



**SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF GRADUATES STUDIES  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**CAUSES OF CHILDREN'S STREETISM AND ITS  
INTERVENTION STRATEGIES IN KIRKOS-SUB CITY OF  
ADDISABABA CITY ADMINISTRATION**

**BY  
TADESSE AREDO**

**JUNE, 2023  
ADDISABABA ETHIOPIA**

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STRATEGIES IN KIRKOS-SUB CITY OF ADDISABABA CITY  
ADMINISTRATION

BY

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## DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis is my original work, prepared under the guidance of Baharu Gebreyesus (PhD). All sources of materials used for the thesis have been duly acknowledged. I further confirm that the thesis has not been submitted either in part or in full to any other higher learning institution for the purpose of earning any degree.

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## ENDORSEMENT

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

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Advisor

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## ACRONYMS

<b>AACA</b>	Addis Ababa City Administration
<b>ACRWC</b>	African Charter on the Right and Welfare of the Child
<b>AIDS:</b>	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>OAU</b>	Organization of African Unity
<b>CRC:</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>CSC</b>	Consortium on Street Children
<b>FBOs</b>	Faith Based Organizations
<b>FDRE</b>	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
<b>FHI</b>	Food for hunger International
<b>FSCE</b>	Forum on Street children - Ethiopia
<b>HIV:</b>	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
<b>HRC</b>	Human Rights Campaign
<b>IJIR</b>	International journal of innovative research
<b>KII:</b>	Key Informant Interview
<b>NGO</b>	Nongovernmental Organization
<b>MoLSA</b>	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
<b>SCUK</b>	Save the Children United Kingdom
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations children's Fund
<b>UMP</b>	Urban management program
<b>UNCRC</b>	Nation Convention on the rights of the Child
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNODC</b>	united Nations office on Drug and crime
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

## Operational Definitions

•**Child participation:** is an ongoing process of children's active involvement in decisions that affect their lives.

•**Child Streetism** :is used to refer the way of life of the street children.

**City centered** program: program gives more emphasis to city areas activities and issues

•**Intervention:** is any planned action of governmental or nongovernmental organizations which aims to address the problems of street children.

•**Local government/ municipality** in this study; the two words used interchangeably to refer the city government/ administration.

•**Policy framework** is the existing international, national and local policy situations that govern the interventions concerning the street children.

• **Right based approach:** is an approach that uses the principles of child rights to plan, manage, implement and monitor programs with the overall goal of strengthening the rights of the child as defined it is defined in the United nation Convention on the Rights of the child

•**Social welfare policy:** refers to the principles, activities, or framework for action adopted by a government to ensure a socially defined level of individual, family, and community well-being.

•**Street children:** in this study refer to children under the age of 18, who either live or make a living on the streets.



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## **Abstract**

*This study is attempted to explore the causes of children's streetism and interventions strategies in selected areas of Kirkos sub- city of Addis Ababa particularly, Flouha and "Legehar" areas. The thesis has three objectives. These are: To assess the main reasons leading children to streetism, To identify the efforts have been done so far to restore street children, To identify measure should be taken and intervention strategies designed to ease the problem of streetism*

*To achieve these objectives, the research focused on exploratory research design and qualitative research approach. A combination of data collecting methods, with a comprehensive interview that established through a written interview guide for data collection was employed.*

*Concerning the sources of data, the study used data from both primary and secondary sources. The primary source included, identified street children, experts of governmental organizations working on street children issues, community elders and members involved in different occupations and faith based organizations representatives in the sub-city.*

*The secondary data gathered through document review and analysis, including books, journals, legal documents,, conference papers and annual*

*The total of 35 respondents selected through the use of both snowball and purposive sampling technique, Out of which 15 of them were street children, 20 participants are from concerned government experts, community elders, community members engaged on different occupations, and FBOs representatives.*

*The study found that the number of children on the Street of Flouha, and Leghar areas, in Kirkos Sub-City of Addis Ababa, increased from year to year. Regard to this as the report from the subcity social protection desk indicates the numbers of children mobilized from the area to rehabilitation centers in 2021, 2022 and 2023 were counted to 1005, 1408 and 1570 respectively.*

*In addition the findings revealed the causes for the number of children on the street increase, and the life of streetism expansion, are mainly as due to socio-cultural, Socio - economic, and other related factors. Related to socio-cultural matters, the family size, family disintegration, reorganization of family system, and death of parents and also peers pressure identified.*

*In respect to Socio-economic factors, family poverty and hope for better life highly contributed. Other factors as well related to city life attraction, false information about city life, tribal conflict and neighbor violence stated. The life of streetism was very challenging, harsh and unable them to*

*meet basic necessities, of food, cloth and sleeping places, and exposed to different types of exploitations.*

*On other hand the government, nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and different faith based institutions have made remarkable efforts, though cannot resolve the challenges.*

*To this respect, the study commend to establish an intervention strategy with a workable policies that closely deals on the root cause of the problems, in improving city centered policies, encouraging the participation and strengthen the cooperation among all concerned parties mainly of the local administration and the community members.*

**Key Words:** *Streetism, Family Poverty, Rehabilitation centers, tribal conflict, City centered, NGOs, local administration, faith based organizations*

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with introductory parts of the study, which includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, research questions, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study and finally organization of the study. In the entire above stated subtopics adequate descriptions which are very pertinent for the study purpose are incorporated.

### **1.1. Background of the study**

Streetism is a world-wide, socio-economic problem and vulnerable children continue to migrate to the streets due to personal and contextual reasons.(Lineo Anah)

Streetism exposed children to many of the social problems and other dangers they faced on the streets, but mostly because the environment was unfavorable and they often exposed them to various health risks (Lewis Apticar, 2015). These days it is common for many children to work or live on the streets of cities. The problem of streetism became one of the world's greatest urban social problems today, in both developing and developed countries, and it is most prevalent in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

The street children population, grow as the world population grow and countries became more advanced to urbanization (Salihu, 2019). On the other hand, the inattentive and hidden nature of streetism, the variability and unpredictability of children's lifestyles make it difficult to estimate the exact number of street children worldwide, and even the estimates themselves also varied from one source to another.

According to the Human Right commissions, about 5% of the world's child population experienced streetism. These children lack adequate access to food, water, shelter and other basic needs. To this regard Brazil and India have consisted the highest number of street children in the world.. Of course there are many countries with large populations of street children in Latin America and Africa as well (HRC, 2016).

As Irawati has stated, a streetism as a way of life characterized with different difficulties that related with drug addiction, physical and psychological abuse, violence, crime, family disruption,

abandonment, disease, prostitution, and so forth. In addition stated as worked and lived on the street, in unsuitable places such as under bridges, vacant land, public spaces like markets, parks, buses, or train stations where, most of these areas have not an access to the basics: food, water, and clothing (Irawati *et al*, 2021).

Parental rejection because of certain delinquent behavior, disagreement and violence at a home, family structure change (that is number of children increased) family disintegration, domestic violence, poverty, lack of integrated child centered interventions especially in rural areas, poor education system, the grown attraction of urbanization, peer pressure and death of parents are some a stated issues of a nowadays to an intensification of a streetism problem (ibid)

As the social innovation research,(2018) reported, most of the street children exposed to different types of exploitation, manipulation, harassment, and lack of access to proper care, provision of education, psychological support and supervision. Surprisingly, orphans and other vulnerable children expected to earn an income to their guardians through a restless hard work..

As a number of studies asserted that, Streetism in Ethiopia has increased, as the high population growth accelerated, urbanization expanded, a cyclic draught prevailed in the last several decades, the incidence of tribal conflict and because of the unsustainable socio economic changes that impact the level of poverty can be referred (FHI, 2020).

Yeshiwondem Teferi, mentioned as to an effect of streetism, that the common delinquent practices have been exhibited in big cities like Addis Ababa, such as, stealing, burglary, violence vagrancy, gambling, cheating of various types, assault, sexual offences and other antisocial behavior, such as Benzene and glue hailing smoking, chewing chat, and some others. On the other hand the cause for motivations of streetism and its development in Addis Ababa some like, lack of responsibly supportive body, short of basic needs of life, shelter for those entered the city, and the false agitation and information provided to children prior coming to the city are identified.

Because of these and because of some other reasons a great number of children have entered the city and exposed to street or exercised Streetism Therefore, in substantiating the cases, it is crucial to assess the situation of children's streetism and its rapid development along with non-acceptable behaviors, delinquent and unethical activities committed in the selected Kirkos sub city of Addis Ababa particularly at Flouha and "Leghar" areas,

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

“Streetism” is a broad term, which denotes millions of deprived urban children in the world who belong to several categories, based on age, sex, work status, kind of employment and contact with their families. According to the Double 'Tongue' Dictionary, streetism is the living of homeless or unmonitored children on the street. By an internationally accepted definition adopted by the Commonwealth, a child is a person below the age of 18 years. Thus, a street child is somebody aged below 18 years and live on the streets.

The problem of Streetism is a global phenomenon, as it creates countless problems to millions of children in all parts of the world. Street children, have no recognition for their rights; the right to survival and development, to have their views respected and their best interests represented, the right to live in a family environment, or alternative care and, if possible, to have contacted with both parents, the right to health care and social protection and the right to education and leisure(Shimles,Kassa)

In a study conducted in Hawassa on the Situation of Street Children in Urban Centers of Ethiopia and the Role of NGO in addressing their Socio-Economic Problems” stated that the children live in a transitory life style and lack basic necessities like food, health care, and a safe place to stay. Further discussion about their existence as on the margins of society, living in inhumane conditions, suffering from hunger, harassment and physical abuse, deprived of basic services such as education and health care.( ibid).

According to UNICEF, 2007 there are three types of street children. These are: a) Children who reside in the street; children who have run away from their families and live alone on the streets; b) Children who work in the street: children who spend most of their time on the streets, but who regularly go back to their homes and c) Children from street families: children who live with their families in the street. The given definitions enable us to view street children from different perspectives; as every definition tries to touch at least one aspect of their reality; trying to show society where and how these children are surviving without any facility and care.

For centuries, children who have lost their childhood and are living without any hope for the future have existed. Many researches indicated that Streetism of children continues to grow dramatically worldwide.



In the study of streetism, the paper deals with both types of street children and can be said off street children, children who run away from their families and live alone on the streets. And on street children, children who work on the street, children who spend most of their time on the street but are still in contact with their families.

As observed there are a significant differences between the two. As tried to indicate somehow under the title characteristics and activities of the street children, the variance was clear. Those children who only engaged the street for their livelihood are mostly children of towns or who migrate from near rural town and villages relatively found in near distance of their family.

On the other hand, those children who employ streets fully day and night for their livelihood are most of whom migrated from far rural areas and small towns of the regions due to distinct reasons hoping to find a better life in big cities like Addis Ababa

As observed, there is a big difference between the two. As the discussion in the subject of the characteristics and activities shows, the deviation was clear. Most of the children who work mostly in day times on the streets are those who have migrated from near rural towns , villages even from Addis Ababa that are relatively close to their families.

On the other hand, most of the children who work on the streets day and night to earn a living are for some reason those forced to leave their origin of fa areas, hoping to find a better life in big cities like Addis Ababa.

Most of these children work and live in streets of big cities of the developing countries. More than half, 650 million, of the world's 1.2 billion people living in poverty are children (Lindenberg, 2001). Due to the abandoned and hidden nature of streetism, it is difficult to estimate the accurate number of street children worldwide, and estimates even vary from one source to another.

However the estimates have ranged from 100 million to 150 million, but these figures are not proven and are impossible to confirm since, the size is increasing as the global population grows and as urbanization continuously advance UNICEF (2005)

There are an estimated 150 million street children in the world, and numbers have been increased across the African continent. By 1992, the Organization of African Union (OAU) estimated that

Africa had about 16 million children on the street and 32 million by the year 2000. However, UNICEF (2005) report indicates that, in sub-Saharan Africa, 32 million children are believed to live on the street. The lowest estimated number of children on the street in South Africa and Kenya at 250 thousand each. According to Child Hope NGO/ Non-governmental organization who have worked with children on the street in Ethiopia estimated, with over 100,000 children living and/or working on the streets of Ethiopian cities (Kibrom, 2008).

Meanwhile, as some agencies estimate that the problem may be far more serious, with nearly 600,000 children on the street country wide, and over 100,000 live in Addis Ababa.(Zerihun Yakob Anja),some publications even estimated that the number of street children exceeds than the indicated one.

There are two factors, push & pull related to streetism of children. In terms of push factors, children are driven into streets by extreme poverty at home, parental abuse/violence, lack of family support, family structure changes, breakdown, abuse and neglect by step parents and death of parents or guardians Closely related to poverty in the family is the size of the family is mentioned as one of the factors, this mean that large families were observed to be a contributory factor to children opting to live in the streets. (Nathan & Fratkin2018).

The family's economic status and the emotional ties with their children decreased as family size increased. Poor and big families often failed to provide adequately for the emotional and material needs of children. Most of Ethiopian children have exercised the mentioned factors in reality. Child trafficking has been practiced widely in transporting them from rural areas to Addis Ababa in various ways and the migrated children left open on the street to face miserable types of challenges while they have struggled to sustain their life. The children learned from the older ones the ways how to get money to fulfill their daily necessities: get engaged in labor work, begging, stealing, grabbing, developed drug addiction, and did whatever they could to get money to sustain.

If this is continued, not only Addis Ababa, the whole environment in the country became turbulent, and unsafe environment is created for the community due to illegal activities practiced by the street children. Therefore, this study tried to answer the following questions, to contribute in finding ways to reduce the number of street children and life of streetism.

### **1.3. Research Questions**

1. What are the main reasons that are leading Children to Streetism in the Sub city?
2. What efforts have been done so far to restore street children?
3. What strategies need to be designed to reduce the problem of streetism in the study area?

### **1.4. Objective of the Study**

#### **1.4.1. General Objective**

The overall objective of this study was to assess the cause of children's streetism and intervention strategies in Kirkos Sub city of Addis Ababa city Administration.

#### **1.4.2. Specific Objectives**

To attain the general objective, the following specific objectives were taken into consideration:

1. To assess the main reasons leading children to streetism.
2. To identify the efforts have been done so far to restore street children.
3. To identify measure should be taken and intervention strategies designed to ease the problem of streetism

### **1.5. Significance of the study**

Children are the hope of the future in every society, and they are who take over leadership at country level. Every child is unique and born with different talents to interacting with the world around them; and what they invoked and received from others and the environment, shaped how they think and behaved towards their family, society and community. So, this study helped to identify the reasons of child streetism, related issues and recommend what should be done in future to solve the problem. The findings will help to plan an intervention or to react to this social problem for those interested in and concerned with reduction of child streetism as it pinpoints actions to be taken to solve the problems related to the problem.

In addition, the findings will be a base and reference for any party to conduct broad and detailed investigation and study on child streetism. It will also provide the knowledge and necessary information concerning the street children current flow, and the existing handling and treatment in the study area.

## **1.6. Scope of the study**

This study aimed to assess the present flow of the children groups; the causes that made children leave their living areas and considered the measures to be taken and the efforts made so far to reduce the problem related to child streetism. The study indicated the measure to be taken by different parties, tried to design the intervention strategies for the problem and presented as who should do what to decrease the flow of street children to Kirk's sub city of Addis Ababa city administration.

The targeted street children are from Flouha and Legehar Areas. The researcher prefer Kirkos Sub-city because, according to the Addis Ababa city administration, Kirkos Sub City youth affairs information, it is one of the Sub cites where a movement and concentration of a street Children is highly observed due to various snatching conditions in the area, included big hotels, international organizations center for transportation and so on.

## **1.7. Limitation of the Study**

The study did not consider that the findings are conclusive or definitive, because children' streetism and related issues are a worldwide problem. In line to this, the researcher faced a difficulty to meet a group and large number of children in a limited time and area. In addition, of their mobile characteristics, the children fear police and other legal forces, and there is a difficulty to meet other key informants of the community members easily. Moreover, there is also limitation getting the recent years' updated statistical data of street children since not yet published neither by the government nor by national and international non- governmental organizations.

## **1.8. Organization of the Study**

The paper is organized into five chapters. The first chapter tries to explain the background of the study. That are, the statement of the problem, the objective and research questions are presented in the second chapter refers with review of related literatures of the study. In the third chapter research design and methodology of the study is presented. In the fourth chapter, the data that obtained from both primary and secondary sources is analyzed and discussed. Chapter five focuses on conclusions of the study and potentially relevant recommendations to provide sustainable solution to the problems of street children.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

The previous chapter provided an introduction and background to the study. This chapter focuses on literature review on streetism. The topics that are discussed in this chapter include the concept of streetism,, the theoretical framework related subjects how many there are, reasons children leave home common characteristics, typical problems, and various policy approaches in addressing street children problems argued.

#### **2.1. Theoretical Frame work**

##### **2.1.1. Concepts and Definition of Streetism**

Streetism is a growing, and there are no signs of it abating. Ennew (2003) describes streetism as ways of life associated with living on the streets, and a growing contemporary problem worldwide. .The term streetism was initially used in Addis Ababa in order to avoid using the terms “on the streets” and “of the streets” when referring to street children (Ennew, 2003). However, the term street child was used early in the 19th century in reference to urban centres in Europe (West, 2003). According to studies (Barrette, 1995; Panter-Brick, there are many debates about the usage of the expression, “street children”, and these debates started in the 1980s. Even today, the usage and definition of the “street child” term is still problematic (Panter-Brick, 2002)

There are different expressions that were used in different countries to refer to street children (Barrette, 1995). In South Africa, street children were known as Malala pipe (pipe sleepers), twilight children (children who are active in the dark), malunde (those that sleep in the streets) (Barrette 1995 Le Roux, 2001:106) and also as the “lost generation” (Vogel, 2001.) All the derogatory terms that were used to refer to street children portrayed street children as a nuisance that needed to be brushed or pushed away (Lalor, Taylor, HusseinAli & Elimin Bushra, 2002. Furthermore, the term street children raised debates. The following are some of those debates (Panter-Brick, 2002

The term “street children” does not reveal how heterogeneous these children’s actual circumstances are. The definition of the term, street children does not match ways in which many of these children

recount their lived experiences. The term, street child, has powerful emotional overtones that promote social stereotypes towards the street children.

It also deflects the focus away from the wider population of children experiencing poverty and social exclusion. Both street children's matters and the problem of homelessness are deftly manipulated to mirror the various aims and interests of role players such as the welfare agencies.

These afore-mentioned debates about the usage of the term "street children" are continuing. It is clear that due to the heterogeneity of street children, different countries have continued to view the term differently and, due to that, the term, street children, is still generally used worldwide (West, 2003:3). A "street child" can therefore be defined as a girl or boy which is below the age of 18, who regard the street as home and a source of livelihood and since they are inappropriately supervised and protected by a competent adult (UNESCO, 2006:

A review of the literatures clearly indicated that Streetism is often described in a negative manner. Atwar and Engkus (2020) state that: "Street children are always associated with acts of violence, crime, and social disturbances. "They become socially susceptible and vulnerable to their environment, both as causes and victims.

Dabir (2014), notes that unsupervised minors who constantly dwell on the streets and made it a source of livelihood could be considered as street children. Irawati et al. (2021) think that street children work on the streets and unsuitable places such as under bridges and vacant land. They also hold no support from family and are unsupervised. Mulekya et al. (2021) define them as individuals who literally dwell on the streets. Sanjay et al. (2019) note that street children are constantly at high risk. They are vulnerable to all types of exploitation, abuse and sickness. They are also deprived, neglected and denied of their rights; especially those of their childhood. Sanjay et al. (2019) also claim that without proper guidance, these children may look forward to a very uncertain and productive future.

Examination of literature indicates that the backgrounds of Streetism are remarkably similar, even though, there are different countries and regions that have different structures of the existing policy on street children.

Welfare agencies have talked of “urban children at risk” (Kapadia 1997), which considers street children as part of a larger group of urban poor children who require urgent attention. Current perspectives tend not to separate street children so radically from other urban poor children facing adversity in urban centers. There is significant evidence that children move on and off the streets and that they have social networks and experiences that extend beyond the street lifestyle (Panter-Brick, 2002). A variety of appellations have been used over the years to refer to street children and to capture the varying experiences in their lives such as “children on the streets”, “children of the streets”, “children in street situations”, but there has been great controversy as to what is acceptable as these do not always coincide with the children’s own views about their lives.

The Consortium for streetism has promulgated the term ‘street-connected’, which is now widely used to describe experiences children have on the streets: “some live on the street; some work on the street; some street children maintained relationships with their family whereas others broke all contact; some are on the streets currently and some are off the streets but could be easily drawn back there - all of them have strong connections to the street”(CSC, 2017)

Danso & Ansell (2015) suggested that the issue of defining who is a street child is particularly problematic because unlike other groups they are defined by a relational process, which is being on the streets, and not by their status or the particular activities they undertake. De Benitez suggests that the term “streetism” is a social construct. Their experience may vary socially and temporally from child to child, influenced and shaped by the child’s own realities (DeBenitez, 2011). Streetism are not a clearly defined, homogenous population; the use of the street by any one child is fluid, depending on his or her age, gender and experience (Ray et al.2011).

### **2.1.2. Review of Theories**

The theoretical framework for this paper illustrates various theories of socialization and most theorists suggested that the relationship between self, interaction and society is a complex circular one. According to Bronfenbrenner 1999 street children deemed to be the social product of the society socialization process. If the socialization took place with wisdom and knowledge, then the end product "children" will be good enough to ensure a brighter future for the whole nation.

On the other hand, this theoretical framework also draws on Goffman's (1959 & 1990) work on Stigma. According to Goffman stigma is a relation between attribute and stereotype.

Stigma theories are used because the girls of the streets need public assistance and their circumstances are viewed as abnormal and deviant from other normal members of the community. They have been stigmatized because they are considered as deviants from the normal members of that community.

As mentioned by Creswell (2009) theoretical theory serves as a lens for finding answers to the research question as well as providing broad explanations. Consequently, the researcher believes that social exclusion theory could serve as an explanatory framework for the study on streetism.

#### **2.1.2.1 Social Exclusion theory and Children Streetism**

Theoretically, social exclusion is a broader concept than poverty, has encompassed both low material resources and inability to participate effectively in economic, social, political and cultural. It is characterized by marginalization and distance from mainstream society. It also refers not only to a lack of material resources, but also to inadequate social participation, lack of cultural and educational capital, and inadequate access to services. Moreover, because it focuses on lack of power, it has a multifaceted character. She has shown that social exclusion is related to lack of agency in excluded groups (Duffy, 1995).

Kagan and Burton (2005) asserted that at the core of exclusion is the marginalization from fulfilling social life at the individual, interpersonal and societal level. They contend the individuals who are marginalized have relatively little control over their lives and the resources at their disposal; they may become stigmatized and are usually at the receiving end of negative public attitude. Their chances to make social contributions may be limited and they may develop low self-confidence and self-esteem. Because of this, Campbell and Williams (2007) argue that children on the street are marginalized and rejected by virtually all sections of the urban community and are relegated, inevitably, to the position of social reject.

Even more, Tripple and Speak (2004) found that these negative attributions and ill-informed perceptions of the larger society about children on the street are self-reinforcing and serve to keep



homeless children and people excluded from society. Thus, in many societies, children living on the street perceived as a threat. This negative perception and attitudes consequently lead to poorly designed and inefficient intervention programs aimed at grappling Streetism (Boaten, 2006). Therefore, the aforementioned tenets of social exclusion theory would help me to examine the life of children on the street in socio- cultural, economic and political context of Addis Ababa with a particular focus on the Flouha and Leghar areas.

## **2.2. Number of Street Children**

According to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), every city has some street children, including the biggest and richest cities of the industrialized world. Urban areas offer great potential for children to secure rights. Of the more than 100million children living in urban centers around the world, where exercising the streetism way of life.

Some anthropologists, like Panter-Brick and Ennew have expressed concerns regarding the validity of these estimates because of unclear counting methods, the constant mobility of street children and the tendency of some agencies to exaggerate the numbers in order to draw attention to the need for their work (Panter-Brick, 2002).

UNICEF stated that though the exact number of street children is impossible to quantify, numbers are likely to keep increasing as the global population grows and as urbanization continues apace. Numerical discrepancies are common in estimating the number of street children because children are mobile and elusive and it is strongly advised to use caution when using given estimates for policy-making. Vanistendael (1995) cites some additional reasons for the difficulty in estimating their numbers: as it vary according to the definition given; marginalized people are often hard to find in official records and even harder to count; emotions run high in dealing with street children, which is not conducive to precise estimation; and beyond a certain level, numbers are hard to imagine concretely.

According to a research with 2000 adults conducted by the Consortium for Street Children (CSC) in 2012, 61% of survey respondents associated Streetism with Africa and Asia only. However, contrary to popular belief, streetism are not found in developing countries only. Although the majority of them are in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the problem of streetism is a worldwide problem while

their circumstances and reasons for being on the streets can vary greatly between developing and developed countries, many street children are also found in industrialized countries and in big cities such as London and New York (Vanistendael,1995).

### **2.2.1. Reasons behind Leaving Home to streetism**

The world has seen an increase of children's streetism. The extent and nature of streetism of children is possibly one of the most serious social problems in urban areas of the developing world. Children have fled homes throughout history and for a number of social and individual reasons. The dimension, nature and reasons are depending on the economic, political, and social well-being of a nation, cultural and traditional settings, institutional interventions and the level of social harmony and peace (Veale, 1996).

Streetism is not a homogenous population, it is difficult to capture and describe the individual realities of all children's lives. General characteristics of these can be used to gain a better understanding of their realities. There are common contributing factors that prompt children to leave their homes and seek refuge in the streets. According to WHO (2002), some, children are lured to the streets by the promise of excitement and freedom, but the majority are pushed on to the streets by desperation and a realization that they have nowhere else to go.

Studies across a number of countries have shown that street children often experienced due changes to family structure and relation, intra-family violence, come from fragile families located in income poor neighborhoods and so on (De Benitez, 2011).

Economic poverty, as a result of unemployment or inadequate family income, is the most commonly cited reason for children living and working in the streets, but there is a myriad of complex factors that play a key role in street migration depending on the context. (ibid)

Other contributing factors include physical and sexual abuse within households and communities, family disintegration, parental deaths and lack of education and support from their parents (Densley & Joss, 2000). Prejudices and exclusion still form part of everyday life for many.

Maslow's hierarchy of need scandals used to explain some of street children's motivations to leave their home based on human needs. This model is divided into deficiency needs, which include basic needs and psychological needs, and growth needs or self-fulfillment needs.

Maslow suggested that our most basic need is for physical survival, and this will be the first thing that motivates our behavior. According to Maslow's model, one must satisfy lower level needs before progressing on to meet growth needs. When a need has been satisfied, It will go away and our activities become habitually directed towards meeting then extents of needs that we have yet to satisfy (Nasir & Shoukat, 2014). Although Maslow's theory has been criticized over the years for being reductionist and overlooking the role of social connection, it illustrates to some extent some of the motivations behind children leaving their homes. While the family home is usually a place that provides emotional growth, support and guidance necessary for healthy development, many children fail to obtain food, clothes, shelter, health care and other basic needs in their homes. Thus in order to meet these basic needs, which in turn, exposes them to street life (Nasir & Shoukat, 2014)

#### **2.2.1.1. Socio Cultural Reasons**

Adeyemi and Oluwaseum, (2012) conducted a survey to determine the socio-cultural factors underlying children streetism to some African countries. From the analysis they concluded that 'Family Structure, and relation Societal Customs and Modernization' have strong positive relation with child streetism and are therefore the socio-cultural factors underlying child streetism the most prevalent causes of streetism are: domestic violence, low income of families, family related problems, physical and sexual abuse, and various sexually transmitted diseases such as HIVAIDS

##### **2.2.1.1.1 Family Structure changes and relations,**

According to Adeyemi and Oluwaseum (2012), parents who gave birth to many children beyond the capacity of their resources are not able to cater for the needs of their children, sot he neglected children go on the street to find their means of survival.

In line with how family structures contributed to child streetism, Ward et al (2007) pointed out that the degree of care shown to the child can also inform the child's decision to move to the street or not. This came to light when they conducted a qualitative studies in Guateng Province in South

Africa on the factors underlined child streetism in South Africa. Specifically, child abuse, discord between the child and family or neighbors, and feeling unsafe emerged as causal factors embedded in family structure that cause child streetism.

In the same research mentioned earlier, Adeyemi & Oluwaseum (2012), added that societal custom practices that encouraged children to engage in economic activities (such as hawking) to support their families contribute to child streetism. In addition, the aspect of culture that requires husbands to be the sole bread winners of their families is also a contributing factor of child streetism such that in event where the husband fails to provide the needs of their families, their families become incapacitated so their children gradually move to the street (Adeyemi & Oluwaseum, 2012)

#### **2.2.1.2. Modernization, and Urbanization**

Adeyemi & Oluwaseum (2012) mentioned modernization as a causal factor of child streetism, but it is difficult to mention modernization without mentioning industrialization and urbanization since they move together. In Ghana for instance, people relocated and work in areas where industries are cited. These areas subsequently developed into urban areas such as Accra, Kumasi, Obuasi, just to mention but a few (Abotchie, 2012; Nukunya, 2003).

Abotchie (2012) further expatiated that urban areas (such as Accra, Kumasi and Obuasi) have many prospects that are not in the rural areas. Some of the prospects; namely, good schools, good paying jobs, good health centers, large markets, just to mention a few, are termed as indicators of good living (Abotchie, 2012).

These indicators of good living lure people, including children, to move and agglomerate in the urban areas (Adeyemi & Oluwaseum, 2012)

This sentiment is also shared and explained in the context of child streetism by Lugalla & Kibassa (2003) that, many of the children who ended up on the streets left home to seek for green pastures in the urban areas, yet they did not know anyone in the urban areas to stay with; so, they ended up on the streets. However, a survey conducted by CAS (2003) in Accra and Kumasi differs on the note that 'the children did not know anyone'; instead, the children in most cases, have friends who are already staying on the street.

### **2.2.1.3. Socio-Economic reasons**

The urban sector appeared economically privileged compared to the rural sector, it conceals severe problem of resource distribution. Because of rapid population growth, municipal management short-coming and deterioration of the social and physical environment, urban living is often extremely harsh and exploitative for young people and children (Getnet, 2007).

The World Bank estimated that 45% of the world population is forced to live with less than \$1 a day, of whom almost 50% are children. Hundreds of millions of children today live in urban slums. Without access to basic services.

They are particularly vulnerable because of stresses of their living conditions (UNICEF, 2012, in Mahiderhiwot, 2014). Population is increasing quite significantly but economic status of people is becoming poor day by day. It is therefore difficult to feed their children. It is found that most of the children were not provided sufficient food and they decided to leave home. Almost children on the street are from poor family background. They did not care about hygienic food and else. Their main aim to enter into the street is to get sufficient food either from begging or from any other means (Tuladhar, 2013).

Poverty is the root cause of children on the street phenomena. That is why the negative consequences of the social and economic development push social system of inequality. Economic crisis make the failure to the social institutions. On the one hand, economy plays vital role in human progress and social development. However, on the other poverty is a factor that will push then human on the street. For example, every individual to family member needs enough economic resources to survive or to make their lives comfortable, i. e. food, clothes, shelter, healthcare, education, child care and child welfare. Those family who are living under the poverty line, cannot give proper care to their children. Children will become subject of negligence. Carelessness of their parents leads children to move out from home and start to make their own group on the street. Sometimes the street environment might become a pull factor to the children from their homes (Loknath, 2014). Unemployment and poverty go hand in hand, and much of what has been said with regard to poverty, applies to unemployment as well. Unemployment is demeaning to the individual and is to him a negation of his self-worth and value as a provider.

Historically, men have been providers and women child-bearers and child-raisers. Although men are no longer the sole contributors to the family income, the perception still exists, albeit covertly, that they are, or should be, the major providers (Vanitha, 1997). Further, UNICEF (2007) report indicates that, many parents in Ethiopia are not able to meet the basics needs of their children and unfortunately, there is no social security fund system in the country. Because of these reason the number of disadvantaged children, in general and street living children in particular is escalating alarmingly and imaginably in cities, particularly in Addis Ababa.

#### **2.2.1.4. Other Reasons**

Social institutions restricted regulations and child's desire for being free and the dispute may be produced in between could be a cause to drive children to the street. Teacher in school routinely used corporal punishment to maintain discipline and to punish children for poor academic performance. For many children around the world, violence is a regular part of the school experience. In some countries, school officials routinely use corporal punishment to maintain classroom discipline and to punish children for poor academic performance. The failure of school officials to protect children from violence in school denies them their right to be free from all forms of physical or mental violence and the full enjoyment of their right to education (Tula Dhār, 2013).

The lack of adequate accommodation forced people to live in shantytowns characterized by little or no health care facilities, paucity of clean water and no schools and social services. Children are pushed into the streets and into "hunger, disease, violence and fear" (Alexander, 1987 in Vanitha, 1997). War and the recurrent drought and famine have also been raised as the major causes of streetism in Ethiopia (Abeje, 1998, in Mahiderhiwot, 2014).

Study conducted in Nepal in (2013) on children on the street indicates that urbanization, peer influence, hope for employment, and false information about city life etc. are some of pull factors that attract children to street life. In the same vein study conducted in (2011) by Mekonnen on policy frame work for children on the street in Addis Ababa revealed that the service provided to children on the street by different NGOs attract children to street life. This means some organizations are simply engaged in providing basic services for the children while they are living on the street. Such services make life easier for the children on the street and force them to remain

on the street or more seriously, it might serve as a pull factor for attracting other children to street life. Beside one can identify spatial freedom, financial independence, city glamour and street-based friendships or gangs as other pull factors.

These can develop over time into strong street connections that, combined with social stigma and prejudices, make it difficult for children to find desirable options off the street (Shimels, 2015).Evidences from different sources above indicate that in Addis Ababa, over 17,000 children living on the street full time without any parental support and protection with 5% annual growth. These estimation provided insight in giving an approximate picture for the problem and alarmingly increasing nature of the challenge.

Again, still the situation is uncontrolled. Again, different researchers conducted investigation on assessing children on the street, accordingly, Street children are a global phenomenon, South American, Asia, and African countries are more affected by the problem. However, its size, nature and cause vary from continent to continent, country to country, society to society and even from one child to the other depending on the level of economic development, cultural and traditional setting, institutional interventions and the level of social harmony and peace.

Therefore, identifying reasons for the existence of children on the street is crucial in finding a permanent solution to the problem. Thus, the following were chapter devoted to investigate the socio-cultural, socio- economic and other related casual factors that push or pull children into the street.

### **2.2.2. Characteristics of Streetism**

As with causes for “*streetism*” or estimated on the number of street children, caution should be applied when attributing specific characteristics to street children. Street children’s characteristics and conditions depend on numerous factors such as location, time and context. However, without attributing stereotypical characterizations and simply describing them as delinquents and victims, there are common characteristics that have been identified among street children, especially in developing countries.

In general, street children are predominantly male, with a significant imbalance in the number of

boys and girls on the streets. This can partly be attributed to cultural sanctions and the fact that girls have a tendency to endure abusive or exploitative situations at home for longer (Unicef, 2006) and that they are more vulnerable to abuse on the streets in comparison to boys.

Moreover, females are less represented as they are more controlled by their families and when they escape from their families, some are caught and exploited by pimps. It is particularly because they are more subjected to abuse on the streets that they prefer any other place than the streets (Lugalla and Mbwambo, 1999). The average age at which most street children start living on the streets is between 9 and 12 years old (Rizzini et al., 1994). In terms of education, the majority of street children in developing countries do not have a formal education and usually drop out of school due to poverty.

Some of these children maintain some contact with their families, but many of them live and work in the street without any contact or support from family members. They engage in various activities to earn some money, but many of them beg, work as street vendors or prostitutes (Beauchemin, 1999).

Oftentimes, street children are viewed as deviants who engage in substance abuse, early sexual activity, and crime, among others and are treated with harshness. Despite difficult circumstances, they do not all manifest antisocial behaviors or hopelessness (Orme & Seipel, 2007). Moreover, it should be noted that there are many street children whose characteristics and situations outside the afore-mentioned.

### **2.2.3. Challenges Faced in streetism**

It went without saying that street children face innumerable challenges as they live without adult protection, without decent income-generating employment and in unsanitary living environments, among others.

The challenges ranged from hunger to homelessness, and the abuse they attempt to escape within their households is likely to continue or become worse on the streets as these children are exploited by adults or other street children. According to UNICEF, in developing countries, often those who are entrusted to protect street children, such as the police, become the perpetrators of crime against



them. Street children in countries such as Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda have reported being harassed or beaten by law enforcers and often find themselves in conflict with them. In these countries, it is common practice to round up street children and take them to remote places where they will not be seen in order to “clean up” the city (HRW, 2014). (The same experiences was practicing in our country)

As for their health conditions, these children are exposed to numerous health hazards because of their lifestyles, malnutrition and substance abuse. As many walk around the streets bare foot and without protective clothing, they are susceptible to cuts and wounds as well as to skin infections. Street children are also susceptible to illnesses such as cholera, diarrhea and vomiting as a result of being in unclean and unhygienic environments (Behura and Mohanty,2005).HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases are commonplace as they often engage in unprotected sex; particularly girls, as they are more vulnerable than boys, trade sex for protection (Lugalla & Mbwambo, 1999).

This is exacerbated by limited access to medical care due to insufficient funds or ignorance on where to access information or services (Kiragu, 2009). Moreover, street children are often denied access to medical service unless they are accompanied by a parent, social worker or an NGO representative (Kids Rights Foundation, 2012).

This causes street children to believe that they will not be treated with respect and that they will be prevented from receiving the treatment they need, thereby contributing to continued bad health for street children.(Kids Rights Foundation, 2012)

Another challenge they face is dealing with the stigmatization and its pitfalls; stereotypical representations of street children by the public and media as delinquents promotes a negative perception, fear and exclusion of street children, which fosters and exposes them to high levels of violence.

In many countries around the world, street children are viewed as delinquents whose sets of values often lead to criminal lifestyles (De Moura, 2002). In many African countries, violence and abuse has been identified as the main challenge faced by street children. Some researchers have recognized that the labeling of street children as deviant pushes them into antisocial behavior; in

fact, they may even come to accept society's perceptions of them.

The literature on perceptions of street children revealed that society has negative interpretations of their lifestyle and the negative labeling serves to further isolate them from society, intensifying their victimization (Leroux & Smith, 1998). Many street children also suffer from mental health due to ostracism, lack of love and emotional deprivation (Kiragu, 2009).

#### **2.2.4. Streetism and public image**

A positive public attitude on street children is vital .However in many countries the public's perception and attitude towards street children are overwhelmingly negative. Street children are, subjected to mental and physical abuse by police, their peers and fellow citizens. The governments treat them as a hooligans that is to be eradicated, rather than as children that need to be nurtured and protected (Gurung, 2004).

Street children are subject of physical abuse by police throughout the world. The society also treats them as outcasts rather than as children to be nurtured and protected. They are frequently detained arbitrarily by police simply because they are homeless, or they can be charged with vague offences such as vacancy and petty theft (UNICEF,2007).

There is an alarming tendency by some low enforcement personnel and civilians, business proprietors and their private security firms, to view street children as almost sub –human. They are frequently detained arbitrarily by police simply because they are homeless, or criminally charged with vague offences such as loitering, vagrancy, or petty theft. These children are often tortured or beaten by police or held for long periods in poor condition form of trail without any form of trail or legal process. Girls are sometimes sexually abused, coerced into sexual acts or raped (Gerung, 2004).

Street children are generally considered a nuisance; obviously, extreme deprivation and social exclusion create opportunities for crime involvement. however little evidence exist to suggest that street children actively or deliberately plan criminal activities. They perceive themselves as discriminated against and hated (Ochola, and Dzikus, A., 2000).

As commented in a number of countries involved; the issue of street children in public

consciousness has another negative image. There is the general perception that the children are themselves have to blame for the situation they find themselves; as their behavior is seen to be more problematic for others. These major factors which propel children into a life on the streets – life which very often puts them at serious risk of abuse, ill health and health and occasionally loss of life (UNICEF,2007).

Like in any other country, the public view of street children living in Ethiopia is over whelming negative. Street children are viewed with suspicion and fear. Many people simply like to see street living children disappear. This, according to the findings of earlier studies in the area, is mainly due to the low level of awareness of the public. The level of understanding of the police about the situation has showing improvement in recent years.

This could perhaps be due to awareness raising programs through the media and other concerned organizations. Yet, it needs to be pointed out that most children living on the street are still complaining that the police mishandle them.

*“...those who see them (street children) most negatively tend to blame their existence up on the government, up on their parents or even up on themselves .Those who see them most positively, tend to thank God that there are still some and courageous survivors left in our world”.* (Tacon, 1991).

### **2.3. Restoration Approaches and Programs for Street Children**

Throughout the world, a number of organizations, governments, institutions and individuals are concerned with the welfare of street children and deploy tremendous efforts to improve their lives. International and national agencies have made concerted efforts to find suitable means to address the street children problem (Pandey, 1993).

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC) recognizes children’s abilities to enact change in their lives. It outlines the rights of children, including the rights to education, health care and housing and also specifies the need for improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances, which includes street children, and several articles of the convention directly relate and refer to street children (Pinto, 1994).

Traditionally, literature on street children was heavily focused on describing street children’s

characteristics and lives on the streets rather than developing best practice interventions that would assist in improving the challenges they face.

Since the twenty-first century, there has been a clear shift in research related to street children. In the past, research on street children regarded them as objects instead of active participants. They are now increasingly seen as key informants in designing appropriate programs for improving their lives (Panter-Brick, 2002). Silungwe and Bandawe suggest that the complex backgrounds and circumstances of street children require multifaceted interventions through programs that blend psychodynamic and risk factor approaches as well as strain and control theories (Silungwe and Bandawe, 2011)

In order to introduce effective policies, an understanding of the role of children is required, which is why researchers such as Panter-Brick and VanBeers emphasize the need for child-centered approaches, where the primary focus of concern is on the children themselves rather than on the street.

In addition to focusing on street children's experiences, researchers also recommend the integration of research as part of the structure of interventions to ensure their effects can be monitored, the design of flexible and long-term interventions that recognize and respond to diverse and complex experiences as well as the coordination of policies and programs to ensure their success.

Best practice approaches in this area include community development, micro-enterprise development, education on health and risk issues that street children face, improvement of socioeconomic conditions of families, provision of basic needs as well as residential/ rehabilitative care (De Benitez, 2011).

The programs designed to protect street children in some countries have not always been successful partly because of the lack of consultation with street children in the design of these programs or in the evaluation of their effectiveness.

Failure to develop appropriate policies regarding street children can be attributed to the lack of formal representation of street children as they are placed outside the realm of policy development and to their independent status, which puts outside recognized channels of protection (Danso &

Ansell, 2015). In addition to inadequate policies, budgets for street children across the world are grossly insufficient, in relation to fulfilling the children's and their families need (De Benitez, 2011).

#### **2.4. The Historical Development of the Problem of streetism in Ethiopia**

The problem of streetism in Ethiopia, has been of long standing. But of late this has grown, not only in the size of the number of children involved, but also in the seriousness of the problem they pose to themselves and the society. The exact date for the emergency of the problem of street children is difficult to establish. But there are indications that early in the 1940s, the problem was observed in some of the larger towns, particularly in Addis Ababa.

Due to the prolonged war with the Italians, a large number of families were disrupted and there were a large number of orphans and abandoned children on the street of Addis Ababa and other cities. During the same period, rural-urban migration, hardly known before, accelerate and increase the number of destitute people on the streets of urban areas. Some documents in the Prison Administration reveal that, around 1941/42, there were a large number of unattached and destitute children on the street of Addis Ababa. In fact, the then superintendent, a Reformatory School was established as part of the Addis Ababa prison (later renamed as The training Center and Remand Home). (Sisay, 2016).

According Sisay, 2016, the problem of what then was referred to as Vagrancy and Vagabond age Proclamation was issued in 1944. This law provided for the detention of persons below the age of 18, if found wondering abroad (away from their usual place of residence) without lawful cause.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1. Description of the study area**

Addis Ababa is the capital city of Ethiopia, located in the geographic epicenter of the country, and surrounded by the regional state of Oromia. It is the largest city in the country and plays a central political, economic and symbolic role in Ethiopia. It serves as the headquarters of major international organizations, such as the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

The current metro area population of Addis Ababa in 2023 projected to 5,461,000, shows an increase 4.43% from 5, 228,000 in 2022 ( world population review.com google,2023).

The administration area of kirkos sub-city consists 11 Woredas (the city Government of Addis Ababa, 2018). The sub-city is situated in the central part of Addis Ababa; and bordered in south by Nifas silk Lafto and Bole; in west by Lideta, in east by Bole, and in north by Arada and Yeka sub-cities. According the 2023 projection, the total population with in this sub-city is 325,576. From this total population 153,020 are males while 172,556 are females.

Several features differentiate Kirkos sub-city from the other sub-cities. It is the sub-city where the national palace and international organizations like the African Union that made Ethiopia the seat of Africa, an Economic Commission of Africa, the first national stadium, the railway station, Addis Ababa museum, Red Terror Martyrs Memorial Museum, Meskel square which is the multipurpose square, exhibition center, and national theater are located. In addition, there is Filuha spa which is a unique feature that caused the establishment of Addis Ababa (Addis Ababa City Adm, 2014).

#### **3.2. Research Design and Approach**

This research has focused on exploratory research design and qualitative research approach. Qualitative research to catch up meanings, concepts, definitions, characteristics, metaphors, symbols and descriptions of things (Berg, 2001). Moreover, It is used to uncover and understand what lies behind any phenomenon about which little is yet known.

The approach has revealed that the natural context of peoples' lives and interpersonal and socio-cultural fabric influenced their perspectives, experiences and actions (Strauss and Corbin, 1990). This differs from quantitative research that is concerned with counting and measuring things (Berg, 2001).

A Qualitative approach is preferred because it seeks to understand a given research problem or topic from the perspective of the local population it involves and it is effective in obtaining culturally specific information about the values, opinions, and behaviors and gaining a rich and complex understanding of specific social context or phenomenon of a particular population. (Strauss and Corbin, 1990)

It is also effective in identifying intangible factors such as social norms, socio-economic status, gender roles, ethnicity and religion and so on. As Bryman (2008) argues, the researchers who follow qualitative approach construct knowledge and interpret it according to the specific context and situation.

### **3.3. Sources of Data**

Concerning the sources of data, the study used data from both primary and secondary sources. The study hugely relied on the primary data that is collected from sampled street children in the field. The primary data sources included; street children, experts from governmental organizations working on street children, concerned governmental authorities known community members involved in different occupations and Religious organization representatives in the sub-city.

The secondary data gathered through document review and analysis, including books, journals, legal documents, international conventions, conference papers and annual reports. The document review covered all related issues concerning the problems of the street children and the efforts that have been made to solve the problems related to them in the sub city with special focus on the policy framework.

### **3.4. Sampling Technique and Sample Size**

The research site and samples; were selected by the researcher by using purposeful sampling method to understand the problems and get answers for the research questions. The researcher used

his knowledge and expertise about some groups to select subjects who represent this population. The technique used to select the study informants based on some of the attributes such as age, sex, occupations and social status. Data was collected from the selected children on the street and available sampled community members and government officials who are working in Kirkos Sub-City of Addis Ababa.

It was difficult to get the sampling frame of the study subjects due to the nature of the life style such as their day-to-day mobility fulfill their daily necessities.

The sampling technique employed has included both snowball and purposive sampling technique, to identify the actual children to be interviewed. This method was important to get access to the hidden population,‘ or disadvantaged population‘, such as children on the street, prostitutes, juvenile delinquents, gang members, drug addicts, etc. as Wiebel and Lambert (1990) stated. The reason is that these segments of the populations are often absent from nationally representative surveys, mostly because of their flexible or mobile nature of life, a lack of fixed address or because they are less likely to be found at home as stated by (Wiebel and Lambert 1990, Kaleab, 2016).

As mentioned above the eligible research respondents were children on the streets, police stations workers, Denb askebari, woreda peace and security staffs, experts of woreda 7 women and children office, Sub city social Affairs staffs, community elders, religious leaders, taxi drivers, shopkeepers, live in and around the target areas.

A total sample size of 35 key informants were selected purposefully. Street under age of 18 were 15, 6 policemen, (2 from kirkos police station, 2 from Flouha and 2 from legehar, community policing) 2 from kirkos sub city social affairs team 2, from woreda 7 women and children, Bureau 1, from woreda 7 ‘Denbmaskeber’ 1, from peace and security 3, from each religious sect flouha area, 1 taxi driver 2 shopkeepers and 2 socially accepted individuals reside in areas.

Regarding inclusion criteria, the children on the street who are selected and willing to respond were included in the study; and some exposure to the issue and experts/ officials will select by considering the positions they assumed in their organizations.



### **3.5. Methods of Data Collection**

A combination of data collecting methods employed; comprehensive interview established in order to have effective and well organized interviews and discussions with respondents and key informants.

The selected participants were informed about the objective of the study and provided their consent of participation verbally before proceeding to the main discussion. The researcher used written Interview guide for data collection (Semi structured)

The proposed guideline which is critically important to ensure the degree of standardization in the data collection process were selected to gear towards stimulating discussion so that could interact thoroughly.

The data collection tool developed in English language was translated in to Amharic and Oromifa especially for those who speak Amharic, to make it easily understandable to the respondents.

#### **Systematic Observation**

Systematic observation was done to collect real observable information about the activities and understand the behaviors (emotions and feelings) of the informants under investigation, and to check the validity of the information produced in other data collection tools.

Moreover, systematic observation was applied to check behaviors, activities, relationship or interactions of the street children with one another and the community as well.

The observation has been done at different places especially in and around Fliwuha and Leghar by watching them in their living places by walking on the street, sitting at cafe, restaurants and verandah. This was done to obtain information regarding the day-to-day activities, and their interactions in the study area and this systemic personal observation was also documented and organized through intensive note taking and supported by interviewing.

#### **In-depth Individual Interview**

The in-depth interview was done to get the children and make them talk about their personal

feelings, opinions and experiences. An interview has covered areas; and was efficient to collect a wide variety of information that has not been covered by observation.

The report included how they experienced a particular event and phenomenon. To achieve the objectives of the study, in-depth interview of children on the street was crucial to understand the factors that push and pull children to the streets and to understand activities that are involving, them and the challenges they face in living on the street.

The interview has been administered to 35 participants out of which the children on Street consists 15(11 boys and 4 girls) of the total respondents; the remaining 21 respondents (17 male and 4 female) are key informant. However, the interview guide was modified during the interview was in progress based on the response of the informant.

As it is evident from the above discussion, majority of the samples were taken from the street children. This was done including the street children is critical; since the research affects the lives of the street children. They were selected based on their willingness to be part of the research and some life exposure to the related issue.

Based on the responses of the respondents on issues raised under the research questions, the researcher systematically raised related issues to probe the interest of the respondents for detail discussion. Through such mechanisms, the researcher engaged in collecting detail information on the issue to help the study to achieve its objectives.

### **Key Informant Interview**

Key informant interview (KII) has been done by asking the same questions for different members of the community in age, occupational type, and religious background, etc. This helped to understand the local community's personal, communal, and argumentative ideas, beliefs and values within their natural and social environment.

However, this is not to mean that interviewers use the same wording of questions and they probe equally, but the purpose of the question posed to the study should be similar (Bernard, 2006).

To ensure the validity of findings, the researcher has chosen the key informants to compare

findings from different sources. KII was conducted with people from police, Peace and security workers experts for women and children affairs, experts of social affairs community elders, religious leaders, taxi drivers, shopkeepers and teachers on information based in the study area. The researcher has selected the community elders and known persons in order to identify their perceptions about children on the street. The selection criteria was based on the period that the respondents stayed in the study area, at least for two years.

On the other hand, the taxi drivers and shopkeepers had more interactions with children on the street as per the nature of their work often available on the street. The purpose of the key informant interviews was collected and ensured in-depth answer and information.

Various separate questions were developed for different actors, as there are some common questions for the key informant participants in relation to the objective of the study.

### **Case Studies**

Case study method of data collection technique was employed with the objective of understanding social phenomenon within a single or small number of naturally occurring settings, which is aimed at providing an accurate and complete description of the case. Cases are chosen because they provide a suitable context for certain research questions to be answered. As such, they allow the researcher to examine key social processes (Bryman, 2008). It is has involved the intensive study of an individual, family, group that can be conceived of as a signal unit. The information is highly detailed, comprehensive, and typically reported in narrative forms as opposed to the quantified scores on a dependent measures as stated by (Geoffrey et al, 2005). Extremely rich, detailed, and in-depth information characterize the type of information gathered in a case study. As Michael (1998) argues, the extended case method applied reflexive science to ethnography in order to extract the general from the unique, to move from —micro to the —macro and to connect the present to the past in anticipation of the future, all by building one preexisting theory.

Various socio—cultural and economic characteristics and backgrounds represent the street children. The life histories were constructed to illuminate socially significant events in a person’s life. In piecing the life experiences of individuals, critical stages that shaped the life of the individuals and factors and events that led them to the street were identified and emphasized. An attempt was made

by the researcher to obtain information pertaining to the children on the street life histories and different experiences of the past and the present from 8 respondents which is purposely selected from the respondents' of individual in-depth interview. The criteria for interpreting the findings is based on family background, places of origin, factors that push or pull him/ her to the street and so on. As such, some stories, which were found to be irrelevant to the research question, were avoided. Despite this, all the data that could have influenced the interpretation of the life stories were included.

### **3.6. Methods of Data Analysis**

During data collection, the interviewer used different means of recording upon permission of the interviewees and taken a note was to record expressions of participants whose response could not be recorded by tape like facial expressions and gestures. The data gathered through various data collection methods; such as systematic observations, in-depth individual interviews, and key informant interviews and in other informal ways of talking with some important people on issues related to the street children were reviewed and cleaned. Then, it has been summarized and categorized thematically based on the specific objectives of the study. The local language transcripts were translated into English; and analyzed through triangulation of various data sources to increase the validity and reliability of the findings of the study.

#### **3.6.1. Reliability and Validity**

##### **3.6.1.1. Reliability**

Among the various classes of reliability estimates, the one used for this particular study is the test-retest reliability method. It is used to assess the consistency of a measure from one time to another. The researcher approached few among the selected same interview participants in repeated times to obtain additional data and use the opportunity to request the participants to respond to the same questions that they have responded it before. The researcher verified that their responses through time was not varying, and this will add value to the reliability of the data.

This was done to verify dependability, consistency and reliability and trust worthiness of the collected information over time, over instruments and over groups of respondents.

### **3.6.1.2. Validity**

The researcher checked the responses for researcher bias and constantly avoided it to make sure to present the proper protocol in terms of tone, attitude, clothing that were observed.

In addition, the researcher undertook respondent's validation through showing the recorded data back to the respondents to mitigate a research bias in recording the data. In undertaking the interviews the researcher made sure the questions asked are consistent with the conceptual framework applied in the study and reviewed constantly the framework to mitigate diversion from the appropriate questions.

The researcher has tried to increase the chance of transferability of the data by using multiple cases of study and providing a thick description for readers to deduct any observable transferable aspects from the data. In addition, the researcher used triangulation of data to ensure validity of the data that is discussed below.

### **3.7. Ethical Consideration**

In relation to ethical consideration, all the research participants and concerned bodies were informed about the objectives and the purpose of the research. Data was collected from all the study participants with confidentiality: with protection of an individual's right to have control over to use or access his or her personal information as well as the right to have the information that he/she shares with the researcher that was kept privately. The researcher has taken the responsibility not only for maintaining the confidentiality of all information protected by law, but also for information that might affect the privacy and dignity of research participants. Interviews were conducted after ensuring that the participant understands the message and mutual agreement made between the researcher and individual participant. He did his level best to provide a relaxed atmosphere for the interviewees to choose the location and time for interview. In most of the cases, however, interviewing were done in the living environment of the respondents, which has helped the researcher to observe the individual activities in their daily routine.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Discussions and findings of the research is presented in this chapter. It is done so in line with the aim and objectives of the study. Accordingly, the discussion included the characteristics and activities of street children observed through observation and information gathered from key informants identified.

#### **4.1 Characteristics and activities of Street children**

Children are seen often as the hope and inspiration for future nation building. This hope limits their rights to grow up in a positive environment.

The study read that the number of children of the research areas has increased in number from year to year, for example, when we look at number of street children identified for rehabilitation and sent to their home area by the sub city in 2021,2022 and 2023 were 1005,1408 and1570, respectively. This section, significantly investigated and assessed reasons that has led children to streetism and reported the cases of majority of the interviewed on the street who joined the street because of various socio-cultural, economic and other factors.

In the study area, children are grouped and known by different names of children as they ‘moved widely in the street aimed at searching foods for their daily consumption. The first group is ‘Children off the street’, which referred to children who are homeless, and as streets are their sources of livelihood, where they sleep and live. These other group is ‘Children on the street’, who worked and lived on the streets in the daytime but returned back home at night to sleep, although some of them sleep occasionally on the streets (UNCHS, 2000). Here, the researcher preferred to use both children on the street and children off the street’ interchangeably. Children on the street cover the wide areas of the city and relatively higher in number than others, and children off the street where the researcher focused are those homeless migrated to the city due to different push and pull factors.

According to the researcher’s observation, though both children on and off the street shared more or less common characteristics; and have committed similar activities throughout their journey;

“children on street”, have occupied proximate location within city pedestrian roads, taxi and bus terminals, churches, market and shopping place, cinema and theater halls and so on. These areas are crucial place considered potential to generate income. In gaining livelihood opportunities children on street are advantageous because most of on-street children have a contact and relation with their guardian and the majority are assumed dwellers of the City.

As learnt from an interviewed participant and my observations Street children do not harm people intentionally. If someone wants to attack one of them, they all stand together to do everything to defend themselves and support each other. If someone wants to approach them peacefully, they all are cooperating in everything, but they have their own sub-culture, secret group and see everything in suspicion.

On other hand, as to (Lugalla and Mbwambo, 1999) stated, the street children face difficulties in providing themselves with good sources of food, clean drinking water, health care services, toilets and bath facilities and adequate shelter. They also suffer from absence of parental protection and security due to the missing connection with their families. In addition, there is a lack of any kind of moral and emotional support.

As observed in a research areas, majority of the street children were boys, and Females are less represented due to various reasons. The major one among all is that girls are more controlled by their families and failed to be informed about the external environment. This information was collected from one of the identified female street child during the researcher’s personal discussion with her.

According to the researcher’s observation, one of the characteristics that was identified is; the average age at which street children started living on the streets is between 9-10 years old. This information is supported by discussion made with majority of the sampled children in targeted areas. In respect to the existing culture and convention, streetism exceedingly mixes the culture, ethics and bond of the children. Street children practice different shameless, taboo, unsafe and unlawful exercises such as medicate managing, wrongdoing, burglary and looting practices. They do not have any concern around culture and ethics, owing to being absent from their family since childhood.

In strengthen the fact (Lugalla and Mbwambo1999) described street children as “not only homeless or roofless, but they are also culturally rootless”. They are well recognized by their clothing fashion, they are regularly untidy, not flawless or well arranged: wore set of furnished dress and are barefooted or with sandals. They have moreover utilize chat cigarette ‘or snuffing benzene ‘glue conjointly their hairstyle...etc. were a few of the watched realities or behaviors that differentiated them from children at domestic

As per the researcher’s observation and collected information from interviewed samples and some selected key informants of government offices and community representatives, children on the street get engaged in many different activities as the source of livelihood or carry out many things to maintain their life on the streets. These activities range from begging; stealing; washing and watching cars and carrying goods/luggage.

They are also engaged in small business activities such as petty trader (peddler) locally known as Suk-bedrete, shoe shining, selling lottery, providing changes to taxi drivers) and some of them do nothing but they shared food with their friends because in the group tradition, there is no one who eat alone. Besides, as per the collected information, prostitution or commercial sex work is another means of income to some of the female members.

From an interview discussion held with children, the researcher understood that Children in peer friendship frequently exercise activities like, playing; laughing, working and eating together among themselves. This would be common since most group members came from the same ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Children on the street often enjoyed their days in doing many things jointly, for example, gambling exchange of jokes and motivating activities including dancing and singing. At the night, many children get together and spend their time by chewing chat’, playing different games and gambling. For example; imitating act like what they watched from movies, singing and dancing or sleeping together are some of their major common activities. Particularly, during painful moments of illness if one of the group member got sick, friends play an important role by providing care and almost everything; this might include financing, sharing food, helping to get access to medical services and helping each other in treating the health problem. Children are involved in social interaction with different people outside their group boundary. This, in turn, allows children to negotiate for their survival through diversifying the means on the street by



having multiple social networks.

Regarding shelter, Street children usually do not have a permanent place to sleep. Many of them passed their night in the streets or on pavements near shops and malls, while others prefer sleeping at bus terminals, railways platforms, under bridges and around.

## **4.2 Reasons for Leaving Home to Streetism**

A careful analysis of the children on the street phenomenon in Flouha and Legehar areas, reflected in a number of factors contributing to children being on the street. The response obtained from the study participants have shown that there are different socio-cultural, economic institutional and other factors contributed for leaving home and adored streetism. Furthermore, family structure changes, an increase in family members, family disintegration, domestic violence, divorce, death of parents, child neglect, abuse, delinquent behavior and peers pressure mentioned, family poverty and low income level of families, hoping for a better life, city life attraction and false information about city life, violence with neighbor and tribal conflicts are some of the mentioned numerous reasons for children left their home and fled to streets.

### **4.2.1. Socio cultural Reasons**

#### **4.2.1.1. Family structure changes, abuse and neglect**

The changes in the family dynamics were stated as one of the most significant factors in the growth of streetism. It can occurred due to domestic violence, death in the family, parental divorce or remarriage an increase of family members were among many others. Such drastic changes in the family structure could have significant and emotional impact on a child. Children have felt unhappiness or sense as they are neglected in such family structures (UNICEF 2001).

Agreeing the Office articulation, children that feel as if they are ignored favor the street life instead of remaining with stepparents. Their only given option may be to remain inside stepparent settings (stepmother or stepfather) or in expanded family settings. It too included that the family members and stepparents as well physically and sexually manhandled such children. This came about negative demeanor to helpless children in expansion to them from enduring the misfortune of biological parent(s) made children to go to the street.

The face-to-face interview revealed that their fled to street is because of a need to escape from worst home environment. In line to this, some parents who own a big size of children have contributed to a children's migration from the rural area to urban sites. This happened; as the family with many children could not feed up and fulfill their necessities, and send the children to schools, and if this is so, the next thing for them to do is to go to the street in order to find the means of survival.

Meanwhile, because of family disintegration, that might be due to divorce or a death of parents children forced to look for another opportunity of street life. Likely children whom are obliged to live with other relative, step-mother or father due to a loss of parents in death ; are also exposed to various child abuse and neglect environment.

Related to this the case below by KI5 shows this: he explained his reason as follows:

*I came from Shashemene town, my family had seven members i.e. my father, mother, one younger sister, 3 brothers, and myself. My mother is passed away 3 years ago and my father married another woman. The new step mother neglected and treated me and my brothers badly for nothing because she hated us. My father was working in the field, stay on hard duty the whole day and used to come home in the evening with heavily drunken status, and this was his everyday experience. When he comes home he disturb us without any reason.*

*In addition, our step mothers also instruct us to be engaged in hard labor work outside home without an adequate food. We were not getting any love and sympathy from my parents at that time. When this kind of physical and emotional violence became intensified from day to day, I thought of leaving home and stay out independently. So, I run from home because of the exceeded unbearable physical abuse and neglect from my father and my step mother. I came to live in the capital city Addis Ababa.*

*After I left home and started to live on the street, I found it difficult to fit in with other street boys and the surroundings. Nevertheless, slowly and gradually I adapted to it adjusted myself to street life. It is very difficult to survive in the street. However, I like the freedom here. Now nobody order me to do the different work. After arriving on the street and being adjusted to its life, I soon found out myself addicted to cigarette and glue sniffing that became the part of my life.*

Likely as a result of of the family structure changes, this mean when one of the spouse married to other one the family get disturbed. Children remained with one of a parent or forced to move to

relatives to earn their living. The following case stated by KI 17 shows this

*My name is Hachise, I was a nine years old when my mother get married to another man. I am from southern region. My father and my two sisters were living in Wolayta Sodo. My father was laborer there. I went to school until grade two. Then my father was not able to continue supporting me in my schooling; and I quitted my education and went to my aunt's home to look after her baby in Addis Ababa. She had a young neighbor who was the same age as me and we became friends. Slowly and gradually, I made some friends on the street and I get attracted to the street to life to continue living freely. I did not want to go back to my father and sisters, so I left my aunt's home and started to live with other street friends all the time. Enjoying street life became a fun for me. Then slowly I became addicted to drugs. I came to know about 'glue inhaling' from a friend. I used to see them sniffing from plastic bag. I also started sniffing glue after seeing how other friends doing it.*

*I am inhaling glue since one year. When I sniff, it gives me a good trip for an hour. Usually at night and cold time, we have enjoy inhaling glues, This glue temporarily makes us emotional we couldn't control ourselves and as a result of this effect, we expose ourselves for free sex with fellow boys in the street.*

#### **4.2.1.2. Escape of their parental punishment Because of delinquent behavior**

According to Ina Lopez (2013) finding, children often start their street life in a gradual process, at first by staying away for hours, or a night, and then gradually staying more days away from their home. Some of the study participants singled out it as one factors that made them to leave their family and home. Nevertheless, as they discussed their cases in detail, it was a different type and complicated; for example as learnt from the participants KI 8 who came from Ziway in Oromia region have told the researcher the same story for living as a street children started long before leaving his home. While living in his families' home, he stole money from home, gambled and was staying away from home for long hours.

He was also stayed out on the street whenever his family's doors closed. Let see the argument supported with a story mentioned by the child KI18 here below:

*“I came from Ziway Oromia Region, when I was 14 years old, I used to take some money from my father’s pocket to gamble. I did this repeatedly. Once up on a time I spent much time outside gambling at night and came back home really lately and the gates of our home was closed. This event was forced me to stay out and sleep on the street for the first time. When I went back home in the next morning, I was punished by my father. This case has continued for a long time of period. Relatives and neighbors tried to advise me to create peace with my family, but I did not stop my delinquent activities. Further, I became so addicted with activities that led me to be caught with police officers and be sentenced for months. After I finished my prison, I became a full time street child and dwelling at the road sides, bus stations and bridges. The interaction among our fellows were interesting; as we were used to share food and help each other when one of our group member being at risk. Since we could not get food to eat, hailing or sniffing a glue is our basic consumption as every citizen looking at us. He proceeded to his idea, and underlined how the bondage of Streetism manipulated the motive; and feeling of children and make them stay in streets for a long time unless certain condition that make them free created.*

#### **4.2.1.3. Peer Influence and False Information**

As learned from the study findings, reasons that made children to leave their home, are so many and distinct in nature. Accordingly, what was grasped in this research work were not the only reasons related to home environment or families problems, but also due to the street children’s peer friendship. This is directly related with a need of being free out of family management and control, a desire to direct one’s own self, to hate cooperativeness, avoiding to support family and so on. The perceptions of freedom of the street life that children on the street have in all their daily activities influenced or attracted those children who already have developed a strong connection with them. Children repeatedly agitated by their peers about attractiveness of urban life, job opportunity prevailed, life changes of modernism (of course as they have seen in media) and are so false information that made children full of hope.

As already mentioned, being a street child is caused by a number of immediate, underlying and basic causes rather than a single factor. Thus, for children living with the various domestic problems, the information they received from their peers can easily convince them to leave their family home. As two of respondents K2, K12 similarly said:

*Chala and Kuma, 14 and 16 years old respectively, they both came from Arsi Negele Tureta'' village dwelling around legahar train station. They were living at the mentioned area in keeping families cattle sheep and were helping them in different Agricultural activities. As said, they were tempted with their friends who left the area and settle in Addis Ababa before years, by false information they received. They believed that the lives of their friends has improved similar to those of fiends told them, and hoped to earn more money that enabled them to access significant opportunities, owned different business and financially supporting their parents. As a result of this false information, Chala and Kuma left their origin to Addis Ababa before years.*

*After they reached Addis they could not find their friends since, they have changed their area. They remained with other children came to the city because of different factors from their home. During our face to face discussion a drops of tears from their eyes, hopelessness, depression and bleakness spirit was observed.*

*At a time, they had a desire to go back to their home, yet they have a fear of feeling ashamed of their family, fear of not to be accepted be them in positive response to them, and above all a feeling of inferiority complex dominated.*

*These children already have experienced sniffing glue to reduce the challenges they have faced, they are changing their life style, acting like those senior ones, as well getting involved in different immoral activities.*

During the time of the research the saddest story I heard was the fight among children who have lost their sense after sniffing high dose of the glue "At this time while they beat each other by stones or any materials they found near them, they do not feel any pain due to the glue; unless other friends of them made them apart.

#### **4.2.2. Socio-Economic Factors**

##### **4.2.2.1. Family Poverty**

One of the economic factors underlying child streetism is family poverty. As indicated earlier, street children migrated to the street to feed for themselves since their parents, (guardians) are indigent and therefore cannot provide for the needs of the children. This is similar to what Adeyemi and Oluwaseum (2012) found in Ibadan when they opined that there is significant number of children

fending for themselves because their parents or guardians do not have the resources to cater for their needs.

Economy plays a vital role in human progress and social development. Accordingly, family poverty is a factor that pushes children on the street. For example, every individual to family member needs adequate economic resources to survive or to make their lives comfortable. i.e., food, clothes, shelter, healthcare, education, child care and child welfare. Those families who are living under the poverty line cannot give proper care to their children. Children will become subject of negligence, this leads them to leave home and start to make their own group on the street (Loknath, 2014).

Concerning this, there are some participants of street children in the research area who explained the scenario they faced before leaving their home. For example, one of the participants indicated by KI1 explains his reasons as follows

*I was born in Yigralem (Sidama), the southern part Ethiopia and I have three brothers and four sisters; and I am the 6<sup>th</sup> son to my family. My father died three years ago. First, I came to Hawassa looking for a job to support myself, because my family was poor and they could not afford food, cloth and school materials to me. Contrary to my expectation, I could not find a job easily and I was forced to beg on the street of Hawassa. Nevertheless, after some days, life became horrible to me because I was unable to get money, even food.*

*At that moment, I heard information that Addis Ababa is better places to live in, and could offer good job opportunities. Then I decided to leave Hawassa and joined a street life in Addis Ababa. I stayed here at Flouha area for the last one year. However, things were not easy, as I have expected. Sometimes, I try to work some small daily labor types of work where I obtained some amount of money. On another day, I used to sniff glue and benzene to suppress me from hunger of food and at night I sleep at bus station with children who came around our village. **start***

As stated above by the respondent family violence nowadays became a common case for family disintegration, and the consequence socioeconomic problems that would be a factor to leave children their home and migrate to cities to join the life of streetism.

*Likely respondent identified by KI6 explains his reasons in the following manner. I was born in Shashemene (Oromia), a bit far to Addis Ababa. I am 17 years old and I have two brothers and three sisters; and I am the 2<sup>nd</sup> son of my family. My parents live at Shashemene (Oromia). My father was a farmer and my mother was house wife. The reason I run to the street was because of a home violence between my mother and my father, due to the increased family poverty. My father was*

*unable to fulfill the necessities of our family members such as food, clothes and educational materials in his limited subsistence income earned from our small farm. Usually my parents were quarreling to each other and this disagreement made the whole family physically as well as psychologically deteriorated. Meanwhile, I got information that seems me a means to alleviate our problems. I found Friends of mine who left to Addis Ababa before years. Based on the information from friends, I decided to go and joined them. I preferred to live in the street as the home environment by getting job and relief. I am here in flouha area of Addis Ababa for the last three years yet I got no changes rather hurting myself in sniffing benzene and glue to my body*

Another common factor that forced children to the street is the situation in which the family experienced a change in economic circumstances such as traditional pressure forced children under age to beg and feed the family. As to some societal custom, children took the responsibility to support their family at their lower age which is against the fundamental right of the children (Ojelabi, 2012). Kibrom (2010).

According Kibrom, study of the situation of street children in Adama town, he discovered cultural pressure as a cause that pushed children to the street i.e., parents sent their children to the city to work and earn money. They believe that they must work hard in urban areas, and help their family to overcome the problem of family poverty. But most of them find it difficult when they come to Addis and start to experience the new way of life far from their family.

Like manner, in his research of the circumstance of children on the street in Adama town, he considered social pressure as a cause that pushes children to the street i.e., guardians send their children to the city to work and gained cash. They accepted that they must work difficult in urban ranges, and offered assistance their family to overcome the issue of family destitution. But most of them discover it troublesome when they came to Addis and begin to involvement the better approach of life distant from their family.

In line to the above stated experiences another informant KI14 explain his reasons as follows. Tadios 9 years old was found in one of the research area legehhar while begging on the street to peoples on their way. As discussed his situation, he and his family displaced from Dera, area in Amhara Region because of the death to his father.

According to the tradition of the area, he is the elder who would be responsible to cater the family in place of his father. To materialize the social obligation he was begging around the research areas to collect many and provide the family. Beside this Tadios found frequently in front of hotels and restaurant to collect leftover foods and related items for a use of his family. As observed the case was so spiteful for a childlike Tadios being responsible for a whole family.

### **4.2.3. Other Factors**

#### **4.2.3.1 Modernization and Urbanization**

Modernizations in society bring about improvement and advancement in cities and villages. Thus, the development in the cities attracts many children from villages to cities to find a means of livelihood (Ojelabi, 2012). Kopoka (2000) observed that the advent of modernization is one of the evident factors promoting streetism. The children on the street travel down to cities where they know no one and the place they take abode is the street.

*Due to the impact of urbanization and modernization a significant number of children of rural areas are easily pulled to the towns from their origin. For example KI 10 explain her reasons as follows Chaltu, 14 was born in Ginka, in the Southern part of Ethiopia and have two brother and two sisters left her home village and joined the street life after watching Addis Ababa through Television. Addition to this she was told about Addis Ababa by few children whom previously left the area. She heard about Addis Ababa from her friends, as big, and beautiful city with plenty of opportunities. Contrary to this.*

*Chaltu faced the opposite incident, where her orientation about the city was false, she regret too by the emotional decision she has committed. Anyways due to this false information she remained a street children, living streetism for the last two years at leghar and flouha streets of Addis Ababa .Finally she remarks as no one from her family knew where she is about and she herself move cautiously and systematically in fear of identified by those who may know her. She said at this time here family knows nothing about her current life.*

The other respondent who share the case from Holota, near to Addis Ababa, named Tilahun as explained his experience, as follows. Once upon a time he came to Addis Ababa with his father to visit relatives. Then after returned back to home He became attracted with interesting things observed in Addis Addis Ababa during his visit made early years. On day he met a



business man whom frequently travel to Addis Ababa for a business and left his home with a man. As said he was trying to find the home of his relatives once visited with his father but he couldn't get them and remain on the street Then after he did not returned back to home, wondering on the street around leghar' practicing the worst life of streetisim.

#### **4.2.3.2 Tribal conflict and disagreement between neighbors**

Nowadays a number of street children is increased here in Addis Ababa among many reasons due to tribal conflict and neighbors quarreling .Interestingly while working the research survey a number of children where most of them are exhibited In the Street because of the push factors of conflicts in their areas.

*Mumush,8 and Tesfu 13 were begging in the street around the research areas. As they introduced them sleeves they were living in Majete''at Amhara regional state before evacuating from their area due to a conflicts and the war took over between Amhara and Oromia regions certain groups before two years.*

*Despite of his age Tesfu was discussed about the situation gloomily. He took his mind back in explaining the situation as how it was miserable and inhuman deeds. After he and his family lost all properties they run to safe areas to secure their life. Today he is begging on the street to get something for their families concentrated under plastic huts besides city Roads. Their friends are on learning, while these kids are in begging on the street. From the reflection it can be supposed that how the case is contributing to streetisim.*

### **4.3. Efforts that have been done so far to restore them**

As a number of studies asserted that, Streetism in Ethiopia has increased; due to the acceleration of high population growth, urbanization expanded, a cyclic draught prevailed in the last several decades. The incidence of tribal conflict because of unsustainable socio economic changes has impacted the level of poverty. (FHI, 2020).

Even though there are huge discrepancies on the number of the street children, the scope and magnitude of the problem is evidently increasing in an alarming rate (FSCE,2003). Because of this, streetism has become one of the major concerns for the government, NGOs and the community as a whole requires a lasting solution. Traditionally the response to street children by most governments

in Africa and elsewhere has been repression (Kopoka, 2000) In order to ‘clean-up’ their streets, city governments, usually attempt to repress children and sometimes forcibly move their rescue centers outside of the cities (Vanderschueren et al, 1996). Such kinds of responses have been applied in a number of countries including Ethiopia.

In Ethiopia, the attempt so far moving children from the street have been considered as one of the remedy or reduction strategy to the problem. As one of an interview participant’s *KII 10* response, the action is still continuing with certain modification that includes prior preparation of rehabilitation centers, identifying certain volunteer welfare institutions, selection of professionals from different respective woredas and the sub city to facilitate the program designed somehow in a better ways.

As the Kirkos subcity report as tradition street children identification conducted normally 2 times in the year and sent to temporally established rehabilitation centers that have been organized by the Government or NGOs already organized for the same purposes.

As documented from an interview discussion children stayed from 3 to 6 months in the centers, and provided with various supportive life skills trainings entrepreneurship knowledge with certain suitable advises in strengthen their psychology and awareness before returned back to their home.. After getting the awareness and completed their time in the center, They are assisted with a provision of some seed money that may enable them to start again the new life at their home, as the information from subcity participants such children provided in average 15,000 Birr each to make them start their own business.

Meanwhile the misfortune part heard from KII participants was among those returned children a significant size of them came back after few days, even as some respondents of woreda experts explained they appeared within two or three days in the street. To these case different issues raised from community members and community police staffs involved in the interview. Among the issues: lack of coordination with a grass root level government offices of woreda administration, in adequate awareness of family or in lack of understanding to the objective of the rehabilitation, rather looking to money temporarily provided to them. In addition to this, for such repeated experiences interesting reasons was raised. Among them, the issue demanded for an involvement of the street children themselves in rehabilitation program and shared their ideas to the program.

On other hand, a number of welfare and charity organization those are interested in supporting street children are increased in number, as per the information obtained from the sub-city, currently more than 20 NGOs who have served the street children issues in Addis Ababa are reported. Among these, most of them formally reached an agreement with the government to handle the case in searching resources from donors. Some of these conducted a survey in collaboration with the concerned government offices, to enable the children to secured sustainability in providing more attention to human development program. Despite of all type of support, a need of coordination, establishment of nationwide policy intervention and formation of child center in rural areas are recommended by the participants; as a timely issue in strengthening the effort has been conducted in reducing the children's' streetism in the targeted area ,and at large at the national level.

#### **4.4. Intervention Strategies should be designed to decrease the Problem of Streetism**

The major and the lone policy document that has a direct linkage with the problem of streetism is the developmental social welfare policy, which was introduced by MoLSA in 1996. The general objective of the policy was to create a social condition conducive to a healthy life and sustainable development that will benefit all members of the society. In the process it gives a special attention to vulnerable groups of the society, including the street children. Furthermore, the policy provides an article that allows the regional governments to formulate their own welfare policy according to their local context (ibid).

As national policies usually are general and all-encompassing, local authorities have to translate such macro-level policies to micro-level policies to suit with their situations (UMP, 2000). So, national policies; like the developmental social welfare policy, has to be translated to practical implementation by the local governments. Furthermore, due to the process of decentralization and devolution of authority to local governments, municipalities increasingly assume policy making and implementation powers to facilitate more effective local decision making (Vanderschueren et al, cited in UMP,2000). This is mainly due to the fact that many of the intervention areas pertaining to street children rehabilitation fall within the realm of local government responsibilities (ibid). However, the policy situation of Addis Ababa does not follow the same pattern as those of

regions. In the case of Addis Ababa, the problems of street children is so complex in respect to the high number of child concentration in the city. As learned from the subcity information the majority of the existing organizations that intervene to address the problems of street children have been operating in Addis Ababa

Despite the fact that there is a reform in the legal and policy frames which promote the rights of the street children and an increase in the involvement of the NGOs to address the problem of the street children, the magnitude of the problem is still increasing (FDRE, 2007). The intervention mechanisms of both governmental and nongovernmental organizations, to deal with the problems of street children in Addis Ababa, have not so far shown a visible result in reducing the intensity (FSCE, 2003). In most cases such interventions failed to bring a desired outcome in the lives of the street children, not only due to the lack of sufficient resource, but also by the lack of proper planning and policies of the government(Grundling and Grundling,2005). In directing policy ideas, opinions, and related possible solutions advised to design a strategies in the work of reducing child streetism in the research areas. To this respect some of a following component of strategic issues are commended below.

### **Economic support**

As Anon(2003) state , that the community should respect the street children's need for income and their economic independence rather than focusing only on liberating them from street life. Related to this here are different economic, cultural and societal based directions which may make children to stay in their home rather fleeing to the cities for searching employment are suggest below.

The availability of human development program than service based support would be preferable in keeping the sustainable life of the children.

To support the economic strategy component, it seems critically necessary to not only teach children life skills, but also to promote both formal and non-formal education. In addition to providing limited start-up support and capital to returning children and families, it is desirable to encourage microfinance and other related support.

This approach was commented in our field work discussion by the Woreda Woman and children office participants, as said mobilizing children from the street and back them to home only could

not create a result, in spite of the fact that a few of the children keep up and brought changes with the least bolster they are given. However the larger part of them again returned back to the street. In addition to establishing systems of continuous follow-up and monitoring reaching out to communities and families for reintegration requires strong involvement of government agencies and donors.

The other proposed issues is an improvement to the wrong attitude the community members, and the government officials have towards the economic rights of children do have.

Strong educative awareness program has to be established to target children and their family in collaboration with local government bodies at the home areas

Government offices close follow up proposed to donor agencies and NGOs that involve in the implementation.

### **Policymaking and advocacy**

As Schurink (1993) indicates that children should be encouraged to participate in the formulation and decision-making activities, particularly in areas that directly affect their lives. The advocacy based on the perceptions of these children, their families and the community will directly address the causes of the problems that street children experienced. First, there is a further need for integrated policymaking for effective solutions. Secondly, public awareness that focuses on change should be raised through strong NGO networks (West, 2003)

In strengthen the above ideas, respondents from Subcity Social Desk experts and members of the Leghar City community Policing raised the same question about the need for children to be involved in their own affairs. In addition, it was repeatedly pointed out that it is necessary to make community members residents aware of the problem of streetism through awareness-raising campaigns in order to avoid prejudice against street children.

Ignorance of street children about the program and about other related activities reduce the expected achievement to this respect. As observed on the field work the majority of children have wrongly understood the intent of research and some similar studies.

As observed in fieldwork, many children misunderstood the purpose of research and related studies. Therefore, it was recommended that children learn about the program early and participate in the issue to facilitate engagement. In addition, affected families are allowed to participate in developing measures to prevent homelessness

The advocacy mandate is to reach out to the local population in the target areas about the problems of living on the streets, the government's efforts to internalize goals to control the problem, and the cooperation and responsibility of the local population

### **Networking and institutional operations**

There is a significant role played by NGOs in programmes of streetism, which is through the supply of services that cannot be afforded by the local and national governments (Anon, 2003:9). With that said, the role of NGOs is not adequate to significantly decrease the high number of children who have migrated to the streets. Networking with local government and other service providers will support NGOs in contesting the streetism phenomenon.

As observed in our experience that many NGOs, FBOs and other Welfare institutions those trying to resolve the problem of street children by themselves or by limited involvement with others did not bring as such the anticipated result. Hence in learning from such and alike experiences the measure toward networking in all stakeholders shall be strategically designed.

Similarly a lack of networking with the existing technical manpower and mobilization of resource among organizations especially with government shall be improved

Regarding the networking strong task has to be managed. Especially concerning the prevailed poor network between federal cities with regional ones, and lack of communication with the same sectors about the issues should be improved. Due to the absence of a comprehensive city wide policy in the area of child streetism, the city administration has been facing the challenges. In order to culminate these challenges, formulating activity wide policy is presented as a desirable strategy. On other hand the gap of policy implementation difference between Addis Ababa and other regional states has to be given an attention.

Introducing flexible long-term packages by governmental and non-governmental organizations are needed to protect, support and insure a synchronized effort among stakeholders, so as to ease challenges of children on the street at a country level in general and the study area in particular.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This chapter presents and discusses major findings, conclusion remarks, recommendations to address children streetism and contributing factors to its expansion, the reduction strategies and recommended issues for the future policy direction.

#### **5.1. Summary of Findings**

The major findings obtained during the field work including observed activities in all parts of targeted children, government organizations, public institutions, community leaders and representatives are summarized below.

The study tried to examine the children's streetism and its reduction strategies in Kirkos sub city of Flouha and Leghar areas in Addis Ababa. Generally, three thematic areas were identified in line with the objectives of the study. These are assessing the main reasons leading children to streetism, identifying the efforts have been done so far to rehabilitate them and identifying measure taken and strategies designed to reduce the problem of streetism in the areas.

In order to achieve the intended objectives of the study both primary and secondary data were collected, analyzed and interpreted. To collect the primary data, basic questions were prepared for both children informants and KII informants. To collect and analyze data from the secondary source, about an increase number of children on the street, different documents from Kirkos sub city women and social affairs were reviewed.

As the result, 15 children (11 boys and 4 girls) who are living on the street and 20 key informant interviews (5 women and 15 men) was done. Interviews were done with the community members (such as community elders, religious leaders, taxi drivers, shopkeepers, teachers and parking worker) and also Governmental (such as leghar Community police, experts for Kirkos sub-city social and safety net, experts for woreda 7 women and children office, experts for woreda 7 peace and security ,and workers of woreda 7 ‘‘Denbmaskeber’’).As the data from kirkos subcity woman and children office, and from the observation that has been made an increase in number of street children, and the expansion of streetism became shocking in the Addis Ababa city. Accordingly,

the growth trend of street children in the areas can simply be observed by looking at an information obtained from Kirkos sub city to number of children who were mobilized to rehabilitation centers in three consecutive years of, 2021, 2022, and 2023 E.C 1005, 1408, and 1570 respectively. Of course this figure is not exhaustive and could not represent those other remained behind due to different reasons. However, it provides a clue on an increase of street children

In relation to the first objective, the reason why children leaving their home areas to streetism, as per the response of participants from interviews and some related written documents indicated, the socio-cultural, economic, institutional and some other factors have highly contributed, and aggravated to children streetism in the areas.

The socio-cultural factors are related to family structure change that is a large family size, family disintegration, reorganization of family system that is the arrival of step-father or mother, rejection by family because of delinquent behavior, parents' drug addiction, disagreement between parents, violence at home and so on, leads children to the street. Children get into conflict with their families due to; gambling in their early age, evolving in criminal activities by fighting each other in group and sometimes destruct and plunder properties of their own families and others has mentioned.

The socio economic factors, such as family poverty and hope for a better life has also affected the degree of street life, with more children coming to cities. Some social customs are not conducive to the welfare of children, depending on tradition. Children must feed their families from an early age. This violates the basic rights of children. Moreover, children whose parents were beggars are at risk of becoming like their parents by following them. Family poverty is therefore a major reason why children are tempted and taken out into the street.

Other factors such as an urban development, where many children are being drawn from villages to cities to earn a living. Addition to this due to the existing tribal conflicts and related security situation effected numerous children to migrate to cities and exercised streetism. Certain neighborly violence, as well, conflict with parents played a significant role to the problem. Likewise from a discussion with targeted children learned, the misinformation about city life was also a factor to children streetism in drawing huge number of children to urban areas. Particularly those children who had visited or contacted former friends and had already traveled to Addis Ababa from their original place of residence readily converted and followed their friends' experience.



Secondly, various noteworthy efforts have been made by different actors to curb the increasing trend of streetism in the Kirkos suburbs and at the national level in general, but with limited success. Most of the services and various intervention activities carried out mainly by NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) of course without compromising the government's contribution. In particular, the practical results observed by governments were encouraging. However, the involvement in the actual work and the creation of mock-ups for specific problems is still often directed by non-governmental organizations.

Considering children's removal from streets as one of a means of reduction to the problem challenged by its very essence, though assumed as discouraging the existing migration to cities. As grasped from the research work in those identified Flouha and Legahar areas of the sub city a frequent children relocation activities from the street exercised. An action conducted usually at night where children are found concentrated in the street, bus station, bridge tunnels and plastic shelters where they sleep.

During the field work and interviews with participants heard as the removal ways and approaches are somehow improved than previous experiences, since included "preparation of rehabilitation centers ahead, identification of volunteers welfare institutions and mobilization of woreda and subcity's professionals carried out to support children with psychological and moral readiness".

As understood rehabilitation service provided children's and their family members certain startup money, though this donation could not bring expected changes. To this regard from one of interview participants the case of providing money to identified children and family commented in its contribution to a character of dependency syndrome to the community.

With regard to the development of measures and strategies to be taken to alleviate the problem of streetism, suggested at least necessary to establish a common viable system of intervention mechanisms for both governmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem. As the discussions made with representatives of various government sectors and community leaders involved in the research study revealed a common understanding that suggested the failure of reducing streetism is not only due to lack of sufficient resources, but the lack of proper planning and policies of the government mentioned

As repeatedly said, among different factors that led children to cities the economic issue took an important part. The meager economy of the family could not meet the necessity of the children. Hence children forced to leave their areas. To this respect government involvement from the simple service based to the holistic human development program in localities of the children

proposed as a reduction mechanism to the problem.

The other section to be emphasized and interestingly grasped from the field-work was the inadequate advocacy task about the issue and the magnitude of the problem to the concerned bodies include the community members, local governments and to different public and private institutions. Due to an awareness gap created the failures of various programs those designed to tackle the challenges explained by the participants. Similarly an improvement for the prevailed poor networking among stakeholders and the need of Institutional integration advised throughout the discussion.

## **5.2. Conclusion**

Child streetism has been recognized as a social issue by the government since 1974. From this time on wards, different mediations were conducted by distinctive performers. The type of actors involved and their approaches towards the problem varies each other. The major performing artists included in conducting mediations to address the issue of street children incorporate Government organizations, NGOs, FBOs and CBOs.

Once children began life on the streets or streetism, faced a series of challenges, such as meeting basic needs like food, clothing and shelter, being vulnerable to disease, depression and other psychological impacts, and social problems which led them to further abuse.

This may directed them to reduced productivity, reduced opportunities and potential to develop the positive psychological and social skills they need for later life. Street children have no control over resources, no authority or ability to make decisions, and all decisions are made by others. Again, they are financially dependent on the community.

As a result, they lose confidence, lose self-esteem, and have limited life skills. This would have a negative economic impact on her, her family, society, and the community at large.

The major factor for the increasing number of children on the street among others is due to low level of awareness on the challenges of life on the street. It can be said that almost all children join the life of streetism without any prior knowledge about the challenges they may encountered and the life itself.

The streetism effect on street children can be seen simply with an exploitations and different sufferings they confronted while working and living on the street. So they are more exposed to

physical, verbal and sexual abuses. They are beaten by police and by older street boys, physical abuse and a challenge of finding secured places for sleeping are a common problems.

The study found that streetism put the children at greater risk not only because of the handling they received from others, but also because of the impact on their lifestyle and the public attitudes towards street children. They are met with dissatisfaction in society. Some people avoid street children because they fear them and consider them troublemakers.

As the Women and children office of the woreda, most children heart fully accepted what they had told, heard about cities. On the other hand, the woreda in collaboration with other stakeholders has carried out awareness session program to community members in the locality; related to the challenges that children faced in street.

In addition addressed somehow about, socio-cultural reasons that push children to the street, and have been explained in a given opportunity about the importance of forming the disciplined and the significance of structured family system to build the community and the nation at large. Despite of all these, measures taken by government has not yet addressed all challenges and delivered the expected results. As learned from respondents, measures have been taken not in continuous manner, rather as a short remedy with a poor coordination and synchronized efforts.

Similarly though some local and international NGOs are participated in resolving the problem of streetism, most of them are ill-equipped and less committed to support children on the street. To this respect, such organizations are working mainly for the principle of working. Therefore, to decrease streetism from the targeted local areas and others, collective efforts of parents, community members, NGOs and the government needed. Those street children are in need of help from their parents, from the community, NGOs, the government in preventing and handling the challenges and abuse have been practiced through collective effort.

### **5.3. Recommendation**

Update and interpret the important the existing social policies to make them beneficial to all regional cities. Further facilitation of the complex tasks to mitigate the problem of streetism in the sub-city and other similar areas is required.

The regional governments are therefore encouraged to promote policy implementation at lower levels of the structures. The implementation of grassroots policies could support children and households in alleviating problems associated with migration, and benefit the targeted areas of Kirkos sub city, by finding meaningful solutions to the problems of street children.

Problems related to streetism cannot be resolved with the effort of only one or certain groups, it rather needs an integrated effort with high commitment and involvement of all concerned bodies from a grassroots level of the Family members., community, government sectors, nongovernment organizations and FBOS (Faith based Organizations), to get a synergetic effect of the intended action. This mean the problem observed at Kirkos subcity, targeted areas cannot be addressed without a coordination of different actors includes the local community members and administration from where children migrated, as well as the government sectors and NGOs closely concerned with an issue.

Developing prevention programs and related policies is recommended as a strategy to best address the problem of streetism. This leads to go a bit deeper into the social and economic causes that are moving the children in to cities. Special protective measures are also recommended to improve development opportunities for the children who are currently suffering from the hardships of living on the streets.

Establishing a child welfare system is recommended, as it is necessary to tackle streetism at its initial period in a limited areas. Through child welfare system the necessary public and private services that are focused on ensuring children's lives in safe, creating permanent and stable environment can be realized.

Child welfare services may interact with entire family, or they may be attentive on direct intervention with children. The wider societal system, community, and organization impacts the well-being of children and their families and offer guidance for solutions to challenges faced by families and children. In doing so issue that may be emerged in the family level will be resolved, and issues that may push children to leave their home dissolved before they get matured.

As to our findings, lack of adequate education provisions kept away children from primary and other education institutions. In this regard general education system should be adopted in all over

the country and reforms in education system are recommended to be in place. Related to this, concerned government body has to give a direction to schools, to set serious of controlling system to students' movement especially at regional level since this contributes to the follow-up children's movement from their living areas.

As to our observation, Children on the street are living in difficult circumstances; they cannot get food to survive, clothes to wear, they need treatment to save themselves from diseases, space to live. In this regard, government officials of the study area, non- governmental organizations and community members have responsibilities to do the job of their part in commitment to save the lives of the children.

As to a reality of Kirkos sub-city, Children on the street have been involved in drug abuse, sexual abuse and other deviant behaviors; even they are misperceived by law enforcement agencies, police and other adults. In this regard, the existing rules and laws, prohibiting drugs, ingredients like *chat* shall be prohibited should be implemented and awareness trainings should be arranged to police and law enforcing bodies to save children on the street.

As the findings of this study revealed, the respondents have hugely welcomed formulating a citywide policy to address the problem. As to our knowledge, the presence of citywide policy or an establishment of such controlling mechanisms would help the sub-cities to face the problem in the same mind. It creates a spirit of integration among sub cities villages to control and follow up the movements of children from one area to other one.

From information of our participants of, community elders, government staffs, faith based organizations representatives, taxi drivers, parking workers, teachers and even from selected street children; understood that failures of family institution is one of the causes behind an increase in streetism. Therefore, it is recommended to conduct the studies on causes, problems and consequences of failure of family institutions. Similarly mentioned, that carrying out further studies on streetism and its future impact and effect on the street children, the community members and the country at large should be given an emphasis

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## Appendix I

### SMU- SGS

#### Master of Sociology Program

#### Interview Guiding Questions

#### A. Individual In-depth Interview guiding questions to children on the street in the study area (15 respondents from both sexes)

##### I. Background of Target Group Informants

Name of interviewee \_\_\_\_\_ Sex                      Age      Religion

Place of birth                      Place of origin      Level of Formal Education

Place of interview      Date of interview      Duration of interview

##### II. Interview guiding question to children on the street

1. What are the socio- cultural factors contributing to an alarmingly increasing number of children on the street and growth of streetism in the study area?

- How many sisters and brothers do you have? Who can take the responsibility to lead home?
- How much your family cared about you?
- Do your families use any drug? If it use, what type of impacts your family faced?
- Have you face any violence in your home?
- What type of perception do you have to the community? What type of relationship do you have with the community?
- Where and how do you spend your time? With whom you spend the time? What do you do together with your friends?
- Do you use any drug? If you take any drug why do you take it? Before or after streetism?
- Why did you come to the street? What are the factors that push or pull you to the street?
- Did you know about street life before coming into it? With whom are you living on the street now? Is there anyone or anybody who invite you to join in the street?

3. What are the economic factors contributing to the highly increasing of streetism in the study area?

- What do your parents do for a living?
- Does your family give you proper care and support or failed to provide you basic needs?
- Do you face a pressure to support your family economically? If yes, how do you get money?
- How do you observe the trend of streetism in your locality? Is increasing or not If it is increasing alarmingly what do think, what are the main factors?

4. What are the major challenges that children on the street encounter while living or working on the street in the study area?

- How do you perceive streetism?
- What are the major challenges you encounter while living or working on the street?
- Is there anyone who supports you to overcome the challenge on the street??
- What could be done to reduce streetism of children and overcome the problem? What kind of interventions will help you to improve your own life?

Thank you for your valuable information

**B. Individual In-depth Interview guiding questions to Key Informants (such as, community elders, religious leaders, taxi drivers, shopkeepers, teachers, and Parking worker) in the study area (13 respondents,)**

**I. Background of the key Informants**

Name	Position/work:	Date of interview
Address/cell phone	Place of interview	Duration of interview

**II. Guiding questions for Key Informant**

1. What are the socio- cultural and economic factors contributing to increasing number of children on the street in the study area?

- How do you observe situations and the number of children on the street? Is increasing or not in your locality? If it is increasing what do think? What are the main factors?
- What are the roles of the community?
- How do you describe children on the street such as, their life, character, your image and the magnitude of the problem?
- Have you observed differences between children on the street and children being at home with their parents? If yes, what are the differences? Why did these differences happen?
- Where, how and with whom children on the street spend their time? What do they do together with their friends? What kind of relationship and interactions have among them?

3. What are the major challenges that children on the street encounter while living or working on the street in the study area?

- What do you think about the social exclusion on children on the street?
- How do you perceive street life? How often do you interact with children on the street? Could you tell me about your experiences if you have had any with them?

- What are the major challenges children on the street encounter while living or working on the street? What are the roles of the community?

4. What are the possible ways of addressing the socio-cultural and economic factors contributing to Children streetism in the study area?

- What could be done to reduce the highly increasing number of children and trend of streetism to overcome the problem?

Who can take the responsibility? How could it be the community plays a role? Any final comments?

Thank you for your valuable information

**C. Individual In-depth Interview questions to Key Informants ( sub city social safety net and rehabilitation team leader, Community police staffs expertise of woereda women, children affairs woreda peace and security, and “Denb maskber”) in the study area (7 respondents, )**

**I. Background of key Informants**

Name	Position/work:	Date of interview
Address/cell phone	Place of interview	Duration of interview

**II. Key Informant questions**

1. What are the socio- cultural and economic factors contributing to increasing number of children, and streetism in the study area?

- How do you observe the number of children and streetism on the street? Is increasing or not in your locality? If it is increasing what do think? What are the main factors? What are the roles of your organization?

- How do you describe children on the street such as their life, character, institutional image and the magnitude of the problem?

- Have you observed differences between children on the street and children being at home with their parents? If yes, what are the differences? Why did these differences happen?

- Do you think that the community’s attitude towards children on the street and government role and their implementations contributed to alarmingly increasing number of children on the street? If yes how?

- Where, how and with whom children on the street spend their time? What do they do together with their friends? What kind of relationship and interactions have among them?

3. What are the major challenges that children on the street encounter while living or working on

the street in the study area?

- What do you think about the social exclusion on children on the street?
- How do you perceive street life or streetism? How often does your organization interact with children on the street? Could you tell me about your experiences if you have had any with them?
- What are the major challenges children on the street encounter while living or working on the street? What are the roles of your organization?

## Appendix 2. Extended case study interview guide to children on the street (8 respondents)

### I. Personal Information

Name of interviewee   Sex   Age   Religion   Place of birth  
Place of origin   Level of Formal Education   Place of interview   Date of interview  
Duration of interview

### II. Key Questions

1. What is your name? How old are you? From where did you come? For how long have you been on the street? What is the Level of your formal educational?

2. Tell me about your life histories and experiences of the past and the present?

3. What are the socio-cultural factors leading to an increasing number of children on the street in the study area?

- How many sisters and brothers do you have? Who can take the responsibility to lead home? What was your role at home?

- Do your families use any drug? If it use, what type of impacts your family faced?

- Have you face any violence in your home?

- What type of perception do you have to the community? How do you react to them? What type of relationship do you have with the community?

- Where and how do you spend your time? With whom you spend the time? What do you do together with your friends?

- Do you use any drug? If you take any drug why do you take it? Before or after streetism?

- Did you know about street life before coming into it? With whom are you living on the street now? Is there anyone or anybody who invite you to join in the street?

4. What are the economic factors contributing to an alarmingly increasing number of children on the street in the study area?

- What do your parents do for a living? Who supports the family?

- Do you face a pressure to support your family economically? If yes, how do you get money?

- How do you observe the number of children on the street? Is increasing or not in your locality? If it is increasing aggravating what do think, what are the main factors?

5. What are the major challenges that children on the street encounter while living or working on the street in the study area?

- How do you perceive street life?

- What are the major challenges you encounter while living or working on the street?

6. Is there anyone who supports you to overcome the challenge on the street? If yes, what kind of service is provided? Where, on the street or at rehabilitation center? Is the support given to you based on your needs?

- Do you have a future plan to improve your life? If yes how?

7. What could be done to reduce highly increasing number of children on the street and overcome the problem? What kind of interventions will help you to improve your own life?

Thank you for your valuable information

**Table 1: General Profile of KI Informants**

Code	Sex	Age Years	Religion	Place of origin	Education level	Fam ily size	Duration On street	Immediate Cause to be on street	Ethnic Back ground
KI1	Male	13	o Christian	Yirgalem	Grade 2	6	3 years	Family poverty	Sidama
KI2	Male	16	o Christian	Arsi negle	None	7	2 years	Peer influence	Oromo
KI3	Male	12	oChristian	Arsi negle	Grade 5	7	1 year	Tribe conflict	Oromo
KI4	Male	12	oChristian	Shashemene	Grade 3	5	1 year	Family poverty	Oromo
KI 5	Male	14	Muslim	Shashemene	Grade 2	6	2 years	Family death	Oromo
KI6	Female	17	Muslim	Shashemene	Grade 5	8	2 years	Family violence	Oromo
KI 7	Female	9	o Christian	Wolyta	Grade 2	2	3 years	Family neglect	Wolyta
KI 8	Male	14	Muslim	Ziway	None	6	4 year	Delinquent behavior	Oromo
KI 9	Male	8	oChristian	Muger oromia	None	5	6 moths	False inform	Oromo
KI 10	Female	13	protestant	Gika south	Grade 5	6	10 months	False inform	Kefa
KI 11	Female	14	protestant	Gika south	Grade 7	3	10 months	False inform	Maji
KI 12	Male	14	Muslim	Arsi Negle	Grade 6	8	3 years	False inform	Oromo
KI 13	Male	15	o Christian	Majete Amhara	Grade 3	5	3 years	Tribe conflict	Amhara
KI 14	Male	9	o Christian	Dera	Grade 3	4	2 years	Family death	Amhara
KI 15	Male	10	o Christian	Yirgalem	Grade 3	4	1.5 years	Family violence	Sidama

O Orthodox P protestant

**Table 2: General Profile of KII Informants**

Code	Sex	Age	Position/ work	Work Place	Marital Status	Duration to the area
KII 1	Male	31	Safety tem leader	K.Subcity	Single	6 years
KII 2	Female	39	Social worker	Woreda 7	married	5 years
KII 3	Male	38	Police officer	Community police	married	7 years
KII 4	Male	42	Police officer	Community police	married	8 years
KII 5	Male	61	Community elder	Self employed	married	35 years
KII 6	Male	55	Community elder	Self employed	married	23 years
KII 7	Male	42	Religon leader	NGO	married	30 years
KII 8	Male	28	shopekeeper	Flouha	Single	10 years
KII 9	Male	29	parking	leghar	married	7 years
KII 10	Female	29	Social worker	Woreda 7	married	5 years
KII 11	Male	32	Peae&seurity	Woreda 7	Single	4 years
KII 12	Male	28	Police officer	Community police	Single	5 years
KII 13	Male	50	Religon leader	Teklaimanot church	married	26 years
KII 14	Male	42	Religon leader	Flouha Mosque	married	13 years
KII 15	Male	38	Taxi Driver	leghar	married	5 years
KII 16	Female	31	Secretary	Community police	married	4 years
KII 17	Female	26	Social worker	Woreda	Single	4 years
KII 18	Male	55	Comm elder	Buissnes man	married	30 years
KII 19	Male	59	Teacher	Beynemerid	Single	32 years
KII 20	Male	30	Denb	Woreda 7	married	5 years





Street children sleep at 12 am in bus station at the study area taken by the researcher.



Street children hailing glues and gambling besides street around leghar,taken by the researcher