

**Jimma University**

**College of Social Sciences and Humanities**

**School of Social Work**

**The Role of Vital Event Registration for Child Rights Protection: The Case of South West**

**Ethiopia, Jimma Zone, Omo Nada Woreda**

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the Degree of Masters of Social Work (MSW)**

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### DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis entitled “The Role of Vital Event Registration for Child Rights Protection: The Case of South West Ethiopia, Jimma Zone, Omo Nada Woreda” is my original work and has not been presented for a degree at any other University, and that all sources of materials used for the study have been duly acknowledged.

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CR	Civil Registration
CRC	Child Right Convention
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IDB	Inter- American Development Bank
IFSW	International Federation of Social Work
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UCHR	Universal Convention on Human Rights
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNCRC	United Nation Child Right Convention
UNECA	United Nation Economic Commission of Africa
UNSD	United Nation Statistical Division
VERA	Vital Event Registration Agency
WHO	World Health Organisation
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease occurred in 2019
FGD	Focus Group Discussion

## ABSTRACT

*Civil registration is an administrative system that involves the continuous gathering of information on all relevant vital events, including birth, marriage, divorce, adoption, and death. Event registration is the basis for developing a legal and administrative information system that protects and safeguards most of the rights and privileges of citizens endorsed. The purpose of the study is to examine the role of vital event registration for child rights protection in the case of Jimma Zone, Omo Nada woreda. A mixed research method was employed to conduct this research. The survey was conducted using structured questions and 286 sample household heads were selected using simple random sampling from 10 Kebele administrations. Qualitative data was collected through in-depth interviews with 12 vital event registration task force members and civil status officers, and two FGDs conducted with boys and girls. The result indicated that the utilization of vital event documents is less for proof of age, to be enrolled in school, nutrition assessment, immunization, and parental relationships. Hence, the role of this vital event for child rights protection in Omo Nada is insignificant.*

*The coverage of event registration and awareness of the community and the public service integration to use vital events for legal and administrative purposes are limited. The requirement of a vital event certificate for public service has the potential to increase the demand for civil status documents, as well as help in child protection by screening their age for health services, enrolment in education, legal services, and statistical purposes. Nevertheless, in Omo Nada, the use of civil status documents for child rights protection was less relevant. Based on these findings, integration of implementing bodies and utilization of vital event documents are recommended to improve the role of vital events in child rights protection.*

**Key words:** *Civil status, public service, vital event registration*

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Civil registration is an administrative system that collects data on all significant vital events, such as births, marriages, divorces, adoptions, and deaths, on a continual basis. The United Nations defines it as "universal, continuous, permanent, and compulsory recording of vital events given by decree or regulation in conformity with the legal needs of each country" (University of Botswana, 2015, p. 2). It gives people the documents they need to prove their legal identities and family links, and thus to exercise their civil rights, access services, and participate in modern society (University of Botswana, 2015). When the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stated, "Every child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have a name," it established a basic link between human rights and key event registration (UN, 2014, p. 1) and the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages proclaimed. The link between human rights and registration of vital events was further emphasized in the United Nations World Population Plan of Action, adopted by the 136 representatives of Governments to the World Population Conference in 1974 (UN, 2014).

“Africa cannot fulfill its dream unless we know who we are, where we live, work and play and what we need to better our living conditions. Births, marriages, divorces and deaths are all vital events that must be recorded in any country” Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa (UNECA, 2015, p. 3). The right to birth registration is closely linked to the realization of many other rights, and has profound consequences for children’s enjoyment of their rights with regard to protection, nationality, access to social and health services, and education (UNICEF, 2012). A country's level of development and how its administrative system has been shaped by its history and culture are

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reflected in the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system. Civil registration and vital statistics systems are critical for achieving human rights and gaining access to basic social protection. Simultaneously, it is recognized that legal identity is realized through civil registration (UNEC, 2014). Civil registration is a fundamental function of public administration and central to inclusive development. It is for these reasons that the SDG agenda has within its target 16.9 to achieve, by 2030, legal identity for all including birth registration (Marskell, 2018).

Article 24, paragraph two, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, acknowledge birth registration as a fundamental right. The right to be registered at birth is inextricably tied to the enjoyment of a slew of other rights; socioeconomic rights like the right to health and the right to education are all on the line (UN, 2014). IFSW International Policy (1988) states: ‘Social Work has, from its conception, been a Human Rights profession, having as its basic tenet the intrinsic value of every human being and as one of its main aims the promotion of equitable social structures, which can offer people security and development while upholding their dignity’ (FSW Europe, 2010). Many explanations for social work’s low visibility in the global human rights movement could be advanced. These include emphasis on social and economic rights, rather than civil and political rights that command more public attention; focus on vulnerable and socially excluded groups; preference for the case approach rather than macro issues; strict observance of confidentiality impeding use of cases to serve the wider cause; a focus on needs rather than rights; and the lack of sustained global leadership on human rights by the organizations that represent the profession. Each of these suggests avenues for further work by the profession to strengthen its human rights presence (Healy, 2015).

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According to the United Nations Statistics Division, birth registration coverage in African countries now ranges from less than 10% (Somalia, Liberia, Ethiopia) to more than 90% (Gabon, Congo, South Africa), and death registration coverage ranges from less than 10% (Niger, Benin, Sudan) to more than 90% (Gabon, Congo, South Africa) (Sao-Tome & Principe, Cape Verde, Mauritius). These disparities show the scope of what has been accomplished in certain countries and what is lacking in others (Michel, 2017). Individuals' legal requirements for vital event registration include documentary proof of identity, legal status and resulting rights, proof of age and allowing access to rights based on age, establishing family relationships, and enabling the legal transmission of property, inheritance, social insurance, and other benefits. The administrative data gathered during the registration of vital events can be used to build continuous vital statistics (Zewoldi, 2013). As a result, research is needed to understand the application of vital event registration to child rights protection, as well as the fact that vital event registration and human rights have relationships at the grassroots level.

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

The registration of births, deaths, marriages, and divorces is the foundation for building a legal and administrative information system that protects and safeguards the vast majority of citizen rights and benefits enshrined in several conventions and the United Nations Charter (Birru, 2007). Despite its obvious importance, research on the role of crucial event registration in protecting children's rights has paid little attention to it. Because Ethiopia's birth registration system is new, there is a paucity of research that examines whether the enacted birth registration and its implications for the realization of children's rights are effective (Gerbaba, 2017).

Long distance to the registration office, high registration cost, lack of awareness of vital events registration, and lack of information about vital events registration are the most common

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reasons for not being registered for vital events, according to a study conducted by AKililu and his friends at Hawassa city administration (Aklilu, 2020). The biggest finding, according to Elias Mohammed "Assessments of the Practices and Challenges of Vital Events Registration," was a lack of coordination work with institutions that was not done efficiently. Forgery, cultural taboos, manual systems, coordination, affordability, and budgeting are all factors that influence the outcome of the Vital Registration System (Jibril, 2019). Overall, the research suggests that birth registration has the greatest potential to affect access to services at the system level; precise and universal birth registration data can improve government service delivery and planning. As a result, birth registration's ability to enable access should be evaluated as part of the government's service offering, rather than as a separate issue (Kara, 2014).

Birth registration, and particularly a birth certificate, serves as a permanent passport for the acknowledgment of rights which may be required to vote, marry, or obtain legal employment, among other things. According to a recent country-specific study, more research is needed to thoroughly analyse the relationship between access to services and birth registration. The right to register births is inextricably tied to the right to vote (UNHRC, 2014). Individuals' lives and deaths, as well as their family and civil status, are all affected by vital events (Abera, 2020). Registration of children at birth is the first step toward ensuring their legal recognition, protecting their rights, and ensuring that any violations of these rights are not overlooked (UNFPA, 2016).

According to the Mohamed report, the barriers to a functional civil registration system in Ethiopia's Somali region, little progress has been achieved on civil registration in the Somali region due to a variety of issues that hinder the system. Financial, human resources, and logistical obstacles, lack of political priority, poor registration value, and low awareness (Muhumad, 2019). Hence, most of studies conducted in the country focused on the challenges of vital event

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registration, this study looked into the role of vital events like birth, marriage, divorce, death, and adoption in protecting children's rights, as well as the community's and public service providers' application of vital event registration in using event registration documents for child rights protection in Jimma zone, Omo Nada Woreda.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

- What are the roles of vital event registration contribution to the protection of children's rights in society?
- Is there a role for vital event registration in administrative and legal decision-making?
- What is the applicability of vital event documents in community and public service providers to ensure visibility of children?
- What are the obstacles to vital event registration in terms of contributing to the protection of children's rights?

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

#### **1.4.1 General Objective**

- To examine the roles of vital event registration for child rights protection in the case of Jimma zone, Omo Nada Woreda.

#### **1.4.2 Specific Objectives**

- To describe the roles of vital event registration contribution to the protection of children's rights in society.
- To identify a role for vital event registration in administrative and legal decision-making.
- To describe the applicability of vital event documents in community and public service providers to ensure visibility of children.

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- To identify the obstacles to vital event registration in terms of contributing to the protection of children's rights.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

In light of the significant gaps in academic and practice concerning the topic under consideration in the Ethiopian context, this particular study would have the following notable significance: The study offers an insight into the vital event registration body of the Jimma zone, Omo Nada Woreda. The findings of the study will help them to work on vital event registration gaps in child rights protection and utilization for legal and administrative services to ensure the right of children to be used as proof of legal documents before the law in inheritance, early marriage, child trafficking and to access social services. The study findings help Omo Nada women, children, and youth affairs office as a reference to work on child rights protection through ensuring the identity of children and enhancing legal and administrative services to children in collaboration with other fundamental human rights. It could be used as a reference to conduct further studies on vital event registration roles and practices in child rights protection. Providing information on practices of vital event registration document utilization for child rights protection.

### **1.6 The Scope of the Study**

The scope of this study was limited to assess the role of vital events registration (i.e. birth, divorce, adoption, death, and marriage) for child rights protection. It examines that, the registration of vital events affirmation in basic human rights which were the right to get social services like education, health care, and identity as citizenship and the right to be protected and cared for. It was also the study limited geographically into Jimma zone Omo nada Woreda.



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

As is the case with any research, this study has limitations. The first limitation was that the sample used by the study was limited only to Omonada Woreda of the Jimma zone. The contemporary global challenge of COVID-19 was a challenge to collect data and the data collectors, interviewees, participants and the researchers used WHO prevention mechanisms (keeping distance, using face masks and sanitizers) to collect the data safely even though it took extra time.

### **1.8 Organization of the Paper**

This paper was organized into five chapters. Chapter one is the introduction part of the document; it comprises the background of the study, statement of the problem, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, limitations of the study, organisation of the paper and definitions key terms. Chapter two deals with the literature review, which mainly constitutes the theoretical and empirical reviews, conceptual and theoretical framework of the study. Chapter three describes the research design and methodology applied to conduct the study. It tries to address the research design employed, target population and sample, data source and data collection instrument, data analysis procedure, and ethical consideration. Chapter four describes data presentation, analysis and interpretation of the quantitative and qualitative data. Chapter five is conclusion and recommendations of the study. The last one is the reference and annexes part which contains a questionnaire, interview guide and consent form.

### **9 Definition of Key Terms**

**Vital Event Registration:** Vital or civil registration is the system by which a government records the vital events of its citizens and residents. Vital registration creates legal documents which may be used to establish and protect the civil rights of individuals, as well as providing a source of data which may be compiled to give vital statistics (World Bank, 2014).

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Child Rights Protection: Child rights, like human rights, come from the idea that all people have fundamental rights that they are born with. These rights cannot be taken away because of a person's gender, age, religion, race, ethnicity, or other factors. It is recognized that special protection must be given to children to ensure full, happy, and healthy development without fear of harm or exploitation (Global Fund, 2014).

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 Child Rights and Protection**

##### **2.1.1 Child Rights**

A child is defined as "any human being under the age of eighteen years, unless the majority is acquired earlier under law relevant to the child" in Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNICEF, 2011). Children, like every other person, have human rights. They have unique rights, in addition to general human rights, because of their age-related mental and physical development (Goel, 2009). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the two International Covenants, according to the UDHR and the two International Covenants, cover rights that are directly important to children. According to Article 25 of the UCHR, maternity and children are entitled to special attention and assistance. The right to protection and support for the family is guaranteed by Article 10 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (EU, 2012). As a result, the FDRE Constitution affirms children's rights to life, identity, and nationality, as well as the right to know and be cared for by their parents. It guarantees children's right to a life free of violence, neglect, exploitation, and abuse. The Article, in particular, affirms children's right to life and prohibits exploitative acts against children and their participation in employment (Birmeta, 2015).

The right to birth registration is a fundamental human right, and its violation deprives a child of the benefits and protections that a nation provides to its residents. A country cannot even answer the question "who is a child?" without birth registration as proof of age and identity. The premise behind the recognition of a child's rights stems from the fact that he or she is a child (PlanEthiopia, 2010). Documentary evidence, such as birth certificates, is provided by civil

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registration, which contributes to the protection of individuals' human and civil rights (University of Botswana, 2015).

Children, being human beings, are entitled to the safeguards afforded by the FDRE Constitution's human rights provisions. Furthermore, Article 36 of the FDRE Constitution is dedicated solely to children's rights (Amare, 2017). In the field of human rights, man's ambivalent attitude toward social standards is manifested by the fact that an individual, as a holder of social rights and liberties, pursuing first and foremost his own interests, must reckon with new social reference points such as equal opportunity, social justice, and non-discrimination society, as well as traditional principles of observing others (Anna, 2018). Children are among the most vulnerable members of society due to their mental and physical immaturity. As a result, states must create the necessary legal and institutional structures to offer specific protection and care for children. Ethiopia has accepted international and regional human rights instruments aimed at protecting children to this end (Tesfaye, 2017). It also put provisions in its constitution to protect children's rights. The social and cultural focus of the legal dominant in childhood research has enriched science with concepts of childhood that are increasingly actively migrating from the theme periphery to the central sphere of scientific knowledge throughout the second half of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first (Anna, 2018).

### **2.1.2 Child Protection**

Different groups interpret the concept of child protection in different ways. Child protection, according to UNICEF, includes preventing and responding to violence, exploitation, and abuse against children, such as commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking, child labour, and harmful cultural practices, including female genital mutilation, and child marriage (UNESCAP, 2014). Child protection is defined by Save the Children as procedures and systems

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that prevent and respond to child abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. As a result of the preceding definition, child protection implies responding or taking measures to ensure that children's rights are not violated (Girmachew, 2015). Children are the future generation, and they must be socialized and raised in a healthy environment, since they will be the future adults and progress in any country (Eyasu, 2018). Children must be protected from threats to their mental, physical, and emotional well-being, such as emergencies, legal issues, violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect, and discrimination. Although significant progress has been made in this area, it can be difficult to measure it due to significant gaps in data on child protection violations and a lack of implementation (UNICEF, 2009).

Although the UNCRC is ostensibly designed to accommodate a wide range of legal systems and cultural traditions around the world, it is clear that it is founded on Western principles that were acceptable in the early twentieth century. The basic parts of this agreement provide the right to survive, such as health and food, education, particularly free primary education, play and relaxation, and development to the highest level possible (Giorgis, 2008). Ethiopia ratified the UNCRC in 1991. Since then, the government has carried out numerous activities geared towards ensuring the protection and promotion of the rights and welfare of children. The Convention was domesticated through national legislation (Proclamation No 10/1992) and then translated into 11 nationality languages for dissemination (MOLSA, 2005). Children are considered to be one of the most vulnerable groups of people due to their inability to protect themselves from various forms of physical and emotional abuse (Kassie, 2016). Child protection is primarily intended to prevent acts of maltreatment, which can take the form of both commission and action (abuse) as well as inaction and omission (neglect). Neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and psychological

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maltreatment are the most common forms of maltreatment (including exposure to adult-on-adult family violence). Maltreatment has a wide range of legal classifications (WHO, 2013).

Children's rights to be protected from violence, abuse, and exploitation are explicitly stated in international law, regional legal norms, and most, if not all, countries' domestic laws. This represents a universal human understanding that a world suited for children is one where all children are safeguarded (UNICEF, 2004). The right to identification and legal personality, as well as other rights, of a child must be protected by birth registration. Birth records are often essential for admission to school and other basic services, such as health care for younger children, and they help protect them against trafficking and abduction. Proof of age is required for older children to guarantee that they are not deprived of their rights prematurely (O'Donnell, 2004).

### **2.1.3 Vital Event Registration Role for Child Rights Protection**

Individuals' lives and deaths, as well as their family members' and civil status, are all affected by vital occurrences. Births, deaths, marriages, divorces, annulments, adoptions, legitimations, and recognitions are all included (Carla, 2010, p. 20). Individuals can use civil registration and associated legal documents to prove their legal identity, establish their right to nationality, exercise a wide range of rights, and gain access to critical services such as social welfare, education, health, and legal protection (Suthar, 2019). Furthermore, proof of age makes it easier to prosecute people who commit crimes against minors, including child trafficking, sexual offenses, early military service, child marriage, and child labour (Carla, 2010). While birth registration does not confer citizenship on the child in and of itself, it is typically required in order to get citizenship under the laws of each country (UNICEF, 2013).

In the Philippines, roughly half of all instances involving child labour or prostitution were unable to be prosecuted due to a lack of a birth certificate proving the accused victim was a child

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(Statistics, 2018). The majority of African countries in the relevant regions have built a policy and legal framework to ensure that critical occurrences are recorded. However, problems such as a lack of a shared accountability framework for putting policies into effect and government financial constraints have severely limited the realization of large-scale results (CVRS, 2016).

## **2.2 Empirical Review**

### **2.2.1 The Vital Event Registration Globally**

According to the latest estimates, the globe failed to account for 230 million children under the age of five as of 2012. Furthermore, 70 million children have been registered but have yet to acquire a birth certificate. These youngsters lack a critical component of legal identity, which may limit their access to economic and social prospects later in life, such as participating in the contemporary economy, using public services, or voting. Birth registration can also serve to protect children from abuse and exploitation when implemented in a supportive government environment (Gelb, 2014). Globally, death registration serves three primary purposes: (a) legal: (b) administrative: and (c) statistical. In most African countries, mortality statistics systems are deficient, often characterized by fragmented and uncoordinated collections from multiple sources. Three of the many challenges that have constrained the successful operation of civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa in the past include: low demand because of limited awareness and barriers to registration; supply-side problems and the civil registration and vital statistics being seen as an “orphan”; and lack of integration and coordination (African Centre for statistics (ACS), 2017).

Following what was learned globally from working towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the global community committed 2016-2030 to achieving new global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that seek “to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle

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climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind” (Samuel, 2017). The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) et al (2015) analysed 77 of the 100 countries that are still without a functioning CRVS system, concluding that they would collectively require US \$3.3 billion of investments into CRVS between 2015 and 2030, with annual costs of US \$220 million (Anonymous, 2018).

### **2.2.2 The Regional Perspective of Vital Event Registration and its Utilization**

The lowest levels of birth registration are found in sub-Saharan Africa (44 per cent) and South Asia (39 per cent) – the region with the largest overall number of births and children under five. In Eastern and Southern Africa, only 38 per cent of children are registered by their fifth birthday, leaving about 44 million children under five unrecorded. The rate of birth registration in West and Central Africa is slightly higher, at 47 per cent (UNICEF, 2013).The decision of Heads of States and Government in June 2016 to declare 2017–2026 as the decade for repositioning civil registration and vital statistics in Africa’s continental, regional and national development agenda underpins the need for a comprehensive work plan for the decade. In addition, it supports the need to re-strategize the frameworks and methodologies for the coming phase of implementation of statistics systems. The priority for the Africa Programme now shifts from the preparatory phase of intensive advocacy and communication and planning conducted since the inception of the Programme in 2010, to rigorous capacity development efforts specific to the country’s demands. The civil registration and vital statistics secretariat and Core Group have to gear up to meet these demands in a harmonized, coordinated and systematic way (PAI-CRVS, 2017).

For Botswana, civil registration and vital statistics and identity management benefits can be summarized as follows: Facilitation of individuals’ enjoyment of their rights to birth registration and other associated rights, such as the right to a name, nationality, and the right to identity. A



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robust, safe, secure, and reliable identity management system and individual identities. The improved capacity to generate timely and accurate vital statistics data from a civil registration system for evidence-based decision-making (University of Botswana, 2015).

### **2.2.3 The Role of Vital Event in Legal and Public Services**

The principal reason for the existence of civil registration – its basic purpose and one that must be facilitated by the State – is to serve as an institution capable of disclosing facts relating to civil status based on technical legal principles, through which individuals can be assured of the legitimacy and authenticity of civil status-related facts in order to accredit them to other individuals or the administration itself, by means of public registration documents known as certifications (UN, 2017). The advantages of a well-functioning civil registration system are not only apparent in times of conflict and post-conflict. In peacetime, such a system provides the foundations of good governance. Effective civil registration enables effective government planning. It provides better government service delivery at lower unit cost; it supports the implementation of age-related legislation and protects against family separation; and it helps to reduce issues of statelessness and risk of conflict over issues of nationality (UNICEF, 2019). Individual copies of registration records serve as legal documentation for establishing their identity, origin, date of birth, marriage, and death. Registration records can serve crucial administrative and statistical reasons by providing information on major events (Dr. Joungmee Han, 2017).

The relationship between CRVS, social service, and human rights was explored in a study done by the University of Pittsburgh. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) sees CRVS as a critical instrument in the battle against poverty and inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), as well as an essential component of long-term development. In fact, the IDB

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has long recognized that a lack of legal identity and birth registration has a direct impact on one's ability to fully participate in social, political, and economic life (Peters, 2016).

#### **2.2.4 Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Ethiopia and its Role in Child Protection**

The Ethiopian Civil Code, which was enacted in 1960, contains provisions for the registration of vital occurrences (Federal Negarit Gazeta, 1960). The Civil Code of 1960 made it mandatory to record births, deaths, and marriages. Article 3361 of the same 1960 Civil Code, on the other hand, prevented articles dealing with civil registrations from taking effect until an official order was issued. The order to activate these articles never came. In August 2012, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) issued the Registration of Vital Events and National Identity Card Proclamation No.760/2012, referred to hereafter as the 2012 law, which is a comprehensive and compulsory law on registrations of vital events in Ethiopia (Yacob Z. , 2013).

Everyone has the right to a nationality, and no one should be arbitrarily denied that right or the ability to change their nationality. Similarly, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) states that “every child has the right to acquire a nationality.” Furthermore, according to Article 7 of the CRC, “the infant shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right to a name, the right to acquire a nationality, and, to the extent possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents” (emphasis added). Furthermore, Ethiopia's present constitution specifies that “all foreign accords approved by Ethiopia constitute an intrinsic element of the law of the land.” Furthermore, article 13 (2) states that “the fundamental rights and freedoms described in this chapter will be interpreted in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights covenants, and international instruments adopted by Ethiopia” (Fassil, 2020). Ethiopian embassies and consulates have been designated as registrars of vital events involving Ethiopians living abroad; national ships have been

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entrusted with the responsibility of registering events that occur on board; and the Ministry of National Defence has been entrusted with the responsibility of registering relevant vital events involving members of the defence force (UNSD, 2014).

A legal framework for civil registration processes and procedures ensures that results are comparable across the country. The law gives precise specifications of the registration functions for this purpose, preserving the integrity of the system and ensuring that legal issues are treated consistently wherever they emerge. Regardless of whether the issues being handled occur in different geographical places, under different administrative settings, or for whatever social or economic reasons, the usage of legal specifications (for example, rules and regulations) appropriate to the issue stays consistent (UN, 2018, p. 4). The term "civil registration method" refers to the procedure for gathering basic information on the frequency and characteristics of vital events that occur in the population of a country (or area) within a specified time frame, which is used to prepare legal-valued vital records and produce vital statistics. This approach should be separated from other methods of demographic data collection since it is required by law to be continuous, permanent, and confidential. The data gathered within the framework of this system is legally enforceable (UN, 2018).

The FDRE Constitution, the Revised Family Law (Federal Negarit Gazeta, 2000), international human rights agreements approved by Ethiopia, and various UN declarations, covenants, and resolutions all outline essential human rights. For example, everyone's right to be registered, everyone's right to have an identity from birth, everyone's right to know their parents' names, everyone's right to not be discriminated against because of their birth, and everyone's right to a nationality (Yacob Z. , 2013). The Registration of Key Events and National Identity Card Proclamation No. 760/201211 was released by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

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(FDRE) in August 2012, and it was a complete law that made vital event registrations mandatory.

Birth, death, marriage, divorce, adoption, recognition, and legitimation are all significant events that must be recorded, according to the law (Yacob, 2019).

### **2.3 Theoretical Framework**

Families exist to breed and socialize their children. Structural functionalism is essentially a social survival hypothesis. Its primary premise is that families are responsible for procreation and socialization of children in order for them to fit into society. Theorists consider what is required for a society to function, as well as which institutions or subgroups within that society are capable of delivering it. They come to the conclusion that an intact nuclear family with a husband, wife, and children is the best arrangement. This is the modern world's optimum structure of humans for serving the requirements of its members as well as the demands of the larger community. That is, it functions best (Goode, 1993). Human rights have been widely regarded as universal, international, and unaffected by race, sex, religion, socioeconomic status, or nationality since the adoption of the UDHR. Human rights assert that "every human being, in every society, is entitled to have basic autonomy and freedoms respected, as well as basic necessities met," as Louis Henkin points out. "More properly, if one has a human right, one is entitled to make a fundamental claim that a government or another component of society do— or refrain from doing— something that has a significant impact on one's human dignity" (Walters, 1995).

Structural functionalism is included in this study because it is one of the theories of social survival that social structures function dependently and work together to maintain the equilibrium of each family's function in harmony. Civil status registration shows that the relationship of individuals with each other and function well together unless the rights of individuals, especially children's and survival, cannot be ensured. When the structure of parental relationship with

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children is recognised and the relationships of their parents has legal ground, the family structure functions well and this helps social survival. Civil status registration has a significant role in the structure of society to function well without the arbitrary aggression of the right of one over the other and in child right protection exercises.

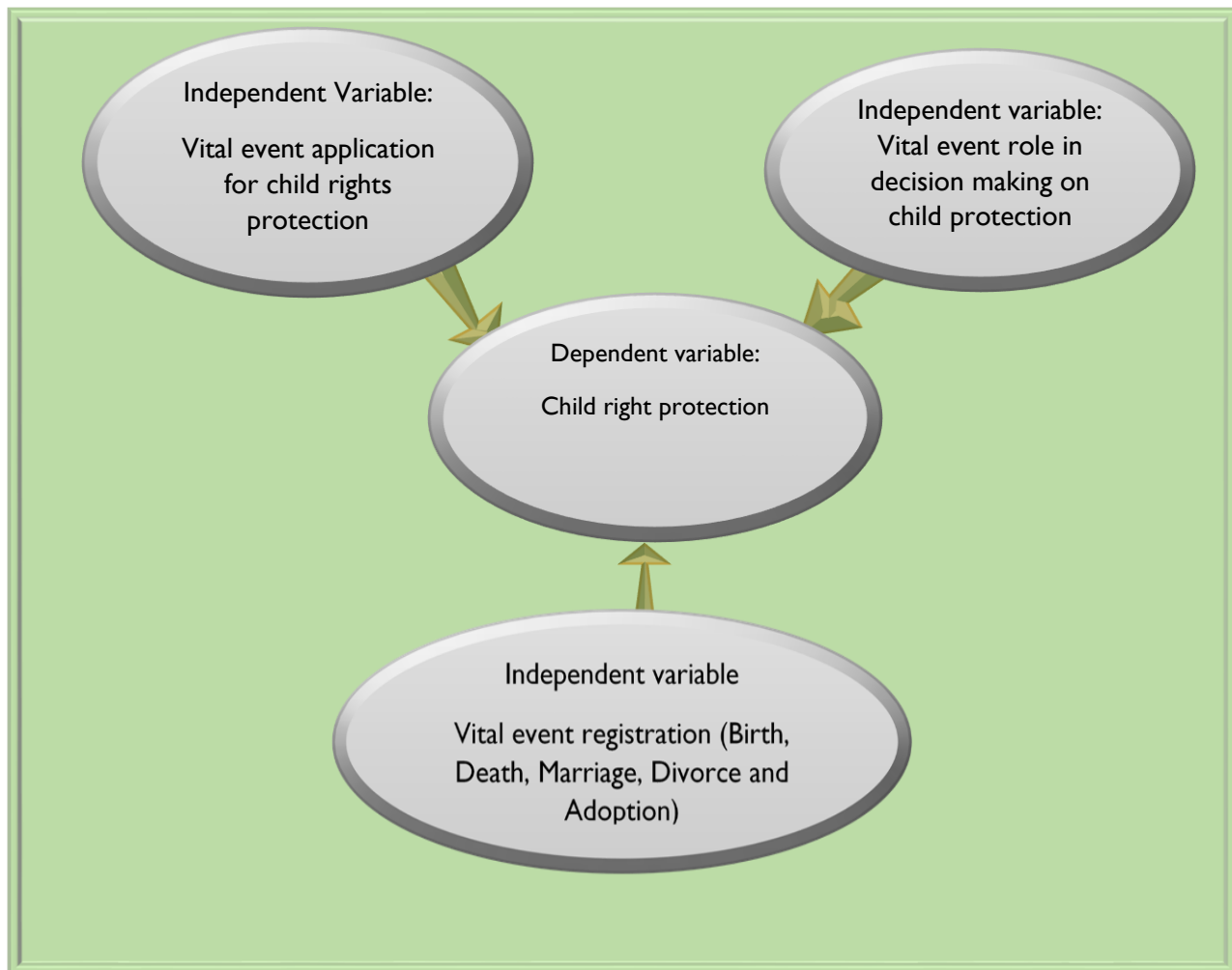
#### **2.4 Conceptual Framework**

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, birth registration entails three steps that are intertwined. The first is that the birth of a child must be reported to civil registrars. Second, the birth is legally recorded by civil registrars. The third step is for the registered organ to issue a birth certificate, which serves as proof of registration. The conceptual framework demonstrates how important event registration is linked to legal and administrative goals (Gemechu, 2017). The registration of a vital event, its aim, and the statistical data produced from the registration and civil status of the important event are all depicted in the conceptual framework. The information offered by important event registration assists in the collecting of statistics on health, economy, social, and population issues, demonstrating how vital event registration and its data can be valuable in a range of situations. All information gathered through event registration is used to protect children's rights, ensuring that they are not discriminated against or exploited, that they are cared for, and that they have access to legal, health, and education services. This framework helps to address the questions "What are the roles of vital event registration contribution to the protection of children's rights in society and Is there a role for vital event registration in administrative and legal decision-making".

In practice, establishing and proving one's legal identification is required to vote, own property, work, attend school, receive social services, travel, and other rights. Certain communities are unable to fully exercise their rights when their identification must be established through a

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cumbersome and discriminatory civil registration or identity management system. Continual and universal systems, on the other hand, can help defend the rights of people who would otherwise be left behind. Furthermore, the vital statistics supplied by this system can be utilized to guide evidence-based policy decisions based on demographic data that is inclusive (UNSD, 2018)



**Source: Adapted from Zewoldi, 2013**

**Figure 2 1** Conceptual framework of vital event registration role in child rights protection

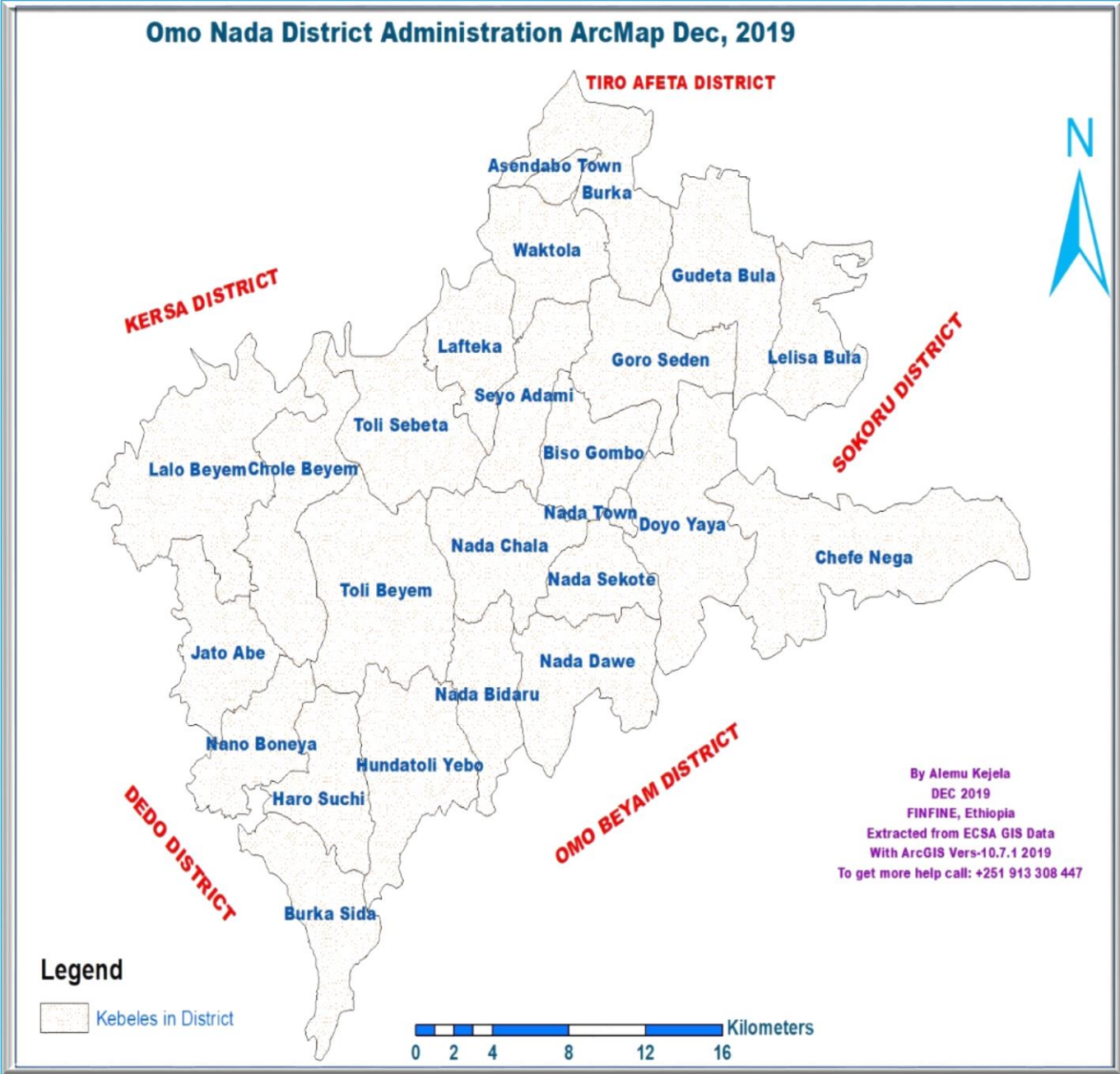
## CHAPTER THREE

### RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Study Area

The study was conducted in southwest Ethiopia, Oromia regional state, Jimma zone, Omo Nada Woreda, which is located at 80 50' – 80 61' North latitude and 300 40' – 310 00' East longitude 302km away from Addis Ababa (Tadesse, 2016). The organizational arrangement for vital events registration follows the decentralized administrative structure (Yacob, 2019). The regional states are administratively divided into zones, Woreda or districts and the lowest level administrative units known as kebele. Registration of vital events takes place in Kebeles (ECA, 2019). Based on this, Omo Nada Woreda Vital event registration agency was established in 2016 and since then the office has been registering birth, death, marriage, divorce, and adoption events. According to Omo Nada Woreda VERA report, event registration data since 2016 is: birth 20543, death 155, divorce 24, and marriage 328 (Mengistu, 2020).

The population of the Woreda is based on a 2007 national census projection grounded on age and sex category. The total population is 218,377, of which 110,062 (50.4%) are male and 108,315 (49.6%) are female; the number of households is 45,495 (4.8%); live births are 7,578 (3.47%); children under five years old are 32,757 (15%); children under fifteen are 103,969 (47.63%); youth 15-24 years are 43,151 (19.76%); and women of childbearing age 48,327(22.13%) (Omonada Health Office, 2018).



Source: Omo Nada Health office, 2019

Figure 3 1 Geographic location of the study area



### **3.2 Philosophical Foundations or Paradigms of the Research**

The philosophical foundation used for this study was pragmatism. A lot of researchers, both quantitative and qualitative, take a pragmatist approach to research, using different methods depending on the research question they are trying to answer (Muijs, 2004). Pragmatism as a research paradigm finds its philosophical foundation in the historical contributions of the philosophy of pragmatism and, as such, embraces plurality of methods. A major underpinning of pragmatist epistemology is that knowledge is always based on experience. One's perceptions of the world are influenced by our social experiences. Each person's knowledge is unique as it is created by her/his unique experiences (AWalsh, 2019). The stance of knowledge used in this study help to study the event registration practices and the application of event document with public service providers for child rights protection. The answer a pragmatist will give to this is that recognition of human actions (what people do) is a fundamental way of letting the social world become meaningful (Goldkuhl, 2004). Pragmatism, when regarded as an alternative paradigm, sidesteps the contentious issues of truth and reality, accepts, philosophically, that there are singular and multiple realities that are open to empirical inquiry and orients itself toward solving practical problems in the "real world" (Feilzer, 2010).

### **3.3 Research Design**

"A research design is the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure." In fact, the research design is the conceptual structure within which research is conducted; it constitutes the blueprint for the collection, measurement and analysis of data (C.R.KORTHARI, 1990). Mixed methods research is a research design compatible with philosophical assumptions as well as methods of inquiry. As a methodology, it involves philosophical assumptions that guide

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the direction of the collection and analysis of data and the mixture of qualitative and quantitative data in a single study or series of studies. Its central premise is that the use of quantitative and qualitative approaches in combination provides a better understanding of research problems than either approach alone (Cameron, 2015). The researcher used a mixed methods approach to collecting quantitative and qualitative data to answer the research questions in triangulating both qualitative and quantitative data. According to Creswell; to study comprehensively to answer the research questions in both qualitative and quantitative concurrently in integrating its analysis and interpretation using mixed method is required. The study employed a descriptive survey for the quantitative data collection and in-depth interviews for qualitative data collection. Concurrent mixed methods procedure is in which the researcher converges or merges quantitative and qualitative data in order to provide a comprehensive analysis of the research problem (Creswell, 2009).

### **3.4 Population, Samples and Sampling**

#### **3.4.1 Inclusion Criteria**

Omo Nada Woreda has 31kebele (Sub-district administrations). It is a target population for the study and the descriptive survey is intended to have representative information of the study population to address the Omo Nada community. To make distribution of the sample to the Woreda, the kebeles clustered (grouped) into five with six constituencies and selected two kebele randomly from each group. Group one in the eastern (Doyo Yaya and Nada Sekote), the second in the western (Jato Abe and Toli Beyem), third in the northern (Goro Seden and Biso Gombo), fourth in the southern (Nada Bidaru and Nada Dawe) and the fifth is the central (Bake Abawako (Nada town) and Nada chala) part of the Woreda. Based on that, two representative kebeles are selected for each cluster. The survey populations were the beneficiaries of vital event registration. The

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selection criterion for the household survey was household heads. They registered one or more vital events. For the in-depth interviews, information-rich individuals identified during the preliminary assessment with VERA were purposefully chosen, as were civil status officers and the vital event registration task force, based on their knowledge and the close relationship they have with vital event registration and its implementation. In-depth interviews were conducted with the Kebele civil status officers, the Woreda vital event registration office, and members of the vital event registration task force. The FGD targets were eight boys and eight girls, arranged into two groups. Focus Group Discussion was conducted with a group of boys and girls. The boys and girls were selected from two secondary schools, and they were intentionally selected for FGD and the discussion was conducted with the girls' group and boys' group on the role of vital event registration for child rights protection.

### 3.4.2 Samples and Sample Size

To determine the sample size of the study the following formula used: Yamane (1967:886), provides a simplified formula to calculate sample sizes with a 95% confidence level and  $P = .5$ . It assumed that 95 time out of 100 the estimate from sample would include the population parameter.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

**Where:**

n = Sample size

N = Population size

e = the desired level of precision ( $\pm 5\%$ )

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N=1000 household population living in a 10 sample Kebele administrations those which were registered vital events since2016.

$$n = \frac{1000}{1 + 1000 (.05)^2} = 285.714 \approx 286$$

Hence, the sample size of the study was 286 household heads. Regarding sampling procedure, there was a list of registered vital events at each Kebele administration. The household survey was conducted house to house and the data was collected by enumerators.

Civil status officers from six Kebele administrations were chosen for an in-depth interview. The officers have knowledge and experience, and the interview was conducted with them at their registration office at the field level. The interview took an hour on average, and their voices were recorded with their consent. The Woreda level event registration task force, which oversees the performance of event registration and cooperating event registration at the Woreda level, has six committee members, including the Woreda Vital Event registration Agency leader, and they were interviewed for an hour on average, their voices recorded and transcribed. The participants were selected based on their knowledge and relevance to vital event registration to get detailed first-hand information.

### **3.5 Data Sources and Data Collection Instruments**

#### **3.5.1 Data Sources**

The primary data source was from vital event registered household heads, civil status officers, Vital Event Registration taskforce members and children (boys and girls). The secondary data source was from publications of the federal vital event registration agency, document review of the vital event registration agency and observation of the civil status registration office at Kebele

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and Woreda level. Besides, relevant information was grasped from various books, research papers, magazines, websites and the like.

### **3.5.2 Data Collection Instruments**

The data collection instrument for the survey was structured questionnaires with four theme questions. The interviewees had different educational backgrounds, and most of them lived in rural areas. Thus, questionnaires were administered through a face-to-face interview by enumerators. For the in-depth interview and FGD, the data collection tool was the interview and FGD guide. The interview guide and questions were translated into the language of the study population, which is "Afaan Oromo" and checked before their use in the field.

### **3.6 Procedures of Data Collection**

Questionnaires were employed to collect data from 286 sample respondents selected from the population of 10 Kebele administrations of the Woreda household heads. The samples were selected using simple random sampling techniques from the sampling frame of 1000 registered events in the target kebeles. It intended used to describe the role of vital event registration in child rights protection. The data collected from 10 Kebele administrations were of the Woreda representatives. An in-depth interview was conducted with civil status officers and Woreda vital event registration task force members. The interview and FGD guides were prepared in English and translated into "Afaan Oromo" the sessions were conducted in the local language. The researcher conducted an in-depth interview and FGD and took notes and recorded the participants' interview feedback and discussion feedback, while the survey data collectors were enumerators who collected data through face-to-face interviews with household heads.

### **3.7 Variables**

The independent variable is a variable that influences the dependent variables. The dependent variables are: Vital event application for child rights protection; Vital event role in decision making on child protection and vital event registration. Independent variables influence dependent variables, and it is the children's right to protection. The dependent variables were measured using the responses given from household head survey responses.

### **3.8 Methods of Data Analysis**

A mixed method approach is employed to collect concurrently the data and analyzed separately and merged the results eventually to complement each other and enrich the study. The Triangulation Design is a one-phase design in which researchers implemented the quantitative and qualitative methods during the same timeframe and with equal weight. The single-phase timing of this design is the reason it has also been referred to as the “concurrent triangulation design”. It generally involved the concurrent, but separate, collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data so that the researcher may best understand the research problem (Creswell, 2006). The main assumption is that when an inquirer combines both quantitative and qualitative methods, it provides a better understanding of the problem than using either method alone (Techo, 2016).

The qualitative data was gathered through in-depth interviews and FGD with 12 participants and boys and girls groups which were recorded, captured in text form, transcribed, and translated into English. The data was coded, and thematic analysis is carried out. To analyse the quantitative data, descriptive analysis was employed. The quantitative data collected was categorized based on their meaning similarities and coded, then the analysis conducted using frequency tables, percentage, correlation coefficient, cross tabulations, using SPSS-Version 20.

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In the case of this study, data collection was conducted concurrently and the analysis was conducted at the same time and the results complemented each other. The qualitative and quantitative analyses were carried out independently, but the results were eventually combined.

### **3.10 Validity and Reliability**

A pretested and structured questionnaire developed from various literature was used. The questionnaire was prepared in English and translated from English to the Afan Oromo language. The interviews were conducted face-to-face by enumerators who are fluent in Afan Oromo. Before data collection, a pretest was conducted in Omo Nada among 10% of the sample size. Based on the pretest results, adjustments were made to the data collection tool. Data collectors were given training on the study objectives, method of data collection, and the tools for data collection. Spot checks on the quality of data collection were made in the field and completed questionnaires were checked daily. A second visit was made for households closed during the data collection period. For households not available on the data collection date, the second visit was considered all respondents addressed.

### **3.11 Ethical Considerations**

This study was conducted in a community only to identify community problems following research ethics. Ethical clearance was obtained from Jimma University and then communicated with Omonada Woreda VERA office and the agency issued a letter to Kebele administration and participants to cooperate. Accordingly, the objective of the research was explained to participants and informed consent obtained from participants and respondents before collecting any data. Moreover, the confidentiality of the respondents and participants was kept. To this end, their names were not mentioned in any part of the report in order to uphold anonymity.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In a concurrent triangulation approach, the researcher collects both quantitative and qualitative data concurrently and then compares the two databases to determine if there is convergence, differences, or some combination. Some authors refer to this comparison as confirmation, disconfirmation, cross-validation, or corroboration. This model generally uses separate quantitative and qualitative methods as a means to offset the weaknesses inherent within one method with the strengths of the other (or conversely, the strength of one adds to the strength of the other) (Creswell, 2009). One of the primary reasons for doing research is to be able to make accurate statements regarding the behaviour or characteristics of a large number of people. In most cases it is impossible to actually collect data from every member of a target group (referred to as a population), so researchers typically collect data from a smaller subset of the population (called a sample) and attempt to generalize from the sample to the larger population (Arkkelin, 2014).

#### 4.1 Findings

##### 4.1.1 Quantitative Data Presentation

###### 4.1.1.1 Response Rate

A total of two hundred eighty-six (N=286) respondents participated in this study. From two hundred eighty-six expected sample size partaken, corresponding to a percentage of 100% participation rate responded. Further, the number of respondents from the 10 selected Omo Nada Kebele administrations equally participated. That is, the total respondent rate from each Kebele was found to be equal.

###### 4.1.1.2 Demographic Profile of Respondents of the Survey

**Table 4. 1** Demographic Information of survey respondents



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Demographic information					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Age of Participant	20-30	83	29.0	29.0	29.0
	31-40	126	44.1	44.1	73.1
	41-50	65	22.7	22.7	95.8
	51-60	11	3.8	3.8	99.7
	>60	1	0.3	0.3	100
		286	100	100	
Sex of Participant	Male	206	72.0	72.0	72.0
	Female	80	28.0	28.0	100
		286	100	100	
Educational Level	Illiterate	101	35.3	35.3	35.3
	Primary education	149	52.1	52.1	87.4
	Secondary education	16	5.6	5.6	93.0
	Diploma	13	4.5	4.5	97.6
	Degree	7	2.4	2.4	100
		286	100	100	
Marital Status	Married	271	94.8	94.8	94.8
	Divorced	10	3.5	3.5	98.3
	Widowed	5	1.7	1.7	100
		286	100	100	
Occupation	Agriculture	239	83.6	83.6	83.6
	Employee	20	7.0	7.0	90.6
	Trade	20	7.0	7.0	97.6
	Others	7	2.7	2.7	100
		286	100	100	
Religion	Muslim	279	97.6	97.6	97.6
	Orthodox	6	2.1	2.1	99.7
	Protestant	1	0.3	0.3	100
		286	100	100	

#### 4.1.1.1.1 Sex and Age of Respondents

As the above demographic data showed, both males and females participated in the study and for the household survey, household heads were interviewed and traditionally families led by men according to Ethiopia culture, even though women and children lead households rarely in the absence of men. This increased the male response rate than females. The study comprised of people aged 20-60 years and the result indicated that respondents were well distributed in terms of their

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age group. This implies that the study included different age groups, which in turn enabled the researcher to get varied responses across the sample units fairly distributed. The sex category of the respondents was male 72% (n=206) and female 28 % (n=80). The demographic data show that the age category of respondents were 20-30 years 29% (n=83), 31-40 years 44.1 % (n=126), 41-50 years 22.7 % (n=65), 51-60 years 3.8 % (n=11) and years 0.3 % (n=1).

### **4.1.1.1.2 Educational Attainment of Respondents**

According to the study demographic data, 2.4% of respondents reported their highest level of educational attainment as a first degree; 4.5% reported their highest level of educational attainment as a diploma; 5.6% reported their highest level of educational attainment as secondary education; and the remaining 52.1% reported their highest level of educational attainment is primary education and 35.3% of the respondents reported they were not enrolled to formal education. The respondents were household heads and most of them had no more than primary school educational attainment.

### **4.1.1.1.3 Marital Status, Occupation and Religion of the Respondents**

This shows that almost all the respondents are household heads and in marriage, divorced and widowed, which shows that they have an opportunity to register one or more events. The demographic data also showed that 97.6% of the respondents were Muslim religion followers; 2.1% were orthodox Christian religion followers and 0.3% were protestant christian religion followers. Respondents' occupations revealed that 83.6% were in agriculture, 7% were employees, and 7% and 2.4% were in trade and others, respectively. The study showed that most of the Omo Nada Woreda area population are Muslim religion followers and their main source of income is agriculture.

#### 4.1.1.2 Community Vital Event Registration Knowhow and Practices

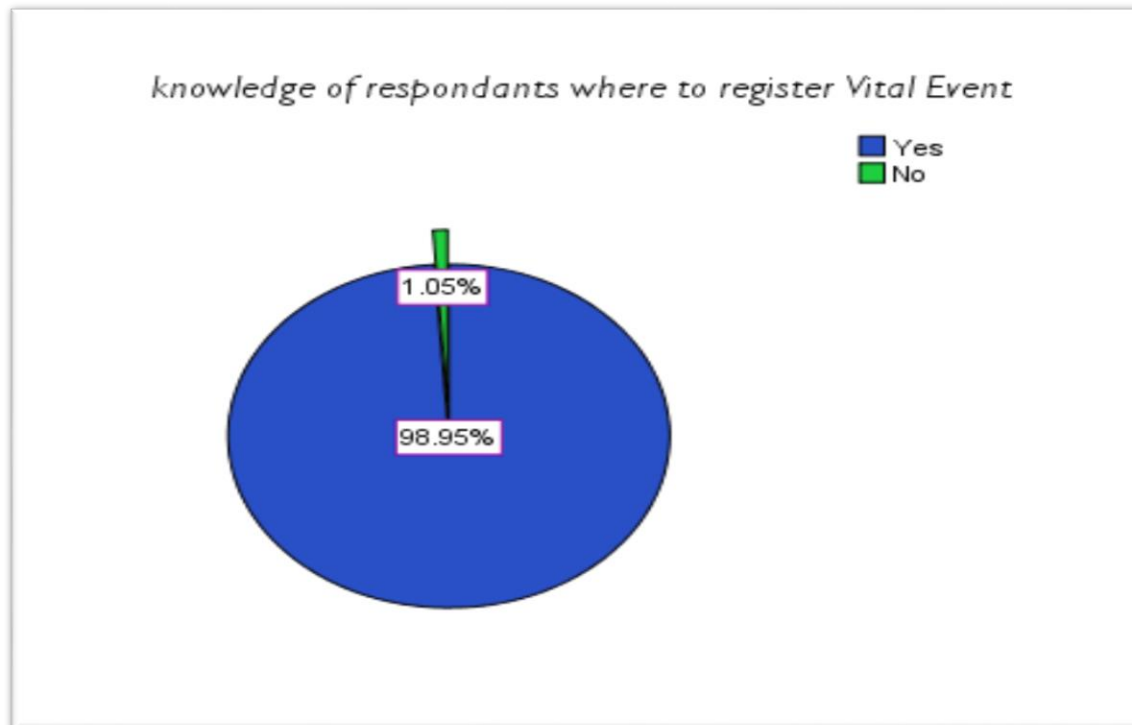
##### 4.1.1.2.1 Vital events Knowhow of respondents

Table 4. 2 Cross tabulation of vital events knowhow versus types of vital events the respondents know

		If yes, list the vital events to be registered in your area?			Total
		Birth	Marriage	Birth, death, marriage, adoption and divorce	
Do you know what vital events are?	Yes	31	60	192	283
Total		31	60	192	283

Respondents were asked about their awareness of vital event registration and what type of vital events they know. 99% (n=283) knew what a vital event was, while 1% (n=3) didn't know clearly despite being registered for an event. When asked to name types of vital events, 67.13% (n=192) named birth, marriage, divorce, adoption, and death as events recognized in their community to be registered as soon as they occurred; 10.83% (n=31) knew birth is only an event for registration, and 20.97% (n=60) said marriage is a vital event that must be registered. Almost all the respondents know one or more events and this indicates that the community has awareness in one or another way about vital event registration.

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**Figure 4 1** knowhow of respondents where to register Vital Event

When asked where they could register events in their area, 98.95% (n=283) indicated that the Kebele administration office and manager, who is also a civil status officer register, and 1.05% (n=3) indicated that health institutions register birth events. The finding show that the community know where to register vital event and the civil status officer. This helps for registration of event timely.

**Table 4. 3** The purpose of vital event registration

Do you know the purpose of vital event registration?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	190	67	67.14	67.14
	Don't know	93	32.86	32.86	100.0
	Total	286	100.0	100.0	

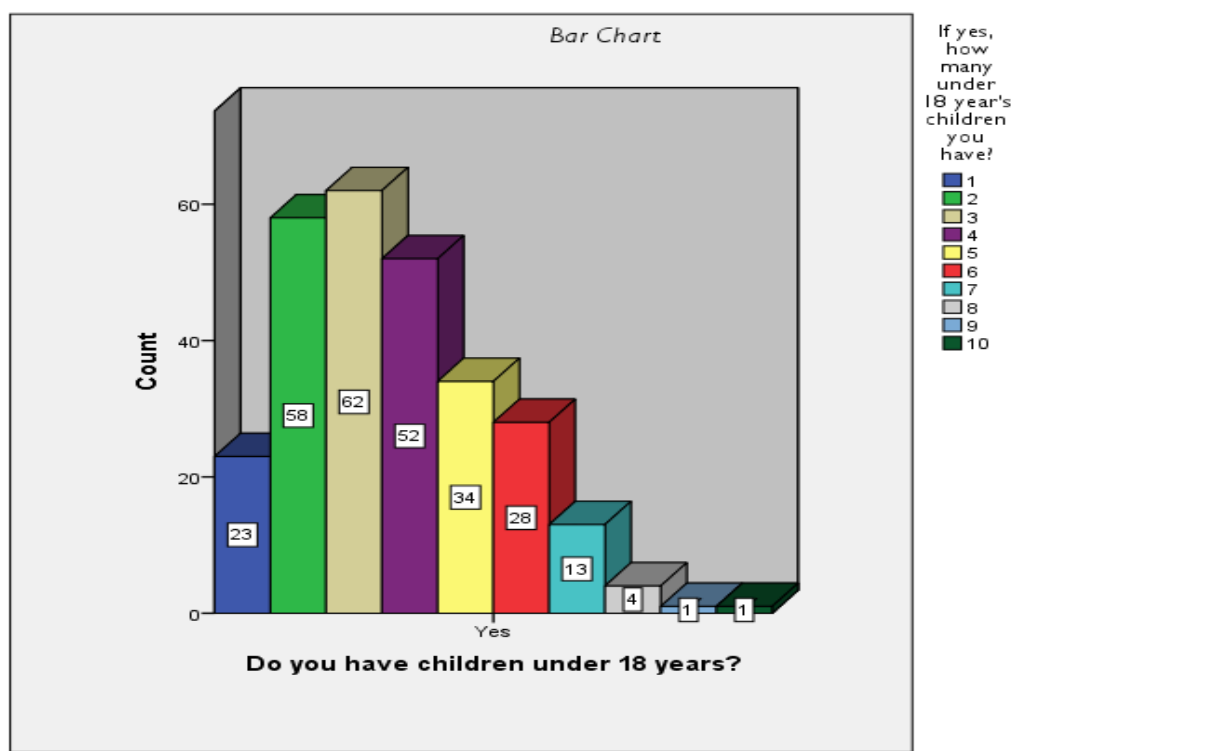
Those who responded knew where to register vital events. 67.14% (n=190) knew the purpose of vital event registration and 32.86% (n=93) didn't know the purpose of event registration

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and 67.14% of them recognized the certificate of vital event registration as a legal document. This finding shows that, there is a gap knowledge of the purpose of vital event registration and this endanger its utilization for child protection and different social services including legal and administrations.

### 4.1.1.2.2 Vital Event Registration Role in Child Rights Protection

The first question of this vital event registration role in child protection was: Do you have children under the age of 18, and if so, how many?



**Figure 4 2 Under 18 years' children in household**

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According to the graph above, 97.2% (n=278) of respondents have children under the age of 18. The number of children they have was 8% (n=23) 1 children; 20.3% (n=58) 2 children; 21.7% (n=62) 3 children; 18.2% (n=52) 4 children; 11.95% (34); 5 children; 9.8% (n=28); 6 children; 4.5% (n=13); 7 children; 1.4% (n=4)8 children; 0.3% (n=1) 9 children and 0.3% (n=1) have 10 children. The purpose of identifying under 18 children was to identify how many of them have a birth certificate.

Table 4. 4 under 18 years who have birth certificate

<b>How many of them have birth certificates?</b>					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	139	48.6	53.3	53.3
	2	74	25.9	28.4	81.6
	3	39	13.6	14.9	96.6
	4	7	2.4	2.7	99.2
	6	1	.3	.4	99.6
	10	1	.3	.4	100.0
	Total	261	91.3	100.0	
Missing	System	25	8.7		
Total		286	100.0		

Under 18 years, children register their birth whether at the birth registration standard date or with backlog registration having a birth certificate. It was discovered that 48.6% (n=139) of respondents' children have one child with a birth certificate, 25.9% (n=74) of respondents have two children with a birth certificate, 13.6% (n=39) of respondents have three children with a birth certificate, 2.4% (n=7) of respondents have four children with a birth certificate, 0.3% (n=1) of respondents have six children with a birth certificate, and 0.3% (n=1) of respondents have seven children with a birth certificate. This finding revealed that almost all respondents have children except a few, but many children don't have a birth certificate. The vital event registration was

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proclaimed in 2016 and many children were born before that had no birth certificate and also the finding indicate that the registration is not universal.

Table 4. 5 Age of birth registration

At what age do children get birth certificates?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	<90days	43	15.0	16.4	16.4
	1-5years	62	21.7	23.7	40.1
	>5years	157	54.9	59.9	100.0
	Total	262	91.6	100.0	
Missing	System	24	8.4		
Total		286	100.0		

The above table showed that at what age children had a birth certificate. It indicated that 15% (n=43) had a birth certificate within 90 days since their birth date; 21.7% (n=62) had a birth certificate within 1-5 years' age and the rest 54.9% (n=157) had a birth certificate at the age above 5 years. The finding shows that the majority of them had birth certificates at an age above 5 years and, since birth registration commenced in 2016, it showed that their registration was a backlog. The access to birth registration opportunity was created for all citizens in the last five and six years. Children registered within 90 days is limited and this shows that there is a delay in registration and it needs more mobilization of the community and improving social capital on vital events registration is mandatory.

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**Table 4. 6 Consequence of lack of vital event certificate**

If there is no vital event certificate, is there any legal or social services prohibition they faced?		If there is no vital event certificate, is there any legal or social services prohibition they faced?			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	23	8.0	8.1	8.1
	No	260	90.9	91.9	100.0
	Total	283	99.0	100.0	
Missing	System	3	1.0		
Total		286	100.0		

As shown in the preceding table, any legal or social service prohibition on children or their parents was faced. It indicated that 8% (n=23) was face challenges due to lack of vital event certificates and 90.9% (n=260) didn't requested civil status document to get any legal or social services in their area.

Correlations			
		If there is no vital event certificate, is there any legal or social services prohibition they faced?	Does the court/Justice system use birth, death, marriage or divorce records or certificates as legal evidence in settling civil or criminal issues?
If there is no vital event certificate, is there any legal or social services prohibition they faced?	Pearson Correlation	1	-.263**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	283	283
Does the court/Justice system use birth, death, marriage or divorce records or certificates as legal evidence in settling civil or criminal issues?	Pearson Correlation	-.263**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	283	286



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\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

They have a significant negative relationship ( $p=.000$ ,  $r=-.263$ ). The relationship is weak. The result implies that public service providers rarely request vital event registration documents, particularly for children to get legal services and generally the community at large. The role of vital event certificate to proof the age of children to get services like education and health care is indispensable. Besides, in protecting children from marriage, labour and jeopardy during crime is very high, but inspite of this all its advantage with other supportive instruments, its application is very poor. This needs emphasis to solve the by Nationality, Immgration and Vital Event Registartion Agency and all part takers to safeguard children.

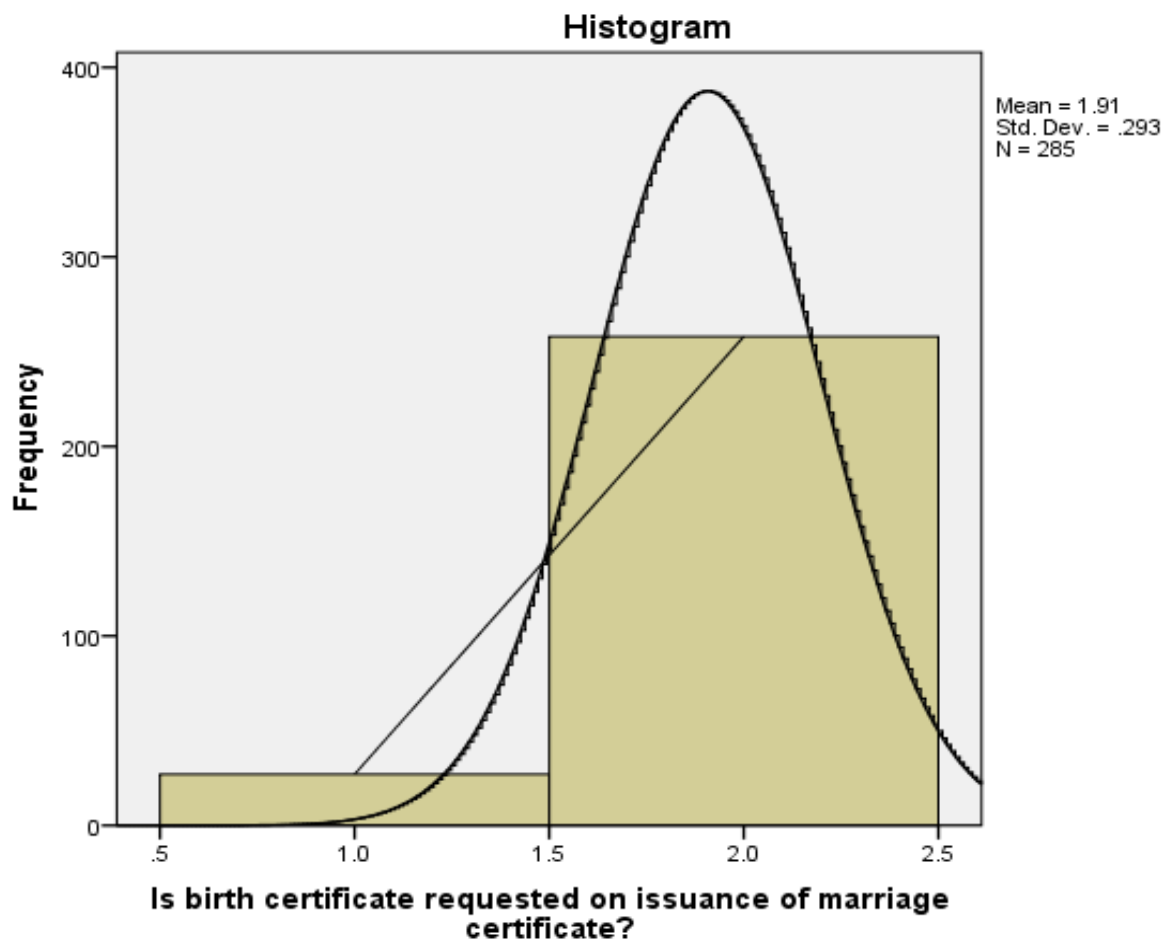
**Table 4. 7 Requirement of event document for services provision**

Which social service providing institutions request for vital event certificates for children to get services?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Financial institution/Bank	63	22.0	30.6	30.6
	Legal institution/Judicial	32	11.2	15.5	46.1
	School	23	8.0	11.2	57.3
	Immigration	83	29.0	40.3	97.6
	Health	5	1.7	2.4	100.0
	Total	206	72.0	100.0	
Missin g	System	80	28.0		
Total		286	100.0		

Table 4.7 showed that those social service providers requesting for vital event certificates. It shows that 22.0% ( $n=63$ ) requested birth certificate to open bank saving accounts for children; 11.2% ( $n=32$ ) requested birth certificate for children to get legal services; 8% ( $n=23$ ) requested

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birth certificate to attend school; 29.0% (n=83) requested to get a passport from the immigration office and 1.7%( n=5) requested to get health services. The findings show there are limited public service providers request event registration certificates as mandatory in the country. This requirement by itself is not intentionally considered child protection but it is related more to procedure and law.

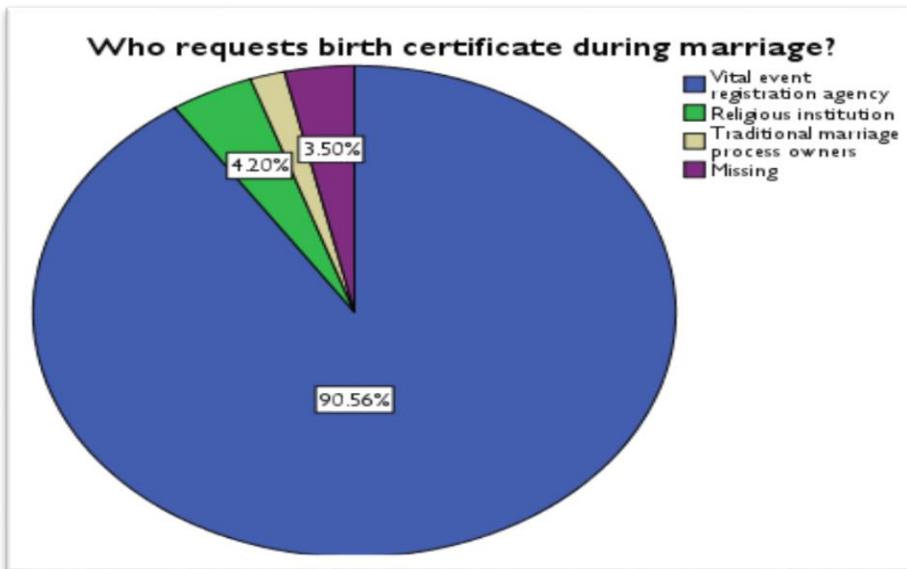


**Figure 4 3 Frequency distribution of vital event certificate requirement for service provision**

**Table 4. 8 Requirement of birth certificate for issuance of marriage certificate****Is a birth certificate requested on issuance of a marriage certificate?**

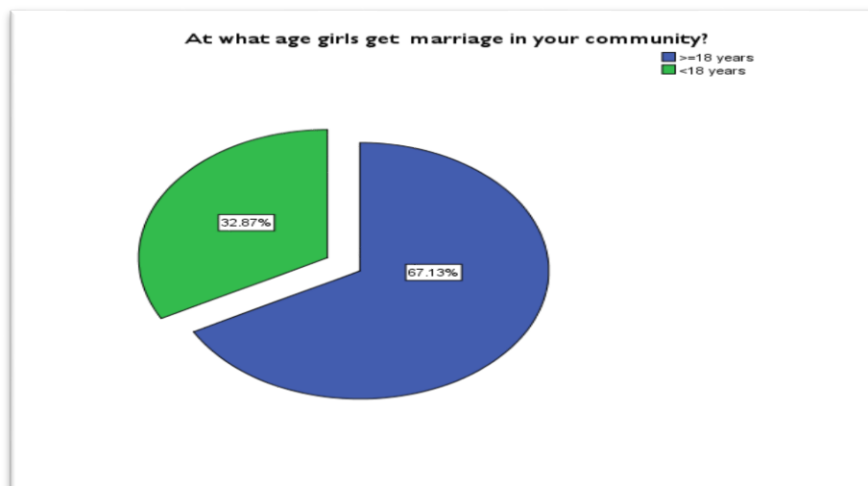
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	27	9.4	9.5	9.5
Valid No	258	90.2	90.5	100.0
Total	285	99.7	100.0	
Missing System	1	.3		
Total	286	100.0		

As seen in table 4.8, civil status officers request a birth certificate as a requirement to issue a marriage certificate and legalize the marriage process. It indicated that 9.4% (n=27) of the respondents confirmed that a birth certificate is mandatory to license the legality of marriage and 90.2% (n=258) respondents had a negative response about the requirement of a birth certificate to legalize marriage. The finding shows that birth certificate is not mandatory to have a marriage certificate. This due to the absence of birth certificate access in the area before five years and that is why the civil status officer not ask as a mandatory but the civil status officer check the age of an individual interested in marriage registration through medical check up or witness from others. The finding shows that, birth ceteficate is not mandatory to have marriage certificate. This due to the absence of birth certificate access in the area before five years and that is why civil status officer not asking as a mandatory but civil status officer check the age of individual interested for marriage registration through medical check up or witness from others.



**Figure 4.4 Who requests a birth certificate during marriage?**

The majority of respondents indicated that vital event registration agencies request birth certificate to ensure the marriage is at an appropriate age. 90.56% responded that the vital event registration agency requested a birth certificate or witness for proof of age.

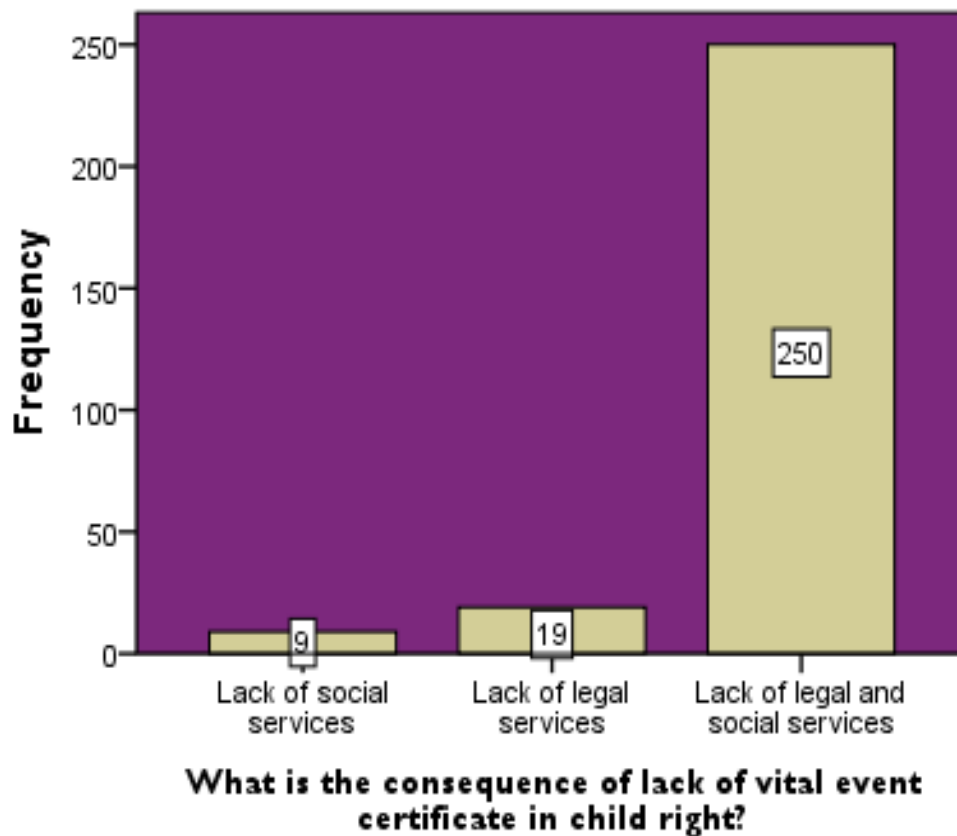


**Figure 4 5 Age of marriage**

The data showed that, 67.13% (n=192) responded as girls marry at the age of or equal to 18 years and 32.87% (n=94) responded as girls marry at an age below 18 years. The finding shows that there is a gap in child marriage and marriage and birth registration is to tackle this issue. This

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indicates that event registration in the area is not universal and still there are child marriages at a minor age and until there is no procedure and community convention on marriage without registration, this problem happens.

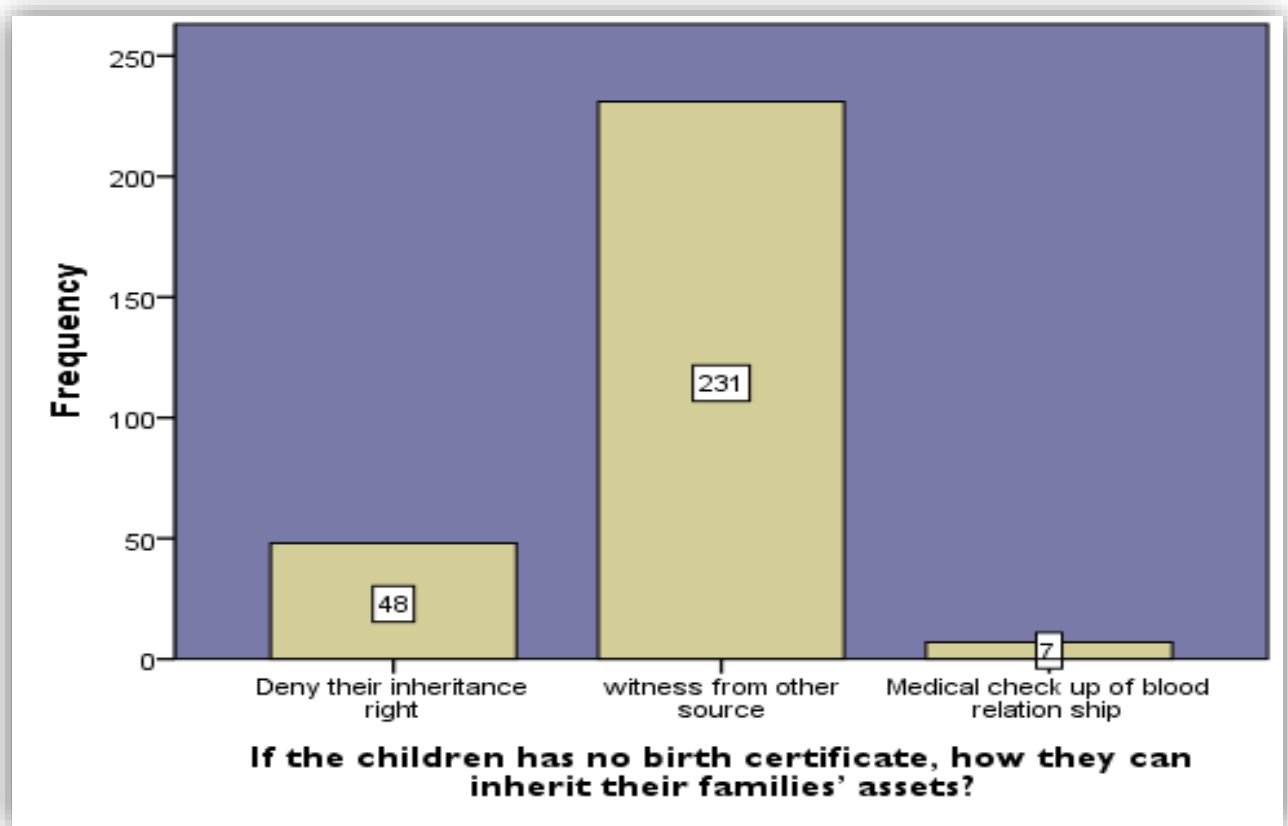


**Figure 4 6 Consequence of lack of vital event certificate**

Figure 4.6 demonstrated that the result of a lack of vital event certificates in child rights indicated that 87.7% (n=250) of the result of a lack of vital event certificates is a lack of legal and social services in general, with the remainder mentioning a lack of legal and social services in particular.

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What are the consequences of a lack of a vital event certificate in a child's right? * If there is no vital event certificate, is there any legal or social services prohibition they face? Cross tabulation					
			If there is no vital event certificate, is there any legal or social services prohibition they face?		Total
			Yes	No	
What are the consequences of lack of vital event certificate in a child's right?	Lack of social services	Count	0	9	9
		Expected Count	.7	8.3	9.0
	Lack of legal services	Count	5	13	18
		Expected Count	1.4	16.6	18.0
	Lack of legal and social services	Count	17	231	248
		Expected Count	19.8	228.2	248.0
Total	Count	22	253	275	
	Expected Count	22.0	253.0	275.0	



**Figure 4 7 Birth certificate benefit for inheritance**

The results showed that even if the children did not have a birth certificate, they could inherit their families' assets. 16. 78% responded that the right to inherit was denied, while 80.77% got their witnesses from other sources.

#### 4.1.1.2.3 Benefits of Vital Event Registration for Child Rights Protection

**Table 4. 9 Benefits of Vital event registration**

Do you think that vital event registration is helpful for child protection?					
		Freque ncy	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	283	99.0	99.0	99.0
	No	3	1.0	1.0	100.0
	Total	286	100.0	100.0	

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Almost all respondents assumed vital event registration as it is helpful directly or indirectly for child rights protection.

**Table 4. 10 Benefits of vital event certificate**

What are the benefits of a vital event certificate?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Legal services	35	12.2	12.4	12.4
	school registration	4	1.4	1.4	13.8
	Identity card	4	1.4	1.4	15.2
	Legal, school, immigration & Identity card services	240	83.9	84.8	100.0
	Total	283	99.0	100.0	
Missing	System	3	1.0		
Total		286	100.0		

According to table 4.10, the majority of respondents assumed vital event certificates were used for legal services like inheritance, to be enrolled in school for toddlers, to get a passport for immigration, and to get identity cards at adult age. The findings show that the community believes event certificate is useful for social, legal and administrative services at principle level, but many findings of this study show that there is a gap in its application at community level and public service providers.



**4.1.1.2.4 Legal and administration purpose of vital event registration**

Questions	Response			
	Yes	No	%	%
Is a birth certificate required for school enrolment at an early age?	17	269	5.9	94.1
Does the court/Justice system use birth, death, marriage or divorce records or certificates as legal evidence in settling civil or criminal issues?	19	270	5.6	94.4
Does the court/Justice system use birth and death certificates or records as primary evidence in ruling on inheritance or other related claims?	15	271	5.2	94.8
Does the court/Justice system use marriage certificates or records as primary evidence in settling the existence of marriage between parties?	16	270	5.6	94.4
Do health facilities request families to show birth certificates while providing postnatal services, including vaccination?	16	270	5.6	94.4
Is a birth certificate used as a primary source document in issuing national passports?	271	15	94.8	5.2
Do police use birth certificates for proof of age during detention?	12	274	4.2	95.8

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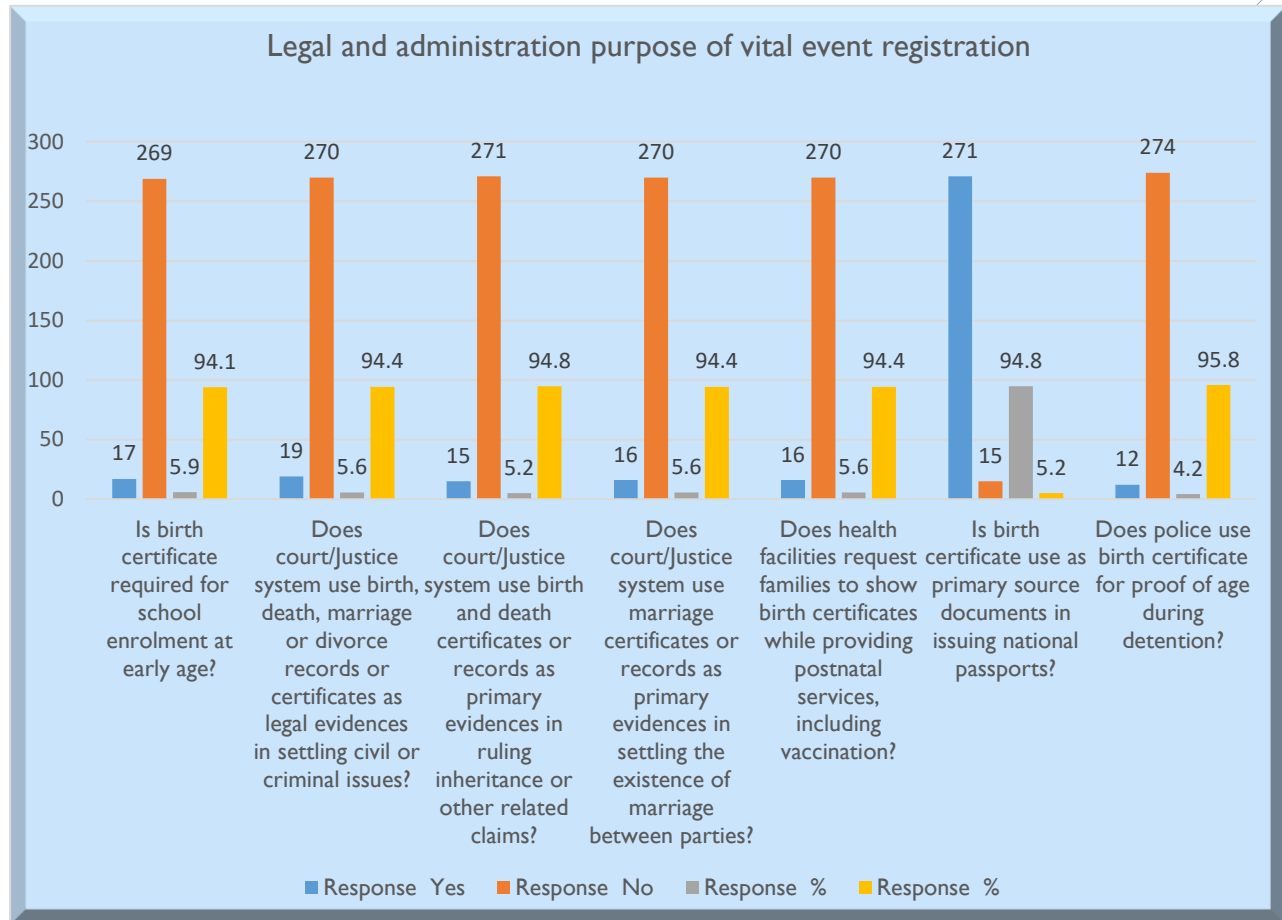


Figure 4.8 Legal and administration purpose of vital event registration

The majority of respondents responded to questions about the use of vital event documents for legal and administrative purposes by stating that it is not required to obtain legal or administrative services, indicating that the justice system, including law enforcement agencies, does not prioritize vital event certificates for investigations and service delivery. In the rural community, schools and health facilities also rarely request birth certificates for proof of age. The majority of respondents had a positive response about the birth certificate compulsory requirement for issuance of a passport and, accordingly, 94.8% (n=271) responded as the birth certificate helps to identify the citizenship of Ethiopia to have a passport.

Correlations<sup>b</sup>

		Do police use birth certificates for proof of age during detention?	What is the consequence of the lack of vital event certificates for children right?	
Spearman's rho	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.225**	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000	
	Bias	.000	-.013	
	Std. Error	.000	.099	
	Bootstrap <sup>k</sup> d	95% Lower Confidence Interval	1.000	.022
		95% Upper Confidence Interval	1.000	.394
	Correlation Coefficient	.225**	1.000	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.	
	Bias	-.013	.000	
	Std. Error	.099	.000	
Bootstrap <sup>k</sup> d	95% Lower Confidence Interval	.022	1.000	
	95% Upper Confidence Interval	.394	1.000	

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

b. \$bootstrap\_split=0 :Listwise N = 278

kd. Unless otherwise noted, bootstrap results are based on 286 bootstrap samples

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The utilization of birth certificates to screen age by police during detention has a positive correlation with the consequence of lack of vital event certificates. The correlation of police use of certificate of birth for proof of age during investigation to the consequence of lack of vital event certificate in child right was significant ( $p=.00$ ,  $r=.225$ ) and  $p < 0.05$  and  $r=0.225$  which implies that it has a positive significant correlation. The finding revealed that Justice system, health, education are not using event document for decision making purpose. This has implication child rights protection. When children detained the police estimate the age of children or based on the report of the child unless not using birth certificate to prove the age of children and also for other legal purposes using event certificate is not common and this have direct relation with issue of child protection.

### **4.1.2 Qualitative Data Presentation**

#### **4.1.2.1 Demographic Information of the In-Depth Interview and FGD Participants**

The in-depth interview was held with individuals having knowledge and experience of vital event registration at Omo Nada Woreda. They were officers of civil status and Woreda level vital event registration task force members from different sector offices and the participants were 12 in number. The focus group conducted in two session with boys' and girls' group on the role of vital event for child rights protection in the area.

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**Table 4. 11 Demographic information of in-depth interview and FGD participants**

Participant's Code	Sex	Age	Educational background	Responsibility	Work experience	Work place
RO1	M	30	Level-2	Officer of civil status	5years	Doyo Yaya Kebele
RO2	M	32	Level-2	Officer of civil status	7years	Biso Gombo Kebele
RO3	M	26	Level-1	Officer of civil status	5years	Jato Abe Kebele
RO4	F	22	Level-2	Officer of civil status	1year	Goro Seden Kebele
RO5	M	34	12+1	Officer of civil status	12years	Bake Abawako
RO6	M	38	Level-1	Officer of civil status	15years	Lalo Beyem
TF7	M	35	Degree	Vital event registration expert	12years	Vital event registration agency
TF8	M	34	Degree	Woreda Administration office expert	10 years	Woreda Administration
TF9	M	33	Degree	Child protection expert at Women and child affairs office	9years	Women, Child and Youth Affairs
TF10	F	27	Diploma	Child protection and crime against children investigation officer	7years	Police office
TF11	M	28	Degree	Social worker	5years	Justice office
TF12	M	36	Degree	Office head	12years	Health office
<b>Focus Group Discussion (FGD) participants</b>						
FGD1	8 boys	15-18	Grade 9-11	Nada secondary school		
FGD2	8girls	15-18	Grade9-11	Ale Secondary School		

#### 4.1.2.2 Knowhow and practices of Vital Event Registration

The civil status officers and vital event registration task force members asked about vital event registration, its purpose, and the practices of the community. TF7 event registration expert gave a brief explanation regarding vital event, its purpose and practice of Omo Nada Community. He said that;

Civil status registration as "recognizing and recording major events happening naturally and in relationships in human life based on Proclamation No.760/2012 (Registration of Vital Events and National Identity Card Proclamation), and the events are birth, death, marriage, divorce, and adoption." The intention of registration is for legal and administrative purposes. Birth and death are natural occurrences, while marriage, divorce, and adoption are relationship occurrences. The events are registered on registerion of civil status. Since vital event registration began in the last five years, members of the community have been aware of the event registration process and its purpose. Civil status registration work is integrated with kebele administration work and community development works. Community village agents are responsible for reporting events that occur in the community as event declarants. The event declaration is structured in integration with the development network of the community one-to-five network and the families are responsible for reporting to a civil status officer as soon as the event happens.

According to this finding, the civil status officer is kebele administration manager and the responsible person to declare an event is a development agent and the structure of event registration is integrated with community level administration. It indicates that the responsibility of the kebele manager is double because he/she is also a civil status officer.

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TF9 the women, child and Youth office expert mentioned that;

Vital event registration is intended to know when, where, how, whom, and what events happened in the community and to be used for statistical and legal purposes. The issuing of a registration certificate is accepted legally and it is about recognizing the identity of a new-born, newly established marriage, divorce (annulment of relationship), death, and adoption event. Event certificate is required at banks and immigration offices as a prerequisite to getting services, particularly for children, but it was new for the community and public service providers and there is no hard and fast rule for other services to bring civil status documents.

The participants of the FGD indicated that vital events, such as the registration of births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and adoptions of events happened in the community, which helped to identify parental relationships and the permanent disappearance of an individual. The aforementioned, particularly birth registration, is beneficial to children in determining their age and claiming their status as a child in order to obtain protection. There are harmful traditional practices like child marriage, child trafficking and child labour. Having a birth certificate helps children to claim their rights and the government and community use it for children's right protection.

This finding shows that it is mandatory to have a birth certificate for all individuals to have a passport and for children to open bank accounts, unless other service providers like schools, health centres, and the justice system don't require vital event documents. The main reason for not making it compulsory to have an event certificate to get services is that event registration began in 2016 at Woreda level and its coverage and awareness is low, especially

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in rural areas. Having a birth certificate helps as a preliminary requirement to prove the age of children, to identify their relationships, and to get services.

RO5 Bake Abawako civil status officer similarly mentioned; For immigration, it is compulsory to have a birth certificate. Many people migrated to the middle east to search for an alternative employment opportunity from Omo Nada Woreda had a birth certificate on backlog registration. They assume vital event registration is essential and a vital event document is an indispensable document. ‘*Namni ragaa dhalootaa hin qabne biyyaa ba’uu hin danda’u, yoo ba’es eenyumaan isaa hin beekamu.*’ Which means an individual who has no birth certificate can’t go to any other country; if goes to any country without it has no acceptance. Event document used to show the relationship between child and parents, marital relationships and separation of partners, the death of an individual and adoption of children. These events were recorded with date, place, relationships and different relevant background information required for statistical and legal purposes with different registration numbers. Events often registered in Omo Nada are birth, death, marriage, and divorce. Adoption events were rarely registered, and the majority of them involved abandoned children, with registration handled by the Women, Children and Youth affairs office.

RO4 civil status officer explained that: the attitude of the community towards vital event registration and responded that the community has a positive attitude towards vital event registration, but many community members used to complain about the registration fee. In the Goro Seden Kebele administration, there is a challenge in the registration of deaths of the families of the deceased. Families are afraid to register a death, and they believe it is useless. Civil status officers register the



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event by going from house to house. Home to home registration is common also in Biso Gombo and Jato Abe Kebele, where some households are resistant to coming to the office of civil status registration.

According to this finding, eventhough the community believe that event registration is useful but there is a challenge on registration fee ability and willingness and also the community not interested to register deceased family member. This implies that to improve awareness of the community it needs an education and mobilization.

### **4.1.2.3 Vital Event Registration Role in Child Protection**

Vital event registration agency expert and the taskforce members responded that civil status registration has multifaceted benefits, particularly for children. The response of the participants was recorded for each event according to the following:

#### **4.1.2.3.1 Birth Registration**

TF8 task force member described birth registration;

All births registered within 90 days are births registered within the right time and the rest were addressed as a backlog registration. The birth registration certificate is assumed to be a requirement for minors to open a bank account, to identify their age (proof of age), to prove citizenship before issuing passport, to show parent-child relationships, to show right to inheritance, to screen age before marriage and to identify date of birth. When children are interested in being employed by foreign investment companies, the employer asks for a birth certificate for employment to confirm the age is appropriate for labour. Children are sometimes abandoned after birth in Nada town, and the police office and the Woreda's women, children, and youth affairs register their birth and handed over to interested foster parents. The role of birth

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registration in child rights protection is significant because of the right to life-related registration and recognition of new-borns.

### TF7 Vital event registration expert mentioned;

The registered child is eligible for all legal and social services. The registration has relation to the issuance of a national identity card when the age of the child is 18 years. A birth certificate can be used for health information; for nutrition assessment to check the height for age accurate data; the accuracy of age for assessment data information and also for immunization age of children is needed. Currently, contrary to the above mentioned benefits of the event registration benefits, the public services require civil status documents as a compulsory are the immigration office to issue passports and bank to open saving account for children. These are the practical demands and benefits of the birth certificate at Omo Nada Woreda. Further it helps children not to be conscripted in army, the birth certificate used to identify their age.

The FGD findings indicated that most teenagers have no birth certificate. Due to this, the issuance of birth certificates began in the area in the last five years. Many problems that occur in relation to children, like child marriage, child labour, and child trafficking, are not assumed as crimes. In general, the lack of a birth certificate contributed to adolescent abuse such as child marriage, child labor, and child trafficking.

The findings show that birth registration has a great role in the life of new born and it is a means of recognising the relationship with parents and citizenship of children in the country. This make eligible children for social and legal services and help government for legal and

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administrative decision making and also helps children not be engaged in an age inappropriate activities.

#### **4.1.2.3.2 Death Registration**

TF12 with health back ground explained;

When Peoples die, the cause of death is registered and it is used for health information and legal issues. Recoding of death was used to confirm the permanent disappearance of an individual. It is also used when there is a claim to the assets of the deceased for confirmation of death. Currently, the local health officers are not using at Woreda level the data of death event registration even though it has information related to cause of death and recording all deaths and certifying the event. The experiences of an institution on the utilization of death certificates were not significant for health information and legal issues in the area.

This study finding indicate that,even though the death certificate is legitimate and accepted in front of law, the trend at Omo Nada Woreda didn't show that they are using event registration documents as evidence. This implies the health information sytem don't integrated with vital event information and indicate there is a gap in tracking mortality. There is no better platform for tracking because event registration register all events but the health institution only register death happen at institution.

#### **4.1.2.3.3 Marriage Registration**

RO3 civil status officer;

Stated that marriage is a relationship between male and female of age above 18 years based on their willingness. The applicants for registration must wait a month until

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they are able to clear their relationship has not been claimed by another partner before registering the marriage. This reduces the likelihood of a conflict of interest in the respective cases of both partners. The civil status officer clears their age by asking their parents or using medical checkups because many of them have no birth certificate since birth registration began in the last five years. Then the registration officer registers assets they have before marriage and effects their marriage by issuing a marriage certificate in front of the event witnesses. The advantage of marriage registration is to reduce child marriage and has a role in child protection from abuse.

### RO6 Civil status officer similarly raised;

The registered marriage has legal underpinning and does not easily dissolve without claim. For the legal process, it is easy and clear to resolve when legal issues are raised and for children born from such a parent, it is easy to identify their parents. When the spouses migrate together, it is a requirement to have a marriage certificate. The marital relationship could be traced for different legal purposes. Civil service requires a marriage certificate when a husband and wife claim to work in one area to facilitate life insurance, social security, immigration office, and court use documents of marriage registration for judicial purposes. The family code of Ethiopia prohibits polygamy or without an annulment of the previous marriage to marry again and civil status registration also clears this issue in its implementation process and the legal ground of marriage registration is high.

This finding shows that, marriage registration has a great role in reducing the vulnerability of children in avoiding child marriage and complications related to underage marriage like maternal and fetal death, fistula and enhancing girls' attention to education

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rather than early, child and forced marriage. The other is registred marriage has a legal binding and not succceptable to divorce.

#### **4.1.2.3.4 Divorce Registration**

TF10 with police background mentioned;

Divorce is the termination of a marriage contract between partners and the registration can be undertaken when the court confirms the divorce and orders civil status registration agency. she also stated that civil status officer issuance of registration is based on a court order and this process helps an individual to re-marry and not claim the relationship. It is about recognizing the annulment of the relationship. When parents' divorce peacefully, the event registers the judge to decide the children's future life based on the best interests of the child. Divorce procedure in court helps children to keep their best interests and to peacefully separate parents and consider the fate of children and legalizing the divorce to settle the disagreement and help not to re-claim the marriage and enable to re-marry.

The finding show that the role of divorce registration is high in peaceful separation of parents and to keep the best interest of the child. Children in a separated or divorced family many times suffer but the legal annualment of marriage help child's fate to get attention.

#### **4.1.2.3.5 Adoption Registration**

TF9 explained;

Adoption is raising children sympathetically with a commitment to raise them as if they were their own or my own child, with full rights and privileges. Also explained that adoption is the culture of the community to raise abandoned children and sometimes people who have fertility problems adopt. The adoption procedure is

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carried out culturally, and called ‘ *Gudifecha*’and after the oath is completed, the civil status officer registers the adoption and recognizes the child as the adopter's child. It enables children to be recognized as adopters and obtain legal entities as well as childhood privileges. In Omo Nada Woreda, new born out of wedlock children are sometimes abandoned and, under the supervision of the Women, Children and Youth affairs office, the adoptee is handedover to adopters.

This finding show in general, event registration has multidimensional benefits like statistical and legal benefits. It helps children not to marry,get age appropriate education, health care and other social services. The participants reaveled that the practice of event registration document is limited for many purposes like to enrol children to school to get age appropriate education, helath care and legal services in Omo nada. This make less significant the role of vital event registration for child rights protection in the area.

### **4.1.2.4 Timeliness of Vital Event Registration**

RO2 Bisogombo Civil status officer mentioned;

Community experience of vital event registration depends on the understanding and background of the households. According to the respondents, there is an event declarant in the community, and as soon as the event occurs, they notice an individual going to the civil status officer and registering civil status at the Kebele administration office. However, if the event was death, the deceased family was discouraged from registering the event and this is a challenge. They also responded that the civil status officer also goes to the community and registers at Bisogombo Kebele to encourage the community and not to miss unwilling individuals to come to the administration office.

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Birth registration is within 90 days of livebirth; death registration is within 30 days of the event; marriage registration is announced for a month and registered after claim clearance within 30 days; divorce is within 30 days of court order officially dissolving marriage; and adoption when the event happens. Health institutions refer newborns with their information to the civil status officer for birth registration. The rural community has no equal understanding of the benefits of vital event registration and delayed registration from the standard date and this is the challenge of the civil status officer. The registration fee for over due registration has penalty the awareness in terms of this low. The registration is carried out on a civil status register prepared by the regional government, which has four copies, one for Woreda, and the rest for the region and the federal civil status and vital event registration agency. A certificates are issued after the registration is completed on the register of civil status. Most events registration is timely and some events are delayed in relation to community resistance and registration fees.

The finding shows that all event registration has its own time but the community not complying always an event registration time and this exposes them to penalty of the registration fee and this is one of the challenges of event registration. Though the maximum registration fee with penalty is 50 birr, the community complains about affordability issue. This gap needs teaching the community in detail on vital event registration benefits, especially for children and know specific registration time.

### **4.1.2.5 Factors Impeding Vital Events Role in Child Rghts Protection**

TF8 metioned that;

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Event registration is a new technology and all community members have no common understanding and need awareness creation and mobilization. Human resource is another challenge. The civil status officer has double responsibility, on one hand registering civil status and on the other hand working as Kebele administration manager. This responsibility has an impact on the importance of civil status registration and discourages beneficiaries when they do not receive service on time. Event registration books and certificates need care, but there is a shortage of secured offices, shelves and boxes to keep the documents in a safe place. The document of civil status of an individual is not allowed to be disclosed to another person unless legally requested by a government organization. In addition, it needs automation and networking the database with Woreda, zone, region and federal structure. Currently, registration and documentation are done in hard copy using a large registration book, and the reporting system is also done in hard copy, which takes time and is vulnerable to damage while being transported from Kebele to Woreda, zone, and region. These hinder the role of vital event for child rights protection.

TF8 similarly mentioned;

The relationship among partners like the justice system, health system, education, women, children and youth affairs and administrative body is weak and this is a factor hindering the utilization of event registration documents for public service provision and the universal coverage of event registration. Regarding vital event registration role in child protection, it was not assumed as it is a big deal to protect the rights of children in collaboration with other child protection tools.



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Findings shows that, Event registration needs cooperation of all government organs and community members and the government executive body has a great role in this cooperation and coordination besides the duty of the agency for the success of its registration and utilization. The contemporary world is a high tech world and using old system make diifficult the implementation of vital event and it need to automate the registration and networking the data base from kebele to federal Nationality, Immigration and Vital Event RegistartionAgency.

### **4.2 Discussion**

The need to conduct this study came from the public concern that vital event registration is the way children's identity, child to parent relationships and citizenship are confirmed and its demand is increasing in the community, especially for children. The public were concerned about child rights protection to get access to age-appropriate education, health and legal services for child rights protection. There was no data about the role of vital event registration for child rights protection, which promoted this research to be conducted in the area.

The research aimed to answer the following questions:

- What are the roles of vital event registration contribution to the protection of children's rights in society?
- Is there a role for vital event registration in administrative and legal decision-making?
- What is the applicability of vital event documents in community and public service providers to ensure visisbility of children?
- What are the obstacles to vital event registration in terms of contributing to the protection of children's rights?

#### 4.2.1 Vital Event Registration Role in Protecting Child Rights

More importantly, the birth of about 1 in 4 children aged less than 5 years in Ghana have never been registered nor do they have a birth certificate. Furthermore, the findings demonstrate that there is a propensity for late rather than early registration. The proportion of births registered with a birth certificate generally increases with age, from approximately 39% among children aged less than one, to approximately 67% among children aged four years (Fuseini, 2018) . The data also shows that many children are registered later in life. But even then, many fail to obtain a birth certificate. Worldwide, around 290 million children under the age of five are without a birth certificate; of those children, 85 per cent are reported as registered (Unicef, 2013). This study result showed that, out of 286 households included in the survey, 15% (n=43) registered their children's birth in due time and 76.6% (n=262) of them registered the birth of their children after 90days and their registration was backlog. According to the observation conducted, some children, despite being registered, do not have a certificate in Jato Abe and Dyo Yaya kebele Administrations.

Without birth registration, children's access to basic social services such as education and health care may be at risk. Its importance continues throughout the life of an individual, for activities ranging from employment and marriage to obtaining a passport, voting and opening a bank account. Moreover, registration provides a measure of protection against violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination. It is critical that, as part of the registration process, a birth certificate is issued to the child's parents or guardian, providing evidence of a government's legal recognition of the child's existence (UNICEF, 2007). The survey of this study shows that 8% (n=23) faced a challenge due to lack of vital event certificates and 90.9% (n=283) didn't challenged to get any legal or social services in the area. Those who requested vital event certificates for service provision included 22% who wanted to open bank accounts for their

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children, 29% who wanted to get a passport, and 1.7% who wanted to get health care. This implies that the requirement of vital event registration document as evidence for public service provision and child protection application is less in Omo Nada Woreda. According to response of in-depth interview participants event registration is a new initiative and the social service providers like schools, health institutions, and justice system don't made mandatory in service provision.

According to the Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey (2011), which collected parallel waves of data in 2000, 2005 and in 2011 the median age at first marriage for Ethiopian women aged 25-49 was 16.5 years. Nearly 30% of women in that age bracket were married by the age of 15 and nearly two-thirds by the age of 18. Men of the same age, on the other hand, were very unlikely to marry as children. Indeed, women are more likely to be married by the age of 18 than men are by the age of 25 (Elizabeth, 2016). The response of this study showed that, 67.13% (n=192) responded as of girls marry at the age of equal or above 18 years and 32.87% (n=94) responded that girls marry at the age of less than 18 years in Omo Nada. Additionally, children can be made vulnerable if they lack legal proof of their age. Individuals under the age of 18 are entitled to particular rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN General Assembly 1989). Therefore, having proof of age has become a tool for protecting against child trafficking, child labour, and child marriage (Mills, 2017). In Omo Nada, birth certificate issuance began in 2016, and most teenagers do not have a birth certificate. Additionally, as civil status officers have raised, despite the fact that many marriage events are cleared prior to engagement, there is a trend of marriage without acknowledgment of parents and registration of civil status. Even though the community has a positive attitude toward civil status registration, the research participant from Jato Abe Kebele indicated that the community does not seriously adhere

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to the policy of event registration and rural community does not take as it can help children in protecting them from abuse and child marriage.

In Omo Nada Woreda, the study revealed that the requirement for civil status documents is less for public service provision. In this regard, analysis of vital event certificate requirement for legal and social service or public service provision versus justice system utilization of birth, death, marriage and divorce records or certificates as legal evidence in settling civil and criminal cases shows that there is a less likely chance to use civil status document. They have a significant negative relationship ( $p=0.00$ ,  $r=-.263$  and  $p < 0.05$  and  $r=-.263$  the relationship is weak. In the Philippines, approximately 50 percent of cases involving child labour or prostitution could not be prosecuted because a birth certificate was not available to prove the alleged victim was a child (Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics, 2018). Civil status registration is required in order to receive services and to protect against potential harms such as early marriage, age-appropriate enrolment in education, and obtaining citizenship. According to the Africa Programme for Accelerated improvement of CRVS, In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the importance of individual records and data on birth, death and causes of death in the realization of basic human and civil rights and in the monitoring of development are implicitly recognized and underlined (Nouakchott, 2017).

#### **4.2.2 Vital Event Registration Contribution to Ensure Child Wellbeing**

According to SDG 16: Target 16.9, later in life, the lack of such documentation can mean that a child may enter into marriage or the labour market, or be conscripted into the armed forces, before the legal age (UNFPA, 2016). The respondents of this survey revealed that 192 (67.14%) responded as they know what vital event registration is. When asked to list types of event, 53% ( $n=152$ ) mentioned birth, marriage, divorce, adoption and death were events recognized in their

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community to register as soon as it happened and 10.8% (n=31) of the respondents knew birth was only an event for registration. The Kebele administration office was designated as registering by 98.95% (n=283) of them, and the Kebele administration manager is also a civil status officer. The response reveals that 67% (n=190) know the purpose of vital event registration and 67% (n=190) of them recognize the certificate of vital event registration as a legal document.

### **4.2.3 The Role of Vital Event Document in Legal and Administrative Decision Making**

The following are the responses to the questions posed to ensure that public administration uses vital event documents to provide public service. The birth certificate requirement to be enrolled in school result indicated that 94.1% (n=269) responded as schools don't require a birth certificate for registration. Historical and contemporary analyses have documented the positive impacts of universal CRVS on health, survival and socioeconomic development (Breckenridge and Szreter, 2012; Phillips and others, forthcoming). In situations of emergency and displacement, birth registration may protect children from risks and facilitate family tracing and reunification (CarlaAbouzahr, 2016).

Does the court or justice system use birth, death, marriage or divorce records or certificates as legal evidence in settling civil or criminal issues? The majority of respondents, 94.4% (n=270) responded as vital event documents were not required to settle issues related to child marriage, juvenile delinquency, marriage and death related disputes. The participants from women, children and youth affairs said that, when a divorce case is decided by the judiciary eventually, it is certified by civil status registration and a divorce certificate issued for both partners and this process is mandatory unless the police officer or court doesn't request a certificate. According to the Civil Registration Centre for Development (CRC4D) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Birth registration is necessary for achievement of international development goals such

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as the MDGs. The first MDG is concerned with the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.

One econometric study on under-registration of births in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Nicaragua concluded that action to reduce under-registration is central to poverty reduction as "children and adults without legal identity are often denied access to health, education, housing, nutrition and many other benefits guaranteed by public poverty reduction policies." If only I had registered my daughter at birth, I would have won the case. I would have protected her. " Mukasa, from Uganda, who tried to prove that his 13-year-old daughter was a child when she was sexually abused (Markisz, 2013).

The question raised to respondents about the requirement for a birth certificate to issue a passport. Is the birth certificate used as a primary source document in issuing national passports? Because a birth certificate is required to obtain a passport from the immigration, nationality and vital event registration agency authorities, 95.1% (n=272) of the 286 respondents responded. In Ethiopia, it is mandatory to have a civil status document as a pre-requisite to have a passport from the immigration, nationality and vital event registration agency. The community has this awareness and, especially when migrating for labor from one country to another country, people give attention to have a civil status registration certificate. There are 41 countries in sub-Saharan Africa that have set the minimum legal age for marriage at 18 or above for both sexes. But, for 48 million girls living in 7 countries, marriage below age 18 is permitted. In an additional 22 countries, home to 61 million girls, marriage before age 18 is allowed with parental consent or under certain special conditions (UNICEF, 2017).

Ensuring the survival and wellbeing of the most vulnerable women and children is not the role of the health sector alone. Sustained relationships between sectors such as health, civil registration, vital statistics and national identification systems are critical. Harnessing

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opportunities to link civil registration and vital statistics and health systems will greatly improve the availability of health services, legal identity and crucial vital statistics and population data (Debra, 2018). For the question do police use birth certificates for proof of age during detention. They respond as follows: Only 4.2% (n=12) respond positively as police use birth certificates as evidence while providing public services, while the remaining 95.8% (n=274) do not. According to a study conducted on Vital Statistics and Effective Public Sector Governance and Service Delivery in Africa, it provides reliable data for redressing social abuses and exploitation, especially for disadvantaged population groups, such as children, disabled and women. It lays the foundation for transactions among and between individuals and public service-rendering institutions, including establishing unique identification numbers, processing citizenship, issuing passports, maintaining electoral rolls and managing polling processes and keeping national security (John , 2016).

#### **4.2.4 Factors Impeding Vital Event Registration to Contribute for Child Rights Protection**

Challenges associated with event registration in Omo Nada Woreda include the fact that the role of civil status officer and kebele manager is doubled, resulting in busy individuals; registration fee is another challenge, even though the cost of registration is very low in comparison to cities such as Addis Ababa, but the community is not interested in paying. The knowledge of the community about civil status is not a detail they may know as it is a requirement, but they don't assume as it helps to protect children's rights in different forms. The cooperation among partners like the justice system, health, education, women, children and youth affairs and administrative body is weak and these are factors hindering the utilization of event registration and the universal coverage of event registration. Cooperation of all government organs and community members has a great role in event registration and utilization of civil status documents for public service

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provision. Ethiopia is looking into the possibility of automation using appropriate technology for the management and maintenance of an effective vital event registration system. Printing cost and the time required to transmit the completed copies of registers from the kebele civil status office up to the federal office and Central Statistical Agency is a serious challenge that can be resolved through automation of the CRVS system. Currently, only 100 kebele civil registration offices in the Addis Ababa City Administration are using computers to register vital events and issue certificates (UNECA, 2019).

Vital event registration is a new technology for Ethiopia and the awareness of the community, demand for event registration and supplies of logistics and human resources are challenges of civil status registration. According to a study conducted in the Somali region, the major obstacles to civil registration can be divided into two categories: demand side obstacles and supply side obstacles to civil registration (Muhumad1, 2019). In Omo Nada, registration of civil status is carried out in hard copy and it is not automated to transfer data easily and hastily to generate statistical, administrative and legal information. According to a case study conducted on strengthening vital event registration, as vital events registration is a new undertaking, the strategy for its automation is expected to follow a scalable approach using agreed criteria (Agency, 2014). Event registration certificate issuance has a fee and the rural community complain about the fee, and this is another challenge, which decreases courage to registration. In particular, for death events, family of the deceased were not motivated to register and pay a registration fee.

#### **4.2.5 Summary of the Major Findings**

The demand for vital event documents to get public service at Omo Nada Woreda is much smaller. The survey results show that 90.9% of the survey population responded that they were not requested to get public services. Participants also stated that the use of the vital event document



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for service provision is uncommon, unless institutions such as banks and immigration offices requiring it as a requirement. The majority of survey respondents do not have an educational background or their educational background does not extend beyond primary school, and the community believes that girls are still married at a young age, and the main cause of this problem is the implementation of vital event registration and child rights convention. Institutions such as the education, health, and justice systems in the Woreda did not use vital event documents for legal and administrative decision making, allowing children to receive age-appropriate services and protection as agreed upon in the child rights convention.

Requirement for legal and social service or public service provision versus justice system utilization of birth, death, marriage and divorce records or certificates as legal evidence in settling civil and criminal cases show that there is a less likely chance to use civil status documents. They have a significant negative relationship ( $p=00$ ,  $r=-.225$ ) and  $p < 0.05$  and  $r=-.225$  the relationship is weak. The correlation between police use of birth certificates for proof of age and the consequences of a lack of vital event certificates in child rights is significant ( $p=00$ ,  $r=-.225$ ) and  $p < 0.05$  and  $r=-.225$ . The utilization of birth certificates to screen age by police during detention has a positive correlation with the consequence of lack of vital event certificates.

In general, the greatest challenge is vital event registration collaboration; cooperation and integration are lacking, and there is a lack of emphasis on health, education, and the justice system its application for child rights protection. The contribution of vital event documents to ensuring children's rights is overlooked by multisector organizations, and the influence of Woreda Civil Status Registration Agency is lessening the partners' ability to recognize and use vital event documents. The documentation system of the event registration organ is traditional and it needs automation to improve the service provision and enhance the management and reliability of data.

**CHAPTER FIVE****CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND SOCIAL WORK IMPLICATIONS****5.1 Conclusion**

The study was conducted to examine the role of vital event registration in Omo Nada Woreda. Civil registration and vital statistics are the means of affirming an individual's visibility from birth to death and the record of civil status helps for legal and statistical purposes. Civil status registration is required in order to receive services and to protect against potential harms such as child marriage, child labour, child trafficking, age-appropriate enrolment in education, and obtaining citizenship. The response of research participant revealed that, since vital event registration began in the last six years most of children especially, teenagers don't have birth certificate. The unfamiliarity of vital event registration within community and different sectors determined the utilization of vital event documents for child rights protection.

The requirement of a vital event certificate for public service has an opportunity to increase the demand for civil status documents and it helps for child protection in screening their age for health service, enrolling in age appropriate education, legal services and statistical purposes. The respondents indicated that the public service providing sectors like education, health, justice, police and local administration not requiring event document to provide services. Children who have event document are privileged to identify their age and get age appropriate protection and services, but in case of Omo Nada the utilization of birth document including other event document is poor.

In Omo Nada, the requirement for civil status documents is less for public service provision. The survey conducted showed that the vital event certificate requirement for legal and social service or public service provision versus justice system utilization of birth, death, marriage

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and divorce certificates as legal evidence in settling civil and criminal cases shows that there is a less likely chance to use civil status document. The limited requirement of civil status document implies that the role of vital event utilization for child rights protection is less in the area. Still there is practice of child marriage in the area which jeopardize girls to interrupt education, expose to high risk mother, maternal and infant mortality. According to the police and the justice office in Omo Nada, many allegations of child marriage failed due to lack of evidence about their age to claim as child marriage. Civil status registration is a good opportunity, but its application is currently unsatisfactory to ensure child protection.

Legal and administrative decision making roles of vital event registrations shows that the requirement of vital event registration document is commonly required to open bank account and issuance of passport is mandatory unless to provide legal services and to make administrative decision the contribution of the vital event document is less. The attention of the vital event registration agency is on registering event rather than using the document for legal, administrative and statistical purposes. To use vital event document for child rights protection the cooperation of different sectors like health, education, police, justice and women, children and youth office including local administrative bodies at kebele level role is indispensable. The findings from respondents show that there is a task force organised from the above mentioned body but their integration is very weak.

Genenrall, the vital event registration to play its role in child rights protection participating multiple sectors and improving its utilization in all aspects including for adult and unless making compulsory to get services its intended purpose for child protection will not achieve. The impeding factors like awarenss, integration problem of partners and community and the less emphasis of

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administrative body need attention to uplift the role of vital event registration in child rights protection.

## **5.2 Recommendations and Social Work Implication**

### **5.2.1 Recommendations**

This study divided the findings of the study for recommendation to make more clear the practice of vital event registration for child rights protection. The practice of vital event registration and its utilization for administrative and legal purposes demands participation of all bodies at individual, family or community and public service level. Hence, the recommendations for practices of vital event registration for child rights protection at meso, micro and macro level are:

**1. Meso level:** Vital event documents help with the visibility of an individual and to show relationships. Its requirement is at the individual level and individuals should be concerned about their civil status. In particular, for children, their parents should know and issue their children's birth registration to make them eligible for citizenship and other services. During marriage and divorce, individuals and partners are responsible for issuing a certificate of registration. To enable an individual, the role of government structures like vital event registration agency, event registration task force and civil status officer is indispensable. They have to ensure the registration and utilization of vital event registration, particularly, children to get age appropriate protection from abuse, child labour, child marriage, and provide age-appropriate education, health care, and legal services.

**2. Micro Level:** Family can play a great role in vital event registration and utilization. It is the responsibility of the family to report an event for registration and use the event documents when necessary. The vital event registration and its utilization should be deep-rooted at grassroots level in aware and mobilizing the intention and advantages of event registration for child rights

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protection directly or indirectly. The event registration document shows parental relationships. The family relationships and disappearance of an individual can only be confirmed through registration of a vital event and the family should understand and experience well in its family structure with the support of the event registration agency and all concerned bodies.

**3. Macro level:** Establishing a strong system of vital event registration that is supported by digital technology (automation) improves the ease of generating legal and statistical data, which helps decision making and contributes to the utilization of vital event documents. Children to get age appropriate education, health care (e.g. Immunization, growth monitoring and treatment), children to be protected from abuse, early marriage and child labour, inheritance and other social services. The utilization of event registration system at community level, especially in rural communities need government endeavor. To ensure the utilization of vital events for the aforementioned purpose, the collaboration of all government sectors and commitment of the community is not optional. Generally, the government should cooperate with private and public sectors to support the implementation of vital event registration and its utilization. Non-governmental organizations and inter-governmental organizations' role is also indispensable in supporting the success of the effort. This all should collaborate and cooperate with the effort of the Immigration, Nationality and Vital Event registration agency in universal coverage, continuity of registration and its utilization to ensure child rights protection. Improving the linkage between vital event registration agency and the key stakeholders (health, education, justice system, city administrations, women, children and youth affairs, social affairs and administration) is key to a functional civil registration and this action calls for a strong political commitment. The Woreda level vital event registration has to have a shared accountability framework to put the policy in practice and overcome challenges hindering implantation of the vital event registration and its utilization for its intended

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purpose. Teaching the community and stakeholders about the importance of civil status registration for child rights protection and the use of the civil status document to ensure the well-being of children. Capacitating community level civil status officers and improving logistics provision is mandatory.

### **5.2.2 Social Work Implication**

#### *Practice Implication*

Social work practice is concerned about social problems and the human rights element overlooked. This study is concerned about child rights protection because childhood age is the age at which children can't protect themselves and strive for their rights. The study focused on the role of vital event registration in child rights protection. It contributes to social work encouraging human rights, besides helping people to help themselves using a strong perspective and to ensure social justice in caring and protecting children from harm. The common problems identified and discussed need administrative and legal systems concern to improve the practice of vital event document utilization for administrative and legal decision making. Social workers in the justice system should consider the role of vital events in protecting child rights through applying for the intended purpose.

#### *Policy Implication*

The NASW standard and IFSW tools are materials that help to provide guidance to services related to child rights in a society. It is always a good thing to have a standard to guide one's own practice and for better provision of social services. Social workers must find a way to support their practices with standards and guidelines. The respective bodies such as the Justice system, social service providers and Vital event registration agency and community development partakers in Omo Nada and Ethiopia sociology and social work association should also look into preparing

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guiding tools for social workers to incorporate into their family and child social work policy and practice. This study clearly discussed the important contributions of the vital event registration role for child rights protection at community level. In designing policies, the government also should give priority to these sections to integrate the application of civil status document utilization for justice and public service provisions and administrative decision making. Therefore, policy makers should consider and incorporate civil status document role for child rights protection in designing social policies and programs looking at how much social workers in social service contribute to child rights protection.

#### *Research Implication*

To the best of my knowledge, very few studies have been conducted regarding the vital event registration role for child rights protection at community level. It is clear that there is a research gap regarding this issue. This research can serve as a beginning point for further research in the community and respective public service providers. This research can help as a reference for other research which might focus on the contribution of vital event registration for child wellbeing and its application at community level and in public sectors. This study was conducted at rural community level and can help as a base to conduct at different levels. Moreover, the existence of such studies will help to the improvement and advancement of child rights in terms of having a civil status document which is basic to ensure citizenship and to getting basic social services and age-appropriate protection.

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**ANNEX I: CONSENT FORM**

Good morning/Good afternoon dear participants,

My name is Sileshi Dereje I am a postgraduate student of Jimma University College of Humanities and Social science, School of Social Work. Currently, I am investigating “The Role of Vital Event Registration for Child Rights Protection” for the partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of Masters of Social Work. For this purpose, I need to gather information key informants. I therefore, kindly request your willingness to respond the questions then participation with this research is purely voluntary and you might not have any immediate benefit, however your response to each question is very essential for the study purpose. If you are willing, I will contact you at a convenient place and conduct the interview. The session of the interview will take a maximum of forty-five minutes. If it is appropriate, I will use the tape to Record the conversation and will be deleted up on the completion of the study. In doing so, any of your personal profile and name will not be indicated rather it will remain anonymous and Confidential.

Thank you for your kind cooperation!

If you are agreeing, put your signatures.

Participant

Researcher

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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**ANNEX II: QUESTIONNAIRES**

**Jimma University**

College of Social Sciences and Humanities School of Social Work Masters programme in

General Social work

Dear respondents,

I am a graduate student at Jimma University College of Social Sciences and Humanities School of Social Work Masters Programme in Social work. Currently, I am conducting a research titled "The role of vital event registration for child rights protection: The case of South west Ethiopia, Jimma Zone, Omo Nada Woreda" as a partial fulfilment of requirements for the award of masters of social work.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather data for the proposed study, and hence you are kindly requested to assist in the successful completion of the study by providing the necessary information. Your participation is voluntary and the questionnaire is completely anonymous. I confirm that any information you share will be kept confidential and used only for the aforementioned academic purposes. Therefore, your genuine, frank and timely response is vital for the success of the study.

I want to thank you in advance for your kind cooperation and dedication of your precious time to giving an interview to the enumerators. Sincerely Yours,

Sileshi Dereje

0911560358

[sileshidereje@gmail.com](mailto:sileshidereje@gmail.com)

RUNNING HEAD:THE ROLE OF VITAL EVENT REGISTRATION FOR ...

**Part one: Background information**

**1. Household Identification**

This section is to be completed for each household visited.

<b>01. Woreda</b>			
<b>02. Kebele</b>			
<b>03. Village number</b>			
<b>04. Household number</b>			
<b>05. Interviewer number</b>			
<b>06. Date of interview</b>			
<b>07. Time interview commenced</b>			
<b>08. Time interview ended</b>			

**2. Demographic information**

<b>1. Age</b>	<b>2. Sex</b>	<b>3. Educational level</b>	<b>4. Marital status</b>	<b>5. Occupation</b>	<b>6. Religion</b>
	1. Male	1. Illiterate	1. Married	1.Agriculture	1. Muslim
	2. Female	2.Primary	2. unmarried	2.Employe	2.Orthodox
		3. secondary	3. Divorced	3.Trade	3. Protestant
		4. college	4. widowed	5. Other	6. Other
		5. University			

RUNNING HEAD:THE ROLE OF VITAL EVENT REGISTRATION FOR ...

Part II: Structured question

<b>I. Community Vital event registration knowhow and practice</b>		
Code	Questions	Variables
CKP1	Do you know what vital events are?	1. Yes                      2. No
CKP2	If yes, list the vital events to be registered in your area.	1. Birth                      2. Death 3. Marriage                      4. Divorce /Judicial separation
CKP3	Do you know where to register the vital events in your area?	1. Yes                      2. No
CKP4	If “Yes”, which institution providing these services in your area?	1. Kebele                      2. Health institution 3. Religious institution                      4. Municipality
CKP5	Do you know the purpose of vital event registration?	1. Yes                      2. Don’t know
CKP6	Do you use a certificate of vital event as a legal document for your children?	1. Yes                      2. No
<b>II. The roles of vital event registration contribution to the protection of children's rights in society</b>		
VERR1	Do you have children under 18 years?	1. Yes                      2. No
VERR2	If so, how many under 18 children do you have?	
VERR3	How many of them have birth certificates?	
VERR4	At what age do they get a birth certificate?	
VERR5	If there is no vital event certificate, is there any legal or social services prohibition, they face?	1. Yes                      2. No
VERR6	If yes, which services they prohibited?	1. Legal/ inheritance                      2. Adoption 3. School registration                      4. Health services 5. Religious services                      6. Other (specify)_____

RUNNING HEAD:THE ROLE OF VITAL EVENT REGISTRATION FOR ...

VERR7	Which social service providing institutions request for vital event certificate children to get services?	1.Financial institution/Bank 3.School 6. Law enforcement agency	2.Legal institution/Judicial 5.Health 7. Factories
VERR8	Is a birth certificate requested on issuance of a marriage certificate?	1. Yes	2. No
VERR9	Who requests a birth certificate during marriage?	1. Vital event registration agency 3.Traditional marriage process owners	2. Religious institutions
VERR10	How the institutions undertaking marriage can proof the age of peoples engaging in to marriage?	1. Birth certificate 3. Medical examination	2. Oral request/witness
VERR11	At what age do girls get married in your community?		
VERR12	If the children have no birth certificate, how can they inherit their families' assets?	1. Deny their inheritance right 3.Medical check-up of blood relationship	2. Witness from other source
VERR13	What is the consequence of the lack of vital event certificates for children right?	1. Lack of social services (education, health, immigration...) 2. Lack of legal services	
<b>III. A role for vital event registration in administrative and legal decision-making</b>			
BVR1	Do you think that vital event registration is helpful for child rights protection?	1. Yes	2. No
BVR2	What are the benefits of a vital event certificate?	1. Legal service 3. Immigration	2. School registration 4.Identity card
BVR3	Have you ever been challenged by the lack of vital event documents?	Yes	2. No
<b>IV. The applicability of vital event documents in community and public service providers to ensure visibility of children</b>			

## RUNNING HEAD:THE ROLE OF VITAL EVENT REGISTRATION FOR ...

LA.1	Is a birth certificate required for school enrolment at an early age?	1.Yes	2.No
LA2	Does court/Justice system use birth, death, marriage or divorce records or certificates as legal evidences in settling civil or criminal issues?	1.Yes	2.No
LA3	Does the court/Justice system use birth and death certificates or records as primary evidence in ruling on inheritance or other related claims?	1.Yes	2.No
LA4	Does the court/Justice system use marriage certificates or records as primary evidence in settling the existence of marriage between parties?	1.Yes	2.No
LA5	Do health facilities request families to show birth certificates while providing postnatal services, including vaccination?	1.Yes	2.No
LA6	Is a birth certificate used as a primary source document in issuing national passports?	1.Yes	2.No
LA7	Is a birth certificate used as a primary source document in issuing national passports?	1.Yes	2.No
LA8	Do police use birth certificates for proof of age during detention?	1. Yes	2. No

RUNNING HEAD:THE ROLE OF VITAL EVENT REGISTRATION FOR ...

### **Part III: In-depth interview question**

This in-depth interview prepared for the vital event registering body at community level, vital event registrar and event registration taskforce to get in-depth information about vital event knowledge, practice, benefits and its role in child rights protection.

Would you tell me your name? How old are you? What is your religious background? What is your educational status? What is your occupation or means of livelihood now? What is your marital status? What is vital event registration?

#### **Probing: would you tell me what vital event registration means?**

- Why vital event registration?
  - What type of vital events are registered at your office or in the community?
  - What motivates the community to register?
  - How do people perceive vital event registration?
  - Which policy instruments have provisions related to vital statistics and their use?
  - What are benefits of vital event registration?
- 
- Probing: Would you tell me the benefits of vital event registration?
  - When do you register vital events and why?
  - Is registering a vital event compulsory, permanent, confidential and continuous or is it occasional?
  - Who is responsible for the community for registering vital events?
  - Is the certificate of vital event useful as a legal document in your area?

## RUNNING HEAD:THE ROLE OF VITAL EVENT REGISTRATION FOR ...

- Which institution need as legal document to provide services for children in your area?

### **Is the community registering important events in a timely manner?**

Probing: Would you tell me the practice of the community on vital event registration?

- Is the community accepting vital event registration as valuable?
- Does the community believe it is a necessary document that their children must have in a timely manner in accordance with its standards?
- Is there any penalty for delayed event registration?
- Is that vital event registration useful for child rights protection?
- Would you tell me the vital event registration is helpful for child rights protection?
- Does the event registrar screen child marriage while registering marriage? How?
- Are there any disincentives for those who do not register? For example, what do the married or divorced stand to gain from registering or lose from not registering their marriage/divorce?
- What are the contents of birth, marriage, death, divorce and adoption?
- Do social service institutions such as education, health, immigration, and bank-required event certificates (birth, marriage, death, divorce, and adoption) require birth, marriage, death, divorce, and adoption certificates as a mandatory document?

## RUNNING HEAD:THE ROLE OF VITAL EVENT REGISTRATION FOR ...

- legal institutions use event registration certification as proof of age, for inheritance, adoption, divorce and any other services?
- How important is event registration for community-based child rights protection?
- What are the challenges and opportunities of vital event registration on child rights protection?
- Is there anything you add other than what we have discussed so far?

### **Part IV. Children's Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guide;**

This focus group discussion (FGD) is prepared for children aged 15-18 years old on the vital role of event registration in child rights protection and the knowhow thereof.

What is a vital event and why is it vital event registration?

Do you have a birth registration document that indicates your birth date?

What are the benefits of vital event documents for children?

Have you ever asked for an event registration document to get services?

Is a birth certificate helpful to protect a child's rights?

What is the role of vital event registration in child rights protection (e.g. child marriage, child labor and child trafficking) in your area?

**Thank you!**



RUNNING HEAD:THE ROLE OF VITAL EVENT REGISTRATION FOR ...

**Afaan Oromo Translation of Questionnaires and In-depth Interview Guide**

**MAXXANTUU-I: UNKA WAALIFGALTE**

Nagaa Keessanii?

Maqaan koo Silashii Darajjeen jedhaama barataa Yunvarsittii Jimmaa Koolleejii Sayainsii Hawaasaa fi Namoomaa Muumee Sooshaal Workiitti barataa digrii lammaffaa ti. Yeroo ammaa qorannoo mata dureen isaa “Ga’ee galmee ragaa bu’uuraa mirga da’immanii eeguu keessatti qabu” irratti itti guuta barnoota digrii lammaffaa koo xumuruuf hojjechaan jira. Sababa kanaaf odeeffannoo qorannoo kana tumsu walitti qabachaan jira. Kana hubachuudhaan fedhii keessaniin gaaffiiwwan armaan gadiitiif deebii akka laattan isin gafachaa, qorannoon kun bu’aa battalaa yoo isiinif argamsiisuu baate illee rakkoo bu’uura mirga daa’immani eegsisuu keessat mul’atan tumsuuf goda qabachuu isaa isinin hubachisa.

Yeroo gaaffiin Kun fudhatu yoo bay’ate daqiiqaa 45 qofa dha. Yoo isinitti tole odeeffannoo gadi fagoo fudhachuu dhaaf sagalee woraabduun fayyadamaa akka naaf heyyamtan.

Maqaan keessaniif dhimmi waa’een dhuunfaa keesani qorannoo kana keessatti hin ibsamu iciitin ni eegama.

Tumsa keessaniif galatoomaa!

Yoo itti waliif galtan mallattoo keessan naaf kennaa.

Hirmaataa

Qorataa

Malattoo\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Guyyyaa\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RUNNING HEAD:THE ROLE OF VITAL EVENT REGISTRATION FOR ...

MAXXANTUU-II: GAAFIIWAN

**Kutaa Tokko: Odeeffannoo seenaa hirmaattotaa**

*1. Adda baafanno Abbaa warraa*

*Kutaan kun abbaa warraa hundaaf guutama*

01. Aanaa			
02. Ganda			
03. Lakkoofsa garee			
04. Lakkoofsa Abbaa warraa			
05. Lakkoofsa gaafataa			
06. guyyaa gaafannoo			
07. yeroo gaafannoon itti eegale			
08. yeroo gafannoon itti xumuree			

2.Odeeffannoo seenaa hawaasaa

1. umurii	2. Saala	3. Sadarkaa barnootaa	4. Haala Gaa'elaa	5. Hojii	6. Amantaa
	1.Dhira	1.Kan hin baranne	1.Gaa'ela qaba	1. Qonnaa	1Musliima
	2.Dhalaa	2.Sadarkaa tokkoffaa(1-8)	2.Gaa'ela Hin qabu/du	2. Qacaramaa	2.Ortodoksii
		3.sadarkaa lammaffaa (9-12)	3.kan walhiike/te	3.Daldalaa	3. protestaantii
		4.Kolleejjii	3.haadha hiyeessaa Widowed (Widowed)	4.kanbiroo	4.kanbiroo
		5.Yunivarsitii			

## RUNNING HEAD:THE ROLE OF VITAL EVENT REGISTRATION FOR ...

## Part II: Gafillee Qinda'oo

<b>IV. Beekumsaa fi muuxannoo galmee ragaa bu'uura hawaasaa</b>		
Code	Gaaffilee	Filannoowan
CKP1	Taateewwan bu'uuraa maal akka ta'an ni beektaa?	1.Eeyyee                      2. Lakki
CKP2	Yoo eeyyee jette,taateewwan naannoo keessanitti galmaa'an natti himii?	1.Dhaloota                      2.Du'a 3.Ga'elaa                      4. Hikka
CKP3	Taateewwan gurguddoon eessatti akka galma'an ni beektaa?	1.Eeyyee                      2. Lakki
CKP4	Yoo eeyyee jette,dhaabbata kamtu tajaajilla kana naannoo keessanitti kenna?	1.Ganda                      2 Dhaabbilee fayyaa 3. Dhaabbilee amantaa                      4. Mana Qopheessaa
CKP5	Faayidaa Galmee ragaa bu'uuraa ni beektaa?	1.Eeyyee                      2. Lakki
CKP6	Waraqaa ragaa galmee ragaa bu'uuraa bakka seera qabeessaatti daa'immaniif fayyadamtanii beektuu?	1. Eeyyee                      2. Lakki
<b>V. Ga'ee taateewwan gurguddoo galmeessuu</b>		
VERR1	Daa'imman waggaa 18 gadii qabduu?	1.Eeyyee                      2. Lakki
VERR2	Yoo eeyyee jettan meeqa qabdu?	
VERR3	Meqan isaaniitu waraqaa ragaa dhalootaa qaba?	
VERR4	Umurii meqatti dhaloota galmeessiftu?	
VERR5	Yoo hin qabaanne tajaajila seeraa yookiin hawaasummaa sababa kanaaf dhaban qabuu?	1.Eeyyee                      2. Lakki
VERR6	Yoo eeyyee jette,tajaajila kamiin dhabani?	1.Kan Seeraa/Dhaalaa                      2. Guddifachaa 3. Galmee M/Barumsaa                      4. Fayyaa 5. Amantaa                      6. Kanbiroo (Ibsii)_____
VERR7	Dhaabbilee tajaajila kennan kamtu, ragaa galmee ragaa bu'uuraa daa'imman tajaajiluuf isin gaafata?	1. Baankii                      2. Mana murtii

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		1..Mana barumsaa 2. Dhaabbata godaansaa/immigreeshinii 3.Fayyaa 4. Poolisii 5.warshaalee
VERR8	Gaa'elaa galmeessuuf ragaan dhalootaa ni gaafatamaa?	1.Eeyyee 2. Lakki
VERR9	Yeroo gaa'elaa galmeesan eenyutu ragaa dhalootaa gaafata?	1.Eejensii galmee ragaa bu'uuraa 2. Dhaabbilee amantaa 3.Adaadhaan gaa'ela kan raawwachiisan
VERR10	Namoota gaa'ela raawwatan attamitti umuriin isanii beekama?	1.Ragaa dhalootaa ilaaluun 2. Gaaffii Afaaniin 3. Ragaa ba'insa namoota birootiin
VERR11	Umurii meeqatti ga'elii mirkana'a?	
VERR12	Da'immaan ragaa dhalootaa yoo hinqabaanne akkamiin maatii isaanii dhaalu?	1.Dhaaltummaan isaanii ni haalama 2. . Ragaalee birootin mirkaneessuu 3. Hariiroo isanii qorannoo laaboraatorii (Medical check up) dhaan addaa baasu
VERR13	Yoo waraqaa ykn galmee ragaa bu'uuraa hin qabaanne mirga daa'immanii irratti rakkoo maalii fida?	3. Tajaajila hawaasummaa dhabuu (fayyaa,barnootaa,..) 4. Tajaajila seeraa dhabuu
<b>VI. Fayida Galmee Ta'e waan gurguddoo</b>		
BVR1	Taateewwan gurguddoo galmeessuun ni fayyyada jettee yaaddaa?	1.Eeyyee 2. Lakki
BVR2	Faayidaan isaa maalii?	2. Tajaajila seeraa 2. Galmee mana barumsaa 3. Godaansaaf 4.Ragaa Eenyummaatiif
BVR3	Ragaa galmee taateewwan dhabuu dhaan rakkatee ni beektaa?	1.Eeyyee 2. Lakki
<b>VII. Tajajilaa ykn Fayida bulchinsaa fi seeraa Galmee ta'e waan gurguddoo</b>		

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LA.1	Mana barumsaatti yeroo jalqabaaf galmaa'uuf ragaan dhalootaa ni barbaachisaa?	1.Eeyyee	2. Lakki
LA2	Manni murtii waraqaa ragaa galmee taateewwanii (du'aa,dhaloota,gaa'ela..) akka ragaatti ni fayyadamaa?	1.Eeyyee	2. Lakki
LA3	Ragaan dhalootaa fi du'aa mana murtiitti dhaalaaf ni fayyadaa?	1. Eeyyee	2. Lakki
LA4	Manni murtii ragaa gaa'elaa gaa'ela mirkaneessuf ni fayyadamaa?	1.Eeyyee	2. Lakki
LA5	Hojjettoonni fayyaa tajaajila da'umsa duubaa fi talaallii daa'imman haraadhaaf yeroo Kennan ragaa galmee dhalootaa ni gaafatuu?	1.Eeyyee	2. Lakki
LA6	Ragaa dhalootaa waraqaa eenyummaa argachuuf ni fayyadaa?	1.Eeyyee	2. Lakki
LA7	Ragaan dhalootaa paaspoortii argachuuf nifayyadaa?	1.Eeyyee	2. Lakki
LA8	Poolisiin ragaa dhalootaa umurii da'immani adda baafachuu dhaaf ni fayyadamaa?	1.Eeyyee	2. Lakki

**Part III: Gaaffilee gadi-fageenyaan gaafataman**

Gaaffileen gadi fageenyaanii kun kan qophaa'e qaamolee ragaa bu'uuraa galmeessani fi gartuu hojii adeemsistuu fi hordoftuu aanaatiif yeroo ta'u haala beekumsa, muuxannoo, faayidaa fi ga'ee ragaan bu'uura mirga daa'immanii eegsisuu keessatit taphatu agarsiisaa.

**Maqaa kee natti himtaa? Amantaan kee maalidha? Sadarkaan barnoota kee hoo? Hojjin kee maalidha? Haalli gaa'ela kee hoo?**

1. Galmee taateewwan gurguddoo jechuun maal jechuudha?
  - Galmee ragaa bu'uuraa ykn taateewwan gurguddoo jechuun hiikni isaa maal jechuu dha?
  - Maalif barbaachisee?
  - Waajjirri keessan taateewwan akkamii galmeessaa?
  - Maaltu namoonni akka taateewwan galmessan onnachiisa?
  - Namoonni galmee ragaa bu'uuraatiif ilaalcha akkamii qabu?
  - Qaama seeraa ykn qajeelfamni galmee ragaa bu'uuraa kana Deggaru hojii irra oole hawaasa keessan keessa jiraa?
2. **Faayidaan Galmee ragaa bu'uuraa malii?**
  - Faayidaa ragaa bu'uuraa natti himtaa?
  - Taateewwan yeroo kamiin galmeessitu? maaliif?
  - Galmeewwan ragaa bu'uuraa galmeessuun dirqama,dhaabbataa, iccitiin isaa kan eegame fi itti fufinsa kan qabu dha moo yeroo tokko tokko kan raawwatudha?
  - Sadarkaa hawaasaatti eenyuutu itti gaafatamummaa ragaa bu'uuraa galmeessuu qaba?
  - Waraqaan ragaa galmee kana akka ragaa seera qabeessaatti naannoo keessanitti ni fayyadaa?
  - Dhaabbata kam fa'itu tajaajila kennuuf ykn dhimma biraatiif itti fayyadamaa?

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### 3. Uummanni yeroodhaan taateewwan ni galmeessisaa?

- Taatee galmeessisuu irratti muuxannoo hawaasni keessan qabu natti himtaa?  
Namoonni galmee taateewwanii akka gati-qabeessatti ni ilaalu?
- Hawaasni akka ragaan bu'uuraa barbaachisaa ta'e fi daa'imman yeroodhaan akka qabaatan ni taasisuu?
- Yoo yeroodhaan galmeessu baatan adabbiin ni jiraa?

### 4. Galmeen ragaa bu'uuraa mirga da'immanii eeguuf ni faayyada?

- Galmeen ragaa bu'uuraa mirga daa'immanii eeguuf ni faayyada jettee ni amantaa?
- Namoonni ragaa bu'uuraa galmeessan gaa'ela daa'immanii ni calalaan (Child Marriage)?  
Akkamitti?
- Namoota ragaa bu'uuraa hin galmeessine karaan ittiin adabaman ni jiraa? Fkn:Namoonni ga'elaa dhaabbatan ykn walhiikkaan taateewwan kuneen galmeesuun waan isaan faayadu ykn miidhu qabaa?
- Qabiyyeen galmee dhalootaa, du'a, hiikkaa, fi guddifachaa maali? Dhaabbileen tajaajila Kennan kanneen akka barnootaa, fayyaa, godaansaa fi baankii waraqaa ragaa galmee taateewwanii akka dirqamaatti ni gaafatuu?
- Dhaabbileen seeraa waraqaa ragaa galmee taateewwanii umurii mirkaneeffachuuf,dhaalaaf,guddifachaa dhaaf,hiikkaadhaaf,tajaajila kan birootiif ni gaafatu?
- Hawaasa keessatti mirga daa'immanii eeguuf galmeen taateewwanii ni fayyadaa?
- Carraa fi hudhaan galmee taateewwanii mirga daa'immanii eegu keessatti qabu maal fakkaata?
- Yaada dabalataa kan hafe yoo jiraate dubbachuu dandeessa!

**Galatoomi!**