. In some places there is strong objection in using the term "street child" because of the negative connotations it has on the well-being of the children (FSCE, 2003, P.7).

Street children need to be considered among the most vulnerable social group in our world. Street children can be survivors of war, hunger, eviction or lack of prospect. They are victims of an uncaring community, which is increasingly characterized by poverty and economic hardship (Kopoka, 2002). Street children predominantly originate from very poor families. They are pushed to the streets because of family poverty, abusive parents, violence or HIV/AIDS. Once on the street they lack the basic necessities for their growth and development: food, shelter, parental love, clothing, health care and education.

The phenomenon of street children is not new, but the magnitude of the problem is escalating (Lugalla, and Kibassa, 2002, P. 21). The growth in number of street children is related to increasing levels of poverty in a country. Therefore the presence of street children demonstrates the deeper reality of poverty especially in developing countries.

Street children are a reflection of the contemporary global human condition. Streetism, as an expression for extreme poverty, is a particular problem of mega-cities in the third World. The dramatic concentration of urban poverty in the Third World is a great challenge (Hardoy, 1992, P. 40). Even though Africa is still a predominantly rural continent, the urban population

continues to grow rapidly because the factors of urbanization are not likely to change (Hardoy, 1992, P.41) 600 million urban inhabitants of the Third World live in “life and health threatening” circumstances. Living conditions for the urban poor in the Third World get worse and children make out as much as 45% of the worst off (Hardoy, 1992, P. 54). Nobody knows how many street children there are exactly around the world today, but some estimates put their number as high as 100 million. The fact that children turn to the street and remain there is a reaction to various negative situations: rural or urban poverty, lack of future perspective, family rupture, violence or abuse in the family etc. Poor urban management, lack of infrastructure, inadequate service delivery, high rates of unemployment and the inaccessibility of services for low-income groups exacerbate urban poverty. Governments, development agencies and the private sector have still not found effective solutions to decreasing urban poverty. There is need for a change in policies of governments and attitudes (Hardoy, 1992, P. 58).

Increasing numbers of street children in urban East Africa are above all the manifestation of external forces and politics (Lugalla and Kibassa, 2002, P. 10). The phenomenon of street children occurs in poor countries undergoing rapid urbanization and socio-economic, cultural and political transformation, which breaks down the traditional family and community support system. Urbanization and industrialization in Africa enhanced individualism and undermined the communal lifestyle, with devastating consequences for homeless children. Rapid urban growth has enhanced rural-urban migration and the mushrooming of slums. Although rural poverty levels are generally higher, urban poverty has more severe consequences. Street children are the consequence of urban and rural poverty and of urbanization (De Feyter, 2001)

Street life of children is a typically an urban phenomenon of big cities, which got increasingly serious in the urban areas. However, aid agencies believe that the problem may be far worse, estimating that there are nearly 600,000 street children countrywide with over 100,000 of them in Addis Ababa (FSCE, 2003, P.7). These children stay in market places, railway stations, parks, and crossings or on waste heaps. They are affected by poverty, violence and criminality, which make them be perceived as a public scandal. Dirt, drugs and sickness arouse a reaction of repulsiveness and make them to be labeled as “*garbage of society*” (FSCE, 2003, P.1).

Besides the failure of leadership, war and HIV/AIDS, poverty is the root cause of the street children phenomenon (Kopoka.2002, P.265). The social consequences of globalization have exacerbated the gap between rich and poor regions and have created new poverty zones. Especially HIV/AIDS constitutes a time bomb, destroying the local social support network system and killing parents who leave behind their children. SAPs have generated the conditions of poverty in rural and urban East Africa and thereby exacerbated street children. The economic crisis, high debt repayment and the decreasing social state count for the structural, economic and political roots of the problem of streetism.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The children of Ethiopia are among the most underprivileged in the world. Due to interrelated and complex socio-economic factors, a large portion of its population, especially children and women, are victimized. The problem is especially magnified in Addis Ababa where people migrate from the rural areas and other urban centers in search of a better life. However, this dream does not transform into reality for most of them. Many of these people find themselves living in an extreme poverty. They are often forced to become street beggars or daily laborers. Hence, the decline in the economic situation has weakened families' capacity to support and sustain their children. Given this situation in a country like Ethiopia where there is no social security fund/system, the number of disadvantaged children, in general, and street living children in particular, is escalating unimaginable particularly in the capital city. Many parents are not able to meet the basic needs of their children. There are other factors like family disintegration and hostile home environments which force children to migrate to the street. Even worse is the situation of HIV/AIDS orphans who are left without protection and care. Many of these children are forced to take to the street as the only survival option regardless of its negative consequences on their growth and development.(UNICEF, BoSCA &BoFED, 2007, P.4).

Ethiopia has ratified international conventions on the right of the child and the tents of this provision are also included in the constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (Dessale, 1998). However, female children who are living and working on the street are particularly victims and vulnerable to various forms of sexual abuse albeit there is a growing concern about elimination of all forms of child abuse at the national and international level.

As to the cause of the problem there is a consensus to the complexity of the problem for which there is no single or isolated explanation. The few researches done in Addis Ababa and some other major cities indicated that family poverty is the major cause for children to join the street. A recent study undertaken in four selected towns has noted that the highest proportion of street children are "out-of-family" children who may have been pushed to the street because of parental pressure to contribute their share to the family income. Other factors like family disintegration, abuse and neglect, lack of education opportunity, environmental influence are some underlying factors for children to join the street (FSCE, 2003, P.6). Actual data on the extent of the problem is non-existent. Different estimations are given in different reports.

Besides, an early survey report on the situation of street children in eight major towns of Ethiopia by FSCE asserted that '12.9% of street children were practicing prostitution' (FSCE, 2003, P.44). A recent survey report on living and working street children in Addis Ababa also affirmed that 'among female children over 12 years old, 40% [20 out of 50] are exposed to prostitution' (UNICEF, BoSCA and BoFED, 2007, P.111). Furthermore, it was identified in available researches related to street children that female street children are particularly vulnerable and exposed to sexual abuse in such a way that many street girls are raped and engaged in prostitution (Tsegaye, 2003).

The number of urban female street children has increased rapidly during the last decade in urban areas, including Addis Ababa. As a result, female/street children are seen as a problem which further compounds the nature of urban crisis (Lugalla, and Kibassa, 2002, P. 1). Consequently, they have been a target of different sexual and physical abuse. However, there is a lack of recent study on the underlying cause of this social problem and the perceived solution related to the problems by female street children for better social work interventions. Accordingly, current study reflecting the issues of vulnerability, associated problems and possible survival strategies of female street children to solve their problem in selected places of Addis Ababa where female street children concentrated is limited. In connection with this, it is timely to understand the role and contributions made by different stakeholders in solving the problems of female street children in Addis Ababa for possible interventions. This research is, therefore, initiated with the aim of understanding the problems, survival strategies, causes/risk of streetism and the negative

repercussions among female children who are living and working on the street. Moreover it identifies the role and responsibilities of the different stakeholders to solve the underlining problems of female street children.

1.3 Significance of the study

The study took children's own view about their abusive experiences which in turn provide useful and detailed information about various forms of sexual abuse among female street children. This will fill a gap in research into child sexual abuse, namely, that not enough attention has been paid to the victim's own perceptions and/or attitudes about abusive experience.

It will also widen understanding and give better information about the distressing and highly challenging problem of sexual abuse among female street children than the previous researches which have treated the problem of sexual abuse with other issues like socio-economic problem of female street children.

As it was clear from this study that the problem of female street children is like a two sided sword; living and working on the street and sexual abuse. Consequently, it will disclose the seriousness of the problem of female street children to those working in the field of sexual abuse and female street children [like government organizations, non government organizations, researchers, advocates, and services providers], that it will enable them to be aware and better understand the phenomenon of sexual abuse and to develop appropriate and effective policies, programs and services so as to combat sexual abuse of female street children. Last but not least, it may serve as a background and a stimulus for further researches.

1.4 Definitions of concepts and terms

Child:-is a person under the age of 18 years' (MOLSA and National Steering Committee, 2002:8).

There are four groups of street children (FSCE, 2003, P.7).

- i. Children at high risk are urban children who because of extreme poverty and deprivation in their homes, or inadequate care and supervision are at high risk of becoming involved in street life.
- ii. Children on the street are those who spend most of their time in the street or markets, usually engaged in menial work. They maintain strong family tie, usually return home at night; come from poor families and few attend regular or night schools.
- iii. Children of the street are children who fully participate in street life not just at economical level. They usually have family who they may visit from time to time or who lost complete family tie.
- iv. Abandoned children are those who have no home to go to either

Thus, female street children in this study refer to those girls who are between 14 to 17 years of age, and include two categories:

1. A *female child 'of' the streets* is the one having no home but the streets. They may or may not have family in their original places and may or may not be engaged in different daily activities.
2. A *female child 'on' the street* is the one having a shelter to spend night to sleep, but spend most of their daytime on the streets. They may or may not be engaged in different daily activities.

Child Sexual abuse- in this paper, child sexual abuse refers 'as proscribed sexual conduct between an adult and a sexually immature child for purposes of the adult's sexual pleasure or for economic gain through child prostitution' (Hughes, 1987, P.248).

Rape—for this study, the term refers to any form of sex in which one person forces another person to participate. It means making an individual engage in a sexual act without that individual's consent or against that individual's will (Kelly, 1998, P. 484).

Child prostitution:- male or female person under the age of 18 years, who is coerced or forced to provide sex for money or goods (CAYO and FSCE, 1996, P.2).

Sexual assault: - Physical attack of female street children to force to unwanted sexual contact or threat by stranger.(CAYO and FSCE, 1996, P.2)

Infectious disease: are illnesses caused by infection (eg. Abdominal diseases such as Amebiasis, diarrheal diseases, AIDS, Tuberculosis, Typhoid fever, etc.) (WHO, 2012)

Chronic disease: is disease of long duration and generally slow progression. Eg. heart disease, diabetes, cancer, Asthma etc (WHO, 2012)

Gynecological problems: Problems related to pregnancy and childbirth (WHO, 2012)

1.5 Research Questions

The study attempts to give answers to the following main research questions:

1. What are the reasons of the female Street children to work and live on the street?
2. How female street children working & living on the street survive and meet their daily needs?
3. What are the main problems faced by female street children working & living on the street?
4. What are strategies for solving problems by female Street children working & living on the street?

1.6 Objectives of the study

The general objective of this study is to explore the problems and survival strategies of female street children between 14 and 17 years living and/or working on the street in selected places of Addis Ababa.

The *specific objectives* of the study are:

- To identify the reasons of female street children leaving their home and join to street life.
- To assess survival strategies of female street children living and/or working on the street.
- To investigate the major problems faced by female street children living and/or working on the street.
- To understand means for solving their problems of street life by female street children.

1.7 Limitation of the study

Despite the vigorous efforts made in carrying out this research, the study has some limitations. First, the study was done on selected sites of Addis Ababa purposely selected for the researcher's

convenience. This is against the assumption of probability sampling and may affect generalization of the study and may introduce selection bias in to the study. However the researcher focused on such places to the fact that pilot study showed that there are more concentrations of female street children in such places so that finding information would be easier. Besides, the researcher had difficulty of finding money to run the study. As a result used smaller sample size which could be affect the strength of the study.

Secondly, it was difficult to find female street children and relevant stakeholders in some places during data collection. Some study participants were also reluctant to tell their experience and others might hide their true exposure on street life. Others showed a difficulty of recalling their exposure with different problems and may not tell their true experiences which might limit the strength of the study.

However, the study utilized quantitative method triangulated with qualitative method to overcome such limitations mentioned above and the researcher believed that most of the limitations are handled systematically.

CHAPTER TWO

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

The problem of street children is becoming a worldwide phenomenon since these children exist every part of the world. A large group of children, mostly unsupervised by adults are found in almost every country of the world. The vast majorities of street children work and live in large urban centers of developing countries (FSCE, 2003, P.1). Some of these are orphaned or separated from their families; still others are born on the street, often to older street girls. Whatever their individual circumstances, street children constitute one of the most marginalized groups in most societies (Tadesse, 2006).

The most rapidly increasing child welfare problem within Ethiopia is that of street children. This group has been conceptualized as consisting of deprived children, rejected children, survivalist children and runaway children who migrate to Ethiopia's urban areas (Seelig M and Tesfaye A., 1994). The first two are beyond the scope of this paper. Survivalists are those children who, either prompted by a threat to their basic welfare, or belonging to a family on the fringe of destitution, took some steps to fend for them. These children find the street a relatively easier and more welcoming place for their pursuits of self-support than conventional places. Runaway children are those who opt to be residents of the streets for no reason other than their own preference. Rebellion against families and social mores, the lure of participating in unacceptable practices, and a search for adventure become the prime motivators for runaways to take to the streets. Many runaways are migrants from rural areas lured to the city by employment and educational opportunities.

2.2 The Situation of Street Children

According to De Oliveira (2000), sexual abuse, violence in the neighborhood, abandoned by parents, thrown out or asked to leave, death or diseases of one or both parents, peer pressure, violence at home, became attracted to or comfortable with the street life, physical abuse and lack of a sense of belonging were found to be causes of why street children go to the street. After

starting living and working on the streets, street children are disproportionately affected due to extreme poverty and living conditions and particularly vulnerable to different forms of sexual abuses. They remain disadvantaged for their lives because they lack experience of life in normal society (Beyene, 1995). Similarly, Wernham (1993) avowed, street children are more frequently at risk of sexual abuse than other children. They are easy targets to be abused because they are young, often small, poor, and ignorant of their rights and frequently do not have responsible adults to look out for them.

According to UNICEF, street children are the casualties of widespread poverty, rapid population growth, loss of traditional values, domestic violence, physical and mental abuse, and recurrent displacement as a result of civil war, draught and famine. Moreover, the numbers of street children increase as they have lost their parents to illness often associated with HIV/AIDS (UNICEF, 2007, P.1).

In Ethiopia, the growing number of street children is one of the most serious urban social problems. Street children in Ethiopia have become a country wide epidemic, with over 100,000 children living/working on the streets of Ethiopia's cities (FSCE, 2003, P. ii). It was estimated that the number of street children were approximately 200,000 who are working and living on the streets in urban areas, of which 150,000 reside in Addis Ababa (UNICEF, 2007, P.1). It was also said that about 70% of Ethiopian's street children live with their families in slum areas of the major cities, while the rest live alone on the streets, with no care and support (JJPO, 2005, P.33).

2.3. Streetism and Age differences

The age profile of street children varies from country to country. However, the majority of street children worldwide are aged between 10 and 14 years (Lalor 1999). About this issue, Aptekar & Abebe (1997) stated that the mean age of 76 Kenyan street children was 12.6 years and Veale et al. (1993), argues that, of 1,000 street children in Ethiopia, the average age of initiation to the street was 11 years.

In other African countries, the age profile has been found to be older. For example, in Zimbabwe, Muchini & Nyandiya Bundy (1991) found that of 520 Zimbabwean street children,

about 60 percent were 14 years or older. In Mauritania, the average age of street children was 14.2 years Veale & Donà, (2003); while 60 percent of street boys in Sudan were aged 13 years or over. The same results are mentioned by Ali et al. (2004), Aderinto (2000), Lalor (1999) and Terre des hommes (2002) who demonstrate that in Nigeria, Columbia, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and Brazil the street children's age range varies from 9 to 12 years.

When analyzing the age differences of street children between developing countries and developed countries, Ali et al (2004) noted that the ages of street children in developing countries differ significantly from those in developed countries: 11–16 years of age in developing countries in opposition to older than 16 years of age in developed countries. By looking at these statistics, it is possible to notice that the age ranks and cultural settings of a child and childhood should be taken into account when defining action programs on issues related to street children on a locally based aspect, as different realities affect street children worldwide. This means that we cannot construct general settings for boys and girls living on the streets based simply on their age ranks.

2.4 Streetism, Gender and Vulnerability

Different studies show a higher incidence of boys on streets than girls, worldwide (Veale & Donà 2003). The reasons for such differences are related to diverse socio-cultural factors. According to Felsman (1981), in Columbia, the street child population is 75 percent male and 25 percent female. In Zimbabwe, 95 percent of 520 children interviewed were boys, as were 84 percent in Angola, 76 percent in Ethiopia, 70 percent in Zambia, and nearly 100 percent in Sudan. The same situation has been found in South Africa where street children were typically black males (Le Roux, 1993; Muchini & Bundy, 1991; Moberly, 1999; Mambwe, 1997; Veale, 1996). Aderinto (2000), Beyene & Berhane (1997), Black & Farrington (1997) and Wright et al. (1993) stated that girls form just 10–15 percent of street children worldwide.

These statistics should not be taken for granted; they have large implications in policy design and intervention strategies in practice, bringing in this case the need for these statistics to be questioned. For example, why are there more boys than girls living on the streets? What are the

motivations behind these phenomena? Does this mean that girls have better life conditions than boys or it is the opposite?

In fact, the real data of the incidence of girls on the streets may be hidden by the nature of their appearance on the streets and their real everyday activities, which tends to be less visible than the number of street boys' activities. For example, street girls may only be visible during night times, on sex related work activities, working with street gangs or they can be found selling goods of diverse character all over the cities or even working in conjunction with a street family, while street boys, on the other hand, typically engage in more visible activities such as car washing, shoe shining, begging and peddling (Rizzini & Lusk, 1995).

This can also be related to the cultural aspects on the meanings of childhood, the male and female child and on socio-cultural representations and expectations of girls and boys in different contexts. For example, Aptekar (1999) said that, in Kenya, boys are socialized to become independent at a young age while girls are encouraged to stay at home. Muchini & Bundy (1991), for instance, stated that the main reason is related to the fact that families refrain from sending girls to the street because they fear sexual abuse. This position is shared by Lalor (1999, P.3), who studied 23 families of Ethiopian street children; found that parents were concerned and worried about the dangers associated with working on the street. Similar findings were reported by Chatterjee (1992) in a study with Indian parents, who stated that "employment for girls outside the home often ceases around the time of puberty to conform to socio-religious practices: parents are extremely reluctant to expose their daughters to male attention"

Another evidence of this is portrayed by Veale & Donà (2003) when they mention that street children in Sudan were almost exclusively male due to the influence of Muslim culture in Khartoum, which made it inappropriate for girls to wander unaccompanied on the streets. In the same way, there are fewer street girls than street boys due to the position the female child holds in rural family life. Acharya (1982) explained that in Nepal, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) analyzed the contribution of women and children to both household and agricultural activities. Females were found to work more than males in all age groups, and it was the family's dependence on girls' labour at home and in the fields which was responsible for lower rates of school enrolment among females. Consequently, this might also

have prevented them from working on the streets. In urban areas too, girls are more valuable to households due to their functions of looking after children and helping with chores, thereby freeing the mother to work outside the home.

According to Connolly (1990, P. 129-49), in Latin America “girls are more needed within the family, as they are expected to perform household chores and care for younger siblings”. Another factor associated with the cultural aspect of the low incidence of street girls worldwide is the permanent protection given to girls in the community where, in times of overwhelming family crisis, girls were more likely than boys to be placed in children’s homes by family members, whereas boys were more likely to survive as they could or move onto the street (Moberly, 1999).

During the war times in Mozambique, Nordstrom (1997) noted that girls and boys were subjected to the same conditions that forced children to live on the street, such as witnessing their entire village being destroyed, yet street children were almost always boys. According to Veale & Donà (2003), girls hypothetically were more easily forced into prostitution and child labour; Nordstrom (1997) commented that “while the *presence* of homeless boys on the street is a constant reminder of the tragedy of war, the *absence* of the girls is another”

These positions demonstrate that there is a greater tendency for boys to become street children due to diverse factors and cultural patterns. Some of the most important elements to take into account when reflecting on these statistics from the socio-cultural point of view are the meanings given to the term ‘child’ and ‘childhood’. These meanings are socially and culturally different in terms of gender, where a female child is seen in different ways from a male child (Amury and Komba, 2010, P.7).

Girls who are living on the streets are even more vulnerable than boys. In addition to the health risks experienced by street boys, adolescent girls are at risk of early, unwanted pregnancies with minimal, if any, antenatal care (UNICEF 2007, P.1). Severe health risks, including maternal mortality, are associated with practices for terminating pregnancies. Furthermore, more girls than boys experience sexual abuse and exploitation in the streets. In Zimbabwe, a study of sexually Active Street girls found that the majority had been forced into sex and, in Ethiopia, a

study involving 32 girls living on the streets reported that 21 of the participants had been raped. A Tanzanian study by ILO/IPEC (2001, P.1) showed that most girls working on the streets had experienced sexual abuse. Similarly, Amury and Komba (2010, P.7) found that: “A street girl is in a lot more danger than a boy. Many, many women at the bus stand are raped. You hear the older boys saying, there are girls sleeping in a certain place, let's go and find them'. But a boy can sleep anywhere; he does not have any problem because he is a boy.”

However, younger boys living on the streets are also particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation. A focus group discussion with street children in Mbeya Municipality elicited that younger boys were engaged in sex for protection while others were raped by older men or older boys in the streets. In South Africa, younger boys living on the streets claimed to have been often raped by older boys. These factors significantly increase the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other STDs (Amury and Komba, 2010, P.7).

The gender ratio for working street children in Ethiopia is approximately four boys to one girl, especially among those aged nine years and over (Wondimu, 1996). In Addis Ababa (as in most cultures) most (but not all) street boys are taught by their mothers to cope with the necessity of having to make do in a very limited economic environment by becoming independent at a far earlier age than the dominant society deems appropriate. When compared to other poor boys and to the other boys in the same family, Kenyan street boys were more resilient (Aptekar and Ciano, 1999). Less resilient boys were unable to leave home and help their families who were living in extreme poverty. The opposite situation held true for Nairobi street girls. Poor mothers taught their girls how to cope with the vagaries of poverty by staying at home and off the streets.

Thus, street girls, for the most part, were found to be more psychopathological than their sisters who stayed at home. Heinonen (1996) examined the gendered aspect of child rearing among street children's families. She established how many boys and girls are socialized only by their mothers, thus revealing an adult-on-child as well as a child-on-adult aspect in socialization. All the street children and parents who were interviewed maintained that raising and socializing children is a woman's job. A father's role in bringing up children was usually restricted to guiding and disciplining troublesome children, especially boys, when mothers were unable to cope. Girls were supposed to be guided, disciplined and trained into womanhood by their

mothers or other female members of their families. Females are supposed to work at home and have to be good in preparation of food than working outside 'Yebetmoya' is the term for the domestic skills imparted to children (usually girls) by female members of the household so as to equip them for adulthood and motherhood. The notions of females are supposed to work at home and have to be good in preparation of food than working outside 'yebetmoya' and of wrong act and punishment 'tefat ena ketat' embody the two main aspects of socialization regarding child rearing in the domestic sphere. All the street boys in Heinonen study (1996) had relatively independent financial arrangements with their parents, especially their mothers. The type of work opportunities available to them meant that they were able to operate more or less independently from their parents. Their mothers had no knowledge of the amount of money they earned or how they spent it but most boys gave their mothers a portion of their earnings. As the boys grew older, most mothers accepted their much-reduced parental authority or risked being abandoned by their sons.

Except in rare cases, a street girl's financial arrangements in Addis Ababa were inextricably tied up with that of her mother. Girls worked for their mothers who expected them to hand over the entire proceeds of the day. All income from daughters was considered "family income" to be disposed off by the mother as she deemed fit. There was often a conflict of interest and friction between mothers and daughters, resulting in extensive abuse of girls by their mothers. Boys, on the other hand, faced a higher degree of violence in the street by the police, other street children and the public than did the girls.

Because boys are able to control their own earnings and girls are not, this introduces a further gendered aspect of street life. Boys purchase a great variety of nutritious foods such as peanuts, bread, bananas, boiled eggs or potatoes for as little as ten to 25 cents. They are also considered creditworthy by most street vendors and teahouse owners. They are thus better fed and in better health than generally expected (Beyne and Berhane, 1998).

According to Aptekar and Ciano (1999), girls begin street life much later than boys, usually after they are ten years of age. Even though they may appear to be alone, an older sibling often supervises them. As girls became pubescent they are perceived and evaluated in sexual terms. By the time they are young women, they often follow in their mother's footsteps by having children, often many and by different men, who as a rule do not view them as legitimate wives, and thus

not worthy of continued financial support. Because boys are expected to bring income home, and thus go to the streets, while girls are expected to stay at home and help out with the household chores, the street boys and street girls relate to their families of origin differently. It is common for street boys to remain connected to their mothers; indeed they often contribute part of their incomes to them. However when girls are on the streets and not in the home, they often have more difficult and distant relationships with their families of origin.

Street boys are commonly on the street because they have been brought up to be independent while street girls are on the streets because they are fleeing a very difficult situation. Their mental health is therefore frequently considerably worse than that of the boys. Many have developed adequate coping strategies, which allow them to function at least as well as their poor counterparts who pass less time in public view. These coping strategies include finding a niche in the economic market, which gives them sufficient income to eat and clothe themselves. They are also able to find and take advantage of programs that serve them, become sufficiently informed about their physical health to stay reasonably healthy, form close friendships with peers, and maintain some form of connection to their family of origin (Aptekar and Ciano, 1999).

2.5 The Link between Poverty, Structural Adjustment Policies and Streetism

Poverty has been described as the worst form of violence and as a denial of human rights and human dignity (UNICEF, 2000, P. 3). People living in absolute poverty are deprived of their basic human rights. Illiteracy, malnutrition and deprivation constitute an abuse of human dignity and prevent persons from autonomy (McMorrow, 1994, P.1). The human rights understanding of poverty addresses the daily assaults on human dignity and vulnerability. Human rights based approach means not only viewing poor people in terms of welfare, but in terms of obligations to respond to violations of their rights (UNICEF, 2000, P.3). Since poverty means a denial of human rights and human dignity, poverty reduction obviously involves more than crossing an income threshold (UNICEF, 2000, P.39). The integration of human rights norms into anti-poverty strategies is essential.

In order to reduce poverty it is necessary to create a secure and tolerant environment to enable children to make use of opportunities and to live with dignity (UNICEF, 2002, P. 3). Without the realization of children's rights, poverty cannot be reduced. This means ensuring access to basic

education, health care, nutrition, water and sanitation and human rights-such as freedom from want and discrimination, which is the basis for social protection and effective participation (UNICEF, 2000, P.3). Basic and quality education is a vital element in eliminating discrimination and exploitation of children and part of the solution to reducing poverty and the failure to reach this goal means that poorest children remain in the risk to continue living in situations of exploitation UNICEF, 2000, P. 28). Reducing poverty means creating opportunities to lead a long, healthy, creative life, to enjoy an adequate standard of living, freedom, dignity, self-esteem and respect (UNICEF, 2000, P.1). Economic, social and cultural rights are just as essential for their development, as civil and political rights. From a development perspective it is an enormous benefit, in moral and economic terms, to invest in child-specific development.

2.6. Conceptualization of causal factors of streetism

The problem of street children has become one of the urban problems which call for the attention of the international community. Experts from various angles proposed different socio-economic factors which they had found out in their studies. The existence of street children is a worldwide phenomenon and is directly related to social network instability, poverty and ensuing rural-urban migration (MGLSD, 1999, P.2).

There are many reasons why children end up on the streets. Various push and pull factors lead to children coming to the streets. Most of them who come from rural areas share the conviction that urban life is easier. The pull of the glamour of living in a city and raising one's living standard is one of the illusions. In other cases, children dropped out of school or were sent to the cities by their families to earn money and escape the intolerable conditions of poverty in their homes. After the wrecked family experience, the street becomes the only place of socialization in which solidarity among the kids becomes a kind of family substitute. The street is also a hiding-place for those who committed a crime. It is a place to escape violence or hardship. The street environment in turn hardens the children, harms them physically and morally and deprives them of their childhood(Gobena, 1994).

2.6. 1. Family breakdown and the emergence of street children

Broken family is taken by various experts to be the major cause for streetism (Gobena, 1994, P.13). Tsegaye (2003) points out those family disruptions are "highly prevalent among families with poor economic conditions". The urbanization process involves rural-urban migration. The migrant families overwhelmed with multiple adversities are unable to support their families in which case children are forced to join street life for better chance of survival (Eade, 1995, P. 278). Hence family breakdown, urban poverty and migration are brought forth as militating factors which precipitate children to the street. Under normal circumstances, the natural parents, the family, could best afford a suitable family environment for a child. However, not all family circumstances are normal nor are the parents always around to offer the comfortable environment (SC-Sweden, 2003, P. 92). It is true that parents offer the ideal home for the child to grow. But it is also an unfortunate fact in the reality of the world that millions of children are separated from their parents for a variety of reasons (SC-Sweden, 2003, P. 96).

The family institution is going through a lot of upheavals. Fewer and fewer children have stable and caring family environments. Many families have broken up with children left to fend for themselves. Many families are also increasingly characterized by absent parents, lack of communication between parents and children, alcoholism and domestic violence. Many children run away to the streets to avoid violence and abuse in the family (Kopoka, 2000, P. 9).

Currently it is common incidence to hear frightful stories of abuse of children by family members. Nowadays it is not surprising to see parents using force or threats to send their children out to beg, steal and work to earn income for the family. Adults are using children as sources of income and thus violating and denying children their basic rights as human beings. Children become vulnerable to all forms of exploitation and abuse, and their daily lives are likely to be far removed from the ideal childhood envisioned in the CRC (UNICEF, 2006, P. 41).

In harsh situations, life on the streets may offer more opportunities for the child than life at home. Consequently, many children make a rational choice to leave home and live on the streets, drawn by the increased economic incentives and independence it affords (Sweta ,

2005, P.5). Some claim that street children are more accurately conceptualized as 'ones who abandon their families' rather than are abandoned by them (Brick et al, 2000: 135).

2.6.2. Poverty and the Emergence of Street children

Economic factors have been cited most frequently as the reason the majority of children are engaged in street life. According to Lusk et al (1989:293) “unlike street children in United States and other industrial countries, Latin American street children are gravitating to the street out of economic necessity. US street kids come from all social classes and are overwhelmingly from neglectful or abusive homes, where as their Latin American counterparts should be seen primarily as workers.” In Kenya, economic factors were also cited as the primary factor pushing children to the streets (Wainaina, 1981). In many causal accounts of street children, street children are viewed as an inevitable outcome of urban poverty (Veale, 1996, P.58).

As of 2002, around a billion children, close to half the world’s children lived in urban areas. They live in sprawling mega-cities and in provincial towns, in cities that have existed for centuries and in rapidly growing centers within areas still perceived as predominantly rural (UNICEF, 2002, P.2). Africa, one of the least urbanized regions, already has more than twice as many urban children as North America (UN, 2001, P.9). The least developed countries are the richest in children. According to data of UN population division in 2004, 49 percent of the population of least developed countries was under the age of 18 while it is 21 percent for developed countries (UNICEF, 2006, P. 12).

Urban children are usually considered to be healthier, better housed, and better educated and with access to a wider range of services and opportunities than rural children. Children are disproportionately represented among the poor, since the least developed countries tend to have the youngest population, and poor families tend to have more children than the affluent ones. Hence, hundreds of millions of urban children live in poverty (UNICEF, 2002, P.2). Poverty in childhood is a root cause of poverty in adulthood. Impoverished children often grow up to be poor parents who in turn bring up their own children in poverty (UNICEF, 2005, P. 15).

A crucial support for this cycle was a belief in a cultural inheritance of poverty. It was held that there was a distinct culture of poverty, which shaped people's attitudes to work and relief. Unless they were properly motivated, it was felt, paupers would be unable to improve their situation and attitude to work and to welfare would be passed on to their children (Scott, 1994, P.7). Research evidences show that most parents seem to replicate the basic parenting style they experienced as children (Chen et al, 2001, P. 17).

2.7 Female street Children in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world as evidenced by a variety of indicators of wellbeing. According to World Bank 2010, Per capita income, life expectancy, educational enrolment, and access to health services are all very low. Over the last 30 years, life expectancy has shown little improvement and food production per capita has declined (Bigsten, 2003, P. 87). Urban problem has become a significant problem in Ethiopia due mainly to rapid urbanization and population growth. According Yohannes (2005, P. 31), there are studies, which argue that; the rural biased policies of the government also aggravated the problem.

UNICEF estimates the number of street children to be between 500,000 to 700,000 nationally and approximately 150,000 are working and living in the streets with no care and support in Addis Ababa. Among these, the report indicates that at least 25% are female. Different surveys also showed that the numbers of living and working female children are growing (UNICEF, 2007, P.1). Girls who work and live in the streets are faced with extremely harsh conditions including sexual abuse by adults, rape, unwanted pregnancy and early motherhood, sometimes as young as 12. These girls are likely to join the rank of child prostitutes or street mothers and continue the vicious circle of street life and inevitable are highly at risk of being infected with HIV/AIDS, which they often pass on to their children. It is estimated that there are 10,000 street mothers in Addis Ababa (UNICEF, 2007 P. 2).

Female children living on the street are more vulnerable to street life than their male counterparts due to gender-based violence and exploitation. Most of these children are highly exposed to rape. They are also forced to divert to commercial sex work when other survival options are limited. As a result of both sexual abuse and exploitation, street girls are exposed to various problems like HIV/AIDS, STIs and unwanted pregnancy (UNICEF, BoSCA and BoFED, 2007, p.3).

Moreover, children living in certain types of family arrangements are more likely to become involved in street life, notably female-headed households and household with stepparents. Looking at certain data, a large proportion of street children come from families where one or both parents are missing. Traditionally, a girl is expected to spend much of her time and energy on activities that are confined to the domestic unit. Public opinion and normative constraints were also strong enough to keep girls with the 'home'. But, today social conditions and economic necessities, under a changing urban environment, are forcing more and more female children to be initiated daily into street life (Tsegaye, 2003).

According to De Oliveira, sexual abuse and exploitation is listed first among the many problems to which female street children encountered. Thus, there is a high risk of becoming victims of physical, sexual and psychological abuses, STD, promiscuity, early pregnancy and sexual exploitation. Due to various risk factors female street children are vulnerable to various forms of sexual abuse (De Oliveira, 2000). In general, female children who are living and working on the street are vulnerable and victims of sexual abuses. They face the danger of getting into accidents and violence. As stated in reviewed literatures, sexual abuses are widely spread among female street children in Ethiopia in general and Addis Ababa in particular. Therefore, there is a need to investigate the various forms of sexual abuse, the causes/risk factors associated with it and the impacts in detail manner unlike the previous researches which treated sexual abuse of female children along with their pressing economic and social plight such as poverty, lack of shelter, food denial of education, AIDS, and substance abuse among others.

In general, female children who are living and working on the street are vulnerable and victims of different problems, including sexual and physical abuses. They face the danger of getting into accidents and violence. As stated in the literature, there are different reasons that let girls to the street and expose to a variety of problems. The current causes/risk factors associated with it should be described in this study. The literature review also dictates us that there are different aspects of survival strategies that can be used by these female street children to solve their problems. We also see the different roles accompanied by stakeholders to solve the immediate needs of these female street children. Therefore, there is a need to investigate in detail the recent problems and survival strategies used by female street children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

CHAPTER THREE

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Research Design

Quantitative study design triangulated with qualitative study was conducted July to December, 2011. The primary purpose of this study was to explore the problems and survival strategies of female street children (who are living & working on the street) age between 14 and 17. Moreover, it aimed to identify factors that push girls to street life and their current living and working conditions on the street. The researcher made careful decision as to which ways of data gathering methods would be best to understand the issue under study. Thus both quantitative and qualitative methods were considered to answer the research questions. It is better to collect both quantitative and qualitative data and to triangulate methods, so that each method offsets some of the inherent problems of the other methods. With qualitative methods, it is possible to listen and allow children to say what is important to them and then to record the information systematically. Using quantitative methods forces the researcher to ask questions in a standardized form.

The study used mixed model research design for answering the research questions. It is a type of research design in which the researcher mixes both qualitative and quantitative research approaches within in the research process. In this study the researcher conducted survey and use a questionnaire for quantitative study and for the quantitative study, FGD and in-depth interviews were utilized. The important reasons for doing mixed research are to complement one set of results with another. To expand a set of results found in the quantitative study that may miss contextual detail of female street children, qualitative study was used (Miles & Huberman (1994, p. 40)

3.2. Study Setting

The study was conducted in Addis Ababa purposely selected five major streets and places where more children are available. Such places are around “Mexico”, “Merkato”, “Piazza”, “Bole” and “Arat Killo” areas in Addis Ababa. These points are the central market area and city centers where street children are most visible and active in the city. These places were selected by pilot assessment on density of street children in different areas. More precisely the study approaches the subject of street children at a given point in time and the lives of street children

The rationales for selecting these areas are three-fold.

- 1) The researcher is very familiar with the study areas because of the fact that these places were selected by pilot assessment on density of street children in different areas. In the pilot study it was found that high concentrations of female Street children were found in such selected areas of Addis Ababa.
- 2) The researcher became cognizant that (based on the information she acquired through observation, informal communication and discussion while living and working in the study area) female children who are living and working on the street of the study area are exposed to different maltreatment including brutal nature of sexual abuse. Thus, it would provide a useful context or situation for the generation of data.
- 3) During informal communication and observation of places, some female children in such areas were seen engaged in different income earning activities and exposed to sexual abuse. In addition various activities including different kinds of work and substance use was seen in such places as compared to other areas of Addis Ababa in observation and selecting of places relevant to such study.

3.3. Data Collection

Data was collected by qualitative and quantitative methods. The quantitative approach was focused on obtaining numerical findings with the survey method. Hence, primary data was collected from female street children by a structured questionnaire prepared by the researcher after reviewing different literatures in the study area. The qualitative data collection approach had three methods of data gathering: Focus group discussion (FGD), in-depth interview and key-informants interview. These approaches gave supporting qualitative data that could triangulated with the survey findings. Drawing on these ideas Denzin (1978) developed the concept of triangulation - the term that is probably most widely used to denote any attempt to combine or mix different methods in a research study.

3.3.1. Quantitative Data Gathering

For the quantitative survey, due to time and money constraints, purposively selected 100 female street children aged 14-17 years, 20 at each designated sites participated in the study. As it is presented in Annex I, a questionnaire was prepared to get a rapid assessment of female street children in selected places of Addis Ababa. The quantitative approach focused on obtaining numerical findings with the survey method. Data was collected from street children by a structured questionnaire prepared by the researcher. Two trained university students supervised by the researcher conducted the survey. Socio-demographic characteristics of female street children including their parents, questions related to how female street children survive and meet their daily basic need (food, cloth, shelter), problems they faced on street while they live and work and strategies for solving their problems were asked in the survey questionnaire.

3.3.2 Qualitative Data Gathering

Feminist researchers recognized the need to discover or develop research methodologies consistent with feminist values that could be advocated for general use in the social sciences. The methodology which they embraced was primarily qualitative (Mies, 1994, Smith (1998). For this reason, such method permits street girls to express their experiences fully and in their own terms as it is possible to develop in-depth relationships with study participants, document what actually happens by observing taboo behaviors in natural settings, address the larger social and cultural

context in which study subjects operate, and provide more accurate understanding of study participants' behaviors and motivations.

Mason (2005, p.1) argued that qualitative researching is exciting and important. It is a highly rewarding activity because it engages us with things that matter, in ways that matter. Through qualitative research we can explore a wide array of dimensions of the social world, including the texture and weave of everyday life, the understandings, experiences and imaginings of our research participants, the ways that social processes, institutions, discourses or relationships work, and the significance of the meanings that they generate. We can do this qualitatively by using methodologies that celebrate richness, depth, nuance, context, multidimensionality and complexity.

3.3.2.1 Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

The researcher conducted three focus group discussions; with female children 'of' the street and female children 'on' the street. Each FGD had six female street children from three areas (Merkato, Piassa, Mexico). Sociodemographic information's and places where and when the data were collected is attached in Annex III. A, B, C and topics for discussion, is attached on Annex II-A. It helps in the collection of feelings or perceptions of street children information. The process of group interaction stimulates active participation and encourages ordinary dialogue (including differences of opinion) among members of the group. The focus group technique is especially useful for an in-depth exploration of street children's and service providers' views on the given topic. The questions were related to about their prior knowledge about street life, why and how they joined the street, and their perception about their current street life and their future hope. FGD guides were prepared for effective communication. Each question were asked and the researcher together with the assistant and wrote their replay as it is in note book prepared for this purpose. In these three sessions, the researcher moderates and took notes of the sessions while the assistant recorded all relevant issues voice records by tape recorder in one group but in the other two groups recording was not possible because FGD participants did not agree to be recorded.

3.3.2.2. In-depth Interview

To get detail information, the researcher met with female street children for an in-depth interview who agreed to discuss the situations of their lives and the difficulties they encounter on a daily basis. Ten female street children who are living and working on the street. These children were composed of five 'on' and five 'of' female street children. Children on the street are those that are having a shelter to spend night to sleep and children of the street are those that having no home but the streets. The questions interviewed covered issues/themes with a focus on forms of the reason of joining to street life, major problems encountered in street life, whether the girl had sexual intercourse and whether it was intentional or not and possible problem solving strategies used whenever problem arise in street life. Topics for discussion, where and when the data were collected, is attached in Annex II-B

In planning and conducting the qualitative interviewing, rigorous attempt was made to begin discussions by warm-up questions with various participants of the study after having informed consent of participants of the study, and in some cases parents of the children. Then, the researcher used some questions related to the participants' background information and general working and living situations as opening or warm-up topics which in turn pave the way to discuss openly the major issues of sexual abuse among female street children. Similarly, attempt also made to make the questions understandable and clear to each interviewee.

The other critical lesson learnt during the study was the issue of recording interviews. Interviewees were not feeling comfortable in the use of tape-recorder when asked about questions about personal matters which distress and annoy them. Consequently, taking into considerations this fact and given the sensitivity of the issue, the researcher made detail hand written notes for recording each interviews. Here, it is vital to note that interview guides were prepared for effective communication and understanding between the informants and the researcher. Interviews with one informant took on the average 30 minutes. The researcher made all interviews with street children with aim of understanding their problems more with better negotiation.

3.3.2.3. Key-informants Interview

This method was employed to collect data from those pertinent sources, specifically linked to the purpose of this study because of being member of a particular organization or institution. For this reason, interviews were conducted with those knowledgeable individuals on the subject. Five relevant stakeholder representatives from: Labor and Social Affairs Office; Legal office; Child and Youth office; Child and Youth club, Seniors & Youth Association were asked questions relevant to their contribution to solve the problems of female street children, their perception in how to reduce the problem of female streetism, the challenges they have faced to intervene and their recommendations to solve the problems of child streetism. Topics for discussion, where and when the data were collected, is attached on in Annex II-C.

3.4. Data Processing and Analysis

For quantitative survey, data were entered to a computer using EPI Info version 3.5.1 for windows software after manual editing was done by the researcher. Data cleaning was done using the same software. The cleaned data set was exported to SPSS version 15 (SPSS Inc, Chicago, USA) software for data processing and analysis by the help of statistician. Findings were summarized and organized using descriptive statistics to describe the basic features of the data in the study. Data were presented by frequencies distribution, graph, table, percentages, mean and standard deviation and median.

For qualitative study, the data obtained through the aforementioned methods of data collection was organized in line with the objectives of the research and with the ongoing interpretation of the data. In this process, transcriptions, translation and coding of the information from FGD and in-depth interview were primary carried out to use the data systematically. The transcriptions were 32 pages and the back translations were 21 pages by avoiding repeated statements. Similarly, remarks taken by the researcher during data collection was organized and included to enrich the discussion of the findings. Data gained in the process of FGD and in-depth interview were analyzed using qualitative data analysis procedures that involve breaking down the information in to different themes and categories and sub-categories which answered the research objectives. Then, qualitative data was categorized into different themes and categories

for the purpose of retrieval of sections of text, or elements of the data, and some form of further analysis or manipulation. According to the specific objectives of the study, the quantitative survey result was then supported by the findings in the qualitative method to enrich the study.

Qualitative Data Analysis (QDA) is the range of processes and procedures whereby we move from the qualitative data that have been collected into some form of explanation, understanding or interpretation of the people and situations we are investigating. The process of QDA usually involves two things, writing and the identification of themes. Writing of some kind is found in almost all forms of QDA. Then the data was interpreted and categorized to explain according to the objectives of the research. The data set then was organized manually to gather materials that have similar themes or ideas and then categorized to answer specific objectives (Coffey, A., B. Holbrook & P. Atkinson, 1996).

3.5. Negotiating Relationships and Ethical Considerations

The aim of negotiating relationships with informants is to allow the researcher to ethically collect necessary data that can answer the research questions of the study. In sensitive researches like this, it was mentioned that negotiating relationships of informants through different ways prior to the interviews is important (Mason, 2005). Accordingly, establishing trustful relationship has been found to be indispensable as the central theme of this research is sensitive.

The researcher endeavor to negotiate relationships with research informants and to win informants confidence particularly female street children was highly reduced due to the fact that subjects of the study (female street children) are open and have the skill of creating smooth relationships with anyone who wants to talk to them. De Oliveria research on street children shows that street children presence creates a variety of reactions in other individuals. These inevitable contacts demand from the children a great deal of social skill. Street children know how to act differently in the presence of different kinds of people (de Oliveira, 2000, P.19).

Therefore, the researcher didn't encountered as such serious problem in creating trustful relations with research participants that helped her to easily gain permission to conduct interviews and discussions. The warm-up questions and informal discussions with female street children during

the beginning of interviews and FGD had played a pivotal role in the process of winning confidences and creating rapport.

It was possible to decide early during the research process how, when and where to conduct interviews based on the preliminary observation. This really helped the researcher to create smooth relationships with informants. Hence, interviews with female street children were generally conducted in places where they normally doing their daily activities. In some cases, the researcher used relatively calm places where it was possible to discuss with informants peacefully. Interviews with children were also conducted during day time. Generally, interviews with female street children were conducted with the place and time they preferred and agreed.

Overall, female street children and stakeholders participated in the study did take control of both the interviews and FGD. The interviews were filled with emotions and the respondents were free in expressing themselves. Surprisingly, most of the respondents talked very frankly and openly about a range of issues without any hesitation. In line with these, the data obtained was of satisfactory depth and width. At the end of interview and FGD, the children were remunerated in cash for their kind cooperation and time. The researcher also bought some products from working children. Some of the informants were also pleased about the money the fact that they would use the money for food, clothes and shelter. The researcher did however emphasize that the money was not a payment for the information provided. Besides, the researcher helped two informants to get medical services by giving them some money. While discussing about the impacts of different issues related to the study,

In addition, throughout the process the researcher did her best to be sensitive to verbal and non-verbal cues, which would lead to giving the opinion of withdrawing or changing the subject. For the purpose of confidentiality and ethical considerations, in the discussion part and elsewhere in the report, the names of research participants were not used at all.

Generally, the researcher clearly stated the purpose and objectives of the study to different informants from various organizations and institutions participated in the study which in turn didn't raise any problem in terms of relationships. Access to information from such organizations and institutions was secured after giving the letter of recommendation written by Saint Marry

University College. The researcher clearly informed female street children and other relevant stakeholders about the goals and method of the assessment, what they would gain or lose if they participate and also they are free to refuse to participate. The researcher was responsible in keeping the privacy and the confidentiality of the information of the study participants. During the assessment, if the investigator may come across conditions and/or situations which require urgent attention, such as injuries or threat of violence, such conditions will be attended as priority issues and reported to the relevant body before dealing with the research in question.

The researcher took great care to carefully handle interviews without female street children and stakeholders to get their experiences. Emphasis was placed on the female street children having the choice whether and to what extent they wished to participate in the research. Therefore, the research process began asking female street children whether they would agree to participate in the research. Thus, the researcher made an effort to explain the purpose of the study and what would be done with the results. The researcher spent time explaining that there were a lot of questions and if they thought any question to be silly, upsetting or too difficult, then they should let the researcher know. The children were encouraged and shown how to stop the interview at that point and were also encouraged to add anything that they thought was important. Participants were informed that they have the full right to discontinue or refuse to participate in the study. Names of respondents would be anonymous for the purpose of keeping confidentiality.

CHAPTER FOUR

IV. RESULT

4.1 Socio-demographic Characteristics of Female Street Children

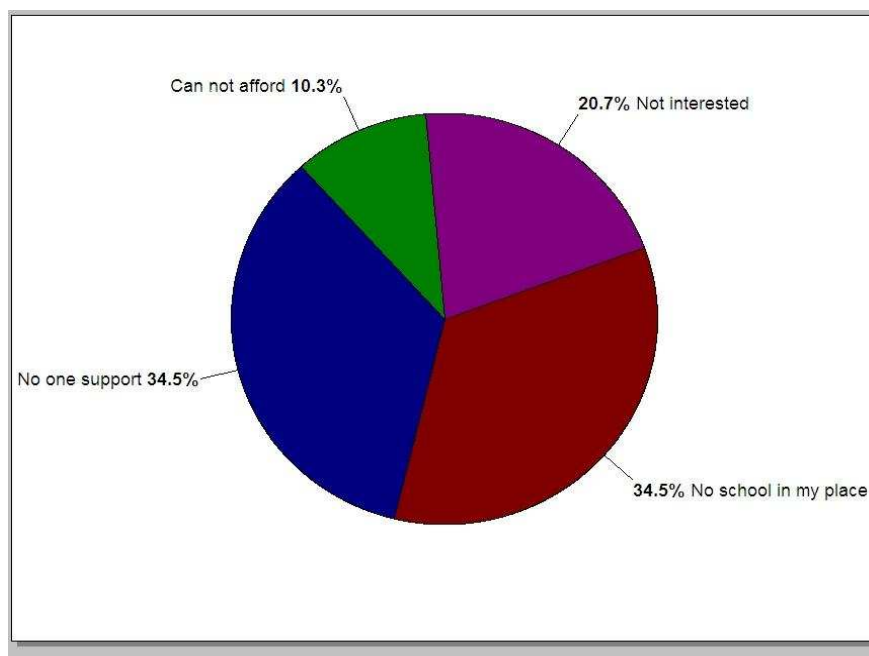
This chapter presents the survey data obtained from 100 female street children triangulated with ten in-depth interviews, three FGDs with female street children and five key-informants interviews with stakeholders.

Female street children were asked about their background and demographic history. Information regarding socio-demographic characteristics of female street children is presented in Table 1. The mean age of female street children was 15.6 (SD 1.04). Most 73 (73%) of the female street children were Christian by religion. Street children were asked about their educational background. Majority 71(71%) of them had attended school before street life. Out of those attended school, majority of them 53(74.8 %) had school dropouts. The remaining 29(29%) didn't attend school. The reasons given were no support 10(34.5%), no school in the place of origin 10(34.5%), not interested 6(20.3), and can't afford 3(10.3).

Table 1. Socio-demographic characteristics of female street children in selected Places of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Characteristics	Number	Percentage
Age		
14	16	16
15	33	33
16	25	25
17	26	26
Mean(SD)	15.61 (SD 1.04)	
Religion		
Christian	73	73
Muslim	26	26
Other	1	1
School before street life		
Yes	71	71
No	29	29
What grade (n=71)		
<4	25	35.2
4-6	39	54.9
>6	7	9.9
Drop out (n=71)		
Yes	53	74.8
No	18	25.4
Parents status		
Both alive	40	40
Mother only alive	21	21
Father only alive	9	9
Both dead	30	30

Fig. 1 Reasons for not going to school before street life by female street children in selected places of Addis Ababa



The findings of qualitative study by three FGD showed that 18 female street children (6 from each FGD) participated in the study, Out of which 11(61%) were ‘of’ female street children and 7 (39%) were ‘on’ female street children. Their age ranges from 14-17 years. Profile of in-depth interview participant is presented on Annex III-A.

The findings of qualitative study by in-depth interview showed that 10 female street children interviewed out of which 5(50%) were ‘on’ street female children (apparently having shelter to spend the night) and 5(50%) were ‘of’ street female children who spent their day and night on street. Their age ranges from 15-17 years. As to their place of origin, 6(60%) were from Addis Ababa and the rest 4 (40%) from outside Addis Ababa. Profile of in-depth interview participant is presented on Annex III-B.

Qualitative study by key-informants from five relevant stakeholders showed that 4(80%) are males and 1(20%) is female. Most of them were found in Ledeta sub city and work in government office and 1 key- informant from Non-government organization. Their age ranges from 27-40 years. Profile of the participants is presented on Annex III-C.

4.2. Reasons for Joining to Street Life and Length of Stay in street by Female Street children

Table 2 shows the survey data on length of Stay and reasons for joining street life by female street children. The mean stay in street life is 1.7 years (SD 0.8). The minimum stay being 6 months and the maximum is 4.5 years. A quarter of female street children join the street very recently (<1 year). Majority (52%) had stayed 1-3 years in the street. Most of them came from semi-urban (56 %) and urban (28 %) such as districts and main towns of the country for example Mojo, Enjibra, Dabat (for semi-urban) and Addis Ababa, Adama, Dire-Dawa (for urban) respectively.

Table 2: Length of Stay and Reasons for street life among Female Street children in selected places of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Characteristics	Number	Percentage
Length of stay on street		
<1 year	25	25
1-3 years	52	52
> 3 Years	23	23
Mean 1.7 years		
*Original Place		
Urban	28	28
Semi Urban	56	56
Rural	16	16
Reason for Street life(n=100)		
Low income	30	30
Abuse/ Violence	19	19
Family breakdown	16	16
Behavioral problem (Self Problem)	5	5
Peer pressure	5	5
Early marriage	11	11
Seek for work	13	13
Other	1	1

NB: For the purpose of this study urban places are those major cities and towns in the country (for example, Addis Ababa, Adama, Awassa, etc; semi-urban are those places ('districts ('wereda')' towns or smaller towns like Debark, Dabat, Mojo, Dukem, etc.) and rural places are the rest part of the country where the real agriculture is exercised.

The researcher asked about possible reasons that took them to street life in the focus group discussions, female street children identified different major reasons for their being in the street. Some of the reasons identified were: family's low income, seek for work in town, sexual abuse by one of the family member, unwanted pregnancy, unwanted marriage, death of mother or father, violence and peer pressure. The survey result also showed that 30%, 19% and 16% of the cause of female street children being in street life were low family income (poverty), abuse and/or violence by one or more of their family members and family breakdown due to death or divorce of parents respectively. Female street children work most of the day time to earn money to support their families.

4.2.1 Low Income

Poverty (low income) was found to be the major reason for female street children to come to street life. The survey result showed us that 30% of them are in street life because of poverty. Most of the informants who work on the street of the target area reported that they come from poor family background. Mahlet, a 17 years old street girl who was working on the streets due to the fact that her poor mother and her two young sisters do not have anything to eat at home, except waiting what she could do for them explained to the researcher:

I have been in the street for the last three years. I often walk around Addis Ababa Stadium, Mexico and around National Theater. I am working on the street to help my mother who suffers a lot to raise her children alone with low income."

In some cases, families and/or relatives may initiate and force them to be in the street to do some work there and bring money home. Aberash, a 17 years street girl said '*my mother is local drinks seller like 'Tej' 'Tella' and 'Injera'. I often help her at home. But, she told me to stop helping her in domestic activities and better to start working on the street. Now, I am working on the street in order to help my mother and to cover my education fee.*

Another girl, Tarik aged 17 years reported to the researcher that, *“My father and mother are very poor. They have five children. My mother is illiterate and she doesn’t have any formal employment so do my father. As a result, the money they get is not enough to feed all family. Thus, I started working on the street to add the family income.”*

4.2.2. Violence and Abuse by their Family Members

Another important reason for female street children being at street life is violence and abuse by their family members. The survey result showed us that more than 19 % of street children had one or more forms of abuse or violence by their family members and they were forced to be out to street life. Etagegn, a 15 year street girl, told the researcher that she preferred street life to home because of violence and abuse by their own family members. She stated clearly signify that violence at home make girls to choose street life than their home: *My father often creates problems and quarrel with his families whenever he came home drunk. He was alcohol addicted and came home late being intoxicated. Our small home was always feeling with anxiety and fears. He had beaten my poor mother and me without any reason. He didn’t like me. I left my home as I was afraid that he will kill me.* Another female street child, Genet, 17 years old said *“I was born and raised in Dire Dewa. When I reached grade 4, my uncle brought me to Addis Ababa as I was not comfortable to live with my divorced family. I was neglected badly by my family. My uncle has a wife and three children: one boy and two girls. One day, when I was reading my books in my room, he entered my room and asked me to sleep with him. He had drunk a lot that day. Unfortunately, no one was around me. Then, he forced me to have sex with him. I joined street life after my uncle raped me.*

Some female street children are more likely to join street or to leave their home due to sexual, physical and psychological violence at home. They choose street life as the alternative to various forms violence at home by older member of the family. Etagegne, a 15 year street girl who sells boiled potatoes on the street, gives evidence that she is going to leave her home due to her parents: *‘I can’t see any difference for me being on the street struggling to get money by selling ‘potatoes’ and being in home where both my mother and my father hurt me’.* She described that when evening comes, she start worrying since her home is not safe. On one hand, her mother was not always pleased with what she did; on the other hand, her father who often intoxicated creates trouble in home: *My mother always took the money I brought home after selling boiled potatoes.*

She never satisfied with what I did and she blamed me for that matter. If the money is less than what she expects, she beaten me and insulted me thinking that I didn't work properly. Moreover, my father who came home being drunk always quarreled with my mother because of money. When I told him not to say bad words against my mother, he beaten me throwing everything that he can found around him. Unless things change in our home, I will leave my home soon.

4.2.3. Family Breakdown

In line with the causes related to family that lead girls to come into the street, it was explored that family breakdown due to divorce and death of one or both parents was identified as one principal factor that expose girls to street way of life. The data on the survey result demonstrated that 16 % of street female children were in street because of the fact that their families broke-up. This was also supported by the data that 30 % of the female street children lost one of their parents (mother or father) and the other 30% lost both parents. In Some girls revealed that they start living and/or working in the streets of the target area after their parents divorced and start living separately that makes women unable to help her children. Some informants also affirmed that they were exposed to street life due to the fact that they lost their parents with accidents or illness. For example, Mestawot, 16 years old informed clearly to the researcher that. *'It is very difficult to live in home where there is no mother or father to prepare food and other basic things'*. She was very upset while she was reporting about the cause that forces her to work on the street:

"I have started living on the street after my father has passed away due to HIV/AIDS. He was the only breadwinner of our family. My mother is now sick and can't move from place to place. I must work on the street to help my families as I have no other alternative to get money.

Similarly, Mahlet, 17 years old mentioned her reason to come to street life as *"I have worked in the street to help my mother who suffers a lot to raise her children because my father passed away due to car accident. I was grade 6 before I started working. However when the problem became worst and difficult to be handled by my mother who struggle to raise her children, I decided to quit my education and start working on the street."*

4.2.4. Female Child Behavior Change

Moreover, some female street children are forced to leave home by their families because the family doesn't approve of a child's behavior or its consequences e.g. pregnancy. The survey result demonstrated that about 5 % of the female street children were in such kind of life because of their families doesn't approve one or more of their behavior and forced out to live in street. Besides, it is clear that some factors contribute to different forms of violence in their home against female children: factors like poverty and alcohol abuse impacts on levels of violence in families. As the above unpleasant incident discussed by one of the informants with irritated manner and the data from some informants clearly illustrate that some girls are exposed to street life caused by their behavioral problems. As to some informants and the above happening, it seems true that behavioral change of girls, for example being drug addicted which is unacceptable to the parents and the society at large; make the girl child to be deserted by the entire family members. Although such neglect by family make girls to go to street way of life, it should be critical to note that the girl's behavior is the major reason to create such conflict between the girl and her family. However, the girl child shouldn't be blamed as she is the product of the society at large. Similarly, the street educators explained that a large number of children live in the street as they think that they enjoy freedom on the street than their home. Street educator pointed out that *'as parents often control their children not to do some bad things like chewing khat, smoking cigarette and drinking alcohol, children need a place where they can do whatever they want to do. Then, they come up with a quick decision that the street is conducive place'*.

Female street girls may quarrel with parents or member of her family due to various reasons. Then they usually run away from home being scared of beating and other problems whenever they clash with their families. To mention one, Ato. Yosef (street educator) told a story of one girl: *'her name is Bethelhem, 16 years old. She was engaged in activities that her families don't like. She started affiliation with a boy in her village neglecting her education. At the end of the day, she became pregnant. Eventually, she made the street her place to live as their parents clash and abandoned her'*.

4.2.5. Influence of Peer and City life

Another finding in this study that lead girls to street life was peer/friends influence. Some informants mentioned that one of the causes that escort the girl children to live and work on the street is the influence of friends who once make the street a place to live and work. They signify that girls can easily be part of street life if they have friends who already became street children. The survey result showed us that 5% of female street children experienced influence by their peers. Interview with Hirut, a 16 years street child reported that she started working on the street after her friend, who was a neighbor and classmate, start working on the street dictate similar finding. She said that: *I saw my friend dressing better when we go to school most of the time. I was curious to know how she dressed like that. She told me that it is the work she is doing whenever she gets free time that gives her opportunity to earn money. Then, she advised me to start working with her promising that she will help me. Finally, I have started selling tea and bread on the street.* Similarly, street educators affirmed what they usually encounter during their day to day activities on the street with regard to the causes that lead the girl children to the street life. Accordingly, it was pointed out that some street children in general and female street children in particular join street life to live/to work due to the fact that they were influenced by their friends *'Most girls on the street are victims of influence by friends who have already joined street life'*

Here, it is vital to put the following quotation to explore the cause for the girl to be on the street. Aster, a 16 years old street girl: *I was good student before I dropped out from my education and exposed to street life. I became one member of a group of students in my school when I was grade nine to make the group five in number (three boys and two girls). We had good relationships and strong communications in our group. In the mean time, we started chewing 'khat', smoking 'shisha and cigarette' and 'chebsi'. We hardly went to school and home. Finally, we decided to live in rented room when one of the girls in our group became pregnant. We were free on the street and in our room to do everything we want during the beginning of our street life. I am now begging on the street to get some money for our food, clothes and shelter.*

4.2.6. Early Marriage

The survey result showed that some of the female street children came from outside Addis Ababa. Some street girls who came from such places reported that they were exposed to harmful traditional practices such as early marriage. When further questioned to those who came from other region, some girls pointed out that what their community practiced as a tradition, besides to violence and poverty in their family, forced them to resort street way of life. They mentioned that some harmful cultural practices in their community put them in danger and exposed them to many problems in their life. In addition to social, health, physical and psychological problems such harmful practices created in their lifespan, it also makes girls to live on the street of urban areas. The survey result showed us that 11% of the female street children reason for being in the street was early marriage. The qualitative study also has similar finding. Serkalem, a 16year girl who came from Wollo, Mersa district said to the researcher in relation to harmful traditional practice in her community makes a street girl: *I was given to my husband at the age of 13. By then I was going to school. I was forced to stop going to school and I got married. Since I had an ambition to be successful student, I escaped from my marriage after two days and run away to Addis Ababa with the money I stole from my husband. I stayed in a hotel for some days. I tried to find my aunt in Addis Ababa, but to no avail. I joined street life when I finished the money I brought.*

4.2.7. Seek for Work

Moreover, what some informants from rural background mentioned clearly shows that sometimes girls come to Addis Ababa in general and other urban cities in particular with the promise of education and good employment opportunity by various groups of their community. They migrate from rural part to urban cities by families, relatives and friends for work in homes, hotels and restaurants as a child laborer. They move to urban cities with the promise of better education, food, and other necessities and due to family abuse, family disintegration, and poverty. The survey result showed us that showed that 13 % of them came to Addis Ababa to seek for work. The qualitative data also demonstrated similar findings. For example, Embet, a 15 years street child in the target area said sadly about the reason how she joined street life: *I left my village and my family last year when I was 14 years of age. My father always tells me that I should work in Addis Ababa like the girls in our village. When his friend came to our*

village to visit his own mother, my father sent me together so that his friend search work for me. After some times, he put me as a domestic laborer in one house. I had worked every day from early mornings to late nights. I worked for about a year and hardly got any payment. I didn't see my father's friend from the moment we separated. Eventually, I run out from that house, and I am here on the street.

4.3 Problems of Female Street Children

Table 4 presents street related problems by female street children. Eighty percent of the female street children had one or more types of illness while they were in the street. These include: infectious diseases (63%), chronic illness (19%) gynecological problems (10%) and skin problems (4.6%). Moreover, these female children were suffered by different kinds of injuries (65%) predominantly due to violence (86 %).

Another risk for female street children was one or more forms of physical abuse (79%) by their friends, police, etc. Moreover these children had sexual abuse; raped in (61%), sexual assault (18%). female street children are abused, as they are living unprotected and are highly vulnerable section of the society. As a result the survey finding demonstrated that 51 % had unwanted pregnancy and 45% practiced unsafe abortion.

Some female street children reported by in-depth interview that they were affected by sexual transmitted diseases. Hirut, aged 16 years told top the researcher that “I got sick...my friends took me to the clinic and I was told that I affected by gonorrhea.

Table 3: Street related Problems of female street children in selected places of Addis Ababa

Problems	Number	Percentage
Ever had Illness		
Yes	80	80
No	20	20
Types of perceived illness (n=80)		
Infections	50	62.5
Chronic illness	15	18.7
Skin problems	4	5.0
Gynecological problems	8	10.0
Others	3	3.8
Ever had injury		
Yes	65	65
No	35	35
Types of injury (n=65)		
Injury due to violence	56	86
Car accident	4	6
Burn	5	8
Ever had sexual abuse?		
Yes	79	79
No	21	21
Types of sexual abuse(n=79)		
Rape	61	77
sexual assault	18	23
Exposed Pregnancy		
Yes	51	51
No	49	49
Pregnancy outcome (n=51)		
Got birth	28	55
Aborted	23	45
Ever in Prison?		
Yes	18	18
No	82	82

In the FGD it was learnt that perpetrators were drunken person, passengers, clients (sugar daddies), thieves, street adult, etc, and the event was a daily experience. The major problems reported by female street children include shortage of food, shelter, and clothing (and hence susceptibility to bad or harsh weather conditions), verbal abuse by dunkers, sexual abuse and rape, unwanted pregnancy, abortion, health problems, lack of medical service, lack of money, unfair treatment of street children by the police, loss of property (being robbed/stolen by thieves, etc.

In in-depth interview, street girls has acknowledged as a significant problem for female street children had unsafe sexual attack (sexual abuse) by different people. For example, Mahalet, a 17 years, said *“One day they (street boys) tried to rape me, but fortunately my friends saved me.”* She also added another incident *“However, another day a man told me that he wanted me to work in his home and he promised me to give money but when we reached his home he raped me.”*

Some female street children also claimed physical abuse. For example Genet, 17 years, told her experience of physical abuse *“Drunks usually kicked me. The police beat me up for whatever wrong the others did.”* Mahlet, 17 years female street child also added *“Street life has many problems, most of the time street boys usually attack you to take your money.”*

In the other hand, some female street children claimed different kind of health problems and concerns. Some of the health problems and concerns mainly due to unsafe sexual practice. For example, Serkalem, a 16 year female street told to the researcher *“You see there are many problems on street. I remember the incidences of being wounded with the blade while attempting to refuse sex when I was in deep sleep by a street boy who unfasten my trouser with a blade and he actually raped me as a result I have gynecological problem. I had not tested for HIV/AIDS. I want to know my status for HIV, but I am afraid to do so.”*

Focus group discussions with street children and street adults and findings from interviews with social workers confirmed that street children were engaged in risky sexual behavior. This study revealed that street children in Addis Ababa experience a carefree sex, rape, prostitution, and sex for goods and other services. It was reported in the focus group discussions that there were

events that younger boys were raped by older male youth or adult street people. Some female street children had boy friend's to safe guard them and protect them from other abusers.

4. 4 Survival Strategies of Female Street Children

This section seeks to present living conditions of female street children who were selected to participate in the study from different places of Addis Ababa. The survey result is presented in table 4.

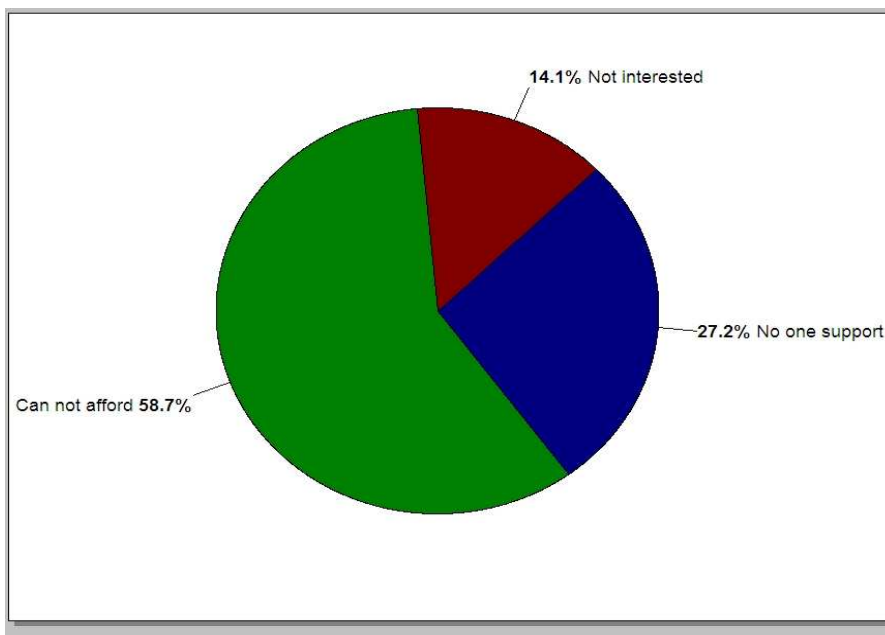
Table 4 : Survival strategies of female street children in Addis Ababa

Variables	Number	Percentage
Source of Food		
Begging	49	49
Hotel left over	50	50
Other	1	1
Meals per day		
Once	10	10
Twice	34	34
Three Times	3	3
As available	53	53
Source of Closing		
Begging	68	68
Friends	16	16
Self	16	16
Shelter availability		
Yes	35	35
No	65	65
Do you have job?		
Yes	21	21
No	79	79
School attendance		
Yes	8	8
No	92	92
Grade(n=8)		
<4	4	50
4-6	4	50
Drop out		
Yes	6	75
No	2	25

Table 4 demonstrates the result of the survey related to the living conditions of female street children. This data showed that their major source of food was hotel leftover followed by begging in 50% and 49% of the female street children, respectively. Most (53%) took food as available followed by twice per day in 34 % of the female street children. Similarly their source of clothing was begging in 68% of the cases. Most (65%) of the respondents reported that they didn't have shelter to sleep at night. As to whether they had work, only 21% of the female street children had some kinds of work, reported in qualitative study daily labor and other small businesses.

Figure 2 presents the reasons reported by female street children for not going to school while they were in street. Only 8% of the respondents went to school while they are in street. The major reason, 58.7% of them were that they couldn't afford to attend school. These children are not attending school even though they are at school age. In FGD, asked about what was their future hope and in the future most agreed to continue their education if they got support.

Fig.2. Reasons for not going to school after street among Female street children in selected places of Addis Ababa



Female street children being alone or with groups, usually target people for begging in cafes, in the hotels, or on street corners where they approach drivers stopped at traffic lights. Aster, 16 years old, said that *'we often ask people for money on the streets and car drivers on traffic light to cover our food and house rent as we sleep in rented house. If that doesn't work, we work prostitution to secure money.* Aberash, 17 years, who sells small item like napkins and cigarettes affirmed that she doesn't care doing begging and prostitution if she gets money. *Sometimes I don't get enough money selling small items to cover my school fee and to help my poor mother, who sell 'injera & Tela in local market. Because of this, I often engaged in begging. Besides, I don't mind to go with diverse men who asked me to sleep with them. I don't hesitate to make sex with them if the money is good enough for me.*

Female Street children thought that the feeding habits of street children might have exposed them to various kinds of food borne diseases. This fact shows that street children lack access to their basic need, food. Aster, 16 years street girl, informed the researcher hopelessly that *"I often get money through begging and prostitution to live tomorrow while I am living on the street. I don't have any prospect in future due to the fact that I am always worried about my health condition. To think about future, one should be healthy and happy in the first place. But, I never get happiness all my life. It is better for me to stay on the street till I die, chewing 'khat' with other street children that gives me pleasure and help me to forget everything."*

Similarly, interview with Ato. Yosef (street educator) affirmed that most girls activities on the street are depend up on how much money they get. It was mentioned that some girls change their job and others do various job at the same time. *'These children may sleep somewhere during the night where they are comfortable. They may sleep on the street with other street children or they may go with various men to make sex.'*

4.5 Problem Solving Strategies of Female Street Children

This part shows how female street children's' coping strategy. The researcher tried to approach this by quantitative survey, asking each female street child how they solve their immediate

problems. Moreover qualitatively method was used by FGD and in-depth interview to understand their experience in problem solving & strategies used by them.

Table 5 presents the survey result of how female street children solve their different of their problems presented above in their street life. Majority (67%) reported that they solved their problems by themselves. In the focus group discussions and in-depth interviews similar findings were reported. It was learnt that most of the problems were solved by female street children themselves and their friends. Genet, a 17 year ‘of’ street female child told the researcher that *“One day, I got sick & I told to my friends. They were kind to me and bought medicine from pharmacy”* She also mentioned the coping strategy she used while she had an incident of violence or attempt of rape, *“I have a street children boy friend that protects me from any attacks.”*

Table 5. Problem solving strategies of female street children

Problems solving strategies	Number	Percentage
Self	67	67
Support by NGO	13	13
Support from peers	16	16
Support from relatives	4	4

However, some of ‘on’ street female child that have family or relatives solve their problems by the help of their family members. For example, Mahelet, a 17 year ‘on’ street female children reported to the researcher that *“Most of the time I went to my home before night and walk with my friends”*.

In this study it was found that most female street children solve their problem by their own. (67%) and others seek help from their peers (16%), relatives (4%) and NGO (13%). The in-depth interview and FGD with street girls and stakeholders showed similar findings. For example, Aster a 16 year street girl explains her event *‘When I get sick...I tell my friends...If they have*

money they buy drugs for me...If we don't have money ...I just sleep...You know we are very poor...and our life here in the streets is very hard.'

Tarik a 16 year street girl added *'One day my friend was very sick...He was unconscious...We contributed some money and took him to the hospital. Therefore, if we don't have money we don't go to the hospital...until we contribute or borrow money from each other.'*

FGD with female street children also showed that they had received minimal support from government organizations (GO) & non-governmental organizations (NGOs) so far. In the FGD, female street children were asked what they expected from governmental & non-governmental organizations. They identified the following areas of concern: First they wanted to get help in their basic needs such as food, medication, shelter and education. Moreover, they also identified reunification to their parents, vocational trainings and legal protection.

4.6. The Role of Stakeholders in Solving the Problems of Female Street Children

This part presents the key-informant interview with five stakeholders that are direct or indirect contribution by working with female street children. Stakeholders in this context are those governmental and non-governmental organizations that have direct or indirect contribution to assist street children in one way or otherwise.

Key informants were asked the level and type of contribution they provided to female street children. Ato. Mesfin, 40 years old from Labor and Social Affairs Office told the researcher as *"We gave training for 628 street children in collaboration with the city administration in the making of cobble stone. Some of them are female street children. We have also finalized preparation to engage more street children in various businesses by providing relevant training in small-scale and micro enterprises. You see, by this government intervention, most street children have changed their life, but some prefer to stay in the streets."*

Asked what the office could contribute, if a female street girl came with a problem, he replied, *"We lead them to legal body, such as police and legal office. We also give training to protect*

themselves to sexual transmitted diseases and in some case we have supported for their education. But sometimes there is a budget constraint.” He also added *“The root cause of streetism is poverty. Hence we need to work hard on poverty reduction strategies in the general population.”* The challenge they faced in the effort to support female street children, he said *“It is very difficult work to change the behavior of street children. Most of them assume that street is a place of freedom.”*

Ato. Yosef 28 years whose task street educator from Ledeta sub-city, Child and Youth Club, explained her contribution as *“Our office work on female street children by giving awareness trainings related to reproductive health, sexual transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS and substance abuse.”* He explained his experience in the street as *“Most female street children experience unsafe sex, they don’t mind sex without condom or they may be forced to do it without it by strangers.”* His experience as street educator showed as that there are challenges in solving their problems, *“Most of the time female street children don’t want to take training, rather they need money for bad things like chewing Chat, smoking cigarette and drinking alcohol. They assume street is a place where they can do whatever they want to do.”* She told the researcher her case related with this situation, *“For example I know a girl who engaged in activities that her families don’t like. She started affiliation with a boy in her village neglecting her education. At the end of the day, she became pregnant. Eventually, she made the street her place to live as their parents disagree and abandoned her.”*

The researcher also contacted a local NGO known as ‘Nebabite’ Association that works for help street children. Ato. Ermias, 27 years old, who was responsible for the office, told the researcher as *“The association depends on community based support. We provide whatever resource collected from the community.”*

Mrs. Assefu, 38, was from a legal office and she explained her office contribution as *“we have no special protection for female street children but if they come to our office we give them legal protection as any citizen.”* she explained the challenge to help street children in general and female street children in particular *“Most street female children do not inform their problem immediately, then we can’t find any evidence properly and it is difficult to help them.”*

The researcher also tried to contact Child and Youth Office. Solomon, 25 years old, responsible for the office told the office's contribution in related to female Street children said that *“Whenever female street children come to our office with problem of abuse or otherwise, we lead to them to legal office. But we tried to advise & reassure them. We can't able to give them money, because we don't have budget for this purpose.”*

CHAPTER FIVE

V. DISCUSSION

The study showed that poverty (low income background) is the main cause of street life. After joining the streets, female street children are at high risk of sexual and physical abuse by strangers. The result also showed that to overcome these problems, they have different coping strategies, most of them are risky, explained by unsafe sex, unsafe food & living environment. It was also found that the support from stakeholders was very minimal.

5.1 Reasons to Join street life

Findings from this study show that many of the pressures forcing female street children to leave their families are due to economic conditions and their family dynamics. Once they join the street, female street children have a variety of survival strategies. This study also showed that female street children have different kinds of problems, among other things, sexual abuse is the most significant one. This is due to their vulnerability to sex perpetrators while they live and work on the street. The study also showed that female street children solve variety of problems by their own method and strategy just to survive the street life environment.

This and many other studies confirm that female street children come from desperate, chaotic and poor families. Reasons related to the issue of familial environments or adverse family situation such as poor household economic conditions, domestic violence (sexual, physical and psychological), family breakdown due to divorce and death of one or both biological parents were the leading reasons for girls leaving home and school. Not to blame the girl child, behavioral disorder of the girl like being drug addicted and peer pressure were also documented as reasons for girls to escort street way of life. Rural urban migration and trafficking were the other important reasons for female children leaving home to street.

Female street children come to the street to live or to work because of the breakdown of their biological parents. In a situation where there are no parents for better control and nurturing of their children, it is obvious that girl child are at high risk of getting into violence and to go into the street life for various reasons which include helping other family member or to help themselves for food, shelter and educational fee. If we look at an informant who lives with her uncle after her biological parents divorced, it is clear that she exposed to street life after her uncle raped her. Had her parents been living together, the girl may not be raped and may not start living on the street. Thus, it seems that non-parental upbringing might also create problem to girl children to be sexually, physically and psychologically abused and eventually make the girl child susceptible to street way of life. Therefore, different problems arising from family environment are the principal factors for girls to initiate or forced to resort a street life.

Desire to seek freedom outside parental control may initiate the girl children to join the street way of life with a wrong idea that the street is a place where they get freedom and excitement. Here, it can be said that one of the contributing factors for girls to be exposed to street way of life is behavioral problems of the girl child which in turn initiate the girl child to choose the street than home and school to get freedom and excitement.

It was also briefly indicated by street educators that quarrel between the girl child and family members is one of contributing factor that make girls at high risk to start a street way of life. The street educator said that it is common to find girls on the street due to some sort of disagreement/conflict between the girl and family members. The girl may quarrel with her mother, father or member of her family due to various reasons. She usually runs away from home being scared of beating and other problems whenever she clash with her families. Girls are also more likely to join street way of life as a result of the influence from friends. Pressures exerted by friends on girls initiate or encourage them to engage on street way of life that is exacerbated by poverty, violence and conflict in the family. Thus, peer influence can be seen as a contributing cause for the incidence of more girls on the street.

Some girls pointed out that what their community practiced as a tradition, besides to violence and poverty in their family, forced them to resort street way of life. They mentioned that some harmful cultural practices in their community put them in danger and exposed them to many

problems in their life. In addition to social, health, physical and psychological problems such harmful practices created in their lifespan, it also makes girls to live on the street of urban areas.

Cultural practices by community are harmful traditional practice in general or early marriage in particular in such a way that girls leave their village to escape such practice. As such harmful practice has negative consequences, girls forced to leave their families and their place of origin that make their lives at risk of exposing street life. They migrated to urban cities to escape from such harmful traditional practices. Moreover, what some informants from rural background mentioned clearly shows that sometimes girls come to Addis Ababa in general and other urban cities in particular with the promise of education and good employment opportunity by various groups of their community. They migrate from rural part to urban cities by families, relatives and friends for work in homes, hotels and restaurants as a child laborer. They move to urban cities with the promise of better education, food, and other necessities and due to family abuse, family disintegration, and poverty.

Female street girls come onto streets because of family disintegration, violence in their family and their community, to avoid harmful traditional practices like early marriage, poverty in their family and child trafficking for domestic work, among others. But, they sometimes end up in the street way of life as they face difficulties to cope up in urban areas. Thus, from the former information it can be understood that girls migrate from their place of origin to urban areas for employment and education, among others, by various group of the community they belong to. Hence, as the finding of this study revealed migration of girls from their place of origin to urban areas like Addis Ababa forced them to join street life. Though the factors that lead girls to street life are interrelated, the finding of this study indicate that migration of girls from their place of origin to urban area, like Addis Ababa, is attributed to the cause related to practice in their community. As the data show girls exposed to street way of life because of migration initiated through child trafficking and run away to escape early marriage as the prominent factors for girls to move to urban areas in the study area. Having seen about female street children activities on the street and the many causes that lead these girls to the street way of life, it is important to point out the risk involved in living and working on the street among female street children. Accordingly, the information from almost all informants in this study shows that living and

working in the street is highly risky. They affirmed that they encountered various problems in the street by different group of people while they are living and working.

5.2 Problems of Female Street Children

Female street girls reported that they have a variety of problems in their street life. Among the reported problems in the street female street children face, it was clear from the data that they are exposed to physical, sexual and psychological abuse and denied access for education, shelter, nutrition etc that are vital for life. Moreover, some informants revealed that they are without parental protection and exposed to bad weather conditions, health problems, drug abuse, accidents and societal discrimination. However, it is very crucial to note the fact that despite they have encountered a lot of problem on the street, female children who are living and working are particularly victim of various forms of sexual abuse by various group of the society.

By and large, the findings of this study denote that the problem of sexual abuse exists in the target area among girls who are living and working on the street. Female street children were victims of various forms of sexual abuse by diverse people while they were on the street due to different causes. As a consequence of their involvement on street life and as they have little or no security, they are more vulnerable to various forms of sexual abuse. The study find out that female street children are more likely to join street or to leave their home due to sexual, physical and psychological violence at home. They choose street life as the alternative to various forms violence at home by older member of the family. Similar to what has been mentioned here with regard to the existence of different forms of sexual abuse among girls who are working and living on the streets, in the UN expert group meeting on Adolescent Girls and their rights held in Addis Ababa Silva said that as being on the streets make the children more vulnerable to many risks, but for girls, the additional risk of being sexually exploited, both by adults and their peers as well as being vulnerable to police abuse, is very real. Because of the very nature of their existence on the streets, girls are at greater risk to many forms of sexual abuse and exploitation (Silva, 1997: 5).

Female street children are helpless and they are usually coerced. They are particularly vulnerable to adult exploitation, and sell their body to various clients. Some use their car, other use hotels,

street and their own room to exploit girls. On the other hand, as some 'on' female street children affirmed they sometimes engaged in prostitution depends on the economic status of their clients. A number of these girls affirmed that it is the money they earn will determine whether they practice commercial sex or not. Most of these girls stay the night with their parents, relatives or siblings in their home which in turn implies they are not engaged in prostitution at night. However, the finding of this study showed these girls are also exposed to prostitution while they are working on the street. They are vulnerable to adult exploitation, and sell their body to various individuals.

Despite the fact that 'of' female street children are more victims of rape, the data showed that 'on' female street children also are vulnerable and victims of forced sex. These girls stay on the street for various activities most of the day time and often go back home to sleep in the evening time. Although they are safe from problems during night on the street, they are vulnerable to sexual abuse to the extent that some girls became victim of rape while working most of the day time. They are exposed to unsafe sex with various groups of men through force, fraud and fear. As a result female street children develop and feel various psychological consequences including suicidal wish, worried of HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancy, hopelessness and feel unworthy (low self esteem), being unhappy, depression, blame themselves for the happening, feel angry and shame (feel guiltiness), hate and fear of other gender and anxiety. According to de Oliveira, sexual abuse and exploitation is listed first among the many problems to which female street children encountered.

Thus, there is a high risk of becoming victims of physical, sexual and psychological abuses, STD, promiscuity, early pregnancy and sexual exploitation. Due to various risk factors female street children are vulnerable to various forms of sexual abuse (de Oliveira, 2000).

Accordingly, the data shows that both 'on' and 'of' street girls often used combination of two or more techniques of coping strategies from different problems at different times. These include limiting mobility, running and hiding, seeking protection from passer-by, giving coins and some materials. Moreover, according to street girls who join street life are sure to be raped by street gang or bigger boys living on the street. From their day to day activities and from their past living experience on street, in order to protect themselves from different individual as well as

gang rape, female street children would be the girl friend of one of the bigger boys living on the street. But, most new comers are having the chance to be raped before settling with one boyfriend. This implies that girls make choice to stick to one boy on the street as a mechanism or strategy in order to keep her from rape and other problems.

5.3 Survival and problem Solving Strategies

Survival strategies of female street children in this study showed that are engaged in different activities for obtaining income to help themselves and their family for food, shelter and other basic necessities for life. These are obtained through various activities either by staying in one place around the streets. These activities include selling of items such as roasted cereals ‘kollo, boiled eggs, ‘injera’, and other vegetables in small local market places. Other activities include selling napkins, peanuts, cigarettes, chewing gum, shoe shining, changing coins into ‘birr’ note for taxis, begging and prostitution, among others, are reported as the most activities performed by informants in the target area. Female street children being alone or with groups, usually target people for begging in cafes, in the hotels, or on street corners where they approach drivers stopped at traffic lights.

Even though some street children can usually get enough to eat, they do not have nutritious diets. This is because they eat food cooked and handled in poor hygienic conditions such as ‘Sanbusa’ and bread with tea. Fifty percent of them ate leftovers (‘bulie’) from restaurants and hotels, but they have to pay for it sometimes, while 49 % simply begging to get their food. As a result they are exposed to infectious diseases such as diarrhea and other communicable diseases. From the finding it is anticipated that the observed low income forced street children to eat or buy leftover or food cooked and handled in poor hygienic conditions. Street adults thought that the feeding habits of street children might have exposed them to various kinds of food borne diseases. This fact shows that street children lack access to their basic need, food.

Shifting one job to the other or doing different jobs simultaneously indicates that female street children are obliged to do different jobs to get more money for themselves or for their family. In order to fulfill their basic needs and to help their families, they are also engaged in sexually abusive conditions like prostitution. Here, it is vital to note that the type of work/activities female

Street children perform on the street varies based on their street status. The information gathered from informants in from selected places of Addis Ababa showed that the activities/work female street children are engaged depends upon their status on the street which can be categorized in to 'on the street' and 'of the street' children. In this particular study, there are informants who are categorized under 'on the street children' and informants who categorized under 'off street children'. This means that members of the first group have families and/or relatives in their home and return home during night to sleep after working on the street during the day time. But, it does not mean that all female street children go back home during the night.

Female children 'of' street are those girls who consider the street to be their home. They choose the street to live and to work all the time even if some of them had alternatives to stay in relative's home and some organization. From the above discussion we can understand that distinction of female street children being 'on' and 'of' determines the type of activities/work they perform on the street to some extent. For example, most 'of' female street children are engaged in begging and prostitution while selling petty items are performed by 'on' female street children although they are also engaged in sexually abusive conditions like prostitution. Therefore, from the prior discussions one can understand that female street children activities to earn money make them vulnerable and victims of sexual abuse like prostitution.

It is found that there exist street children groups among girls, boys or both while living and working. Being a member of the group female street children help each other, share some materials and perform various activities. However, female street children are not safe from various forms of sexual abuse in their groups. Boy street children often abuse and exploit street girls sexually. Female street children being alone or with groups target people in cafes, in the hotels, or on street corners where they approach drivers stopped at traffic lights for begging and prostitution.

In this study, it is clear that living and working on the street is highly risky. Female street children are vulnerable and victims of physical, sexual, psychological abuses, denied access for education, shelter, nutrition etc exposed to bad weather conditions, health problems, drug abuse, accidents, lack of parental protection/support and societal discrimination while living and

working on the street. However, various forms of sexual abuse against street girls were reported as the major problem by different group of people.

From the above survey data and testimonies from informants it becomes clear that psychological ramifications are among the atrocious effects of varied forms of sexual abuse among female street children in this study. As the findings of the study clearly show that sexually abused girl children who are living and working on the street develop and feel various psychological consequences including suicidal wish, worried of HIV/AIDS, hopelessness and feel unworthy (low self esteem), being unhappy, depression, blame themselves for the happening, feel angry and shame (feel guiltiness), hate and fear of other gender and anxiety. Moreover, it was identified that victim children were experienced sleeping and eating problem, become drug and alcohol addicted and develop promiscuous sexual behavior.

The majority of the in depth interviewees felt that child sexual abuse was caused by poverty of perpetrators. Others mentioned psychological problems of perpetrators as an excuse. Still others attribute it to power imbalance while very few guess that perpetrators themselves were victims of abuse. The vast majority of the in depth interviewees and focus group discussants, said that child sexual abuse can be stopped if offenders were jailed or punished severely, others said children should be educated about how to deal with perpetrators.

As most of the street children were adolescents, the majority of them were sexually active. This may put them at a high risk sexual and physical abuse. One female street child informed the researcher she was suffering from gonorrhoea. Sexual and reproductive health problems affect both girls and boys. However, street girls are more vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse and exploitation.

5.4. Stakeholders' Role in Mitigating the Problems of Female Street Children

The key-informant interview with five stakeholders that are direct or indirect contribution by working with female street children showed that the role played by some stakeholders is not tangible though some exercise in immediate and long term needs. Stakeholders in this context

are those governmental and non-governmental organizations that have direct or indirect contribution to assist street children in one way or otherwise. Some claim that they have no special protection for this group of vulnerable children. Others are limited to awareness and training. There is no comprehensive package of problem solving strategies in most of the stakeholders.

Stakeholders are supposed to solve the problems of female street children in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. The involvement of some stakeholders in solving long term needs by training & in the making of Cobble stone should be encouraged and should include and motivate other who doesn't want to involve in one way or otherwise. The efforts of stakeholders in the socio-economic development and the alleviation of poverty are not undervalued. However, the impact they brought on the living standards of the female street children should be significant compared with the amount of money incurred for specific projects to help street children. There are still more female children suffering from hunger, more in unfavorable conditions and many more living on the streets.

Development projects that affect the poor from disparate social cultural backgrounds have to be implemented in a well coordinated manner involving various actors and institutions. It is expected that each of the concerned institutions should deal with issues in accordance with their mandate, area jurisdiction and competency. In order for this to be realized, there is need to have in place a coherent policy framework for coordination of development projects. Kotzé (1997, P.30) describes coordination as a management tool that helps to bring stakeholders together and concentrate resources on common development objectives to achieve desired results. Coordination according to Kotzé (1997, P. 30) facilitates the permeation of resources to lower segments of society so as to make a meaningful change with local and affected institutions concerting their efforts and actions to ensure that the resources and actions of institutions are for the good of the targeted groups. Kotzé (1997, P.30) links coordination to decentralization as the latter can only be realized if institutions are well coordinated with one another. The two facilitate increased participation of local people in development and inculcates a sense of ownership of development projects.

CHAPTER SIX

VI. CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY

6.1 Conclusion

Female street children have a variety of reasons for their being in the street. The root cause, however, is related to poverty. For the larger number of street children, the underlying and basic factor pushing them onto the streets life in the increasing number of families surviving under extreme poverty and strained family relationships. Besides, some cases showed that children move to the streets by making rational choices. Female street children are unprotected highly vulnerable to exploitation rape and unsafe sex, different kinds of infectious and chronic diseases. Their lives on the streets leave them with few opportunities to access basic needs like food, shelter, education and basic health services.

It was revealed from the finding that, although female street children are physically visible, living and working on the roads and streets of Addis Ababa, at the sometimes, they are among the most invisible. Therefore, they are denied of their access to basic services, such as education and health care, and the most difficult to protect. Female street children who work and live on the streets of Addis Ababa are found to be vulnerable to wide and extreme violations of their rights. They are verbally, physically and sexually abused by their family members, relatives, and by strangers.

The efforts of stakeholders in the socio-economic development and the alleviation of poverty in Addis Ababa are not undervalued. However, the impact they brought on the living standards of the female street children is not that much significant compared with the amount of money incurred for specific projects to help street children. There are still more female children suffering from hunger, more in unfavorable conditions and many more living on the streets of Addis Ababa.

Injuries, physical and mental abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation are some of the problems female street children facing in the street life. However they have the right to a standard of living adequate for the physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development including the right to food, clothing, housing, medical care and social services. Factors like poor access to education, poor health care, war, displacement, HIV/AIDS, family break-up and severe poverty increase the vulnerability of children to human rights abuses (ILO/IPEC, 2001). It is therefore important to recognize the interrelatedness and indivisibility of all rights to the human dignity of the child (Schmidt, A., 2003).

6.2. Implication to Policy and Social Work Practice

The findings of this study provide useful insights on the lives of children who live and work on the streets without the support of their families. Although the majority of the children adapt positively to the conditions of street life, a small minority, for reasons that have yet to be explored, use maladaptive mechanisms to cope with the stresses of street life. Clearly, children expressed their desire to be reunited with their families, especially with those members who were emotionally close to them. Abuse, domestic violence and family disintegration are also among the most commonly cited factors that push female children onto streets. Thus any intervention must look for possibilities of maintaining harmony and stability within the family by encouraging processes which foster dialogue, love and affection rather than fights, conflicts, divorce and separation.

Socioeconomic deprivation and/or the intolerable family relationships at home were often cited as major reasons for their unwillingness to return home. The need for nurturing emotional relationships with family members may be reflected in the connections that children seek with substitute families on the street. For most children, the support of their friendship networks was crucial in finding food, work, shelter and medical care. The utilization of the services offered by nongovernmental agencies was also beneficial to the children in their need.

The results of this study make me believe that social work practice that focuses on personal experiences and on the personal commitment of a group or community represents a positive contribution to individual and social improvements. In today's reality this acquires a new

significance and importance, when we appreciate the continually emerging groups which, in some way, provide new approaches for care and the satisfaction of social needs and rights. These needs and rights have been not well addressed by different stakeholders and the problem of female street children has not been the responsibility of one or the other social sector. As a result, this study is important as far as policy formulation and intervention strategies are concerned. It help to identify female street children with difficult circumstances and in distress, where they come from, how they survive and their source of strength, all of which social and economic planners to devices better support systems.

While reducing the increasing number of female street children may be a long-term priority, in the meantime, strategies which help to meet the immediate needs and priorities of female street children are necessary. The urgent basic needs and priorities of these female street children include proper and reliable accommodation (shelter), assurance of good food, security (protection) and provision of medical and health care, both physical and mental. The study revealed that these needs are important and urgent.

Long-term polices must therefore aim at fixing the system rather than fixing these children. As Knaul (1995) has argued, normative categorization of female street children are useful in so far as they stress the need to develop tailored programs for particular groups of female street children at high risk. This study has noted the existence of many female street children on streets of the city of Addis Ababa exposed to a variety of problems. Policies must distinguish between demeaning sources of income which jeopardize female street children development like begging, scavenging, prostitution, and those sources that are socially acceptable, like selling small items for subsistence, cleaning etc. Long-term programs must be community based. Community based approaches are bound to provide better alternatives to present strategy of institutionalizing children in rehabilitation centers where they are given food, shelter and education. There is a need for communities to become facilitators in the children's priorities and needs. This approach can also address the disadvantages parents and communities experience in a wider socio-economic framework. Accordingly, the long-term strategy of solving the problem on female child streetism requires addressing the root causes of poverty (poverty reduction).Strong efforts should be taken to increase access to food, clothes, shelter, education, health, and caring family environment. NGOs should support the government's efforts to provide free education to all.

Stakeholders should work on issues around sexual health, street based counseling, first aid and personal health and hygiene advice, education and where street children can practically access this basic right. Female street children also demanded education and training in productive skills. Lack of this education puts them in more hopeless situation. The researcher learned that female street children have assertion, they know the means through which their life can be improved but they lack the ability to achieve those means. Concerned government departments and NGOs should enhance job opportunities like cobblestone work for female street children and increase children's creativity by providing training. Concerned government departments and NGOs should work on reunification of female street children with their families. The city administration and NGOs working on child rights and welfare should give due attention to children's views in all matters that concern them; establish female street children's forum at the city level and allow children to consult with government officials to address their needs and problems.

From the finding it was learned that street children are mainly products of poverty and social network instability. Accordingly, street children are conceptualized as passive victims of the circumstances to which they were born. Further research should be directed to understand the pressing question of why, while facing apparently similar socio-economic conditions, do some female street children maintain links with their families whereas others swap their home for the street.

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ANNEXES

Annex I. Quantitative survey questionnaire for Street Children

I. Socio-demographic Conditions

1. Age _____ years
2. Parents condition
A) Both Alive b) Mother alive C) Father D) Both Dead
3. Age of Parents
A. Mother _____
B. Father _____
4. Parents Marital status
A. Married _____ C. Widowed
B. Divorced _____ D. Single
5. Own Religion
A. Christian B. Muslim C. Other
6. Parents Educational status
Father A. Illiterate B. Primary level C. Secondary level D. Tertiary level
Mother A. Illiterate B. Primary level C. Secondary level D. Tertiary level
7. Parents Occupation
Father A. Daily Laborer B Employer C. Self D. unemployment E. Other
Mother B. Daily Laborer B Employer C. Self D. unemployment E. Other
8. Original Place of the respondents

9. Parents House
A. Own B. Rent C. Other

II. Reason for being street children

1. How long you stay on the Street? _____

2. Why do you join the street life? _____

II. Living Condition

1. What is your source of food _____?
2. How many meals you eat per day _____
3. What is your source of clothes _____
4. Do you have Shelter? a. Yes b. No
5. Do you have job? a. Yes b. No
6. Did you go to School?
 - a. Yes b. No
 - 6.1. If yes what Grade? _____
 - 6.2. If you go to school have you ever been school dropout? a). Yes b). No
 - 6.3. If No, reason for not going to school _____

III. Problems on the street life

1. Have you ever got any sickness? a) Yes b) No
 - 6.1. If yes, type of sickness _____
2. Have you got any Injury a) Yes b) No
 - 7.1. If yes, type injury _____
3. Have you ever had any sexual abuse a) Yes b) No
 - 8.1. If yes, type of physical abuse _____
4. Have you ever been pregnant a) Yes b) No
 - 9.1. If yes, what was the outcome? a) got birth b) aborted c) other
5. Have you ever been in prison? a). Yes b). No

IV. Coping strategies

1. If you have any of the above problems, how did you solve your problem?
 - a. By my self
 - b. Government organization helped me
 - c. Non Government organizations helped me
 - d. Relatives organization helped me
 - e. My friends helped me
 - f. Parents organization helped me

Annex II: Qualitative Data Information Gathering

A. Focus group discussion guideline for female street children

1. What did you know of life on the streets before you left home?
2. Why and how do you join to the street?
3. How do you explain life on the street?
4. Do you want to stay on the streets?
5. What do you hope to do in the future?
6. What do you think NGOs and government should do to help Female Street children? (Shelter, food, education, health, facilitate reunification...)

B. In-depth interview guideline for female street children

This part consists of unstructured questions asked to a group of female street children aged 14-

17. The purpose was to get as much qualitatively detailed information as possible by allowing subjects to express and state their views freely and openly.

1. Why do you join to street?
2. What are the major problems that you currently encounter in your day to day street life?
3. Have you ever had sexual intercourse? If yes, who was your sexual encounter and what was the main motive during the first sexual intercourse?
4. What kind of possible coping strategies / problem solving do you use whenever you encounter problem on the street; explain.

C. Key informant interview guideline for stakeholders

This part consists of unstructured questions asked to a group of stakeholders who provide care and support for female street children

1. What are your contributions whenever you get female street children with a problem?
2. What are risk reducing ways to avoid problems on the street?
3. What challenges have you faced in the effort of supporting female street children?
4. What do you think should be done to reduce the problem of female street children?

Annex III: Profile of qualitative study participants

A. Profile of Focus Group Discussion study participants

FGD 1 Merkato

No	Name of participants	Age	Venue	Status
1	Alemetu	16	Merkato	Of
2	Tesahy	15	Merkato	On
3	Abebech	16	Merkato	Of
4	Fantashe	16	Merkato	Of
5	Kasech	17	Merkato	Of
6	Eteneshe	17	Merkato	On

FGD 2 Mexico

No	Name of participants	Age	Venue	Status
1	Slamawit	14	Mexico	'Of' street
2	Ayelech	15	Mexico	'Of' street
3	Beletu	14	Mexico	'On' street
4	Haymanot	16	Mexico	'Of' street
5	Amelework	17	Mexico	'On' street
6	Bertukan	16	Mexico	'Of' street

FGD 3 Pissa

No	Name of participants	Age	Venue	Status
1	Semeret	17	Paisa	'Of' street
2	Tigist	17	Paisa	'On' street
3	Marta	14	Paisa	'On' street
4	Meseret	14	Paisa	'On' street
5	Abebech	15	Paisa	'Of' street
6	Zenash	15	Paisa	'Of' street

B. Profile of In-depth interviewers study participants

No	Name of informants	Age	Street status	Place of origin	Venue	Date/Time
1	Etagegn	15	'On' street	Addis Ababa	Piassa area	Nov 17, 2011, 10.00 am
2	Mahelate	17	'On' street	Addis Ababa	Mexico area	Nov 17, 2011 10.30 am
3	Aberash	17	On' street	Addis Ababa	Mexico area	Nov 17, 2011 , 11.15 am
4	Genet	17	'Of' street	Diredawa	Piassa area	Nov 19, 2011, 02.00 pm
5	Tarik	17	'On' Street	Addis Ababa	Piassa area	Nov 19, 2011, 02.30 pm
6	Mestawet	16	'On' Street	Addis Ababa	Piassa area	Nov 19, 2011, 02.50 pm
7	Hirut	16	'Of' street	Nazerate	Piassa area	Nov 19, 2011, 03.30 pm
8	Aster	15	'Of' street	Addis Ababa	Piassa area	Nov 19, 2011, 04.00 pm
9	Serkalem	16	'Of' street	Mersa, Wello	Piassa area	Nov 19, 2011, 04.45 pm
10	Emebet	15	'Of' street	Enjibara, Gojam	Bole area	Nov 19, 2011, 06.00

C. Profile of key-informant interviewers study participants

6	4		5 1	7 9 0 4 5 0	6 0 0 0 6 5
	0 6 10 5		0 0 5 1	6 1 9 0 3 0 9 10	4 0 5 0 10 0 9 0 6 9
	0 6 6 10		0 0 5 1	0 3 5 6 1 0 3	0 9 1 0 6 9
	0 6 9 4 0 10		0 0 5 0 6 9 10 5 6 1 0 10 10 6 0 0 6 5 		6 9 4 9
	0 6 6 3 6 4 6 5		0 0 5 10 1	0 3 0 6 0 0	4 0 5 10 0 9 0 6 9
	0 6 10 1		0 0 5 10 1	3 6 0 0	3 5 9

Annex IV. Consent form

Hello! My name is Sebelewongel Yitbarik. I am MSW student in Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in collaboration with Saint Mary University College. I am doing a research on “Problems and survival strategies of Female street children.” The purpose of this study is to assess your problems and come up with possible solutions.

I have identified you as a study participant hoping that you would be willing to help provide me with some information. I have some questions which I would like to ask you, if you have the time and are willing. The questionnaires include why you are here, how you live in the street, what problems you have faced being here, how you solve these problems and whether there is some organization that is taking care of you. All information you provide was kept confidential. I will not include any identifiers, such as your name or address. Only honest answers would contribute to solve your problem. Your role in the success of the research is important and I appreciate your contribution to the research. You can withdraw at any time during the interview if you feel uncomfortable. Do you agree to take part in the above research study?

Yes.

No