



ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

STREET CHILDREN: EXPLORING FOSTER CARE SERVICE OF BETHANY

CHRISTIAN SERVICES IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

BY

TSEDAY ABEBE DAMESSA

**DECEMBER 2020
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

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**A THESIS PAPER SUBMITTED TO ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY
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MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK**

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**DECEMBER 2020
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

DECLARATION

I, Tseday Abebe Damessa, declare that this work is my original paper which is entitled “Street Children: Exploring Foster Care Service of Bethany Christian Services in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia” and has not been presented for a degree in any other university and that all sources of materials used for the thesis paper have been duly acknowledged.

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St. Mary`s University, Addis Ababa

December 2020

ENDORESEMENT

This thesis has been submitted to St. Mary's University, School of Graduate Studies for examination with my approval as a university advisor.

Advisor

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December 2020

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ACRONYMS

ACRWC: The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

BCS: Bethany Christian Services

FBO: Faith Based Organization

IDC: Italian Development Cooperation

MoLSA: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

UNCRC: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

ABSTRACT

This study tries to show the overall fostering process in the case of Bethany Christian Services. The objectives of this research were broken down into specific research questions (RQs), which focus on the foster families and the overall process of the organization. The study targeted a total of 28 respondents. 28 of them were the foster families in the year 2020, and the other was a person representing the organization. A questioner was given for the foster families with only 20 response and the interview was done with the representative assigned from the organization. This contributed to 71.4% response rate. To accomplish the objectives, the study employed qualitative research approaches, descriptive and exploratory research design. Both primary and secondary data types were used to collect data. This study tried to see the gap in different interventions that has been introduced to reduce the number of street children and how foster care can be the next best step in child welfare. In conclusion the study supports foster care as prevention before children goes on the street. The study also does not imply that fostering is a final solution as that will also have another challenge that comes with it; it rather offers an alternative view of solution and a new policy framework that may need to be developed that can involve the citizens to participate and share responsibility with the government officially.

Key words: foster care, children, childcare, Bethany Christian Services

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1. Background of the Study

A recent report by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs places the number of homeless people in Addis Ababa at around 24,000 in 2018; approximately 10,500 street children and 13,500 homeless adults. This figure is based on estimates solicited by the researchers of the report during interviews and focus groups with sub-city officials, community members, and a small number of NGOs (UNICEF briefing note, 2018). When we see children on the streets, we think of the country's child welfare system. The Ministry of Women Affairs is the main government ministry charged with children's issues, it is responsible for general oversight, supervision, and ensuring that children placed in alternative living arrangements receive quality care. Immediately after the 1984 famine there were several governmental and non-governmental institutions that cared for unaccompanied children but due to the recent Ethiopian government's guidance to discourage institutionalization of children there was a standardized regulatory mechanism (Alternative Childcare Guidelines) developed in 2001. This was made possible by a joint undertaking of the MoLSA and the IDC, as part of the interventions to alleviate the problems of children under difficult circumstances in the country. Accordingly, the national Guidelines consisting of services on institutional care, community-based child support programs, adoption, foster-care and child-family reunification were developed (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ministry of Women's Affairs Addis Ababa, 2009). As per the Ethiopian Childcare Guideline hierarchy, foster care is found on the third level. The first is the right for a child to receive the appropriate love and care from his/her birth family for the child's

happiness, security, mental health, and emotional development into young adulthood. If that is not possible then the second-best choice is for the child to grow up with their blood related relatives which is called kinship care. If these two options are not available, then the child have the right to have families who are willing to protect and care for him/her as if their own child.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

If you are a resident of Addis Ababa, there is no doubt you have witnessed the increase in the number of children living on the streets. The children have become such a main stay of the streets of the capital, they have almost become an acceptable part of city life. Over time our opinions regarding them have morphed from seeing them as only poor and abandoned children into seeing them as criminals; we now know to hold on to our bags or our phones tighter when they are in our immediate proximity or roll up our car windows when we stop at a traffic light. The saddest truth is we have come to accept it.

The constitution of the federal democratic republic of Ethiopia corporate a law for child right under article 36, subsection 1 stating every child has the right:

- A. To life.
- B. To a name and nationality.
- C. To know and be cared for by his or her parents or legal guardians.
- D. Not to be subject to exploitative practices, neither to be required nor

permitted to perform work which may be hazardous or harmful to his or her education, health, or well-being.

- E. To be free of corporal punishment or cruel and inhumane treatment in

schools and other institutions are responsible for the care of children. Despite the constitution most children flee from home because of abuse, poverty and the guardian being unable to take care of them. This is the type of problems it can be prevented before the children leave to the streets. In a lot of cases, institutionalization has been the number one choice by the government and non-governmental sectors such as different NGO's, faith-based organizations, and wealthy individuals. It usually involves providing them food, medicine, clothing, and hygiene for ameliorating the lives of these children and these interventions proved to be unsatisfactory. Because of the vastness of the problem outweighing the individual efforts of Ngo's and the government the need for alternative childcare programs have been developed and adopted and one of which this study focuses on is the introduction of foster care.

Foster care can provide temporary as well as permanent solution (if it leads to adoption) to the problems of this children by providing them a safe home, a loving family and security. When Ethiopian Parliament passed new legislation banning Inter-country adoption on January 9, 2018 it lead domestic alternatives to be the last chance for the child to get alternative care, this has enlarged the need for the participation of the society now more than ever in order to help these children in need. It is important to give a child the opportunity to develop healthy emotional intimacy, trust, self-esteem, and the opportunity to learn valuable life skills.

According to Habtamu (2004) his study done in Adama showed that there are limitations in the family foster care process starting from recruitment of families. The recruitment process is time taking, and have the potential to cause some unintended outcomes. The knowledge of fostering by foster parents have also some limitations in addressing child lose and ambiguity, and child's social and emotional problems. The findings also indicate that foster parents have a negative

feeling towards the birth families, child reunification, and permanency which questioned the practice of parents in achieving the best interest of the child.

The main focus of this research is to answer the question how BCS maneuver the process of foster care, how it can close the gap that the old fashion child care system could not and how it can be integrated to help street children. The study also tries to emphasize on the important role that the involvement of foster families plays in changing the lives of vulnerable children.

1.2. Research Questions

- How does fostering work in the case of BCS?
- The impact of foster care in decreasing the number of street children.

1.3. Objective of the Study

1.3.1. General Objective of the Research

The overall objective of this study is to familiarize the concept of foster care and how it can be used to provide a safe and stable environment for the vulnerable children and how it can change their lives.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives of the Research

The study attempted in its investigation:

- To understand how fostering works in Bethany Christian Services.
- How impact full it is in decreasing the number of street children.

1.4. Significance of the Study

Social Work is primarily practice-oriented. Social work practice includes interventions with various sections of the population, especially the marginalized sections, who are more in need. Intervention like social work practice in hospital settings, social work practice in community settings, social work practice with the disabled, women-centric social work, social work practice with notified and de-notified tribes, etc. Social workers are also advocates, they are the voice to the voiceless. As Social Work education and training is wide in its scope and captures different areas of social work practice, there is no specific focus on street children in its curriculum and pedagogy. However, different fields of specialization in Social Work, such as ‘criminology and justice’ and ‘family and child welfare’, do capture certain aspects of the problem of street children and recognize the importance of intervening with them (Claude 2018). The result of the study will help create awareness about one part of the child welfare system that is foster care, it tries to show how it is conducted in the set of BCS and what can be done to provide a clear view for citizens. It shows the importance of how providing an environment closer to having a family and a support system could be beneficiary for the foster families in the area of doing their duty as a citizen. It also helps to have an alternative way to deal with the problem of street children that is increasing in an alarming rate by showing how the participation of the citizens plays a significant role in prevention. It also provided information on what children’s face as a result of being outcasted and forgotten by the society and being institutionalized. Additionally, it can be used as a reference or base line for another research to be undertaken.

1.5. Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is limited to BCS office located in Addis Ababa around Carl roundabout. The nature of target population of the study comprises, willing clients of the agency. This clients

are the families that fostered children in the year 2020 and each volunteer of the study is asked to complete a short questionnaire comprised of 19 questions. The organization, which is represented by the temporary foster care services coordinator is interviewed in the office of BCS.

1.6. Limitation and Challenges of the Study

Limitation and challenges are part of any research, as the year 2020 proved to be a difficult year even more challenges were faced by the researcher while undertaking this study.

1.6.1. Limitation

Lack of prior research studies on foster caring in Ethiopia made it difficult to find reliable information on the extent to which foster caring is practiced by governmental and non-governmental organizations. Resources on the interventions used to ameliorate the lives of street children were limited. The limited number of organizations that work on foster caring was one of the limitations faced by the researcher. The unwillingness of agencies to answer calls, meet them face to face or allow the researcher to conduct a research on their agency made the research to be narrow and only limited to one organization.

1.6.2. Challenges

The case of Covid-19 made it difficult for participants to be willing for collection of data, to go to the agency and conduct interview.

The researcher was not able to interview children who are in foster care because of how young they are and Covid-19.

1.7. Definition of Terms

Foster Care - Temporary custody or guardianship for children whose parents are dead or unable to look after them. It means taking care of someone else's child in your own home. Sometimes a child cannot live with their own family, either on a short-term or long-term basis. This could be because of illness in the family, the death of a parent, neglect, abuse or violence in the home. Sometimes it can be because the parent or family is not coping. It is always the goal that a child placed in foster care will return to their own family as soon as they can, if possible.

Young people up to the age of 18 can be fostered.

Foster care is government-subsidized and -regulated temporary care for children who have been removed from their families for reasons of abuse and neglect. The goals of foster care are the health, safety, and permanency of children. Permanency is achieved by reunification with the birth family or through adoption. Reunification can be achieved by informal or formal placement with a relative (i.e., kinship care) or through independent living. The three main types of foster care that exist are family foster care, kinship care, and residential group care, and the term *foster care* is used for all three. There are about four times as many children in kinship care as are in family foster care. Kinship care includes care by relatives, neighbors, and friends. Kinship care may be informal placement with a relative or formal placement through legal guardianship or foster care placement. Informal arrangements or guardianship are not subsidized in this context in most states.

Child - A young human being below the age of puberty or below the legal age of majority which is 18 in Ethiopia's case.

FBO - An organization whose values are based on faith and/or beliefs, which has a mission based on social values of the particular faith, and which most often draws its activists (leaders, staff, volunteers) from a particular faith group.

Streetism - Is the term that refers to the life situations of street children who usually live in the streets and engage in menial income. These children experience homelessness, and they live on the streets of towns, cities, villages.

1.8. Organization of the Research

The research is organized in five chapters. Chapter One consists of the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, the research questions, significance of the study, scope of the Study, limitation of the Study, operational definition of terms and organization of the study.

Chapter Two consists of review of literature, both theoretical and empirical.

Chapter three consists of description of the study area, research design, population or universe, sampling, the sampling method, data collection tools, data analysis, reliability, validity and ethical consideration.

Chapter four consists data analysis and interpretation of findings.

Whereas chapter five consists of summary of findings & conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2. Introduction

This chapter determines the related literatures on the study of foster care so as to have an insight in to the research topic and briefly expose the readers to some of the major areas of the subject matter under consideration. The first section presents theoretical review of related literature about streetisim and foster care. The second section presents empirical literature review of the study, third section presents Synthesis of the review and the final section presents conceptual framework.

2.1. Theoretical Literature Review

2.1.1. Street Children

2.1.1.1. Definition

Many practitioners and policymakers use UNICEF's concept of street children stating “boys and girls, aged under 18 years, for whom "the street" (including unoccupied dwellings and wasteland) has become home and/or their source of livelihood, and who are inadequately protected or supervised. As per UNICEF the term street children have been defined in three types: Street-Living, Street-Working, and Street-Family. Children who may have lost their families through war or illness, or have been abandoned because they had become too much of a burden, or else ran away from their abusive, dysfunctional, poverty-stricken families and now live alone on the streets are referred as Street living children. Children from street families are children who live on the streets with their families, while street working children are children

who spend most of their time working in the streets and markets of cities, selling or begging, fending for themselves but returning home on a regular basis. They are sometimes referred to as market children (Street Children, The Prevalence, Abuse & Exploitation of Street Children).

2.1.1.2. Scope

On the e-journals of the international child and youth care network (CYC-Net, 2004) it is stated that homelessness is largely an urban phenomenon, yet children are homeless and living on the streets in every region of the world from developing countries to the most affluent countries. Latin America and India, for example, are known for their large populations of street children. There are an estimated 100 million children living on the streets worldwide with that number constantly growing. There are up to 40 million street children in Latin America, and at least 18 million in India. According to UN sources, the number of street children in Ethiopia as estimated by the government is a total of 150 to 200 thousand, with approximately 50 to 60 thousand street children in the capital (the guardian). A 2018 study conducted into the population of Ethiopia by the central statistical agency and UNICEF that is released on Jan 17, 2019, suggested almost 9 out of 10 children in Ethiopia are multi-dimensionally poor, meaning they are deprived of basic goods and services in at least three dimensions. In light of these numbers and accepting that Ethiopia is currently going through an economic metamorphosis, we can start to begin to understand why there is an increase in the number of street children. Children are drawn to the capital in an attempt to escape the trappings of rural poverty, but the capital offers them only street hustling and abuse as a means to survive.

2.1.1.3. Interventions

According to UNICEF's Child Notice Ethiopia 2018 Rapport reintegration services are provided by the Addis Ababa Bureau of Women and Children's Affairs in collaboration with the Addis Ababa Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs and NGOs. A total of 239 children living on the street were rounded-up on June 1, 2018 and admitted to the rehabilitation center run by Elshaday Relief and Development Association. the report added how the roundups take once every three or four months and the children go through a three months' rehabilitation and are then reunified and/or reintegrated back to their places of origin. Among the 35 Addis Ababa NGOs working on children's issues Retrack, Elshaday, MCDP, Child Cross Connection and Don Bosco work on providing shelter and rehabilitation of street children (UNICEF Ethiopia Child Notice Ethiopia, 2018). In 2019, with a 100-million-birr budget, Addis Ababa City Administration had launched a trust fund to provide shelter and basic needs for 50 thousand people living on the streets of the city. According to Deputy Mayor Takele Uma, the homeless will be sent to six centers set up in different parts of the capital. As most of such population floods from regional states into the capital, Takele said that part of the trust fund was launched with a 100 million birr will be utilized to curb the problem from its source (Addis Ababa Launches Trust Fund To Rehabilitate Street Children, 2019). This are recent programs implemented by the government. Different NGO's, faith-based organizations and wealthy individuals have also implemented different programs at different times for ameliorating the lives of these children. Adoption, reunification/reintegration, and institutional care are the most common interventions used by different governmental and non-governmental organizations, but the vastness of the problem outweighs their individual efforts in decreasing the number of children ending up on the street.

2.1.1.4. Foster Care as an Alternative Childcare

Institutionalization refers to an establishment founded by a governmental, nongovernmental, or faith-based organization to give care for unaccompanied children. A child care institution may also be referred to as an orphanage, children's home, or residential care (Improving Care Options for Children in Ethiopia through Understanding Institutional Child Care and Factors Driving Institutionalization, June 20: p25). the Ethiopian government has as per the Ethiopian Childcare Guideline hierarchy institutionalization or letting a child grow up in an orphanage must be the last option. Foster care is found on third level. The first is the right for a child to receive the appropriate love and care from their birth family for the child's happiness, security, mental health, and emotional development into young adulthood. If that is not possible then the second-best choice is for the child to grow up with their blood related relatives. If these two options are not available, then the child have the right to have families who are willing to protect and care for him/her as if their own child. Fostering is a way of providing a nurturing and safe environment for children when they are unable to live with their biological family (foster line). Foster care (also known as out-of-home care) is a temporary service provided by States for children who cannot live with their families. Foster care can also refer to placement settings such as group homes, residential care facilities, emergency shelters, and supervised independent living (Child Welfare Information Gateway <https://www.childwelfare.gov/>).

2.2. Empirical Literature Review

According to national public radio website, the article written by P.Eyder A New Ban On Foreign Adoptions Is About National Pride(2018) said “A Catholic nun who runs an orphanage but did not want her name used for fear of retribution from the government said she just hopes

the new policy(in the ban for inter country adoption) won't mean more children are left on the streets”.

According to mission network news, in their Expanding foster care changing Ethiopian communities by Lindsay Steele(2019) the Ethiopian government’s decision to end international adoption in 2018 has increased the need for native families to rise up and become home to the ever-growing number of children in orphanages.

All efforts to help children outside of parental care should be embedded in a framework that empowers children and that recognizes their agency, including their communal psychological autonomy, in which they base decisions on social relationships (Keller & Otto, 2011)

These studies have shown us how all the problems of this orphaned children and streetism have fallen in the hands of its residents. A large participation is very important in order to grow and function as a country. Foster families need some interventions by social workers and policy makers in order to enhance their knowledge and attitude towards foster care through the empowerment of families and adjustment of some legal frameworks.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3. Introduction

The chapter outlines the overall methodology that was used in the study. This includes, background of the organization, description of the study area, the research design, population of the study, sample size, sample frame methods, instruments of data collection, pilot study, instrument reliability, instrument validity and ethical considerations of the study.

3.1. Background of the Organization

In 1944, Marguerite Bonnema has accepted a little girl that was not loved and is threatened by her father to be killed. Marguerite and her friend and roommate Mary DeBoer received the child to live with them in their small apartment. But the two did not stop with one child. In the coming months, they took in five more babies, and that November, with the help of Andrew Vander Veer, they founded Bethany Christian Home as a nonprofit organization. The following year, the home moved to a residence on the 13-acre property in Grand Rapids, Michigan where Bethany's present headquarters now stand. Since 1944, Bethany has grown and developed not only into a well-known adoption agency, but a social services agency that serves and supports expectant parents, foster families, individuals and families in need of counseling, and struggling families and children who are in desperate need of even the most basic necessities. The agency has a heart for children and equips families to be the answer for children in need on five continents. The group estimates that there are over 150 million children worldwide who do not have permanent homes. During 2016 alone, Bethany Global was able to provide an impact for more than 84,000 children.

Bethany has worked to help children in Ethiopia since 2007. It run at three different regions Addis Ababa, Adama, and Hawassa. This project saw foster care as a temporary solution, an intermediary service that prepared to partake families for permanent adoption, through the promoted and new concept of non-relative adoption. The organization assists orphaned children to “find the love of a forever family,” within the context of trying to prevent orphan-hood by keeping families together. In addition, Bethany works with Christian families who are willing and able to become that forever family for orphaned or abandoned children. The foster-to-adopt program prepares and assists Christian families to care for a child – or a child and their siblings – on a foster care basis until the best permanent care solution for the child is clear. The hope is always for the reunification of the birth family where that is an option. Bethany has been utilizing the foster-to-adopt approach so successfully in Ethiopia that other NGOs are already beginning to develop their own programs based on the Bethany model. Officials from other nations are reaching out with invitations to Bethany to consider opening operations in their countries.

Child Placement by Year & Sex

Year	Placement		Total
	Male	Female	
2010	0	1	1
2011	10	13	23
2012	5	3	8
2013	6	9	15
2014	17	18	35
2015	14	21	35

2016	12	19	31
2017	18	19	37
2018	70	59	129
2019	90	84	174
Total	242	246	488

Bethany Christian Services started placing children in the year 2010, After that the numbers have been rather increasing, In the next year they were able to place 10 male and 13 females making it 23 children. Less number of child placement was recorded in 2012 and 2013 with only 8 (5 male and 3 female) and 15(6 male and 9 female) children, respectively. In the year 2014 and 2015 the same number that is 35 children were placed but the difference was in the number of male and female children placed. In 2014, 17 male and 18 females were placed and in 2015, 14 male and 21 females found their foster families. The year 2016 12 male and 19 females were placed making it a total of 31 children. The number of females stayed the same as last year in the year 2017 but the number of male children increased by 6 making it a total of 37 children that found a home. The next two years show a dramatic shift in the number of children that found a home and family from a 2-digit number to a 3-digit. In the year 2018, 129(70 male and 59 female) and in the year 2019, 174(90 male and 84 female) were placed with their foster families.

3.2. Research Approach and Design

This study uses qualitative research approach as it examines how foster care can be used as an intervention to decrease the number of children without care givers. Qualitative research, broadly defined, means "any kind of research that produces findings not arrived at by means of statistical procedures or other means of quantification" (Strauss and Corbin, 1990) and instead, the kind of

research that produces findings arrived from real-world settings where the "phenomenon of interest unfold naturally" (Patton, 2001).

Descriptive research design was used in this research, it is used to describe a phenomenon and its characteristics. This research is more concerned with what rather than how or why something has happened. Therefore, observation and survey tools are often used to gather data (Gall, Gall, & Borg, 2007). Exploratory research design was also used, it is usually conducted to have a better understanding of the existing problem, but usually doesn't lead to a conclusive result. Researchers use exploratory research when trying to gain familiarity with an existing phenomenon and acquire new insight into it to form a more precise problem. It begins based on a general idea and the outcomes of the research are used to find out related issues with the topic of the research(<https://www.formpl.us/blog/exploratory-research>).

3.3. Data Types and Data Sources

Both Primary and secondary data type were used to collect data for the study. Questionnaires and interviews were used as primary data sources while document review was used as secondary data source. The primary and secondary sources helped to triangulate data from different perspectives regarding the research problem. The secondary sources of information used to provide the conceptual framework and acquire a general picture of the problem. Primary sources include interview with the representative of the agency and questionnaires for the foster family reached through the organization. The secondary sources were collected from reports and records of the organization that is being visited and brochure booklet.

3.4. Population of the Study

The participants of this study are families that fostered children in the year 2020, and a representative of the organization that facilitates the fostering of children. The target population of the study is 29 participants.

3.5. Sampling Procedure

This study used a Non-Probability Sampling Methods called Convenience sampling. It is a type of sampling where participants are selected based on availability and willingness to take part. In this time of pandemic executing other types of sampling is proved to be difficult since people are not available and are hesitant. This enables the researcher to choose foster parents who really understood the purpose of the research and are willing. The foster parents are reached through the organization, the questioner was given to them by the social worker that was assigned to them from the early stage of the fostering process.

3.6. Data Gathering Instruments & Collection Procedure

The main data gathering instruments implemented in the study was questionnaire, Key Informant Interview, and document review.

3.6.1. Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a research instrument that consists of a set of questions or other types of prompts that aims to collect information from a respondent. A research questionnaire is typically a mix of close-ended questions and open-ended questions. This research used Open-ended, long-form questions to offer the respondent the ability to elaborate on their thoughts. The key

informants are the foster parents. It is useful to select these key informants as they are the main reasons these children get the care they deserve.

3.6.2. Key Informant Interview

Interviews help you explain, better understand, and explore research subjects' opinions, behavior, experiences, phenomenon, etc. The Interview questions is for the representative of the foster care agency, the researcher used open-ended questions so that in-depth information is collected as it is the best way to gather data in order to understand how the process of fostering is handled in the organization.

3.6.3. Document Review

Documents can provide supplementary research data, making document analysis a useful and beneficial method for most research. Documents can provide background information and broad coverage of data and are therefore helpful in contextualizing one's research within its subject or field (Bowen, 2009). Almost all necessary documents related and that the agency have no problem in sharing were reviewed. It included brochure booklets, training manuals, charts, and relevant information from the files of clients like religious status and education.

3.7. Data Analysis Techniques

The data for this qualitative research was transcribed and translated into English by the researcher. It was then analyzed manually using the thematic analysis and interpretation. It was important to choose this type of analysis as it involves examining people's experience, perceptions or views about a certain issue/fact. This type of analysis was fitting for this study as it focuses on the experience and views of foster parents regarding the role, they played in

childcare. Thematic analysis involves transcribing texts, reviewing, coding, and formulating themes. The researcher first transcribed and reviewed the data gathered from the open-ended questionnaires. Perceptions, views, and experiences of this foster parents were highlighted and coded. Then the codes that were highlighted were put into groups depending on their similarities and difference. After the grouping the researcher looked for patterns and meanings among the groups of codes so that they develop into themes. The themes identified were given names and defined in consistence with the original meaning found in the data gathered from the interview.

The researcher used Seoscout keyword analysis, content optimization and word count tool called Textalyser, in-order to take the data and analyze it for the most commonly used words in the respondents' text, which helps identify broad categories of responses because open ended questioner was used.

3.8. Reliability and Validity

3.8.1. Reliability

Reliability is a concept that refers to producing consistent results time after time. The term 'reliability' is usually applied as a concept for testing or evaluating quantitative research, the idea is also used in all kinds of research. If a qualitative research project is reliable, it will help you understand a situation clearly that would otherwise be confusing. (nsfconsulting.com.au, 2015).

To ensure reliability in qualitative research, examination of trustworthiness is crucial. checking the credibility and confirm-ability of the project is done by the method of triangulation. This involves utilizing different data collection methods to check the consistency of the findings. data sources, and theoretical perspectives checks the potency of the researcher's concepts. Interview and open-ended questionnaires were used as a way of data collection. Transferability is how the

qualitative researcher demonstrates that the research study's findings are applicable to other contexts. since the research is only limited to a single organization this could not be achieved. Confirmability is the degree of neutrality in the research study's findings. this means that the findings are based on participants' responses and not any potential bias or personal motivations of the researcher. The researcher only involved the participation of individuals that are only directly involved. The final one is dependability; it is important to trustworthiness because it establishes the research study's findings as consistent and repeatable. Answers from the interview, the secondary data and the open-ended questioners all indicate the same and consistent answers.

3.8.2. Validity

A good sample group is essential to ensure the validity of the research. The participants are ethically recruited and are believed to be true re-presenters for what the research is trying to understand. It is important issue in qualitative research, as data collected from individuals who are not truly representative of their segment will not lead to valid results. Another way to promote validity is to employ a strategy known as triangulation, to accomplish this, the researcher did see the situation from both the foster parents' perspective and the organizations perspectives.

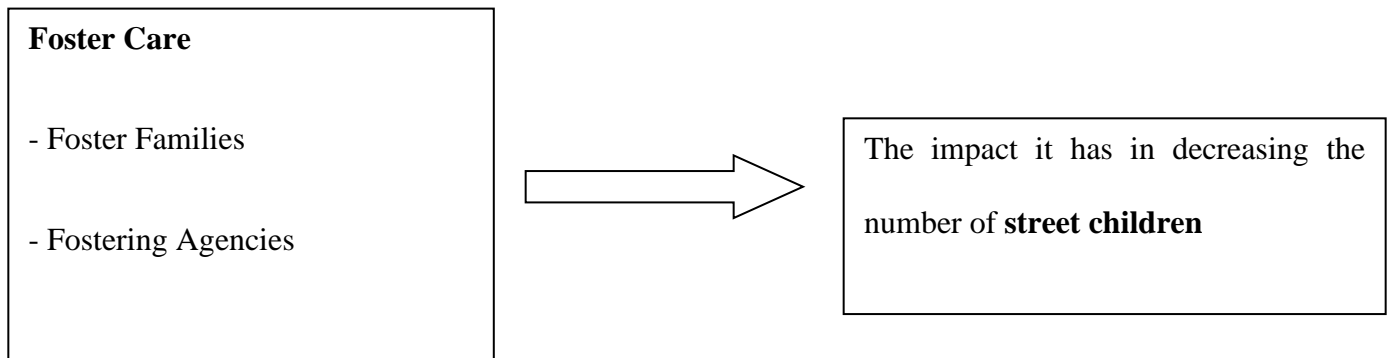
3.9. Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework steers the whole research activity. The conceptual framework serves as a "map" or "rudder" that will guide you towards realizing your study's objectives or intent. As McGaghie *et al.* (2001) put it, the conceptual framework "sets the stage" to present the particular research question that drives the investigation being reported based on the problem statement.

The problem statement of a thesis gives the context and the issues that caused the researcher to conduct the study. The conceptual framework of this study bases on independent factors with 2 variables and one dependent variable as shown diagrammatically in Figure below.

Independent Variable

Dependent Variable



3.10. Ethical Consideration

The researcher followed ethically and morally acceptable processes throughout the research process. The first step was to get the researcher seriously considers the potential impact of the research both on the participants and the researcher. The researcher made sure to respect the privacy of the participants and fully inform them about the evaluation being conducted. The people participating in the research were free from coercion and were free to withdraw their participation at any time without negatively impacting on their involvement in future services or the current program and relationships with any of the researchers or research bodies involved.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4. Introduction

This chapter consists results of data collected using questionnaires, interview, and document. where the findings from (interview, documents, and questioner) brought together and demonstrate how it relates to the literature and the theoretical framework. The researcher used Seoscout keyword analysis, content optimization and word count tool called Textalyser, in-order to take the data and analyze it for the most commonly used words in the respondents' text, which helps identify broad categories of responses because open ended questioner was used. Then this frequently used words are put into a template called Hotjar to analyze the answers given by the respondents. A response category is a set of replies that can be grouped because they are part of the same theme, even if they are worded differently and are changed into a table format.

4.1. Data Analysis and Interpretation

4.1.1. Response Rate

Out of the total 28 questionnaires distributed, only 20 respondents responded and returned their questionnaires contributing to 71.4% response rate. According to Mugenda (2003) a response rate of 50% is adequate for analysis and reporting; a rate of 60% is good and a response rate of 70% and over is excellent; therefore, this response rate is adequate for analysis and reporting. The researcher was able to talk to the representative of the agency to understand the general operation of the fostering process.

4.1.2. Demographic Information

This section of the analysis deals with the personal data of the study participants (the demography of the respondents) which include sex, age, Marital Status and level of education.

Table 1: - Demographic Information of Foster Parents

NO	VARIABLE ITEMS	CATAGORIES	DISTRIBUTION	
			Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Sex	Female	16	80.00%
		Male	4	20.00%
	Total	20		
2	Age	>40	17	85.00%
		25-40	3	15.00%
	Total	20		
3	Marital Status	Married	18	90.00%
		Unmarried	1	5.00%
		Divorced	1	5.00%
	Total	20		

4	Education Qualification	Diploma	3	15.00%
		Degree	14	70.00%
		Masters	3	15.00%
	Total	20		
5	Employment status	Employed	19	95.00%
		Unemployed	1	5.00%
		Total	20	

Source: Researcher's survey through questionnaires, 2020

The above table presents sex composition, age of respondents and marital status of respondents and education qualifications of respondents. As indicated above 16, (80%) of the respondents are female and 3, (15%) of them are male. Regarding age of respondents 3 that makes 15% of the respondents were found in the age group between 25-40 and 17 of them that is 85% of them are >40. Regarding marital status 18 of them, (90%) of the respondents are married, 1 is a divorce and another one is unmarried each making 5%. Education qualification was another of respondents 3 that is 15% of the respondents are diploma holders. 14 that is 70% of the respondents have a degree and another 3 (15%) of the respondents have their master's degree. Regarding Employment status, 19 of them that is 95% of the respondents are employed and only 1 making it 5% of the respondents unemployed.

4.1.3. Results and Analysis

Table 2: - Who supported your idea to foster a child?

Categories	Volume	Percentage
Husband/wife/ both	13	46%
Family	6	21%
Friends	5	18%
Church	4	15%

Source: Researcher's survey through questionnaires, 2020

Among the responses people that were supported by their spouses make up of 46%. the second most popular response was family support making up-to 21%. then there is friend and the church that is 18% and 15% respectively.

Table 3: -Who did not support your idea of fostering a child?

Categories	Volume	Percentage
Family/friends	5	25.00%
Husband/wife	1	5.00%
No one	13	65.00%
Other	1	5.00%

Source: Researcher's survey through questionnaires, 2020

Most of the answers were “no one was unsupportive” making up to 65% of the responses. Almost 25% of the responses said their family and friend were not supportive. And only 5% answered my spouse was not supportive of the fostering plan. Other includes making it 5%.

Table 4: - What gave you the idea of fostering a child?

Categories	Volume	Percentage
Family/friends	1	3.57%
Husband/wife	2	7.14%
God's calling (service to God)	9	32.14%
We could not have children	9	32.14%
To help	7	25.00%

Source: Researcher’s survey through questionnaires, 2020

The two most popular responses regarding what gave our respondents the idea of fostering was Gods calling and not being able to have children which each composes of 32.14%. and the other most popular reason is just being able to help which takes up to 25%. Suggestion from family/friends is 3.57% and the idea coming from one of the spouse is 7.14%.

Table 5: - Did you grow up with your birth family?

Categories	Volume	Percentage
I grew up with my birth family	1	5.00%
Both me and my spouse grew up with our birth family	17	85.00%

Source: Researcher's survey through questionnaires, 2020

Almost all our respondents and their spouses grew up with their birth family making it 85% of the response. Only 10% said they did not grow up with their birth family and only 5% said they only (does not include their spouse) to grow up with their birth family.

Table 6: - How old is your foster child?

Categories	Volume	Percentage
1-6 months	11	55.00%
6 months - 1 year	4	20.00%
1 year- 6 years	5	25.00%

Source: Researcher's survey through questionnaires, 2020

55% of the respondent's child is in the age between 1 to 6 months old. 20% is between 6 month and a year. And 25% said they fostered a child between a year and 6.

Table 7: -What good thing came out of fostering a child?

Categories	Volume	Percentage
Spiritual satisfaction	11	25.00%
Happiness	17	38.64%

Love	10	22.73%
Laughter	2	4.55%
Understand the meaning of life	4	9.09%

Source: Researcher’s survey through questionnaires, 2020

Majority of the respondents (38.64%) used the word happiness to describe what fostering has brought them. 25% have admitted to spiritual satisfaction, 22.73% said they got Love, 9.09% of the respondents also used the phrase “now I understand the meaning of life” and 4.55% of the time the word laughter was used in the response to describe what fostering have brought them.

Table 8: - What are the challenges of fostering a child?

Categories	Volume	Percentage
Sick and needed doctor follow up	13	40.63%
Malnourished and growth delay	10	31.25%
Isolate them selves	6	18.75%
Support Group	3	9.38%

Source: Researcher’s survey through questionnaires, 2020

Majority (40.63%) of the responses were how the children have health issues and how doctors follow up was needed. The other 31.25% response admitted to the children being malnourished and having a growth delay. 18.75% said the children were not friendly and usually isolate

themselves. And 9.38% wanted a support group for foster and adoptive parents so it is easier to exchange ideas and experience in dealing with the children.

Table 9: -Do you have your own biological children?

Categories	Volume	Percentage
Yes	16	80.00%
No	4	20.00%

Source: Researcher's survey through questionnaires, 2020

80% of the families said to have children and only 20% said they don't have children.

Table 10: - How did fostering affect your birth children?

Categories	Volume	Percentage
Happy	13	30.23%
Welcoming	7	16.28%
Accepting	9	20.93%
Great relationship	6	13.95%
Love and care	8	18.60%

Source: Researcher's survey through questionnaires, 2020

Happy (13%) was the most used word among the respondents when explaining how their birth children were around the fostered child. Accepting and they show lots of love and care were the second popular words used making it 20.93% and 18.60% respectively. The children were very welcoming made 16.28% of the response and 13.95% said they have great relationship with one another.

Table 11: - How do you settle friction with your foster children?

Categories	Volume	Percentage
To young to be disciplined	17	85.00%
Listening, talking and stabilization	3	15.00%

Source: Researcher's survey through questionnaires, 2020

Most of the responses 85% was “the children were too young to be disciplined”. The rest 15% added to have settled friction with their foster children like any other children stabilizing the situation by listening, understanding what they want and talking to them.

Table 12: - Do you have plans to adopt your foster children?

Categories	Volume	Percentage
Yes	15	75.00%
Yes, and already did	5	25.00%

Source: Researcher's survey through questionnaires, 2020

75% of the respondents said they would love to adopt their foster children and 25% of them said they have already done.

Table 13: - How does the agency help you after you foster a child?

Categories	Volume	Percentage
Training	18	45.00%
Checkups	14	35.00%
Adoption process	8	20.0%

Source: Researcher’s survey through questionnaires, 2020

45% of the responses where they get the before, after, refreshment and how to build relationship trainings. 35% of the responses where they have checkups every now and then. And 20% were happy that the agency is present in every step of the way including the adoption process.

4.1.4. Interview Analysis

4.1.4.1. Result Obtained from Open Ended Interview

The interview was held on the day of November 9,2020 at the organization’s office, around Carl roundabout. The interviewee holds a position as a Temporary Foster care Services Coordinator and was assigned by the Foster to Adopt program manager in the organization to help the researcher understand how the fostering process is handled by the organization. When doing the interview some questions are answered by including the organizations statistical data, some are also answered in an elaborated way also answering the upcoming questions, so in order to avoid repetitiveness of answers, the researcher analyzed the interview responses, generalized and wrote answers that are the same and connected into one.

The first question was how long have you been placing children in foster care? Bethany Christian Services have been placing children for almost 13 years now, the project was deployed first in 2007. The first 3 years was dedicated for awareness creation as there is close to zero understanding of what fostering is in Ethiopia. It started in Adama. After 3 years of awareness creation, we were able to place only 1 child in 2010 and since then the number of children we help get fostered increased.

Do you support adoption from foster care?

Yes, this is the data we have

Table 15: - Child referral and permanency

Child Referral, Placement, and Permanency by Year			
	Referral	Placement	Permanency
2016	3	3	3
2017	6	6	2
2018	24	24	13
2019	32	27	24
2020	112	28	10

Source: Researcher's survey through Interview, 2020

The table above indicates how many children were referred to Bethany Christian Services by the Ministry of Women and children's affair. In the year 2016 the agency was referred 3 children by the Women and Children's affair office, they managed to place all the children in foster care and all 3 have been adopted by the same family. Even if 6 children Out of the 6 that were referred to them by the year 2017 found a foster family only 2 children were adopted. In 2018, 24 children were referred and all of them have found a foster family but only 13 of them have found their permanent home. Out of the 32 referral cases 28 children found their foster families and 24 children were adopted making the year 2019 the greatest number of children that found their permanent home in the comparison with the rest of the years.

Because of the attachment they children have with the parents, usually the family don't want to let go of them, plus the program is foster to adopt so we encourage the families to adopt the children.

How long does the fostering process take?

Oh, its short, usually 1 to 2 months for example out of ten samples, at least 7 families will be able to finish the process of fostering their child in 1-2 months. For the 2 of them it might take 5 to 6 months. But the probability of taking more than a year is so rare making it 1 out of 10. so as I said it earlier its fast, the Adoption is in the other hand what takes much time.

Did you foster children with more involved special needs? Yes, Almost 6 children. like children who are living with HIV and who have a disability.

Do you place street children in foster care?

If you consider the background history of the children, we placed they were abandoned at birth and were found by the police on the sides of roads, hospitals and such so yes, they were found on the street but the Ministry of Women and Children's affair have put them in an institution once they were found. But we are working with MoLSA to work on this issue. The process the child goes through to get to the orphanage is long and by the time the child gets there they just loose the touch and love of a family so there is a program called Temporary foster care, it's basically an emergency foster care, there is always someone on standby to receive these children and when a family is found they will transition to that family. It's to avoid the children to go to institutions.

How difficult is it to place street children in the system? Most of the time we find these children from a governmental institution. We do not actually go to the streets to find these kids. Because we have connection with Women and Children's affair, they call us when there is a child in need of a home. Usually, children who are abandoned at birth and are found by the police end up in our care. But currently we are working with the ministry of Women and children's affair towards putting more older and children from the street into the system. We haven't started yet though it's in progress.

How do you find your foster families? We prepare community engagement programs and events like Orphan case summit that is held internationally and at a national level, we use different medias like TV advertisements brochures and different religious councils.

What are the common motives for families to foster? All prospective foster and adoptive parents come to us with a motivation for caregiving. The most common reason for adopting or fostering a child is infertility though it is very important for the parents to realize that care-giving a child does not heal the pain of infertility. Another common motivation is need, a social worker should

assess how the parents looking for a child to meet their physical, emotional, or other needs. The final common motivation is the idea of "calling from God or serving God/ religious faith". We should be concerned that how the parents know God is calling them to care for a child, how they are prepared or think it will be easy, how they will handle challenges in the light of perceived call? Most of our families fall into these three categories, there are other reasons as well.

Do you do home study/home inspection process for the foster families before the child has been placed? Of course, we try to see the place the family lives in. We see if the area is child friendly, if they seem ready to receive him/her and whether its suitable for the child, like did they prepare his/her bed or room etc.

Do you give classes for foster families? And how often? Yes, they are given a 16-hour pre-placement training which takes 2 days, and there is another training which is called a post-placement that takes about the same time and day. But between the years there will be a refreshment training for an hour or two in their support groups or when there is an event organized it might take half a day. After the training, the parents are certified.

There are 2 types of training's that are given the first time, the first one is trauma informed parenting, since most children that are going to be fostered have been through a lot making the new family ready to handle the worst case possible is very important. Families take training on Child right, trainings involving what child abuse means, what horrible experience and what separation and losing a family member means, what second degree trauma etc. The second one is a loving family for every child. This is a family-based training's such as attachment and bonding, foster parent disciplinary strategies and child behaviors.

Do they have options on when to take the foster parent training classes? (evenings, weekends, on-line, etc.)? Usually, the training is given weekdays in the daytime, but if the families have compelling reason, they will be given videos or manuals they could read and watch. But since the seriousness of the process and the families have already thought about it for a long time there is usually no problem in that part.

What is your agency policy for how soon phone calls are returned and emails are replied to? We try to answer as fast as possible, the main focus here is the child so whether the foster families want to contact us through phone calls, emails or face to face we are available at the soonest time possible.

What is the typical case load for case managers/social workers with this agency? One person can have not more than 25 cases, but it has not got to that point yet.

What arrangements are available for respite care? For transporting with visitations, therapies, other appointments? All costs starting from the first visitation up-to the child being fostered is covered by the agency, but once they take the children home everything will be covered by the foster family.

Do you provide special opportunities for foster children such as summer camp, outings/activities, and meet-ups? There used to be a family sport fun program that was held yearly, it's an event of sport activities like football, jumping rope and such. But because of corona it was not held this year.

Do you provide financial assistance for extracurricular activities such as swim lessons, sports and music lessons etc.?

No, we do not offer any kind of financial assistance for the family, there are no allowances and payments available to help ensure in providing a safe and comfortable home for the childcare. In the screening process the family must show they are able to provide for the child. But in extreme cases like one of the parents (especially the bread winner) dies or in the case of a divorce there will be both financial(temporary) assistance and counseling.

Tell me in general how the process of the fostering goes?

There is a screening process at first. The organization has different standards set in order for a person to be eligible for fostering, for example someone needs to be above the age of 25 and not more than 65 years old because of if they are younger, we fear they are not mature enough and if older than 65, we are not sure the health condition or for how long they are able to provide for the child and etc.

Usually, the main concern is the child, when we try to find a child for a foster family, we do not show them their child first, they will be informed and will be given a photograph. We will make sure we meet the criteria of the foster families like preferred sex and age of course, we also make sure there is at least a little resemblance between the child and the family, like skin color for example if the child is “dark skinned” then it’s better to match them with a “dark skinned” family than a “light skinned”. After giving them the photo of the child, we will give them a day or two, so they talk it through with themselves or family members. If they think they are ready, then we will take them to the orphanage where the child is. In this process, the families will have the chance to connect with the child in the presence of a social worker. The social worker will see and examine how the child is responding to the family, how the family is around the child and how the family applies the training’s they took. After a while they will be given space to

bond more so the family might go without a social worker. When the social worker and the families think they are ready that is when the child will be taken home.

What are the challenges your organization face? The older kids are not easy to foster/adopt, we tried to place a 10-year-old once and it was very difficult. The family and the child were unable to communicate, discipline was a problem, and it was just difficult. Since then, we are working on that matter but still no change has happened, but we will continue. had only 3 employees, but now it is responsible to have 13 employees under its wing. It's not enough but we will keep to grow.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Introduction

This chapter gives a summary of key findings of the study according to the objectives.

Conclusions are drawn from the findings and recommendation are provided how we can use foster care in-order to decrease the number of street children.

5.1. Summary of Findings

The study showed how Bethany Christian Services use their foster to adopt program. Bethany is also partnering with a state-run orphanage in Addis Ababa to help place children. According to foster care strategies, whereby an institution identifies, trains, and supports a family willing to take in an unaccompanied child with regular support from the institution, is found to be an acceptable form of alternative care and readily fits into current cultural practices in Ethiopia. Bethany Christian services key focus area are Family Preservation and Strengthening, Foster Care, Reintegration and Adoption. Their in-country foster care program is designed to help remove children from orphanages and place them with loving foster families, who may eventually adopt them. This goes in line with the government's plan in making institutionalization the last resort. Most of the foster families that participated in this research were female (80%), this showed that the women are usually the ones that are more active in handling the fostering process than the men as the organization was the one that handed them the questionnaire when they go or call for visitation. BCS criteria is to be older than 25 years old for being a foster parent and so are all the respondents. Regarding marital status most (90%) of the parents are married this gives the child an opportunity to grow in a functional family. All

families are educated and 95% of them are working only one said to be a housewife. When asked, most of the respondents were supported by family, friends, spouses, or the church they go to. Even most of the families have their own blood related children 80% of them, it did not stop them from fostering, instead they took the opportunity to teach their children that family does not necessarily require blood. This indicates they have a good support system and understanding of how important the service they want to give is so even if some were challenged, they still went through the process of fostering the child. In the study of An International Literature Review on the Motivation to Foster by Judy Sebba (2013) stated the number one reason why most people consider non-kinship fostering is as to meeting or knowing other foster cares as a child or adult or, less often, contact with a fostered child or young person, but in the case of BCS more than 85% of them grew up with their birth family and the most popular answers to why they wanted to foster were because they wanted to serve God, because of Infertility and the need to do their deeds as citizens. The participants acknowledged how happy they are in their decision and how much they are satisfied spiritually, how much their home is happier, full of love and laughter, this shows they felt they did the right thing in the face of God. It shows most of the clients have the fear of God and are religious making. since BCS is a faith-based organization it is no surprise most of them being religious. It makes them less resistance to the idea of taking care of children with whom they were not related by blood due to their values. The issue of Inheritance was one thing that is different in the case of fostering as the representative of the agency explained foster care does not necessarily allow the children to be included in the will. Sometimes fostering can lead to long term placements, or even adoption in the case of this study every foster parent either adopted or wants to adopt their child, when a strong bond has been made this is the ultimate reward for both carers and young people in care.

The most important role of expanding the foster care system is played by the agency. the agency is responsible for Licensing, training, and supporting foster parents. They make sure to prioritize the need of the child when matching and placing them with safe and appropriate foster homes. Ensuring children are receiving proper care and attention after placement is a must. Coordinating a permanent home for foster children, whether that means reunification with their birth parents or adoption through a foster or adoptive family is the end goal. They made sure the families go through screening and enough training in-order to guarantee the happiness and stability of the foster a child.

When looking at the reports on the number of children fostered and adopted it showed a significant change in the numbers. At first there was a knowledge gap about what fostering is, how and why it is important and who can be eligible etc. after three years of dedicated and continuous work the society has begun to understand leading to more children finding home and family. Among the children fostered/adopted no child is greater than 5 years old.

When the agency first started it had only 3 employees, but now it is responsible to have 13 employees under its wing. It's not enough but we will keep to grow.

5.2. Conclusion

Fostering is an alternative way of finding a home for children who needs it, and foster parents help fight the problems of homelessness, substance abuse, mental health, domestic abuse, and poverty. With recognition from the government BCS is receiving referrals (see table 15) from a government owned orphanage and within every year the demand has increased, this shows how much the need for these kinds of interventions are needed now more than ever. In conclusion it is safe to say fostering is important in providing a loving and suitable home for

abandoned children, that's why there are requests from the federal and regional governments to BCS to start programs in different communities and countries across Africa. Children growing in orphanages lack of stable, long-term relationship with their caregiver. They are believed to have a weak social skills and social life. They are often unhappy, hopeless, and longing for family love. Fostering is a great way to build a family and is emotionally fulfilling. Stable and secure environment, academic stability, normal home life is some of the benefits foster care offers to vulnerable children. The satisfaction and pride in helping a young person with difficulties develop into a rounded individual is the ultimate reward for the majority of foster carers.

Foster care involves families, combined with changing policies and diminishing resources, to practice effectively, child welfare agency staff now must possess expertise in a number of different areas, including social work, psychology, job training, child development, and human resources, among others which leads to more opportunity of work for its citizens.

This does not mean every fostering story is a success, but most of it could be with the appropriate knowledge and help from agencies facilitating and the government controlling.

Form this research it's safe to conclude that fostering is used as a prevention method. It is used as a tool for helping children before they go on the streets. It's also used as a tool for helping institutionalization phase out.

5.3. Recommendation

- Empowering families should be the number one priority for the government to decrease the number of children that goes on the streets. Many studies show that children leave their home because of poverty. The flow to the main city believing that they can find decent

work has increased in the recent years. So, working on the parents is working for the better life of children.

- The government has started practicing foster care, but is it enough? Do citizens understand what fostering is and how it works? Increasing knowledge about foster care and the need for it will lead to more children to be fostered and eventually adopted. More work is needed from the government in regard to shading a light on what foster care is, why it's needed and how it can improve the lives of its minor citizens. The more the society knows the more chance people are willing to be part of the solution. A research should be done to understand the impact.
- Foster care can be used as a tool for the family to transition and get the appropriate help to be a functional parent for their children. No child should be forced to grow without his/her parents/legal guardians. Government must establish a system for receiving reports of child abuse and neglect and for intervening to stop it. This system should be brought down to kebele level as they are closer to the society. But the systems for child protection must respect the child's need for family relationships and avoid destroying the family in order to save the child. If the circumstances that forced the parents/legal guardians to lose custody of their child is reversed or they are able to demonstrate they have made considerable progress in correcting the situation or problems and are now deemed to be capable of providing a stable and safe home for the child, the child should be allowed return back to his/her home with a level of monitoring. Sometimes the child could stay in a foster care for long depending on their personal situation; in this circumstance fostering should be a steppingstone towards adoption. More research regarding the process of problem identification should be done.

- When bringing the foster care system, it has to be in the Ethiopian context, most of the time when models are taken from other countries or such, we struggle to put it in the perspective of the current situation and country, leading to disaster, if we need to succeed we need to make sure it fits the way of our culture, norm, economy etc.
- There should be more studies and research in regards of how successful fostering is in the context of the Ethiopian law, child welfare system.

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APPENDIX A

A: Questionnaire

Program: Master's in social work -MSW

Research Title: Street Children in Addis Ababa: Exploring Foster Care Framework for Innervation in the case of Bethany Christian Services

Study Area: Addis Ababa

Questionnaire to be filled by Bethany Christian Services Clients (Foster Parents)

The researcher has developed this questionnaire to assess what motivated them and how they came to be a foster parent its also to understand the emotional and psychological benefit they got in fostering.

I would like to kindly ask you to fill the questionnaire. The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect reliable data for the study of Street Children in Addis Ababa: Exploring Foster Care Policy Framework for Innervation. In the case of Bethany Christian Services.

Confidentiality and Consent

Your answers are completely confidential. Your name will not be written in this form and it will never be used in connection with which you tell me. You do not have to answer any question that you are not comfortable with and you may quit at any time you want to. However, your honest response/answer to these questions will help us better understand about the importance of fostering. I would like to appreciate your commitment in responding to this questioner.

Questions for the Foster Families

1. Name
2. Age
3. Marital Status
4. Employment and Level of Education
5. Who was supportive of your fostering plans?
6. Who was not supportive of your fostering plans?
7. What gave you the idea of perusing to foster a street child?
8. Did you grow up with your birth family?
9. Adoption or Foster Care? What do you believe to be the major differences between Adoption and Foster Care? Why are you choosing Foster Care?
10. With whom did you grow up with?
11. How is the process of giving vulnerable children the care they need?
12. What good thing came out of fostering a child?
13. What are the challenges of fostering a child?
14. Do you have any birth children?
15. How did fostering affect your birth children? How did you explained to them about fostering? How did they take it?

16. Do you have a future to have any birth children?
17. How do you settle friction with your foster children?
18. Do you have plans to adopt the foster children?
19. How does the agency help you after you foster a child?

APPENDIX B

B: Interview Guide

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a student at St. Mary' University pursuing master's in social work/MSW. I have designed an interview to gather information to understand what foster care means and how it can be used to help street children. The study to be carried out is for a master's paper that acts as a partial fulfillment for the course of Social Work. Please note that any information you provide will be treated extremely confidential and at no instance will it be used for any other purpose other than for the master's degree fulfillment.

Your assistance will be highly appreciated. I look forward to receiving your prompt response.

Yours faithfully,

Tseday Abebe, Researcher

Personal Information

Date of Interview: _____

Place of Interview: _____

Sex: _____

Occupation: _____

Interview Questions for Foster Care Agency

1. How long have you been placing children in foster care?
2. How many children have you placed in foster homes in the last year? The year before?
3. What is the average age of child that you have placed?
4. Are you looking for foster homes for children with more involved special needs?
5. Do you place street children in foster care?
6. How difficult is it to place street children in the system?
7. How do you help the street children before you put them in the system?
8. What procedure do you follow when placing the street children in foster care?
9. How do you register these street children in the government system before they are put in the system.

10. How do you find your foster families?
11. How long does it usually take from application to first foster placement?
12. What is your agency policy for how soon phone calls are returned and emails are replied to?
13. Do you do home-study/home inspection process for the foster families before the child has been placed?
14. Do you give classes for the foster families?
15. How often are foster parent training classes scheduled?
16. Do they have options on when to take the foster parent training classes? (evenings, weekends, on-line, etc.)?
17. Do you support adoption from foster care?
18. What is a typical caseload for case managers/social workers with this agency?
20. How long have you worked in this agency?
20. Is there assistance offered with the licensing process?
21. What arrangements are available for respite care? For transporting with visitations, therapies, other appointments?
22. Do you provide support opportunities through continuing education or in-person support groups? Is childcare provided during these times?

23. Do you provide special opportunities for foster children such as summer camp, outings/activities, and meet-ups?

24. Do you provide financial assistance for extracurricular activities such as swim lessons, sports, and music lessons?